

Bird Observer

VOLUME 36, NUMBER 2

APRIL 2008



HOT BIRDS

Hoary Redpolls have been seemingly everywhere this winter (or maybe we are getting better at finding them). The great photos below were taken by (left) James P. Smith in Gloucester on December 30, 2007, and by (right) Marshall Iliff in Readville, on January 14, 2008.



On January 2, 2008, Erik Nielsen discovered a first-winter **Thayer's Gull** at Niles Pond in Gloucester, which was photographed by Marshall Iliff (left) on January 3.

What is it about an **American White Pelican** on the snow in January in Massachusetts that is not odd (right)? This lost wanderer was photographed by Don Wheeler on January 8, 2008, in Shelburne Falls.



When Virginia Penney stopped at the Joppa Flats Education Center in Newburyport to report a possible **Western Tanager** (left) at her feeder in Merrimac, Dave Larson went (with camera) to check and captured this image on January 21, 2008.

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Bird Observer

A bimonthly journal — to enhance understanding, observation, and enjoyment of birds
VOL. 36, NO. 2 APRIL 2008

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Birding Worcester Airport and the Surrounding Area

Mark Lynch

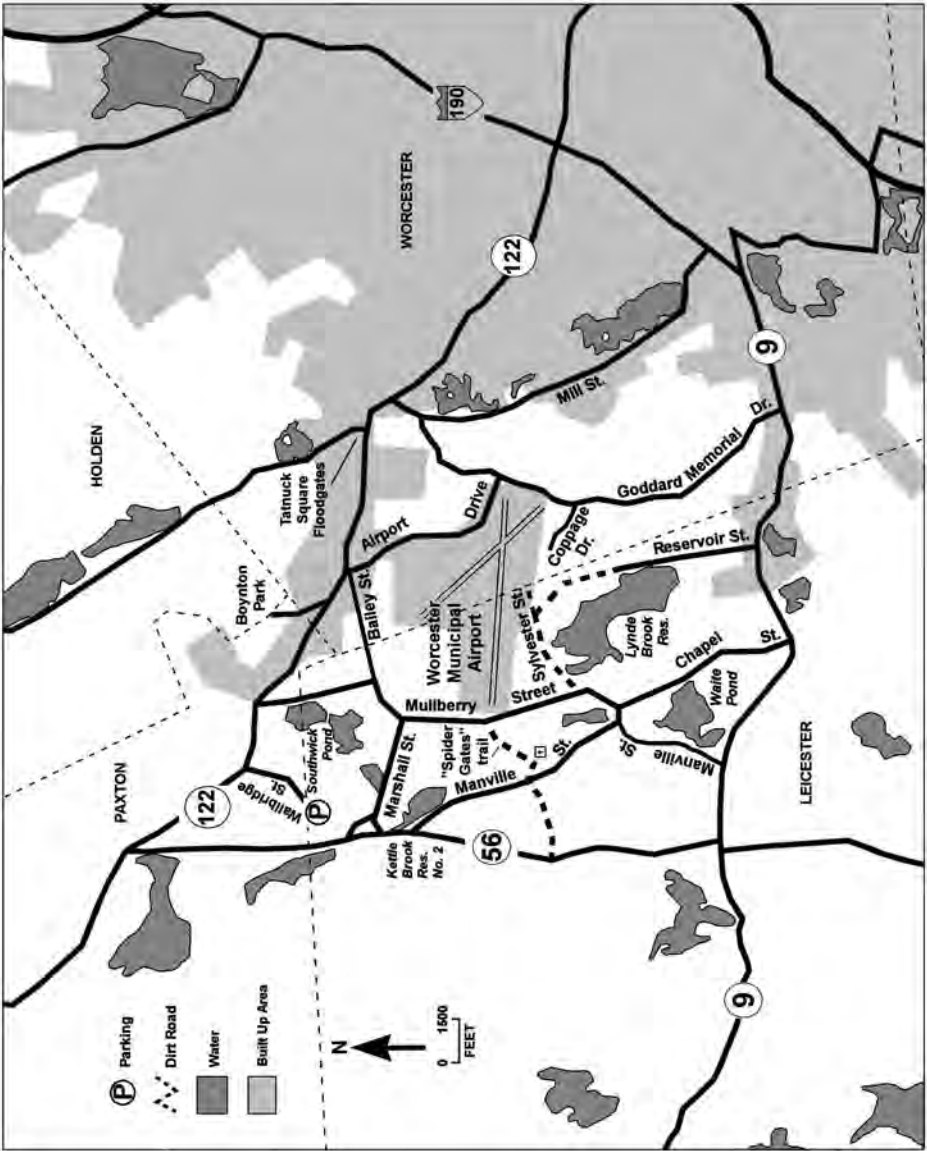
When we think of ideal places to spend a morning birding, we typically envision some forest, swamp, or coastal promontory far from the bustle of a major city. But cities are also fascinating places to bird. They are convenient and centrally located, sometimes have good public transportation, and can have interesting birds in their small green pockets. Much has been written about birding around Boston. Thanks to the phenomenal and inspirational efforts of people like Bob Stymeist and Soheil Zende, many interesting birds are now reported weekly from this extremely urban and congested spot.



But Worcester, in landlocked central Massachusetts, has never had the birding reputation that Boston has. This is a shame because for many decades numerous birders have enjoyed birds in the “Heart of the Commonwealth”; they simply haven’t written extensively about those experiences. In fact, Worcester has many interesting and important birding locations like Mass Audubon’s Broad Meadow Brook Sanctuary, the new Blackstone River bike path (which will eventually extend all the way to Providence), and quite a number of productive ponds and woodlots. One of the most interesting and consistently productive spots to bird in Worcester is the array of fields and woodlots around Worcester Airport.

Worcester Regional Airport is located along the central-western edge of the city limits, and half of its property is in the adjacent town of Leicester. The Municipal Airport, as it was formerly called, opened in 1946, the same year buses replaced trolleys in the city, but was not formally dedicated until 1954. For decades there were high hopes that this airport would become a dynamic and vital asset to the city, but this hope was doomed from the beginning. Because it was built on Tatnuck Hill (now known locally as “Airport Hill”), the runways were never long enough to accommodate the larger planes flying by the end of the twentieth century. Weather is also a problem at this location. Because of its elevation, what is sleet or rain in the city below is often ice and snow in the airport area. Fog is also a common problem. Because of all of this and other reasons, Worcester Airport could not compete with the other local regional airports in Hartford and especially Providence. As of 2008, there is no longer commercial service at the Worcester Airport, though a variety of smaller planes do use it.

There are residences on part of Airport Hill and a small industrial park on the southern slope. Massport now manages the airport, but city government politicians are always trying to think of other ways to make the area commercially productive, including plans for a casino. Right now, nothing has been decided, and the airport’s future is very much open for debate. Much of the land surrounding the runways is also managed by the City of Worcester Public Works as protected watershed land for a



MAP BY DOROTHY GRAASKAMP

string of small reservoirs that are part of the city's water supply. Land posted as such is absolutely off limits to the birder.

There are three entrance roads to the airport, which is situated between Routes 9 and 122. (1) One road, Goddard Memorial Drive, begins at Route 9 near the Leicester border. It ascends Airport Hill through some housing developments and a small number of industrial buildings and joins Airport Drive in two miles. At 1.5 miles from

Route 9, note Coppage Drive on the left, a short dead-end road that ends at one of the airport's control towers.

Airport Drive actually goes up and over the hill. One end (2) begins on Mill Street, 0.5 mile from the intersection with Chandler Street, where you will find gas, ATMs, and several options for food. Airport Drive rapidly ascends a hill, and when it meets Goddard Memorial Drive, it takes a ninety-degree turn and swings to the right (north). It then continues past the airport, down the northeast side of the hill, and ends at Route 122 (3) at a small rotary. Just north of the one-way entrance to the terminal, which is 0.5 mile from the intersection of Goddard Memorial Drive and Airport Drive, you will note a hard left onto an airport maintenance road, which goes to the local flight school and air freight area. The distance from the maintenance road to the rotary on Route 122 is another 0.5 mile.

When out and about with bins and scope near the airport, be sure never to trespass on airport property, the runways, etc. Be prepared for the occasional run-in with airport security, curious about what you're doing, despite the fact that this airport is hardly a terrorist target.

Birding the Airport Roads

One of the challenges of birding Goddard Memorial Drive and Airport Drive is that there are so few places to pull a car off the road. **DO NOT SLOW DOWN OR STOP ON THESE ROADS**, since traffic zips along these shortcuts. Options include pulling into Coppage Drive, the airport maintenance road, or, best of all, into the parking lot next to the airfields just south of the terminal and past the rental car lots, which is reached via the one-way terminal road. Note that this is not the overnight lot. A chain-link fence separates this lot from the runways.

In winter, it is not uncommon to find flocks of frugivores feasting on the numerous crab apple trees planted along these roads. Some of the most productive areas are found along Airport Drive from Route 122 to the intersection with Goddard Memorial Drive. There are more apple and crab apple trees in the upper stretches of Airport Drive from the intersection with Goddard, running toward Mill, but there is almost no place to pull off here.

Most of the time, the wintering flocks of birds gorging on the airport's apples will be the more common variety: European Starlings, Eastern Bluebirds, American Robins, and Cedar Waxwings. In flight years, this is one of Central Massachusetts' most reliable places to find Pine Grosbeaks. Always check the waxwing flocks for Bohemians, which have appeared here on rare occasions and in flight years. Though the Bohemian reports are usually of a single bird in a flock of Cedars, sometimes flocks of Bohemians have been found in the airport environs, for example February 18 to March 18, 1969, when there was a record flight and a maximum of 235 birds at Worcester Airport. Again, during the huge flight of January–February 1994, flocks of Bohemians appeared at the airport, but in much more modest numbers. In and among the frugivores, watch also for the occasional lingering species like a catbird, thrasher, or Hermit Thrush.



HORNED LARK BY DAVID LARSON

From late fall through winter, small flocks of Horned Larks and Snow Buntings can be found in the airport parking lot south of the terminal or out on the runways proper. Killdeer, Bobolinks, Eastern Meadowlarks, and Savannah Sparrows all commonly breed along the edges of the runways in spring and summer, and flocks of Killdeer gather along the runways in early fall. Raptors are often seen hunting over the runways. American Kestrels and Red-tailed Hawks are the most commonly observed, but in migration expect

species like Northern Harriers, Merlins, Peregrine Falcons, and, rarely, a Rough-legged Hawk. If you are here in the early evening in spring and summer, listen for the “peenting” notes of displaying American Woodcocks and the calls of Barred and Great Horned owls. Flocks of Wild Turkeys can pop up anywhere along these roads or out on the runways. Other breeding birds found along the airport roads include Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Chestnut-sided Warblers, Yellow Warblers, Prairie Warblers, Eastern Towhees, Field Sparrows, Song Sparrows, and Indigo Buntings.

Mulberry Street

To bird the Leicester side of the airport and get to two interesting hiking trails, start by driving north along Airport Drive in the direction of the Route 122 rotary. Before you get to the rotary, take the first left. This short street will quickly join Bailey Street. Bailey will become Marshall Street at the Leicester line. Follow Bailey/Marshall west one mile, past a small golf range and a disc golf course (both on the left) to Mulberry Street. Take a left on Mulberry and pass a few houses and woodlots until the view opens up dramatically along the west side of the airport runways. At 0.5 mile from the intersection with Marshall, pull off on the dirt shoulder on the right (west) side of the road and scope the airport fields through the chain-link fence for raptors, Killdeer, and the common breeding grassland birds of the area: Bobolinks, Red-winged Blackbirds, Savannah Sparrows, and Eastern Meadowlarks. Standing on the small grassy berm of the field sometimes helps you to get a good view. Upland Sandpipers bred here in the 1950s and since then have occasionally appeared in migration. Short-eared Owls have been recorded a few times in winter and spring at dusk. Displaying Woodcocks are commonly heard and seen here in season, and Great Horned Owls are regular at dusk and dawn.

Until very recently, Whip-poor-wills bred in small numbers nearby and could be heard singing at dusk. For reasons that are not clear, this population has disappeared, and we did not find them during year one of the Atlas surveys. Grasshopper and Henslow’s sparrows also bred in the airport fields in the late 1960s and early 1970s, but none have been found lately. The forest edge has a number of breeding warbler species including Blue-winged, Chestnut-sided, and Yellow warblers as well as

American Redstart and Ovenbird. Other common breeding species on this stretch include Wood Thrushes, Veerys, Eastern Kingbirds, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and Indigo Buntings. Sometimes during spring and fall migration, noteworthy flocks of migrant passerines can be found working the forest edge at first light.

A nice short trail through forest and edge habitat can be enjoyed by hiking through the gate on the opposite side of the road from the airport fields, 0.5 mile down Mulberry from Marshall. This is the Spider Gates Cemetery road, used by snowmobiles in winter. Park near the gate, but do not block it. This short (half-mile) road runs west through mixed forest and some sections of beaver swamp and exits onto Mannville Street just north of the landfill. You will pass the lovely isolated Quaker cemetery known locally as Spider Gates because of the patterned iron gates.

Probably because of its isolated location, this forlorn yet beautiful small Friends burial ground has numerous eerie and bizarre tales attached to it.

From a website on the history of the cemetery <http://www.boudillion.com/SpiderGates/spider.html> comes the following example:

It has an altar in the center used by a Satanist. A young boy hanged himself in the cemetery. There is a second cemetery nearby that can be found only once. There is an area in the cemetery where no grass will grow. If you walk around Marmaduke's gravestone ten times at midnight and say "Marmaduke speak to me," kneel down and place your head on the gravestone, he will speak to you. White stuff oozes from the ground. There is a cave nearby that a young girl had been killed and dismembered in. If you turn over rocks in an area outside the cemetery wall, you will find runes etched on them. Most frightening of all is that the cemetery is considered to be the Eighth Gate to Hell!

How can you NOT want to bird here? Please note, however, that you are not allowed to actually enter the cemetery. Be sure not to block this gate with your car since the Reservoir Police may need access. Also, be sure to bring bug repellent. In migration, especially in spring, the trees along the road between the Mulberry Street gate and the cemetery can be filled with cuckoos, flycatchers, thrushes, warblers, and other passerines. Northern Waterthrushes have bred by the beaver marsh, and Pine Warblers and Red-breasted Nuthatches breed in the pines. Listen for Alder Flycatchers along the first stretch near the airport runway.

The trail actually continues on the opposite side of Mannville, past a gate and up a rather rough and eroded path that runs uphill for another quarter-mile or more and exits onto Route 56 opposite a dirt road passable by cars. This stretch has many of the same birds as the Spider Gates stretch but also includes breeding Broad-winged Hawks, Black-throated Blue Warblers, and Canada Warblers.

Returning to Mulberry Street, continue south for a short distance, and on your left, toward the airport, note a section of field lower than the runways, protected by a chain-link fence. This small section of grassland can be great for grassland birds and

often has turkeys and white-tailed deer at dusk. Be sure to check all fences for perched raptors, flycatchers, and, sometimes, owls.

Sylvester Street

A longer and “birdier” hike can be found another half-mile down Mulberry Street. Just before Mulberry takes a ninety-degree turn to the right, note a Catholic facility, the Nazareth Home for Boys, on the right and a dirt pull-in next to a gate on the left. Park next to this gate. Be sure not to leave valuables in your car. The dirt road is Sylvester Street. Just a few decades ago you could drive down this dirt road, but it is now closed to vehicles. The land on either side of Sylvester Street is owned by the Worcester Water Department or the airport and is strictly OFF LIMITS. But the birder is free to walk down the road and enjoy the variety of habitats. This is a rather long hike, just over a mile, and will end at the gate at the north end of Reservoir Road, a public street that connects to Route 9. A productive strategy would be to drop a car off at either end and hike Sylvester Street one way. It is a great place to bird in spring migration and early summer. Get an early start, since other hikers are common along this stretch, and, unfortunately, ATVs illegally use these roads.

The first half of Sylvester Street goes through mature and mixed forest with some small remnant stands of red pine. Because it is in the shadow of Airport Hill, this end of Sylvester Street can be quite dark in the morning. Be sure to bring bug repellent since this spot is rife with black flies and mosquitoes. In early spring, there can be a wonderful display of purple trillium along the road. Barely visible through the trees on the right will be Lynde Brook Reservoir. Up the slope and out of sight on the left is the airport. Birds seen and heard along here in spring migration and summer include Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Pileated Woodpeckers, Eastern Wood-Pewees, cuckoos, and a variety of warblers and other passerines. The road will come to an open area where a stream crosses under it and feeds into the reservoir. Listen here for species like Common Yellowthroats, Gray Catbirds, and Red-winged Blackbirds. Sylvester Street will then climb steeply for a short distance. Just beyond the top of the slope note a well-worn trail on the right. This is the continuation of Sylvester Street. Or you can continue straight, through second-growth forest; here the trail becomes less distinct and runs toward airport property.

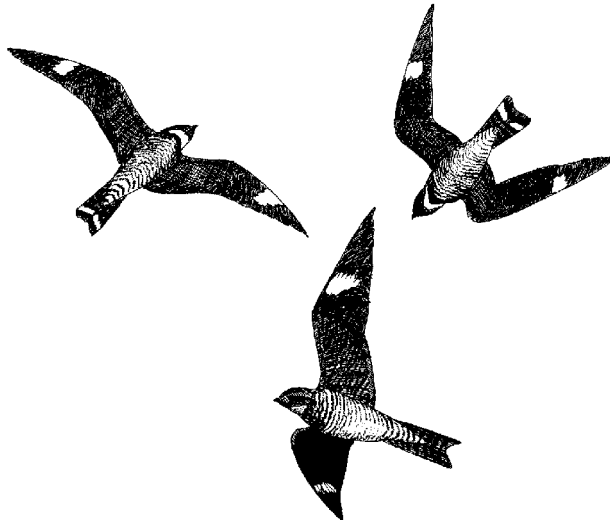
The southern half of Sylvester Street, from this bend to Reservoir Road, can host an amazing variety of migrants and breeders. The road runs along the slope by the northeastern shore of Lynde Brook Reservoir. There are small stands of hemlocks and other planted conifers among the tracts of deciduous forest. Red-eyed Vireos, Wood Thrushes, Veerys, Hermit Thrushes, Ovenbirds, and Black-and-white, Black-throated Green, and Blackburnian warblers breed along here, the latter two species in very small numbers. Sometimes Winter Wrens, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Canada and Magnolia warblers, and Louisiana Waterthrushes also breed, but more often show up as migrants. I have sometimes heard a Worm-eating Warbler singing far up the slope, and they may breed. When you come out to Reservoir Road, listen for Chestnut-sided and Blue-winged warblers and Red-breasted Nuthatches. In spring, waves of warblers often pass down the slope on this section of Sylvester Street, and you can spend hours

birding this dark stretch of road and ending up with a fine day's list as well as a good case of "warbler neck." Remember, the edge of the reservoir is off limits, but from the road you will often note Common Mergansers and Ring-necked Ducks in migration. Spotted Sandpipers breed here.

If you continue to drive on Mulberry Street, always keeping to the right, the road becomes Mannville. It heads back to the north and passes by the base of a capped landfill on the left, through a bit more forest owned by the Water Department, past the other end of the Spider Gates trail, past Kettle Brook Reservoir #2 (on right), and out onto Route 56 just north of the Route 56 airport overlook.

Route 56 Airport Overlook

From the middle of August to the middle of September, one of the best places in Massachusetts to view large numbers of migrating Common Nighthawks is the airport overlook on Route 56. From Route 9, drive 1.7 miles north on Route 56, passing the legendary joint "Hot Dog Annie's" on the way, to an obvious scenic view of the airport runways to the east with Worcester in the distance. It's a commanding overlook, and on a clear evening, looking to the southern horizon, you can see the microwave tower where ravens breed in the town of Blackstone on the Rhode Island border. Pull well off the road toward the northern end of the overlook. This is a very busy road, so be prepared for lots of cars passing by. Try to arrive here by five in the afternoon and plan to stay until dusk. Most movements of birds can be viewed out over the runways toward the city of Worcester. Though the strung-out flocks of nighthawks will often be out at some distance and you will need a scope, at other times sizeable flocks of nighthawks will pass low right overhead, usually heading west or southwest.



COMMON NIGHTHAWKS BY GEORGE C. WEST

Sometimes the nighthawks pass by quickly, while at other times flocks drift back and forth in front of you, feeding furiously. Big-count nights happen only a few times a season, and most of the time you will have to be satisfied with numbers in the low double digits. There are also nights when no nighthawks pass by. Weather is definitely a factor, with wind and rain being the worst conditions in which to watch for movements. That said, several of us have had large flocks of nighthawks moving just before the passage of a front with thunderstorms. The night following the passage of a front is often productive. Another factor is flying ants. If large swarms of flying ants are visible or if they are seen in the sand of the parking area leaving their holes, good movements can be expected. For full details, see my article, "Watching Nighthawks in the Blackstone National Corridor" (*Bird Observer* 32 (4) August 2004: 213–23).

Nighthawks are not the only attraction here. Savannah Sparrows, Bobolinks, and Eastern Meadowlarks breed in the fields on both sides of the road. Raptors, sometimes in impressive numbers, are typically noted in migration. The only reason this airport overlook is not a better-known hawk-watch spot is that it faces into the sun for the first half of the day. Large numbers of robins and blackbirds can be seen flying by in migration. Other species regularly seen while nighthawk-watching include Double-crested Cormorants, Great Blue Herons, Turkey Vultures, Canada Geese, Killdeer, Ring-billed Gulls, and Common Ravens, which breed nearby to the north on Asnebumpskit Hill on the Paxton-Holden line. Keep a sharp lookout for the unusual. In just the last few years I have seen Great Egrets, Little Blue Herons, Pileated Woodpeckers (several times a season; they breed here), Upland Sandpipers, Wilson's Snipes, Black-bellied Plovers, and American Golden Plovers all pass through my field of view. Wild Turkeys are often seen in the fields in front of you. Migrating monarch butterflies also pass by in large numbers.

Be sure to scan the runways with your scope. It is possible sometimes to pick out hawks, turkeys, and even coyotes hanging out around the runways, but realize that you are at a great distance.

From the overlook, it is 0.3 mile to a sharp right onto Mannville Street and 0.5 mile to the right onto Marshall Street. The total distance from Route 9 to Route 122 along Route 56 is 3.9 miles.

Boynton Park And The Tetasset Hill Trail System

If you are one of those birders who also enjoys hiking and exploring, two spots just next door to the airport deserve your attention.

From the rotary at the intersection of Airport Drive and Route 122, drive northwest on 122 for 0.3 mile to Mower Street on the right. Be aware that there are three intersections with Mower Street in the area; the one you are looking for has a sign for Boynton Park. Drive down Mower Street for 0.3 mile, and pull over opposite a small ball field. Look for a signed trailhead and a well-worn trail leading downhill for almost a mile. Be sure to consult a trail map before you start (see: <<http://www.recworchester.org/trails/boynton.html>>). This parcel of preserved hillside forest with its network of trails hosts an interesting variety of birds. Barred Owls,

Pileated Woodpeckers, Hermit Thrushes, Pine Warblers, and Scarlet Tanagers all breed here. Winter Wrens and Louisiana Waterthrushes have often lingered in spring and may breed on occasion. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers have bred several times.

Another set of trails is farther up the dirt road, and you can spend a good morning exploring this gem of a city park in the western corner of Worcester near the Paxton line. Be aware that this is a popular hiking and jogging spot, and because it is a city park, dogs are allowed.



