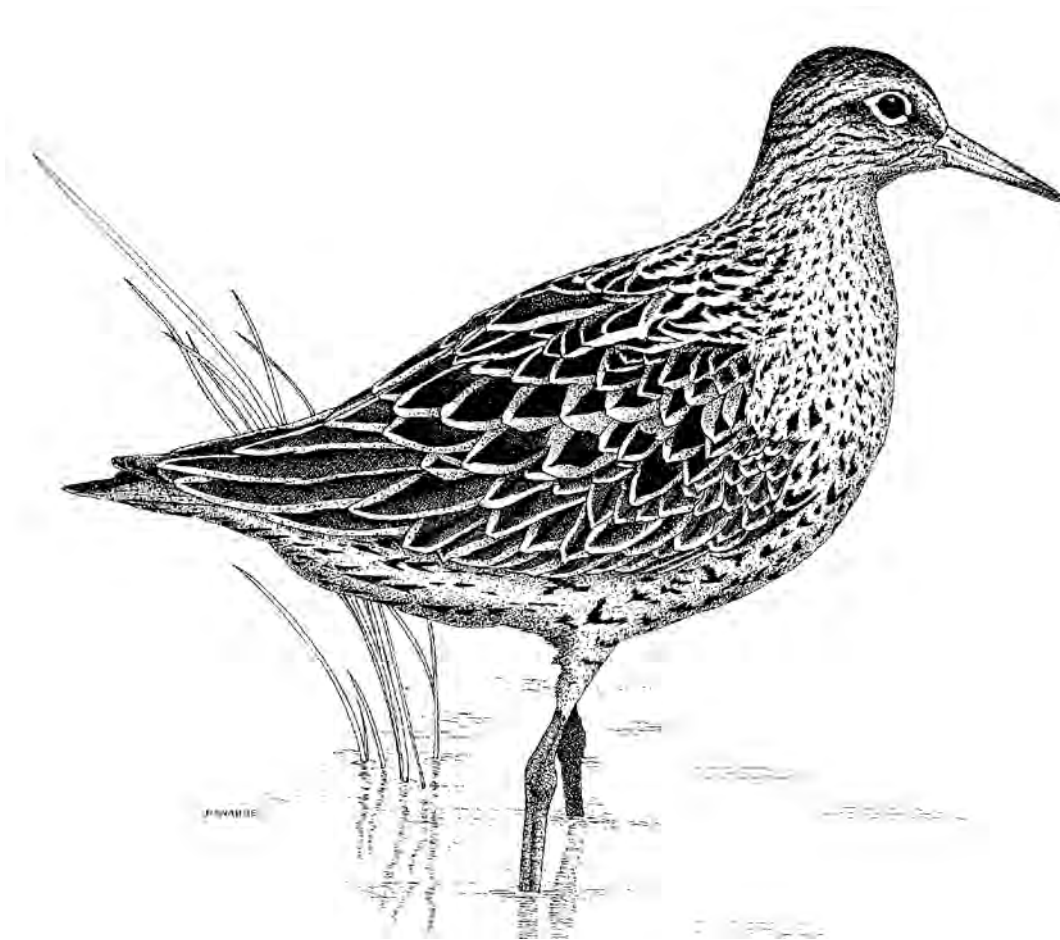


Bird Observer

VOLUME 38, NUMBER 5

OCTOBER 2010



HOT BIRDS



Eric Savetsky found and photographed this **White-tailed Tropicbird** (left) at the north end of Welker Canyon on the Continental Shelf edge (between Hydrographer and Oceanographer Canyons) on August 22, 2010.

Francois Grenon was checking out the godwits on South Beach in Chatham on August 27 when he noticed one that was different and identified it as a **Bar-tailed Godwit** (right). The following day Daniel Mitev was able to relocate this bird and photograph it.



Sue Finnegan banded and photographed this **Swainson's Warbler** (left) on September 7, 2010, at her Wing Island station in Brewster. This is only the fourth record for this species in the Commonwealth and the first in the fall.

Lanny McDowell photographed this **Black-throated Gray Warbler** (right) at the Gay Head Cliffs in Aquinnah on Martha's Vineyard on September 11, 2010.



On September 11, 2010, Blair Nikula discovered and photographed this juvenile **Common Ringed Plover** (left) on South Beach in Chatham. This is only the second record of this species in the state.

For more Hot Birds, check out the BBC Extreme Pelagic photos on page 293.

CONTENTS

A GUIDE TO WINTER BIRDING ON CAPE ANN, PART 1	<i>Christopher Leahy</i>	261
FIRST REPORT OF THE RHODE ISLAND AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE		
<i>Shaibal S. Mitra, Chair; Doug Wilson, Secretary, Robert Emerson, Rachel Farrell, Richard Ferren, Christopher Raitchel, and Scott Tsagarakis</i>		275
HORDES OF NESTING DUCKS INVADE SUBURBAN HOUSE LOT	<i>Alfred Maley</i>	284
ROBERT VERITY CLEM	<i>Paul Donahue</i>	288
BROOKLINE BIRD CLUB EXTREME PELAGIC		293
ABOUT BOOKS		
Fundamentally Strange and the Same	<i>Mark Lynch</i>	295
BIRD SIGHTINGS		
May/June 2010		302
ABOUT THE COVER: Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>William E. Davis, Jr.</i>	319
ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST: Paul Donahue		320
AT A GLANCE	<i>Wayne R. Petersen</i>	321



IMMATURE CURLEW SANDPIPER BY DAVID LARSON

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VOL. 38, NO. 5 OCTOBER 2010

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A Guide to Winter Birding on Cape Ann, Part 1

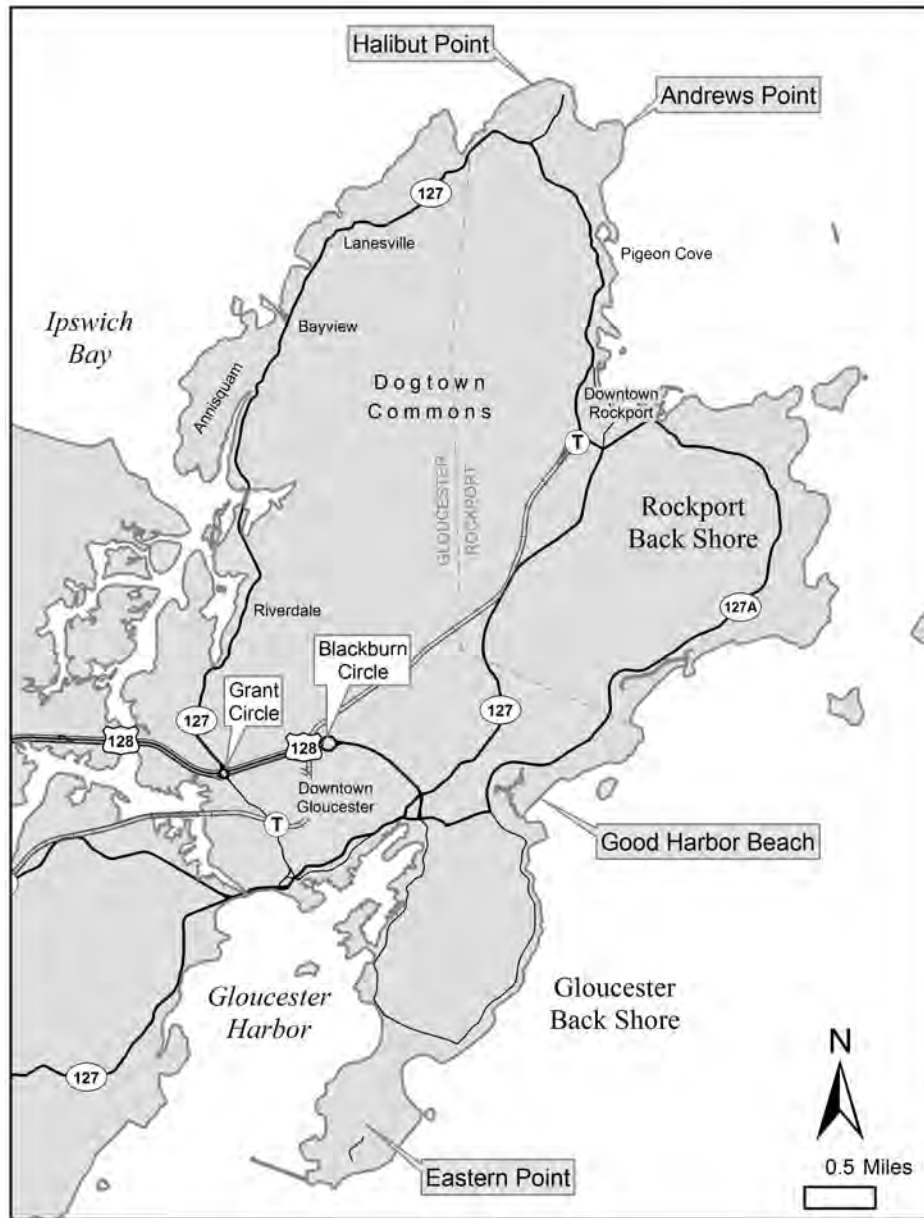
Christopher Leahy

The rockbound eastern-most extremity of Essex County—named Cape Ann by King Charles I in honor of his mother—offers excellent birding opportunities at any time of year. But its national (indeed international) reputation as a birding hotspot is based mainly on the impressive diversity of waterbirds that migrate past coastal headlands in late fall and in many cases remain to winter along the uninterrupted succession of points and coves that make up its picturesque shores. When onshore winds coincide with migration of southbound seabirds in October and November, it is often possible to watch hundreds or even thousands of loons, grebes, gannets, sea ducks, alcids, and kittiwakes pass favored watching localities such as Andrews and Halibut Points. And a careful exploration of Cape Ann's gorgeous coastal geography is quite likely to turn up such winter bird specialties as Barrow's Goldeneye, Harlequin Duck, King Eider, Purple Sandpiper, Glaucous and Iceland gulls, Black Guillemot, and Razorbill, as well as one or more rarities *du jour*, in return for a few hours in the cold. In addition, the coastal copses and barrens are likely to yield up land birds of more than routine interest, such as Northern Shrike, Winter Wren, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, assorted sparrows (including "Ipswich"), Snow Bunting, Lapland Longspur, and (in flight years) winter finches.



Where Exactly...? Locally, Cape Ann is generally taken to include Essex and Manchester-by-the-Sea, but while these distinctive and attractive coastal hamlets undoubtedly have their share of good birding spots, the directions in this brief guide are restricted to the city of Gloucester and the town of Rockport.

When to Visit. The definition of "winter" that applies here is "late fall through early spring." Though strings of Double-crested Cormorants start moving south in numbers in September, the real fun doesn't begin until mid- to late October when large numbers of loons, scoters, eiders, and other sea fowl begin moving past coastal points. If you are coming from a distance, however, and are going to have only one shot at capturing the winter birding experience on Cape Ann, you will want to wait until at least mid-November, by which time most of the winter specialties will have arrived—though in some cases not in the numbers that will be present later. November and December are the months when northeast gales are most likely to coincide with seabird migration, a combination that can produce some very exciting birding—if you can put up with wiping salt spray off your bins every 20 seconds! There is no spectacular spring migration of seabirds, but all of the typical winter birds are present through March, and in many cases into April, when the weather can (sometimes!) be a little more gentle than in the depths of winter.



MAPS BY JILL PHELPS KERN

It should also be stated clearly here that, while this account focuses on winter birding, Cape Ann offers excellent birding year round and especially during peaks of songbird and shorebird migration in May and September.

Birding Weather and Variations in Winter Bird Populations. One of birdwatching's greatest charms is its unpredictability—though, of course, meeting with an unpredictable abundance and variety of birds is a good deal more charming than encountering a dearth. Complementing the inherent unpredictability of birdlife is the extreme eccentricity of New England weather. The good news is that there are only a few days during a Cape Ann winter when the birding isn't somewhere between good and awesome. There are really only two types of weather that you should try to anticipate and avoid: (1) When the temperature drops into the single digits and lower, the sea starts to “smoke,” the birds hunker down and, exposed to the air, your body tells your brain: “Go back inside, stupid!” (2) When rain and (especially) snow are so heavy that you can't see anything and your optical equipment becomes useless. (It's called *birdwatching* after all.) Aside from these conditions—which, truth to tell, are uncommon, but not rare here in January and February (and even March)—several kinds of weather that are deemed “bad” by normal people are thought of as “good” by birders. Strong winds, for example, blowing from the right directions can be especially beneficial for coastal birding. Nothing is more desirable to someone who thrills to watching masses of avian forms streaming across monstrous, booming seas than a three-day Northeaster, and a relatively mild hurricane once deposited a flock of Sooty Terns (tropical seabirds) in my back yard in East Gloucester. Such conditions will keep the thicket birds down, of course, and make strolling along breakwaters unpleasant—if not dangerous—but the “rush” from seeing a puffin or a fulmar or a Leach's Storm-Petrel blow by is ample compensation.

Tides and Light Conditions. Tides don't influence the quality and quantity of birdlife very much on Cape Ann during the winter. If you visit during a spring tide when the sea rises two or more feet above normal, you might want to bird the edges of salt marshes such as those behind Wingersheek and Good Harbor beaches for bittern, Nelson's Sparrow, or other marsh birds that get pushed up by the high water.

You want to pay attention to the sun, however, especially early and late in the day. The issue is straightforward: you want to avoid looking into the sun while trying to identify birds on the water—they will appear as silhouettes, and colors like the iridescent greens and purples on the head of a drake Bufflehead will not be visible. Keeping in mind that the sun rises and sets well to the south at this season, you would best avoid looking out into the Atlantic—as from the Rockport and Gloucester back shores and the coast of Magnolia—in the early morning and westward, e.g., across Gloucester Harbor or Ipswich Bay from Lanesville late in the day.

Cape Ann Important Bird Areas. There are three overlapping IBAs on Cape Ann: the Essex County Coastal Bird Islands, Eastern Point/Gloucester Harbor, and Rockport Headlands and Inshore Waters (Folly Cove to Land's End). For maps and descriptions of the significance of these IBAs, go to http://www.massaudubon.org/Birds_and_Birding/IBAs.

General Strategy. The basic approach to a day's birding on Cape Ann consists of travelling around the rocky perimeter of this eastward-jutting land mass, stopping to scan with binoculars and telescope as much of the visible seascape as possible. While

seabirds are your principal quarry, getting to accessible viewpoints will take you down many quaint byways bordered by small woodlots, wooded swamps, open fields, and dense catbrier tangles. These often contain assortments of wintering songbirds, from the routine (titmice, nuthatches, Carolina Wrens, the usual wintering sparrows, etc.) to uncommon but regular treats (Winter Wrens, Yellow-breasted Chats) and the occasional rarity (Bohemian Waxwing, Townsend's Solitaire) and make for a change of pace between bouts of staring out over the ocean.

Simply birding the circumference of the coast in a clockwise or counterclockwise direction guided by the maps provided is a perfectly rational approach to birding the Cape. However, many experienced birders prefer to start at or just before dawn doing a seawatch for an hour or more at Andrews or Halibut Point in Rockport depending on weather conditions and the state of the migration. These points provide the best opportunities to see large numbers of migrating seabirds and to find more pelagic specialties such as shearwaters, storm-petrels, gannets, kittiwakes, jaegers, Dovekies, and other alcids. Such wonders may be observed at any time of day, but arriving early—especially when onshore winds have driven birds near shore during the night—often yields the best results in both numbers and rarities.



DOVEKIE BY DAVID LARSON

After a stint of sea watching at Halibut or Andrews Point, a fine way to entertain yourself for the rest of the day is simply to poke along the crenulated coastline at a leisurely pace, looking for whatever species are still missing from your “want list,” reminding yourself that even some of the commonest of our wintering waterbirds (e.g., drake Red-breasted Mergansers) are worth gazing at repeatedly, perhaps finding an overlooked rarity in some seldom-visited cove. If the weather is agreeable, there are also

opportunities to explore some non-marine habitats. The sections below are organized according to this basic idea.

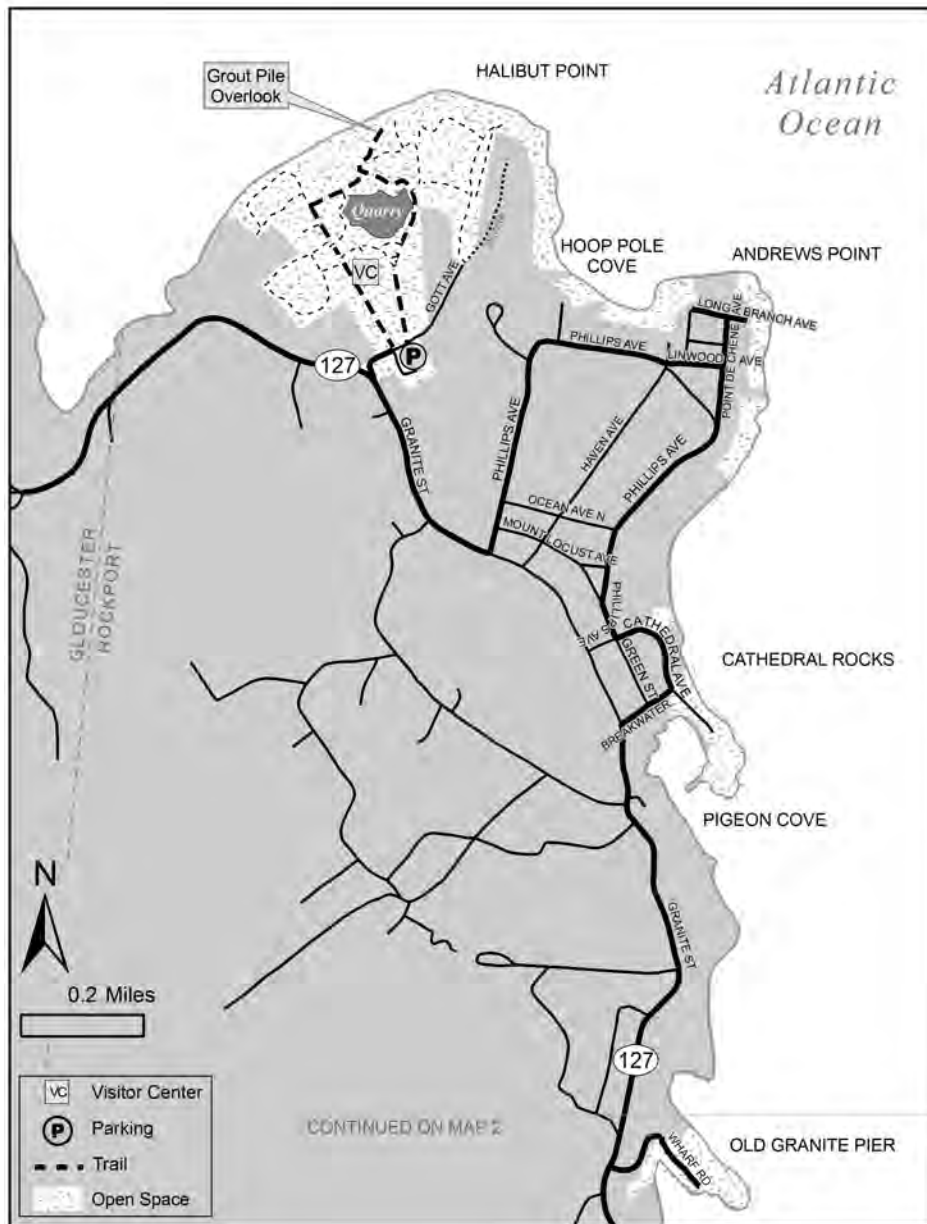
It is not possible (or reasonable, anyway) to check out all of the named localities in a single day, and any of the four routes (or Halibut Point) can easily fill a diverting morning or afternoon. You should check the weather forecast before making a plan. If there are to be on-shore winds, for example, you may want to get to Halibut or Andrews as early as possible, but if a clear sky and northwest winds are predicted, there is no reason to rush to the points, and you could spend the morning exploring the nooks and crannies between Grant Circle (at the entrance to downtown Gloucester) and Folly Cove. You should also consider spending the weekend. Even in the unlikely event that you run out of birds, Gloucester and Rockport are filled with world-class scenery, colorful working harbors, comfortable inns, excellent food and drink, a lively arts scene, bustling shopping districts, and friendly people eager to share their enthusiasm for this *other* Cape!

Getting to Cape Ann. The most direct route to Cape Ann from anywhere is to get on to Route 128 North (which actually runs east!). Ignore the first signs to Gloucester at Exit 14 (also sign-posted to Route 133 and Essex) as well as the next two exits (13 and 12). After passing over the magnificent span of the A. Piatt Bridge across the Annisquam River you will arrive in half a mile at Grant Circle. If, as suggested above, you decide to start your day sea-watching in Rockport, take the third right off the rotary (Route 127/Washington St.). This winds its way pleasantly through several of Gloucester's villages, and after almost exactly six miles you will come to Gott Avenue on the left, which is the entrance to Halibut Point State Park and the Halibut Point Reservation. As of this writing there is no park or reservation sign on Route 127, but the state's parking lot is just a few yards into Gott Ave. on the right.

If you have another itinerary for the day in mind, Grant Circle is also a key junction. If headed for the harbor, take the first right (also Washington St.) and proceed for 0.8 mile through town until the posterior of Joan of Arc's horse looms above you, and then bear right down onto Stacy Blvd. If bound for East Gloucester, take the second right off the rotary. This will quickly bring you to another rotary (Blackburn Circle), where you will again take the second right. When you come to the traffic lights at the bottom of the Route 128 extension, pass through them to the next set of lights and then across, bearing left and up the hill into the eastern peninsula.

Best Birding Stops. The locality descriptions below follow the "classic" strategy described above. After describing (1) **Halibut/Andrews Points**, I have divided the birding stops into four routes, each of which can potentially make for a full morning or afternoon's birding: (2) **Rockport's Back Shore: Andrews Point to Good Harbor Beach**; (3) **The Western Shore: Halibut Point to Coffin's Beach**; (4) **East Gloucester**; and (5) **Gloucester Fish Pier to Kettle Cove, Magnolia**. This is by no means a comprehensive list of all the potentially rewarding birding spots on Cape Ann. It's more like the *traditional* stops with a few lesser-known personal favorites of mine thrown in.

1. Halibut and Andrews Points. If one were forced to choose a single locality to bird for the day on Cape Ann, Halibut Point would be the obvious choice. It consists of 70 acres of protected open space, 58 managed by the Commonwealth as Halibut Point State Park and the remaining 12 acres as the Halibut Point Reservation by The Trustees of Reservations. In addition to commanding views of bird-rich Ipswich Bay, its collection of habitats includes rocky intertidal shore, coastal heathland, oak-hickory woodland, and patches of native grassland. At least 260 species of birds have been recorded here over the years, including many rarities, and most of the winter specialties of Cape Ann are seen here regularly. A sensible strategy is simply to take your telescope to a vantage point overlooking the sea—the top of the Grout Pile (tailings from the adjacent granite quarry—see map) is ideal, weather permitting—and stay put for an hour or more observing the passing avian scene. In fall and with onshore winds you may be treated to good numbers of migrating loons, gannets, sea ducks, alcids, and a variety of gulls. A noisy gaggle of Harlequin Ducks is usually in view, and flocks of Purple Sandpipers are likely to put in an appearance. The longer you stay and the more diligently you scan, the more likely you are to pick out rarer



species such as Northern Fulmar, Leach's Storm-Petrel, King Eider, phalaropes, Pomarine Jaeger, Atlantic Puffin, and Common Murre. Peregrines, Merlins, and accipiters often patrol the shoreline to catch weary or storm-driven landbirds cutting across the bay from points north. Two lucky scanners watched several Peregrines picking off Leach's Storm-petrels one northeasterly October day.

On your way to and from the shore, be sure to work the copses and woodlots and check the fruiting trees and weedy edges for the odd chat, flock of winter finches, or even a flock of Bohemian Waxwings. If the day is calm and you are present at dawn or dusk, it's usually possible to get a screech owl going by imitating one of its calls. Halibut is threaded with a good trail system that makes it easy to do a loop through the park's various habitats.



COMMON MURRE BY DAVID LARSON

Besides Birds... Harbor seals are common winter residents of Cape Ann and are often conspicuous lazing on the rocks or splashing purposefully in Hoop Pole Cove between Halibut and Andrews Points. Recently a few of the much larger “horse-headed” gray seals have started showing up. The top of the grout pile provides an ideal perspective from which to watch for whales, hump-backed, fin, Minke, and at least one northern right whale plus Atlantic white-sided dolphin and harbor porpoise have all appeared from time to time, even in mid-winter.

The rocks themselves are also worth more than a passing glance. The pink Ordovician granite that armors these shores are some of the oldest rocks on the continent, originating some 400 million years ago when what is now eastern Massachusetts was erupting out of the sea floor near the Gondwana supercontinent not far from the South Pole! From about 1798 to 1920, cutting slabs of the native ledge in quarries like the picturesque example at Halibut Point was a booming industry in Rockport, providing stone for prominent public buildings such as the Custom House in Boston and various monuments and edifices in the nation's capital. The visitor center at the edge of the quarry houses informative displays of this now historical enterprise – as well as brief interpretations of the park's natural history. Bird feeders are (sometimes) kept filled here in winter.

