

Bird Observer

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HOT BIRDS

On July 25 Lisa Buchanan of Randolph heard a strange high *zzzzing* through the window that overlooked her hummingbird feeder. She looked out and saw this handsome male **Rufous Hummingbird** (right). It remained through July 29.



Ellison Orcutt was leading a trip at Tern Island Sanctuary in Chatham on August 24 when he spotted a **Curlew Sandpiper** (left). The following day Ryan Schain kayaked over and was able to relocate and photographed “this ridiculously tame bird from sometimes as little as ten feet.”

For many years Ida Giriunas of the Brookline Bird Club has organized deep water pelagic trips with spectacular results. This year's trip on August 25-26 was no exception. Check out these photos from Nick Bonomo (clockwise from right: **Barolo Shearwater**, **Red-billed Tropicbird**, and **White-faced Storm-Petrel**.)



On October 4 Eric Labado discovered a **Say's Phoebe** (right) on the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge on Plum Island. Ryan Schain took this photo on the next day.



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LARK SPARROW BY SHERRY LEFFERT

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Bird Observer

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Birding West Newbury: A Few Good Patches

Doug Chickering

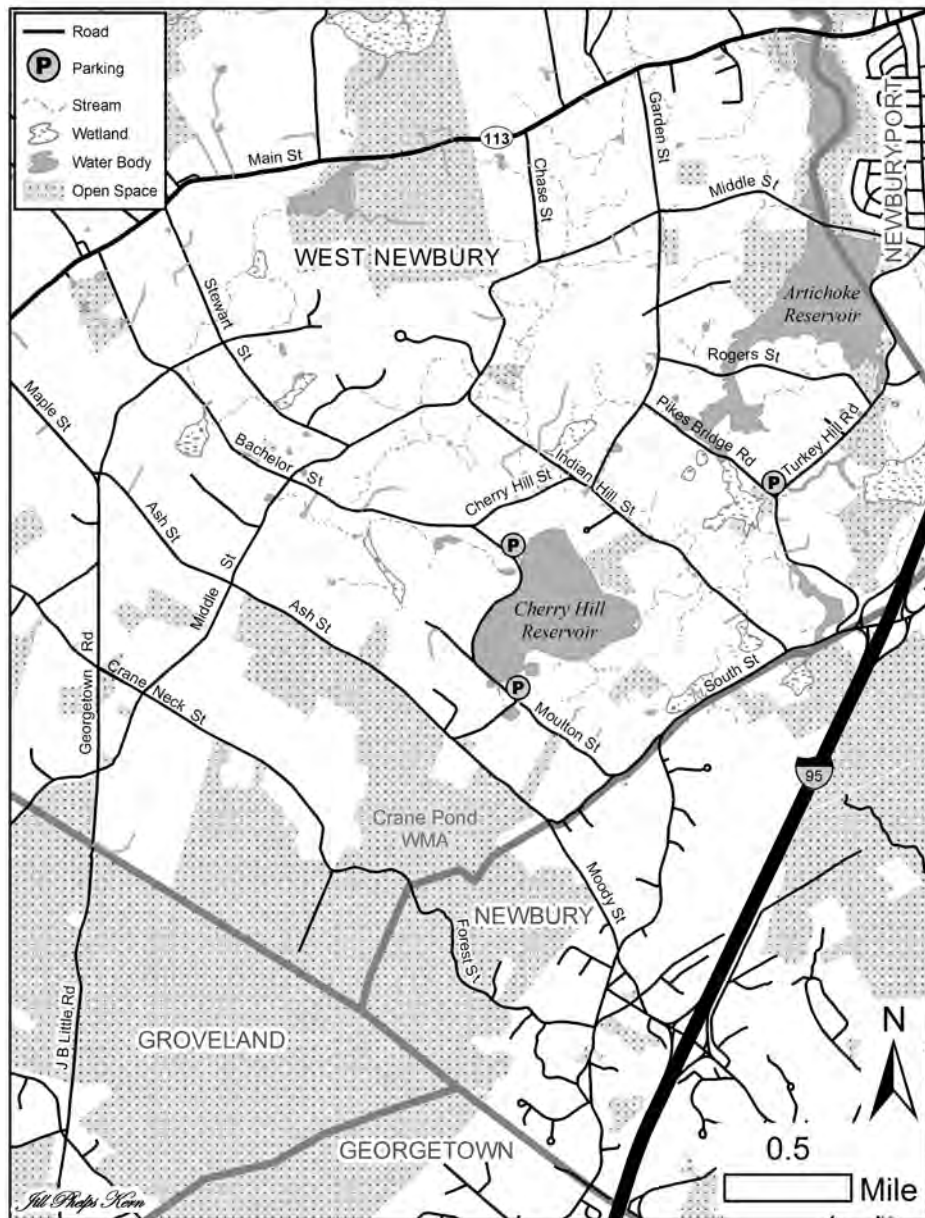
Technically it is four streets. Really it's only one street that changes names when it crosses town borders. It stretches southwest from Low Street in Newburyport; passes through Newburyport, West Newbury, Groveland, and Boxford; and ends at the junction of Route 133 in Boxford. Running roughly parallel to Route 113, it passes through an area that can best be described as exurbia. A few stubborn farms remain in the area and much of the street runs along the north border of the Crane Pond Wildlife Management Area. The portion of this road, designated as Center Street in Groveland and as Middle Street in West Newbury, is part of Lois Cooper's and my path to Plum Island. (Plum Island is the keystone area of my birding, as I visit the refuge more than two hundred times a year.) But Middle Street can be an active birding spot in and of itself. The road is also an access road to several other terrific birding spots in the towns it runs through. Using Middle Street as an axis, this article will discuss most of the best birding areas in West Newbury.



The road itself represents a surprisingly good place to bird. Middle Street runs through nicely forested areas, much of which is preserved by local conservation easements or as parts of the Crane Pond Wildlife Management Area, but the road is fragmented in spots by the encroachment of the suburbs. The few farm fields that remain are mostly abandoned and vulnerable to future development but still remain in existence and still carry the hope that conservation lightning will strike. When I first birded Middle Street much of it was dirt; some parts were almost impassable in the deep mud of spring. Now it is all paved.

In the mornings, starting in May and lasting deep into the summer, a ride down this road with the windows open often catches a chorus of birdsong: the Wood Thrush singing its haunting sweet refrains, Ovenbirds loudly proclaiming from the forest floor, Scarlet Tanagers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks singing from the trees. These and other songs emanate sometimes from deep in the forest and out of sight, but other times from right at the side of the road. We've also had Pine Warblers in the few stands of pines and Blue-winged Warblers in two choice spots. A drive down Middle Street at any time of year can be productive. The last Ruffed Grouse I saw in Essex County was on Middle Street, as was the last Northern Bobwhite I have seen anywhere in Massachusetts, but I do not mean to suggest that either of these birds is a distinct possibility here. Middle Street does remain one of the best places to encounter the increasingly hard-to-find Ring-necked Pheasant.

As good a location as Middle Street is to find birds, it is more important as an entryway to many other prime birding spots. Not counting the Merrimack River, there are two large bodies of fresh water that are either right along the edge of this road or



close to it. They are part of the reservoir system that serves Newburyport and surrounding towns.