BARRED OWL BY DAVID LARSON

For a more private hiking and birding experience, continue driving northwest on Route 122 for 1.25 miles from the airport rotary and look for Walbridge Street on the left. Follow this to the small cul-de-sac at the end. Note that while many maps show Walbridge continuing on to Elm Street and Route 56, this is not the case, and you cannot now drive beyond this cul-de-sac. Park here, and look for the trailhead sign for the Tetasset Hill Trail System, a wonderful property saved by the Greater Worcester Land Trust. This is a hilly parcel that includes wet deciduous forest with lots of undergrowth and small marshy Southwick Pond. The trail used to exit onto Crystal Street (off Marshall Street), but as of 2007, the last stretch passing by Southwick Pond was under water. Though the trails are well marked, the footing is often on a wet and uneven substrate, so wear a decent pair of hiking boots. This whole area is virtually unvisited by birders, and we found it only by doing our Atlas work.

Breeding birds here include Broad-winged Hawks, Eastern Wood-Pewees, Great Crested Flycatchers, Veerys, Wood Thrushes, Red-eyed Vireos, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and Scarlet Tanagers. Breeding warblers include several pairs of Black-throated Blue, Chestnut-sided, and many Ovenbirds. Great Blue Herons, Green Herons, and Wood Ducks are also commonly noted in the vicinity of the pond. Back at the parking area, note another unsigned trailhead to the right of the signed trail. This trail, actually the old dirt Elm Street, is now well overgrown. It passes through habitat similar to the Southwick Pond trail and ends at Route 56. 🦉

Mark Lynch hosts "Inquiry" on radio station WICN (90.5 FM), an interview show focusing on arts, sciences, and history. He is also a teacher and docent at the Worcester Art Museum and a teacher and ecological mentor at Worcester's Broad Meadow Brook Sanctuary. With his wife, Sheila Carroll, he is currently working on an ornithogeography of the Blackstone National Corridor. Both Sheila and Mark are Regional Coordinators for the second Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas.

Invasion of the Berry Snatchers: The Waxwing Irruption of 2007–2008

John Kricher

Either you were there, or you weren't. Either you were part of it, or you missed it. Birding can be relaxing, routine, at least somewhat predictable, often unsurprising, or none of the above. On Sunday, December 23, 2007, it was none of the above. If, on that day, you were on Cape Ann or Cape Cod, you were witness to an event deserving of the description "unique and unprecedented."

That's the day that Bohemian Waxwings (*Bombycilla garrulous*) appeared in such great numbers that the European Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*), Blue Jays (*Cyanocitta cristata*), and American Robins (*Turdus migratorius*) must have wondered just what was going on in the neighborhood. Cedar Waxwings (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) were likely lying low that day. Bohemian Waxwings by the dozens filled bare tree branches, massed as they fed on multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), and snatched winter moths (*Operophtera brumata*) from the air like flycatchers. They dazzled birders, some of whom were dutifully counting them for the annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC).



Part of one flock of Bohemian Waxwings, Eastham, Mass., on December 23, 2007. Photo by David Larson.

And the next day, by and large, they were gone. No, not entirely. Some remained in and around Rockport, and on Cape Cod. On Christmas Eve, the day after the influx, I found a flock of about forty in Orleans and another flock of ten in Eastham, a total of about fifty individual birds. But the previous day, in that same area, there had been 983. The multiflora rose remained, the winter moths still flew, but most of the waxwings had taken their leave to parts unknown.

To put the pre-Christmas waxwing invasion in some perspective, consider the fact that on the same day when 983 Bohemian Waxwings were recorded on Cape Cod, a total of 830 were recorded by Rick Heil at Gloucester/Rockport (and the previous day, the Cape Ann CBC recorded 710). That's a total of 1813 Bohemian Waxwings just in those two places. In addition, various Christmas Bird Counts reported "record numbers" of Bohemian Waxwings, including Greater Boston (3) and Newburyport (73).

In *Birds of Massachusetts* (1993) Veit and Petersen comment, "In 1968–1969, the largest flight to reach New England in recorded history (Finch 1969) brought 330+ birds to Massachusetts..." They further note that the flight "spanned the dates December 24, 1968, (Andover) to May 26, 1969, (Amherst)." So, on a single day, 5.5 times as many Bohemian Waxwings appeared in just two places (Cape Ann and Cape Cod) as all taken together over the entire record-setting winter of 1968–1969. That gets any birder's attention. But in birding, things do change.

For example, during the winter of 1993–1994 — one year after publication of *Birds of Massachusetts* — a record 2679 reports of Bohemian Waxwings were submitted to *Bird Observer*. These included flocks of over 300 in West Newbury (Leahy et al.), Wakefield (Hepburn), and Amesbury (Peacock), as well as a flock of 415 in Hardwick (Lynch). The irruption of 1993–1994 was widespread across the Commonwealth, including impressive numbers on the Outer Cape.

And, as the old song goes, "the beat goes on." Since then subsequent winters have brought more Bohemian Waxwings in often impressive numbers. Most noteworthy was the winter of 2003–2004, when flocks of over 200 individuals were reported from Truro (Laux and Nikula) to Gardner (Pirro) and Northfield (Minnear). Bohemian Waxwings are on the increase.

Some natural history may be helpful in gaining further perspective. Bohemian Waxwings are a well-known irruptive species. They, along with Pine Grosbeaks (*Pinicola enucleator*), Evening Grosbeaks (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*), Common Redpolls (*Carduelis flammea*), and Red-breasted Nuthatches (*Sitta canadensis*) are boreal forest species that periodically appear in winter well south of boreal forest in numbers ranging from small to impressively large.

In any given year there may be little or no influx of irruptive species. Red-breasted Nuthatches and Common Redpolls tend to irrupt to some degree every other year. Pine Grosbeaks and Bohemian Waxwings are not as predictable. Irruptions are most noteworthy when they result in banner years, when irruptive bird species quite simply flood the region. How well I recall seeing the first snowflakes of the Blizzard of '78. Snow began to fall as I was watching a small flock of Pine Grosbeaks in

Norton on my way to Wheaton. That was an irruption winter for Pine Grosbeaks in southeastern Massachusetts.

As any birder in the Northeast knows, this winter is one in which boreal irruptive species abound. [I say “boreal irruptive species” because some frugivorous nonboreal species are also subject to occasional irruptions, though these events usually get less attention. Cedar Waxwings and American Robins may erupt southward to places such as Florida. (Iliff and Lovich 2007)]

Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported in New York as early as late June and July and have been common throughout most of Massachusetts since late summer.

Pine Grosbeaks have been observed across the state, and a sizeable flock has remained in Royalston for much of the winter. They also have been numerous at Worcester Airport. They began appearing in the first week in November at Plum Island and Royalston. Numbers remained small until a flock of 80+ was reported in Royalston by Mark Lynch on December 12.

Evening Grosbeaks, whose numbers have declined dramatically and somewhat mysteriously since the 1970s, seem to have staged a minor “comeback” this winter. Flocks have been coming to feeders in the central and northern parts of the state. Mark Lynch reported a flock of 90+ at Royalston on December 12. A few individual birds have been seen on Cape Cod.

Beginning in the first week in November, Common Redpolls have been observed throughout the state. While most observations involve small numbers of birds, some notably large flocks have been reported.

These include 193 in Lexington on November 12 (M. Rines), 145 in Eastham on November 15 (M. Malin), 280+ on December 18 at Plum Island (R. Heil), and 343 at Dana on the December 29 Quabbin CBC (M. Lynch). By January, unusually large flocks were descending regularly on feeders in Ashfield and Cummington, with highs of 300+ reported from one Ashfield yard on January 5 and February 4, and 200+ from several yards in Cummington on January 14–15 (S. Sauter). Even Hoary Redpolls are being noted in what seem to be unprecedented numbers of sightings.

Northern Shrikes (*Lanius excubitor*), predators of boreal forest bird species, are also uncommonly numerous this winter, as they are following their irruptive dinners. From November 2 to December 31, a total of sixty-nine observations of this species were submitted to *Bird Observer*. So this year is an irruptive year unique among years. This year is different.

As for Bohemian Waxwings, the first sightings were of small numbers in the first week of November. But on December 22, the day before the “big event,” 200+ were reported from Gloucester (M. Lynch). Then came the immense numbers (for Massachusetts) observed on December 23 on both the Cape Ann and Cape Cod CBCs.

There are arguably two reasons why these sightings are deserving of being called remarkable. First is the unprecedented numbers of individual birds observed. Second

is the eastern focus of the irruption. No comparable numbers of Bohemians were noted from other parts of the state.

As Rick Heil commented on his posting on MASSBIRD (December 24), “Given the geographic distribution of most of Massachusetts’ Bohemian Waxwings (Cape Ann and Cape Cod), I would speculate a possible Canadian Maritime or perhaps downeast Maine origin for these birds.” Heil’s speculation might eventually be borne out with records posted on eBird and other tracking sources such as *North American Birds*.



Bohemian Waxwing by Erik Nielsen

Another point worth mentioning is how, at least at this writing (late January), the Bohemian irruption this winter is at variance with those of previous invasion years where Bohemian Waxwings remained at various places for days or weeks, unlike their “hit and run” habits that have prevailed this winter.

For example, Jim Berry and I saw a sizeable flock on the campus (and outside a coffee shop) at the University of New Hampshire on February 29, 2004. This flock was known to be relatively reliable, remaining where its food sources were. Many birders saw them over a period of weeks. Later that spring, on April 17, I took my Ornithology class to Truro and observed a flock of about fifty Bohemian Waxwings along Ryder Beach Road. Bohemian Waxwings had remained in and around Truro for some weeks.

Irruptions occur due to food shortage. The birds’ plant food crops fail, and they are forced to seek food elsewhere; thus they irrupt.

The esteemed British ornithologist David Lack argued strongly that bird populations are in general food limited (Lack 1954). Part of Lack’s logic was that birds, as endothermic (warm-blooded) animals of extremely high metabolism, have copious energy requirements and thus are pretty much continuously at the mercy of their food sources. As nature’s high octane, high performance animals, they have few options but to go where the food is. Fortunately, given that they have wings, they can do exactly that.

This winter Ron Pittaway of the Ontario Field Ornithologists (OFO) predicted southern influxes of Pine Grosbeaks, Purple Finches (*Carpodacus purpureus*), Evening Grosbeaks, Common Redpolls, Red-breasted Nuthatches, and Bohemian Waxwings. On the OFO website <<http://www.ofo.ca/reportsandarticles/winterfinches.php>> he noted that “Most coniferous and deciduous trees have very poor seed crops in much of Ontario and western Quebec.”

This means that several key species of trees coincidentally failed to produce good seed crops, trees ranging from birches and alder, which redpolls rely upon, to sugary berry trees such as mountain-ash (*Sorbus americana*), which Pine Grosbeaks and Bohemian Waxwings devour.

On December 5, 2007, on the eBird website <<http://ebird.org/content/ebird/news/Irruption2007Nov.html>>, Matthew Medler reported that Bohemian Waxwing “has been seen in good numbers in portions of Maine, New Hampshire, and northern New York since late October and early November.” He further noted that most of the flocks were single species with in excess of one hundred individuals. It was thus only a matter of weeks before these flocks made their way to the Bay State.

The phenomenon of irruption is what ecologists refer to as a “bottom-up” effect. In plain English, plants (at the base or “bottom” of the food chain) ultimately call the shots, and the birds have no choice but to respond. Northern Shrikes are here because their food source, in the form of boreal birds, is here. And the boreal birds are here because their food source, the boreal plants, did not produce sufficient food for them this year.

This sort of relationship is typical of low diversity ecosystems where there are few plant species but most species are relatively abundant. You do not see examples of tropical irruptive bird species, for example, because the opposite conditions prevail, namely high plant species richness and low numbers of individuals per species.

So, in the lower latitudes, if a particular fruiting tree fails to make fruit in a given season, there are numerous others producing fruit. Birds simply shift to other plant foods. In montane tropical areas where seasonality is such that fruiting trees are more synchronous, frugivorous birds “migrate” to lower elevations during times of fruit shortage, but this movement is not irruptive.

Irruptions are to some degree related to the adaptation of “masting,” which is common in many coniferous tree species as well as some deciduous species such as certain of the oaks. Masting is when seed crops either burgeon or fail in synchrony over a wide geographic region. Masting is obviously an evolutionary response to seed predation.

In a mast year, the market is flooded with cones or acorns or whatever, far too many for all seed predators combined to devour. Thus many seeds survive to germinate, sprout, and grow new trees. Mast years stimulate population growth among the seed predators. But when seed crops fail in synchrony the seed predators are forced to leave or starve.

As perhaps an aside, it should be noted that birds also exhibit “top-down” relationships with plants. Experiments both in North America and Japan have used mesh covering to exclude birds from access to arthropods that feed on leaves of deciduous trees. In those trees where birds were excluded, there was far greater insect damage to the leaves than on control trees, where the mesh size still permitted insectivorous bird species access to prey upon insects such as caterpillars. Thus the

birds are depressing the arthropod (mostly insect) numbers enough to permit the plant to flourish.

Bohemian Waxwings are dependent on sugary fruits and their physiology is complexly related to such a diet (Witmer 2002). All three of the world's waxwing species have similar diets. The nomadic habits and flocking nature of these birds (that often nest in loose colonies and only nest relatively late in the season, when fruit is readily available) is an adaptation to their dietary requirement for sugary fruit, which tends to be a clumped resource in nature.

Most readers of this journal have observed Cedar Waxwings feeding on eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) berries (which are actually cones) as well as many other kinds of fruits. Waxwings, in contrast to species such as Pine Grosbeak, are "gulpers," ingesting the fruit whole. This makes them function well as seed dispersers. Pine Grosbeaks are "mashers" and could destroy or drop seeds beside the parent plant, in either case reducing the likelihood of germination. This makes Pine Grosbeaks function as seed predators. American Robins, like waxwings, are gulpers and thus also serve as seed dispersers. Most eastern red cedars were likely "planted" by either robins or waxwings.

Cedar Waxwings also consume fruits of multiflora rose, crabapple (*Malus* spp.), Russian olive (*Eleaegnus angustifolia*), and oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), as well as numerous other species. Bohemian Waxwings feed on these species too. In fact, Jim Berry and I watched Bohemians displacing Cedar Waxwings when we observed them at the University of New Hampshire. It may not have escaped your notice that the above named species are considered invasive alien plants. I will say more about this point later.

The Cedar Waxwing is found throughout North America and migrates irregularly, "irrupting" as far south as Middle America. I observed a flock of Cedar Waxwings at Chan Chich Lodge, Belize, seemingly at ease among trogons, motmots, and other neotropical species.

For North American birders, the least known waxwing species is the Japanese Waxwing (*Bombycilla japonica*). The Japanese Waxwing has the most limited distribution of the tree species, breeding in southeastern Russia and wintering in parts of Korea, China, and Japan.

In contrast, the Bohemian Waxwing is the most abundant and widely distributed of the world's waxwings (del Hoyo et al. 2005). Its distribution is circumboreal, and its populations are estimated to number in the millions. Thus when it irrupts, flocks often exceed a thousand birds.

Historical accounts suggest their winter abundance in parts of the American West somewhat rivaled that of Passenger Pigeons (*Ectopistes migratorius*) in the East (Forbush 1929). Indeed, in North America, by far the largest part of the species' range is in the western boreal forest. Its range is more compressed in the East, and thus the large winter flocks typical of irruptive years in the western states are not found here.

But in proportion to other years of Bohemian Waxwing irruption into Massachusetts, this one is a doozy. Why might that be?

One possibility is the birding equivalent to a “perfect storm” scenario. Waxwings invade for but a day, a day that just happened to occur on a weekend when numerous birders were present to record the event. Had the Outer Cape CBC occurred when it was originally scheduled, the previous Sunday, the waxwing invasion of Eastham and Orleans may have been significantly undercounted or perhaps missed altogether. I doubt this explanation suffices.

What seems most likely is that the waxwing influx was part of a trend that has developed in recent years, a trend I cited earlier. Forbush (1929) suggested that Bohemian Waxwings were “not quite so rare” in New England as previous records suggested. Veit and Petersen (1993) point out that the frequency of Bohemian Waxwing sightings has increased in recent winters, an observation supported in other states as well (Witmer 2002). These birds are coming here more regularly.

This trend toward greater winter dispersal could be due to several ecological factors. One is habitat fragmentation in boreal regions. Perhaps there is less winter food for them in boreal regions than in the past, forcing more frequent irruptions. Related to this is the possibility that the numbers of Bohemian Waxwings have actually increased in some boreal regions and thus intraspecific competition (within the species) drives winter dispersal. This possibility is perhaps unlikely since the Canadian Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Survey data show no increasing trend in nesting records in recent years.

Another possibility is that irruptive behavior is being stimulated by greater availability of food sources, such as invasive plant species that are found south of the breeding range. Multiflora rose, crabapples, and other species are clearly major food sources for wintering Pine Grosbeaks and Bohemian Waxwings.

While it is tempting to “rethink” the bias against invasive plant species, I refer the reader to a very thoughtful treatment of this topic in Iliff and Lovich (2007). Yet another possibility is that the boreal irruptive species are reacting to selection pressures ultimately caused by global climate change. And finally, there is the “all of the above” possibility.



Bohemian Waxwing by David Larson

The immediate cause of the influx of waxwings, grosbeaks, and redpolls to Massachusetts this winter was likely food driven. And that’s really about all we know.

Where did the Bohemian Waxwings that littered the trees of Cape Ann and Cape Cod go? Somewhere else. In an email to me Mark Lynch suggested, “The

Bohemians are notoriously itinerant and you almost have to have a Zen-like approach to finding them. In other words, not be looking for them and not be thinking about them.” That’s good advice.

Arthur Cleveland Bent (1950) perhaps described Bohemian Waxwings the best: “To most of us these Bohemians are birds of mystery; we never know when or where we see these roving bands of gypsies. They come and they go, we know not whence or whither, in the never-ending search for a bounteous food supply on which to gorge themselves.”

On Cape Cod and Cape Ann, on December 23rd, they came...and they went.

Acknowledgements:

I am grateful to Marj. Rines for kindly supplying me with data from *Bird Observer* sightings for the winter of 2007–2008, as well as previous winter records. I thank Mark Lynch for some good comments and for reminding me to review the winter of 1993–1994. Finally, I thank Wayne Petersen for suggesting this article and for sending some additional information on this year’s waxwing irruption. 🐦

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Leucistic Bohemian Waxwing by David Larson

Slaty-backed Gull: “Tomorrow’s Lesser Black-backed Gull?”

Wayne R. Petersen

Seemingly incredible (Or is it?), three Slaty-backed Gulls (*Larus schistisagus*) — the first-ever recorded in Massachusetts — were discovered on December 23, 2007, practically within an hour of one another at two widely separated coastal locations. The first individual was an adult bird found and identified by David Sibley shortly before noon while the bird was roosting on a rooftop near the Jodrey Fish Pier in inner Gloucester Harbor (Essex County). Although Sibley was uncertain at the time, he suspected that there might actually have been two Slaty-backed Gulls in Gloucester on the 23rd. At approximately 1 p.m. the same day, David Larson and the author identified an adult Slaty-backed Gull roosting with Herring and Great Black-backed gulls at the tip of Coast Guard Beach in Eastham (Barnstable County). On December 24, a second and apparently slightly younger (fourth-cycle?) Slaty-backed Gull was located and photographed in Gloucester Harbor by Rick Heil, thus confirming Sibley’s initial suspicion that two individuals were very likely present the previous day. Both of the gulls in Gloucester were definitively photographed (see http://www.nebirdsplus.org/Slaty_backed_Gull.htm).



Adult Slaty-backed Gull (front center) at Niles Pond in Gloucester — photograph taken by Phil Brown on December 26, 2007.

A few facts

Slaty-backed Gulls are native to northeastern Asia, breeding from the Gulf of Anadyr and the western Bering Sea coast south through Kamchatka and the Kuril Islands to Sakhalin and Japan. Most of the population winters from the edge of the sea ice in the Bering Sea and Kamchatka south to Japan, the eastern coast of China, and Taiwan (Kessel, 1989; del Hoyo et al., 1996; A.O.U., 1998). A classic Beringian species (a species occurring in both Siberia and Alaska on both sides of the historic

Bering Land Bridge), the status of the Slaty-backed Gull in Alaska is defined as “generally rare in spring, summer, and fall on Bering and Chukchi coasts and on offshore islands in Bering Sea.” (Howell and Dunn, 2007) The species is very rare from late spring to early fall on the Beaufort Sea coast east to Prudhoe Bay, Alaska. Slaty-backed Gulls are locally uncommon (for example, on Seward Peninsula and St. Lawrence Island) in fall (Aug. – Sept.). It is very rare or casual at any season in south-coastal Alaska, and is rare in winter in southeast Alaska (Howell and Dunn, 2007).

The field identification of this large, light-eyed, pink-legged gull with a dark slate-gray mantle and a distinctive “string of pearls” pattern on its outer primaries has been extensively and adequately covered in the literature (Goetz et al., 1986; Olsen and Larsson, 2004; Howell and Dunn, 2007). Most recently Iliff and Lovitch (2007) produced a comprehensive summary of records and trends in Slaty-backed Gulls in North America. What follows are some additional facts that may interest observers curious about knowing more about this most recent addition to the Massachusetts state list.

Status in North America

Kessel (1989) described the Slaty-backed Gull as “an uncommon migrant and rare summer visitant to the coasts of the Seward Peninsula, where it has been recorded from outer Kotzebue Sound to Rocky Point and off St. Michael.” Counts along the coast of western Alaska in summer during the past half-century have varied from only a few individuals, to tallies of up to 39 or more at certain locations like Nome on the Seward Peninsula (Kessel, 1989). Despite these numbers and the frequency of occurrence of Slaty-backed Gulls in western Alaska, there is only one confirmed nesting record of this species in North America — a pair with a nest containing one egg found July 3, 1996, located in a Glaucous Gull colony, southwest of Cape Romanzof on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta of western Alaska (Tobish, 1996). That same season more than 50 Slaty-backed Gulls were noted concentrated at a herring run on nearby Nilumat Creek (Tobish, 1996).

In spite of the frequency of these Alaska occurrences, prior to the winter of 1983-1984 when the first highly publicized appearance of a Slaty-backed Gull south of Canada appeared on the Mississippi River in St. Louis, Missouri (Goetz et al., 1986), the only other published North American record for this species south of Alaska was from Victoria, British Columbia March 1, 1974, (Roberson, 1980). Since 1984, however, Slaty-backed Gulls have appeared with increasing frequency from British Columbia, Washington, and Oregon south to central California (e.g., 1995 marked the first accepted California record), occasionally with multiple individuals appearing at the same location (e.g., Half Moon Bay, San Mateo County). Since the first extralimital appearance in Missouri in the mid-1980s, Slaty-backed Gull records have not been confined to the Pacific Coast. To date there are acceptable records from Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Wisconsin, in addition to Canadian records from Alberta, Newfoundland, Northwest Territories, Ontario, Quebec, Saskatchewan, and Yukon.

Given this recent proliferation of records south of Alaska and Canada, it is perhaps not totally surprising to learn that since November 2007, no fewer than 26 Slaty-backed Gulls were documented in the lower United States and Canada, including at least one or more individuals in Ontario, Newfoundland (3), Illinois, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, New York (2), and Wisconsin, in addition to the three birds recorded in Massachusetts (fide *The Birding Community E-bulletin*, February 2008, and Johnson 2007).



Slaty-backed Gull flight image, taken in Gloucester on December 23, 2007, by Phil Brown.

How are they getting here?

One of the more interesting aspects about the proliferation of Slaty-backed Gulls in North America pertains to their route of arrival. Curiously, there seems to be relatively little evidence that this species is substantially increasing in Alaska, despite several robust tallies through the years. More importantly there is only one confirmed nesting record for the Western Hemisphere. Although there appears to be some evidence that the species may be increasing in Japan (Hiroyoshi Higuchi, pers. comm.), it is still a very long way from Japan to the Atlantic Coast of North America.