The only drawback to Halibut Point as a winter birding venue is that you must walk nearly half a mile to reach the shore, and once you arrive there is little shelter. In bad weather (which often makes for good birding) trying to use a telescope from the top of the grout pile is somewhere between miserable and impossible. If the weather is only moderately bad, it is possible to find a little shelter downwind of the slabs of granite that gird the coast east of the pile, but if it is very cold, wet, or windy, this gambit soon palls. Fortunately there is an alternative seawatch spot nearby: the adjacent **Andrews Point** immediately to the southeast. Leaving the Halibut parking lot via Gott Ave., turn left on Granite St./Route 127, drive 0.4 mile, and turn left on Phillips Ave., which makes a dogleg to the right after a few blocks. With the ocean now visible to your left, Phillips then veers right after 0.2 mile, but keep going straight on Linwood Ave. with a stand of pitch pines and white oaks on your right. This brings you very shortly to Point de Chene Ave., where a left turn gets you almost immediately to Long Branch Ave. overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. The big advantage

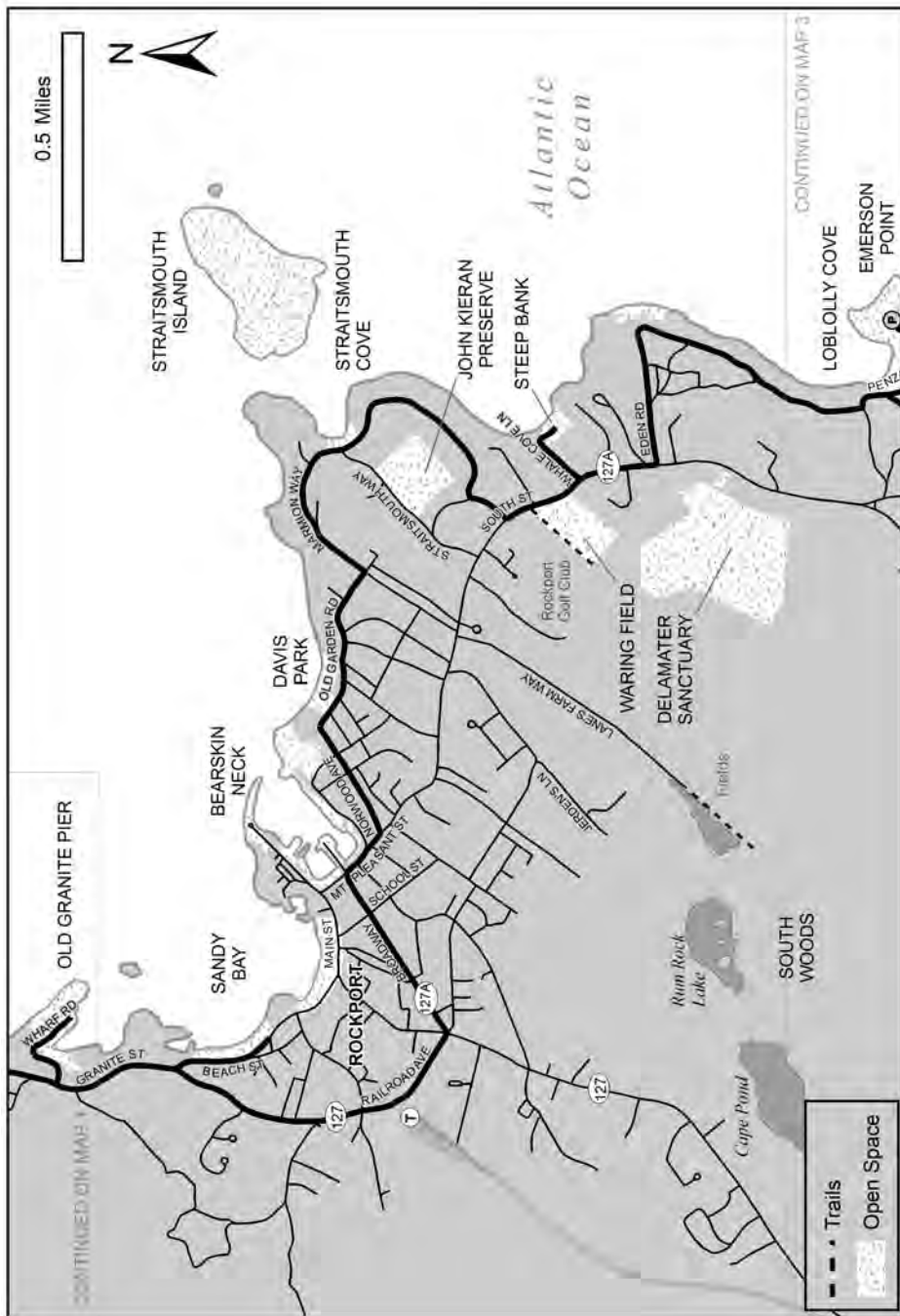
here is that it is possible to park in such a way that, when the weather is foul, you can stay in your car, stick your scope out the window, and scan the wintry sea in relative comfort. Even if (as is often the case) the early birders have already taken the best parking spots, and you are forced to scope in the open, you are still mere steps from the warm and dry interior of your vehicle.

Please note: *Unlike Halibut, Andrews Point is not a park (though see box below on Rockport's Atlantic Path and Ways to the Sea), but a densely settled year-round residential neighborhood. Relations between birders and the area's property owners have generally been good for many decades, so in order to maintain this civilized coexistence, birders (especially in groups) are advised to take a proprietary interest in the welfare of the neighborhood's lawns, shrubbery, and the like and to recognize that we are essentially birding in the residents' back (or front) yards.*

Rockport's Public Paths and Ways to the Sea. The town of Rockport maintains a highly civilized tradition of coastal trails and view points accessible and well-marked at many places along its magnificent rockbound waterfront. These usually end at excellent vantage points for scoping the region's many small coves and, in a few spots, e.g., the Atlantic Path between Cathedral Rocks and Hoop Hole Cove, can be walked for some distance. Unfortunately, parking near many of the rights-of-way is limited to vehicles with resident stickers, but the rules tend to be relaxed during the winter. In good weather visiting these areas is likely to yield excellent birding and provide welcome exercise and lungfuls of tangy sea air, as well as helping to keep this worthy tradition alive. The Rockport Rights of Way Committee published a guide to the paths with good maps in 1996; as of January 2009 it was still available from Rockport's Toad Hall Bookstore.

2. Rockport's back shore: Andrews Point to Good Harbor Beach. Leaving Andrews Point southward on Point de Chene Ave., you will soon intersect Phillips Avenue again, which comes to a stop sign opposite the imposing white Emerson Inn and then exits to the right onto Granite St./Rte 127. You, on the other hand, should turn left on Cathedral Ave. and pull over near the curve at the bottom of the slope where there is a clear view of a cove and a stretch of coastal geology known (somewhat grandly) as **Cathedral Rocks**. If you haven't yet seen Purple Sandpipers, there is often a flock working the intertidal zone here; Harlequin Ducks often show off here at close range; and the whole vista is worth scanning for guillemots, Razorbills, and scarcer alcids. (A lost Rock Wren made the best of things here for a couple of months in the winter of 1965!)

The road ahead turns ornery and looks like a probable dead end, but if you persevere, there is more water to scan to your left, and before long you will emerge onto Breakwater St. and then Granite St./Rte. 127 where you will turn left and pass through the attractive village of Pigeon Cove for 1.9 miles to Wharf Rd. on your left. Turn here (carefully!) and follow the lane down to the left and then up onto another granite pile called (somewhat modestly) **Old Granite Pier**. The view from the end is worthy of the cliché "commanding," with a postcard vista of Rockport, Straitsmouth Island-cum-lighthouse beyond, and T.S. Eliot's Dry Salvages (rhymes with "wages") foaming still farther out. Lots of water to scope from here; a likely spot for a King



Eider or even a Pacific Loon. The rocky island below the wharf's upper right hand (southeast) will likely have a cluster of Great Cormorants and perhaps Purple Sandpipers.



KING EIDER BY SANDY SELESKY

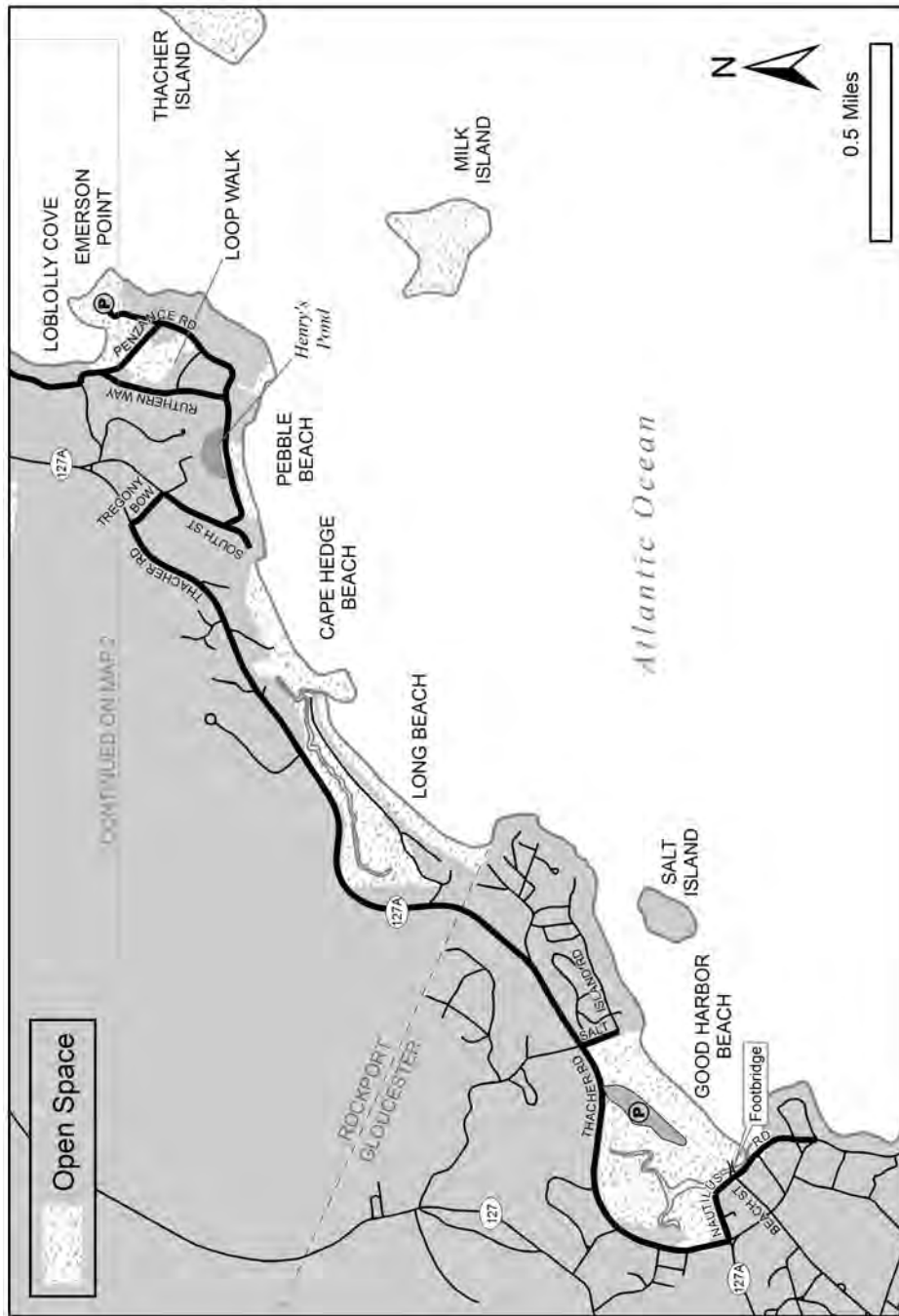
Returning to the main road (Granite St./Rte. 127), turn left. In 0.2 mile Beach St. departs to the left and offers good views of **Sandy Bay** off **Back Beach**, which may be worth inspection. This is *not* the best way to get to Rockport center, however, due to the confusion of one-way streets you will encounter if you stay on Beach St. Instead, get back on Granite and proceed 0.4 mile to an intersection where Granite St. becomes Railroad Ave. ahead; continue another

0.2 mile to an exciting 5-way intersection, and turn left on Broadway, the main drag that will take you into **Rockport's town center**. If you time your visit for lunchtime, you can have a bowl of chowder and walk it off afterwards with a stroll around this town of museum-quality quaintness. Whether you dine or not, you might make your way out to the end of the shop-lined peninsula of **Bearskin Neck** (someone once killed a bear here using only a knife and hung up the trophy—so the story goes).

On weekends and especially during the holiday season, the place is thronged with shoppers, and you should make your way out to the point on foot or skip it altogether, but at other times you can drive out and pull into one of the dozen parking spaces at the end. Looking west across the bay from here you may see a flock of gulls gathered around a submerged outfall; check for Glaucous and Iceland Gulls among them (an Ivory Gull paid a visit here in the winter of '76-'77), then turn around and check the breakwater for Purple Sandpipers. **Note:** If you drive to Bearskin Neck or park to the left at the end of Broadway and your plan is to continue along Rockport's back shore, you will have to leave downtown along Main St. to the west. Take the first available left on School St., which will bring you back to Broadway, from which you can now turn right (east).

Leaving Rockport to the east (now Mt. Pleasant St./Rte. 127A), turn left in about 0.1 mile on Norwood Avenue. After a couple of cross streets, you'll come to a trio of connecting coast-hugging roads: Ocean Ave./Old Garden Rd./Marmion Way. Shortly after you turn right on Ocean, you'll see a shoreside parking lot which marks **Davis Park** with a broad view of the Atlantic and Old Garden Beach. Two tenths of a mile farther along, turn left on Marmion Way where there is another lookout in another 0.2 mile. Continue on Marmion past Gap Head, and pause by the cobbly beach at **Straitsmouth Cove** where there are usually ducks and gulls feeding. Be sure to scan adjacent **Straitsmouth (STRATES-muth) Island** (owned by Mass Audubon) carefully for Snowy Owl and Rough-legged Hawk.

If you are in the mood for some exercise and a spot of land birding, there are a couple of nice options in this area. The **John Kieran Preserve**, a seldom-visited little gem of briar patch and wooded swamp, is sign-posted to the left on Straitsmouth Way, which turns right up the hill from Straitsmouth Cove. The famous naturalist was an ardent birder and Rockport resident in retirement, and the loop trail in the pocket



reserve is reliable for the usual wintering flocks of tits, nuthatches, kinglets, and the like, often including slightly more exotic fare such as Hermit Thrush, Orange-

crowned Warbler, or overwintering mimid. Since much of the sanctuary is swamp, the trail tends to be wet or icy.

If you continue on Straitsmouth Way, you will find yourself back on Rte. 127A, now called South St. To the south and west is another under-birded area of upland habitat, an extensive mosaic of hayfields, hedgerows, woods, and wetlands, including the town-owned **Waring Preserve**, the **Delamater Bird Sanctuary**, Essex County Greenbelt's **South Woods** property, and several private farms. It contains the only significant pastoral landscape on "the island," and you can often turn up a wintering kestrel, snipe, or interesting sparrow otherwise scarce out here. The best access points are from Rockport High School on Jerden's Lane (park in the empty school lot when school's not in session, and cross the athletic fields to Lane's Farm Way); a path that runs west just north of the Waring Fields, not far from the south entrance of Marmion Way; or through the Delamater Sanctuary (park as best you can along South St.). The Rockport Golf Club sits in the middle of this otherwise rural complex and was the winter home of a lost Townsend's Solitaire in 2007-2008. It would be an ideal point of access, but unfortunately the club's management has proven to be unfriendly to birders. The area takes a couple of hours to explore with the thoroughness it deserves—one reason it doesn't usually fit into a day's winter birding on Cape Ann.

Just south of the Waring Fields, Whale Cove Lane heads downhill to a town landing called Steep Bank, to which there is public access via a footpath. This overlooks a cove that is not visible from any other road and often holds a number of birds, including winter specialties; just beware that "lane" is a fair description of the access, and when it's icy, you might want to walk down to the view point. From here continue south on South St./Rte. 127A, turning left after less than 0.2 mile on **Eden Rd.** About a tenth of a mile along (between Ivanna/Colona Rds. and Athena Way) is a modest area of scrub wetland that reliably produces a predictable mélange of songbirds, if you push with conviction, and occasionally something more exciting. Eden Road soon bends sharply to the right onto an appallingly potholed and badly drained stretch of pavement, substantially redeemed by a sweeping seascape with the twin-towered Thacher Island at its center and Emerson Point jutting from the right of the frame. If you are still wanting Black Guillemot or Red-necked Grebe, this is as good a place as any to find either or both, and since you are now farther east than you were at Halibut or Andrews Point and facing the open Atlantic, any pelagic migration in progress will also be visible.

At the end of Eden Rd., bear left and around the bend along Penzance Rd. (no sign), pausing just before the right fork onto Ruthern Way to look over the gulls and ducks in **Loblolly Cove**. The mounds of seaweed that pile up here starting with the first fall storms often have flocks of shorebirds (especially Black-bellied and Semipalmated plovers, Ruddy Turnstone, Semipalmated and White-rumped sandpipers, Dunlin, and Sanderling) into November, when pipits are also attracted by the seaweed flies. Red and Red-necked phalaropes have been known to shelter here during storms.

Continuing past the Ruthern fork on Penzance, watch for Northern Shrike perched in the tall shrubs surrounding the little marsh that the road crosses. Where

Penzance turns right, you can take the narrow track to the left (*Old Penzance R.*), which leads to a parking area near the tip of **Emerson Point** (restricted to residents with stickers in summer, but usually deserted in winter). If you climb the rocks via the trail on the seaward side, the view of Thacher Island and the sea is even better than from Eden Rd.; scope the island for Snowy Owl, Rough-



PURPLE SANDPIPER BY SANDY SELESKY

legged Hawk, and Peregrine (a Gyrfalcon has perched there at least once). Returning to Penzance proper you will soon drop down onto what used to be a barrier beach, with **Pebble Beach** to your left and **Camborne (or Henry's) Pond** to your right. The strait that passes between the mainland here (**Land's End**) and **Milk Island** tends to teem with large numbers of cormorants, sea ducks, gulls, and sometimes gannets; Milk Island bears scoping for Great Cormorants and the already mentioned raptors; shorebirds often linger on the beach wrack and, if the water is low, along the muddy perimeter of the pond. As long as it stays open, the pond is worth checking for waterfowl more interesting than the resident swarm of Mallards and the gluttonous Mute Swans that depend substantially on the kindness of strangers bearing stale bread. (**Note:** This low road gets washed over by storm tides and buried in cobbles at least once every fall and winter and becomes impassible for vehicles. In this case, birders will simply turn right at the south end of Ruthern Way and return via Loblolly Cove to South St./Rte. 127A.)

A nice loop walk of about a mile starts from this dirt shore road (where it is easy to park) and makes the circle traced by Penzance Rd. and Ruthern Way and bisected by Lozant Place. The walk captures an entertaining variety of habitats and great ocean views and often produces birds of more than routine interest.

At its south end, Penzance leaves the shore and bends right up onto South St. If you turn left here, the road quickly comes to an end overlooking Cape Hedge Beach, and the elevated vacant lot now to your left makes a nice vantage from which to scan the sea to the south. Heading back on South St., turn left in about 0.1 mile on Tregony Bow, pausing if you like to squeak out a Winter Wren, late yellowthroat, or whatever else is foraging in the catbrier tangle on the right just before the entrance to Rte. 127A (Thacher Rd.).

Some nice saltmarsh views, but nothing to stop for as you continue south on Thacher Rd. for two miles until, crossing into Gloucester, the entrance to **Good Harbor Beach** appears on the left. The entrance is gated in winter, but the flock of Horned Larks that uses the vast parking lot at this season (sometimes accompanied by a few longspurs or Snow Buntings) often feeds near the gate and can be viewed safely by pulling into the entrance way before the gate. The alternative is to park either along Salt Island Road at the north end of the beach or near the footbridge on

Nautilus Rd. at the south end and then walk the perimeter of the parking lot along the edge of the dunes and marsh. Plum Island it's not, but in addition to the species mentioned, you should turn up Tree and possibly Ipswich or Nelson's sparrows, if not a shrike, a Merlin, a flock of redpolls, or even a Western Kingbird. 🦅

– To be continued in the December issue –

Chris Leahy holds the Gerard A. Bertrand Chair of Natural History and Field Ornithology at the Massachusetts Audubon Society. His published works include The Birdwatcher's Companion (revised edition, Princeton University Press, 2004), The First Guide to Insects (Houghton-Mifflin, 1987), Introduction to New England Birds (Massachusetts Audubon, 1990), and The Nature of Massachusetts (Addison-Wesley, 1996). In addition, Chris has designed and led natural history explorations to over 70 countries on all of the continents, concentrating on the world's great remaining wilderness areas and biodiversity hot spots such as Bhutan, Gabon, Madagascar, and Mongolia. He grew up in Marblehead and has lived in Gloucester with his family since the 1970s.

From the Birding Community E-Bulletin: One Red Knot's Record-breaking Flight

On the subject of hemispheric migrating shorebirds, we have an amazing story to share this month. This spring, shorebird researchers analyzed the year-long data recorded by the sunrise- and sunset-sensitive geolocators that had been attached to migrating Red Knots in New Jersey in May 2009.

One of the recaptured knots had flown nearly 5000 miles (8000 kilometers) in six days, a record-breaking distance for a non-stop flight by a Red Knot. It flew across the Amazon and the Atlantic Ocean between southern Brazil and North Carolina, shattering the previous known Red Knot record by nearly 700 miles. In the previous summer, that same Red Knot flew non-stop for eight days between Canada's Hudson Bay and the Caribbean, a distance of 3167 miles (5100 kilometers).

These are just some of the fascinating results published last month in the bulletin of the International Wader Study Group by a group of shorebird researchers from the United States, Canada, Argentina, Britain, and Australia. The lead author, Larry Niles, and his colleagues employed a relatively new technique—sunrise- and sunset-sensitive geolocators attached to the legs of Red Knots in New Jersey—to reveal details on the annual migration of this species. Red Knots can winter as far south as Tierra del Fuego, South America, and breed in the Arctic.

To see more on this amazing Red Knot, the geocator technology applied, the researchers doing the work, and a migration map and photos, visit: <http://www.whsrn.org/alertsupdates/alert/20100920>.

You can access past E-bulletins on the National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA) website: <http://www.refugenet.org/birding/birding5.html>.

First Report of the Rhode Island Avian Records Committee

Shaibal S. Mitra, Chair, Doug Wilson, Secretary, Robert Emerson, Rachel Farrell, Richard Ferren, Christopher Raithel, and Scott Tsagarakis

Following the death of Harry S. Hathaway in 1946, the work of collecting, evaluating, and preserving evidence supporting reports of rare birds in Rhode Island was performed by the Rhode Island Ornithological Club. Seven decades is a long time, but contemporary Rhode Island birders are linked to the RIOC's early figures, including Roland C. Clement, Henry E. Childs, Sr., William B. Dean, William H. Drury, Jr., Harold Gibbs, Alvah W. Sanborn, Charles Wood, and Carlos Wright, by a trio of talented and dedicated naturalists: Douglas L. Kraus, born 1912 and active 1924 until his death in 2000; David L. Emerson, born 1924 and active 1939, or earlier, until his death in 2004; and Richard Bowen, born 1922 and active 1939, or earlier, until his death in 2009. With the passage of half a century or more, it is hardly surprising that many figures from the early RIOC years lost contact with the birding community, moved away from Rhode Island, or died, but these three men remained among Rhode Island's most active, productive, and congenial field workers through the 1990s. Emerson also made notable contributions to the permanent record of Rhode Island ornithology by painstakingly tracking bird records and updating Rhode Island's *Field Checklist* over many decades. Junior to those mentioned above, but equally talented and dedicated, Richard L. Ferren connects past with present. Working closely with many of those named above, Ferren has literally written the book on Rhode Island birds, a project undertaken as early as 1956 and planned for publication this year or next.

Recognizing the need for continuity as the RIOC era waned, the Rhode Island Avian Records Committee drafted and approved bylaws during two meetings in Kingston, on 8 January and 15 February 2008. These bylaws can be viewed at: <http://sites.google.com/site/riarcribirds/>. The present report describes the Committee's evaluation of 37 reports from 2007 and earlier, involving 33 separate occurrences and 28 species. It also includes an updated Checklist of Rhode Island birds and a review list of species requiring documentation. We intend to publish future reports each year, with the second annual report expected to focus on reports from 2008 and 2009.

The Committee recognizes its indebtedness to the birders of Rhode Island and gratefully acknowledges their efforts in contributing written descriptions, photographs, and other kinds of information concerning unusual birds in the Ocean State. Reports are always welcome, even long after an observation. As a practical matter, however, reports prepared promptly after an observation tend to be more detailed and more reliable—and also much easier to prepare—than those assembled long after the fact. Guidelines for the preparation of reports are presented at the

website cited above and are also available on the websites of many other state records committees. Common sense is the rule in this regard: a report ought to express clearly who saw the bird, where and when it was seen, exactly what features were observed, whether photographs, recordings or drawings were obtained during the observation, and how other species were ruled out during the identification process. Although the Committee welcomes reports in any kind of format, electronic files such as Microsoft Word documents and jpeg image files are the most convenient and can be sent as email attachments to Doug Wilson, Secretary of RIARC, at <riarc.ribirds@gmail.com>.

Reports are grouped below by year of observation and then by whether the Committee found the available documentation acceptable after review. It is worth emphasizing that the purpose of review is to evaluate as objectively as possible the degree to which a report of an unusual occurrence is supported by documentary evidence. The Committee understands that many reports that are not accepted likely pertain to birds that were correctly identified; the distinction concerns the degree to which the available documentation can be used to revise or improve our understanding of the status and occurrence of bird species in Rhode Island.

Each species entry includes summary information in the following format:

SPECIES

RIARC Number, Vote (Accepted-Not Accepted-Natural Status Uncertain), # of birds reported, location, date(s), reporters (I = initial observer, R = report submitted, P = photograph submitted).

2007 REPORTS ACCEPTED

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE (*Anser brachyrhynchus*)

2007-21 (6-0-1) Two; Fort Adams, Newport; 6-Jan-07 to 19-Feb-07; Robert Weaver (I, R, P), Marshall Iliff (P), Richard Johnson (P)



Pink-footed Goose, Fort Adams, Newport, Newport County, 6 Jan 2007, Robert Weaver

This Greenland-breeding species represents an addition to the Rhode Island avifauna. Occurring with flocks of wild Canada Geese that also included multiple “Richardson’s” Cackling Geese, these birds showed no signs of captive origins and were closely studied by scores of observers. Coincident with a major population expansion (Mitchell and Hearn 2004), Pink-footed Geese have been occurring with accelerating frequency in northeastern North America (Wilson et al. 2009).