The Artichoke Reservoir

This anomalously named body of water is a reservoir for the city of Newburyport and is a place where ducks and shorebirds can be found in modest numbers. There are

three good spots for sweeping this large, shallow body of water. One is along Middle Street at the border between Newburyport and West Newbury where a small bridge crosses the Artichoke Reservoir. At this outflow, the water eventually flows into the Merrimack River. On both sides of the bridge are small pull-offs. As this is a favored fishing spot in the summer, the pull offs here are usually taken.

An easier place to look out over the Artichoke Reservoir is from Turkey Hill Road, which connects Middle Street to South Street and runs along the eastern edge of the reservoir. The larger pull off here is rarely full and provides a good panoramic view of the Artichoke. Not generally a prime area for finding waterfowl, it can nevertheless have its pleasant surprises. I often find Pied-billed Grebes in here along with diving ducks like Scaup and Ring-necked Ducks. Last fall and early winter (2011–12) there was a Barnacle Goose keeping company with the Canada Geese that frequent this body of water. During dry years the water level falls, revealing a few sandbars that are visited by a variety of shorebirds during migration. The Turkey Hill Road side of the reservoir is the best place to scan these sand and gravel bars.



Barnacle Goose and Canada Goose on the shore of the Artichoke in November 2011 in a photograph by David Larson

Continue south on Turkey Hill Road (toward South Street). Take the first street on your right, Rogers Street, which connects Turkey Hill Road to Garden Street. It crosses a small bridge on the southwestern edge of the Artichoke Reservoir. There are two convenient pull offs that offer a good view of this end of the Artichoke on one side of the bridge and a view of the wetlands that feed the reservoir on the other side. I often check this spot in spring and fall for newly arriving swallows, ducks, and, in the fall, for American Coots.

Although the Artichoke Reservoir offers good waterfowl observation, it is not the premier spot in West Newbury. That unquestionably belongs to the Cherry Hill Reservoir, about a mile to the southwest.

Cherry Hill Reservoir

Although Cherry Hill Reservoir is one of the most popular birding places in West Newbury, it is also shrouded in strangely uncertain circumstances. For one thing, this large body of water is absent from many maps and atlases. It is present on Google Earth. This is because Google Earth has recent aerial photographs, and such a large feature could hardly be absent. But there are road atlases and Delorme gazetteers that don't show Cherry Hill Reservoir, because this lake was created by damming a couple streams and did not fill up until the late 1970s when it went online as an additional water supply for the city of Newburyport.

The name, also, is in dispute. I have been birding this area for approximately three decades, and it has been known exclusively as Cherry Hill Reservoir by birders and locals alike. Recently, when Essex County Greenbelt acquired adjacent property and established some trails, they referred (and still refer) to it as Indian Hill Reservoir. Be that as it may, the reservoir remains one of the most productive birding areas in Essex County. This is partly because the lake is deep and is usually the last large body of still water to freeze, which means that ducks, including rare ducks, tend to find it and stay longer than they can elsewhere.

There are two ways to approach Cherry Hill Reservoir. One is from Middle Street. Traveling southwest on Middle Street, take a left on Bachelor Street. Follow it past a marshy area on your right until you come to where Bachelor Street ends at a split. The right fork is Moulton Street and leads down to the north side of Cherry Hill Reservoir, which is immediately visible.

If you are approaching the area from Interstate 95 (I-95) from the south, it is more convenient to take Exit 56 (Scotland Road Newbury/W. Newbury) and head west, under the highway bridge. Scotland Road becomes South Street in West Newbury. Bypass Turkey Hill Road and Indian Hill Street, then bear right at the fork with Main Street to remain on South Street. Bear right again at the intersection with Spring Hill Road, and you will be on the other end of Moulton Street, which leads to the south side of the reservoir. You can follow Moulton Street around the reservoir to the north side.

Alternatively, from South Street you can turn right on Indian Hill Street, drive about a mile, then turn left on Cherry Hill Street and left again on Moulton Street to reach the north end of the reservoir, as described above.

There are two small parking areas, one at either end of the reservoir. The south-side parking area is by a gate that marks the start of a gravel road that takes you on foot to the control structure on the far side of the reservoir. Because this is part of Newburyport's water supply, the city keeps the road plowed and the public has pedestrian access to it at all times. The road, which ends at the brick control building, turns into a path that continues along the edge of the water all around the reservoir and ends at the other parking area on the north side. Fishermen often use the north side parking area, but there is plenty of room for half a dozen cars.

Cherry Hill Reservoir can produce interesting birds all year long, but clearly the spring and fall are the best times. The reservoir becomes less interesting when it freezes over and I only visit it to see if the ice is out. As soon as it is, Cherry Hill becomes a destination. From the first ice-out to the last ice-in, Cherry Hill Reservoir is one of the best waterfowl spots in Essex County, especially for the freshwater divers. Early in the year look for Common Mergansers. They start arriving as soon as there are ice-free spots. Their numbers build in the early spring, then dwindle rapidly in late spring as the birds head for their breeding grounds. Some years, Ruddy Ducks can be hard to find in Essex County—everywhere, that is, but Cherry Hill Reservoir. They are here every year, spring and fall, in the hundreds, with even a few laggards through the summer. This lake sometimes has the greatest number of Ruddy Ducks in

the state, and they stay until the place freezes over, sometimes making it to the Christmas Bird Count. The reservoir is a regular host to Canada Geese and Ring-necked Ducks in the hundreds—Ring-necks typically outnumber the Ruddys and sometimes total over a thousand—as well as lesser numbers of Mallards, Black Ducks, Buffleheads, and both scaup. Almost every year you will see a few Pied-billed Grebes, Common Loons, Northern Pintails, Long-tailed Ducks, Common Goldeneyes, and even the occasional Redhead and Canvasback. I think the only regular waterfowl species I have never seen at Cherry Hill are Wood Duck and Red-breasted Merganser.

The reservoir and its immediate environs have had their fair share of uncommon birds and exciting vagrants. The record is varied enough to make it difficult to settle on the most spectacular rarity. Maybe the Barnacle Goose (two sightings), maybe the few Cackling Geese that have shown up, or maybe the Cassin's Kingbird of late 2011. As with any good birding spot, many visits produce interesting results. I have seen White-fronted Goose, Western Kingbird, Northern Shrike, Bald Eagle, Ring-necked Pheasant, Blue-winged Warbler, and American Kestrel. The reservoir is a good place to find Spotted Sandpipers in summer and swallows in fall, and you can never predict when a Belted Kingfisher, Eastern Meadowlark, or American Pipit may make an appearance. Lately, it has become a reliable spot to find Eastern Bluebirds.



Cassin's Kingbird on 11/26/2011 at Cherry Hill Reservoir in a photograph by David Larson

The trail around the reservoir also connects with another trail that leads up over Indian Hill and down to a parking area on Indian Hill Street. This is a recent addition so I have birded it only a few times, but once I saw an Indigo Bunting and a Scarlet Tanager in the same binocular field, both out in the sun. A spectacular sight. The parking lot at Indian Hill is also at one end of another trail that eventually leads to Pikes Bridge Road. Which leads us to Pikes Bridge Road.