This fact raises the possibility for an interesting hypothesis. Could Slaty-backed Gulls actually be “coming over the top,” passing through Arctic Canada on an increasingly unfrozen Arctic Ocean to reach the United States? As global warming continues to melt the polar ice, creating open water where once there was only ice in winter, is it possible that birds nesting in northeastern Asia are finding it increasingly easy to potentially disperse into the New World? Equally intriguing is the increase in occurrences of Black-tailed Gulls and Long-billed Murrelets in North America, two species emanating from essentially the same part of the world as Slaty-backed Gulls. Could global warming be creating a Trans-Arctic avenue to North America, somewhat analogous to the Bering Land Bridge of yesteryear, but now only a route for colonists capable of flight?

Needless to say it may take years before we determine what is happening with Slaty-backed Gulls, but since there are at least two other species, one of which is a

gull, whose vagrancy patterns are similar to that of the Slaty-backed Gull, it offers fodder for speculation. Could the Slaty-backed Gull be the next Lesser Black-backed Gull, only a species attempting to colonize the New World from Asia instead of Europe? 🦅

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Twelfth Annual Report of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee (MARC)

Marjorie Rines, Secretary

One newly submitted record resulted in the addition of a new species to the Massachusetts State List. A “**Western**” **Flycatcher** was mist-netted at the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences banding station, and excellent details were submitted. Unfortunately, the overlap in measurements and other features between Pacific-slope and Cordilleran flycatchers, a closely related species pair, made it impossible to identify the flycatcher to the species level.

As time goes by and we increasingly gain greater understanding of vagrancy patterns in birds, historic reports need to be reevaluated periodically. This year the MARC reexamined several historical records; this review culminated in several changes to the State List.

A 1977 record of **Steller’s Eider** was originally placed on the MARC Supplemental List, which states: “The MARC believes that wild individuals of these species may have occurred in the state; however, a captive origin cannot be discounted.” A resubmission of this record along with new information about the status and occurrence of this species in eastern North America convinced the Committee that there was compelling evidence to add the species to the State List of naturally occurring species.

A 1999 record of **Crested Caracara** was originally rejected because of questionable natural occurrence. A resubmission of the record cited a pattern in the increasing number of extralimital occurrences, effectively convincing the Committee that it should be added to the State List of naturally occurring species.

Four historical records of **Western Wood-Pewee** for Massachusetts included two individuals that were collected, although the records never underwent formal review by the Committee. Unfortunately, both of the collected specimens were ultimately destroyed by beetles, and no written record could be located that included the critical measurements of the specimens. New understanding of the differences between this species and the very similar Eastern Wood-Pewee has now called the original identification into question. Lacking the specimens and accompanying measurements, the MARC felt compelled to remove this species from the State List. Two additional sight records lacked written details.

Five species initially rejected due to their questionable occurrence were added to the Supplemental List: **Pink-footed Goose**, **Trumpeter Swan**, **Greater Flamingo**, **White-tailed Hawk**, and **European Goldfinch**.

These changes bring the MARC State List to 487 species. A copy of this list can be seen at: <<http://massbird.org/marc/MARCstatelist.htm>>.

Records Accepted

Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*), #07–05, March 18, 2007, Fairhaven (Bristol), M. Lynch*, S. Carroll. (Ballot = 1, Vote: 8–1). #06–51, November 4, 2006, Amherst (Hampshire), F. Bowrys*, J. P. Smith†. (Ballot = 1, Vote: 9–0). #06–50, October 13, 2006, Turners Falls (Franklin), F. Bowrys*, J. P. Smith†. (Ballot = 1, Vote: 8–0). Because this species was just raised to full species status in 2004, the historical occurrence of Cackling Geese in Massachusetts is poorly known. Fall and winter reports have seemingly become routine. Despite the increase in reports of this species in the state, it continues on the MARC's Review List because of the difficulty in differentiating the larger races of Cackling Goose from the smaller forms of Canada Goose.

Steller's Eider (*Polysticta stelleri*), #77–2R, March 29, 1977, Scituate (Plymouth), originally discovered by R. Vernon; resubmitted by W. Petersen. (Ballot = 1, Vote: 8–1). This 1977 individual was an unmistakable male seen by many, but was originally placed on the MARC Supplemental List as noted above. Steller's Eider is an arctic species that is regularly seen in northern Europe, as well as a vagrant in Greenland and Iceland. The resubmission specifically described other occurrences of this species in eastern North America (i.e., Maine, Gulf of Saint Lawrence), in addition to reviewing its status in Europe. Steller's Eiders are extremely rare in captivity, and the Committee agreed that the evidence of wild origin was compelling.

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*), #06–39, November 26, 2006, Revere (Suffolk), S. Zendehe*†. (Ballot = 1, Vote: 8–1). The description and photograph convinced the Committee that the very similar Clark Grebe (*A. clarkii*) could be eliminated, although the dissenting member postulated the possibility that the bird could have been a hybrid Western x Clark's Grebe.

"Scopoli's" Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea diomedea*), #06–58, August 26, 2006, West of Hydrographer Canyon, R. Heil*, many photographs. (Ballot = 1, Vote: 9–0). This Mediterranean subspecies of Cory's Shearwater has been previously recorded from New York and the mid-Atlantic, but has not previously been recorded in New England waters or from those of Atlantic Canada. Picked out of a flock of Cory's Shearwaters (*C. d. borealis*), the bird was described by the observer as "smaller, darker headed, with a smaller, darker bill." Cape Verde Shearwater (*C. edwardsii*) was also considered, particularly since this species has recently been recorded off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. This species was eliminated since it "has even smaller proportions, a smaller head and thinner necked look, and a dull grayish, even much more slender bill. It also has a dark-capped appearance, with a clear demarcation with the whitish throat extending up to the gape." Excellent written documentation and high quality digital images accompanied this unique record.

Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*), #05–58, Summer 2005, Hull (Plymouth), M. Quigley†. (Ballot = 1, Vote: 8–1). A nonbirder photographed this remarkable bird with his cell phone sometime during the summer of 2005. Being a nonbirder, it slipped the

mind of the observer until he rediscovered the photo on his cell phone in April 2007, at which point he submitted the photo to Mass Audubon for help in identifying it. There are only three previous records of this species in the state, and it was pure serendipity that this record came to light at all.

Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*), #06–31, October 9, 2006, Tuckernuck Island (Nantucket), S. Perkins†, D. Sutherland†. (Ballot = 2, Vote: 8–1). This bird was a juvenile that was photographed on Tuckernuck Island. On the first ballot some committee members believed that Great (*F. minor*) and Lesser (*F. ariel*) frigatebirds, both of which have occurred in the United States, could not be eliminated. When an outside expert was consulted, it was determined that based on the appearance of molt in the flight feathers the individual must have been less than six months old. Given that a Great Frigatebird would show a rufous head at this age, the Committee voted to accept the report as a Magnificent Frigatebird.

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*), #06–54, December 12–26, 2006, Millbury (Worcester), R. Johnson†. (Ballot = 1, Vote: 9–0). A photograph of this immature bird clinched the identity of this out-of-season heron.

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*), #07–15, May 11–June 9, 2007, Rochester (Plymouth), C. Wade*†. (Ballot = 1, Vote: 9–0). Most Swallow-tailed Kites appearing in Massachusetts are typically seen on one day only, but reports of this bird encompassed nearly a month. The bird was first spotted by a backyard birder who got a clear view of it, but at the time doubted his own eyes. A month later he saw the bird again, and managed to capture unmistakable photographs. In the interim, Mass Audubon received three reports of a Swallow-tailed Kite spotted by nonbirders within a mile of this location.

Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*), #99–2R, January 1–9, 1999, Cumberland Farms fields, Middleboro (Plymouth), originally discovered and described by R. Finch, then resubmitted by W. Petersen. (Ballot = 1, Vote: 9–0). #07–09, May 14, 2007, West Tisbury (Dukes), W. Manter. (Ballot = 1, Vote: 9–0). The Annual Report initially describing the Middleboro record explained its rejection by stating: “This species . . . is highly sedentary, and its natural occurrence is questionable.” The resubmission cited the caracara’s unsuitability for falconry and noted numerous extralimital occurrences over the past decade, including several in the Northeast. The Committee agreed unanimously that there is increasingly compelling evidence for natural occurrence, and elected to accept the 1999 Middleboro report as a first state record. The West Tisbury bird was accepted as the second state record.

Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*), #06–47, December 29, 2006, Nantucket (Nantucket), R. Veit*. (Ballot = 1, Vote: 9–0). Two birds flushed from Folger Marsh on Nantucket were carefully described. One was captured by hand (!) and photographed.

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*), #07-18, June 7-21, 2007, Chatham (Barnstable), B. Nikula*†. (Ballot = 1, Vote: 9-0). Although this species is not on the Review List, this sighting involved six individuals. There is no previous Massachusetts record of more than two individuals.

Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*), #07-11, July 24, 1007, South Beach Chatham (Barnstable), J. Offerman*. (Ballot = 1, Vote: 9-0). This bird was discovered feeding with three Hudsonian Godwits. The observer described both behavior and appearance, and although several members expressed disappointment that the underwing pattern was not described, the remaining description was convincing. Unfortunately, it was not seen again, despite efforts by other birders. This represents the fifth Massachusetts record.

Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*), #07-12, June 9, 2007, Plum Island (Essex), W. Petersen*, D. Larson*†. (Ballot = 1, Vote: 9-0). A Mass Audubon ornithology class was treated to long views of this bird in direct comparison with the similar Laughing Gull (*L. pipixcan*). Careful descriptions plus accompanying photographs eliminated any doubt as to its correct identification.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*), #06-41, December 21-29, 2006, Provincetown (Barnstable), T. Johnson*†, J. Bosler*† et al. (ph). (Ballot = 1, Vote: 9-0). Despite the difficulties surrounding the identification of gulls in the Thayer's/Kumlien's/Iceland complex, this report matched perfectly the characteristics typically ascribed to Thayer's Gull. Excellent photographs and extensive written descriptions accompanied this record.

Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*), #06-60, December 27, 2006, Truro (Barnstable), M. Lynch*, S. Carroll. (Ballot = 1, Vote: 8-1). Although Forster's Tern is the *Sterna* most often recorded in early winter, the December 27 date was noteworthy.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*), #06-37, October 30, 2006, Chatham (Barnstable), M. Iliff*†. (Ballot = 1, Vote: 9-0). This species was originally introduced in the Bahamas, moved quickly to Florida, and has been rapidly expanding throughout the country. This is only the second state record, the first having occurred in May of 2005. The description, field sketch, and accompanying photographs clearly eliminated the very similar Ringed Turtle-Dove (*S. risoria*), a feral species of uncertain ancestry that is commonly kept in captivity.

Chordeiles species, #06-11, April 10, 2006, Sutton (Worcester), D. Berard. (Ballot = 3, Vote: 9-0). This was submitted as Common Nighthawk (*C. minor*), a species that typically does not appear in Massachusetts until mid-May. The description clearly indicated a *Chordeiles* species, but could not conclusively eliminate other nighthawk species (e.g., Lesser Nighthawk). Although there are a few previous March and April records of Common Nighthawk, there are no known state specimens for that period, and the Committee questioned whether even some of these earlier sight records were identified correctly.

Calliope Hummingbird (*Stellula calliope*), #06–52, November 1–8, 2006, West Falmouth (Barnstable), P. Trimble†. (Ballot = 1, Vote: 9–0). #06–55, November 4, 2006–January 20, 2007, S. Dartmouth (Bristol), G. Dennis*†, M. Boucher*. (Ballot = 1, Vote: 9–0). #06–56, December 5, 2006–January 26, 2007, S. Dartmouth (Bristol), G. Dennis*†, M. Boucher*. (Ballot = 1, Vote: 9–0). The only previous documented record of this species was in Eastham, November 1–December 21, 2002, so the discovery of three different individuals in the fall of 2006 was astonishing. Even more so was the fact that two—a male and a female—were in South Dartmouth. All three records were well photographed and carefully documented.

“Western” Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis/occidentalis*), #06–38, November 10, 2006, Manomet (Plymouth), T. Lloyd-Evans,* Ann Graham† et al. (Ballot = 1, Vote: 9–0). Pacific-slope (*E. difficilis*) and Cordilleran flycatchers (*E. occidentalis*) are virtually identical in plumage and structure, and until 1989 were considered conspecific as Western Flycatcher. The flycatcher at Manomet was mist-netted, measured, and photographed, and the details submitted to the Committee were extremely thorough. Measurements comfortably fell within the range of Cordilleran Flycatcher, but marginally overlapped those of a male (but not female) Pacific-slope Flycatcher, so the record was submitted to the MARC as “Western” Flycatcher. This is a first Massachusetts record, and one of only a handful from the northeastern United States. Other northeastern United States records from this complex include two records of Pacific-slope from Pennsylvania, a probable Pacific-slope from Virginia, and unidentified “Western” Flycatchers from New Jersey and Long Island, New York.

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*), #06–57, December 9–19, 2006, Annisquam (Essex), F. Bouchard*, J. Barber†. (Ballot = 1, Vote: 9–0). Excellent photographs eliminated other similar *Myiarchus* flycatchers.

Bell’s Vireo (*Vireo bellii*), #06–43, November 15–December 16, 2006, Falmouth (Barnstable), G. d’Entremont* et al. (many photographs). (Ballot = 1, Vote: 9–0). Initially only briefly glimpsed by a bird club group, by size and coloration the bird was thought to be an Orange-crowned Warbler. Better looks, however, ultimately showed it to be a small vireo with a single white wing-bar. Eventually many saw the bird, and excellent written documentation and photographs were submitted. The only previous state record of this species was a bird mist-netted on two separate days at Manomet in October 2005 but never seen in the field.

Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*), #07–19, June 10, 2007, Salisbury (Essex), M. Pitcher*. (Ballot = 1, Vote: 9–0). This report was initially submitted to eBird, an Internet site where bird sightings can be submitted electronically. The observer was RV camping at Salisbury Beach State Park when she began to feel “cabin fever” after five days of rain. She was taking a walk with umbrella and binoculars in hand when she saw a bird she didn’t recognize and called her husband in the camper to describe the bird. After checking the field guide, he told her the bird had to be a wheatear. The descriptions of the bird and its behavior were excellent. Northern Wheatear is very rare in Massachusetts in the spring.

“Audubon’s” Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata auduboni*), #06–42, December 23, 2006–April 10, 2007, Eastham (Barnstable), J. Hanson*†. A bird visiting a feeder was carefully described and photographed. There are fewer than twenty documented records of this western subspecies in Massachusetts.

Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*), #07–04, February 1–4, 1007, Nantucket (Nantucket), E. Andrews* et al. (Ballot = 1, Vote: 9–0). A “mystery bird” showed up at a Nantucket feeder, and the observer called an experienced birder who identified it as a Black-throated Gray Warbler. The description and accompanying field sketch were convincing.

Townsend’s Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*), #07–06, January 22–April 1, 2007, Cambridge (Middlesex), R. Stymeist*, many photographs. (Ballot = 1, Vote: 9–0). After reading an email report of a possible out-of-season Black-throated Green Warbler, an experienced birder suspected a vagrant, went to check it out, and discovered it was a Townsend’s Warbler. The homeowners who originally reported the bird provided it with a constant diet of meal worms for over two months, during which time it was seen and photographed by many.

Swainson’s Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*), #07–17, May 23–29, 2007, Plum Island (Essex), T. Wetmore*, J. Standley†. (Ballot = 1, Vote: 9–0). This bird was first heard singing on May 23, puzzling listeners who concluded it was a Louisiana Waterthrush singing an aberrant song. The following day, a different birder caught a glimpse of the bird and speculated that it might have been a Swainson’s Warbler, but was unable to get a definitive view and left the bird as unknown. Later that day, however, it was mist-netted and conclusively identified and photographed. Although it was often heard singing over the next few days, it stayed out of sight most of the time.

“Western” Wilson’s Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla chryseola/pileolata*), #07–07, January 2–February 14, 2007, Nahant (Essex), L. Pivacek*, many photographs (Ballot = 1, Vote: 9–0). The observer saw this bird on several previous occasions, but on January 10 she got excellent views and suspected it to be one of the western subspecies. The bird was very bright, with orange tones on the forehead, chin, and upper breast. Photographs were sent to experts who concurred that it was one of the western subspecies, but it was never possible to determine whether it was of the race *chryseola* or *pileolata*. There are no previous documented records of either of these subspecies in Massachusetts.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*), #06–59, September 28, 2006, Dartmouth (Bristol), R. Stymeist*, K. Hartel*. (Ballot = 1, Vote: 9–0). A male in high plumage was well described by two experienced observers.

Le Conte’s Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*), #06–40, November 15, 2006, Lincoln (Middlesex), N. Soulette*†. (Ballot = 1, Vote: 9–0). When an orangy-colored

Ammodramus sparrow popped out of the weeds, the observer was not sure at first whether it was a Le Conte's or a Nelson's Sharp-tailed sparrow. She studied the bird carefully, then rushed home to consult a field guide. Certain now that it was a Le Conte's Sparrow, she returned with a telescope and camera and was able to confirm all field marks and capture images showing all the key field marks.

Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*), #06-44, December 27-May 7, 2007, Georgetown (Essex), A. O'Hare*, D. Larson*†. (Ballot = 1, Vote: 9-0). A Harris's Sparrow visiting a backyard feeder was seen by a number of people, well described, and photographed.

Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*), #07-01, January 30-31, 2007, Hadley (Hampshire), L. Currin†. (Ballot = 1, Vote: 9-0). When this bird appeared at a backyard feeder, the homeowners took photos, sent them to an experienced local birder, and asked if the bird was unusual. The birder instantly recognized the bird as a male Lazuli Bunting. Unfortunately the photos were ten days old, and the bird was never relocated. This is only the second state record for this handsome western vagrant.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*), #06-46, November 25-December 4, 2006, Huntington (Hampshire), S. Hamlin*†, M. Lynch*. (Ballot = 1, Vote: 9-0). A male Painted Bunting visiting a feeder in Huntington was photographed and clearly described.

Not Accepted

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*), #06-49, November 19, 2006, Hull (Plymouth). (Ballot = 2, Vote: 4-5). #06-45, December 17, 2006, Rockport (A.P.) (Essex). (Ballot = 2, Vote: 3-6). Loon identification can be notoriously problematic, and the details submitted did not adequately eliminate other species.

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*), #07-03, January 7, 2007, Plum Island (Essex). (Ballot = 1, Vote: 1-8). Although Committee members agreed it was an *Aechmophorus* grebe, the description did not rule out the very similar Clark's Grebe (*A. clarkii*), which has been recorded at least twice on the East Coast in recent years, including a record in Maine.

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*), #07-10, June 29, 2007, Wellesley (Norfolk). (Ballot = 1, Vote: 3-6). Details of a soaring bird were too sketchy for the Committee to accept this report of such a rare species.

Sandwich Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*), #07-14, June 23, 2007, Provincetown (Barnstable). (Ballot = 1, Vote: 1-8). Details were very sparse on a bird seen at a considerable distance.

Skua species #06–53, July 22, 2006, Stellwagen Bank, (Ballot = 1, Vote: 3–6). The description of two birds together did not conclusively eliminate large, dark Pomarine Jaegers.

Selasphorus species #05–57, August 21, 2005, Eastham (Barnstable), (Ballot = 2, Vote: 3–6). The identification was largely based on seeing “rusty orange/brown” on the back, and the Committee believed it did not rule out Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*), which can often show coppery highlights.

Swainson’s Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*), #05–42, 9/25/05, Provincetown (Barnstable). (Ballot = 3, Vote: 4–5). #07–08, 5/11/07, Mount Auburn, Cambridge (Middlesex). (Ballot = 1, Vote: 1–8). The Provincetown bird, although well described, failed to include several key field marks, and the Committee believed it did not meet the threshold needed for such a rare species. The description of the Cambridge bird was sketchy and failed to rule out Carolina Wren as an alternative possibility.

Removed from State List

Western Wood-Pewee (*Contopus sordidulus*), #66–02A, August 29, 1966, Monomoy (Barnstable), J. Baird. (Remove from state list, Vote: 2–7). When the MARC was first formed, many species were added to the state list by a voice vote instead of by formal written report. Many of these were commonly occurring species, and others bypassed formal submission based on photographs, multiple observers, specimens, or mist-netted and measured birds. Western Wood-Pewee was added to the list based on two birds mist-netted on Monomoy only two weeks apart, August 29 and September 11, 1966. Both individuals were collected and placed in the collection of Mass Audubon, but unfortunately beetles destroyed both specimens. Since that time, uncertainty has arisen regarding the criteria for differentiating Western and Eastern Wood-Pewee (*C. virens*), so the Committee decided to formally review the records. Unfortunately, no record could be found of the original measurements of these birds, and since the specimens are no longer extant, the Committee was compelled to remove Western Wood-Pewee from the State List. Two sight and voice records of this species (Monomoy, May 1976, and Morris Island in Chatham, May 1980) were not accompanied by written details.

Added to Supplemental List

The following were added to the Supplemental List, which states: “The MARC believes that wild individuals of these species may have occurred in the state. However, a captive origin cannot be discounted.”

Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*)


Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*)

Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*)

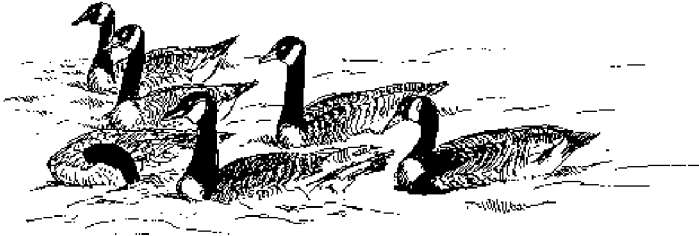
White-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albicaudatus*)

European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*)

* Details submitted

† Photographs submitted or obtained on the Internet 

The author thanks Wayne Petersen, Jeremiah Trimble, Davis Finch, and Blair Nikula for editorial assistance.



CANADA GEESE, COURTESY OF USFWS

From MassWildlife: Midwinter Waterfowl Survey Results

MassWildlife's waterfowl biologist, H. Heusmann, reports that the annual Midwinter Waterfowl Survey (MWS) on the Bay State's coastal areas has been completed. This year the count is notable for the large number of eiders and scoters counted in Massachusetts. The state total was 83,461 eiders and 24,000 scoters, 82% and 355% above their 10-year average, respectively. Included in this total is information from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) reporting 14,000 eiders and 19,000 scoters around Martha's Vineyard and 57,000 eiders and 1300 scoters around Nantucket.

American Black Duck numbers at 19,271 were 5% above the 10-year average and the 5133 Mallards counted were a record high, but only 1% higher than last year's count. Most Mallards, however, overwinter on inland sites where people feed waterfowl, and they are not found in great numbers on the MWS, a coastal-oriented survey. More than 12,000 Mallards were counted at such sites this year. Counts of most other ducks were slightly above or below their 10-year average. This was also true for Canada Geese with 12,243 counted, but like Mallards, many Canada Geese, especially Massachusetts-resident birds, winter on inland sites not surveyed by the coastal MWS. Brant numbers, which winter strictly on the coast, were 59% above average with 2916 counted.

The Boston area portion the survey was covered from the ground by the Boston-based bird group, Take a Second Look, on January 6, while the remainder of the state's coastline was covered with a float plane provided by the USFWS with the cooperation of MassWildlife personnel during the period January 21-25, 2008.

ABOUT BOOKS

All I Ask is a Tall Ship, a Star to Steer Her By, and a Decent Field Guide: Four New Guides to Seabirds

Mark Lynch

Gulls of the Americas by Steve N.G. Howell and Jon Dunn. 2007. Houghton Mifflin Company. Boston, Massachusetts.