BARNACLE GOOSE (*Branta leucopsis*)

2007-23 (7-0) One; Middletown; 13-Jan-07 to 28-Jan-07; Dan Finizia (I) & Sue Talbot (I, P), Shaibal Mitra (R, P), Marshall Iliff (P).

Like the preceding species, this Greenland-breeding goose has been occurring more frequently in northeastern North America in recent years, in contexts indicative of natural vagrancy. Unlike Pink-footed Goose, the present species is very popular in captive waterfowl collections, and older records tended to be treated with considerable skepticism. In the absence of any evidence suggestive of captive origins, and in view of the emerging trend toward regular occurrence in our region, the Committee voted unanimously to accept the present record. The 2002 edition of the *Checklist of Rhode Island Birds* lists five records from 1989-2002.

CACKLING GOOSE (*Branta hutchinsii*)

2007-24-A,B (7-0) Six; Newport/Middletown; 7-Jan-07 to 23-Jan-07; Shaibal Mitra (R, P), Marshall Iliff (R, P), James Smith (R, P).

Following the American Ornithologists' Union's split of Canada Goose into two species (Banks et al. 2004), interest in the extralimital occurrence of the various taxa greatly increased. Previously, birds described as "small forms" of Canada Goose were occasionally reported in Rhode Island, but mostly without much documentary evidence or critical attention to subspecies identity. The present birds were carefully scrutinized during January 2007's Aquidneck Island goose chases and confirmed as *Branta h. hutchinsii*, long known as "Richardson's Goose" and now properly referred to as "Richardson's" Cackling Goose.

"EURASIAN" GREEN-WINGED TEAL (*Anas crecca crecca*)

2007-16 (7-0) One; Mud Pond, South Kingstown; 26-Dec-07; Bill Heck (I), Hank Golet (P)

The distinctive nominate subspecies of Green-winged Teal has been recorded on more than a dozen occasions in Rhode Island, including at least twice before at nearby Cards Pond (29-Mar-48 and 30-Apr-89: Ferren, *in litt.*). Reports of this form deserve careful documentation, as provided in the present case, to rule out obvious signs of hybridization with the locally prevalent subspecies *carolinensis*.

PACIFIC LOON (*Gavia pacifica*)

2007-18 (6-1) One; near Old Harbor, Block Island; 2-Oct-07 to 6-Oct-07; Hugh Willoughby (R), Sue Talbot (P), Dan Finizia (P).

Regular in Massachusetts in recent years, this vagrant from western North America has occurred frequently enough in Rhode Island over the years to warrant placement in the main body of the Rhode Island Ornithological Club's 2002 Checklist, rather than among the rarest vagrants on the back of the card. Even so, the non-breeding plumages present a genuine identification challenge and all reports deserve detailed documentation. Photos of the present bird were deemed adequate by the Committee to rule out the very similar Arctic Loon, a bird only tenuously known from eastern North America.

WHITE IBIS (*Eudocimus albus*)

2007-2 (7-0) One; Arnold's Mills Reservoir, Cumberland; 2-Sep-07 to 8-Sep-07 Mark Lynch (I, R).

This stellar find by Mark Lynch was about the seventh record for the state and much the furthest from the outer coast.

YELLOW RAIL (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*)

2007-13 (7-0) One; Succotash Marsh, Narragansett; 19-Oct-07; Zack Sevarino (I), Rebecca Raymond (P), Christian Nunes (R).

Although probably occurring much more regularly than sight observations suggest, this species is notoriously difficult to detect. Its actual status might be inferred somewhat better through the dozen-plus records of birds taken by experienced shooters using trained dogs, both during the early 20th Century (more than a dozen records 1908-1912), and more recently by Bob Saunders (three collected fall 1970).

SANDHILL CRANE (*Grus Canadensis*)

2007-15 (7-0) One; Mud Pond, Trustom Pond NWR, South Kingstown; 6-Dec-07 to 29-Feb-08, Dot & Bruce Kindseth (I, R), Andy Boyce (R), Paul L'Etoile (P).

Formerly an exceptional vagrant to our region, Sandhill Cranes have increased greatly in the Northeast in all seasons and now breed regularly in New York State and northern New England.

RUFF (*Philomachus pugnax*)

2007-28 (7-0) One; Napatree Point, Westerly; 31-May-07, Chris Raithel (I, R), Richard Ferren (I)

Seen by two of the state's most experienced field ornithologists and described in detail, this observation provides welcome documentation for a species whose occurrence in the Northeast might be declining.

IVORY GULL (*Pagophila eburnean*)

2007-6 (7-0) One; Briggs Marsh, Little Compton; 7-Dec-07 to 8-Dec-07; Robert Emerson (I, R), Shaibal Mitra (R, P), Geoff Dennis (P), Paul L'Etoile (P).

Just the second record for Rhode Island and the first seen by multiple observers, this first winter Ivory Gull was one of the most unexpected birds of 2007.

LITTLE GULL (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*)

2007-5 (7-0) One; Sachuest Marsh, Middletown; 9-Sep-07 to 16-Sep-07; Rey Larsen (I, R, P), Paul L'Etoile (P).

Like Ruff, this species has been reported very sparingly from Rhode Island in recent years, so this cooperative and attractive juvenile provided welcome documentation.

SOOTY TERN (*Onychoprion fuscatus*)

2007-10 (7-0) One; Quicksand Pond Beach, Little Compton; 17-Apr-07; Geoff Dennis (I, R, P), Chris Raithel (P).

The extraordinary northeast storm of 15-Apr-2007 produced a seasonally unprecedented series of Sooty Terns in RI, CT, and Long Island, as well as a major fall-out of Neotropical migrant landbirds. The present record of Sooty Tern is supported by a bird found dead on the beach and prepared as a specimen for the American Museum of Natural History, and others were convincingly reported (although without details provided to the Committee) from Pt. Judith.

SOUTH POLAR SKUA (*Stercorarius maccormicki*)

2007-3 (7-0) Two; Pelagic, Mud Hole; 24-May-07; Scott Tsagarakis (R), Carlos Pedro (P), Paul L'Etoile (P).

Superbly photographed, these birds were readily identifiable to species. South Polar Skua is the expected skua species in our region during the warmer months, but the status of Great Skua is not well understood, and other taxa breeding in the Southern Hemisphere are remotely possible. We encourage observers to study all skuas they encounter in Rhode Island waters as critically as possible.



South Polar Skua, "Mud Hole" (ca. 40° 56' N, 71° 25' W), 24 May 2007, Carlos Pedro

WESTERN KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus verticalis*)

2007-20 (6-1) One; Camp Cronin, Narragansett; 9-Oct-07; Phil Budlong (R), Linda Gardrel (R), Mary Jo Murray (R).

Although Western Kingbird occurs regularly in the Northeast, RI records have been scarce and several similar-looking species have been documented in the Northeast in recent years (Tropical and Couch's Kingbirds in MA and Cassin's Kingbird in NY). Thus we appreciate the details submitted in support of the current report. The dissenting vote reflected one member's concerns that the level of detail provided was less than ideal. Overall, however, the Committee recognized that these reports were compiled after the fact in response to the Committee's appeals for documentation, and the information provided was adequate to rule out other species.

BELL'S VIREO (*Vireo bellii*)

2007-22 (7-0) One; Sachuest Point NWR, Middletown; 24-Nov-07 thru 1-Dec-07; Patty O'Neill (I, R), Shaibal Mitra (R), Paul L'Etoile (P), Carlos Pedro (P).

Patty O'Neill added another one to the Rhode Island list (it hardly feels like fifteen years have passed since she stunned New England with her Black-tailed Gull) when she discerned that this drab green little bird wasn't just an Orange-crowned Warbler and got the word out to the birding community. Beautifully photographed by Paul L'Etoile and Carlos Pedro, this bird was seen by many during its week-long stay.



Bell's Vireo, Sachuest Point NWR, Middletown, Newport County, 25 Nov 2007, Paul L'Etoile

CAVE SWALLOW (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

2007-25-A,B (7-0) Ten, South Coast of RI; 8-Nov-07; Pete Capobianco (R), Paul L'Etoile (P).

2007-26 (7-0) Four; Westerly; 10-Nov-07; Marshall Iliff (I, R, P).

2007-9 (7-0) Three; Watch Hill Light, Westerly; 24-Nov-07; Glenn Williams (I, R).

Less than a decade after Rhode Island's first records in 1998, Cave Swallows are establishing a predictable pattern of November occurrence in the Ocean State, as well as in the surrounding region. For now, the Committee still seeks documentation for all Cave Swallow reports, in order to clarify arrival and departure dates and to determine whether Cliff Swallow might occasionally co-occur as a very rare late fall vagrant.

SEDGE WREN (*Cistothorus platensis*)

2007-4 (7-0) One; Durfee Hill Mgt. Area, Gloucester; 18-Aug-07 to 21-Aug-07; Charles Brown (I), Chris Raithel (R).

Formerly a regular fall migrant in Rhode Island, this species has been confidently reported just a dozen or so times since 1968. The present detailed description of an apparently territorial bird is especially noteworthy because several historical reports of breeding in Rhode Island are open to doubt (Ferren, *in litt.*). A more recent report of breeding from 2005 is currently under review.



NORTHERN WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)

2007-11 (7-0) One; Easton's Pond, Newport; 31-May-07; Charles Avenengo (I, R), Robert Weaver (R, P).

Approximately the sixth record for Rhode Island, this represents the first spring occurrence for the state.

Northern Wheatear, Easton's Pond, Newport, Newport County, 31 May 2007, Robert Weaver

BOHEMIAN WAXWING (*Bombycilla garrulus*)

2007-1 (7-0) One; 22-Dec-07; West Kingston; Shaibal Mitra (I, R).

Although Bohemian Waxwings occur regularly in northern New England, sometimes in large numbers, this species' status in Rhode Island for years was based on just a few sight reports accompanied by scanty details. The present record involves a bird seen by two participants in the South Kingstown Christmas Bird Count and includes a detailed description.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*)

2007-8 (7-0) One; Avondale Preserve, Westerly; 21-Nov-07; Phil Rusch (R).

2007-17 (7-0) One; West Warwick; 18-Mar-07; Robert Touhill (I, R, P).

Although Yellow-headed Blackbirds occur regularly in the Northeast, Rhode Island records are relatively few and the Committee appreciates the documentation provided in support of the present records.

PINE GROSBEAK (*Pinicola enucleator*)

2007-19 (6-1) One; Diamond Hill Reservoir, Cumberland; 2-Dec-07; Mark Lynch (I, R).

Formerly occurring in flights about once per decade in Rhode Island, Pine Grosbeaks have been virtually absent from the Ocean State since 1978. The present

record involves a bird briefly seen and heard by an experienced observer at a site notable as the location of one of the largest flocks of Pine Grosbeaks ever recorded in the state (1-Feb-47).

2007 REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

The reports summarized here did not, in the judgment of the Committee, include adequate evidence to be accepted as fully documented records. This certainly does not imply that these reports are erroneous, and in the present context, all of the reports listed here received support from one or more Committee member. Many non-accepted reports involve very brief encounters by single observers, in which circumstances precluded the acquisition of the kinds of evidence useful for substantiating a rare event. It is important to emphasize that these reports will not be discarded. They will be preserved in the Committee's archives and can be re-evaluated in the light of additional evidence or knowledge in the future.

PACIFIC GOLDEN-PLOVER (*Pluvialis fulva*)

2007-7 (1-6) One; Andy's Way, Block Island; 22-Sep-07.

Distinguishing Pacific and American Golden-Plovers is exceedingly difficult even where both species might be expected. In the eastern United States, however, where Pacific Golden-Plover is known from just a handful of documented records, the standard for acceptance must be set very high. This description from a single observer was suggestive of Pacific Golden-Plover in several respects, perhaps most notably in terms of facial color and pattern. Notably, calls were heard (rendered as "Too-Le-Uh") and described as "stated or strongly stated, not vibrant and urgent." To at least some on the Committee, this description seemed at least as apt for American as for Pacific, and in the absence of photographs or a critical analysis of plumage and structure (e.g., primary projection), the identification was deemed uncertain by six members.

CAVE SWALLOW (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

2007-27 (4-3) One; Briggs Marsh, Little Compton; 6-Dec-07.

This single-observer report involved a brief view of a swallow in flight, in which only the undersides of the bird were seen. While acknowledging the likelihood that this may have been a Cave Swallow, several members preferred a greater level of detail than was possible in this instance in order to fully document what would be a record-late date for Cave Swallow in the state.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*)

2007-12 (4-3) One; North Kingstown; 14-May-07.

This report was based on the observation of a single observer of a bird seen briefly in flight. The Committee fully understands the difficulty of recording critical details under such circumstances, and the reviews uniformly praised this report for its candidness and sincere acknowledgment of its limitations. In many ways, reports of this kind are particularly difficult to evaluate; the members who voted to accept all expressed at least some reservations, and those who voted not to accept all expressed the idea that they believed the identification was likely correct. Ultimately, there simply was not enough detail to warrant acceptance.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*)

2007-14 (3-4) One; Seapowet, Tiverton; 18-Dec-07.

Seen briefly but well by two observers, this blackbird was described as an adult female Brewer's Blackbird, mostly on the basis of its dark iris. Again, the Committee expressed support for the identification along with frustration concerning the lack of critical detail—e.g., concerning bill shape, tail length, and posture. The circumstances of the observation did not allow for photography, and the Committee wishes to emphasize that the report in question was generously provided at our request, long after the fact, by one of the observers. In other words, this report was not prepared as formal documentation at the time of the observation, and it is certain that many details observed in life were not preserved. Given the genuine rarity of this species in our region and the difficulty of distinguishing it from variant Rusty Blackbirds (or even Shiny Cowbirds, which have been documented in Maine and Nova Scotia), the Committee deemed it best not to accept this report.

2006 REPORTS ACCEPTED

VIRGINIA'S WARBLER (*Vermivora virginiae*)

2006-2 (7-0) One; Walker Farm, Barrington; 8-Oct-06; Sue Talbot (I), Dan Finizia (I, R, P), Scott Tsagarakis (R).

Nicely photographed and carefully described, this Virginia's Warbler constitutes a first state record for Rhode Island, and one of very few for the Northeast.

MEW GULL (*Larus canus*)

2006-3 (7-0) One; Watchemoket Cove, East Providence; 6-Jan-06 to 11-Feb-06; Carlos Pedro (I, P), Shaibal Mitra (R, P), Paul L'Etoile (P), James Smith (P).

Mew Gulls have been reported several times from Rhode Island, but remarkably, the species was never fully documented here prior to Carlos Pedro's discovery of this cooperative and long-staying individual. Ironically, this bird probably pertained neither to the nominate, European subspecies, which has furnished many records in nearby Massachusetts and a few on Long Island, nor to the western North American subspecies *brachyrhynchus*, which has occurred a number of times in the Great Lakes region, but rather to the Siberian subspecies *kamschatschensis*. In our reviews, the Committee did not address the question of subspecies, but we may do so in the future, pending publication of a critical analysis (Mitra et al., in prep.).

2005 REPORT ACCEPTED


REDWING (*Turdus iliacus*)

2005-3 (7-0) One; South Kingstown; 26-Dec-05; Christian Nunes (I, R).

One of the most astonishing Christmas Bird Count discoveries ever in Rhode Island, this Redwing was studied in detail, heard singing, sketched, and carefully described by Christian Nunes, barely a mile from where he grew up! Unfortunately, the bird was never found again after the initial encounter, despite considerable effort.

2003 REPORT ACCEPTED

REDDISH EGRET (*Egretta rufescens*)
2003-1A,B (7-0) One (im.); Charlestown Breachway [A], Quicksand Pond, Little Compton [B]; 5-Jul-07 to 27-Jul-07; [A] Scott Tsagarakis (I,R), Carlos Pedro (I,P), Shaibal Mitra (R). [B] Geoff Dennis (I, R, P), Robert Emerson (R)

This first state record was studied by many observers and nicely photographed. Although its species identity was not an issue, questions arose concerning how many individuals were involved. Not only the physical appearance but also the dates of occurrence pointed strongly to a single individual that moved between Charlestown, Little Compton, and Westport, MA (Rines 2005). 



Reddish Egret, Charlestown Breachway, Charlestown, Washington County, 5 Jul 2003, Carlos Pedro

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Hordes of Nesting Ducks Invade Suburban House Lot

Alfred Maley

Background

What began as an innocent attempt to get Barred Owls to nest in my Hampstead, New Hampshire yard turned into a bizarre abundance of nesting ducks—eight Wood Duck pairs and three Hooded Merganser pairs in 2010 alone. This article describes how it happened and how you might enjoy a similar outcome.

Twenty years ago I placed two Barred Owl nest boxes in my yard (see Maley, A. 2010. *Bird Observer* 38 (3): 151-5.) In spite of owl sightings on our one-acre lot, no owls chose to use the nest boxes that year, but a pair of Wood Ducks did. Still hoping for owls, I decided to erect a Wood Duck nest box to keep the ducks away from the owl boxes.

Around that time I acquired the publication *Woodworking for Wildlife* (Henderson, C. 1992. Diane Books Publishing Company), which contained a revolutionary duck box design by Don Helmeke. Its innovation was the small size of the interior – about eight inches by eight inches. But this was in line with the sizes of Pileated Woodpecker and Ivory-billed Woodpecker nest cavities, perhaps species with which Wood Ducks and Hooded Mergansers had co-evolved. In any event, they were reported to be wildly successful, were much smaller and lighter than previous designs, and were ideally suited to rough-sawn eight- and ten-inch boards, available from a local lumber mill.

I built a box and lag-bolted it high in an oak tree. Sure enough, come springtime a pair of Wood Ducks showed up and occupied it. Another pair showed up and proceeded to occupy one of the owl boxes. Then another pair showed up and occupied the second owl box. This was getting serious.

Having already convinced my wife that I needed \$5000 worth of woodworking equipment (thank you *New Yankee Workshop*) to build \$10 birdhouses, I was ready for a counterattack. Soon, duck nest boxes were rolling off the assembly line. The gray squirrels were overjoyed.

About that same time the woods behind me were subdivided and the house lots cleared. The Barred Owls left for the time being, replaced by Great Horned Owls that dominate the open canopy, so I decided to concentrate on ducks in my yard while placing the owl houses on more suitable conservation lands nearby.

Soon the Hooded Mergansers began to arrive, and I was startled by their habit of flying through the yard at perhaps forty miles per hour. Often they were low to the deck, eight or ten feet off the ground. This contrasted with the habit of the Wood Ducks, who arrived in the morning and sat in the oak trees, debating the merits of each and every nest box before finally choosing one that was not occupied.

Squirrels

Gray squirrels were a continual problem since we feed birds all year. Since *Bird Observer* is a family publication, I cannot discuss the measures taken to keep the nest boxes available for ducks come springtime, except to say that too much time was spent climbing extension ladders to check boxes for squirrel nests. I even went to the extreme of erecting an artificial tree that the squirrels (except the flying kind) could not get to. The tree is still a marvel, with its two occupied duck nest boxes, bat house, and perches for the odd hawk, vulture, or flycatcher.

A few years ago I discovered the Wood Duck Society (WDS <<http://www.WoodDuckSociety.com>>), which, in addition to offering plans for the Helmeke box, was promoting the placement of nest boxes on four-by-four pressure-treated posts instead of on trees. I tried it and it worked, with one footnote. My ducks seemed to prefer the highest nest box available and only chose the post-mounted boxes as a last resort. Those nests were just as successful though, so in time box height may cease to be a factor.

I lowered all my tree-mounted boxes to where I could reach them without an extension ladder (a concession to old age), but even so all my boxes are higher than suggested by the WDS (greater than 20 feet versus 8 feet). That height allows the ducks to fly into the yard and approach the box without crashing into small trees, shrubs, and sheds which restrict flight lines. All my posts are twelve feet long, with two feet or so in the ground.

Predator Control

The raccoon is the principal predator of duck nests but is easily thwarted with a predator guard. The WDS suggests an elaborate, cone-shaped affair, but I have been successful with a simpler solution. A ten-foot roll of twenty-inch wide aluminum flashing (gold-colored on one side) can be cut into two pieces and attached loosely around a tree trunk. Three feet of flashing placed vertically are enough to protect a four-by-four post. That said, this year we had predation for the first time ever—by a fisher that claimed two Wood Duck nests. While there is no sure protection from fishers, removing small trees that allow them to jump to the nest tree above the flashing is helpful.



Fisher in the act of predating one of the nest boxes. Photograph by Len Medlock.

Notes on Duck Behavior

Having so many duck nests in our yard has yielded an understanding what all their comings and goings are about: when they're inspecting, when they're egg laying, when they're incubating, and, finally, when they're about to jump.

Egg laying is a very secretive affair, especially with Wood Ducks. The pair will arrive at the box a half hour before sunrise, and the male usually waits until the female is finished. Hooded Mergansers arrive in pairs, and after several passes to scout the area the female is dropped off and the male leaves. This usually happens after sunup and may even occur mid-day.

Hatching

The young of both duck species spend a day or so in the nest box after hatching. This allows time for all the young to emerge and, importantly, for the mother to crunch the egg shells into small enough pieces for the young to eat. This has been observed with a web cam, and I have actually heard a female merganser doing this in



Jump day for Hooded Mergansers as documented by Kevin Klasman

a nest box near our deck. No need to waste calcium. Once the young have hatched, the female will often leave the nest multiple times during the day. There's no joy in sitting on a bunch of hatchlings.

Jump Day

Much has been written about the "jump day" itself. In my experience, this event has occurred as early in the day as 6:40 a.m. and as late as 10:30 a.m. Much depends on when sunrise occurs and how many people are watching. Where no humans are apparent to the female, the jumps typically occur earlier. Where humans are poised to witness the event, it occurs later, usually after an impatient youngster pushes his way past his mother and jumps solo.

Once the young have jumped, they self-assemble into a mass that marches resolutely behind the mother. Laggards are left behind in the race to the relative safety of a snapping turtle-infested swamp, which is their destination. 🦆

Conclusions

I have no idea how many successful duck nests could fit on a one-acre lot like mine, but the number might be as high as fifteen or twenty. Over the last decade we've averaged eight successful duck nests per year in the yard. So if you live near a pond or swamp and live in a nest-site-deficient area, you should get yourself a twelve-foot post and nest box and be prepared to be surprised.

Alfred Maley is a retired software engineer whose interest in nest boxes began at age 10, when he cobbled together a successful bluebird house with wood from an orange crate. Later came Barn Owl nest boxes and Long-eared Owl nest baskets. When they are not watching raptor migration in Spain or traveling with Danger Tours to Latin America, he and his wife Linda reside in Hampstead, New Hampshire.



HOODED MERGANSER BY SANDY SELESKY

Robert Verity Clem

Paul Donahue

With the recent passing of Robert Verity Clem, the world lost a great man, the ornithological and art worlds lost one of the greatest bird painters of all time, I lost a good friend, mentor, and source of inspiration, and the birds lost one of their greatest, most passionate, and most sensitive admirers.



Robert Verity Clem by Paul Donahue

I feel incredibly privileged to have known Bob Clem. Since I first met him back in 1972, apart from the birds themselves Bob has been my most important source of artistic inspiration. If I could paint like any artist in the world, bird artist or otherwise, it would be him. I can hardly look at a shorebird or stretch of beach or dune without thinking of him, and his artwork has had a profound effect on my appreciation of these creatures and places. Shorebirds are far and away my favorite birds, and in no small part because of Bob's art. Every time I sit down to paint a shorebird, or any other bird, I can hear his advice playing in the back of my head . . . "the color of everything we see is affected by reflected light . . . everything has a soft edge to it, even the blade of a knife . . . only paint what you can see . . . stay away from tiny pointed brushes" (the last point being something I've failed at miserably).

Returning from a canoe trip to Monomoy in November 1972 to watch the wintering Gyrfalcon, Clare Walker Leslie and I stopped at Winty and Andrea Harrington's on Morris Island in Chatham. I already knew of Robert Verity Clem from *The Shorebirds of North America*. I had spent many, many hours poring over Bob's paintings and drawings in Manomet Bird Observatory's copy of the book but had never met him. Winty and Andrea, however, knew Bob well, and since Clare and I were both drawing and painting birds they urged us to meet him. With Winty's help, Clare arranged a meeting, and a few days later we found ourselves in Bob's studio in Chatham. For me it was a life-altering experience.

On his drawing table was a half-completed painting of a small group of Harlequin Ducks feeding in a rushing river in Iceland, a piece inspired by a scene he'd witnessed on a recent trip there. We spent a little while talking about his painting and Iceland, then turned to the artwork that Clare and I had brought along for his review.

For Clare's artwork Bob had abundant praise. Maybe it was because Clare was a beautiful young woman, maybe it was because her work was that much better than mine. In any case, with me, it was a different matter. I had brought along a collection of what I considered my best drawings and paintings, and Bob spent an hour or so criticizing them mercilessly. I still remember vividly his remark about one painting he especially disliked. When I asked him what was wrong with it he replied, "There's nothing right with it."

His harsh criticism was hard for me to hear—very hard—but I suppose it was necessary. At one point in his annihilation of my work he told me that he knew he was being very tough in his criticism, but if it discouraged me from painting birds, then I wasn't meant to paint them in the first place . . . and if I was meant to paint birds, then his words wouldn't stop me. Luckily for me, I wasn't discouraged.

Over the next seven or eight years I made annual pilgrimages to Bob's studio in Chatham. Each time I would bring along my best recent work, and each time he would figuratively rip it apart. Every so often though, rarely, there was praise for a painting or an aspect of a painting, and I was able to depart from his studio without feeling completely devastated.