Pikes Bridge Road and Turkey Hill Road

Pikes Bridge Road, like Rogers Street, runs between Turkey Hill Road and Garden Street. Much of it is no longer a real road—it is little more than a wide path. When I first started birding, Pikes Bridge Road was a rough dirt road that was drivable along its entire length. In those days it was one of the premier migrant traps in the county—a reliable source for Blue-winged and Golden-winged warblers in an ancient time when both of those species were rare and elusive. It has since lost some of its luster but is still worth visiting, especially in the spring. As in the past, it is still a place to find Blue-winged Warblers. Bobolinks still nest in the fields along the middle section of the road. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers nest in the swamp oaks at the end

of Pike's Bridge Road near Turkey Hill Road. Virginia Rails nest in the adjacent swamp and Willow Flycatchers at its edge. Warbling Vireos, Yellow Warblers, and Common Yellowthroats still call this rutted dirt road home, along with Baltimore Orioles, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and, occasionally, Least Bitterns. In spring, the wetlands hold noisy groups of Green-winged Teal; flocks of swallows and Chimney Swifts fly overhead on their migrations.

Turkey Hill Road runs from South Street north to Route 113 and stretches the whole length of West Newbury and into Newburyport. Only the southern end, from South Street to the Artichoke Reservoir, is really birdable. To my knowledge, Turkey Hill Road is the last place in Essex County to have hosted nesting Golden-winged Warblers. That was back in 2002, and one of that pair was a Brewster's hybrid. The species has not been seen in West Newbury since 2005, but I cannot refrain from making the yearly pilgrimage. A few mornings in April and May, I will drive slowly along the stretch of Turkey Hill Road between Rogers Street and Pikes Bridge Road. I keep the windows open and occasionally stop, get out, and listen for that soft, sweet, buzzy song. A foolish enterprise I am sure, but one that I cannot abandon.

During the height of spring migration it is probably a good idea to walk from the end of Pikes Bridge Road to the end of Rogers Street and back. On your right (east) is a large, open, often-flooded field, and to the left (west) a flooded forest. These flooded areas eventually drain into the Artichoke Reservoir and become part of the water supply for Newburyport. Thus, it seems unlikely that this area will be developed. Of course, nothing in the field is guaranteed, but an early morning walk in mid-May along this section of Turkey Hill Road, preceded or succeeded by a walk along the length of Pikes Bridge Road, could be the source of many pleasant surprises.

Ash Street

Maple Street runs southeast from West Newbury Center on Route 113 until it forks into two streets. Georgetown Road goes off the right and Ash Street to the left. Ash Street runs southeast to the Newbury border (the Byfield section of Newbury), where it miraculously turns into Moody Street. Most of Ash Street is wooded, and there are a few farms. Shortly after it crosses Middle Street, Ash Street passes through a portion of the Crane Pond Wildlife Management Area that is locally known as the "Ash Street Swamp."

This stretch of the road is one of the few remaining dirt roads left in West Newbury, but because it is used as an access road from Route 113 to I-95, it takes a beating during all seasons. Also, because it runs through a state wildlife area, there is a continual argument as to who is responsible for its upkeep. In its worst condition Ash Street can be nearly impassable; in its best state it is a fairly smooth road. Usually it is a long washboard with potholes. It semi-floods in wet weather and is dusty in dry weather. Occasionally, the town will temporarily close the road in winter rather than plow it. It also is a nice birding place. Virginia Rails nest there every year, and it is not at all unusual to watch them scurry across the road. You can hear Soras as well. It is also a regular nesting spot for Swamp Sparrows and the usual denizens of

fresh water marshes like Wood Ducks, Hooded Mergansers (scarce), Yellow Warblers, Common Yellowthroats, Tree Swallows, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Eastern Bluebirds, Red-winged Blackbirds, and Common Grackles. It also occasionally attracts Rusty Blackbirds in the fall and, for the last few years, has been a fairly reliable location for Yellow-throated Vireos. Last winter it was the site of a massive roost of Grackles, Red-wings, and American Robins.

Crane Neck Street

Traveling southwest on Middle Street from its junction with Ash Street, the next intersection is with Crane Neck Street. Like Ash Street, Crane Neck Street runs southeast and into the same Crane Pond Wildlife Management Area. It rises to the top of Crane Neck Hill, then down into the WMA where it splits in two. Like Ash Street, the two roads into the WMA are dirt.

Unlike Ash Street, there is no access to Newbury, at least not by motor vehicle. Near the beginning of the dirt road to the left, a pipe gate stops access by vehicles, but foot traffic is allowed. To the right, another road comes in from the southwest, also barred by a pipe gate. This road is little more than an overgrown path. If followed it would lead into Groveland and the J.B. Little Road (see below). Where the two roads meet makes a convenient parking place and most of the best birding, in my experience, is right there. For the last decade, this spot has been one of the most reliable places to find Blue-winged Warblers; they are quite vocal throughout the spring and presumably nest in the area.



Blue-headed Vireo off Crane Neck Street in a photograph by David Larson

Beyond the pipe gate to the left (east), Crane Neck Road leads quickly to a small broken-down and overgrown bridge. The small area between the pipe gate and the bridge has been a good place to find Yellow-throated Vireos and is probably more reliable than Ash Street for this bird. I have also had good luck with migrating thrushes at the appropriate times and even (a long time ago) Ruffed Grouse. Back in June 1993, Lois Cooper and I came upon a bear cub sitting in a puddle near the bridge. That too was a long time ago and the area is less wild now than it used to be. Lois and I knew of a tree where a Screech Owl used to roost in the winter, but the tree blew down two winters ago. We haven't found the owl's new roost.

The road beyond the bridge is flooded except during extraordinarily dry periods. It can be negotiated in high boots, and the area beyond is a heavily wooded dirt road that eventually leads through mixed forest to Byfield Center in Newbury, where it is marked Forest Street. You can access this part of the WMA by driving to the end of Forest Street in Byfield and walking from there.

J.B. Little Road

The reader must forgive me if I wander off the reservation here. Although some of J.B. Little Road is in West Newbury, most of it is in Groveland, and all of the most productive birding is in Groveland. But I would feel as if I am cheating the reader if I omit this gem for the sole reason of an arbitrary town border. On Middle Street, the next crossroad southwest of the intersection with Crane Neck Street is the intersection with J.B. Little Road. Like Crane Neck Street in the WMA, J.B. Little Road is not fit for driving. But like Ash Street, people still use it, though a lot less frequently than they use Ash Street. The reason is simple. Whereas Ash Street's rough portion is a quarter-mile long, J.B. Little Road resembles the old Oregon Trail for its entire length, a distance of 1.14 miles. From the north end and for most of its length, J.B. Little Road travels through pine and mixed deciduous forest. The birds there are the same woodland species one would see and hear in similar Essex County forests. The southern end passes through a swamp for a distance of under a quarter-mile.

People who are familiar with this small patch pretty much agree that it is an extraordinary piece of swamp. It seems to yield an unending supply of nesting birds,




Northern Goshawk nestling off J.B. Little Road in Groveland in a photograph by David Larson

expected and unexpected, such as Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, Great Blue Heron, Tree Swallow, and Hairy, Downy, and Red-bellied woodpeckers. This swamp also has Least and Great Crested flycatchers, Yellow-throated and Warbling vireos, and 15 species of warblers, including Prothonotary in 2012. The usual sparrows can be seen here regularly. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers nest here. Virginia Rails are frequently seen, and Green Heron has also been recorded as a nesting bird. There are often Rusty Blackbirds in the fall, a locally nesting Goshawk occasionally patrols the area, and Least and Solitary sandpipers can be found in the shallows. Of the more exotic types,

Common Gallinules nested here in 2011. One year, I saw both an Olive-sided Flycatcher and a Little Blue Heron. Some years, I've seen displaying Nighthawks in the spring. In 2011, there were two reliable reports of a Sandhill Crane. The adjoining forests host Red-breasted and White-breasted nuthatches, Eastern Pewees, and Eastern Towhees. In only six years of keeping track, I have listed 97 species in fewer than 30 visits to J.B. Little Road.