Albatrosses, Petrels and Shearwaters of the World by Derek Onley and Paul Scofield. 2007. Princeton University Press. Princeton, NJ.

Flight Identification of European Seabirds by Anders Blomdahl, Bertil Breife, and Niklas Holstrom. 2003. Christopher Helm. London, Great Britain.

Beached Birds: A COASST Field Guide to the North Atlantic by Todd Hass and Julia K. Parrish. 2006. Wavefall Press. Seattle, WA.

“I must go down to the sea again, to the lonely sea and the sky; and all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by.” John Masefield, British poet, “Sea Fever.”

“Can you hear the Jack Whales singing?” Captain Steve Zissou, *The Life Aquatic*.

Sea-watching for birds is an enterprise that always begins with an irrational dollop of hope and promise. Whether your feet are planted firmly on shore or you are stumbling on the rolling deck of a ship, a trip to the sea offers the birder a chance to see the rare and unexpected. It is possible after all, though not likely, that the next gull wafting over the pier could be a Kamchatka. Or, that the next alcid whizzing down that distant wave trough could be a Long-billed Murrelet. Or perhaps among that raft of eiders, a Smew could be waiting. There are enough actual records of such sightings to keep a birder ever vigilant through tedious and grueling hours of pelagic birding or standing and staring out at an angry sea during a storm.

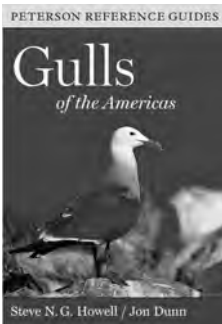
When such high expectations meet long hours of intense staring, strange things can happen. Bill Oddie in his classic *Little Black Bird Book* has a lot to say about the pitfalls of sea-watching for birds and the hubris of hardcore observers:

If you sea-watch on your own, you will inevitably start to hallucinate, and stringing is rife. If any birds do fly past out to sea, they tend to belt across at break neck speed a vast distance from the shore. They will be visible for only a few seconds and they’ll never be seen again. This being the case, the lone sea watcher can claim to have seen *anything*, and no one can prove him wrong (*Bill Oddie’s Little Black Bird Book*, p.133).

Oddie's lesson is that human perception has its limits, but sea-watching encourages us to push those limits. Keep that in mind the next time you set up your scope at Andrew's or Race Point. So, after first reading Oddie's exposé of the sea-fixated birder, turn to these books to help you find that special bird among the waves, foam, and spray.

"When the seagulls follow the trawler, it is because they think sardines will be thrown into the sea." Eric Cantona, soccer player for Manchester United.

Lariphiles, the know-it-all gull fanatics, are the computer geeks of birding. Both subcultures thrive on memorizing reams of details and specs, and both enjoy ostentatiously displaying that knowledge to anyone who will listen. Lariphiles are always trying to one-up each other with the latest knowledge of primary pattern, ageing, or taxonomy. No statement about a gull's identification or plumage will go unchallenged. For this reason, it is a wonder that anyone would attempt to write an identification guide to gulls. No sooner would it be published, than the authors would be swamped by niggling criticisms from ardent lariphiles listing what they got wrong.



(By the way, no sooner had I written those words, then the latest issue of *Birding* came in the mail, and I found Martin Reid's lengthy laundry list of errors in his review of *Gulls of the Americas*. I frankly think lariphiles can't help themselves.)

Yes, lariphiles can be annoying, but no other group of birds presents such a complex challenge for field identification. First, the birder must take into account a wide array of similar-looking species. The separation of these species may rest on comparatively small and hard-to-discern structural or plumage differences like primary tip pattern, head shape, or bill structure. The birder must also be familiar with the effects of age and time of year on the gull's plumage. To make a complicated situation even more daunting, hybrids are common and must be considered. Finally, and most distressing for birders, the taxonomy of gulls is still very much a work in progress. As Howell and Dunn warn in *Gulls of the Americas*, "The Herring Gull complex of the Holarctic constitutes one of the most problematic issues in contemporary avian taxonomy. Many of the taxa involved appear to have diverged relatively recently, such that isolating mechanisms between them are still being established, and interbreeding occurs to varying degrees." (p.401)

In other words, with certain gulls we cannot be sure which forms are species, which are subspecies, and which are hybrids.

Gulls of the Americas is a hefty and comprehensive guide to the identification of all the gull species and proposed species from Attu to Tierra del Fuego. Species accounts and photographs are divided into several categories based on morphological characteristics. In addition, there is a large section of photographs and written accounts of hybrid gulls.

An extensive 250 pages of color plates show the species in almost all plumages, at rest and in flight. This precedes a similarly lengthy written section that includes detailed descriptions of the plumage of each species, its occurrence in North America, similar species, and the species range, including maps.

With any book dealing with so many field marks for this many species, there are bound to be errors or at least points of disagreement. I recommend that readers peruse Martin Reid's long list of "gotchas" in *Birding* for a rundown on what those are. My concerns with *Gulls of the Americas* are not with the small glitches, which can be corrected in later editions. But I do think that Howell and Dunn's layout and their approach to this mammoth project leave something to be desired. Because this is a large guide (10.5" x 7.5" x 1.5") printed on heavy, glossy stock, it is certainly *not* a field guide. The photographs are almost all medium to small in size (3.5" x 2.5"), and the sheer number (1160) leads to visual exhaustion when perusing the pages. The text has the personality of a technical manual.

The Shorebird Guide by O'Brien, Crossley, and Karlson clearly demonstrates a more "user-friendly" design for an identification guide for a large group of birds. In *The Shorebird Guide*, a variety of photograph sizes are used, including several full-page plates, so that each page of illustrations is interesting to look at. Layout was important to the authors, and pleasing aesthetic choices were made. Readers are invited to pick out the species in question in photographs of several shorebirds. This challenge invites readers to hone their identification skills while involving them in the text. *The Shorebird Guide* has thus raised the bar for what a birder normally expects from an identification guide. The bottom line is that it is not boring to read. By comparison *Gulls of the Americas* is very much "old style."

A pertinent question is the usefulness of guides of this size and complexity in the age of the Internet and the numerous web pages now dedicated to gulls. To be honest, before driving to Cape Ann recently to look for Slaty-backed and Thayer's gulls, I spent more time online looking at the wide variety of photographs and commentary of those species than I did consulting *Gulls of the Americas*. The web photographs were typically larger than in *Gulls of the Americas* and therefore easier to study, and the discussions about identification and taxonomy were more varied and not so dry.

This is not to say that *Gulls of the Americas* is not a "must own" book. It is, because any comprehensive source on gull identification is welcome, and Howell and Dunn have obviously worked hard on this mammoth project. It's just that *Gulls of the Americas* could have been much better, a guide for all birders like *The Shorebird Guide*, as opposed to a book geared for lariphiles and their kin. Probably the best way to use a guide as large and complex as this is to compare the photos and text of the gull in question with those on your computer screen—at home, over a beer and away from the heated opinions of lariphiles.

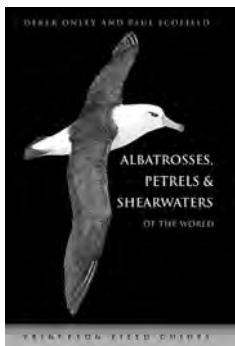
”At length did cross an Albatross,
 Through the fog it came ;
 As if it had been a Christian soul,
 We hailed it in God’s name.”
 Samuel Taylor Coleridge, *The Rime
 of the Ancient Mariner*.



The Albatross, engraving by Gustave Doré

Is it me, or are the tubenoses more interesting, exciting, and, dare I say it, “sexier” than gulls? Perhaps it’s because we can bump into even the rarest gull on some well-known shoreline, pier, sewage outlet, or garbage heap. But shearwaters, albatrosses, and petrels come into our lives only under unusual circumstances — when we are standing on a rugged promontory during a storm or (more often) when we are far out to sea. Even then, we see them only briefly, as they quickly glide past, intent on their very private pelagic lives. Some of these tubenose species breed on the remotest of islands around the globe. Exotic and distant locations like Tristan da Cunha, Laysan, or Lord Howe Island conjure up visions of early explorers, shipwrecks, and isolation. Like living nereids, albatrosses, petrels, and shearwaters are the essence and spirit of the vast and wild seas.

So little was known about most of these species that, until the last thirty years, only the most common, like Greater Shearwater, were illustrated in field guides. In the 1980s, with the simultaneous rise in the number of dedicated pelagic trips along both coasts and the publishing of Peter Harrison’s landmark *Seabirds*, birders became hooked on the romance of the tubenose. In the early years of pelagic adventure it seemed that if you could just get out far enough by boat, there was no telling what odd or rarely seen petrel or shearwater you might see. When during the last few years, pelagic trips proved this to be true, better guides to tubenoses were published.



Albatrosses, Petrels and Shearwaters of the World by Onley and Scofield is one of the best guides to tubenoses currently available. This volume is light enough to be considered a true field guide and is easy to use. Forty-five illustrated plates precede a concise written section that includes key field marks, behavior, molt, and jizz. A small range map is included, but as any hardcore pelagic enthusiast will tell you, distribution maps for tubenoses are only very general approximations. Recent splits like the Macaronesian Shearwater (*Puffinus baroli*) and the different races of Cory’s Shearwater are illustrated.

A guide of this sort lives and dies on the quality of its illustrations. The plates in *Albatrosses, Petrels and Shearwaters* are generally good, though sometimes they appear a bit washed out or too gray. On a few of the plates the white underparts of some species appear to blend into the white background. But these are minor quibbles. This is a fine guide to bring with you on any pelagic trip, real or imagined. Open this guide and let visions of pterodromas dance in your head!

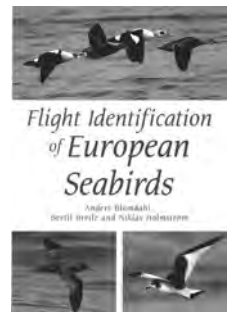
“The great sea makes one a great sceptic.” Richard Jefferies (1848–1887)

Here in New England, dedicated pelagic trips are expensive, tough to organize, and usually seasonal. Some birders suffer mightily from seasickness. You can tempt them with the hopes of seeing a pterodroma or albatross, but that slim possibility will not be enough to get them on the deck of a rolling ship. So the birder interested in seabirds typically has to be content with standing on the shore, with scope trained ever seawards.

Seabird watching from the shore has its own set of challenges. Because of the reflective properties of water, lighting often poses difficulties. The foulest weather, including hurricanes, may produce some of the best seabird movements, but only a handful of coastal vantage points allow you sit in the warmth and safety of your car. The most consistent problem encountered while watching the sea is the distance at which birds appear. Birders often find themselves attempting to identify birds at distances rivaled only by hawkwatching from a mountain top. Unlike hawks, seabirds do not often soar gently over the ocean; typically they hurtle by, in and out of wave troughs. The birder may have only a few seconds to identify a distant, poorly lit bird.

What’s needed for pelagic birding is a seabird version of *Hawks in Flight* by Sutton, Dunne, and Sibley, a book that would tell you *how* to look at far-off seabirds. Though *Flight Identification of European Seabirds* does not have the groundbreaking “holistic” approach that *Hawks in Flight* does, it does offer new information on seabird identification as well as a wealth of photographs of seabirds in flight.

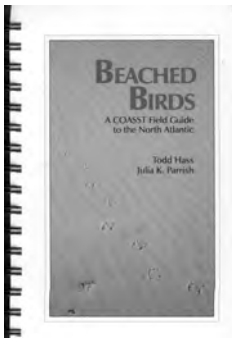
Flight Identification of European Seabirds covers a range of species including loons, grebes, waterfowl, gulls, terns, and alcids. Because this is a European guide, there are species not found on this side of the Atlantic like European Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*). The majority of species in this guide are either regularly found in North America, like Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*) and all the alcids, or have appeared here as vagrants, like Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*). Other species in this guide are vagrants to Europe from North America, and these species are given full treatment. The gull species covered include several members of the “Herring Gull” complex including American Herring Gull (*Larus smithsonianus*), Caspian Gull (*L. cachinnans*), Yellow-legged Gull (*L. michahellis*, and European Herring Gull (*L. argentatus*). Ardent lariphiles will find plenty to scrutinize and criticize.



Because photographs of species are combined with the text, there is no need to flip back and forth. Identification topics covered in the text include “silhouette,” “flight and flocking,” “size,” and complete plumage details. The emphasis is on how to identify the species in flight. Much of this information will be familiar to veteran sea-watchers, and many birders with less coastal experience will find it helpful to have all these identification tips in one text. The photographs are a mixed lot. Most are good, featuring close-ups of a single bird in flight. There are a number of shots of flocks, but some of these are reproduced too small to be genuinely helpful. A variety of plumages are usually shown, but sometimes, as with Atlantic Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*), only adult summer plumages are included. A nice introductory section includes an essay titled “Identified or Unidentified,” which warns birders about too much enthusiasm while sea-watching and advises them to learn to live with their mistakes and to recognize that a large number of birds will have to be left “unidentified.” Every birder who plans on some sea-watching should read this essay.

Flight Identification of European Seabirds is not revolutionary by any means and does not present much that is new, but it is another nice book to throw in the back seat for any trip to the coast, and the photographs of flying seabirds are certainly useful to study.

“There is nothing quite so good as burial at sea. It is simple, tidy, and not very incriminating,” Alfred Hitchcock, from an intro to an episode of “Alfred Hitchcock Presents.”



Of course, the surest way to correctly identify a seabird is to hold it in your hands. Though duck hunting is common in our state, shooting loons, grebes, gulls, terns, and alcids is frowned upon. So how do we get a hold of a seabird? Well, it is not uncommon to find the rotting corpse of one while walking the beach. Some corpses will be in such a state of decomposition that identification may be a challenge. Since there is no “CSI: Race Point,” and a typical field guide will be of no use, the birder is left with consulting *Beached Birds*, a field guide Tim Burton would adore.


This new guide is the east coast equivalent of a previously published guide to seabird corpses of the Pacific northwest. The new guide is published by the Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST) in conjunction with the Seabird Ecological Assessment Network (SEANET) and Bird Studies Canada (BSC). These organizations all seek volunteers to monitor our coastlines for dead seabirds. By identifying these birds, safely recovering them, and bringing them to places where the bodies can be autopsied, like Tufts University, it is hoped that more can be learned about the causes of large-scale mortality events.

As a guide, *Beached Birds* is certainly Grand Guignol. Full color photographs of dead seabirds in various states of decay are shown opposite pages of measurements and key morphological characteristics. A life-size silhouette of the species’ head and bill is shown so that the birder can literally lay the dead bird’s head on the guide and

see if it “fits.” Although pages are printed on material that can easily be wiped clean after contact with various corpses, I have to imagine that after several season’s use, this guide must get pretty ripe. The photographs are variable in their usefulness. Several of the shots, like the one of the Ivory Gull (*Pagophila eburnea*), look like a stuffed skin simply placed on cement (where’s the chaotic gore in that?). An extensive introductory section walks the reader through the entire process of identifying a dead seabird and how to take measurements. There are also clear health and sanitary guidelines for dealing with dead birds.

Granted, this is a field guide designed for specific research projects, but it has a lot to offer any birder who spends time walking along our coastline. It would also make a great present for that birder who loves zombie films.

“for whatever we lose (like a you or a me),
it’s always our self we find in the sea.”

e.e. cummings, “maggie and milly and molly and may.” 

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From MassWildlife: BEARS AND BIRDFEEDERS

To avoid possible seasonal conflicts between people and bears in central and western Massachusetts, MassWildlife is issuing its seasonal reminder that bird feeders should be taken down by mid-March and other preventive steps be taken. With the snow melting away and warmer days, bears are now leaving their winter dens. In some cases, bears did not den at all during the winter. “There is little in the way of natural foods and bears learn to seek out high-energy human foods such as bird seed,” says Jim Cardoza, MassWildlife Bear Project Leader. “This may lead to conflicts that pose hazards to both bears and people.” Massachusetts is home to approximately 2000 resident bears, with the majority living west of the Connecticut River. Bears also reside as far east as Worcester County and towns in northern Middlesex County. For more detailed black bear information, click the Wildlife button on the MassWildlife website at <<http://www.mass.gov/masswildlife>>.

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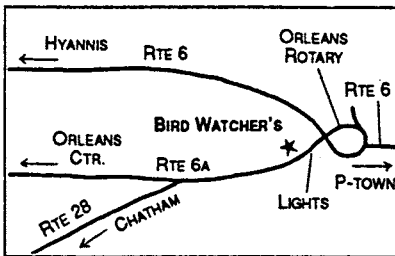
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BIRD SIGHTINGS

November/December 2007

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

November 2007 was cold and dry, but there was a good deal of sunshine. The temperature averaged 43.0° in Boston, two degrees below average and a big departure from last November, when the temperature averaged 49.1° in Boston. The high of 69° occurred on the first day of the month, and it was downhill from there, with the exception of two 60° readings on November 14 and 15. A low of 22° was recorded on November 22 in Boston. Rainfall totaled 2.80 inches in Boston, 1.18 inches below normal, with measurable rain occurring on ten days. There was just a trace of snow recorded in Boston, but measurable amounts over an inch were noted in some suburban locations.

December was very cold, especially during the first twenty-two days. The average temperature was 32.4° in Boston, 2.4° colder than normal and 8.5° colder than last December. The lowest reading was 17° in Boston on December 15, the first weekend day of the Christmas Bird Count season. The high for the month was a balmy 53° on Christmas Eve, 12° higher than the average for that date. Rain totaled 5.25 inches in Boston, 1.52 inches over the average. The most fell on Sunday December 16, when 1.26 inches of rain combined with over seven inches of snow and gusty easterly winds, canceling all the Christmas Bird Counts in the Northeast! Measurable amounts of rain were noted on nineteen days, seven over average, tying the record set in 1972. Snowfall totaled 27.7 inches, a scant 0.02 inch from an all-time December record of 27.9 in 1970. The month's total was 18.7 inches above average, and snowfall occurred on eight days during the month.

R. H. Stymeist

WATERFOWL THROUGH ALCIDS

The goose-tastic excitement continued from earlier in the fall and included sightings of two **Greater White-fronted Geese**, a "Black" Brant, a **Barnacle Goose**, and unprecedented numbers of **Cackling Geese**. Amazingly, a "Black" Brant in Plymouth was recorded at the same location where it or other individuals have been seen during the last several years (as early as 2000!). In the fall of 2006 these goose sightings included a hybrid family group consisting of an adult "Black" Brant and several probable hybrid juvenile "Black" x "Pale-bellied" Brant. This subspecies of Brant has rarely been recorded in the state, and it is incredible that this one site has produced so many of the recent records. A Snow Goose, possibly the same individual, was recorded during the second half of November and December in and around Quabbin Reservoir, an unusual inland occurrence so late in the year. On the final day of the year a **Barnacle Goose**, only the seventh record for the state, was found and photographed in Sharon. Among the **Cackling Geese** records was the impressive flock of nine individuals at Turners Falls. Other interesting lingering waterfowl included a Blue-winged Teal at Eastham on December 23 and single Northern Shovelers in Gloucester on December 10 and in Mashpee on December 17.

A single **Pacific Loon** in Wellfleet on December 2 was not relocated. Our friend the **Eared Grebe** continued at Gloucester from earlier in the fall and early in my lifetime! Rounding out the list of grebes was a **Western Grebe** discovered at Plum Island on November 25. Northern Fulmars were reported on several days during the period, including a very good count of 375 from Andrew's Point on November 3, along with 210 Greater Shearwaters, a single Sooty Shearwater, and a single Manx Shearwater. More remarkable was the very late record of a

single Greater Shearwater in Chatham on December 23 and a single Sooty Shearwater on November 22 at Provincetown. A lingering Cattle Egret graced Nantucket for several days in early December.

The only report of Black Vulture during the period was of a group of three at Sheffield, a location that is becoming the Black Vulture capital of Massachusetts. An adult Broad-winged Hawk reported in Lincoln on November 14 represents the second-latest record for Massachusetts ever! There are only four previous records for November in the state. Rough-legged Hawks were well reported throughout the state, with a high count of eight coming from, as is typical, Plum Island. Two reports of single **Golden Eagles** came in during the period.

As is typical, a few rails persisted into the early winter in the southeastern part of the state. Virginia Rails, typically the hardiest of the rail species here, were found through the end of the period; included were reports of six on Nantucket on December 29 and one in Wellfleet on December 30. More unusual, were two Soras found on the Mid-Cape CBC on December 22. While this species is more or less annual in the state during the winter, it is always a noteworthy sighting. By far the best place to find a **Common Moorhen** in the state in the fall or winter is Nantucket, but a report of three on November 25 was unusual. Many Massachusetts birders are not aware of the changing status of **Sandhill Cranes**, which were recorded breeding in the state for the first time last summer. The south central portion of Plymouth County has recently been a hot spot for reports, as this season produced a report of six Sandhill Cranes together and another of a single individual, all in early November. This region may very well produce our next breeding record for this species.

There were a number of interesting lingering shorebirds this period. Topping this list was a series of reports of **American Avocet** through the middle of December. Given the rarity of this species, particularly in November and December, it is likely that only one bird was involved in these reports. Two December reports of Semipalmated Plover were unusual. A very late Spotted Sandpiper was found in Wakefield on November 10. This species typically departs the state by October, although there are at least seven November records for Massachusetts over the last fifteen years. Two Marbled Godwits lingered on North Monomoy through November 30. Short-billed Dowitchers become increasingly scarce toward the latter half of October and are virtually absent from the state by the first of November. This year, a single bird, spotted at North Monomoy, lingered until at least November 9.

A few wind events produced numbers of jaeger sightings from outlying coastal areas such as Cape Cod and Cape Ann. The lion's share occurred on November 4, when over seventy-five jaegers passed by First Encounter Beach in Eastham. Sixty or more of these were unidentified, but fifteen were attributed to Pomarine Jaeger, the most likely species at this time of year. A single Laughing Gull may not have been laughing much when it chose to linger into the first day of December! Certainly one of the more spectacular finds of the season was the discovery of **Slaty-backed Gull**, the first records of this bird in the state. Remarkably, two individuals were discovered in Gloucester on the same day, December 23! One was a full adult while the other was most likely a fourth-winter bird, easily distinguishable from the adult by its bill pattern, which was extensively dark. Amazingly, another single individual was reported the same day from Eastham, a veritable invasion of this species in the state. These occurrences fit into a broader pattern of increased occurrence in eastern North America. The coming years should bring many more sightings in the Bay State, and birders should be on the lookout. The gull show in Gloucester was something to behold. In addition to the Slaty-backed Gulls were impressive numbers of "Kumlien's" Iceland Gulls and Glaucous Gulls. Because the latter species is rarely recorded in numbers greater than one or two, the high count of at least seven individuals for Gloucester was noteworthy. The area also produced two hybrid Herring x

Glaucous Gulls, otherwise known as “Nelson’s” Gulls. This hybrid combination is reported fairly regularly in Massachusetts, possibly due to the distinctive appearance, at least of the younger birds.

Dovekies are typically one of the least reported of the regularly occurring alcids in the state, although there are periodic large incursions. This year a total of 820 were counted at Provincetown on December 2. Dovekies seemed to be around through most of the period and were reported from many locations including Rockport and Plum Island. Many of the larger flights of Dovekies occurred prior to the 1960s, and the report of 820 is probably the second-highest total in the last twenty years. Other species of alcids were fairly well reported.

Highlights included forty-seven Common Murres at Andrew’s Point in Rockport on December 27 and eight Atlantic Puffins at the same locality on November 3.