One of the highlights of visiting Bob was seeing the paintings he had most recently completed, or the half-finished work still on his drawing table. By the time I met Bob he had moved away from the gouache paintings of his shorebird book era and was working exclusively in transparent watercolor. Watercolor is a difficult medium to master, to say the least, and very, very few painters of birds or any other subject ever attain the level of virtuosity exhibited by Bob. His watercolors are exquisitely textured and detailed, with subtle gradations of color. Eschewing the use of white or other opaque paints relied upon by most bird painters, his light tones all emanated from the white of the paper.

Try as I would, I had no idea how he achieved the effects he did. On one of my visits, sensing my frustration, he picked up a brush to demonstrate his technique. Working on a clean sheet of paper in my drawing pad, with no reference to photos or specimens, and with no preliminary pencil work (something no other bird artist I know would forego), he began making what appeared at first to be random grayish brush strokes on the paper. Working fast, over the next ten minutes he laid down a mosaic of these neutral gray brush strokes, with each stroke bringing the emerging bird form into sharper focus. When his mosaic was complete, he waited a few minutes for the paint to dry, then switched over to brighter colors. In rapid succession, still working fast to avoid disturbing the neutral gray underpainting, he applied thin washes of blues and browns over his slate-gray mosaic. Magically, the dark markings rose through the colored washes, and a bird came to life on the paper. The whole process could not have taken more than fifteen or twenty minutes. He proclaimed the bird a "Pin-tailed Cotinga," a fictitious species named in memory of a recent trip to Panama, and made me promise to never attribute the painting to him. The little painting remains one of my prized possessions, and I've broken my promise to him by sharing it here (see below).

On a pilgrimage to Bob's in January 1975, he was frustrated with my very limited experience in working from freshly dead birds, the ultimate reference material for bird artists to see clearly how all the many feather tracts shift and overlap as the bird's head, wings, legs, and tail are moved from one position to another. This is very hard to see on a live bird as it flips and flops and struggles to get free. Mounted birds don't show this either—there's nothing deader-looking than a mounted bird. Not even good photographs, static as they are, show the interplay of the feather tracts. Many

important bird artists throughout history, including Bob in his earlier years, have made extensive use of recently expired birds.

Since I had been reluctant to go out with a gun to bag models of my own, to make a point Bob decided to procure a fresh bird for me. He grabbed his pellet gun from the closet, opened the window to his backyard, and took aim at a Mourning Dove on the bird feeder. He waited until the dove raised its wings over its head, then placed the shot high on the bird's flanks, in a spot which would not show when the wings returned to a relaxed position. Retrieving the specimen from the backyard, he laid it ever so gingerly on his kitchen table, being careful not to disturb the powdery bloom on the bird's dorsal plumage. I was then instructed to guard it carefully until I got back to my studio. On another visit to Bob's in 1977 we were talking about falcons, and Bob brought out a box of slides to show me a few of his falcon paintings. In the box there was also a slide of a Gyrfalcon painting by the renowned bird painter Louis Agassiz Fuertes. At one point Bob noticed me holding up slides of the Fuertes along with one of his own Gyrfalcon paintings. He quickly snatched them from my hand, telling me it was unfair to compare their work, implying he would never measure up to the great Fuertes. I am a great admirer of Fuertes myself, but to my eye Bob had nothing to fear in the comparison. Bird art is somewhat like science, with each generation of bird painters learning from those who went before them. Bob had carefully studied Fuertes' work, gleaned what he could from it, and moved on to an even greater mastery of the feathered form.

After the late 1970s I lost touch with Bob. My admiration for him and his work had not wavered in the slightest, but I was growing increasingly uneasy that maybe I wasn't living up to whatever expectations he might have had for the improvement of my work. Just the same, I was always on the lookout for Bob's paintings.

In the 1980s I spent a year living in New Haven, Connecticut. One day I was walking by Merwin's Art Shop on York Street and spotted in the front window a large painting of a saltmarsh scene with a small Merlin perched on a driftwood log. I instantly recognized the style as Bob's, and when I went in to inquire about the painting I discovered a dozen of his works on display inside. From then on I made periodic stops at the gallery to see if any new paintings by Bob had come in. On one of these visits I met up with Robert O. Muller, the former owner of the gallery, and learned that he had a large private collection of Bob's paintings up at his farm in Sandy Hook. I promptly invited myself up for a look.

When my wife Teresa and I arrived at Robert Muller's house the next day, the first thing that struck me was a large gouache Clem painting of a couple of Buff-breasted Sandpipers walking around in the *Hudsonia* moors of South Monomoy. Looking further, I saw that the walls of the house were lined with Bob's paintings, almost all of them gouaches from the shorebird book era or earlier. We sat around while our host finished his lunch, promising he would show us the main collection afterwards.

Leaving the main house, we walked over to an unassuming red barn, but inside it was quite another story. The main area of the barn had been converted into an art

gallery, complete with white walls, carpeted floors and track lighting. Robert Muller was also a collector of Japanese prints, and his collection of these was hanging at the moment. He began to roll up the prints, and once they were safely stowed away he started bringing out Bob's paintings.

One by one he placed them against the wall, slowly working around the room until we were encircled by Bob's work. The paintings were all watercolor landscapes with small birds. The saltmarsh Merlin I had originally seen in the shop was there, along with dozens of other paintings. Over the years, Muller had snatched up the best of Bob's work to come through Merwin's, and his collection was now all here between the house and barn. It was overwhelming—completely overwhelming. I slowly made my way from painting to painting, crawling on my hands and knees around the perimeter of the room. After I had made a circuit Muller began pulling out still more of Bob's work, leaning a second layer against the wall . . . then a third. There must have been a hundred paintings laid out on his gallery's floor, and I spent two or three hours poring over them. Finally, with other obligations for the evening looming, I reluctantly pulled myself away from the breathtaking collection. As Muller led us from the barn, I glanced into his storeroom, and saw still more stacks of unrevealed paintings by Bob—dozens more. Had I been invited, I could have gone back to camp out in the barn for another month.

In January 2000, the exhibit of Bob's paintings at Massachusetts Audubon's Visual Arts Center in Canton set me on a path to reconnecting with him. There I met his partner Louisa Russell for the first time, and she strongly encouraged me to get in touch with him. A few months later, Bob and I made plans to meet up at Betty Anderson's in Middleboro while he was there videotaping her nesting Northern Goshawks. I was simultaneously thrilled and filled with trepidation. The reconnection after so many years went very well, and after that I made a point of trying to see Bob whenever I passed through Massachusetts.

Bob's appreciation of birds was always apparent, with the subtlest things about them never failing to capture his attention or delight him—the little shadow created by the parting of the feathers on the breast of a Semipalmated Plover, or the way the little Saw-Whet Owl roosting by his studio would stretch out a leg, then tuck its foot back into its fluffed-out belly feathers. Almost a ritual of every visit was time spent hand-feeding sunflower seeds to the Black-capped Chickadees in his backyard. Even a bird so common was worthy of his attention, though he admitted to me that he gave up trying to paint them long ago because they were just too perfect.

When we weren't talking about birds or about either my paintings or his, we talked about bird art in general. To say Bob was very opinionated on the subject would be an understatement. He knew whose work he really liked and whose he did not, praising the former and leveling tough criticism at the latter. He also regretted and resented how the art world has relegated bird painting and wildlife painting in general to a separate category, distinct from "real" art. If the birds were removed from his landscapes, the paintings could be hung on the walls of any art gallery—with the birds included, they were just "wildlife art."

A recurring topic with Bob was the *Shorebirds of North America*. Most people I know regard the book as a beautiful blending of art and science, with spectacularly reproduced paintings, especially for that time. Bob, on the other hand, regarded the book as a disaster, being very disappointed in the way the editors badly cropped his paintings. It was because of that book that he shied away from any future publishing projects, and why he and his work are so little known outside of southern New England. To me it has always seemed so regrettable that such an impressive body of work has largely escaped the wide exposure it deserves.

I wish other aspiring painters of birds could be as fortunate as I was to have the benefit of Bob Clem's inspiration and advice. My visits and birding excursions with Bob and the time spent in his studio have been among my most cherished high points of each year. The trips to South Beach and Monomoy with him, the areas he loved so much and knew and portrayed so well, shall remain very special days etched in my memory forever. I will dearly miss the time I was lucky enough to spend with him. 🐦

September 29, 2010

Paul Donahue is a bird artist, bird recordist, environmental activist, and tree climber. As the cover artist for this issue, more information about him can be found on page 320.



Pin-tailed Cotinga by Bob Clem

Brookline Bird Club Extreme Pelagic

This annual trip from Hyannis to the continental shelf edge is now renowned for its pelagic rarities. The trip on August 28-29, 2010, was no exception, with sightings of White-faced Storm-Petrel, Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, and Great Skua. Here is an assortment of photographs from this trip. 🐦



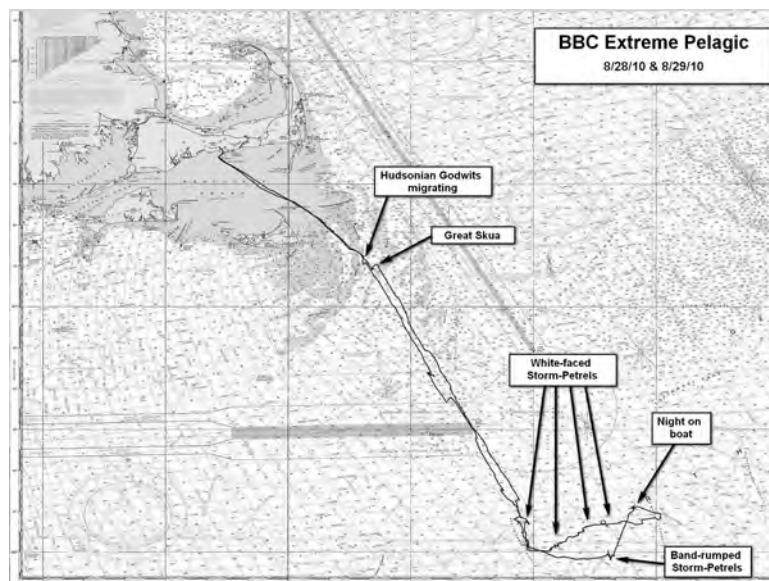
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel by Luke Seitz



Great Skua by Jim Hully



White-faced Storm-Petrel by Ian Davies



Route map by Steve Mirrick

From MassWildlife: Division Received Wetland Grant for Burrage Pond WMA Project

Over the past several years, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife has been in the process of designing and planning a major habitat restoration project at the Burrage Pond Wildlife Management Area, one of the largest and most-visited WMAs in southeastern Massachusetts. In October 2009, the Division submitted an application for funding under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act Small Grants Program administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In August 2010, the Division received final approval for the project and was awarded a \$75,000 grant towards the work, which, coupled with over \$45,000 in additional funds provided by some supporting partners, will help make the project a reality. The grant application was supported by many project partners, including Sweetwater Trust, Ducks Unlimited, Hanson Rod & Gun Club, Plymouth County League of Sportsmen, Marshfield Rod & Gun Club, Upland Sportsman Club, Cedar Gun Club, SS Solutions Charitable Trust, Massachusetts Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy, Wildlands Trust of Southeastern Massachusetts, New England Consulting Services, and Martha's Vineyard Rod & Gun Club.

The goal of this project is to restore approximately 245 acres of former cranberry bogs to a mosaic of wetland habitats including open water, deep and shallow emergent marsh, and seasonally-exposed mudflats, thereby expanding available habitat for use by waterfowl, wading birds, and other wildlife and plant species at the WMA.

The work will include repairing or replacing water control structures and grading to improve microhabitats within a portion of the former cranberry bog system to restore the Division's ability to manage water levels, facilitating the restoration of wetland habitats through seasonal hydrological manipulations, wet soils management, invasive/exotic species control, and seeding/planting of native vegetation. This effort will also allow for the restoration of natural water flow through adjacent wetlands that have been impacted by the former cranberry operations.

The existence of the former cranberry bogs and water control superstructure offers a unique and immediate opportunity to restore 245 acres to a functional mosaic of wetland habitats to benefit local and migratory wetland-dependent birds, as well as other important wildlife and plant species. The value of this project is enhanced by the immediate area's juxtaposition to over 2500 acres of permanently protected open space containing over 400 acres of open water and thousands of acres of forested and emergent wetland habitat, in addition to the site's long and well-documented history of importance to migratory birds.

ABOUT BOOKS

Fundamentally Strange and the Same

Mark Lynch

Birdology. Sy Montgomery. 2010. Free Press. New York, New York.

“To appreciate birds is to appreciate at once their fundamental strangeness and sameness.” (p. 1)



Sy Montgomery is one of the leading voices in contemporary natural history writing, and she has attracted an eager following of readers who devour her books. In works like *Journey of the Pink Dolphins*, she brings the reader breathlessly along on her intrepid, dangerous trips to some of the last great wild places on earth, all the while maintaining the voice of an old friend. Even when she’s taking natural hallucinogens with a shaman in the jungle or looking for cetaceans the color of bubble gum, you always feel she’s someone you could have a beer or bake a pie with. In other books, like *The Good, Good Pig*, she focuses on own backyard in Vermont, the joys of country living, and the hidden lives of livestock.

Sy Montgomery admits in the introduction to *Birdology* that she has wanted to write a book about birds for a long time, but “mammals kept jumping in line.”

Her choice of the title “Birdology” as opposed to “ornithology” originated with a friend’s invitation to attend church together one morning. The friend had read a notice from the First Universalist Church in West Chesterfield, New Hampshire, that the upcoming Sunday’s sermon was titled “Birdology.” They could not resist.

A smiling, articulate woman in her fifties, the pastor greeted us with the confession that “birdology” was a word she had made up. She invented “birdologist” to describe the person who, unlike the ornithologist, with his fancy university degree, hasn’t completed a formal course of avian study. To be a birdologist, she said, “you have to appreciate birds and be intentional about appreciating birds in some way.” We could all be birdologists” she said—and we should be—“for watching birds,” she told us, “strengthens our souls.”

A birdologist, she explained, “Experiences the divinity of creation revealed in the birds.” (p. 6)

I confess to getting a bit uneasy when I read that last part, and I am sure many serious birders would slam the book shut at that point, grab their binoculars, and go into the field to worship their next life bird. I really do get a bit nudgy when people start preaching to me about the divine perks of the natural world; I’ll make what I want from my experiences in the great outdoors, thank you very much. As for “strengthening my soul,” give me a shot of fine single malt whiskey straight up

anytime. Even so, what I have always appreciated about Sy Montgomery's writing is that she will walk right up to that worn cliff edge of earthy-crunchy sentimentality without actually ever diving off. Nevertheless, she is making a point with her choice of title: *Birdology* is not a book about or even for birders, even though ornithologists and others with "fancy university degrees" do often wander in and out of the essays.

Birdology is a collection of seven essays with titles that read like a children's book on birds: "Birds Are Individuals," "Birds Are Dinosaurs," "Birds Are Fierce," "Birds Are Everywhere." Each chapter deals on one type of bird or even one species. Four of the chapters are about domestic and captive birds: barnyard chickens, falconry hawks, and pigeons. She writes about experiments on African Gray Parrot intelligence and about rehabilitating baby hummingbirds. *Birdology* is about the intersection of the lives of people and birds. So, unlike your life list, all birds count here, even chickens.

This point is brought home in the first essay "Birds Are Individuals," a wonderful piece about Montgomery's own chickens, "the Girls." It is a tribute to the author's skill as a writer and observer of behavior that Montgomery is able to make a piece about her personal poultry engaging, informative, and interesting. Unless you have owned some chickens—and most of us haven't—you don't know squat about the complex lives these domestic fowl lead. Her chapter on the subject is nothing short of a revelation. The reader gets to know Montgomery's chickens as individuals, as birds with personalities, that use varied vocalizations to express their moods and, contrary to popular wisdom, exhibit real intelligence. It is no exaggeration to say that, after reading this section, you will find yourself wanting to run off to Montgomery's farm and sit there with one of the Girls clucking in your lap.

Montgomery's writing is always about the side trips and digressions, so you learn about the various breeds, where you get chickens when starting out, how they get delivered, and what happens socially when a new rooster is introduced into the established flock. There are all sorts of odd chicken facts too, like the story of the rooster that was able to live for eighteen months after his head was cut off, and the mystery of Sudden Rooster Death Syndrome. Along the way you are introduced to the people whose lives have been affected by the Girls, including the amazing "Chicken Whisperer," Elizabeth Kenney. Montgomery combines her considerable skills as a keen observer of animal behavior with the deep affection for her hens that only a vegetarian chicken farmer could have. "Birds Are Individuals" is the finest essay in the book and can be seen as a companion piece in spirit and tone to *The Good Good Pig*.

"Birds Are Dinosaurs" finds Montgomery off the farm and back in the field, this time in the forests of northern Queensland hoping to see an all-too-elusive Southern Cassowary for herself. This is by no means her first trip to Australia. Previously she spent some time studying emus, which end up being considerably easier to find than a cassowary. She spends time with local scientists studying this bird and brings the reader out into the field while they perform their arduous fieldwork. Despite countless hours spent in habitat known to host cassowaries, they rarely see the birds. Though huge and bulky, cassowaries are masters of quickly fading into the dense forest at the slightest disturbance and then remaining motionless.

Part of the cassowary's attraction for Montgomery is that it physically resembles the dinosaurs from which birds evolved, and she wants to get more in touch with this prehistoric heritage by personally seeing a bird so large and fierce. There is a danger factor when confronting cassowaries, which adds a bit of spice to any quest. Cassowaries have a long knife-like claw on each foot, enabling them to jump up and possibly eviscerate some passing natural history writer. Although no humans have been killed by cassowaries in Australia since 1926, there are more contemporary cassowary-caused deaths in New Guinea where locals often come in close contact with the three species that live there. Montgomery endures terrestrial leeches, stinging plants, rough terrain, and exhausting heat and humidity over many days in the hopes of getting one glimpse of her quarry. This chapter is on a par with the best of Montgomery's previous writings about searching for rare animals in far-flung corners of the globe.

As a dedicated breeding bird "atlaser" who has spent the last four springs and summers diligently trying to observe breeding behavior in the field, I found Montgomery's chapter on volunteer hummingbird rehabilitation fascinating but also nerve-racking. In "Birds Are Made of Air" she travels to Marin County, California, to spend time with Brenda Sherburn, a woman who dedicates her life to raising abandoned hummingbird nestlings. The chapter starts out innocently enough as Montgomery desperately reaches for poetic imagery to describe hummingbirds:

Hummingbirds are less flesh than fairies. They are little more than bubbles fringed with iridescent feathers—air wrapped in light.

But then she is faced with the grim reality of trying to care for one of these orphaned or injured fairies.

Alas, success with injured hummingbirds is rare. Most medical treatments kill them. Broken wings or legs can't be splinted; a splint would be too heavy (though Brenda, with help from a mentor, once successfully splinted a hummer's toes with a strip of paper). Injections risk puncturing an air sac. And to a bird that weighs as little as a penny, even the slightest overdose of medicine can be lethal. (p. 81)

The survival rate for injured hummers at WildCare, where Brenda Sherburn works, is described as an "impressive" 46%. Now, imagine all those problems magnified when you are working with miniscule nestling hummingbirds. They must be fed with a special small syringe every twenty minutes. After one feeding, the pair of nestling Allen's Hummingbirds that Sherburn is working with look like they are still hungry. Montgomery asks her, why not continue to feed them?

"Because you can pop them," Brenda says. "Miss a feeding by twenty minutes and they can expire. Feed them too much and they can explode." Brenda resets the timer. (p. 84)

What follows is a day-by-day, (sometimes hour-by-hour) account of Montgomery and Sherburn trying to raise these nestlings until they successfully fledge. Even when everything is going well, every interaction with the baby hummingbirds is fraught

with tension. The slightest pull or movement in the wrong direction, the teeniest application of too much pressure, could damage a wing or pull off a leg; and then the two nestlings come down with an infestation of mites! This is a riveting chapter that will not only give you new insights into what wild birds go through in raising their young but also a deep appreciation for the volunteers who let their normal lives be constantly put on hold and refocused on the stressful task of raising these teeny birds.

I found Montgomery's chapter on falconry, "Birds Are Fierce," much less satisfying and problematic. She spends considerable time with master falconer Nancy Cowan of the New Hampshire School of Falconry. Cowan's mantra is: "Hunt hard. Kill swiftly. Waste nothing. Offer no apologies." Montgomery is soon under the spell of handling fierce falcons and hawks, especially a Harris's Hawk named Jazz. She feels herself getting sucked into the thrill of falconry despite the obvious problems keeping a raptor at home with the Girls would entail.

First you must complete a weekend hunter's safety course. Pass the exam for a hunting license. Build a mews and set it up with all the furniture a hawk would need. And then, sometime between September 1 and November 30, catch a young wild red-tail and make it your own. (p. 136)

Excuse me? Could you run that last part by me again?

Instead of asking questions about the morality, not to mention legality, of capturing wild birds of prey, Montgomery instead wonders whether a vegetarian like her can make a commitment to such a bloodthirsty avocation. She focuses on her personal feelings as she is swept away by her experiences like an acolyte in a cult, and in doing so she perpetuates many of the popular romantic notions about falconry. What was needed here was some emotional distance and some deeper analysis of falconers and their "sport," something akin to what Andrew Blechman did for pigeon racers and fanciers in his wonderful book *Pigeons*.

This lack of distance and a more critical perspective is also an issue in Montgomery's chapter on the controversial research on African Gray Parrot intelligence. The chapter is basically a rehash of Irene Pepperberg's research, which is more fully described in Pepperberg's autobiography *Alex and Me*. The design and the findings of these experiments that appear to prove the extreme intelligence of these parrots are still questioned by some ethologists and ornithologists, and that perspective was not emphasized enough in Montgomery's account. The chapter finishes with the author in a living room goofily dancing with a parrot that has been reported to be able to keep a beat. This seems a superficial and silly way to end a chapter on such an important subject as non-human intelligence.

The last two sections on pigeons and crows are minor Montgomery, but still enjoyable to read.

Overall, *Birdology* is a wonderful collection of essays on humans and the birds that fascinate them, taking the reader from the humid forests of Queensland to the familiar surroundings of the author's own backyard. As with any collection of short pieces, some are better than others, and while a certain critical perspective seemed

lacking in some spots, I can't help thinking that all I really need is to go to Montgomery's farm, sit a while with a chicken in my lap, and all will be made clear. 🐔

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Remembering Alden Clayton 1920-2010

The staff at *Bird Observer* is saddened to hear of Alden Clayton's death. Alden was a member of our staff from 1990 through 2000 and contributed articles and book reviews for over twenty years, beginning in 1980. Alden was a past president of the Brookline Bird Club, Secretary of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, and a charter member of the Eastern Mass Hawk Watch. Alden and his late wife Nancy had a passion for hawks, spending every September weekend on top of Mount Wachusett. Alden and Nancy travelled all over the world and shared their photos at bird club meetings; his only regret in life was that he could have seen all the pelagic birds of the Pacific Ocean had he been a birder when he was in the Navy. In recent years, as his health was failing, he played an important role in preserving Half-Mile Hill in North Andover, as well as educating his fellow residents of Edgewood, the retirement community he lived in, about the natural world that surrounded them. So many of us will miss that smile. 🐔



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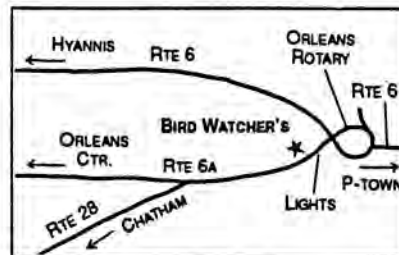
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BIRD SIGHTINGS

May/June 2010

Seth Kellogg, Marjorie W. Rines, and Robert H. Stymeist

May 2010 was very warm, dry, and sunny, perfect migration weather. Summer-like heat in April advanced the greening of Massachusetts, and by May 1 birds disappeared among the leaves, even on the North Shore. The temperature averaged 62.8° in Boston, 4.3° above normal for May, making this the fifth warmest May on record. The high was 94° on May 26; the low was 40° on May 10 and 11. Rainfall totaled 2.90 inches in Boston, with measurable rain occurring on eight days. A powerful storm erupted in western Massachusetts on May 27, when a cold front moved in and clashed with the warm air, leaving thousands of homes without power. Winds gusted up to 70 mph with one-inch hailstones bringing down trees and power lines. Winds were out of the southwest on May 1, 5, 14, 24, and 25. Southerly winds occurred on another seven days. The most rain in eastern Massachusetts came on May 18–19 along with moderate northeast winds.

The month of June continued to be very warm; the average for Boston was 70.3°, 2.3° above normal. This was the warmest June since 2001, a far cry from last June, which was the third coldest on record. June had many rainy days, though with small amounts; the total recorded in Boston was 3.18 inches, about normal. *R. H. Stymeist*

WATERFOWL THROUGH ALCIDS

Waterfowl reports were typical of this season. A single Brant at Winthrop lingered into June. A **“Eurasian” Green-winged Teal** was reported from Provincetown. Six Harlequin Ducks were reported from Manomet on May 9. Common Goldeneyes are uncommon in May or June, but one or two individuals have been reported from Turners Falls almost annually since 1999, and a single male was seen for several days during this period. A male at Eastern Point in Gloucester was more unexpected.

A **Pacific Loon** was discovered off North Truro on May 2. In the past decade this species has been reported in increasing numbers in the winter, and one or more has been reported in May almost annually. A dedicated seabird watcher at Lynn Beach was astonished to observe an **albatross species** flying low over the surf line, being harassed by Herring Gulls. He describes the bird: “The bill was large and mostly darkish with basally yellowish. The head was all lightly gray. The back and wings were dark brown. The rump was white with a wide black tail band with a white terminal edge.”