In Summary

I cannot pretend to present a definitive guide to all of the good places to bird in West Newbury. There are many places that space and time have forced me to omit, especially along the Merrimack River. Other people who live in this area can surely

add to what I have outlined and fill in any gaps in this narrative. It also makes one wistfully wonder what might be found in those areas beyond our access, out there in that large, mostly inaccessible wildlife management area. But at least this article should give the reader a fairly full view of a few good patches to bird in West Newbury. 

Douglas Chickering is a retired Master Machinist. He has been birding since 1979. From 1982 to 2005 he lived in Newbury, and from 2005 to the present he has resided in Groveland. Although the epicenter of his birding is, naturally, Plum Island, he has birded West Newbury extensively.

From MASSWILDLIFE

Autumn Outdoor Safety Tips

Fall is a great time to be outdoors enjoying the dazzling colors, crisp air and wildlife activity. Whether your passion is hiking, hunting, fishing, birding, or just taking in the scenery, a few common sense safety reminders will add to your enjoyment during a day in the field.

Know your limits. Don't take off on a long hike, hunt, or bike ride if you're not physically ready. Tell someone where you're going and when you expect to return.

Watch the weather. New England weather is notorious for quick changes. Be ready with an extra layer of clothing, warm hat, and gloves.

Expect the unexpected. No one expects problems while spending a day outdoors, but having a fanny pack with a few first aid items, matches, water, extra food, pocket knife, map, compass, whistle, cell phone, and flashlight can help prevent small problems from becoming big ones.

Be Safe, Be Seen, Wear Blaze Orange! Whether you're a hunter, hiker or walking the dog in rural areas, it's a good idea to wear a cap or vest of highly visible blaze orange clothing while you're enjoying the great outdoors.

Respect the water. Canoeists and kayakers are required to wear life jackets from September 15 to May 15, but all water enthusiasts, especially anglers who wade our larger rivers, would be wise to wear floatation devices especially now that water and air temperatures are cool.

Respect other outdoor users. Mountain biking, horseback riding, wildlife watching, hunting, and hiking are not mutually exclusive activities. Know the hunting seasons <www.eregulations.com/massachusetts/huntingandfishing/quick-reference-guide> and who is likely to be sharing the woods and waters with you. Keep dogs under control and respect other outdoor users' right to enjoy our open spaces.

Outdoor activities are among the safest recreational pursuits available. With a little common sense, they'll stay that way.

A Black Vulture Nest in Warren: 2012

Chris Buelow

Nineteen fifty-four was a significant year for vultures in Massachusetts. It was the year that the Turkey Vulture was first documented as a breeder in the state and the first year a Black Vulture was sighted in the Commonwealth. Since then, Turkey Vultures have become so common that they seem to have always been here. In fact, Mass Audubon's *State of the Birds* shows that since 1968 Turkey Vulture has been the most rapidly increasing bird in Massachusetts; it has added 26% to its population each year! Black Vultures have been slower to increase in the state. From 1954 to 1993 Veit and Petersen considered Black Vultures to be rare visitors to Massachusetts; there were just over 30 observations documented during that period. Black Vulture



Black Vulture on Monument Mountain, all photographs by the author

sightings, however, have increased dramatically over the past decade, with regular observations now occurring at reliable locations such as Monument Mountain, Mount Tekoa, Blue Hills, Barre Landfill, and the Quaboag Narrows. Breeding had been suspected since the late 1990s in Sheffield and on Tekoa. It was finally confirmed in 1998, when a nest was found at Blue Hills, and Norm Smith later observed a fledgling there.

Fourteen years have passed since that first—and only—confirmation of a Black Vulture nesting in the state. But with a population trajectory becoming similar to that of the Turkey Vulture, it seemed just a matter of time before another Massachusetts nest was observed. That day came on June 7, 2012, when I found a pair of eggs deep in a crevice of a boulder field on the western slope of the Quaboag Narrows in Warren.

The Quaboag Narrows is a dramatic and mostly wild landscape in the area of Massachusetts where Worcester, Hampden, and Hampshire counties all come together. Specifically, The Narrows is a series of high, steep rocky hills that deflects the Quaboag River from its gentle east to west meander to a fast and turbulent run south toward the Chicopee River. Colonels Mountain, Devils Peak, Fox Hill, Whiskey Hill, and Marks Mountain are all key components of the Narrows.

My first encounter with this nest site was accidental. On May 31st I was working on the slopes of Fox Hill conducting rare species surveys and an invasive plant inventory. Toward the end of the day I targeted a particularly large, treeless boulder field. I stepped onto the boulder field from the upper slope and slowly worked my way downward in a series of wide switchbacks, taking my time in order to document the unusual plant community and avoid falling into the deep crevices between the giant boulders. After about an hour I reached the largest boulders near the bottom, and as I stumbled from jumping over a particularly wide crevice, I looked up to see an adult Black Vulture standing about 50 feet away on top of the lowest boulder.

We watched each other for about a minute before I began to scan the boulders to size up possible nest sites. Having found several Turkey Vulture nests in similar situations, I assumed that this bird was likely to be nesting here. The bird then took flight and circled low over me several times, emitting a series of soft grunts. It landed on the limb of a large basswood at the edge of the boulder field to continue watching me. At this point I rose to my feet and quietly made my way to a deep crevice beneath an enormous boulder that looked like a prime nest site. The floor of the crevice was six feet down and mostly dark. Without a light I was afraid to drop into it for fear of landing on eggs or chicks. Instead, I lowered myself headfirst as far as I could, looked at what seemed like an ideal spot, but found nothing but whitewash on the walls and floor of the cave. The whitewash suggested that the adult had been in this crevice. Why would it be there other than to nest?

When I lifted myself back through the opening, I saw the adult still perched in the tree; it was watching me and shifting back and forth in apparent unease. I decided not to disturb the bird further and to come back another day to nest search.

On June seventh, exactly one week later, I returned to the site with the sole purpose of a quick but thorough nest search. This time I approached the boulder field from the bottom and was armed with a flashlight. The crevice that I had searched the previous week was at the edge of the boulder field at the tree line. This location allowed for a concealed approach, and I quietly scaled the boulder next to the crevice. At the top I peered



Black Vulture nest site in Warren

toward the dark crevice and then at all the other potential nest sites that the bird could have used. Suddenly there was a flurry of sound and motion as the bird flew up through the crevice's opening, banging its wings against the relatively narrow slot before repeating the behavior of circling low while softly grunting, and then alighting in the same basswood limb.

I quickly switched on the light and rolled over to the crevice's edge, where I flooded the interior with light but did not see evidence of eggs or chicks. I double-



Black Vulture nest

checked, then dropped feet first into the crevice, which opened into a small chamber, approximately four feet wide, six feet long, and six feet high. The floor was dry and lined with small flat boulders with dry leaves and small sticks between them. It seemed an ideal nesting location, but a thorough search of the chamber revealed no sign of nesting. At the far end of the chamber, however, there was a triangular opening in the wall, approximately two feet high and 18 inches wide at its base. I leaned over, shined the light through the opening and found a secondary chamber about three feet by two feet by two feet. The first view revealed bare, well-packed soil. A second, deeper look revealed an aggregation of leaf litter, stick fragments, a few feathers, and two large, long-pyriform white eggs with speckled bottoms. I quickly photographed the scene, climbed back out, and took a few landscape shots of the boulder field, and

a few shots of the adult still in the tree (for species confirmation). I immediately left the site. As of September 2012 I have not returned and do not know the fate of the nesting attempt.