J. Trimble

Greater White-fronted Goose				11/19	Arlington Res.	75	I. Davies
11/10	Newbypt H.	1	S. Grinley	12/1-2	Cape Cod	243	CCLPWS
12/28	Sharon	1 ad	B. Cassie	12/18	Falmouth	12	M. Malin
Snow Goose				American Black Duck			
thr	P.I.	3-4	v.o.	thr	P.I.	2200 max	R. Heil
11/15	Quabbin	1	H. Allen	11/25	Boston H.	334	TASL (M. Hall)
11/17	Northampton	1	A. Hildebrandt	12/15	Plymouth	1500	E. Dalton
12/12	Lynn	5	D. Wilkinson	Mallard			
12/18	Newbypt H.	4	R. Heil	11/6	P.I.	470	R. Heil
12/28	Sharon	1 ad	B. Cassie	11/20	GMNWR	1383	USFWS
12/29	S. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien	12/1-2	Cape Cod	2085	CCLPWS
Brant				Blue-winged Teal			
11/2	Kingston	700	MAS (J. Galluzzo)	11/4	N. Truro	4	M. Malin#
11/4	Berkshire Cnty	5	T. Tynning	11/9	Marstons Mills	5	M. Keleher
11/17	Bourne	120	BBC (R. Stymeist)	11/10	P.I.	1	T. Wetmore
11/18	Winchester	1 juv	P. Devaney	11/17	Randolph	2	G. d'Entremont#
11/25	Boston H.	723	TASL (M. Hall)	12/23	Eastham	1	W. Petersen#
11/30	Wellfleet	300+	D. Berard	Northern Shoveler			
12/29	Nantucket	130	G. d'Entremont#	11/5-16	Marstons Mills	1 f	M. Keleher
Black Brant				11/6	P.I.	13	R. Heil
11/6, 12	Plymouth	1	M. Iliff	11/12, 20	Arlington Res.	3 m	I. Davies#
Barnacle Goose *				11/28	GMNWR	3	USFWS
12/31	Sharon	1 ph	G. Leganza	12/8	Westport	4	T. Raymond
Cackling Goose				12/10	Gloucester (E.P.)	1 m	R. Heil
11/6-12/2	Turners Falls	9 max	H. Galbraith	12/17	Mashpee	1 m	M. Keleher
11/14	Quabbin	1	H. Allen	Northern Pintail			
11/18, 12/9	Concord	1, 1	Iliff, Sibley	thr	P.I.	310 max	11/6 v.o.
11/26	DWWS	1	D. Ludlow	11/5, 16	Marstons Mills	8, 9	M. Keleher
Mute Swan				11/18	Westport	78	E. Nielsen
12/1-2	Cape Cod	210	CCLPWS	11/20	GMNWR	52	USFWS
12/30	Turners Falls	40	J. Duprey	12/10	Yarmouth	34	M. Keleher
Tundra Swan				12/11	Turners Falls	7	J. Smith
11/16, 18	Turners Falls	1 ph	F. Bowrys	12/12	Quabbin Pk	7	J. P. Smith
Wood Duck				Green-winged Teal			
11/4	Wachusett Res.	31	M. Lynch#	11/1-12/12	P.I.	3200 max	11/6 v.o.
11/7	GMNWR	40	USFWS	11/4	N. Truro	34	M. Malin#
11/9	S. Quabbin	22	L. Therrien	11/5, 25	Randolph	170, 60	Iliff, Young
12/1-2	Cape Cod	50	CCLPWS	11/7, 28	GMNWR	424, 69	USFWS
12/15	Ludlow	3	B. Platenik	11/11	Longmeadow	12	N. Eaton
12/29	Westfield	1	H. Allen	11/17	Wakefield	38	P. + F. Vale
Gadwall				12/1-2	Cape Cod	28	CCLPWS
thr	P.I.	87 max	11/25 v.o.	12/10	Yarmouth	3	M. Keleher
11/6	Plymouth	19	M. Iliff	12/22	Gloucester (E.P.)	1	M. Lynch#
11/17	Ipswich	20+	P. + F. Vale	Canvasback			
11/19	Arlington Res.	7	I. Davies	11/4-12/7	Cambr. (F.P.)	18 max	v.o.
11/30	Longmeadow	5	J. LaPointe	12/8	Westport	4	T. Raymond
12/1-2	Cape Cod	98	CCLPWS	12/12	Falmouth	5	G. Hirth
12/22	Gloucester (E.P.)	38	M. Lynch#	12/23	Wayland	1 f	N. Soulette
Eurasian Wigeon				12/23	Harwich	6	Cape Cod CBC
11/1-18	P.I.	1 m	v.o.	12/29	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg#
11/2-27	Marstons Mills	1-3	M. Keleher	12/30	Nantucket	12	G. d'Entremont#
12/3	Plymouth	1 m	I. Davies#	Redhead			
12/9, 31	Eastham	1 m	M. Malin, Nikula	11/6-18	P.I.	1 m	R. Heil + v.o.
American Wigeon				11/12	Southboro	pr	G. Gove#
11/thr	P.I.	190 max	v.o.	12/10-31	N. Truro	4 max	v.o.
11/2-16	Marstons Mills	64	M. Keleher	12/10-31	Falmouth	3 max	M. Malin
11/4	Berkshire Cnty	8	T. Tynning	12/17	Eastham	5	T. Raymond
11/7, 28	GMNWR	39, 20	USFWS	12/30	Nantucket	2	G. d'Entremont#

Ring-necked Duck

11/1-12/7	Cambr. (F.P.)	97 max	v.o.
11/4	Berkshire Cnty	126	T. Tynning
11/5	Randolph	90	M. Iliff
11/10	W. Newbury	1300	SSBC (Emmons)
11/11	Amesbury	240	R. Heil#
11/18	Quabbin	87	L. Therrien
12/1-2	Cape Cod	916	CCLPWS
12/11	Groveland	220	R. Heil#
12/23	Waltham	23	J. Forbes#
12/24	Wayland	20	B. Harris

Greater Scaup

thr	P.I.	197 max	v.o.
11/5	Randolph	25	M. Iliff
11/22	Southwick	2	S. Kellogg
11/24	Falmouth	700	SSBC (G. d'E)
11/25	Boston H.	745	TASL (M. Hall)
12/9	Mattapoisett	620	E. Nielsen
12/30	Nantucket	725	G. d'Entremont#
12/31	N. Truro	150	J. Young

Lesser Scaup

11/4	Wachusett Res.	13	M. Lynch#
11/4	Lakeville	21	SSBC (Sweeney)
11/11	Braintree	2	G. d'Entremont
11/11	Amesbury	8	R. Heil#
11/18	Westport	12	E. Nielsen
11/25	Pembroke	55	SSBC (Sweeney)

King Eider

thr	E. Gloucester	1 m	v.o.
11/3, 12/27	Rockport (A.P.)	1 m, 1 f	R. Heil#
12/10	Truro	1	CCBC (G. Page)

Common Eider

thr	P.I.	485 max	v.o.
11/3	Rockport (A.P.)	335	R. Heil#
11/4	Chatham (MI)	500	D. Manchester
11/9	Wellfleet H.	2000+	MAS (D. Berard)
11/11	Plymouth	593	M. Lynch#
11/17	Bourne	290	BBC (R. Stymeist)
11/18	Westport	230	E. Nielsen
11/25	Boston H.	5080	TASL (M. Hall)
12/18	Falmouth	200+	M. Malin
12/30	Nantucket	15000	G. d'Entremont#

Harlequin Duck

thr	Rockport	50 max	v.o.
11/5	N. Scituate	18	C. Nims#
11/9	Wellfleet H.	3	MAS (D. Berard)
11/10	Dennis (Corp. B)	1	K. Anderson#
11/11	Sandwich	2 m	K. Doyon
11/12	P.I.	1 f	S. Sutton
11/18	Westport	15	E. Nielsen
12/3	Gloucester	12	S. Grinley
12/9	Orleans	5	M. Malin

Surf Scoter

thr	P.I.	860 max	11/6 v.o.
11/3	Manomet	1572	K. Anderson#
11/3	Rockport (A.P.)	540	R. Heil#
11/9	Wellfleet H.	250+	MAS (D. Berard)
11/18	S. Quabbin	2	S. Surner
11/21	Southwick	4	S. Ricker
11/25	Boston H.	450	TASL (M. Hall)
12/28	Nant. Sound	1300	G. d'Entremont#

White-winged Scoter

thr	P.I.	335 max	12/8 v.o.
11/2	S. Quabbin	3	J. Smith
11/3	Manomet	79	K. Anderson#
11/5	W. Gloucester	33	J. Nelson
11/9	Wellfleet H.	200+	MAS (D. Berard)
11/18	Westport	191	E. Nielsen
11/25	Boston H.	867	TASL (M. Hall)
11/29	Rockport (A.P.)	164	R. Heil
12/28	Nant. Sound	600	G. d'Entremont#

Black Scoter

thr	P.I.	92 max	v.o.
11/3	Rockport (A.P.)	67	R. Heil#
11/3	Manomet	136	K. Anderson#
11/23	Turners Falls	2	F. Bowrys
11/25	Boston H.	8	TASL (M. Hall)
12/30	Nantucket	50	G. d'Entremont#

Long-tailed Duck

thr	P.I.	290 max	v.o.
11/3	Manomet	209	K. Anderson#
11/3	Rockport (A.P.)	142	R. Heil#
11/4	Stockbridge	1	T. Gagnon
11/10	Dennis (Corp. B.)	1900	B. Nikula
11/17	S. Quabbin	5	L. Therrien
11/23	Nantucket	308,590	E. Ray
11/25	Boston H.	79	TASL (M. Hall)
12/9	Mattapoisett	40	E. Nielsen
12/18	Newbypt H.	40	R. Heil

Bufflehead

11/3	Eastham (F.H.)	27	D. Berard
11/11	Amesbury	70	R. Heil#
11/17	S. Quabbin	16	L. Therrien
11/18	Fairhaven	145	BBC (R. Stymeist)
11/25	Boston H.	1422	TASL (M. Hall)
12/1	Mashpee	255	M. Keleher
12/1-2	Cape Cod	1704	CCLPWS
12/9	Mattapoisett	262	E. Nielsen
12/15	Newbypt H.	230	R. Heil
12/30	Nantucket	1020	G. d'Entremont#

Common Goldeneye

11/6-12/31	P.I.	94 max	v.o.
11/4	Berkshire Cnty	5	T. Tynning
11/6	Turners Falls	6	F. Bowrys
11/25	Boston H.	183	TASL (M. Hall)
12/1	Mashpee	54	M. Keleher
12/3	Rockport (A.P.)	75	R. Heil
12/9	Wachusett Res.	20	J. Rees
12/21	Turners Falls	109	H. Allen
12/22	Gloucester (E.P.)	94	M. Lynch#
12/30	Nantucket	450	G. d'Entremont#

Barrow's Goldeneye

11/10-12/11	Turners Falls	1	D. Mako + v.o.
11/10-12/10	Wellfleet	1-2	B. Timm + v.o.
11/16-27	Cotuit	1 m	M. Malin
12/7	Gloucester (E.P.)	13	R. Heil
12/7-8	P.I.	1 m	K. Elwell + v.o.
12/8-9	Worcester	1 f	A. Marble + v.o.
12/12	Nantucket	1 m	S. Perkins
12/15	Plymouth	1	S. Davis
12/15	Holyoke	1	D. McLain
12/30	Harwich	1	B. Nikula

Hooded Merganser

11/1, 4	Waltham	10, 60	M. Rines
11/2-12/31	P.I.	103 max	v.o.
11/4	Berkshire Cnty	90	T. Tynning
11/17	Ipswich	65+	P. + F. Vale
11/18	Quabbin	241	L. Therrien
11/18	Westminster	70+	M. Iliff
11/18	Randolph	60+	B. Larson
11/20	Arlington Res.	58	I. Davies
11/24	Lynnfield	85+	P. + F. Vale
11/25	Pembroke	138	SSBC (Sweeney)
11/30	Pittsfield (Pont.)	150	C. Blagdon
12/1	W. Brookfield	71	M. Lynch#
12/1-2	Cape Cod	1200	CCLPWS

Common Merganser

11/2	Lincoln	10	M. Rines
11/4	Waltham	25	M. Rines
11/6, 17	W. Newbury	3, 48	I. Davies
11/18	Quabbin	50	L. Therrien
11/24	Lynnfield	200+	P. + F. Vale
11/25	Hanson	38	SSBC (Sweeney)
11/25	Pembroke	70	SSBC (Sweeney)
11/30	Pittsfield (Pont.)	850	C. Blagdon
12/1	W. Brookfield	361	M. Lynch#
12/1-2	Cape Cod	237	CCLPWS
12/2	Wakefield	80	D. + I. Jewell
12/3	Southwick	116	S. Ricker
12/11	Lawrence	31	R. Heil#
12/18	Falmouth	75	M. Malin

Red-breasted Merganser

thr	P.I.	250 max	v.o.
11/3, 21	Duxbury	400, 1800	R. Bowes
11/3	Rockport (A.P.)	138	R. Heil#
11/3	Manomet	92	K. Anderson#

11/5	Cotuit	185	M. Keleher	Pied-billed Grebe			
11/11	Plymouth	775	M. Lynch#	11/1-21	P.I.	7 max	v.o.
11/16	S. Quabbin	6	L. Therrien	11/4	Cheshire	9	T. Gagnon
11/18	Fairhaven	175	BBC (R. Stymeist)	11/5	Randolph	8	M. Iliff
11/25	Boston H.	905	TASL (M. Hall)	11/6	Turners Falls	6	F. Bowrys
12/2	P'town	4000+	B. Nikula	11/12	Plymouth	3	M. Iliff
12/9	Wellfleet	300	P. Gilmore#	11/12	Lakeville	12	J. Sweeney
12/18	Falmouth	80+	M. Malin	11/14	Winchester	4	R. LaFontaine
12/22	Gloucester	291	M. Lynch#	11/18	Westport	7	E. Nielsen
Ruddy Duck				11/18	Jamaica Plain	5	BBC (R. Mayer)
11/1, 30	Waltham	36, 56	M. Rines	11/19	Longmeadow	3	N. Eaton
11/2	W. Newbury	382	D. Chickering	12/1	Mashpee	3	M. Keleher
11/4	Berkshire Cnty	24	T. Tynning	12/1-2	Cape Cod	42	CCLPWS
11/11	Marlboro	170+	D. Silverstein	12/12	Cambr. (F.P.)	3	E. Wylde
11/11	Amesbury	120	R. Heil#	Horned Grebe			
11/12-12/7	Cambr. (F.P.)	57 max	v.o.	thr	P.I.	40 max	T. Wetmore
11/12	Rochester	73	J. Sweeney	11/11	Plymouth	26	M. Lynch#
11/17	Randolph	182	G. d'Entremont#	11/12	Lakeville	11	J. Sweeney
11/18	Westport	105	E. Nielsen	11/12	Marion	43	J. Sweeney
11/18	Randolph	160	B. Larson	11/13	Manchester	21	R. Heil
11/25	Pembroke	407	SSBC (Sweeney)	11/18	Westport	49	E. Nielsen
11/25	Hanson	153	SSBC (Sweeney)	11/18, 12/28	Quabbin	23, 15	L. Therrien
12/1-2	Cape Cod	177	CCLPWS	11/18	Fairhaven	18	BBC (R. Stymeist)
12/5	Haverhill	90	S. Mirick	11/25	Boston H.	480	TASL (M. Hall)
Ring-necked Pheasant				12/9	Mattapoisett	63	E. Nielsen
11/10	Ipswich	1	S. McGrath	12/22	Gloucester (E.P.)	18	M. Lynch#
11/14	P.I.	1 f	T. Wetmore	Red-necked Grebe			
11/18	W. Newbury	1 f	R. Heil	thr	P.I.	22 max	T. Wetmore
11/21	Woburn (H.P.)	1 m	R. LaFontaine	11/3, 12/27	Rockport (A.P.)	10, 24	R. Heil#
11/30	Belmont	2	J. Forbes	11/3	Dennis (Corp. B.)	5	B. Nikula
12/2	Royalston	1	P. Gilmore#	11/3	Manomet	4	K. Anderson#
12/3	Shutesbury	1	K. Weir	11/4	Wachusett Res.	3	M. Lynch#
12/3	W. Groton	1 m	L. Wiggs	11/5	N. Scituate	3	C. Nims#
Ruffed Grouse				11/11	Plymouth	14	M. Lynch#
11/4	Royalston	1	S. Grinley	11/25	Boston H.	91	TASL (M. Hall)
11/18	Quabbin	5	L. Therrien	12/8	Duxbury B.	20	R. Bowes
11/24	Mt. Watatic	1	I. Davies#	12/22	Gloucester (E.P.)	21	M. Lynch#
Wild Turkey				Eared Grebe			
11/15	W. Newbury	16 f	S. McGrath	thr	Gloucester (E.P.)	1	v.o.
11/19	S. Quabbin	46	L. Therrien	Western Grebe (details submitted)*			
11/20	Saugus	14	D. + I. Jewell	11/25-28	P.I.	1 ph	C. Caron# + v.o.
12/3	Plymouth	21	I. Davies#	Northern Fulmar			
12/5	Carver	50	K. Anderson	11/2, 22	P'town	2, 12	B. Nikula
12/8	Concord	19	M. Schwope	11/3, 10	Rockport (A.P.)	375, 2	R. Heil#
12/23	Paxton	22	M. Lynch#	11/4	Eastham (F.E.)	25+	B. Nikula
Northern Bobwhite				11/15	E. Gloucester	24	R. Heil
12/1	Wellfleet	16	J. Hoye#	11/29, 12/28	Rockport (A.P.)	22, 4	R. Heil
12/9	Rockport (H.P.)	5	P. Cooney	12/1	Wellfleet	2	D. Berard#
Red-throated Loon				Greater Shearwater			
thr	P.I.	155 max	T. Wetmore	11/2, 22	P'town	65, 65	B. Nikula
11/3	Manomet	96	K. Anderson#	11/3	Rockport (A.P.)	210	R. Heil#
11/3, 12/3	Rockport (A.P.)	87, 60	R. Heil#	11/3	Dennis (Corp. B.)	3	B. Nikula
11/4	Eastham (F.E.)	35	B. Nikula	11/4, 17	Eastham (F.E.)	80, 8	Nikula, Iliff
11/8	Duxbury B.	40+	R. Bowes	11/6	P.I.	7	R. Heil
11/10	Dennis (Corp. B.)	103	K. Anderson#	11/14, 12/1	Wellfleet	6, 1	Bono, Berard
11/11	Plymouth	56	M. Lynch#	11/15	E. Gloucester	23	R. Heil
11/17	N. Scituate	20	SSBC (C. Nims)	12/2	N. Truro	3	B. Nikula
11/22	S. Quabbin	1	B. Jones	12/23	Chatham	1	Cape Cod CBC
11/25	Boston H.	118	TASL (M. Hall)	Sooty Shearwater			
11/30	Wellfleet	150+	D. Berard	11/3	Rockport (A.P.)	1	R. Heil#
Pacific Loon (no details)*				11/22	P'town	1	B. Nikula
12/2	Wellfleet	1	MAS (M. Faherty)	Manx Shearwater			
Common Loon				11/3	Rockport (A.P.)	2	R. Heil#
thr	P.I.	80 max	T. Wetmore	11/4	Eastham (F.E.)	1	M. Garvey#
11/3	Manomet	30	K. Anderson#	Leach's Storm-Petrel			
11/3, 12/27	Rockport (A.P.)	48, 9	R. Heil#	11/10	Dennis (Corp. B.)	1	K. Anderson#
11/4	Wachusett Res.	24	M. Lynch#	Northern Gannet			
11/4	Sandwich	75+	M. Keleher	thr	P.I.	1000 max	v.o.
11/4	Berkshire Cnty	10	T. Tynning	11/2, 18	P'town	825, 1800	B. Nikula
11/7	Duxbury B.	50+	R. Bowes	11/3	Manomet	350	K. Anderson#
11/11	Plymouth	38	M. Lynch#	11/3, 10	Dennis (Corp. B.)	2650, 3500	B. Nikula
11/18	Westport	21	E. Nielsen	11/3, 10	Rockport (A.P.)	7800, 3000	R. Heil#
11/18	Quabbin	27	L. Therrien	11/4, 11	Eastham (F.E.)	2500, 6000	B. Nikula
11/24	Salisbury	51	S. Moore#	11/7	Duxbury B.	200+	R. Bowes
11/25	Boston H.	46	TASL (M. Hall)	12/3, 27	Rockport (A.P.)	710, 137	R. Heil
12/2	P'town	40	B. Nikula	12/3, 27	P'town	220, 425	B. Nikula
12/28	Nant. Sound	70	G. d'Entremont#	Double-crested Cormorant			
				11/thr	P.I.	600 max	T. Wetmore