Least Bitterns were reported from traditional strongholds on Plum Island and Great Meadows NWR, as well as at the less expected Allen’s Pond in South Dartmouth, and in North Oxford. Last year **Tricolored Herons** were reported only from Essex County, but this year there were also four reports from Duxbury and Cape Cod. Cattle Egrets in Reading and in the middle of the Braintree rotary off Route 3 were unexpected. Five **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were reported, including one in Worcester, a very uncommon inland sighting. **White-faced Ibis** reported from three locations surely represented the same one or two individuals. This species has been reported in coastal Essex county almost annually since 2003, including a 2009 sighting on Kettle Island in Manchester where Glossy Ibis breed, raising the question of whether they may be breeding (or hybridizing?) in the state.

Black Vultures were reported throughout the state. **Mississippi Kites** have become an annual migrant at the Pilgrim Heights hawkwatch site in North Truro, but a total of eight individuals was impressive. A June report of a Merlin at Pilgrim Heights was late.

Two **Black Rails** were heard calling on Plum Island on May 31 and were heard regularly through the third week of June. This represents the longest Massachusetts visit by this species since they were reported breeding in Chatham in 1884–1885, and Veit and Petersen state that this breeding record was never confirmed by a “competent ornithologist.” Since the Plum Island birds were heard calling from a dense stand of cattails that is off-limits to birders, any confirmation of breeding would be impossible, but the presence of two individuals for this length of time is tantalizing.

Purple Gallinule is a species that doesn’t occur annually, so a sighting of two individuals during this period was extraordinary. **Sandhill Cranes** have been breeding in New Marlboro since 2005, but sightings since then have increased dramatically, and it is only a matter of time until additional breeders are discovered.

A **Wilson’s Plover** was photographed on South Beach in Chatham, the first Massachusetts occurrence since 2007. A **Black-necked Stilt** at Allen’s Pond in South Dartmouth was more cooperative, staying over two weeks for birders to enjoy. The shorebird of the season was a **Red-necked Stint** on South Beach, the fourth discovered by the same observer at the same location since 1999.

“Good” terns were well represented. A **Gull-billed Tern** was observed on Nantucket on June 10, and two **Sandwich Terns** were reported from Plum Island and Nantucket. Two **Atlantic Puffins** on May 23 were extremely late.

M. W. Rines

Snow Goose				6/4	Lenox	pr	J. Young
5/1-8	Mashpee	1	v.o.	Northern Shoveler			
5/11	DWWS	1	D. Ludlow	5/2, 26	P.I.	4, 1	Heil, Chickering
Brant				5/7	Wayland	pr	BBC (G. Long)
5/5	Squantum	91	P. Peterson	Green-winged Teal			
5/6	Newbypt H.	246	D. Ely	thr	P.I.	21 max	v.o.
5/8	Brewster	70	B. Nikula	5/1	E. Boston (B.I.)	24	T. Factor
5/15	Plymouth H.	75	SSBC (GdE)	5/1	Longmeadow	24	S. Kellogg
5/21	W. Roxbury (MP)	80	M. Iliff	5/14	Southwick	6	S. Kellogg
6/11	Winthrop	1	R. Stymeist#	5/15	Burrage Pd WMA	pr	SSBC (GdE)
Wood Duck				5/23	Chatham	2	B. Nikula
5/1	Sudbury	9 ad, 14 juv	USFWS (JSS)	6/27	Washington	6	B. Stymeist
5/14	New Marlboro	40	M. Lynch#	Eurasian Green-winged Teal			
5/15	C. Hampden Cy	65	ABC	5/12	P'town	1	B. Nikula
6/5	Little River IBA	33	ABC	Ring-necked Duck			
6/26	Wakefield	42	P. + F. Vale	5/8	Turners Falls	4	S. Surner
6/30	GMNWR	37 ad, 12 juv	USFWS (JSS)	5/12	Plymouth	1	J. Galluzzo
Gadwall				6/1	Ipswich	1	B. Waldner
5/10-14	Melrose	pr	D. + I. Jewell	6/5	P.I.	1	J. Young
5/21	Fairhaven	7	C. Longworth	6/19	Cheshire	2	M. Lynch#
6/18	Chatham (S.B.)	2	B. Nikula	Greater Scaup			
6/21	P.I.	10 ad + 6 yg	M. Lynch#	5/1	Randolph	11	G. d'Entremont
6/25	Rowley	nest/8 eggs	J. Berry	5/6	Newbypt H.	1	D. Ely
American Black Duck				Lesser Scaup			
5/15	Agawam	2	S. Perreault	5/8	Turners Falls	2	S. Surner
5/17	C. Quabbin	2	L. Therrien	King Eider			
5/22	Fairhaven	8	M. Lynch#	5/13	Gloucester	1	J. Hoye#
6/20	Ashby	2	C. Caron	Common Eider			
6/27	P.I.	18	P. Ruvido	5/11	Rockport	161	R. Heil
Blue-winged Teal				5/23	N. Chatham	140	B. Nikula
5/2	Nantucket	2	K. Blackshaw#	6/15	Duxbury B.	60	R. Bowes
5/5	Plymouth	2	K. Doyon	6/16	Boston H.	314 chicks	R. Stymeist#
5/8	Longmeadow	4	S. Kellogg	6/29	Chatham (S.B.)	60	I. Davies#
5/9	Saugus (Bear C.)	1	S. Zende#	Harlequin Duck			
5/13	GMNWR	4	USFWS (JSS)	5/9	Manomet	6	I. Davies#
5/14	Longmeadow	1	S. Kellogg	Surf Scoter			
5/16-6/30	P.I.	6 max	v.o.	5/23	P.I.	4	C. Winstanley

White-winged Scoter				Pacific Loon				
5/8	Turners Falls	1	S. Surner	5/2	N. Truro	1 br pl	B. Nikula	
5/14	Southwick	3	S. Kellogg	Common Loon				
5/21	W. Roxbury (MP)	630	M. Iliff	5/2	P.I.	14	R. Heil	
6/8, 29	Chatham (S.B.)	6, 1	B. Nikula	5/4, 21	N. Truro	31, 37 migr	B. Nikula	
6/30	P.I.	10	P. Ruvido	5/4	N. Falmouth	30	I. Nisbet	
Black Scoter				5/8	S. Quabbin	6	S. Surner	
5/9	Manomet	12	I. Davies#	5/29	P.I.	4	T. Wetmore	
6/5	Nahant	1 f	L. Pivacek	6/10-16	P'town	14 migr	B. Nikula	
Long-tailed Duck				6/20	Petersham	14	M. Lynch#	
5/2, 21	P.I.	2500, 12	Heil, Elwell	6/27	Wachusett Res.	pr n	B. deGraaf	
5/14	Turners Falls	2	D. Spector	Pied-billed Grebe				
5/15	Nantucket	1	fide E. Ray	thr	GMNWR	1	USFWS (JSS)	
6/26	Fairhaven	1	C. Longworth	5/2	Longmeadow	1	C. Supranant	
Bufflehead				5/2	Sudbury	1	USFWS (JSS)	
5/2	P.I.	1 f	B. Harris	5/4	Clarksburg	1	G. Soucie	
5/3	Haverhill	9	S. Mirick	5/6	P'town	1	B. Nikula	
5/8	Pembroke	7	SSBC (GdE)	5/7	Southampton	1	T. Swochak	
5/14	Southwick	8	S. Kellogg	6/27	Washington	1	B. Stymeist	
5/15	Nantucket	8	fide E. Ray	Horned Grebe				
Common Goldeneye				5/15	Nantucket	1 br pl	fide E. Ray	
5/29-6/2	Turners Falls	1	J. P. Smith	Red-necked Grebe				
6/21	Gloucester (E.P.)	1 m	M. Lynch#	5/3	Ludlow	1	J. Zepko	
Hooded Merganser				5/16	P'town H.	1	B. Nikula	
5/26	Fitchburg-10	2 f, 3 yg	C. Caron	Albatross species				
5/28	Belchertown	5	L. Therrien	6/27	Lynn B.	1	J. Quigley	
6/11	Gr Barrington	1f, 7 yg	M. Lynch#	Cory's Shearwater				
6/16	Marshfield	1 juv	C. Nims	5/29	Tuckernuck	1	R. Veit	
6/30	GMNWR	2 juv	USFWS (JSS)	5/31	Wellfleet	1	W. Petersen	
Common Merganser				6/11	Chatham (S.B.)	2	B. Harris	
5/1	Braintree	3 f	G. d'Entremont	6/25	P'town	2	B. Nikula	
5/1	Quabbin (G25-27)	3	C. Ellison	6/27	Veatch Canyon	82	BBC (M. Iliff)	
5/2	Hardwick	2 m+5 f	M. Lynch#	6/28	Jeffries L.	7	MAS (D. Larson)	
5/11	Royalston	1	C. Caron	Greater Shearwater				
6/18	Holyoke	2	S. Kellogg	6/14	Stellwagen	60	B. Nikula#	
6/23	Williamstown	1	R. Laubach	6/15	P'town	175	B. Nikula	
Red-breasted Merganser				6/27	Veatch Canyon	459	BBC (M. Iliff)	
5/1	N. Truro	600+	D. Manchester	6/28	Jeffries L.	433	MAS (D. Larson)	
5/3	Manomet	45	I. Davies	Sooty Shearwater				
5/31	P.I.	2 f	W. Tatro	5/1	Stellwagen	2	K. Carson	
6/14	Squantum	3	P. Peterson	5/23	Nantucket	4	V. Laux	
Ruddy Duck				5/29	Tuckernuck	10	R. Veit	
5/3	Ludlow	1	J. Zepko	6/6, 11	N. Truro	10, 125	B. Nikula	
5/15	Pembroke	3	SSBC (GdE)	6/7	Orleans	600+	M. Iliff	
Northern Bobwhite				6/11	Chatham (S.B.)	90	B. Harris	
5/17	WBWS	1 m	M. Faherty	6/11, 15	P'town	600, 425	B. Nikula	
6/7	Truro	3	M. Iliff	6/14	Stellwagen	170	B. Nikula#	
6/11	Chatham (MI)	1	B. Harris	6/28	Jeffries L.	125	MAS (D. Larson)	
6/28	Harwichport	1	A. Curtis	Manx Shearwater				
6/thr	Falmouth	2-3	v.o.	thr	Revere B.	18 max	v.o.	
Ring-necked Pheasant				5/18	P.I.	3	T. Wetmore	
5/1	Winchendon	1	C. Caron	5/31	Wellfleet	3	W. Petersen	
5/1	W. Roxbury (MP)	1	M. Kaufman	6/6, 10	N. Truro	3, 5	B. Nikula	
5/9	Saugus (Bear C.)	2	S. Zende#	6/7	Orleans	3	M. Iliff	
5/14-21	Nahant	2	G. Jones	6/10, 11	P'town	1, 3	B. Nikula	
5/20	Lancaster	2	G. d'Entremont#	6/27	Veatch Canyon	24	BBC (M. Iliff)	
Ruffed Grouse				6/28	Jeffries L.	2	MAS (D. Larson)	
5/1	Quabbin (G25-27)	5	C. Ellison	Wilson's Storm-Petrel				
5/1	Ware R. IBA	2	M. Lynch#	5/23	Nantucket	1	V. Laux	
5/7	C. Quabbin	9	L. Therrien	5/29	Tuckernuck	20	R. Veit	
6/16	W. Brookfield	4	C. Caron	6/6	N. Truro	70	B. Nikula	
6/20	Petersham	1 ad+3 yg	M. Lynch#	6/14	Stellwagen	125	B. Nikula#	
Wild Turkey				6/27	Veatch Canyon	187	BBC (M. Iliff)	
5/1	Quabbin (G25-27)	13	C. Ellison	6/28	Jeffries L.	510	MAS (D. Larson)	
6/5	Little River IBA	20	ABC	Leach's Storm-Petrel				
6/14-30	Ipswich	2 f, 10 yg	J. Berry	6/19	Duxbury B.	1	R. Bowes	
6/18	Andover	1 f, 3 yg	P. + F. Vale	6/27	Veatch Canyon	137	BBC (M. Iliff)	
6/20	Uxbridge	2 ad, 6 yg	M. Lynch#	Northern Gannet				
6/23	Sudbury	1 f, 8 yg	USFWS (JSS)	5/1	Stellwagen	54	K. Hartel	
Red-throated Loon				5/20, 6/11	P'town	400, 350	B. Nikula	
5/24	Nantucket	15	K. Blackshaw	5/22, 6/6	N. Truro	50, 200	Manchester, Nikula	
5/29	P.I.	2	T. Wetmore	5/29-6/30	P.I.	480 max	v.o.	
				6/3	Plymouth B.	150	A. Brissette	

Northern Gannet (continued)				5/15	Nantucket	1	Edie Ray
6/4	Duxbury B.	200+	R. Bowes	5/20	Salem	1 ad	C. Jackson
6/6	Wellfleet	1050	B. Nikula	6/15	Medford	1 ad	P. Roberts
6/11	Chatham (S.B.)	45	B. Harris	Glossy Ibis			
Double-crested Cormorant				5/1	Ware R. IBA	4	M. Lynch#
5/2	P.I.	450	R. Heil	5/7	GMNWR	8	USFWS (JSS)
5/6	Newbypt H.	130	D. Ely	5/15	Burrage Pd WMA	8	SSBC (GdE)
5/22	Mattapoisett	108	M. Lynch#	5/19	Ipswich	32	P. + F. Vale
6/6	P'town H.	225	B. Nikula	5/22	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1	B. Zajda#
Great Cormorant				5/24	Burrage Pd WMA	4	I. Davies
5/9	Manomet	3 imm	I. Davies#	6/3	Norwell	1	A. Curtis
5/15	N. Scituate	2	SSBC (GdE)	White-faced Ibis			
6/11	Boston H.	4 imm	R. Stymeist#	5/10-13	Rowley	2 ph	B. Murphy+ v.o.
6/16	Outer Brewster I	1 ad	R. Stymeist#	5/19	Ipswich	1	P. + F. Vale
American Bittern				6/4	Newbury	1	S. Keyel
thr	Reports of indiv. from 12 locations			Black Vulture			
thr	P.I.	1-2	v.o.	5/1	P'town	2	B. Nikula
5/1-22	N. Truro	2	B. Nikula	5/4	Newbypt	3	T. Wetmore
5/17	Winchendon-8	2	C. Caron	5/17	Blue Hills	2 ph	N. Smith
Least Bittern				5/25	N. Truro	2	B. Nikula
5/6-6/30	P.I.	3	v.o.	6/15	Freetown	3	L. Abbey
5/22-6/30	GMNWR	1	v.o.	6/19	Mt. Greylock	2	SSBC (GdE)
5/22	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1	B. Zajda#	Turkey Vulture			
6/6	N. Oxford	1	M. Lynch#	5/thr	N. Truro	366	Hawkcount (DM)
Great Blue Heron				5/1	Littleton	10	G. Billingham
5/5	W. Warren	6 nests	B. Zajda	5/2	Newbury	1 n ph	E. Norgaard#
5/15	C. Hampden Cy	28	ABC	5/5	Hardwick	7	C. Ellison
5/15	W. Boxford	80 n	T. Walker	5/16	MBWMA	11	S. Grinley#
5/25	Stoneham	22 ad, 3yg	D. + I. Jewell	5/17	P.I.	7	W. Tatro#
5/31	Sturbridge	12 pr, 34 yg	M. Lynch#	6/thr	N. Truro	164	Hawkcount (DM)
6/16	W. Boxford	120	MAS (B. Gette)	6/18	Milton	6	A. Joslin
6/20	Sandisfield	23	T. Swochak	Osprey			
Great Egret				5/thr	N. Truro	132	Hawkcount (DM)
5/22	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	10	B. Zajda#	5/22	W. Harwich	9	B. Nikula
5/23	Melrose	1	D. + I. Jewell	5/29	Fairhaven	12	M. Lynch#
6/16	P.I.	30	N. Landry	6/1-30	N. Truro	37	Hawkcount (DM)
6/17	Squantum	6	R. Stymeist	Mississippi Kite			
Snowy Egret				5/23, 28	N. Truro	2, 1	Hawkcount (DM)
thr	P.I.	75 max	v.o.	6/1, 4	N. Truro	3, 2	Hawkcount (DM)
5/1	N. Truro	8	B. Nikula	6/4	WBWS	1	M. Faherty
5/7	Rowley	12	P. + F. Vale	Bald Eagle			
5/19	E. Boston (B.I.)	5	P. Peterson	5/1, 29	N. Truro	4, 2	Hawkcount (DM)
Little Blue Heron				5/2	Hardwick	pr n	M. Lynch#
5/1	S. Dart. (A. Pd)	1	P. Champlin	5/2	Wachusett Res.	2	K. Bourinot
5/1	Gloucester	4	D. Sandee	5/12	Salisbury	1 on nest	J. Berry#
5/2	Wompatuck SP	1	BBC (E. Giles)	6/12	Lee	2	R. Laubach
5/7	N. Truro	1	D. Manchester	6/20	Petersham	3 ad	M. Lynch#
5/18	Manchester	14	J. Trimble#	Northern Harrier			
6/12	Tuckernuck	1	E. Ray	5/1, 6/21	P.I.	4, 2	Hawkcount, Ely
Tricolored Heron				5/1	Southwick	3	J. Wojtanowski
5/20	Truro	1 ph	S. Broker	5/1-122	Reports of indiv. from 10 locations		
5/26	Duxbury B.	1	R. Bowes	5/15	Wrentham	2	E. LoPresti
5/27	Mashpee	1	M. Malin	6/25	Chatham (S.B.)	1	B. Nikula
6/1-6	P.I.	1	S. Grinley# + v.o.	Sharp-shinned Hawk			
6/16-19	Chatham	1	D. Scott + v.o.	thr	Reports of indiv. from 12 locations		
Cattle Egret				5/thr	N. Truro	374	Hawkcount (DM)
5/2-21	Ipswich	1-2	J. Berry + v.o.	5/1	Ware R. IBA	3	M. Lynch#
5/4	Braintree	1	Tim O'Neill	5/1	Barre Falls	5	Hawkcount (BK)
5/19	Reading	1	D. Williams	5/4	N. Truro	220	Hawkcount (DM)
Green Heron				5/4	P.I.	16	T. Wetmore
5/5	W. Warren	3	B. Zajda	5/5	Hardwick	2	C. Ellison
5/15	C. Hampden Cy	9	ABC	Cooper's Hawk			
6/1	DWWS	3	G. Billingham	5/thr	N. Truro	17	Hawkcount (DM)
6/14	Middleton	3	J. Nelson	5/9	N. Andover	2	J. Berry
Black-crowned Night-Heron				5/15	Medford	2	M. Rines#
thr	Medford	33 max	M. Rines	6/thr	N. Truro	8	Hawkcount (DM)
5/8	Rehoboth	3	K. Bartels	6/12	Newbypt	pr	S. McGrath
5/19	E. Boston (B.I.)	5	P. Peterson	6/14	Waltham	1	J. Forbes
6/4	Boston (Long I.)	6	R. Stymeist#	6/14	Douglas	1	J. Liller
6/4	P.I.	5	J. Trimble	6/21	Mt.A.	1	R. Stymeist
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron				6/25	Andover	1	P. + F. Vale
5/4-6	Worcester	1 ad ph	D. Phelan	6/27	P.I.	1 imm	T. Wetmore
5/14-21	Newbypt	1	M. Daley + v.o.				

Northern Goshawk				Virginia Rail			
5/1	Winchendon	1	C. Caron	5/16	Burlington	3	M. Rines
5/2	Hardwick	1 ad	M. Lynch#	5/31	Sturbridge	3	M. Lynch#
5/4	Westminster	1	C. Caron	6/3	P.I.	6	D. Chickering
5/27	Boxford	pr n	J. Berry#	6/6	N. Oxford	3	M. Lynch#
6/4	Sudbury	pr	USFWS (JSS)	6/12	Konkapot IBA	2 ad+4 fl	M. Lynch#
6/5	Russell	1	A. + L. Richardson	6/22	Bolton Flats	3	I. Davies#
6/13	Pittsfield	1	N. Mole	6/29	Ipswich	3	J. Berry
Red-shouldered Hawk				Sora			
5/2	Mashpee	pr	M. Keleher	5/6	P.I.	13	D. Ely
5/20	DFWS	2	P. Sowizral	5/6	Medford	1	M. Rines#
5/27	Boxford	pr n	J. Berry#	5/7	GMNWR	1	USFWS (JSS)
5/28	Sandwich	pr	M. Keleher	5/14	Truro	3	M. Keleher
6/4	Middleton	2	J. Berry#	5/15	Holyoke	1	D. McLain
6/4-11	W. Barnstable	pr	M. Keleher	5/20	Pittsfield	1	S. Kellogg
6/5	Little River IBA	3	ABC	6/4	New Marlboro	1	M. Lynch#
6/18	Sandisfield	2	M. Lynch#	6/14	Middleton	1	J. Nelson
Broad-winged Hawk				American Coot			
5/thr	N. Truro	296	Hawkcount (DM)	5/1-21	GMNWR	1	A. Bragg# + v.o.
5/1	Barre Falls	39	Hawkcount (BK)	Sandhill Crane			
5/1	Southwick	81	J. Wojtanowski	5/7	N. Truro	1 ph	D. Manchester
5/1	Quabbin Pk	11	S. Surner#	5/15	Southwick	2	J. Wojtanowski
6/1-27	N. Truro	171	Hawkcount (DM)	5/29	New Marlboro	2	S. Kellogg
6/15	Freetown	2	L. Abbey	5/30	Sharon	5	J. Bauer
6/15	Milton	2	P. Peterson	5/31	Westwood	5	J. Kerivan
6/18	Sandisfield	ad + 1 yg	M. Lynch#	Black-bellied Plover			
6/20	Petersham	ad+1 fl	M. Lynch#	5/6	Newbypt H.	2	D. Ely
Red-tailed Hawk				5/7	Wellfleet	39	M. Faherty
5/thr	N. Truro	37	Hawkcount (DM)	5/15, 6/5	Duxbury B.	93, 9	R. Bowes
5/15	C. Hampden Cy	33	ABC	5/21, 6/30	P.I.	70, 30	TM, Ruvido
American Kestrel				5/23, 6/25	Chatham (S.B.)	225, 180	B. Nikula
5/1-22	N. Truro	38	Hawkcount (DM)	5/24	E. Boston (B.I.)	54	R. Schain
5/1	Harvard	2	BBC (P. White)	5/30	Plymouth B.	25	SSBC (GdE)
5/1	P.I.	8	Hawkcount (CJ)	American Golden-Plover			
5/2	Bedford	3	W. Hutcheson	5/16	Westport	1	P. Champlin
5/15	Plymouth Airport	2	SSBC (GdE)	6/18	Chatham (S.B.)	1	B. Nikula
5/30	Andover	pr	P. + F. Vale	Wilson's Plover			
6/5	Dorchester	1 f, 1 juv	P. Peterson	6/11	Chatham (S.B.)	1 ph	B. Harris
6/14	Cambridge	ad, 3 yg	G. Dysart	Semipalmated Plover			
6/16	Southwick	2	S. Kellogg	5/4	P.I.	1	T. Wetmore
6/20	Williamstown	2	R. Laubach	5/8	Longmeadow	2	S. Kellogg
6/20	Amesbury	2	S. McGrath#	5/15, 6/5	Duxbury B.	29, 9	R. Bowes
Merlin				5/20	Fairhaven	47	C. Longworth
5/1-22	N. Truro	45	Hawkcount (DM)	5/20	Gloucester (E.P.)	14	S. Hedman
5/1	P.I.	5	Hawkcount (CJ)	5/21	S. Dartmouth	45	P. Champlin
5/1	Southwick	1	J. Wojtanowski	5/21, 6/22	P.I.	150	Bates, Wetmore
5/1	Manomet	1	I. Davies	5/23, 6/25	Chatham	45, 12	B. Nikula
5/2	E. Gloucester	1	J. Berry	Piping Plover			
5/7	C. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien	5/10	Ipswich	10	J. Berry
5/7, 15	P.I.	3, 3	Hawkcount (CJ)	6/8	P.I.	5 ad, 1 juv	R. Heil
5/8	Hingham	1	SSBC (GdE)	6/15	Duxbury B.	12 ad, 10 juv	R. Bowes
6/5	N. Truro	1	Hawkcount (DM)	6/20	Plymouth B.	32 ad, 14 juv	Stymeist
Peregrine Falcon				6/21	Revere B.	1 ad, 2 juv	Vale
5/1-30	N. Truro	21	Hawkcount (DM)	Killdeer			
5/1	P'town	1	B. Nikula	5/15	C. Hampden Cy	29	ABC
5/10	ONWR	1	USFWS (JSS)	6/7	Rowley	13	J. Berry#
5/11	Rowley	1 ad	J. Berry	6/20	Uxbridge	10	M. Lynch#
5/15	GMNWR	1	C. Corey#	6/30	P.I.	30 ad, 5 juv	P. Ruvido
5/15	Holyoke	1	D. McLain	American Oystercatcher			
5/29	Fairhaven	1	C. Longworth	5/7	Wellfleet	2	M. Faherty
5/29	Boston (Fens)	1	J. Taylor	5/25	Marion	7 pr n	I. Nisbet
5/30	Marion	1	I. Nisbet				
6/2	Deerfield	2	S. Kellogg				
Black Rail							
5/31-6/21	P.I.	2	Iliff, Trimble				
Clapper Rail							
5/5-/31	P.I.	1	v.o.				
King Rail							
5/30	Eastham (F.H.)	1	C. Goodrich				
Clapper/King Rail							
5/1-13	Harwichport	1	B. Nikula				
5/3	N. Truro	1	B. Nikula				