Interestingly, three weeks later I was at a similar location on Benton Hill in New Marlborough when I flushed another Black Vulture from a cliff-side crevice. I did not investigate this site primarily because it was approaching dusk, and I was a long way from the road, but the behavior and setting were so similar to those of the Warren bird that I suspected there was a nest nearby. Vulture nests in general are difficult to find, but as Black Vultures become increasingly common in Massachusetts, so should this nest-finding scenario. 🦅

Chris Buelow is a restoration ecologist with the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. He has lived in Hardwick for most of his life and is co-founder of the East Quabbin Bird Club. He and his wife Jenna have studied and managed bird populations across North America. At three years old, their daughter Vladia can identify a dozen birds in the field by call.

Further Adventures in Four-legged Birding

John Nelson

The four legs are mine and my crutches, not those of a mythical or mutant bird or any combination of two birds. After three major orthopedic surgeries within two years, I've become adept at getting around with ambulatory aids, gaining speed and endurance, though not quite race-worthy enough to enter the Boston Marathon crutches division. On my crutching excursions I've seen some pretty good birds—a soaring Osprey that conveniently turned right and added itself to my yard list and an early Brown Thrasher, sunlit on a perch as it tried out some new tunes for its latest mix. I've also missed a few rare birds I couldn't feasibly chase, particularly a White Ibis that came and went just a mite too soon after my escape from a hospital.

My latest target was a Spotted Towhee in Rockport, Massachusetts. It had been around a few days when my friend Susan Hedman drove us to the stakeout spot. I was pleased to see Herman d'Entremont there with his wife. Herman, who was roadside in his customary chair, is an inspiration, a birding Methuselah undaunted by afflictions and still searching after 157 years in the field. I propped myself up beside him while another birder, tickled by our inadvertent display of disabilities, took a few photos of us. Susan and I gave the towhee about an hour to show itself. Every birder knows the drill: the waiting, the patience, the impatience, the dwindling of hope, the yawning hole of boredom, the restless drifting away from the stakeout hub, the once encouraging reports—seen this morning, right over there, must have just missed it—that come to seem like cruel, perverse taunts, the growing conviction that, except for House Sparrows, there isn't a single damn bird, much less a Spotted Towhee, within a quarter-mile radius. After failing to find some other good birds reported in the neighborhood—Dickcissel, chat—Susan and I returned twice to the towhee stakeout, to no avail. It wasn't the first time we'd chased in vain.

Two weeks later I went out to try again. The towhee was still being reported now and then in the same spot, and it bothers me, really bothers me, to miss a new state bird that's hanging around just a few miles away on Cape Ann. My wife, Mary, expressed some misgivings when she dropped me off alone at the towhee stakeout, but wise to the ways of birders, she knew that protest would be futile. Whatever harm might befall me was no excuse to not go birding. "I'm good, honey," I called out as she waved and drove off. "I'm birding!" I wish I could work up some suspense here, but fortune smiled upon me and the bird showed within ten minutes. Nice look, pretty bird, spots on its back, Spotted Towhee. It came and went, vocalized a few times with no other birders around to hear it. Then it was gone. With time and energy on my hands, I crunched over to nearby Loblolly Cove. Scopeless, I couldn't quite ID a few promising seabirds out in the cove, so I moved on to a house with feeders where, at the acceptable cost of a stiffening back, I leaned on my crutches and waited out a Dickcissel that was keeping bad company with 1708 House Sparrows. I returned to the towhee stakeout, hoping for a better look, and got another glimpse before a drizzle

commenced. Chat was still on my mind, but I decided it would be prudent to give it up for the day.

I crutched my way to Route 127A to thumb a ride to the tile store in East Gloucester where my wife sometimes works. Mary had doubted my hitchhiking plan, reasoning that passing motorists might view this hitching-on-crutches-birder persona as the ruse of a creative psychopath. Indeed, the first 30 drivers passed me by, some smiling wanly or pretending to avert their eyes, but the couple in car #31 took a chance on me. The scruffy dog in the back seat, snarling at the intruding crutches, moved over a bit begrudgingly to give me some room but fortunately the beast was small and friendly. The couple delivered me to the tile store. They left with a story to tell about a possessed birder who was . . . what bird was he looking for, honey? Inside the store, my wife was “working”—that is, sipping coffee with her feet propped up and chatting with our friend Dennis, the handsome, highly-ambulatory store owner. Dennis joked about the safe arrival of the “handicapped husband” whose wife had abandoned him curbside to visit her boyfriend—that is, him. Dennis laughed, Mary laughed, I laughed. All in good fun. Anyway, I was feeling too pleased with myself to be suckered by a squirrely little emotion like jealousy. I mean, I did see a Spotted Towhee, didn't I? Some days I just love birding.

When I got home and on my computer, I found that Herman, along with Oakes Spaulding and Bob Murphy, had seen the towhee just a few minutes before I did. Good karma all around. I don't know the length of Herman's state list, but I doubt I'll ever catch him, though I might try—on four legs, two, or one. Next stop, the Lazuli Bunting in Wellfleet, though I may need a little nap before I crutch it from Cape Ann to Cape Cod. 🐦

John Nelson, of Gloucester, contributes regularly to Bird Observer and has published fiction and non-fiction about birds in Birding, Birdwatching, The Gettysburg Review, The Harvard Review, and the British journal Essex Birding. His essay on birds and dance, “Brolga the Dancing Crane Girl,” was awarded the prestigious Carter Prize for the best non-fiction article published in Shenandoah during the 2011–2012 season.



SPOTTED TOWHEE BY DAVID LARSON

Catch Basin Cover Grates: Another Hazard for Young Birds

Alan Rawle as told to Wendy Howes

Adult birds face survival challenges from windows, communication and wind towers, hunters, cats, and other human-related death traps. Young birds face other dangers, including some that get little or no press. This is a report about a threat to ground-nesting birds that may have slipped under the radar, water run-off catch basins with grate cover openings large enough for small birds to fall through.

I work at a business in a large industrial park in Westborough. The park is a standard configuration of several large buildings with numerous parking areas and a linked network of paved roads surrounded by mowed lawns. Much of the industrial park borders on an extensive wetlands system. A tiny pond sits in the asphalt and grass landscape across from my office building. The pond, fringed by cattails and supporting turtles, frogs, other aquatic plants and insects, is a remnant of the original vast acreage of wetlands. Near the main entrance to the park, about a mile away, is a larger pond that attracts Canada Geese and other suburb-tolerant species. In addition, the office park itself is generally quiet with dense protective cover around the perimeter. Overall, this environment is attractive to Killdeer. At least one pair of Killdeer has nested near my office building in the five years I've been at this location, and these birds may have used the area for much longer. I have not actively searched for a nest, but some dry, rocky slopes abutting the lawns and asphalt parking areas appear to be suitable nesting sites.

Upon arriving at my office early in the morning during the week of July 2, 2012, I saw a pair of Killdeer with at least two precocial young on the grounds around our office building. Presumably the young were the result of a second nesting, considering the time of year. Normally Killdeer have a brood of three to five and second nestings in some years. The parents guard the precocial young for up to three or four weeks before the young can fend for themselves.