Double-crested Cormorant (continued)				12/23	Waltham	2	J. Forbes#
11/1	E. Gloucester	200	J. Berry	Cooper's Hawk			
11/4	P.I.	600	T. Wetmore	11/thr	Chatham (MI)	22	Hawkcount (DM)
11/4	P'town	225+	M. Malin#	11/11	Cumb. Farms	2	J. Sweeney#
11/6	Turners Falls	7	H. Allen	12/2	Waltham	2	J. Forbes
11/9	Wellfleet H.	200+	MAS (D. Berard)	12/22	Gloucester (E.P.)	3	M. Lynch#
11/17	Chatham	2500+	M. Iliff#	12/30	Nantucket	4	G. d'Entremont#
11/25	Boston H.	72	TASL (M. Hall)	Northern Goshawk			
Great Cormorant				11/2	Barre Falls	2	B. Kamp#
11/1	E. Gloucester	25	J. Berry	11/2-13	Granville	5	J. Weeks
11/5	N. Scituate	20+	C. Nims#	11/10	Windsor	1 ad	M. Lynch#
11/20-12/31	P.I.	10 max	T. Wetmore	11/11	Mt. Watatic	1 imm	Hawkcount (Pirro)
11/22	P'town	90+	B. Nikula	11/17	Barre Falls	1	B. Kamp#
11/25	Boston H.	39	TASL (M. Hall)	11/18	Chatham (MI)	1	D. Manchester
12/8	N. Truro	60+	B. Nikula	11/25	Ashfield	1	S. Sauter
American Bittern				12/7	Groveland	1	K. Elwell
thr	P.I.	1	v.o.	12/18	P.I.	1	M. McWade
11/8-24	Duxbury B.	1	R. Bowes	12/20	Groton	1	M. Resch
11/17	E. Orleans	1	B. Nikula	12/22	Williamsburg	1	H. Allen
12/21	Salisbury	1	S. McGrath	Red-shouldered Hawk			
Great Blue Heron				11/2-17	Barre Falls	20	Hawkcount (Kamp)
11/10	Waltham	7	J. Forbes	12/21	Pembroke	2	MAS (J. Galluzzo)
12/3	Gloucester (E.P.)	6	S. Grinley	Broad-winged Hawk (details submitted)			
12/8	P.I.	4	R. Heil	11/14	Lincoln	1 ad	M. Rines
12/14	Mashpee	3	M. Keleher	Red-tailed Hawk			
12/18	Medford	9	M. Rines	11/thr	Barre Falls	132	Hawkcount (Kamp)
Great Egret				11/thr	Granville	152	J. Weeks
11/1-21	P.I.	5 max	T. Wetmore	11/11	Mt. Watatic	6	Hawkcount (Pirro)
11/8	Duxbury B.	2	R. Bowes	11/18	W. Newbury	8	R. Heil
11/11	Ipswich	2	BBC (I. Giriunas)	12/30	Peabody	7	P. + F. Vale
11/15	Eastham	15	M. Malin	12/31	Groveland	11	K. Elwell
11/18	Fairhaven	1	BBC (R. Stymeist)	Rough-legged Hawk			
11/19	Newbypt	1	P. + F. Vale	thr	P.I.	8 max	v.o.
Snowy Egret				11/11-25	N. Truro	1	B. Nikula
11/7	P.I.	1	T. Wetmore	11/17	Rockport (H.P.)	1	J. Hoye#
11/11	Ipswich	1	BBC (I. Giriunas)	11/19, 24	Boston (Logan)	1 lt, 1 dk	N. Smith
Cattle Egret				11/25	Duxbury B.	1 dk	R. Bowes
11/14-20	P.I.	1	v.o.	12/5	Essex	1	J. + M. Nelson
12/2-3	Nantucket	1	L. Morgan#	12/6	Northampton	2	B. Bieda
Black-crowned Night-Heron				12/7	Wayland	1 dk	B. Harris
11/24	Gloucester (E.P.)	2 juv	P. Cooney	12/8	Sheffield	1	M. Wiley
11/25	Winthrop	3 imm	TASL (Vale)	12/9	Windsor	1	R. Laubach
Black Vulture				12/9	Easthampton	1	F. Bowrys
11/25	Sheffield	3	J. Drucker	12/9, 29	Cumb. Farms	1 lt	J. Sweeney#
Turkey Vulture				12/15	Chicopee	1	T. Swochak
11/2	Barre Falls	6	Hawkcount (Kamp)	12/19	Eastham	1 lt	M. Faherty
11/17	P.I.	5	I. Davies#	12/28	DWWS	1	MAS (J. Galluzzo)
11/18	Westport	5	E. Nielsen	Golden Eagle			
12/11, 31	Nantucket	7, 2	Perkins, d'Entremont	11/2	Granville	1	J. Weeks
Osprey				12/29	Pelham	1 ad	Quabbin CBC (Lynch)
thr	Reports of indiv. from 21 locations			American Kestrel			
11/1	Waltham	2	M. Rines	11/4	Newton	1	H. Miller
Bald Eagle				11/18	Randolph	1	B. Larson
11/2	Haverhill	1 juv	M. Allen	12/2, 18	P.I.	1 m, 1 m	R. Heil
11/4	Wachusett Res.	2 ad	M. Lynch#	12/6, 24	Salisbury	1, 1	S. McGrath
11/4-12/31	P.I.	4 max	v.o.	12/8	Newbury	2 m	P. Roberts
11/4	Lakeville	2 ad	SSBC (Sweeney)	12/8	Boston	1	J. Restivo
11/10	Barre Falls	3	B. Kamp#	12/10	Plympton	1	J. Sweeney
11/18	Quabbin	10	L. Therrien	12/12	Essex	1	J. Nelson
12/30	Newbypt	4	P. + F. Vale	12/23	Waltham	4	J. Forbes#
Northern Harrier				12/30	Camb. (Danehy)	1	R. Turk
thr	P.I.	15 max	v.o.	12/30	Newbypt	1	P. + F. Vale
11/4	Eastham (F.E.)	3	M. Malin#	Merlin			
11/12	Sunderland	2	H. Allen	11/thr	Chatham (MI)	4	Hawkcount (DM)
11/21	Duxbury	2	R. Bowes	11/10	Duxbury B.	3	R. Bowes
11/23	P.I.	6	T. Wetmore	12/2	P.I.	3	R. Heil
12/9	Newbypt	3	P. + F. Vale	12/19, 22	Ipswich (C.B.)	2	J. Berry#
12/9	Mattapoisett	2	E. Nielsen	Peregrine Falcon			
12/17	W. Bridgewater	2	J. Sweeney	thr	Reports of indiv. from 28 locations		
12/21	WBWS	2	MAS (M. Faherty)	11/thr	Boston (Logan)	2 ad	N. Smith
12/29	DWWS	4	MAS (J. Galluzzo)	11/thr	Chatham (MI)	9	Hawkcount (DM)
Sharp-shinned Hawk				12/11	Lawrence	2 ad	R. Heil#
11/thr	Barre Falls	26	Hawkcount (Kamp)	12/22	Gloucester (E.P.)	2 ad	M. Lynch#
11/thr	Chatham (MI)	86	Hawkcount (DM)	12/24	Melrose	2 ad	D. + I. Jewell
11/11	Salisbury	2	P. + F. Vale	Virginia Rail			
11/18	W. Newbury	2	R. Heil	11/17	Truro	2	M. Iliff#
11/18	Fairhaven	4	BBC (R. Stymeist)	11/18	Westport	1	E. Nielsen
12/22	Gloucester (E.P.)	2	M. Lynch#	12/29	Nantucket	6	G. d'Entremont#

Virginia Rail (continued)				Sanderling				
12/30	Wellfleet	1	B. Nikula	thr	P.I.	300 max		v.o.
Sora				11/8, 30	Duxbury B.	300, 20		R. Bowes
11/4	Sandwich	1 imm.	K. Anderson#	11/11	Ipswich	40	BBC (I. Girianas)	
12/22	Mid-Cape CBC	2	fide J. Trimble	11/18	Westport	48		E. Nielsen
Common Moorhen				11/30	Wellfleet	20+		D. Berard
11/25	Nantucket	3	E. Ray#	11/30	Quincy	15	MAS (J. Galluzzo)	
American Coot				12/10	Osterville	6		A. Curtis
thr	Woburn (HP)	26 max	M. Rines	12/18	Falmouth	4		M. Malin
11/2	Waltham	59	M. Rines	Western Sandpiper				
11/4	Berkshire Cnty	68	T. Tynning	11/1	N. Monomoy	7		B. Harris
11/5	Randolph	175	M. Iliff	11/5	Chatham (S.B.)	1		B. Harris
11/7, 28	GMNWR	127, 62	USFWS	White-rumped Sandpiper				
11/11	Plymouth	48	M. Lynch#	11/1-22	P.I.	5 max		v.o.
11/11	Amesbury	180	R. Heil#	11/5	Chatham (S.B.)	2 juv.		B. Harris
11/17	Randolph	80	G. d'Entremont#	11/6	Newbypt H.	8		R. Heil
11/18	Arlington	39	K. Hartel	11/7	WBWS	2		D. Berard#
11/19, 12/1	Longmeadow	16, 15	N. Eaton	11/11	Newbury	1 juv		R. Heil#
12/1-2	Cape Cod	154	CCLPWS	11/17	Eastham (F.E.)	1 juv		M. Iliff#
12/8	Westport	220	T. Raymond	Pectoral Sandpiper				
12/11	Groveland	85	R. Heil#	11/2	P.I.	3		I. Davies#
12/18	Falmouth	66	M. Malin	11/5	Chatham (S.B.)	1		B. Harris
Sandhill Crane				11/11	Salisbury	1		R. Heil#
11/1-6	Wareham	6	fide K. Anderson	Purple Sandpiper				
11/4	Rochester	1	K. Ryan	11/10	Salisbury	15		D. Chickering
Black-bellied Plover				11/17	N. Scituate	32	SSBC (C. Nims)	
thr	P.I.	160 max	T. Wetmore	11/18	Westport	53		E. Nielsen
thr	Duxbury B.	45 max	R. Bowes	11/23	Scituate	25	MAS (J. Galluzzo)	
11/5	Chatham (S.B.)	425	B. Harris	11/25	Boston H.	155	TASL (M. Hall)	
11/9	Eastham (F.E.)	75+	C. Skowron	12/thr	Rockport	40 max		v.o.
11/9, 12/8	Wellfleet	30, 2	D. Berard	12/9	Woods Hole	14		C. Buckley
11/15	Eastham	32	M. Malin	12/15	Cape Ann	93		I. Davies#
11/18	Westport	4	E. Nielsen	12/28	Marshfield	153	MAS (J. Galluzzo)	
11/25	Boston H.	3	TASL (M. Hall)	Dunlin				
American Golden-Plover				thr	P.I.	405 max		v.o.
11/1-27	P.I.	1	v.o.	11/5	Chatham (S.B.)	800		B. Harris
11/10-11	Newbury	1 juv	R. Heil	11/6, 12/18	Newbypt H.	650, 108		R. Heil
Semipalmated Plover				11/10	Dennis (Corp. B)	200		K. Anderson#
11/5	Chatham (S.B.)	23	B. Harris	11/10	Salisbury	175		F. Bouchard
11/6	P.I.	2	R. Heil	11/11	Eastham (F.E.)	750		B. Nikula
11/17	Eastham (F.E.)	2	M. Iliff#	11/18	Westport	394		E. Nielsen
12/9	E. Orleans	2	M. Malin	11/21	Duxbury	1310		R. Bowes
12/30	Truro	1	J. Young	12/21	WBWS	30	MAS (M. Faherty)	
American Oystercatcher				Stilt Sandpiper				
11/5	Chatham (S.B.)	8	B. Harris	11/2	Duxbury	1	MAS (J. Galluzzo)	
11/18	Fairhaven	2	BBC (R. Stymeist)	Short-billed Dowitcher				
American Avocet				11/1-11/9	N. Monomoy	1		B. Harris
11/7	WBWS	1	D. Berard#	Long-billed Dowitcher				
11/8-11	Nantucket	1 ph	E. Ray#	11/5	Chatham (S.B.)	1		B. Harris
11/20-28	Quincy	1	J. Poggi# + v.o.	Dowitcher species				
12/9-14	E. Orleans	1	K. McGinley + v.o.	11/10	P.I.	2		R. Heil
Spotted Sandpiper				Wilson's Snipe				
11/10	Wakefield	1	F. Vale	11/15	P.I.	5		T. Wetmore
Greater Yellowlegs				12/9	Salisbury	1		P. + F. Vale
11/1-28	P.I.	60 max	T. Wetmore	12/15	Hadley	2		D. Ziomek
11/4	Eastham (F.E.)	15	M. Malin#	12/26	Marblehead	1		K. Haley
11/4	Newbypt	12	P. + F. Vale	12/29	Newbypt H.	1		S. McGrath
11/6	Newbypt H.	35	R. Heil	American Woodcock				
11/18	Fairhaven	10	BBC (R. Stymeist)	11/4	Lakeville	1	SSBC (Sweeney)	
11/18, 12/2	Wellfleet	12, 3	B. Nikula	11/10	Southwick	1		S. Kellogg
12/3	Eastham (CGB)	1	MAS (M. Faherty)	11/10	Amherst	1		H. Allen
12/10	Osterville	2	A. Curtis	11/12	Medford	1		R. LaFontaine
Marbled Godwit				11/12	S. Quabbin	1		L. Therrien
11/1, 30	N. Monomoy	4, 2	B. Harris	11/18	Rockport (H.P.)	1		J. Hoye#
Ruddy Turnstone				12/1	P.I.	1		S. Sutton
11/1	N. Monomoy	21	B. Harris	12/1	Waltham	1		J. Forbes
11/8	Plymouth	3	K. Doyon	Red Phalarope				
11/18	P'town	3	B. Nikula	11/10	Dennis (Corp. B.)	6	CCBC (P. Bono)	
11/18	Fairhaven	6	BBC (R. Stymeist)	Phalarope species				
11/25	Boston H.	23	TASL (M. Hall)	11/4	Eastham (F.E.)	11		B. Nikula#
12/10-31	Osterville	16 max	v.o.	Pomarine Jaeger				
12/22	Gloucester (E.P.)	8	M. Lynch#	11/3, 29	Rockport (A.P.)	9, 4		R. Heil
Red Knot				11/2, 22	P'town	1, 1		B. Nikula
11/6	P.I.	27	R. Heil	11/3	Manomet	1		K. Anderson#
11/6, 30	Minimoy	275, 25	B. Harris	11/4	Eastham (F.E.)	15+		B. Nikula#
11/8	Plymouth	1	K. Doyon	11/4	P.I.	3 dk		B. Zajda#
11/9	Eastham (F.E.)	2	C. Skowron	12/3, 10	Rockport (A.P.)	2, 7		R. Heil
				12/17	Eastham	13+		B. Nikula

Jaeger species				12/6-31	Gloucester	7 max	v.o.
11/3	Dennis (Corp. B.)	2	B. Nikula	12/9	N. Truro	1 ad	B. Nikula
11/3	Rockport (A.P.)	3	R. Heil#	12/24	Lynn	1	J. Young
11/4	Eastham (F.E.)	60+	B. Nikula#	Nelson's Gull			
11/7	WBWS	2	D. Berard#	12/7-31	Gloucester (E.P.)	1-2 imm	R. Heil
12/17	Eastham	5	B. Nikula	Black-legged Kittiwake			
Laughing Gull				thr		18 max	R. Heil
11/2, 12/22	P'town	130, 5	B. Nikula	thr	P'town	600 max 11/22	B. Nikula
11/3	Duxbury B.	6	R. Bowes	thr	Rockport (A.P.)	365 max	R. Heil#
11/3, 10	Rockport (A.P.)	6 ad, 1 ad	R. Heil#	11/4, 12/7	Eastham	175, 2500	B. Nikula#
11/9	Sandwich	19	M. Keleher	11/5	Manomet	5	K. Anderson#
Laughing Gull (continued)				Common Tern			
11/9	Wellfleet H.	17	MAS (D. Berard)	11/2, 25	P'town	400, 1	B. Nikula
12/1	Dennis	1	B. Nikula	11/3	Barnstable (S.N.)	1	M. Malin
Little Gull				11/6	Plymouth	7+	M. Iliff
11/3	Duxbury B.	1 1W	R. Bowes	11/17	Eastham (F.E.)	1 W	M. Iliff#
11/19	Dennis (Corp. B.)	1 1W	J. Benedict	Forster's Tern			
Black-headed Gull				11/3	Dennis (Corp. B.)	6	B. Nikula
11/17	Eastham (F.E.)	1	M. Iliff#	11/6	Plymouth	7	M. Iliff
12/22	Gloucester (E.P.)	2	M. Lynch#	Dovekie			
12/30	Nantucket	1	G. d'Entremont#	thr	Rockport (A.P.)	68 max 11/29	R. Heil#
Bonaparte's Gull				11/23	Eastham (F.E.)	1	B. Nikula
thr	P.I.	110 max	v.o.	11/29	P.I.	6	T. Wetmore
11/9	Sandwich	100+	M. Keleher	11/30	Wellfleet	6 MAS (D. Berard)	
11/10	Dennis (Corp. B.)	192	K. Anderson#	12/2, 27	P'town	820, 3	B. Nikula
11/11	P'town	100+	B. Nikula	12/25	Gloucester	3	P. Brown#
11/11, 12/1	Eastham	250, 225	B. Nikula	Common Murre			
11/25	Boston H.	51	TASL (M. Hall)	thr	Rockport (A.P.)	47 max 12/27	R. Heil#
12/3, 27	Rockport (A.P.)	393, 43	R. Heil	11/28	P.I.	4	J. Nelson
12/24	Lynn	150	J. Young	11/30	Wellfleet	4 MAS (D. Berard)	
12/24	Nahant	310	J. Young	Thick-billed Murre			
12/30	Nantucket	1300	G. d'Entremont#	11/3, 12/27	Rockport (A.P.)	10, 3	R. Heil#
Iceland Gull				11/9-12/27	Wellfleet	10 max 11/30	D. Berard#
11/4	Scituate	1	C. Dalton	12/22	Duxbury B.	9	R. Bowes
11/10	Dennis (Corp. B.)	1 imm	K. Anderson#	Razorbill			
11/15-12/31	E. Gloucester	22 max	12/24 R. Heil	thr	P.I.	29 max 12/18	v.o.
11/17	P.I.	1 1W	I. Davies#	11/3, 29	Rockport (A.P.)	59, 70	R. Heil#
11/21-12/21	Turners Falls	1-3	v.o.	11/10	Dennis (Corp. B.)	3	B. Nikula
11/29	Rockport (A.P.)	2 1W	R. Heil	11/30	Wellfleet	27 MAS (D. Berard)	
12/9	N. Truro	3	B. Nikula	12/2	Eastham	35 MAS (M. Faherty)	
12/11	Wayland	1 1 W	B. Harris	12/3, 27	Rockport (A.P.)	12, 640	R. Heil
12/15	W. Springfield	2	M. + K. Conway	12/27	P'town	30	B. Nikula
12/27	P'town	5+	B. Nikula	12/30	Duxbury B.	9	R. Bowes
12/30	Nantucket	11	G. d'Entremont#	Black Guillemot			
Lesser Black-backed Gull				11/3, 29	Rockport (A.P.)	7, 5	R. Heil#
11/1	N. Monomoy	8	B. Harris	11/4	P.I.	1	A. Gurka#
11/6-12/31	Plymouth	1	v.o.	11/11	Plymouth	1	M. Lynch#
11/21	Turners Falls	1	F. Bowrys	11/25	Boston H.	12	TASL (M. Hall)
11/25	Boston	1 ad	R. Stymeist	12/3, 27	Rockport (A.P.)	12, 2	R. Heil
12/1	W. Brookfield	1 ad	M. Lynch#	12/7	Marshfield	1 MAS (J. Galluzzo)	
12/7-31	Gloucester (E.P.)	6 max	v.o.	12/22	Gloucester (E.P.)	21	M. Lynch#
12/27-28	P'town	1 3W	B. Nikula	12/28	Duxbury B.	2 MAS (J. Galluzzo)	
12/30	Nantucket	22	G. d'Entremont#	Atlantic Puffin			
11/3	Rockport (A.P.)	8	R. Heil#	Large alcid species			
Slaty-backed Gull (details submitted) *				11/22	P'town	1180	B. Nikula
12/23	Eastham (CGB)	1 ad	Petersen, Larson	12/9	N. Truro	160	B. Nikula
Slaty-backed Gull (no details) *				12/27	P'town	320	B. Nikula
12/23-31	Gloucester	2 ad	Sibley, Heil + v.o.				
Glaucous Gull							
11/27-12/31	Turners Falls	1-2	v.o.				

DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

A **White-winged Dove** was found on Nantucket on November 25. This species seems to have an affinity for Nantucket, where there have been many reports: the first state record in June 1961, records in 2004-05, and the recent one in June 2007.

There were many reports of dead Barred Owls along roadsides during this period; twenty-nine individuals reported on the Massbird e-mail list alone. Was the mortality due to collisions with vehicles, or were these birds starving and desperate for food? According to Norman Smith at the Trailside Museum, Barred Owls are thought not to have regular seasonal movements like Saw-whets but periodically show up in unusual locations and in above-normal numbers. Many people believe that these movements are related to a good breeding season, which will push the young into new territory.

Banding stations for Northern Saw-whet Owls reported a record season. Lookout Rock in Northbridge captured and banded forty-three owls in November, with a season total of 259. This record year surpassed the previous high of 168 and was an improvement over last year's poor migration, when just sixty-two owls were banded. Drumlin Farm's banding station also had a record year, with 266 Saw-whets captured. Norman Smith, who maintains banding sites at Daniel Webster in Marshfield and at Chickatawbut Hill in the Blue Hills, also had good numbers of owls caught. Norman stated that most of these were hatch-year birds in excellent weight and body conditions. He believed it was a banner year for rodents, which stimulated a good breeding year and produced more young to move south.

Vagrant hummingbirds are becoming almost routine in the fall, and in this period four **Rufous Hummingbirds** were recorded, all of which were confirmed by banding as well as by excellent photographs. The third state record of **Black-chinned Hummingbird** was photographed on Nantucket, closely following a **Black-chinned** in West Tisbury in late October. Excellent photographs depicting the shape of the outer primaries helped identify this bird. It may be just a matter of time before Massachusetts birders will find a Green Violet-ear, following the recent sighting of this species at Mount Desert, Maine, this past August!

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were everywhere early this winter; record numbers were seen on the Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs), notably in Northampton, where twenty-two individuals were recorded! Flycatchers were well represented during the period. A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was photographed on November 11 at North Truro. Coincidentally a Scissor-tailed was photographed at North Truro last year on November 12. An **Ash-throated Flycatcher** took up residence in a Carlisle neighborhood, and the homeowners were gracious hosts to the birding community. A Great-crested Flycatcher was carefully identified and photographed on the Cape Cod CBC on December 23. There is just one other December record of this species; that was from the Taunton-Middleboro CBC on December 21, 1975. Two **Western Kingbirds** were noted from Nantucket, and another individual was reported in Falmouth.

In recent years, mid-to-late November has been prime time to search for **Cave Swallows**, and there were three or more found over a three-day period in the Morris Island/South Beach area of Chatham. There were two other sightings of *Petrochelidon* swallows, which may well have been Cave Swallows. A **Sedge Wren** was seen in Westport in November, rather late for this species. There were two reports of **Townsend's Solitaire**. A **Yellow-throated Warbler** arrived a day early in East Orleans to be included on the Cape Cod CBC. Rounding out the rare species this month were a **Western Tanager** and a **Painted Bunting**, both reported from Falmouth.

Many species were found lingering beyond their normal departure dates, while other species were found in unusual locations. Late birds included a Blue-headed Vireo in Eastham and December reports of Nashville, Magnolia, Black-throated Green, and Wilson's warblers. A late Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen in Turners Falls, and an Indigo Bunting was noted at the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. Unusual sparrows included Clay-colored, four Lark, two Grasshopper, and two Lincoln's. Common Ravens continued to expand their territory and were reported from many communities in Essex and eastern Middlesex counties, and another bird was noted from Norton. An American Crow roost in Lawrence, estimated to have more than 14,000 individuals, included over 100 Fish Crows.

Finally, this season we experienced one of the more spectacular irruptions from the north. A **Gray Jay** on Mount Watatic cooperated with those who hiked up to see it with nuts and other treats. There have been very few recent records, a bird last year in Windsor, and the only other recent record was a bird in Petersham in 1995. The Northern Shrike is another irruptive species known to appear in record numbers, determined by food availability up north. There were

reports of individuals from over thirty locations as well as multiple sightings from other communities. It was a great season for Red-breasted Nuthatches, with high counts from many areas. There was an unprecedented invasion of **Bohemian Waxwings**, especially the weekend of December 22–23, which coincided with several Christmas Bird Counts. The Cape Ann CBC recorded 710 Bohemians, and the Cape Cod CBC tallied an amazing 983! This magnitude of a Bohemian flight has never been recorded in the state; the previous high count was 325 in Gardner in March 2004. The most recent big flight years were 2004, 1994, and 1969. Good counts of Cedar Waxwings were also noted, with over 500 in Waltham and over 400 in Concord as an example. According to Veit and Petersen, Pine Grosbeaks are among the least common of the northern finches to occur in Massachusetts. This year Pine Grosbeaks staged an impressive flight, especially in northern Worcester and Franklin counties, where flocks were encountered from early November through the end of December. Many CBCs recorded this species for the first time and many in record numbers. Next in the parade of winter finches was an equal abundance of Common Redpoll reports throughout the state, and among them were at least eleven reported **Hoary Redpolls**, although few of the reports were accompanied by details. There were fewer reports of crossbills, though the campground at Salisbury provided excellent photo opportunities for both White-winged and Red crossbills. Pine Siskins and Purple Finches were reported in moderate numbers. Few Evening Grosbeaks were noted away from Royalston, the Mecca for winter finches.