American Oystercatcher (continued)									
5/29	Fairhaven	6	C. Longworth	5/26, 6/5	Duxbury B.	400, 46		R. Bowes	
5/30	Nantucket	8	K. Blackshaw#	5/26	Nantucket	29		K. Blackshaw	
6/11	Winthrop	12	R. Stymeist#	5/31	Plymouth B.	18		J. Hoye#	
6/11	Salem	pr n	J. Berry#	Red Knot					
6/16	Rainsford I	4	R. Stymeist#	5/23, 6/25	Chatham (S.B.)	150, 30		B. Nikula	
6/29	Chatham (S.B.)	11	I. Davies#	5/31	Plymouth B.	9		J. Hoye#	
Black-necked Stilt				6/5, 15	Duxbury B.	8, 1		R. Bowes	
6/4-21	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	2 ph	Champlin + v.o.	6/5	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	12		P. Champlin	
Spotted Sandpiper				6/8	Chatham (S.B.)	20		B. Nikula	
5/8	Salisbury	7	S. McGrath#	6/9	P.I.	21		D. Chickering	
5/9	Saugus (Bear C.)	5	S. Zende#	Sanderling					
5/10	Jamaica Plain	7	P. Peterson	5/2	Duxbury B.	73		R. Bowes	
5/15	C. Hampden Cy	21	ABC	5/4	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	26		P. Champlin	
5/15	Arlington Res.	6	M. Rines#	5/7	WBWS	80		M. Faherty	
6/4	Long I.	4	R. Stymeist#	5/8	Brewster	170		B. Nikula	
6/16	Rainsford I	4	R. Stymeist#	5/12, 6/6	Plymouth B.	160, 27		A. Brissette#	
6/27	P.I.	5	P. Ruvido	5/23, 6/27	Chatham (S.B.)	1400, 20		B. Nikula	
Solitary Sandpiper				5/26	P.I.	37		D. Chickering	
5/1	Quabbin (G25-27)	1	C. Ellison	Semipalmated Sandpiper					
5/7	Rowley	4	J. Berry#	5/12	Salisbury	1		J. Berry#	
5/7	Wayland	5	B. Harris	5/23, 6/25	Chatham (S.B.)	375, 60		B. Nikula	
5/15	C. Hampden Cy	24	ABC	5/30, 6/30	P.I.	550, 8		Nielsen, Ruvido	
5/15	Arlington Res.	5	M. Rines#	5/30	Revere B.	60		P. Peterson	
5/15	Longmeadow	11	M. + K. Conway	6/6	Plymouth B.	61		A. Brissette	
5/26	Fitchburg-10	1	C. Caron	6/8	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	180		J. Trimble	
6/2	P.I.	1	MAS (B. Gette)	Red-necked Stint					
Greater Yellowlegs				6/27-29	Chatham (S.B.)	1 ph		B. Nikula + v.o.	
5/1	E. Boston (B.I.)	9	T. Factor	Least Sandpiper					
5/2	Bolton Flats	8	K. Bourinot	5/1	E. Boston (B.I.)	2		T. Factor	
5/4	Newbypt H.	48	P. + F. Vale	5/2, 21	P.I.	26, 120		Heil, Wetmore	
5/4	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	13	P. Champlin	5/2, 22	W. Harwich	15, 30		B. Nikula	
5/5	Squantum	24	P. Peterson	5/4	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	129		P. Champlin	
5/8	Longmeadow	9	S. Kellogg	5/7	Mashpee	34		M. Keleher	
5/11	Rowley	15	P. + F. Vale	5/12	Salisbury	200		J. Berry#	
6/29	Chatham (S.B.)	11	I. Davies#	5/15	Longmeadow	40		M. + K. Conway	
Willet				5/15	Arlington Res.	64		M. Rines#	
5/1	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	12	A. Morgan	5/15	Burrage Pd WMA	75		SSBC (GdE)	
5/6	P.I.	33	D. Ely	6/18	Chatham (S.B.)	1		B. Nikula	
5/7	Mashpee	16	M. Keleher	White-rumped Sandpiper					
5/15, 6/24	Duxbury B.	27, 48	R. Bowes	5/7	Wellfleet	1		M. Faherty	
5/20	Fairhaven	22	C. Longworth	5/11	Rowley	3		J. Berry	
5/23, 6/18	Chatham (S.B.)	15, 55	B. Nikula	5/23, 6/25	Chatham (S.B.)	1, 6		B. Nikula	
6/26	Fairhaven	18	C. Longworth	5/30	C. Quabbin	1		L. Therrien	
Western Willet				6/5	Nahant	3		L. Pivacek	
6/8, 27	Chatham (S.B.)	2, 1	B. Nikula	6/8	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	18		J. Trimble	
Lesser Yellowlegs				6/8	P.I.	15		J. Trimble	
thr	P.I.	25 max	v.o.	Pectoral Sandpiper					
5/2	Wachusett Res.	2	K. Bourinot	5/7	Topsfield	1		P. Peterson	
5/2	GMNWR	3	W. Hutcheson	5/15	Arlington Res.	1		M. Rines#	
5/6	Newbypt H.	61	D. Ely	5/21	Rowley	2		D. Bates#	
5/7	Bolton Flats	6	G. Billingham#	Purple Sandpiper					
5/8	Burrage Pd WMA	7	SSBC (GdE)	5/2, 15	N. Scituate	50, 2		G. d'Entremont	
5/8	Longmeadow	11	S. Kellogg	5/7	Mashpee	23		M. Keleher	
5/15	Longmeadow	6	M. + K. Conway	5/9	P.I.	5		S. Sullivan	
6/29	Chatham (S.B.)	1	I. Davies#	5/12	Plymouth B.	5		A. Brissette#	
Upland Sandpiper				Dunlin					
5/1-5/15	Plymouth Airport	4 max	v.o.	thr	P.I.	35 max		v.o.	
5/29	Falmouth	1	J. McCoy#	5/2, 15	Duxbury B.	786, 80		R. Bowes	
6/6	Westover	10	H. Schwartz	5/2	Wachusett Res.	3		K. Bourinot	
6/25	Hanscom	1	M. Rines	5/4	Bolton Flats	1		J. Hoye#	
Whimbrel				5/6	Newbypt H.	153		D. Ely	
5/29	P.I.	1	M. Wilson	5/7	WBWS	450		M. Faherty	
Hudsonian Godwit				5/9	Longmeadow	1		N. Eaton	
6/27-29	Chatham (S.B.)	3	B. Nikula#	5/21	S. Dartmouth	60		P. Champlin	
Marbled Godwit				5/23, 6/27	Chatham (S.B.)	2200, 6		B. Nikula	
5/27	E. Boston (B.I.)	1	P. Peterson	White-rumped Sandpiper X Dunlin					
Ruddy Turnstone				6/18-30	Chatham (S.B.)	1		B. Nikula#	
5/7	WBWS	14	M. Faherty	Stilt Sandpiper					
5/20	Fairhaven	46	C. Longworth	6/15	P.I.	1		D. Chickering#	
5/22	Gloucester (E.P.)	6	S. Hedman#	Short-billed Dowitcher					
5/22	P.I.	9	T. Wetmore	5/6, 22	Newbypt H.	1, 15		Ely, Vale	
5/23, 6/25	Chatham (S.B.)	250, 15	B. Nikula	5/7	Scituate	1		MAS	
				5/10	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1		P. Champlin#	

Short-billed Dowitcher (continued)				Least Tern			
5/14-6/30	P.I.	35 max	v.o.	5/3	Osterville	1	A. Curtis
5/20	Gloucester (E.P.)	3	S. Hedman	5/4	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	2	P. Champlin
5/22	Nantucket	2	V. Laux	5/12, 6/6	Plymouth B. 60, 200		A. Brissette#
5/23-6/25	Chatham (S.B.)	25 max	B. Nikula	5/21	P.I.	15	K. Elwell
5/24	E. Boston (B.I.)	3	R. Schain	5/29	Fairhaven	20+	M. Lynch#
5/31	Winthrop	2	P. + F. Vale	5/30	Nantucket	125	K. Blackshaw#
6/6	Plymouth B.	1	A. Brissette	5/31	Winthrop B.	65+	P. + F. Vale
Short-billed Dowitcher (<i>hendersoni</i>)				6/16	Rainsford I.	16	R. Stymeist#
6/18-30	Chatham (S.B.)	2	B. Nikula	6/29	Chatham (S.B.)	20	I. Davies#
Wilson's Snipe				Gull-billed Tern			
5/1	Bolton Flats	11	G. d'Entremont	6/10	Nantucket	1 ph	B. Perkins#
5/2	P.I.	2	N. Landry	Caspian Tern			
5/15	Longmeadow	2	M. + K. Conway	5/1	Rockport (A.P.)	1	B. Harris
6/2	Tyringham	4	S. Kellogg	5/1	Wareham	1	R. Bushnell
6/18	Cheshire	2	M. Lynch#	5/1	Manomet	1 ph	I. Davies
American Woodcock				5/15	Plymouth B.	2 ph	S. Wrublewski#
5/3	Plymouth	5	I. Davies	5/15	Duxbury B.	1	R. Bowes
5/6	P.I.	14	P. + F. Vale	6/20	Petersham	2	M. Lynch#
5/7	Mattapan (BNC)	3	J. Miller	Black Tern			
5/13	WBWS	1 ad, 3 juv	L. Bostrom	5/8	Turners Falls	1	L. Therrien
5/13	P.I.	3+	T. Wetmore#	5/8	Tyngsboro	3	A. Gaudet#
5/14	Sandisfield	14	M. Lynch#	6/2	Nantucket	2	E. Wonker
5/14	New Marlboro	3	M. Lynch#	6/7	Orleans	2	M. Iliff
5/15	C. Hampden Cy	14	ABC	6/19	Marion	1	I. Nisbet
5/22	Falmouth (Crane)	12	SSBC (V. Zollo)	6/20	Plymouth B.	1 ad	C. Floyd#
6/18	Medfield	3 juv	W. Webb	6/29	Chatham (S.B.)	1	I. Davies#
Wilson's Phalarope				Roseate Tern			
5/2-10	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	2	P. Champlin + v.o.	5/11	Marion	1000	I. Nisbet#
5/5	Squantum	2	P. Peterson	5/12	Plymouth B.	4	A. Brissette#
5/6-6/18	P.I.	2-4	v.o.	5/18	Ipswich	2	S. McGrath
5/10	Rowley	2 pr	S. Grinley	5/22	Mattapoissett	6	M. Lynch#
Red-necked Phalarope				6/8	P.I.	20	R. Heil
5/23	Chatham (S.B.)	1	B. Nikula	6/21	Westport	10	P. Champlin
Black-legged Kittiwake				6/28	Jeffries L.	3	MAS (D. Larson)
5/1	Stellwagen	1	K. Hartel	Common Tern			
Bonaparte's Gull				5/1	S. Dart. (A. Pd)	5	P. Champlin
5/6	Newbypt H.	5	D. Ely	5/1	Stellwagen	9	K. Hartel
5/8	Quabbin	3	T. Gagnon	5/8	Wachusett Res.	2	K. Bourinot
5/8	Turners Falls	6	S. Sumner	5/12	Plymouth B.	3000+	A. Brissette#
5/8	Northampton	3	T. Gagnon	5/14	GMNWR	2	P. + F. Vale
5/8	Deerfield	1	S. Sumner	5/14	Agawam	3	S. Kellogg
5/14	Agawam	18	S. Kellogg	5/20	P'town	300	B. Nikula
5/30	P.I.	26	T. Wetmore	5/25	Marion	1000 n	I. Nisbet
6/6	N. Truro	7	B. Nikula	6/6	Truro	100	B. Nikula
6/14	Plymouth B.	3	J. Offermann#	6/8	P.I.	800	R. Heil
6/27-30	Lynn B.	1 1S	J. Quigley	6/14	Plymouth B.	2300	J. Offermann#
Laughing Gull				Arctic Tern			
5/1	N. Truro	4	D. Manchester	5/12-6/30	Plymouth B.	1-2	v.o.
5/1	Manomet	2	I. Davies	6/2	Muskeget	2	R. Veit
5/1	Stellwagen	28	K. Hartel	6/7	Orleans	1	M. Iliff
5/8, 20	P'town	125, 300	B. Nikula	6/11	S. Monomoy	10	B. Harris
5/8	Brewster	85	B. Nikula	6/25	Chatham (S.B.)	1 1S	B. Nikula
5/12, 6/3	Plymouth B. 200, 120		A. Brissette#	Forster's Tern			
6/6	Wellfleet	220	B. Nikula	5/6	P.I.	1	D. Ely
6/6	Duxbury B.	30	R. Bowes	5/10	E. Boston (B.I.)	2	R. Schain
6/20	P.I.	1	S. Sullivan	5/31	Plymouth B.	1	J. Hoye#
6/27	Salem	1	W. Tatro#	Sandwich Tern			
Iceland Gull				5/23	P.I.	1	B. Murphy#
5/thr	N. Truro	3 max	B. Nikula	6/14	Nantucket	1	E. Wonker
5/8	P'town	1	B. Nikula	Black Skimmer			
5/13	Gloucester	1	J. Hoye#	5/17-6/30	Chatham	1	B. Parker
Lesser Black-backed Gull				6/4-14	Plymouth B.	1	v.o.
5/2	N. Truro	1	B. Nikula	6/11	S. Monomoy	1	B. Harris
5/8-26	P'town	2	B. Nikula	Pomarine Jaeger			
5/15	Nantucket	4	fide E. Ray	5/23	Nantucket	1	V. Laux
5/19	Chatham	4	B. Nikula	5/23	P.I.	1 ph	C. Winstanley
6/3	Lynn B.	1 1S	J. Quigley	6/27	Veatch Canyon	1 imm	BBC (M. Iliff)
6/20-22	Westport	1 3S	P. Champlin	Parasitic Jaeger			
6/27	Spectacle I.	1 ad	T. Factor#	5/23	Nantucket	1	V. Laux
Glaucous Gull				6/3	Plymouth B.	1	A. Brissette
5/15, 20	P'town	1 1S	B. Nikula	6/7	Orleans	4	M. Iliff
5/15	Nantucket	1	fide E. Ray	6/11	Chatham (S.B.)	2	B. Harris

Jaeger species				5/31	Manomet	1	M. Iliff#
6/3	Stellwagen	1	K. Carson	6/23	Marblehead	1	D. Noble
6/6	N. Truro	1	B. Nikula	Atlantic Puffin			
Razorbill				5/23	Nantucket	2 br pl	V. Laux
5/1	Stellwagen	22	K. Hartel				
Black Guillemot							
5/29	P.I.	1	T. Wetmore				

PARAKEETS THROUGH FINCHES

The **Monk Parakeets** continued throughout the period in East Boston. These two parakeets have become instant celebrities in the neighborhood as well as with the birding community. Barred Owls successfully nested again on Cape Cod, and Short-eared Owls on Tuckernuck Island.

The last four days of April saw winds out of the northwest, finally diminishing on the afternoon of April 30, and then the floodgates opened. On May 1 Tom Wetmore received 808 reports from Plum Island, with a total of 128 species noted. At the hawk watch site at Barre Falls a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was reported, only the third May record for western Massachusetts.

On May 14 the banding station at Manomet recorded its best single spring day ever, 424 new birds and 24 repeat captures, for a total of 448. The previous record for most birds banded on a single day at Manomet was on October 21, 1997, when 470 birds were handled, including 430 Black-capped Chickadees. Other big days at Manomet were May 17 (139 birds banded) and May 21 (236 birds). Many other locations also saw many migrants on May 14. At the Boston Public Garden over 50 species were reported, including a **Summer Tanager**. It was thrush day at Mount Auburn Cemetery, with 20 Veeries, 25 Swainson's and two Gray-cheek types noted. May 17 was another big migration day in the Middlesex Fells area, where 21 species of warbler, over 200 individuals, were noted, including 21 Northern Parulas, 36 Magnolias, and 37 American Redstarts.

The Allen Bird Club's annual census of Hampden County on May 15 produced excellent numbers of both migrants and breeders. For the seventh year a breeding bird survey was conducted at the Little River Important Bird Area (IBA) on June 5. The area, including upland forest, beaver swamps, and meadows in the towns of Granville, Blandford, Russell, and some areas of Westfield and Southwick, produced excellent numbers of breeders. These long-term censuses are valuable for providing us with an ongoing view of bird populations.

Thirty-four species of warbler and two hybrid Lawrence's Warblers were noted during the period. Three reports of **Golden-winged** were only a slight improvement over last year, when only one was noted. Among the more unusual spring warblers were three Orange-crowned, a **Prothonotary Warbler** from Medford, and three Yellow-breasted Chats. There were over ten reports of **Kentucky** and nearly twenty reports of Hooded Warbler— global warming? Migrant thrush reports were pretty much on average, though Wood Thrush reports outside of the Hampden County census were way down from the same period last year. There was one report of a singing **Bicknell's Thrush** from Worcester.

Unlike last year's cool temperatures and constant rain, this year's warmer weather proved to be successful for nesting Purple Martins, with early indications of a banner year for young to fledge. A **Cave Swallow** was photographed on Nantucket on May 12, which represents the first spring record for the state. In recent years Cave Swallows have been noted in the late fall here in Massachusetts as well as the East Coast from New Jersey to Maine. A second Cave Swallow was seen in Hyannis Harbor on May 15.

This is the fourth year of the Mass Audubon Breeding Bird Survey, and hundreds of volunteers were out searching for birds; several block-busting efforts were made in areas that

have had little to no coverage. The Crane Wildlife Management area in Falmouth hosted some very interesting breeding season visitors: two singing Clay-colored Sparrows, two **Dickcissels**, and four **Blue Grosbeaks**, including a male and female seen copulating. Despite great coverage, no evidence of breeding was uncovered.

For rarities during the period, the previously mentioned **Cave Swallow** tops the list, with a second **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** in Yarmouth close behind. Three **Sedge Wrens** were noted, including one very cooperative bird from Daniel Webster Sanctuary in Marshfield, which lingered through breeding season. Rounding out the list was a **Western Tanager** on Nantucket.

R.H. Stymeist

Monk Parakeet				Common Nighthawk		
thr	E. Boston	2	T. Factor + v.o.	5/3	Newton	1 I. Reid
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				5/7	Wayland	2 B. Harris
5/1	Gloucester (E.P.)	1	K. Hartel	5/13	S. Amherst	4 B. Zajda
5/5	Hardwick	2	C. Ellison	5/14	GMNWR	18 P. Peterson
5/15	Medford	4	M. Rines#	5/15	C. Hampden Cy	16 ABC
5/16	Wayland	2	B. Harris#	5/21	W. Roxbury (MP)	14 M. Iiff
5/20	P.I.	3	D. Chickering#	5/23	Pittsfield	25 D. Bruce
5/24	Burrage Pd WMA	3	I. Davies	6/1	Byfield	3 J. Sutherland
5/30	Mashpee	2	M. Keleher	Chuck-will's-widow		
6/8	Falmouth	2	J. Offermann	5/4	DWWS	1 J. Galluzzo
Black-billed Cuckoo				5/5-6/30	Orleans	1-2 v.o.
5/1	Cambridge	1	T. McCorkle	5/14	P.I.	1 M. Driscoll#
5/4	Arlington Res.	1	M. Rines	6/18	Wellfleet	1 G. Page#
5/4	Manomet	1	I. Davies	Whip-poor-will		
5/7	Woburn	2	M. Rines	5/2	Wachusett Res.	1 K. Bourinot
6/8	P.I.	2	C. Goulart	5/3	Plymouth	2 I. Davies
6/27	Westport	2	J. Hoye#	5/17	C. Quabbin	11 L. Therrien
Barn Owl				5/20	Florence	4 T. Gagnon
5/15	Nantucket	4	fide E. Ray	5/26	Nantucket	12 K. Blackshaw#
6/2	Tuckernuck	1	R. Veit	5/27	P.I.	12 T. Wetmore
Eastern Screech-Owl				5/27	Fall River	12 L. Abbey#
5/11	Medford	2 ad, 1+ juv	P. Devaney	6/5	Southwick	5 S. Kellogg
5/19	Winchester	3 juv	P. Devaney	6/18	Truro	12 M. Faherty
5/21	Fairhaven	2	M. Lynch#	6/18	Wellfleet	5 M. Faherty
5/30	Hingham	1 ad, 2 fl	Childs	Chimney Swift		
6/18	Milton	pr	A. Joslin	5/1	Holliston	14 B. Harris
Great Horned Owl				5/9	W. Newbury	100+ S. McGrath#
5/2	Melrose	2 ad, 2 yg	Jewell	5/12	Jamaica Plain	35 M. Barber
5/7	Scituate	2	MAS	5/14	Weston	59 W. Freedberg
5/14	Sandisfield	2	M. Lynch#	5/14	Boston (PG)	115 J. Trimble#
5/21	Fairhaven	2	M. Lynch#	6/11	Adams	20+ M. Lynch#
6/2	P.I.	pr	B. Cassie	6/18	P.I.	10 P. Hackett
6/11	W. Roxbury (MP)	3	B. Cassie	6/19	Cheshire	11 M. Lynch#
6/18	Cheshire	2	M. Lynch#	Ruby-throated Hummingbird		
6/19	W. Newbury	1 ad, 1 yg	S. McGrath	5/1	IRWS	1 m I. Girunas
Barred Owl				5/1	Rehoboth	1 m K. Bartels
5/2	Ware	2	M. Lynch#	5/16	P.I.	5 S. Sullivan
5/2-5	ONWR	2	K. Bourinot + v.o.	5/23	New Braintree	3 M. Lynch#
5/14	New Marlboro	2	M. Lynch#	5/30	Gr Barrington	4 M. Lynch#
5/14	Weston	2	W. Freedberg	6/19	Cheshire	3 m M. Lynch#
5/15	Wompatuck SP	2	SSBC (GdE)	6/19	Quabbin	3 P. + F. Vale
5/31	Medfield	2 ad, 2 juv	E. Nielsen#	Red-headed Woodpecker		
6/7	Mashpee	1 ad, 2 yg	M. Keleher	5/9	Dracut	1 ad, 1 juv A. Gaudet
6/11	Gr Barrington	2	M. Lynch#	5/12-6/30	Deerfield	1 J. P. Smith
6/16	Groveland	1 n	K. Elwell	5/15	ONWR	1 G. Billingham#
6/18	Sandisfield	2	M. Lynch#	5/21	Acton	1 D. Bates#
6/18	Milton	pr	A. Joslin	6/13	ONWR	1 J. Center
6/18	Cheshire	2	M. Lynch#	Red-bellied Woodpecker		
Short-eared Owl				5/1	Medford	8 M. Rines
6/2	Tuckernuck	3 yg	R. Veit	5/2	Ware	5 M. Lynch#
Northern Saw-whet Owl				5/5	Boxford	5 J. Berry
5/1	Ware R. IBA	1	M. Lynch#	5/7	Rowley	4 J. Berry#
5/13	Wellfleet	1	M. Faherty	5/15	C. Hampden Cy	98 ABC
5/14	New Marlboro	2	M. Lynch#	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		
5/14	Sandisfield	4	M. Lynch#	5/1	C. Quabbin	31 L. Therrien
6/18	Cheshire	1	M. Lynch#	5/2	Hardwick	8 M. Lynch#