Early in the morning of July 6, 2012, when I arrived at work, I witnessed a near-tragedy. I observed a pair of Killdeer making short flights over the parking lot. Two precocial young were running along the curb. I watched as one of the fledglings ran toward one of the roadside drains and abruptly disappeared; it had dropped into the catch basin. The parent birds became agitated, making loud distress calls and running about in an excited manner. I could hear the young bird squeaking and chipping from



Storm drain, photographs by the authors

the basin. Running quickly to the catch basin and causing the frantic parent birds to resort to distraction displays because of my presence, I found the young bird swimming in water that seemed to be a couple of feet deep with the surface of the water well below ground level, perhaps four feet down. Had I removed the grate cover, I would have been unable to reach the bird. In addition, the grate openings were three-inch square, large enough to allow the small bird body to pass through, but too small to reach through with a stick or other implement. To add to the difficulty, the basin walls were smooth. Clearly the bird would be unable to extract itself. I ran immediately into my office building and found the only item that seemed suited to the task—a wide-bottomed mop with a standard broomstick-type handle—and ran back to the basin. Luckily the young bird was still swimming, although the parents were no longer close by.

I had never had an opportunity to lift a cover from a catch basin, and now it came as a huge surprise that a simple, square grate with so many openings was extremely heavy; it was made of cast iron. When I was finally able to maneuver the cover to create space for the mop, I lowered the mop to the fledgling, which was still treading water. With a little coaxing and nudging, I got the bird onto the mop head, lifted it out, and placed it on the grass. Both of us took a few moments to recover from our ordeal. By this time, the parent birds were nowhere to be seen, apparently scared off by my presence. I placed the drenched chick on a rock, where it stayed without moving for five minutes or so, drying out, and eventually resuming a normal appearance. I left and checked back in a few minutes to find the young bird gone—back with the parent birds, I hoped. Meanwhile, I didn't notice if the second fledgling was present as it had been the previous day.



Body of a drowned Killdeer chick

With no property manager immediately available to talk to, especially as it was a weekend, my wife Wendy and I returned to the site the following morning, July 7th, armed with scraping tools, scissors, and pieces of Agribon™, a reusable spun polypropylene fabric used for garden row covers, which I intended to use to at least temporarily reduce the risk to any remaining Killdeer fledglings. To our dismay, the second catch basin held the tiny drowned body of a young Killdeer.

Another basin held a floating dead frog. Usually at home in the water, this unfortunate amphibian had been trapped due to the smooth walls and great space between the basin cover and the water surface. Although we didn't find other animals in the remaining catch basins, it is likely that many small creatures die due to the grate cover design. Countless animals and their young can easily fall through a three-inch square opening. It would seem that this problem could be easily remedied, engineering and roadway standards notwithstanding, by using basin covers with narrower gaps.

With heavy hearts we spent the next couple of hours covering the eight catch basin grates in areas immediately adjoining the grassy verges and wetlands. We saw or heard no Killdeer that day, nor were any adults or young present in the weeks following. I can only surmise that no young birds survived; no longer needing a “nursery” site, the adult birds dispersed, perhaps to the large pond near the highway where I often hear the classic *killdeer killdeer* call while driving by.



Covered drain

Having had my consciousness raised, I recently located similar catch basins at our local recreational field, which had been installed at low spots in the mowed grass. Killdeer find this habitat attractive and in some years nest here at the edges of the playing fields or nearby gravel and sand patches. Once again, most of the grates covering the catch basins feature three-inch square patterns, and consistent with present design practice, the surface of the standing water in each basin is four to seven feet below the cover. In addition to being a hazard for small animals, the three-inch gaps could trap the foot of a small toddler. My experience with the Killdeers has encouraged me to look for ways to remedy the problem, at least temporarily, and to also spread the word about this avoidable hazard. I now keep a long-handled fishing net at work and during the nesting season plan to install temporary coverings over the catch basins near my workplace. 🐦

Alan Rawle and Wendy Howes enjoy birds and nature and also advocate for wildlife in central Massachusetts and beyond.



KILLDEER ON NEST BY DAVID LARSON

The Brookline Bird Club: 1913–1945

John Nelson

On June 18, 1913, thirty birders gathered at the Brookline Public Library to found the Brookline Bird Club. Their object was “to study, observe, and protect native song birds and to encourage their propagation” (Hale 1913). Inspired by a lecture by Ernest Baynes of the Meriden Bird Club in New Hampshire, Mary Moore Kaan had organized the meeting. A front-page *Brookline Chronicle* article, “BBC Organizes to Protect Native Singers and Wild Species,” (1913) reported that the club was formed “to study ‘the little brothers of the air,’ arouse a sentiment for their preservation, arrange free lectures for the people, and plan other ways of education in bird life.” The BBC established a constitution and set dues at 50 cents, and 25 cents for “juniors”—boys and girls under 14 but “old enough to go alone on streetcars.” The first officers were Edward M. Baker, president; Charles Floyd, vice-president; Ada Chavelier, secretary; and George Kaan, treasurer. Eight women and three men served as the first directors.

The first club bulletin announced five walks in fall 1913, all in or near Brookline. On the first walk, led by Edith Hale, 24 members found 14 Bobolinks and two pairs of Ring-necked Pheasants at the Cambridge marshes on September 27. Other trips that fall headed to Jamaica Pond, Franklin Park, the Chestnut Hill woodlands, and the Boston Public Garden. A *Boston Globe* photo in November 1913 captured the BBC group, led by Charles Floyd, at Chestnut Hill: men in suits and ties, women in bulky ankle-length dresses, all wearing (unplumed) hats, and one junior in the front row. For decades, trip leaders wrote reports of “club rambles” for the *Chronicle*, with complete lists of species seen.

Two hundred people attended the first annual meeting in February 1914, with a lecture by state ornithologist Edward Howe Forbush on “Useful Birds and Their Protection.” Across the country, countless birds were still being shot, for food or “sport” or as alleged pests, and Forbush, like Alexander Wilson a century earlier, felt compelled to justify their preservation on grounds of utility as well as their beauty and fascinating behavior.

It is no accident that one of the country’s oldest and most active bird clubs began in metropolitan Boston. Massachusetts, with its tradition of nature study, provided fertile habitat for a fledgling bird club. In 1818 the state passed the nation’s first law protecting songbirds (or “non-game” birds) from shooting. In 1883 the Nuttall Ornithological Club, led by William Brewster, was founded in Cambridge. From Nuttall (still going strong) emerged the American Ornithological Union, North American’s preeminent ornithological organization. The Massachusetts Audubon Society, founded in 1896, led the fight against the plume trade.

The BBC did not aim to be a society of birding authorities but rather an egalitarian group welcoming all comers: rookies and veterans, men and women, young and old, to “know birds and enjoy them” and gain “a fuller appreciation of

nature.” At a time when professional ornithology was an exclusively male domain, the full involvement and leadership of women, including the prime mover and the first trip leader, distinguished the club. Women were in the forefront of the campaign against the plume trade—what Chris Leahy has called “the first successful wildlife protection movement” (Leahy 2004). Poet Celia Thaxter chastised any woman who would wear “a charnel house of beaks and claws and bones upon her fatuous head” (Kastner 1986). By 1900, “bird rambles” had become popular at Smith and other colleges, and women were publishing books like Florence Merriam Bailey’s *Birds through an Opera Glass* and Neltje Blanchan’s *Bird Neighbors* (150,000 copies sold).