R. H. Stymeist

White-winged Dove (no details) *			11/1-18	Northbridge	43 b	S. Wheelock	
11/25	Nantucket	1	E. Ray#	11/5	Eastham (F.H.)	3	B. Harris
Eastern Screech-Owl			11/5	Brewster	2	B. Harris	
thr	Reports of indiv. from 11 locations		11/25	Ware R. IBA	4	M. Lynch#	
thr	Cambr. (F.P.)	2	E. Wylde	12/15	S. Hadley	2	A. Magee
11/5	Westwood	6	B. Cassie	12/29	Nantucket	2	G. d'Entremont#
11/11	Middleboro	3	J. Sweeney	Black-chinned Hummingbird (details submitted) *			
11/14	Ipswich	2	J. + N. Berry	11/7-11	Nantucket	1 f ph	V. Laux# + v.o.
12/7	Wayland	2	B. Harris	Rufous Hummingbird *			
12/22	Gloucester (E.P.)	6	M. Lynch#	11/1-10	Pittsfield	1 ph b	S. Decker
Great Horned Owl				11/10, 11/27-12/21	N. Falmouth	1 ph f b	I. Nisbet#
11/5	Gloucester	2	J. Nelson	11/16-12/30	Eastham	1 ph b	v.o.
11/25	Ware R. IBA	3	M. Lynch#	11/19-12/31	Marshfield	1 ph b	H. Koelsch
12/6	Concord	2	M. Small#	Belted Kingfisher			
12/7	Wayland	3	B. Harris	11/4	Wachusett Res.	3	M. Lynch#
12/23	Carlisle	2	T. Brownrigg	11/22	Worcester	2	M. Lynch#
12/30	E. Middleboro	2	K. Anderson	11/30	Mashpee	3	M. Keleher
Snowy Owl				12/thr	Reports of indiv. from 18 locations		
11/5, 19	Boston (Logan)	1, 2	N. Smith	Red-bellied Woodpecker			
11/21	Yarmouth	1 ph	S. Heaslip#	11/18	W. Newbury	7	R. Heil
12/9	Mattapoisett	1	E. Nielsen	12/9	Mattapoisett	3	E. Nielsen
12/9-13	E. Orleans	1	M. Malin	12/9	Boylston	3	M. Lynch#
12/18-31	P.I.	1-2	v.o.	12/15	Lancaster	4	S. Sutton
Barred Owl				12/29	Wayland	3	G. Long
thr	Reports of indiv. from 21 locations			Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			
11/25	Ware R. IBA	6	M. Lynch#	11/16	Gloucester	1 m	D. Sandee#
Long-eared Owl				11/22	Ipswich	1	J. MacDougall
11/5	Millis	1	B. Cassie	11/24	Belmont	1	L. Ferrarosso#
11/27-12/26	Salisbury	1	O. Spalding#	12/thr	Mt. A.	2-3 R.	Stymeist + v.o.
12/15	S. Hadley	1	A. Magee	12/1	Mattapoisett	1	M. LaBossiere
12/18	P.I.	1	M. McWade	12/7	Marshfield	1	MAS (J. Galluzzo)
12/20	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1	L. Miller	12/8	Topsfield	1	J. MacDougall
12/30	Ipswich	1	J. Berry	12/9	Harwich	1	B. Nikula
Short-eared Owl				12/14	Granby	1	L. Rogers
thr	P.I.	1-3	v.o.	12/15	Northampton	22	CBC
11/8	N. Monomoy	2	B. Harris	12/15	Carlisle	1 f T.	+ D. Brownrigg
11/23	Canton	1	J. Hoye#	12/17-22	Gloucester	1 m, 1 f	D. Sandee#
11/25	Boston (Logan)	1	N. Smith	12/22	Williamsburg	1	H. Allen
12/8	Gloucester	1	S. Hedman	12/30	Nantucket	1	G. d'Entremont#
12/9	Salisbury	1	S. Grinley#	Hairy Woodpecker			
12/10	Eastham	1	fide M. Faherty	11/17	Quabbin Pk	6	M. Lynch#
12/19	Concord	1	P. Cozza	11/18	Colrain	8	M. Lynch#
12/29	Duxbury B.	1	R. Bowes	11/18	W. Newbury	4	R. Heil
Northern Saw-whet Owl				11/21	Lexington	5	M. Rines
11/thr	DWWS	45 b	N. Smith	12/2	Royalston	5	P. Gilmore#
11/thr	DFWS	44 b	MAS (K. Clayton)	12/9	Boylston	6	M. Lynch#
11/thr	Blue Hills	22 b	N. Smith	12/15	Lancaster	5	S. Sutton

Northern Flicker				12/28	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	2	L. Miller
11/11	DWWS	9	MAS (J. Galluzzo)	Cave Swallow (no details) *			
11/14	P.I.	12	S. Grinley	11/23	Chatham (S.B.)	3	J. Trimble#
11/18	W. Newbury	11	R. Heil	11/24	Chatham (MI)	1	D. Manchester
11/18	Fairhaven	12	BBC (R. Stymeist)	11/25	Chatham (MI)	1 ph	B. Nikula
11/18	Chatham (MI)	27	D. Manchester	<i>Petrochelidon</i> species			
Pileated Woodpecker				11/6	N. Falmouth	1	I. Nisbet
11/3	W. Gloucester	1	D. + D. Marchant	11/23	Windsor	1	J. Morris-Siegel
11/18	HRWMA	1	T. Pirro#	Swallow species			
11/18	Colrain	2	M. Lynch#	11/4	Gloucester	1	S. Hedman#
11/26	Quabbin (G40)	2	T. Pirro	Boreal Chickadee			
11/28	Westford	1	S. Selesky	12/9	Quabbin (G 40)	1	B. Zajda
12/5	Newbury	1	S. McGrath	Red-breasted Nuthatch			
12/11	W. Newbury	1	R. Heil#	thr	P.I.	13 max	v.o.
12/11	Amesbury	1	S. McGrath	11/11	Ipswich (C.B.)	12	J. Berry
12/29	Ipswich	1	J. Berry	11/17	Bourne	14	BBC (R. Stymeist)
Eastern Phoebe				11/18	Colrain	10	M. Lynch#
11/9	W. Barnstable	1	M. Keleher	11/18	W. Newbury	39	R. Heil
11/10	Ipswich	1	S. McGrath	11/30	Mashpee	21	M. Keleher
11/15	Haverhill	1	S. McGrath	12/8	Wellfleet	46	D. Berard
11/24	Turners Falls	1	B. Wood	Brown Creeper			
11/30	Mashpee	1	M. Keleher	11/7	Newton	3	P. Gilmore
12/1	P.I.	1	W. Petersen	11/17	Bourne	3	BBC (R. Stymeist)
Ash-throated Flycatcher (no details) *				11/18	Colrain	4	M. Lynch#
11/8-28	Carlisle	1 ph	Shaeffer# + v.o.	11/25	Mashpee	3	M. Keleher
Great Crested Flycatcher				11/25	Ware R. IBA	7	M. Lynch#
12/23-24	Chatham	1 ph	Cape Cod CBC	12/17	Kingston	3	E. Dalton
Western Kingbird				Carolina Wren			
11/18-25	Falmouth	1	V. Laux# + v.o.	11/13	Cape Ann	21	R. Heil
11/25	Nantucket	2	E. Ray#	11/17	Bourne	10	BBC (R. Stymeist)
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher				11/18	Fairhaven	26	BBC (R. Stymeist)
11/11	N. Truro	1 ph	B. Nikula	11/18	W. Newbury	13	R. Heil
Northern Shrike				12/9	Mattapoisett	17	E. Nielsen
thr	Reports of indiv. from 31 locations			12/22	Gloucester (E.P.)	10	M. Lynch#
thr	P.I.	1-3	v.o.	House Wren			
11/17	Quabbin Pk	2	M. Lynch#	11/23	Fairhaven	1	E. Nielsen
12/2	N. Truro	2	B. Nikula	11/24	Falmouth	1	SSBC (G. d'E)
12/22	Gloucester (E.P.)	2	M. Lynch#	11/25	Ware R. IBA	1	M. Lynch#
12/25	Wayland	2	B. Harris	Winter Wren			
12/31	Lincoln	2	M. Rines	thr	Reports of indiv. from 20 locations		
Blue-headed Vireo				11/18	Fairhaven	6	BBC (R. Stymeist)
11/17	Eastham	1	M. Garvey	11/25	Mashpee	2	M. Keleher
Gray Jay *				11/30	Mashpee	2	M. Keleher
11/1-24	Mt. Watatic	1	v.o.	12/27	MNWS	2	K. Haley
American Crow				Sedge Wren			
11/25	Framingham	2200+	E. Taylor	11/18	Westport	1	E. Nielsen
12/11	Lawrence	14,075	R. Heil#	Marsh Wren			
Fish Crow				11/9-12/15	P.I.	1-2	T. Wetmore
11/7	Quincy	62	J. Sweeney	11/10	Ipswich	1	S. McGrath
12/11	Lawrence	110+	R. Heil#	11/15	GMNWR	1	W. Hutcheson
12/23	Waltham	1	J. Forbes#	11/30	Mashpee	6	M. Keleher
Common Raven				12/4-6	W. Newbury	1	S. McGrath
11/5	Waltham	2	M. Rines#	12/14	Eastham	1	MAS (M. Faherty)
11/5	Melrose	2	D. + I. Jewell	12/21	WBWS	1	MAS (M. Faherty)
11/7	Framingham	2	J. Young	12/30	Nantucket	2	G. d'Entremont
11/10	Windsor	3	M. Lynch#	Golden-crowned Kinglet			
11/11	Mt. Watatic	4	T. Pirro#	11/10	P.I.	5	R. Heil
11/18	Lancaster	2	S. Sutton	11/18	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	7	E. Nielsen
11/30	Norton	1	M. Faherty	11/18	Fairhaven	16	BBC (R. Stymeist)
12/7	W. Newbury	2	K. Elwell	11/24	Mt. Watatic	6	I. Davies#
12/13	Rowley	1	D. Ely	11/24	Gardner	7	T. Pirro
12/15	Peabody	1	W. Tatro	11/25	Petersham	9	M. Lynch#
Horned Lark				11/26	Quabbin (G40)	6	T. Pirro
thr	P.I.	79 max	v.o.	12/8	Wellfleet	7	D. Berard
11/7	Deerfield	100	R. Ranney	Ruby-crowned Kinglet			
11/11	Acton	175	S. Perkins	thr	Reports of indiv. from 17 locations		
11/12	Salisbury	75	T. Bronson	11/30	Boston	3	W. Freidburg
11/20	Hadley	1000	H. Allen	Eastern Bluebird			
11/25	Montague	300	H. Allen	11/9	S. Quabbin	16	L. Therrien
12/9	Cumb. Farms	40	J. Sweeney#	11/12	Falmouth	20	C. Buelow
12/15	Lancaster	30	S. Sutton	11/18	W. Newbury	28	R. Heil
12/17	Lincoln	30	M. Rines	11/19	Pittsfield	15	M. Thorne
12/18	Whately	100	F. Bowrys	11/30	Mashpee	16	M. Keleher
12/22	Gloucester (E.P.)	74	M. Lynch#	12/14	IRWS	12	MAS (W. Tatro)
Tree Swallow				12/29	Maynard	12	S. Moore#
11/6	Westfield	1	S. Kellogg	12/29	Wayland	15	G. Long
11/6	Plymouth	1	M. Iliif	Townsend's Solitaire (no details) *			
11/8	Chatham (MI)	12	D. Manchester	12/15	Hingham	1	K. Godfrey

Townsend's Solitaire (no details) * (continued)		11/17	Bourne	1	BBC (R. Stymeist)		
12/24-29	Rockport	1 ph	M. Duffy + v.o.	11/18	Fairhaven	1	BBC (R. Stymeist)
Hermit Thrush		11/21	Falmouth	1	S. Williams#		
11/23	Fairhaven	4	E. Nielsen	11/25	Nantucket	1	E. Ray#
12/thr	Reports of indiv.	from 15 locations		12/8	Wellfleet	1	J. Young
12/9	Mattapoisett	2	E. Nielsen	Nashville Warbler			
12/11	Rockport	2	J. Berry	11/4	Cambridge	1	C. Cook
12/15	Ludlow	2	B. Platenik	11/8-12/1	Boston	2	S. Haber#
12/15	Chicopee	2	T. Swochak	Northern Parula			
12/15	P.I.	2	T. Wetmore	11/5	W. Gloucester	1	J. Nelson
12/18	Medford	4	R. LaFontaine	11/11	Boston (P.G.)	1	R. Stymeist
12/27	MNWS	2	K. Haley	Magnolia Warbler			
American Robin		12/1		Boston	1	C. Floyd	
11/12	Chatham (MI)	400	D. Manchester	Black-throated Blue Warbler			
11/12	Cambr. (Alewife)	804	R. Stymeist	11/4	S. Lancaster	1 f	S. Sutton
11/23	Leicester	397	M. Lynch#	11/thr	Manomet	1 imm f	T. Lloyd-Evans#
11/25	S. Quabbin	330	L. Therrien	Yellow-rumped Warbler			
12/8	N. Truro	400+	B. Nikula	11/3	WBWS	10+	D. Berard
12/11	P.I.	500	T. Wetmore	11/5	Cambridge	5	R. Furrow#
12/18	Kingston	350+	E. Dalton	11/5	Granville	5	J. Weeks
12/23	Rockport	425+	R. Heil	11/17	Bourne	18	BBC (R. Stymeist)
12/25	Worcester	670	M. Lynch#	11/18	W. Newbury	7	R. Heil
12/27	MNWS	300+	K. Haley	11/18	Fairhaven	32	BBC (R. Stymeist)
Gray Catbird		11/24		Falmouth	35	SSBC (G. d'E)	
thr	P.I.	5 max	v.o.	12/8	Wellfleet	127	D. Berard#
11/18	Fairhaven	14	BBC (R. Stymeist)	12/9	Mattapoisett	44	E. Nielsen
12/9	Mattapoisett	6	E. Nielsen	12/9	P'town	20+	P. Gilmore#
12/25	S. Peabody/Salem	3	R. Heil	12/23	Rockport	2	R. Heil
12/29	Westfield	1	T. Swochak	12/25	Weymouth	9	S. Williams
12/29	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg	12/30	Nantucket	40	G. d'Entremont#
12/30	Rockport (H.P.)	1	P. + F. Vale	Black-throated Green Warbler			
Brown Thrasher		12/1		Boston	1	C. Floyd	
11/17	Chatham	1	M. Iliff#	Yellow-throated Warbler			
12/5	Essex	1	J. + M. Nelson	12/22-31	E. Orleans	1 ph	C. Kennedy + v.o.
12/19	Nahant	1	L. Pivacek	Pine Warbler			
12/31	IRWS	1	MAS (W. Tatro)	12/1	Boston	2	C. Floyd
American Pipit		12/5-22		E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson	
11/1-12/8	P.I.	12 max	v.o.	12/13	Stow	1	D. Stewart#
11/4	Wachusett Res.	4	M. Lynch#	12/16-19	Holbrook	1	K. Sullivan
11/10	Barre Falls	13	B. Kamp#	12/18	Falmouth	2	M. Malin
11/11, 12/9	Cumb. Farms	50, 20	J. Sweeney#	12/26	Arlington	1	S. Simpson
11/11	Acton	150	S. Perkins	12/30	Gloucester	1	J. Nelson
11/12	Sunderland	50	H. Allen	Palm Warbler			
11/23	Fairhaven	35	E. Nielsen	11/2	Sandwich	4	CCBC (F. Caruso)
11/25	Sheffield	30	J. Drucker	11/17	Bourne	3	BBC (R. Stymeist)
12/9	Gloucester	2	P. Brown	11/23	GMNWR	1	M. Emmons
12/22	Chatham	1	F. Atwood	11/23	Fairhaven	1	E. Nielsen
Bohemian Waxwing		11/25		Westport	1	J. Hoye#	
11/4	N. Truro	13	M. Malin#	12/5	Gloucester	2	B. Harris
11/7, 12/30	Wellfleet	7, 20	Berard, Nikula	12/8	Wellfleet	14+	D. Berard#
11/15-12/30	Rockport	673 max	12/23 R. Heil	12/9	Eastham	1	CCBC (M. Malin)
11/18	Erving	1	M. Lynch#	Blackpoll Warbler			
11/22	Squantum	1	G. d'Entremont	11/4	P'town	2	J. Restivo#
12/8	P'town	3	B. Nikula	11/5	Cambridge	1	R. Furrow#
12/21	M.V.	3	L. McDowell#	11/11	Boston	1	M. Iliff
12/22	P.I.	55	J. Hully#	11/18	Fairhaven	1	BBC (R. Stymeist)
12/23	Gloucester	156	R. Heil	Black-and-white Warbler			
12/24	Beverly	8	F. Vale	11/4	Cambridge	1	C. Cook
12/25	Pittsfield	8	J. Lucier	American Redstart			
12/29	Wayland	1	G. Long	11/9	Cambr. (F.P.)	1 ph	M. Rosenstein
12/30	Orleans	50+	B. Nikula	11/23	Chatham	1	J. Trimble#
12/31	IRWS	3	MAS (W. Tatro)	Common Yellowthroat			
Cedar Waxwing		11/18		P.I.	1	T. Wetmore	
11/18	Colrain	180	M. Lynch#	11/25	Westport	1	J. Hoye#
11/18	Erving	150+	M. Lynch#	12/14	Eastham	1	MAS (M. Faherty)
11/18	Quabbin	213	L. Therrien	Wilson's Warbler			
12/8	Royalston	120+	M. Lynch#	11/5	W. Roxbury	1 f	M. Iliff
12/8	P'town	100+	B. Nikula	11/11	Boston (P.G.)	2	R. Stymeist
12/9	Waltham	500	M. Rines	11/18	Fairhaven	1	BBC (R. Stymeist)
12/13	Rowley	156	D. Ely	11/29	Chatham	1	R. Clem
12/19	Concord	400	W. Hutcheson	11/30	Hadley	1	B. Lafley
12/23	Rockport	250	R. Heil	12/8	Mt. A.	1	J. Restivo
Orange-crowned Warbler				Yellow-breasted Chat			
11/2	Lexington	1	M. Rines	11/4	Waltham	1	M. Rines
11/4	Cambridge	1	C. Cook	11/13	Rockport	1	R. Heil
11/11-2/1	Boston	1-2	v.o.	11/17	Chatham	1	M. Iliff#
11/11-12/24	Mashpee	1	M. Keleher	11/17	Eastham (F.H.)	1	M. Iliff#
11/12	Plymouth	1	M. Iliff	11/18	Fairhaven	5	BBC (R. Stymeist)

Yellow-breasted Chat (continued)				11/9	Sandwich	1	M. Keleher
11/24	Rockport (H.P.)	1	D. Carlson#	11/30	S. Monomoy	2	B. Harris
11/24	Falmouth	1	SSBC (G. d'E)	12/1	Wellfleet	2	D. Berard#
11/25	P.I.	1	N. Landry#	12/15	Duxbury B.	2	E. Dalton
11/25	S. Dartmouth	1	J. Hoye#				
11/30	WBWS	1	MAS (D. Berard)	Grasshopper Sparrow			
12/9, 19	Nahant	1, 1	L. Pivacek	11/18	Westport	1	E. Nielsen
12/26	Salem	1	K. Haley	12/19-28	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson
Western Tanager (no details) *				Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow			
11/2	Falmouth	1	T. Stone#	11/11	Newbury	1	R. Heil#
Eastern Towhee				Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow			
11/10	Ipswich	1	S. McGrath#	11/4	P.I.	1	A. Gurka#
11/11	W. Newbury	1	R. Heil#	Seaside Sparrow			
11/13	Rockport (H.P.)	1 f	R. Heil	12/2	P.I.	1	R. Heil
11/17	Bourne	2	BBC (R. Stymeist)	12/24	Eastham (FH)	9	J. Trimble#
11/18	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1	E. Nielsen	Fox Sparrow			
11/18	Fairhaven	4	BBC (R. Stymeist)	11/5	Granville	5	J. Weeks
11/30	WBWS	1	MAS (D. Berard)	11/10	Royalston	7	R. Furrow#
12/7-31	E. Sandwich	1	D. Manchester	11/10	Templeton	6	T. Pirro
12/9	Mattapoisett	2	E. Nielsen	11/11	Amherst	5	S. Sumner
12/9	Southwick	1	S. Ricker	11/14	Lincoln	12	M. Rines
12/9	Salisbury	1	S. Grinley#	11/18	W. Newbury	6	R. Heil
12/19	Gloucester	1 m	C. Floyd	11/21	Lexington	10	M. Rines
12/23	Lincoln	1 m	N. Soulette	11/23	Burlington	10	M. Rines
12/30	Rockport (H.P.)	1 f	P. + F. Vale	12/9	Mattapoisett	4	E. Nielsen
American Tree Sparrow				12/9	Marion	2	E. Nielsen
thr	P.I.	30 max	v.o.	12/18	Wayland	1	D. Hatfield
11/10	Templeton	20	T. Pirro	12/21	Weston	1	D. Hatfield
11/10, 12/29	Wakefield	3, 23	P. + F. Vale	Song Sparrow			
11/18	W. Newbury	63	R. Heil	11/5	Cumb. Farms	52	J. Sweeney
11/18	Colrain	41	M. Lynch#	11/18	Fairhaven	108	BBC (R. Stymeist)
11/19	Cumb. Farms	60	J. Sweeney	11/24	Falmouth	39	SSBC (G. d'E)
11/25	Petersham	30	M. Lynch#	Lincoln's Sparrow			
12/9	Concord	100	D. Sibley#	12/3	Plympton	1	J. Sweeney
12/15	Lancaster	21	S. Sutton	12/16-21	Watertown	1	A. Gurka
Chipping Sparrow				Swamp Sparrow			
11/4	Wayland	4	B. Harris	11/5-12/9	P.I.	5 max	T. Wetmore
11/18	W. Newbury	4	R. Heil	11/5	Cumb. Farms	17	J. Sweeney
12/7	Wellfleet	3	D. Berard#	11/11	Newbury	7	R. Heil#
12/15	Agawam	2	D. Potter	11/11	Plymouth	13	M. Lynch#
12/15-16	S. Yarmouth	3	A. Middleton	11/16	Sandwich	6	M. Keleher
12/16	Holbrook	1	K. Sullivan	11/18	W. Newbury	6	R. Heil
12/20-21	Watertown	1	A. Gurka	11/18	Fairhaven	14	BBC (R. Stymeist)
12/24	Mashpee	2	M. Keleher	11/30	Mashpee	15	M. Keleher
12/27	Wayland	1	A. McCarthy#	12/9	Mattapoisett	5	E. Nielsen
12/29	Westfield	1	D. McLain	12/15	Duxbury	2	E. Dalton
Clay-colored Sparrow				White-throated Sparrow			
12/7-8	Wellfleet	1	D. Berard#	11/13	Cape Ann	68	R. Heil
Field Sparrow				11/18	W. Newbury	130	R. Heil
11/4	Wayland	3	B. Harris	11/18	Fairhaven	60	BBC (R. Stymeist)
11/12	Falmouth	2	C. Buelow	12/9	Mattapoisett	138	E. Nielsen
11/16	Sandwich	2	M. Keleher	White-crowned Sparrow			
11/17	Eastham	3	M. Iliff#	11/2	Essex	1 juv	J. Berry
11/18	Fairhaven	14	BBC (R. Stymeist)	11/3	Eastham (F.H.)	3	D. Berard
12/8	Wellfleet	3	D. Berard	11/4	Cambridge	6	C. Cook
Vesper Sparrow				11/5, 12/29	Cumb. Farms	12, 1	J. Sweeney
11/4	Gloucester	1	S. Hedman#	11/7	New Salem	1 imm	B. Lafley
11/5	Cumb. Farms	1	J. Sweeney	11/9	Lexington	1 imm	R. LaFontaine
11/28	Groton	1	T. Pirro	11/15	Haverhill	1	S. McGrath
12/15	Northampton	1	A. Haro	11/18	Fairhaven	5	BBC (R. Stymeist)
Lark Sparrow				11/24	Bourne	1 imm	SSBC (G. d'E)
11/4	Scituate	1	C. Dalton	11/30	Northampton	3	F. Bowrys
11/30	WBWS	1	MAS (D. Berard)	11/30	Wayland	1	J. Hoye#
12/19-31	Millbury	1 ph	D. Berard#	12/3	Plympton	1	J. Sweeney
12/23	Brewster	1	P. Bono#	12/8	Wellfleet	2	J. Young
Savannah Sparrow				12/9	Concord	3 imm	D. Sibley#
11/2-12/18	P.I.	7 max	T. Wetmore	Dark-eyed Junco			
11/11	Cumb. Farms	100	J. Sweeney#	11/4	Wachusett Res.	74	M. Lynch#
11/18	W. Newbury	3	R. Heil	11/5	Cambridge	50	R. Furrow#
11/22	Newbypt	2	P. + F. Vale	11/9	Mt.A.	82	F. Bouchard
11/25	Montague	2	H. Allen	11/18	W. Newbury	182	R. Heil
11/30	Wellfleet	5	MAS (D. Berard)	11/18	Colrain	69	M. Lynch#
12/9	Concord	3	D. Sibley#	11/19	Arlington Res.	204	I. Davies
12/18	Newbypt H.	3	R. Heil	11/22	Worcester	50+	M. Lynch#
Ipswich Sparrow				12/15	Lancaster	160	S. Sutton
11/4	Eastham (F.E.)	3	M. Malin#	12/29	Peabody	50+	P. + F. Vale
11/4-12/2	P.I.	1-2	v.o.	Lapland Longspur			
11/8	N. Falmouth	1	I. Nisbet	11/1-12/9	P.I.	30 max	T. Wetmore