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (continued)			6/15	Hopkinton	4	M. Rines#
5/2	Ashburnham	6	C. Caron	Willow Flycatcher		
5/2	Ware	9	M. Lynch#	5/4-6/30	P.I.	19 max v.o.
6/5	Little River IBA	33	ABC	5/16	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	6 B. Cassie
6/12	Gr Barrington	11	M. Lynch#	5/26	Fairhaven	7 C. Longworth
6/18	Sandisfield	10	M. Lynch#	5/28	Southwick	6 S. Kellogg
6/20	October Mt.	7	SSBC (GdE)	6/1	DWWS	5 G. Billingham
6/20	Ashburnham	4	C. Caron	6/4	Squantum	8 R. Stymeist
Hairy Woodpecker				6/4	Boston (Long I.)	6 R. Stymeist#
5/1	Ware R. IBA	9	M. Lynch#	6/5	Lenox	5 I. Davies
5/23	New Braintree	3	M. Lynch#	6/6	Wakefield	5 P. + F. Vale
5/30	Mashpee	7	M. Keleher	6/14	Middleton	12 J. Nelson
6/8	Falmouth	3	J. Offermann	6/17	New Braintree	5 M. Lynch#
6/20	Petersham	3	M. Lynch#	Least Flycatcher		
Pileated Woodpecker				5/2	Hardwick	17 M. Lynch#
5/thr	Wayland	2	B. Harris	5/7	C. Quabbin	23 L. Therrien
5/1	Quabbin (G25-27)	2	C. Ellison	5/14	Sandisfield	21 M. Lynch#
5/2	Ware	4	M. Lynch#	5/15	P.I.	6 T. Wetmore
5/5	Boxford pr n		J. Berry	5/30	Gr Barrington	46 M. Lynch#
5/14	Sandisfield	3	M. Lynch#	6/18	Sandisfield	19 M. Lynch#
5/15	C. Hampden Cy	15	ABC	6/18	New Marlboro	18 M. Lynch#
5/23	New Braintree	3	M. Lynch#	6/19	Mt. Greylock	7 SSBC (GdE)
5/28	Ashby	2	C. Caron	6/20	C. Quabbin	26 L. Therrien
6/5	Little River IBA	17	ABC	Great Crested Flycatcher		
6/5	Topsfield	2	J. Berry#	5/5	Medford	5 M. Rines#
6/16	W. Brookfield	3	C. Caron	5/5	Wompatuck SP	8 C. Nims
Olive-sided Flycatcher				5/9	Mashpee	8 M. Keleher
5/15-6/4	Reports of indiv. from 15 locations			5/11	Rockport	6 R. Heil
5/16	C. Quabbin	2	L. Therrien	5/15	C. Hampden Cy	57 ABC
6/5	Washington	2	I. Davies	5/16	P'town	6 CCBC (A. Curtis)
6/11	Cheshire	1	M. Lynch#	5/21	W. Barnstable	9 M. Keleher
6/20	October Mt.	2	SSBC (GdE)	5/22	Mattapoisett	11 M. Lynch#
Eastern Wood-Pewee				6/8	ONWR	6 G. Billingham
5/6-6/30	Medford	7 max	M. Rines#	6/17	Boston (Long I.)	6 R. Stymeist#
5/15	C. Hampden Cy	28	ABC	Western Kingbird		
5/23	Bernardston-6	9	C. Caron	6/4	W. Tisbury	1 M. Pelikan#
5/29	Ashby	10	C. Caron	Eastern Kingbird		
6/3	Hamilton	7 m	J. Berry	5/1	Rockport (A.P.)	3 B. Harris
6/16	W. Brookfield	9	C. Caron	5/2	GMNWR	4 W. Hutcheson
6/18	Sandisfield	10	M. Lynch#	5/7	Woburn	7 M. Rines
6/19	Quabbin	11	P. + F. Vale	5/10	Falmouth	8 CCBC (G. Hirth)
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				5/11	Rockport	9 R. Heil
5/16	Nahant	1	N. Hayward	5/15	C. Hampden Cy	57 ABC
5/18-20	Boston (PG)	1	R. Schain	5/17	P.I.	26 G. d'Entremont#
5/20-6/4	P.I.	1-2	v.o.	5/23	New Braintree	17 M. Lynch#
5/23	Gloucester (E.P.)	1	B. Cassie	5/31	Sturbridge	16 M. Lynch#
5/23	Wompatuck SP	1	F. Vale	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher		
5/23	S. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien	5/1	Barre Falls	1 B. Kamp#
5/27	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg	6/14	Yarmouth	1 E. Jedrey
5/31	MNWS	1	L. Ferrarasso#	White-eyed Vireo		
5/31	Mt.A.	1	R. Schain	5/1	Rockport (A.P.)	1 B. Harris
6/4	Boston (Long I.)	1	R. Stymeist#	5/1	Westport	2 P. Champlin
6/12	Gr Barrington	1	M. Lynch#	5/2	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	5 P. Champlin
Acadian Flycatcher				5/7	WBWS	1 M. Faherty
5/20	Quabbin (G8)	2	G. d'Entremont#	5/14	Manomet	1 b T. Lloyd-Evans
5/23	Mt.A.	1	S. Miller#	5/16	S. Truro	pr J. Young
5/30	Mt Holyoke	1	B. Zajda	5/18	Plymouth	1 K. Doyon
6/4	S. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien	6/8	ONWR	1 G. Billingham
6/5	Granville	3	J. Zepko	6/11	Nantucket	1 M. Pelikan
6/6	Freetown	1	V. Zollo	Yellow-throated Vireo		
6/12	Gr Barrington	2	M. Lynch#	5/2	Wompatuck SP	2 I. Davies#
6/18	New Marlboro	1	M. Lynch#	5/5	Hardwick	5 C. Ellison
6/19	W. Springfield	1	L. Ferrarasso	5/12	Quabbin Pk	2 M. Taylor#
6/20	Sandisfield	1	T. Swochak	5/14	Sudbury	2 USFWS (JSS)
Alder Flycatcher				5/15	C. Hampden Cy	38 ABC
5/14, 6/5	New Marlboro	4, 8	M. Lynch#	5/15	Needham	pr n S. Miller#
5/23	Bernardston-6	5	C. Caron	5/26	Georgetown	5 J. Berry#
5/24	Otis	6	R. Laubach	6/15	ONWR	4 D. Swain
5/27	Dracut	6 m	M. Rines	6/20	Petersham	3 M. Lynch#
5/28	P.I.	6	T. Wetmore	6/30	Tyngsboro	3 m M. Rines
5/30	Gr Barrington	10	M. Lynch#	Blue-headed Vireo		
6/4	P.I.	6	T. Wetmore	5/1	C. Quabbin	41 L. Therrien
6/5	Little River IBA	22	ABC	5/1	Manomet	9 I. Davies

Blue-headed Vireo (continued)				6/25	Rowley	250+	J. Berry
5/1	PI.	12	BBC (L. de la Flor)		Northern Rough-winged Swallow		
5/1	Ware R. IBA	46	M. Lynch#	5/1	MNWS	8	D. Ely#
5/16	MNWS	8	P. + F. Vale	5/3	Manomet	5	I. Davies
5/20	Fitchburg-8	8	C. Caron	5/7	Gloucester (E.P.)	6	J. Nelson
5/30	Gr Barrington	14	M. Lynch#	5/15	C. Hampden Cy	28	ABC
5/31	Winchendon	12	C. Caron	5/21	Mt.A.	5	R. Schain
6/5	Little River IBA	23	ABC	6/6	Wakefield	5	P. + F. Vale
6/19	Mt. Greylock	9	SSBC (GdE)	6/23	Waltham	15	J. Forbes
Warbling Vireo				6/26	Fairhaven	6	C. Longworth
5/1	Medford	11	M. Rines#	6/27	Andover	7	P. + F. Vale
5/2	Sudbury/Wayland	15	USFWS (JSS)		Bank Swallow		
5/7	Woburn	17	M. Rines	5/2	PI.	10	R. Heil
5/15	C. Hampden Cy	166	ABC	5/5	Manomet	35	I. Davies
5/17	GMNWR	18	A. Bragg#	5/8	GMNWR	50	W. Hutcheson
5/23	New Braintree	11	M. Lynch#	5/10	Ipswich	30	J. Berry
5/31	Sturbridge	27	M. Lynch#	5/16	Burlington	55	M. Rines
Philadelphia Vireo				5/23	New Braintree	36	M. Lynch#
5/10	Jamaica Plain	1	J. Miller	5/24	Chelmsford	45	M. Rines
5/17	PI.	1	G. d'Entremont#	6/6	Truro	10	B. Nikula
5/23	Bernardston-6	1	C. Caron	6/13	Nantucket	24	K. Blackshaw#
Red-eyed Vireo				6/20	Lee	25	SSBC (GdE)
5/1	N. Quabbin	5	C. Ellison		Cliff Swallow		
5/2	Hardwick	8	M. Lynch#	5/5	W. Warren	2	B. Zajda
5/15	C. Hampden Cy	234	ABC	5/10	Melrose	2	D. + I. Jewell
5/21	P'town	10	B. Nikula	5/12	Waltham	4	J. Forbes
5/23	Bernardston-6	24	C. Caron	5/12	GMNWR	20+	C. Floyd
5/23	New Braintree	39	M. Lynch#	5/23	PI.	6	C. Winstanley
5/28	Ashby	56	C. Caron	5/29	Lenox	4	R. Laubach
5/30	Gr Barrington	102	M. Lynch#	6/18	Sandisfield	10+	M. Lynch#
6/16	W. Brookfield	32	C. Caron	6/19	Cheshire	15 nests	M. Lynch#
6/18	New Marlboro	51	M. Lynch#	6/19	Adams	215 nests	M. Lynch#
6/19	Mt. Greylock	92	SSBC (GdE)	6/19	Concord (NAC)	6	C. Floyd
Fish Crow				6/28	W. Stockbridge	13	J. Lucier
5/1	Manomet	8	I. Davies	6/28	Newbypt	5	T. Wetmore
5/1	Gloucester	2	S. Hedman		Cave Swallow		
5/2	Holyoke	2	S. Svec	5/12-13	Nantucket	1 ph	V. Laux + v.o.
5/5	Wompatuck SP	2	A. Brissette	5/15	Hyannis H.	1	P. Trimble
6/1	N. Truro	4	D. Manchester		Barn Swallow		
6/5	Stoughton	2	G. d'Entremont#	5/8	GMNWR	85	W. Hutcheson
6/16	Southwick	2	S. Kellogg	5/8	PI.	75+	P. + F. Vale
Common Raven				5/10	Ipswich	80	J. Berry
5/1	Quabbin Pk	5	S. Surner#	5/15	C. Hampden Cy	96	ABC
5/1	Ware R. IBA	2 ad	M. Lynch#	5/23	New Braintree	65+	M. Lynch#
5/1-15	Quincy	pr n	G. d'Entremont#	6/5	New Marlboro	60	M. Lynch#
5/2	Hardwick	pr n	M. Lynch#	6/17	New Braintree	75+	M. Lynch#
5/6	Ashburnham	4	C. Caron		Red-breasted Nuthatch		
5/9	Royalston	2	C. Caron	5/1	Winchendon	8	C. Caron
5/20	Salem	pr, 1 juv	J. Paluzzi	5/1	Ware R. IBA	16	M. Lynch#
5/24	Sharon	3	B. Cassie	5/1	C. Quabbin	18	L. Therrien
5/27	Dracut	2	M. Rines	5/2	Hardwick	8	M. Lynch#
5/28	Ashby	3	C. Caron	5/2	Ashburnham	9	C. Caron
6/17	New Braintree	5	M. Lynch#	5/9	Mashpee	12	M. Keleher
6/28-30	Melrose	2 ad, 2 yg	D. + I. Jewell	5/31	Winchendon	8	C. Caron
Horned Lark				6/18	New Marlboro	7	M. Lynch#
5/15, 6/9	Duxbury B.	4, 1	R. Bowes	6/20	October Mt.	5	SSBC (GdE)
5/30	Nantucket	3	K. Blackshaw#		Brown Creeper		
6/3	Plymouth B.	2	A. Brissette	5/1	Quabbin (G25-27)	5	C. Ellison
6/11	Chatham (S.B.)	12	B. Harris	5/1	Ware R. IBA	5	M. Lynch#
Purple Martin				5/18	Ashburnham	4	C. Caron
thr	PI.	20 max	v.o.	5/31	Winchendon	7	C. Caron
5/2, 6/7	N. Truro	5, 1	D. Manchester	6/2	Merrimac	4	J. Berry#
5/15	Rehoboth	18 m, 15 f	R. Marr	6/18	Sandisfield	6	M. Lynch#
5/29	DWWS	35	G. d'Entremont#	6/19	Mt. Greylock	4	SSBC (GdE)
6/21	Mashpee	28 ad, 55yg	M. Keleher		Carolina Wren		
6/27	Rehoboth	15 pr, 56 juv	R. Marr	5/15	C. Hampden Cy	24	ABC
Tree Swallow				5/22	Fairhaven	11	M. Lynch#
5/2	PI.	630	R. Heil	5/22	Mattapoisett	8	M. Lynch#
5/5	W. Warren	14	B. Zajda	6/6	Berkeley	6	G. d'Entremont#
5/9	N. Andover	130+	J. Berry		House Wren		
5/10	GMNWR	125	A. Bragg#	5/1	Manomet	17	I. Davies
5/15	Tyringham	30+	M. Lynch#	thr	Medford	7 max	M. Rines#
6/6	N. Andover	50+	J. Berry	5/6	PI.	6	T. Wetmore

House Wren (continued)				Bicknell's Thrush			
5/7	W. Newbury	6	P. + F. Vale	5/8	Worcester	1 m	M. Lynch#
5/22	Mattapoisett	13	M. Lynch#	Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush			
5/29	Ashby	14	C. Caron	5/4	Boston (Fens)	1	P. Peterson
6/11	Cheshire	10	M. Lynch#	5/14	Mt.A.	2	C. Cook
6/12	Beverly (Misery I.)	7	J. Berry#	5/21	MNWS	1	D. Bates#
6/24	Hopkinton	7	M. Rines	Swainson's Thrush			
Winter Wren				5/3	Waltham	1	J. Forbes#
5/1	Quabbin (G25-27)	3	C. Ellison	5/4	Boston (PG)	1	R. Schain
5/2	P.I.	2	R. Heil	5/14, 5/22	Mt.A.	25, 3	C. Cook
5/6	Ashburnham	2	C. Caron	5/14	Manomet	25 b	T. Lloyd-Evans
5/14	Wompatuck SP	3	MAS (J. Galluzzo)	5/15	C. Hampden Cy	11	ABC
5/14	Sandisfield	2	M. Lynch#	5/17	Boston (F.Pk)	4	P. Peterson
5/22	Ashburnham-6	5	C. Caron	5/21	P'town	9	B. Nikula
6/5	Washington	6	I. Davies	5/21	P.I.	18 b	B. Flemer
6/5	Little River IBA	6	ABC	5/21	Newbury	12	L. Leka
6/11	Mt. Greylock	14	H. Batcheller	6/11	Mt. Greylock	5	H. Batcheller
Sedge Wren				6/20	Adams	1	R. Laubach
5/21-6/30	DWWS	1	D. Ludlow + v.o.	6/27	Washington	1	B. Stymeist
5/31	Stockbridge	1	M. Iliff#	Hermit Thrush			
6/12	Konkapot IBA	1	M. Lynch#	5/1	C. Quabbin	11	L. Therrien
Marsh Wren				5/1	Medford	11	M. Rines#
thr	P.I.	20 max	v.o.	5/1	MNWS	14	D. Ely#
thr	GMNWR	13 max	v.o.	5/1	P.I.	35	S. Grinley#
5/23	W. Roxbury	3	P. Peterson	5/1	Gloucester (E.P.)	12	K. Hartel
6/5	Lenox	3	I. Davies	6/5	Little River IBA	23	ABC
6/6	N. Oxford	1	M. Lynch#	6/12	Gr Barrington	14	M. Lynch#
6/7	Pittsfield	1	J. Lucier	6/18	Adams	12	M. Lynch#
6/26	Wakefield	3	P. + F. Vale	6/19	Mt. Greylock	6	SSBC (GdE)
Golden-crowned Kinglet				Wood Thrush			
5/1	Ware R. IBA	5	M. Lynch#	5/2	Ware	5	M. Lynch#
5/10	Falmouth	2	CCBC (G. Hirth)	5/2	Medford	4	M. Rines
6/12	Gr Barrington	8	M. Lynch#	5/5	Boxford	6	J. Berry
6/18	New Marlboro	6	M. Lynch#	5/5	Hardwick	7	C. Ellison
6/19	Mt. Greylock	2	SSBC (GdE)	5/13	Hamilton	16	J. Berry
6/20	October Mt.	2	SSBC (GdE)	5/15	C. Hampden Cy	181	ABC
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				5/17	Boston (F.Pk)	8	P. Peterson
5/1	P.I.	280	BBC (L. de la Flor)	5/30	Mt Holyoke	8	B. Zajda
5/1	P'town	16	B. Nikula	5/31	Sturbridge	9	M. Lynch#
5/1	MNWS	45+	D. Ely#	6/17	New Braintree	7	M. Lynch#
5/1	Rockport	50	B. Harris	6/18	Milton	6	A. Joslin
5/1	Boston (F.Pk)	19	P. Peterson	6/27	Andover	2	P. + F. Vale
5/1	Medford	16	M. Rines#	Gray Catbird			
5/2	Gloucester (E.P.)	15	S. Hedman	5/2	Gloucester (E.P.)	15	S. Hedman
5/8	P.I.	16	E. Nielsen	5/11	Rockport	43	R. Heil
5/13	Woburn	1	M. Rines	5/14	Manomet	37 b	T. Lloyd-Evans
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				5/15	C. Hampden Cy	322	ABC
thr	GMNWR	6 max	v.o.	5/17	P.I.	51	G. d'Entremont#
5/1	Quabbin (G25-27)	7	C. Ellison	5/21	W. Barnstable	38	M. Keleher
5/2	Wompatuck SP	8	P. + F. Vale	5/22	Mattapoisett	80+	M. Lynch#
5/5	Hardwick	5	C. Ellison	5/29	Fairhaven	43	M. Lynch#
5/7	Wayland	7	BBC (G. Long)	6/17	Boston (Long I.)	24	R. Stymeist#
5/15	C. Hampden Cy	24	ABC	Brown Thrasher			
5/16	ONWR	5	M. Lynch#	5/1	P.I.	14	BBC (L. de la Flor)
5/22	Milton	8	P. Peterson	5/1	Medford	4	M. Rines#
Eastern Bluebird				5/7	Woburn	4	M. Rines
5/3	DFWS	16	P. Sowizral	5/7	Gloucester (E.P.)	5	J. Nelson
5/15	C. Hampden Cy	12	ABC	5/15	C. Hampden Cy	10	ABC
6/5	Little River IBA	12	ABC	5/31	Amesbury	4	J. Berry#
Veery				6/9	Plymouth	7	P. + F. Vale
thr	Wompatuck SP	30 max	v.o.	American Pipit			
5/1	Quabbin (G25-27)	1	C. Ellison	5/1	Longmeadow	1	N. Eaton
5/3	Medford	2	M. Rines	5/1	Topsfield	1	I. Giriunas
5/14	Manomet	31 b	T. Lloyd-Evans	5/2	Carlisle	1	A. Ankers#
5/14	Mt.A.	20	C. Cook	5/8	Deerfield	1	S. Surner
5/15	C. Hampden Cy	84	ABC	Cedar Waxwing			
5/19	ONWR	11	USFWS (JSS)	5/4	Mt.A.	41	R. Stymeist
5/30	Gr Barrington	27	M. Lynch#	5/22	Milton	50	P. Peterson
6/16	W. Brookfield	15	C. Caron	5/30	P.I.	65	E. Nielsen
6/18	Sandisfield	21	M. Lynch#	5/31	N. Truro	247	D. Manchester
6/19	Mt. Greylock	10	SSBC (GdE)	6/8	P.I.	25	R. Heil
Gray-cheeked Thrush				6/17	Boston (Long I.)	23	R. Stymeist#
5/15	New Marlboro	1 m	M. Lynch#	6/19	Mt. Greylock	22	SSBC (GdE)

Blue-winged Warbler				5/14	Manomet	45 b	T. Lloyd-Evans
5/1	Pembroke	3	SSBC (S. Avery)	5/16	Marblehead	21	P. + F. Vale
5/2	Wompatuck SP	3	BBC (E. Giles)	5/16	C. Quabbin	21	L. Therrien
5/5	W. Newbury	6	P. + F. Vale	5/16, 21	P'town	20, 45	B. Nikula
5/15	C. Hampden Cy	24	ABC	5/16	Burlington	17	M. Rines
5/16	Burlington	7	M. Rines	6/5	Little River IBA	17	ABC
5/16	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	14	B. Cassie	6/19	Mt. Greylock	3	SSBC (GdE)
5/22	Milton	6	P. Peterson	6/24	Hopkinton	2 m	M. Rines
5/23	New Braintree	19	M. Lynch#	Cape May Warbler			
6/5	Little River IBA	5	ABC	5/1	Quincy	1	S. Whitebread
Golden-winged Warbler				5/2-26	P.I.	1-3	v.o.
5/15	N. Adams	1	D. Shustack	5/7-13	Mt.A.	1	v.o.
5/16	Nahant	1 f	C. Floyd#	5/8	W. Springfield	1	S. Svec
5/17	Nahant	1 m	G. Jones	5/8	Worcester	1	M. Lynch#
Lawrence's Warbler				5/9-16	P'town	1	v.o.
5/2	Newton	1 ph	Ted Kuklinski	5/11	Amherst	1	N. Barber
5/15	Wrentham	1	E. LoPresti	5/14-20	Boston (PG)	1	v.o.
Tennessee Warbler				5/14	Duxbury B.	2	R. Bowes
5/5	Boston (F.Pk)	1	J. Young	5/14	Sandisfield	1	M. Lynch#
5/7	Wayland	1	B. Harris	5/16-20	Boston (Fens)	1	P. Peterson
5/13-21	Reports of indiv from 21 locations			Black-throated Blue Warbler			
5/13	Mt.A.	3	P. + F. Vale	5/1-13	Mt.A.	20 max	v.o.
5/14	Boston (PG)	2	J. Trimble#	5/1-20	Medford	10 max	M. Rines#
5/17	Boston (F.Pk)	2	P. Peterson	5/1-26	P.I.	11 max	v.o.
5/20	Skinner SP	2	G. d'Entremont#	5/14	Manomet	16 b	T. Lloyd-Evans
Orange-crowned Warbler				5/14	Sandisfield	23	M. Lynch#
5/9-11	Mt.A.	1	v.o.	5/16	MNWS	20+	P. + F. Vale
5/14	P.I.	1 b	B. Flemer	5/21	Fitchburg	10	C. Caron
5/17	Boston (F.Pk)	1	P. Peterson	6/12	Gr Barrington	17	M. Lynch#
Nashville Warbler				6/19	Mt. Greylock	16	SSBC (GdE)
5/1-18	P.I.	10 max	v.o.	Yellow-rumped Warbler			
5/1-17	Medford	16 max	M. Rines#	5/1-20	Medford	190 max	M. Rines#
5/1-13	Mt.A.	17 max	v.o.	5/1-21	Mt.A.	85 max	v.o.
5/2	Gloucester (E.P.)	10	S. Hedman	5/1-23	P.I.	360 max	v.o.
5/14	Manomet	10 b	T. Lloyd-Evans	5/1	C. Quabbin	161	L. Therrien
5/16	MNWS	17	P. + F. Vale	5/1	Manomet	157	I. Davies
6/18	Sandisfield	1 m	M. Lynch#	5/1	Ware R. IBA	107	M. Lynch#
6/19	Mt. Greylock	1	SSBC (GdE)	5/1	N. Truro	200	B. Nikula
6/20	Ashburnham	1	C. Caron	5/14	Manomet	66 b	T. Lloyd-Evans
Northern Parula				5/31	Winchendon	13	C. Caron
5/1-13	Mt.A.	22 max	v.o.	6/18	New Marlboro	18	M. Lynch#
5/1-23	Medford	26 max	M. Rines#	Black-throated Green Warbler			
5/thr	P.I.	32 max	v.o.	5/1-20	Medford	16 max	M. Rines#
5/10	Marblehead	35+	K. Haley	5/1-6/3	P.I.	34 max	v.o.
5/14	Manomet	14 b	T. Lloyd-Evans	5/1	C. Quabbin	26	L. Therrien
5/15	C. Hampden Cy	28	ABC	5/14	Manomet	10 b	T. Lloyd-Evans
5/16, 21	P'town	35, 17	B. Nikula	5/14	Sandisfield	18	M. Lynch#
5/16	MNWS	19	P. + F. Vale	5/16, 21	P'town	27, 17	B. Nikula
6/25	Shirley	1 m	C. Caron	5/22	Ashburnham-6	15	C. Caron
Yellow Warbler				5/30	Gr Barrington	20	M. Lynch#
5/1	Ware R. IBA	17	M. Lynch#	5/31	Winchendon	15	C. Caron
5/1	P.I.	40	BBC (L. de la Flor)	6/12	Shutesbury	19	L. Therrien
5/7	Gloucester (E.P.)	27	J. Nelson	6/19	Mt. Greylock	16	SSBC (GdE)
5/15	C. Hampden Cy	185	ABC	Blackburnian Warbler			
5/16	Burlington	55	M. Rines	5/1-21	Medford	6 max	M. Rines#
5/22	Mattapoisett	65	M. Lynch#	5/1	Quabbin (G25-27)	8	C. Ellison
5/23	New Braintree	44	M. Lynch#	5/2-31	P.I.	16 max	v.o.
6/12	Beverly (Misery I.)	22	J. Berry#	5/16	P'town	20	B. Nikula
6/17	Boston (Long I.)	32	R. Stymeist#	5/16	Marblehead	13	P. + F. Vale
Chestnut-sided Warbler				5/21	P'town	17	B. Nikula
5/1	Quabbin (G25-27)	9	C. Ellison	5/30	Gr Barrington	25	M. Lynch#
5/2	Hardwick	15	M. Lynch#	6/5	Granville	17	J. Zepko
5/14	Sandisfield	29	M. Lynch#	6/19	Mt. Greylock	17	SSBC (GdE)
5/23	Bernardston-6	19	C. Caron	Pine Warbler			
5/30	Gr Barrington	37	M. Lynch#	5/1	Ware R. IBA	28	M. Lynch#
6/11	Adams	26	M. Lynch#	5/1	C. Quabbin	38	L. Therrien
6/19	Mt. Greylock	15	SSBC (GdE)	5/1	Quabbin Pk	18	S. Surner#
6/20	Petersham	12	M. Lynch#	5/2	Nantucket	12	K. Blackshaw#
6/26	W. Brookfield	11	C. Caron	5/2	Hardwick	31	M. Lynch#
Magnolia Warbler				5/31	Sturbridge	18	M. Lynch#
5/1	Boston (F.Pk)	1	P. Peterson	5/31	MSSF	26	G. d'Entremont#
5/2-31	P.I.	152 b	B. Flemer	6/20	Petersham	16	M. Lynch#
5/5-26	Medford	36 max	M. Rines#				