Women also worked to set up Junior Audubon clubs and were especially determined to convert children to the pleasures of birding. BBC founders, sharing this determination, believed that even boys who shoot or stone birds “can be made over into conservationists.” (*Brookline Chronicle* 1926). One bulletin insisted that the BBC had a “sacred obligation” to cultivate young birders. By 1915 the club had more than one hundred junior members. In 1920 juniors represented almost 30% of club membership.

Horace Taylor led the Junior Department, which had its own bulletin. He offered a series of illustrated lectures, “Our Bird-Life in the World,” to provide “fundamental facts of ornithology” without being “too scientific and technical for amateur or child.” A crowd of 277 attended one 1927 lecture. For years, the BBC sponsored a Brookline Bird Day at the Children’s Museum. BBC leaders observed that “some of the most useful members came into the club as children.” One example was Richard Pough, a founder of the Nature Conservancy, who led club trips while a biology student at M.I.T. Maurice Broun (curator of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary) and Roger Tory Peterson were also active in the club as boys.

Bird walks have always been the club’s main activity, but from the start, many club leaders viewed these walks as a means toward conservation. One bulletin flatly proclaimed: “The primary purpose of our Club is to protect birds” (BBC 1929). In 1913 *The Christian Science Monitor* reported that the BBC followed “all legislation that would affect the welfare and culture of birds” (1913). Locally, the club recruited residents to set up winter feeding stations, contributed to the Arnold Arboretum Endowment, lobbied successfully for a law to stop the shooting of Bobolinks, and encouraged members to share “old bird glasses” with novices. In May 1915 the BBC helped organize a State Bird Day at Franklin Park, with a welcome address by Boston mayor James M. Curley. In 1917, during World War I, the club called for a boycott of “war wings,” feathers sold to women by the Naval Reserve in the name of “national service” (Robbins 1917).

In 1919 the BBC allied with Mass Audubon, with which it maintained “pleasant and mutually helpful relations,” to stop development on Plum Island and preserve the land as a state bird reservation. In cooperation with the Brookline Park Commission, the BBC established the Putterham Meadow Sanctuary in 1926. Nationally, the BBC worked to pass the Migratory Bird Treaty in 1918 and in 1922 endorsed the Bird Banding Association.

One conservation battle was the fight against the English Sparrow—a continuation of the 19th century Great Sparrow War. At an early club meeting Horace Taylor reminded members of “the imperative need of getting rid of the dirty, noisy English sparrows who,” according to one slightly stunned reporter, “had not a friend in the company to stand up for them” (*Brookline Chronicle* 1913).

Club membership quickly grew and spread beyond Brookline, as did trip destinations. Membership hit 200 in 1914, passed 500 by 1920, and reached 558 in 1928. In December 1913 the BBC had offered its first trip—by boat from Rowe’s Wharf in Boston and then by narrow gauge railroad—to the Lynn and Nahant beaches. A year later, 39 members went to Marblehead Neck. The first trip to Cape Ann, via the Boston-Gloucester freight boat, was in early 1916; the first to Duxbury, June 1916; the first to Moose Hill Sanctuary in Sharon, May 1921. Some trips involved long, demanding hikes, from Greenbush to North Scituate (sometimes by snowshoe) or from the Ipswich railroad station along the dunes of Crane Beach to the Essex River mouth. Sometimes the challenges were human: trips to Jamaica Pond had to contend with children frolicking in the parkway as well as “barking dogs, nursegirls pushing squeaking baby carriages, equestrians, pedestrians, motorists, ball-players, picnickers, and what not” (*Brookline Chronicle* 1916).

For years, club bulletins provided instructions for train and boat connections, as well as costs. Leaders were expected to be well versed in train logistics and to “tactfully” solicit new members. Horace Taylor implored all members to keep careful bird lists as a storehouse of valuable scientific data. Leaders were never expected to be authorities, but in a period of intense controversy over the reliability of sight records, they were encouraged to be scrupulous in identification and maintain exact counts of species seen, even English Sparrows. Women and men shared club leadership; of the 42 walks in spring 1922, women led 26. In 1923 the BBC doubled its dues to \$1—still the cost of dues a half-century later. Juniors were charged 50 cents. A life membership went for \$10.

In the mid 1920s the BBC, as part of the Federation of the Bird Clubs of New England, helped to get state funding for Forbush’s comprehensive and engrossing *Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States*, which became a standard guide, though, in three volumes, it was expensive and too heavy and cumbersome for easy field use. The Federation helped to establish sanctuaries on islands off Chatham, Lynn, and Rockport; protected coastal tern colonies; made “a final attempt to save the Heath Hen from extinction;” and campaigned “to stop the iniquitous practice of abandoning housecats, THE GREATEST ENEMY OF THE BIRDS” (BBC 1925).

A 1925 bulletin bemoaned disappointing attendance at meetings but stressed that the club was “flourishing,” with large attendance on walks. That year the BBC sponsored a Memorial Day trip to Plum Island and three-day excursions to Cape Ann and to New Salem in central Massachusetts. As early as 1918, some members had driven to an outing in the “quaint city” of Ipswich, but the first all-automobile trip, to Artichoke Reservoir in West Newbury, did not occur until 1930. The BBC also worked in tandem with Mass Audubon to run a bird study camp at Echo Lake on Mt. Desert Island in Maine.

Some members began birding internationally. In the 1920s, club president Raymond Talbot led several versions of his “Nature Study Tour of Europe,” a mix of birding, nature hikes, and cultural sightseeing. The 70-day 1926 tour steamed out of Montreal on the Cunard line’s *S.S. Ascania* and crisscrossed northern Europe by rail and motorcar, at a cost of \$980 per person.

Of course, local birders didn’t have to go to Europe to find birds. With a little imagination we can share the excitement of members in 1926 as they watched an Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker in Wellesley; a Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Scarlet Tanager “singing lustily” side by side in Framingham; Red-headed Woodpeckers near the Brookline library; a White-winged Crossbill at Putterham Meadows; a Pine Grosbeak in Winchester; a Northern Shrike catching a mouse in Belmont; a Northern Goshawk biting off a rooster’s head at a Wellesley farmyard (not witnessed on a club trip, but reported); a Pacific Loon and three “booming” Heath Hens on the club’s first trip to Martha’s Vineyard; or a few Snowy Owls, out of nine seen on a November day in Ipswich, Cape Ann, and Marblehead.

Judge Larry Jodrey, in his 50th anniversary history of the club in 1963, also conjured up visions of BBC trips long before his own days as a birder. Birding was more challenging, with inferior optics and reference books. Casual clothing of any kind was hard to come by, much less designed-for-birders outfits with big pockets and detachable leggings. Members often wore old business clothes, the “ladies crowned by hats not always currently in style” but without earrings, ornaments that were considered in poor taste on birding walks. “Jewelry and finery,” Jodrey observed, “were reserved for the indoor meetings to which the members customarily wore their dressiest outfits, rendering themselves sometimes unrecognizable to friends who were accustomed to seeing each other in birding garb.” (Jodrey 1963).

By 1930, BBC members also knew the bittersweet feeling that Jodrey expressed—“a touch of sadness in recalling pleasant trips to many once delightful places which are now, on account of their development as residential and commercial areas, no longer birding territory.” In 1930, City Point in Boston—where a “rare” Hudsonian Godwit had been sighted two years earlier—was described as “again disappointing.” By 1931, Putterham Meadow, once alive with birdsong, had become a “huge disappointment” and was eventually converted to a municipal golf course. A 1934 bulletin announced: “This may be the last club bulletin to list Belmont Hills among its trips.”