Lapland Longspur (continued)				11/2	Lancaster	14300	S. Sutton
11/1, 30	Northampton	2, 1	Lafley, Bowrys	11/18	W. Newbury	5	R. Heil
11/10	Granville	1	J. Weeks	12/8	Ipswich	2	J. Berry
11/12	GMNWR	1	W. Hutcheson	12/15	Amherst	2	H. Allen
11/12	Sandwich	2	M. Keleher	12/15	W. Springfield	1	M. + K. Conway
11/18	Westport	1	E. Nielsen	12/29	Lexington	3	R. LaFontaine
11/23, 12/27	Salisbury	3, 25	Davies, Grinley		Brown-headed Cowbird		
11/28	Groton	2	T. Pirro	11/12	S. Lancaster	4	S. Sutton
11/30	N. Monomoy	1	B. Harris	11/23	Northboro	13 m	S. Moore
12/15	Hadley	3	S. Surner	12/2	Yarmouth	3	P. McFarland
12/18	Whately	1	F. Bowrys	12/4	E. Middleboro	pr	K. Anderson
12/22	Gloucester (E.P.)	6	M. Lynch#	12/8	P'town	1	B. Nikula
				12/9	Mattapoisett	1	E. Nielsen
Snow Bunting				12/11	W. Boxford	1 m	R. Heil#
thr	P.I.	143 max	v.o.	12/18	DWWS	13	R. Buchsbaum
11/5	Chatham (S.B.)	200	B. Harris		Baltimore Oriole		
11/8-12/22	Duxbury B.	99 max	R. Bowes	11/6	Plymouth	1	M. Iliff
11/10-12/19	Salisbury	85 max	v.o.	11/18	Eastham	1	CCBC (D. Clapp)
11/11	Sandwich	47	K. Doyon	11/18	W. Newbury	1	R. Heil
11/11	Ipswich (C.B.)	60	J. Berry	11/18	Rockport (H.P.)	1	J. Hoye#
11/12	GMNWR	50+	W. Hutcheson	11/17	Cambr. (F.P.)	1 imm	R. Farrow
11/17	Randolph	100	G. d'Entremont#	12/24	Eastham (CGB)	1 f	A. Curtis
12/6	Northampton	140	F. Bowrys		Pine Grosbeak		
12/9	Worcester	121	M. Lynch#	11/2-12/6	P.I.	1-2	T. Wetmore
12/9	Orleans	100+	M. Malin	11/4-12/9	Royalston	80 max	v.o.
12/9	Boylston	72	M. Lynch#	11/13-12/24	Rockport	17 max	v.o.
12/11	Groveland	60	R. Heil#	11/17-12/28	Quabbin Pk	30 max	v.o.
12/15	Lancaster	48	S. Sutton	11/17-12/11	New Salem	20 max	B. Lafley
12/18	Whately	80	F. Bowrys	11/18	Colrain	10	M. Lynch#
12/22	Gloucester	250	M. Lynch#	11/18	HRWMA	12	T. Pirro#
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				11/24, 12/7	Gardner	1, 37	T. Pirro
11/10	Turners Falls	1	D. Mako	12/3	Ashburnham	7	T. Pirro
Indigo Bunting				12/6	Groton	12	T. Pirro
12/11	WBWS	1	D. Berard#	12/6	W. Newbury	6	D. Jewell#
Painted Bunting				12/7, 22	Williamsburg	22, 100	Bowrys, Allen
12/2-4	Falmouth	1 f	H. Caswell# + v.o.	12/8	Ashfield	40	S. Sauter
Dickcissel				12/9	Concord (NAC)	5	D. Sibley#
11/1-5	Cambridge	1	v.o.	12/12	IRWS	12	B. O'Neill#
11/12	Essex	1	P. Brown	12/14	Princeton	15	J. Dekker
12/27	N. Truro	1	Truro CBC	12/14	Athol	7	T. Wansleben
Red-winged Blackbird				12/22	Lincoln	15	D. Hatfield
11/2	Lancaster	105	S. Sutton	12/25	Wayland	5	B. Harris
11/12	Lakeville	85	J. Sweeney	12/25	Worcester	14	M. Lynch#
11/18	W. Newbury	52	R. Heil		Purple Finch		
11/25	Burrage Pd	55	SSBC (Sweeney)	11/2-12/9	Lexington	22 max	M. Rines
12/13	IRWS	10 f	J. Berry	11/5-12/7	P.I.	1-4	v.o.
12/21	WBWS	45	MAS (M. Faherty)	11/14, 12/11	Wayland	19, 4	B. Harris
12/29	Bolton Flats	40	S. Sutton	11/17	Georgetown	2 f	J. Berry#
12/29	Cumb. Farms	150	J. Sweeney#	11/18	W. Newbury	21	R. Heil
12/30	Nantucket	35	G. d'Entremont#	12/5	Essex	3	J. + M. Nelson
Eastern Meadowlark				12/11	Groveland	5	R. Heil#
11/4	Chatham (MI)	4	D. Manchester	12/13	IRWS	13	J. Berry
11/9	W. Roxbury	1	A. Morgan	12/27	Rockport (A.P.)	2	R. Heil
11/11	DWWS	2	MAS (J. Galluzzo)		Red Crossbill		
11/18	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	3	E. Nielsen	11/4	Rockport (A.P.)	2	H. Galbraith#
11/29, 12/7	Eastham (F.H.)	7, 4	Trull, Malin	11/4-12/28	Salisbury	15 max	v.o.
12/17	W. Bridgewater	2	J. Sweeney	11/8	Nahant	1 m, 2 f	J. Trimble#
12/22	P.I.	1	T. Wetmore	11/9-12/18	P.I.	35 max	v.o.
Rusty Blackbird				11/10	Ipswich (C.B.)	5	J. Style
11/2	P.I.	4	T. Wetmore	11/18	Mt. Watatic	3m, 3f	B. Zajda#
11/11	Cumb. Farms	5	J. Sweeney#	11/25	Ware R. IBA	4	M. Lynch#
11/14	P'town	17	P. Bono#	11/25	Royalston	1	D. Berard#
11/18	W. Newbury	6	R. Heil	11/30, 12/30	Wellfleet	7, 2	Berard, Nikula
11/25	Barre	13	M. Lynch#	12/26	Chatham	5	F. Atwood
11/28	Groton	12	T. Pirro	12/30	Nantucket	7	G. d'Entremont
12/1	W. Brookfield	2	M. Lynch#		White-winged Crossbill		
12/4	Longmeadow	1	N. Eaton	11/4-23	Rockport (H.P.)	15 max	v.o.
12/4	Hadley	1	H. Allen	11/22	Salisbury	15	MAS (B. Gette)
12/9	Easthampton	9	F. Bowrys	11/30	WBWS	9	MAS (D. Berard)
12/15	Northampton	38	J. Green	12/2	Stoneham	2	D. Williams
12/16	Wakefield	1	P. + F. Vale	12/22	Gloucester (E.P.)	8	M. Lynch#
12/17	Lincoln	1	M. Rines	12/24	Rockport	1	B. Cassie
12/22	Sheffield	1	J. Alexander		Common Redpoll		
12/24	Washington	1	M. Wiley	thr	P.I.	280 max	v.o.
12/28	DWWS	3	MAS (J. Galluzzo)	11/2, 25	Turners Falls	2, 80	Smith, Galbraith
12/29	Bolton Flats	40	S. Sutton	11/11-12/29	Lexington	193 max	11/12 Rines
12/29	Wayland	3	G. Long	11/13-12/23	Woburn (HP)	70 max	M. Rines
Common Grackle				11/14	Quabbin Pk	50	L. Hoffman
11/2	Sandwich	450+	CCBC (F. Caruso)				

Common Redpoll (continued)

11/15	Eastham	145	M. Malin
11/17	Granville	100	J. Weeks
11/21	N. Falmouth	40	I. Nisbet
11/22	Squantum	100	G. d'Entremont
11/24	Cambr. (F.P.)	65	R. Stymeist#
11/25	Ware R. IBA	91	M. Lynch#
12/2	Washington	60	C. Blagdpn
12/2	Bolton Flats	150+	S. Sutton
12/2	ONWR	104	S. Sutton
12/5	Westford	50	J. Gentile
12/9	Burrage Pd	125+	J. Sweeney#
12/9	Ashfield	80	J. Hoye#
12/9	Hanson	125	J. Sweeney#
12/10	Sheffield	56	S. Macdonald
12/13	Waltham	60	W. Freidburg
12/14	Athol	76	T. Wansleben
12/15	Wakefield	185+	P + F. Vale
12/21	WBWS	100+ MAS	(M. Faherty)
12/22	Gloucester (E.P.)	88	M. Lynch#
12/22	Duxbury B.	85+	R. Bowes
12/31	Millbury	100	D. Berard

Hoary Redpoll

11/17	P.I.	1 ph	E. Nielsen
11/25	Ware R. IBA	1	M. Lynch#
12/12	Turners Falls	1	F. Bowrys
12/15, 18	P.I.	1 f	R. Heil
12/22	Chatham	1 f ph	F. Atwood
12/30	Gloucester (E.P.)	2 ph	J. P. Smith#
12/31	Foxboro	1	B. Cassie

Pine Siskin

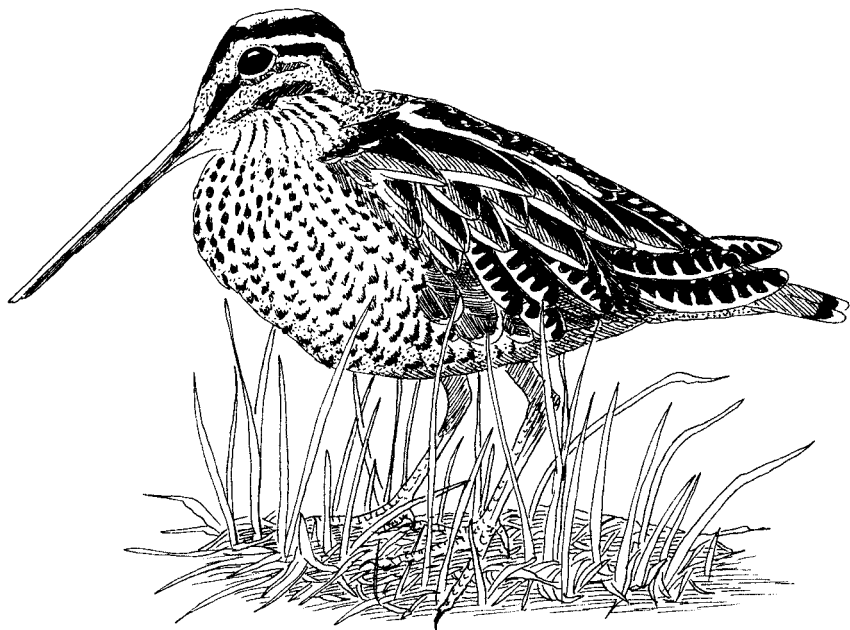
11/1	Groton	3	B. Hill
11/3	Eastham (F.H.)	10	D. Berard
11/5-25	Royalston	28 max	11/10 T. Pirro
11/5-12/2	P.I.	2-4	v.o.
11/9-16	Wakefield	1-3	P + F. Vale
11/17	New Salem	6	B. Lafley
11/18	W. Newbury	2	R. Heil
11/23-12/3	Groveland	7 max	K. Elwell
11/29	Littleton	5	G. Marley
12/1-13	S. Orleans	8 max	C. + S. Thompson
12/3	Shutesbury	8	K. Weir
12/21	Pittsfield	4	M. Konefal
12/21	DWWS	5	MAS (J. Galluzzo)
12/22	Williamsburg	5	H. Allen

American Goldfinch

11/8	Chatham (MI)	130	D. Manchester
11/18	W. Newbury	207	R. Heil

Evening Grosbeak

11/1-12/8	Royalston	90 max	v.o.
11/17	Quabbin Pk	3	M. Lynch#
11/17	New Salem	7	B. Lafley
11/18	Colrain	7	M. Lynch#
11/18	Mt. Wachusett	2+	M. Iliff
11/18	Newton	8	S. Haber
11/25	Ware R. IBA	18	M. Lynch#
11/25	Petersham	3	M. Lynch#
11/25	Royalston	26	D. Berard#
12/15	DFWS	4	W. Hutcheson



WILSON'S SNIPE BY GEORGE C. WEST

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 Stow, Bolton, Harvard	Worc.	Hingham, Cohasset, Scituate, and Norwell Worcester
DWWS	Daniel Webster WS	Other Abbreviations	
E.P.	Eastern Point, Gloucester	ad	adult
EMHW	Eastern Mass. Hawk Watch	alt	alternate
F.E.	First Encounter Beach, Eastham	b	banded
F.P.	Fresh Pond, Cambridge	br	breeding
F.Pk	Franklin Park, Boston	dk	dark (morph)
G40	Gate 40, Quabbin Res.	f	female
GMNWR	Great Meadows NWR	fl	fledgling
H.	Harbor	imm	immature
H.P.	Halibut Point, Rockport	juv	juvenile
HRWMA	High Ridge WMA, Gardner	lt	light (morph)
I.	Island	m	male
IRWS	Ipswich River WS	max	maximum
L.	Ledge	migr	migrating
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>.

ABOUT THE COVER

Tennessee Warbler

The Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*) was named by Alexander Wilson, the “Father of North American Ornithology,” for a specimen collected in Tennessee during migration. The name is something of a misnomer because this drab little warbler breeds across the boreal forest of Canada and winters in Central and South America. In breeding plumage it is distinguished by a gray crown and neck that contrast with olive back, wings, and tail and pale gray or whitish underparts. It has a distinct dark eye stripe with a narrow white supercilium and lacks wing bars and tail spots. Females are duller and may have a yellow tinge below, as do juveniles and adults of both sexes in fall. The somewhat similar appearing and closely related Orange-crowned Warbler has distinctive yellow under-tail coverts. Tennessee Warblers are smaller than Warbling or Philadelphia vireos and have a more slender build and bill. No subspecies are currently recognized.

The Tennessee Warbler’s breeding range extends from the Yukon Territory across Canada to Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, and south to Maine, northeastern New York, and the northern Great Lakes. These birds winter from southern Mexico through Central America to northern South America. They occupy second-growth forest, shade coffee plantations, edge habitats, and gardens and orchards. Long-distance nocturnal migrants, Tennessee Warblers are in molt during their fall migration, a very unusual characteristic for wood warblers. In Massachusetts their numbers are erratic during migration, ranging from uncommon to common; their occurrence probably correlates with spruce budworm outbreaks. There are no breeding records for Massachusetts so far, but occasional males have been recorded singing here in summer. They pass through Massachusetts during May and in fall have a protracted migration that begins in August and continues into early October.

Tennessee Warblers breed in a broad spectrum of boreal zone habitats, including deciduous, coniferous, and mixed forests, usually associated with grassy or shrubby clearings. They utilize successional growth following timber harvests. Males are territorial and are persistent singers during the breeding season. Their loud, repetitive, three-part song gets louder and higher pitched toward the end. The flight note is a *see*, with call notes described as *tsip*, *tseet*, or *tit*. Surprisingly little is known about the breeding biology of the Tennessee Warbler, probably because of its remote breeding areas and cryptic nests. They are presumed to be monogamous, and there is little or no information on pair formation, courtship displays, maintenance of the pair bond, or even nest-site selection and nest building! The nests are well concealed on the ground, often in moss hummocks or at the base of shrubs or trees. They are often found in small clearings in bogs or along the edge of logging roads or ditches. The nest is a cup, flush with the ground, made of dead leaves, twigs, and stems and lined with fine grass or mammal hair. The five or six white eggs are spotted or splotched with a variety of reds, browns, or purples. The female alone has a brood patch, and she does most or all of the incubation until hatching after an estimated twelve days. Males have been observed feeding incubating females. Both parents feed the young, but the female does most of the brooding for the presumed eleven to twelve days until

fledging. More than ninety percent of the food fed to nestlings consists of caterpillars. There is no published information on parental care after the young fledge.

Tennessee Warblers forage mostly by gleaning prey from the outer foliage of trees or shrubs, both deciduous and coniferous; in short, from any substrate upon which invertebrates are found. They also occasionally hawk flying insects. Their major prey during the breeding season consists of spruce budworms and other infesting invertebrates. They also take spiders, beetles, and bees and wasps—just about anything that flies or crawls. During migration and on the wintering grounds they take fruit and nectar, and although often joining mixed-species foraging flocks, they will defend small territories while nectar feeding.

The Tennessee Warbler is one of the most abundant boreal zone warblers. It is probably more common now than in the nineteenth century due to its foraging plasticity, taking advantage of second-growth forests and shrub lands following extensive timber harvests on both the breeding and wintering grounds. It appears not to have suffered substantially from the blanket pesticide applications for spruce budworm that have occurred on its breeding grounds. Increased frequency of spruce budworm outbreaks may actually have helped the species. Breeding bird survey data suggest slight population increases across much of its range in recent decades. We now see these drab little warblers on migration more frequently than our great-great-grandparents did. 🐦

William E. Davis, Jr.

About the Cover Artist: Barry Van Dusen

The Tennessee Warbler on our cover is yet another watercolor by the prolific wildlife artist Barry Van Dusen, whose work is well known to our readers. Barry has illustrated several nature books and pocket guides, and his articles and paintings have been featured in *Birder's World*, *Birding*, and *Bird Watcher's Digest*. He was one of thirteen artists to contribute to the long-awaited *Birds of Peru*, published by Princeton University Press in 2007. For that book Barry illustrated sixty species of shorebirds (plates 50–58), depicting various plumages and birds in flight. He frequently exhibits in New England, elsewhere in the United States, and abroad: throughout the British Isles and in 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 attracted to nature subjects through an association with the Massachusetts Audubon Society, which began in 1982. Barry has been influenced also by the work of European wildlife artists, whose methodology of direct field sketching he has adopted. 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, England, 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>>. 🐦

AT A GLANCE

February 2008



WAYNE R. PETERSEN

Through the years, “At a Glance” has featured a number of curiously offbeat pictures for readers to puzzle over. There have been birds with hidden legs or heads, birds depicted upside down or in contorted postures, and even an occasional insect to replace the more traditional avian image. Despite the partial nature of this issue’s “pinion pinup,” there are lots of birds whose wings would be considerably harder to identify than the wing of this month’s mystery bird.


First, it should be obvious that there are LOTS of species and species groups that it does not belong to. It is literally possible to eliminate all the waterbirds and all the passerines. Fortunately, doing so leaves relatively few other bird families as identification possibilities. In fact, members of the Order Falconiformes (i.e., hawks, eagles, and falcons) are the only ones whose wings resemble that of the mystery bird.

There are a few key features shown on the pictured wing that are especially helpful in making a correct identification. Wing shape often identifies flying hawks more readily than does color or pattern. In falcons (e.g., Peregrine Falcon), the wings are relatively slim and pointed, typically exhibiting a prominent joint at the “elbow.” In contrast, accipiters (e.g., Cooper’s Hawk) usually have relatively short, rounded wings that tend to be uniform in pattern on the underside. The third most common wing shape is that exhibited by the buteos (e.g., Red-tailed Hawk). Buteos ordinarily have relatively broad, rounded wings that often display some distinctive pattern or contrast on the undersides.

The strong patterning and barring on the underwings of the mystery bird at once eliminate raptors such as Osprey or Bald Eagle, while a female or juvenile Northern Harrier would display noticeably longer and narrower wings, typically with a dark patch on the underside of the secondaries. The more rounded wings of an accipiter would tend not to show the contrasting wing linings displayed by the mystery raptor,

and the wingtips and trailing edge of the wings would not be blackish as in the mystery bird.

This leaves only a buteo as an identification possibility. Red-tailed Hawk, the most generally common buteo in Massachusetts, can be eliminated because Redtails always exhibit an obvious dark carpal bar (leading edge to the inner portion of the wing) — a hallmark for that species in any plumage. A light morph Rough-legged Hawk would display prominent dark wrist marks at the bend of the wings, and a Broad-winged Hawk would have more pointed wings with less prominent barring on the black outer primaries. Also, the underwings of a Broadwing would be more uniformly pale, without the contrasting wing linings shown by the mystery buteo. Most important, none of the buteos in Massachusetts other than an adult Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) exhibit the whitish, crescent-shaped base to the primaries shown by the mystery hawk. These pale crescents, along with strongly checkered remiges and contrasting darker wing linings, are hallmarks of a Red-shouldered Hawk.

Red-shouldered Hawks are uncommon breeders and spring and fall migrants in Massachusetts, with a few regularly wintering, especially in southeastern parts of the state. Migrants are most commonly seen at interior hawk-watching localities from mid-March to mid-April and from October to early November. Nesting birds are most common in moist woodlands in central and western Massachusetts, as well as in Bristol and Plymouth counties. They are decidedly rare on the coastal plain and on Cape Cod and the Islands. The author photographed this adult Red-shouldered Hawk in Lakeville, Massachusetts. 

Wayne R. Petersen

USFWS Announces Bird Conservation Grants

(3/31/2008) Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne today announced nearly \$4.5 million in federal grants to support neotropical migratory bird conservation in the United States, Canada, Mexico, and many Latin American and Caribbean countries.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will provide 37 grants to conservation partnerships in those countries. Partners will, in turn, match those funds with more than \$15 million that will be used to conduct research, monitoring, and management programs for migratory bird populations, as well as related outreach and education.

In Massachusetts — Massachusetts Audubon Society will receive \$38,000 and match this grant with \$114,000 to study the endangered Roseate Tern's movements around Nantucket Sound and Buzzard's Bay.

To learn more about all of the supported projects in the United States, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Canada please send an e-mail to neotropical@fws.gov.

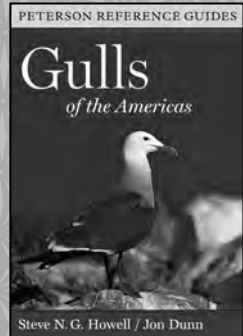
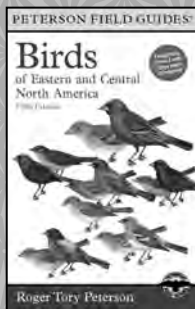
AT A GLANCE



WAYNE R. PETERSEN

Can you identify the darker bird in the center of this photograph?
Identification will be discussed in next issue's AT A GLANCE.
AT A GLANCE is sponsored by the Peterson Field Guide series.

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