Prairie Warbler				6/19	Mt. Greylock	38	SSBC (GdE)
5/1	Quabbin (G25-27)	7	C. Ellison	6/20	Petersham	24	M. Lynch#
5/2	P.I.	7	T. Spahr	Prothonotary Warbler			
5/5	S. Quabbin	10	L. Therrien	5/8	Medford	1	R. LaFontaine#
5/15	C. Hampden Cy	19	ABC	Worm-eating Warbler			
5/20	Fitchburg-8	12	C. Caron	thr	Wompatuck SP	5 max	v.o.
5/31	MSSF	9	G. d'Entremont#	5/13	Mt.A.	2	J. Trimble
6/5	Westport	6	R. Stymeist#	5/18	Mt. Holyoke	3	L. Therrien
6/5	Little River IBA	6	ABC	6/13	Milton	3	J. Baur#
6/16	Southwick	12	S. Kellogg	6/16-26	W. Brookfield	1	C. Caron
6/20	Petersham	6	M. Lynch#	6/19	Quabbin Pk	1	F. Vale
6/23	Lancaster	9	R. Stymeist	Ovenbird			
Palm Warbler				5/1	Ware R. IBA	38	M. Lynch#
5/1	MNWS	12	D. Ely#	5/4	Westminster	33	C. Caron
5/1	N. Truro	15	B. Nikula	5/5	Wompatuck SP	56	C. Nims
5/1-5	Medford	43 max	M. Rines#	5/6	Ashburnham	37	C. Caron
5/1	P.I.	30+	T. Wetmore	5/14	Manomet	34 b	T. Lloyd-Evans
5/5	Mt.A.	4	J. Trimble#	5/15	C. Hampden Cy	168	ABC
5/5	Manomet	1	I. Davies	5/23	New Braintree	39	M. Lynch#
5/6	Boston (F. Pk)	1	P. Peterson	5/31	Winchendon	38	C. Caron
5/11	Rockport	1	R. Heil	6/18	Sandisfield	35	M. Lynch#
Bay-breasted Warbler				6/19	Mt. Greylock	38	SSBC (GdE)
5/3-23	P.I.	8 max	v.o.	Northern Waterthrush			
5/4-21	Medford	4 max	M. Rines#	5/1-27	P.I.	55 b	B. Flemer
5/14	Mt.A.	3	C. Cook	5/1-21	Medford	6 max	M. Rines#
5/14	Sandisfield	2	M. Lynch#	5/1	MNWS	6	D. Ely#
5/14	Gloucester (E.P.)	2	J. Nelson	5/14	Manomet	15 b	T. Lloyd-Evans
5/17	Marshfield	2	T. O'Neil	5/15	C. Hampden Cy	6	ABC
5/17	Boston (F.Pk)	2	P. Peterson	5/16	Burlington	6	M. Rines
5/21	P'town	3	B. Nikula	5/17	P.I.	6 b	B. Flemer
5/30	Mt. Watatic	5	B. Harris	5/22	Ashburnham-6	11	C. Caron
Blackpoll Warbler				6/14	Ipswich	2 m	J. Berry
5/1	MNWS	1	D. Ely#	6/18	Sandisfield	3	M. Lynch#
5/2-13	Mt.A.	8 max	v.o.	6/27	Washington	2	B. Stymeist
5/5-23	Medford	7 max	M. Rines#	Louisiana Waterthrush			
5/21	P'town	13	B. Nikula	5/1	Quabbin (G25-27)	3	C. Ellison
5/22	P.I.	10	T. Spahr	5/2	P.I.	1	R. Heil#
5/22	Gloucester (E.P.)	18	S. Hedman#	5/5	Hardwick	2	C. Ellison
5/30	Gr Barrington	6	M. Lynch#	5/5	Boxford	pr n	J. Berry
6/11	Mt. Greylock	24	H. Batcheller	5/9	Mt.A.	1	P. + F. Vale#
6/20	Williamstown	1	R. Laubach	5/14	Sandisfield	2	M. Lynch#
6/20	Adams	1	R. Laubach	5/15	New Marlboro	3	M. Lynch#
Cerulean Warbler				5/15	C. Hampden Cy	5	ABC
5/1	Mt. Tom	1	N. Paulson	5/23	Bernardston-6	7	C. Caron
5/3	Manomet	1	I. Davies	6/5	Little River IBA	3	ABC
5/5	Mt.A.	1 m	J. Trimble#	6/19	Cheshire	2	M. Lynch#
5/7	C. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien	Kentucky Warbler			
5/9-21	Wompatuck SP	1	C. Nims + v.o.	5/6-7	Sharon	1 m	G. d'Entremont#
5/15-6/12	Mt. Holyoke	2	S. Surner	5/8	Belchertown	1	L. Therrien
5/22-6/4	S. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien	5/8, 17	Marshfield	1	Galluzzo, O'Neil
5/23	Wompatuck SP	2 m	P. + F. Vale	5/10	Brookline	1	B. Cassie + v.o.
5/23	Gloucester (E.P.)	1	D. Brown + v.o.	5/11-13	Newton	1	S. Simpson + v.o
Black-and-white Warbler				5/12	Amherst	1	J. Zepko
5/1-13	Mt.A.	14 max	v.o.	5/16	IRWS	1 m	MAS (W. Tatro)
5/1-17	Medford	28 max	M. Rines#	5/16	P.I.	1	S. Grinley#
5/1-30	P.I.	53 max	v.o.	5/21	Nahant	1	L. Jackson#
5/1	Manomet	18	I. Davies	5/22	Brewster	1 b	S. Finnegan
5/2	Ware	15	M. Lynch#	5/23	Williamstown	1	L. Reed-Evans
5/30	Royalston	6	C. Caron	Mourning Warbler			
6/18	Sandisfield	9	M. Lynch#	5/15-17	Nahant	1	L. Pivacek
6/20	Ashburnham	5	C. Caron	5/17-23	Medford	4 total	M. Rines
American Redstart				5/20	Wompatuck SP	2	C. Nims#
thr	P.I.	30 max	v.o.	5/21	P.I.	2 b	B. Flemer
5/thr	Medford	37 max	M. Rines#	5/26	Manomet	3 b	I. Davies
5/1-21	Mt.A.	10 max	v.o.	6/11	Adams	2	M. Lynch#
5/14	Sandisfield	46	M. Lynch#	6/19	Mt. Greylock	1	M. + K. Conway
5/14	Manomet	17 b	T. Lloyd-Evans	6/19	Moran WMA	1	B. Zajda
5/15	C. Hampden Cy	102	ABC	6/20	Lanesboro	1	R. Laubach
5/16	Burlington	15	M. Rines	6/27	Washington	3	B. Stymeist
5/21	P'town	26	B. Nikula	Common Yellowthroat			
5/30	Gr Barrington	47	M. Lynch#	5/2	Ware	10	M. Lynch#
6/16	W. Brookfield	29	C. Caron	5/3, 16	Burlington	5, 45	M. Rines
6/18	Sandisfield	36	M. Lynch#	5/14	Manomet	28 b	T. Lloyd-Evans

Common Yellowthroat (continued)				5/22	Falmouth (Crane)	6	SSBC (V. Zollo)
5/15	C. Hampden Cy	101	ABC	6/9	Plymouth	7	P. + F. Vale
5/18	P.I.	35	P. + F. Vale	6/12	Falmouth	6	N. Hayward
5/21	W. Barnstable	36	M. Keleher	6/16	Southwick	16	S. Kellogg
5/23	New Braintree	54	M. Lynch#	6/18	Milton	4	A. Joslin
6/20	Petersham	20	M. Lynch#	Vesper Sparrow			
Hooded Warbler				5/2	N. Truro	1	B. Nikula
5/1	Rockport (A.P.)	2	B. Harris	5/2-4	W. Roxbury (MP)	1	C. + J. Hepburn
5/1, 14	MNWS	2, 1	Ely, Smith	5/5-6/30	Plymouth	1-3	v.o.
5/2	Wompatuck SP	1	G. d'Entremont	5/28, 6/19	P'town	1, 1	J. Young
5/2-4	Medford	3	M. Rines	Savannah Sparrow			
5/3	Manomet	1	I. Davies	5/2	P.I.	11	R. Heil
5/4	Brookline (Hall's.)	1	R. Martel	5/2	Bedford	12	W. Hutcheson
5/5	Mt.A.	2 m	J. Trimble#	5/7	Rowley	10	P. + F. Vale
5/10	Amherst	1	N. Barber	5/9	Saugus (Bear C.)	10	S. Zende#
5/15	Wellfleet	1	J. Young	5/31	Amesbury	8	J. Berry#
5/15-17	Waltham	1	J. Forbes	6/17	Oakham	7	M. Lynch#
5/29	Sheffield	1	J. Drucker	6/19	Cheshire	27	M. Lynch#
6/25	Freetown	1	L. Abbey	Grasshopper Sparrow			
Wilson's Warbler				5/3	Westfield	2	S. Kellogg
5/2, 21	P.I.	1, 8	Nielsen, Wetmore	5/8	Montague	1	S. Surner
5/8-17	Medford	7 max	M. Rines	5/17-6/30	Falmouth	11 max	v.o.
5/11-26	P.I.	33 b	B. Flemer	5/22, 6/20	Sutton	2, 4	M. Lynch#
5/14	Manomet	5 b	T. Lloyd-Evans	5/30	Plymouth	2	BBC (GdE)
5/16	Marblehead	5	P. + F. Vale	6/4	Southwick	4	S. Kellogg
5/16	Burlington	4	M. Rines	6/6	Westover	10	H. Schwartz
5/21	P'town	4	B. Nikula	6/23	Lancaster	3	R. Stymeist
6/7	Amherst	1	D. Minear	Nelson's Sparrow			
Canada Warbler				5/11	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1	P. Champlin#
5/2	Holyoke	1	S. Svec	5/26	Duxbury B.	1 ph	R. Bowes
5/9-26	Medford	9 max	M. Rines#	Saltmarsh Sparrow			
5/14, 6/18	Sandisfield	6, 2	M. Lynch#	5/4	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	5	P. Champlin
5/16	Burlington	5	M. Rines	5/5-6/30	P.I.	14 max	v.o.
5/17	Mt.A.	5	J. Offermann	5/19	E. Boston (B.I.)	6	P. Peterson
5/18	P.I.	7	M. Thompson	5/23, 6/18	Chatham (S.B.)	5, 35	B. Nikula
5/21	P'town	12	B. Nikula	5/26	Rowley	4	D. Jones
5/23	Gloucester (E.P.)	5	B. Cassie	5/26, 6/26	Fairhaven	14, 9	C. Longworth
6/5	Blandford	5	T. Swochak	5/30	Nantucket	3	K. Blackshaw#
6/19	Cheshire	3	M. Lynch#	6/4	Newbury	4	S. Keyel
6/20	October Mt.	1	SSBC (GdE)	6/17	Squantum	6	R. Stymeist
Yellow-breasted Chat				Seaside Sparrow			
5/14	Manomet	1 b	T. Lloyd-Evans	thr	P.I.	1-3	v.o.
5/16	P'town	1	S. Hedman#	thr	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	8 max	v.o.
5/26	Nahant	1	J. Malone	6/25	Chatham (S.B.)	1	B. Cassie
Warbler species				Lincoln's Sparrow			
5/1	N. Truro	400 migr	B. Nikula	5/1-22	Reports of indiv. from 15 locations		
Eastern Towhee				5/2-27	P.I.	7 b	B. Flemer
5/1	C. Quabbin	121	L. Therrien	5/14	Manomet	12 b	T. Lloyd-Evans
5/1	P.I.	55	BBC (L. de la Flor)	5/21	Mt.A.	2	C. Cook
5/2	Nantucket	25	K. Blackshaw#	Swamp Sparrow			
5/2	Wompatuck SP	29	I. Davies#	5/1	Ware R. IBA	27	M. Lynch#
5/2	Ware	38	M. Lynch#	5/2	Ashburnham	26	C. Caron
5/2	Hardwick	32	M. Lynch#	5/14	Manomet	21 b	T. Lloyd-Evans
5/13	Hamilton	23	J. Berry	5/17	Winchendon-8	19	C. Caron
5/31	MSSF	24	G. d'Entremont#	5/18	Ashburnham	26	C. Caron
Chipping Sparrow				6/5	Little River IBA	17	ABC
5/1	C. Quabbin	81	L. Therrien	6/18	Sandisfield	13	M. Lynch#
5/5	Mt.A.	95	J. Trimble#	White-throated Sparrow			
5/22	Mattapoisett	47	M. Lynch#	5/1	Medford	260	M. Rines#
5/29	Ashby	38	C. Caron	5/1	P.I.	175	BBC (L. de la Flor)
6/17	Oakham	27	M. Lynch#	5/1	Rockport	550	B. Harris
Clay-colored Sparrow				5/1	Manomet	196	I. Davies
5/2	P.I.	1	T. Spahr#	5/1	C. Quabbin	146	L. Therrien
5/9-28	P'town	1	B. Nikula	5/31	Winchendon	8	C. Caron
5/12-21	W. Roxbury (MP)	1	B. Cassie + v.o.	6/5	Washington	5	I. Davies
5/22-6/5	Westport	2	P. Champlin	6/5	Little River IBA	5	ABC
5/26	Fairhaven	1	C. Longworth	6/12	P.I.	1	S. Kellogg
5/28	DWWS	1	J. Trimble	6/20	Ashburnham	4	C. Caron
6/7	Falmouth	2	B. Stymeist#	White-crowned Sparrow			
Field Sparrow				5/2	P.I.	8	J. Nelson
5/2	Bedford	7	W. Hutcheson	5/2	Williamstown	2	G. Soucie
5/2	P.I.	5	R. Heil	5/4	Westfield	2	T. Swochak
5/15	C. Hampden Cy	15	ABC	5/4	Mt.A.	2	S. Shepherd#

White-crowned Sparrow (continued)				Dickeissel				
5/5	Boston (PG)	3	R. Schain#	5/15	Nantucket	1		fide E. Ray
5/8	Northampton	4	T. Gagnon	6/4-12	Falmouth	2 m		B. Burden
5/8	W. Springfield	3	S. Svec					
5/9	Saugus (Bear C.)	2	S. Zende#	Bobolink				
5/15	Nantucket	2	fide E. Ray	5/1, 7	Wayland	7, 35		G. Long
5/19	Wellfleet	3	M. Faherty	5/2	Bedford	17		W. Hutcheson
Dark-eyed Junco				5/12	Hingham	25		C. Nims#
5/22	P.I.	1	S. Grinley#	5/12	P.I.	33		D. Chickering
5/30	Gr Barrington	4	M. Lynch#	5/23, 6/17	New Braintree	84, 27		M. Lynch#
5/30	Mt. Wataic	5	B. Harris	5/31, 6/27	Amesbury	75, 12		J. Berry#
5/30	Mt Holyoke	2	B. Zajda	6/1	DWWS	46		G. Billingham
6/5	Little River IBA	23	ABC	6/19	Cheshire	70+		M. Lynch#
6/11	Mt. Greylock	31	H. Batcheller	6/25	Rowley	40		J. Berry
6/18	New Marlboro	7	M. Lynch#	Eastern Meadowlark				
Summer Tanager				thr	P.I.	3 max		v.o.
5/13	Mt.A.	2	Trimble, Bouchard	5/2	Bedford	9		W. Hutcheson
5/13-14	Boston (PG)	1	D. Hunneman + v.o.	5/2	Hadley	4		S. Surner
5/15	Nantucket	3	fide E. Ray	5/9	Saugus (Bear C.)	2		S. Zende#
5/16	Rockport	1 ad m	M. Flor	5/10	Hingham	2		C. Nims
5/16	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1	B. Cassie	6/6	Westover	5		H. Schwartz
5/17	P.I.	1 m	G. d'Entremont#	6/20	Amesbury	10		S. McGrath#
6/18	Brewster	1	J. Talin#	Rusty Blackbird				
Scarlet Tanager				5/1	P'town	3		B. Nikula
thr	Wompatuck SP	6 max	v.o.	5/1-12	P.I.	2		E. Labato + v.o.
thr	Medford	7 max	M. Rines	5/3	Wenham	1		J. Berry
5/2	Hardwick	14	M. Lynch#	Orchard Oriole				
5/6	Middleton	9 m	J. Berry	thr	Medford	5 max		M. Rines#
5/14	New Marlboro	7	M. Lynch#	5/2	Arlington Res.	4		J. Forbes#
5/21	P'town	6	B. Nikula	5/7	Mattapan (BNC)	5		J. Miller
5/21	Fitchburg	9	C. Caron	5/10	Falmouth	7		CCBC (G. Hirth)
5/30	Gr Barrington	16	M. Lynch#	5/15	Hingham	7		SSBC (GdE)
6/18	Milton	8	A. Joslin	5/22	Fairhaven	6		M. Lynch#
6/18	Sandisfield	12	M. Lynch#	5/27	P.I.	3 pr n		T. Wetmore
Western Tanager *				6/13	Falmouth	14		G. d'Entremont#
5/15	Nantucket	1	Steve Langer#	Baltimore Oriole				
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				thr	Mt.A.	25 max		v.o.
5/1	W. Newbury	2	S. Grinley#	5/6	Middleton	22		J. Berry
5/1	Scituate	2	S. Maguire	5/10	Falmouth	20		CCBC (G. Hirth)
5/1	Quabbin (G25-27)	2	C. Ellison	5/15	C. Hampden Cy	285		ABC
5/2, 9	Medford	2, 8	M. Rines	5/22	Mattapoisett	23		M. Lynch#
5/2	Ware	18	M. Lynch#	5/31	Sturbridge	22		M. Lynch#
5/13	Hamilton	14	J. Berry	Purple Finch				
5/16	Burlington	14	M. Rines	5/1	Ware R. IBA	9		M. Lynch#
5/23	New Braintree	23	M. Lynch#	5/2	P.I.	16		R. Heil
6/5	Little River IBA	17	ABC	5/2	Wompatuck SP	4		SSBC (E. Giles)
Blue Grosbeak				5/7	W. Gloucester	4		J. Nelson
5/4	N. Truro	1	B. Nikula	5/11	Royalston	6		C. Caron
5/9	Mt.A.	1 f	P. + F. Vale	6/5	Little River IBA	4		ABC
5/21	P'town	1	B. Nikula	6/11	Adams	6		M. Lynch#
5/30-6/30	Falmouth (Crane)	2-4	J. Hoye + v.o.	6/11	Mt. Greylock	21		H. Batcheller
6/11	Peabody	1 m	C. Jackson	6/18	Sandisfield	17		M. Lynch#
Indigo Bunting				6/19	Cheshire	5		M. Lynch#
5/2	N. Truro	1	D. Manchester	Red Crossbill				
5/4	Waltham	2	J. Forbes	thr	C. Quabbin	26 max 6/19		L. Therrien
5/13	Woburn	4	M. Rines	Pine Siskin				
5/15	C. Hampden Cy	20	ABC	6/17	W. Gloucester	1 f ad		J. Nelson
5/16	MBWMA	7	S. Grinley#	Evening Grosbeak				
5/23	Bernardston-6	6	C. Caron	5/1	Shutesbury	2		K. Weir
6/5	Little River IBA	12	ABC	5/1	Northfield	4		M. Taylor
6/8	Falmouth	7	J. Offermann	5/1	C. Quabbin	7		L. Therrien
6/11	Adams	16	M. Lynch#	6/2	Gr Barrington	2		B. Glackman
6/17	New Braintree	10	M. Lynch#	6/14	Plymouth	2		Lisa Sullivan
6/21	Hopkinton	7	M. Rines	6/19	New Salem	2 m		P. + F. Vale
				6/26	Westwood	1		E. Nielsen

ABBREVIATIONS FOR BIRD SIGHTINGS

Taxonomic order is based on AOU checklist, Seventh edition, 42nd through 51st 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: 926-36 (2006); 124 (3): 1109-15 (2007); 125 (3): 758-68 (2008); 126 (3): 705-14 (2009); 127 (3): 726-44 (2010) (see <<http://www.aou.org/checklist/north>>).

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

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 Matt Garvey, 137 Beaconsfield Rd. #5, Brookline, MA 02445, or by e-mail to <mattgarvey@gmail.com>.

ABOUT THE COVER

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

The Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*) is a very rare visitor to the East Coast of the United States. It is similar in size, shape, plumage, and general appearance to the Pectoral Sandpiper (*C. melanotos*) but lacks the sharp contrast between the latter's streaked breast and white belly. It has pale legs and a rufous cap and is brown-buff above and streaked below, the streaks taking on a chevron shape at the sides of the breast. Adults are heavily marked below, while in juveniles the streaking is much reduced and largely restricted to the sides of the upper breast. Juveniles are also more richly buff in color on the breast than adults. Sharp-tailed Sandpipers are somewhat portly, with relatively short necks, and often give the appearance of having a pot belly. Males are 25–30% larger than females. The bill is slightly decurved, and they possess thin, but distinct, white eye-rings. The species is monomorphic, with no regional variation. They are most closely related to the Pectoral Sandpiper. Rarely, they hybridize with Curlew Sandpipers (*C. ferruginea*), producing a hybrid that has been called Cooper's Sandpiper (*C. cooperi*).

Sharp-tailed Sandpipers breed in northeastern Siberia and migrate to Southeast Asia, wintering from New Guinea south through Australia and New Zealand during the Austral summer. Small numbers, mostly juveniles, visit the Aleutian Islands and coastal Alaska on migration and are regularly seen in small numbers on the West Coast of the United States. There are three records for Massachusetts: one adult in the spring of 1971 on Plymouth Beach and two juveniles in Newburyport—one each in 1973 and 1989. [Ed. Note: On October 2, Brian Harrington reported an adult Sharp-tailed Sandpiper on Minimoy, the island between North and South Monomoy in Chatham. On October 9, Daniel Mitev photographed the bird on South Beach.] Males depart Siberia in early July, females in late July, and juveniles in August.

Sharp-tailed Sandpipers are polygynous or promiscuous breeders. On the breeding grounds they nest on tundra, especially low Arctic dwarf-shrub tundra, with a mixture of drier hummocks and wet sedge bogs. They forage in fresh or brackish wetlands with emergent vegetation, including lagoons and the muddy edges of swamps, ponds, and lakes. The monosyllabic calls of Sharp-tailed Sandpipers have been variously described as *wheep*, *pleep*, and *trrt*, and are higher pitched and more metallic-sounding than those of Pectoral Sandpipers. They also produce a variety of twittering calls. Males make display flights that include a crackling warble, and the song includes a low-pitched *hoop*.

The breeding biology of Sharp-tails is poorly known. The nest, constructed in early June, is usually well hidden. It is a shallow depression in the tundra, lined with fine grass and leaves. These sandpipers produce a single brood. The usual clutch size is four eggs, which are brooded by the female alone, and the female alone cares for the precocial chicks. Males may feed females during the incubation period.

Sharp-tailed Sandpipers are omnivorous, eating primarily mollusks, worms, snails, insects, and, in winter, seeds. They feed at the water's edge on mudflats and in wetlands, salt marsh, sewage ponds, and pastures. They forage primarily by pecking, jabbing, gleaning, and shallow probing. On wintering grounds they are gregarious, often foraging in flocks of hundreds or thousands.

Sharp-tailed Sandpipers have a world population of nearly 200,000 and are not considered threatened. They are potentially vulnerable, however, because most of the world population winters in southeastern Australia where human population numbers are high. Habitat alteration on the wintering grounds is a major concern. Fortunately, Sharp-tailed Sandpipers are a flexible species which utilizes a broad spectrum of wetlands and thus may be able to adjust to the vicissitudes of climate change and anthropogenic habitat alteration. 🐦

William E. Davis, Jr.



SNOW GEESE BY WAYNE R. PETERSEN

About the Cover Artist: Paul Donahue

Paul Donahue is a bird artist, bird recordist, environmental activist, and tree climber. He has been painting and drawing birds since he began watching them during his early teens. Paul occasionally works in pencil or pen and ink, but most of his work is done in acrylics and watercolor. His favorite subjects are shorebirds, raptors, and tropical birds.

Paul divides his time between California, Maine, and South America. He made his first trip to South America in 1972 and has since spent much time in the tropics, particularly in the rainforests of the western Amazon Basin. There Paul birds, paints, tape-records, and leads natural history trips. Since 1988, his time in the tropics has been concentrated in the rainforest canopy, where he and his wife, Teresa Wood, have constructed two canopy walkways and dozens of observation platforms.

Back in the U.S., Paul works with the Maine environmental organization Forest Ecology Network, editing its newspaper *The Maine Woods*. Paul can be contacted through his website at <<http://www.pauldonahue.net>>.

AT A GLANCE

August 2010



WAYNE R. PETERSEN

This month's mystery challenge features an obviously smallish bird, as evidenced by the size of the leaf and twig pictured beside it. Notably featureless, a couple of prominent characteristics nonetheless stand out. Most notable is a long, broad, pale eyebrow stripe extending well back behind the eye, a thin, sharp, pointed bill, and a tiny spot of white on the right corner of the bird's tail. Otherwise it lacks wing bars and has only the slightest suggestion of streaking on the back. The underparts are unfortunately completely obscured.

The observable features, along with the bird's overall shape and small size, suggest that the mystery photo depicts a wood-warbler. Although not a definitive characteristic, the fact that we are able to just barely see a tiny bit of white in the right outer tail feather suggests that the warbler is probably in the genus *Dendroica*, since all the members of this large genus have white or yellow somewhere in the tail. While this narrows the field somewhat, there are further options that need to be considered. Especially important is to notice the pictured warbler's absence of wing bars. Practically all warblers in the genus *Dendroica* exhibit prominent wing bars or other distinctive wing markings, such as the white spot in the wing of the Black-throated Blue Warbler. Although Yellow Warblers fail to show obvious wing bars, they lack the bold eyebrow of the pictured species.

Having narrowed the field to this extent, there is only one warbler that exhibits the combination of uniform-looking back and wing pattern and long, bold eyebrow stripe: Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum*). Not visible in the picture but equally characteristic of this species are prominent yellow undertail coverts and a dull yellowish rump. Also, Palm Warblers regularly and vigorously pump their relatively short tails, though obviously this is not a useful feature in a photograph. Two recognizably distinct races of Palm Warbler annually appear in Massachusetts, the less colorful western race (*D. p. palmarum*) being most common in fall, and the eastern "Yellow" race (*D. p. hypochrysea*) occurring in both spring and fall.

Palm Warblers are common spring and fall migrants in the Commonwealth, and small numbers of the western race occasionally appear on coastal Christmas Bird Counts, sometimes lingering into early winter. The author photographed the pictured Palm Warbler in April at Key West, Florida. 🐦

Wayne R. Petersen

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AT A GLANCE



WAYNE R. PETERSEN

Can you identify the bird in this photograph?
Identification will be discussed in next issue's AT A GLANCE.

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A GUIDE TO WINTER BIRDING ON CAPE ANN, PART 1	<i>Christopher Leahy</i>	261
FIRST REPORT OF THE RHODE ISLAND AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE		
	<i>Shaibal S. Mitra, Chair, Doug Wilson, Secretary, Robert Emerson, Rachel Farrell, Richard Ferren, Christopher Raithel, and Scott Tsagarakis</i>	275
HORDES OF NESTING DUCKS INVADE SUBURBAN HOUSE LOT	<i>Alfred Maley</i>	284
ROBERT VERITY CLEM	<i>Paul Donahue</i>	288
BROOKLINE BIRD CLUB EXTREME PELAGIC		293
ABOUT BOOKS		
	<i>Fundamentally Strange and the Same</i>	<i>Mark Lynch</i> 295
BIRD SIGHTINGS		
	<i>May/June 2010</i>	302
ABOUT THE COVER: Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>William E. Davis, Jr.</i>	319
ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST: Paul Donahue		320
AT A GLANCE	<i>Wayne R. Petersen</i>	321

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