The 1930 statistical report cited 476 members (including 49 life members, 4 honorary, and 26 juniors) and a total count of 214 species on 133 walks. On an April 30 trip to Martha’s Vineyard, guided by Florence Little and longtime club ornithologist/statistician Grace Snow, members were among the last people to see a Heath Hen. A census that year had found just one bird, which was allowed to live after some debate over whether it should be collected for science. It was the “last specimen of its kind,” Annie Stevens reminisced in a 1963 letter to club members, and a bird seen with “great satisfaction.” By 1932, the Heath Hen was extirpated.

The 1930s stand out as a difficult but dynamic decade in BBC history. The main challenge was economic: the Great Depression. A few members dropped out; others requested more walks to local spots that required no more than ten cents in carfare. Nineteen thirty-four was “the most difficult financial year in club history.” There was less money for bird protection and more pleas to bring in new paying members. Yet the bulletin expanded beyond lists of trips and meetings to cover conservation issues in more depth and breadth and include poetry from club members.

During the 1930s, the BBC fought conservation battles on a wide variety of fronts. It argued for legal restrictions on billboards, opposed the practice of “duck-baiting,” proposed a tax on bird-killing housecats, and called attention to the damage done to shorebirds and seabirds by “waste pumped overboard from oil-burning vessels.” The club resisted a proposed highway with a toll bridge to connect Ipswich and Plum Island. Statewide and nationally, it embraced the campaign to stop the “wanton killing” of birds, especially birds of prey. In 1930, “standing four-square for the protection of birds of prey,” (Talbot 1935) the club supported the federal Bald Eagle Protection bill, demanded enforcement of laws like the Migratory Bird Treaty, and resolved that “the names of all hawks and owls should be omitted from the list of birds not protected by law” (*Brookline Chronicle* 1930). Some appeals went beyond birds altogether, such as an attack on dog racing. (BBC 1930s).


The BBC also renewed its efforts to nurture young birders. Leading the way was Raymond Talbot, who had started birding at age eight during a long convalescence from appendicitis. In 1928, as educational field agent for Mass Audubon, he began writing *Bird News for the School*, distributed free to every high school and junior high throughout Massachusetts. In 1933 the BBC took over the publication, operating it at a loss, and sponsored prizes for the best student articles on bird study or bird protection. In one of his last pieces in *Bird News*, about a birder uninterested in conservation, Talbot concluded: “I have failed utterly if any large proportion of my readers really are convinced that conservation is of no concern to a bird club” (Talbot 1941). Under Talbot’s leadership, the club conducted dedicated bird walks for school, church, and scout groups. In 1940 alone, he gave 32 bird lectures at 21 summer camps.

Meanwhile, club trips ranged close to home and farther afield. The first BBC walk at Mt. Auburn was in 1934; the cemetery hadn’t been birded regularly until Ludlow Griscom and his followers began to go there in the 1920s. By the mid 1930s all-day auto trips had become regular. In 1936 the BBC conducted an “as the spirit moves us” auto excursion with no fixed itinerary. In May 1937 members traveled by car on the club’s first Big Day, with 107 species found, mainly in Ipswich and Newburyport. Lectures at the Brookline library or the Museum of Science on topics such as “Gulls: Good or Bad Birds?” or Henry Beston’s talk on “Birds of the Maine Lakes” drew crowds of up to five hundred people.

As our nation entered World War II, the BBC was reaching the end of an era. In 1941, after 15 years, Talbot stepped down as president, replaced by T. E. L. Robinson and then Morton Cummings. The publication of *Bird News* was discontinued in 1943. The bulletin, which became blue in 1941 (except for a lone leucistic book in 1945),

was reduced in scope, listing walks and statistical reports but not the poetry and conservation appeals. The report for 1943, the club's 30th anniversary year, noted 386 members and a total of 128 walks and 227 species. Black-headed Gull, Little Gull, Western Gull, and Acadian Chickadee were write-ins on the MAS checklist, which included 277 species. Absent were Snow Goose, Manx Shearwater, Snowy Egret, Glossy Ibis, Turkey Vulture, Clapper Rail, American Oystercatcher, Wilson's Phalarope, Forster's Tern, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, Hooded Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Northern Cardinal, and House Finch (not mentioned by Forbush even as a vagrant).

In 1943 the consensus bird of the year was a Gyrfalcon in Newburyport; in 1944, a stunning Gray (White-tailed) Sea-Eagle, also in Newburyport. That year the BBC offered 142 trips and found a record 236 species.

But the last few years of the war were also a time of security regulations, rationing, and restrictions on "pleasure driving." The traditional boat trip to Provincetown in 1944 stipulated "without glasses." Birders wandering about with binoculars were sometimes suspected as spies or saboteurs assisting German submarines. Eventually all boat trips were suspended, and there were no more walks along the coastline. The club struggled to find trip leaders. The birds were still there, but for many birders, at home and in ships or trenches overseas, the birds would have to wait. It was not a time for celebration, but moving into its fourth decade, the BBC still had much to celebrate and cause for pride and optimism. The club would continue to thrive and grow in the postwar years. 

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John Nelson, of Gloucester, contributes regularly to Bird Observer and has published fiction and non-fiction about birds in Birding, Birdwatching, The Gettysburg Review, The Harvard Review, and the British journal Essex Birding. His essay on birds and dance, "Brolga the Dancing Crane Girl," was awarded the prestigious Carter Prize for the best non-fiction article published in Shenandoah during the 2011–2012 season. He is a director of the Brookline Bird Club as well as the Essex County Ornithological Club.

[Ed. Note: This article has been abridged from part one of a three-part history of the Brookline Bird Club. This history is being written for its 100th anniversary in 2013. The complete history will be published on the BBC website.]



From the Birding Community E-Bulletin

Scotts Decision

In March, we reported on the news that Scotts Miracle-Gro agreed to plead guilty to federal court charges and pay significant fines in connection with bird-seed incidents dating back a number of years ago. See our report here: <http://refugeassociation.org/?p=5126#seed>.

Scotts is the world's largest marketer of branded consumer lawn and garden products. This case deals in part with the recall of seed for wild birds that had been coated with pesticides that were toxic to birds.

After a plea-hearing on 7 September in Ohio federal court, the Scotts Miracle-Gro Company will pay \$12.5 million in criminal fines and civil penalties for violating federal pesticide laws. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said in a press release that this was the largest criminal penalty and the largest civil settlement ever under FIFRA, the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act. This final figure includes \$4 million in fines, \$6 million in penalties, and \$2 million on environmental projects to resolve additional civil pesticide violations.

Part of the fine imposed on Scotts - \$500,000 - will be split equally among five groups and agencies to fund efforts to protect birds, mostly based in Ohio: Audubon Ohio (for the IBA program), the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (Urban Forestry Program), Columbus Metro Parks (Bird Habitat Enhancement Program), the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and The Nature Conservancy of Ohio.

You can access all the past E-bulletins on the National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA) website: <http://refugeassociation.org/news/birding-bulletin/>.

Alfred Otto Gross, Bowdoin Academic and Renowned Field Ornithologist

William E. Davis, Jr.

Although born into humble surroundings, Alfred Otto Gross left home at age 17 and, through talent, determination, and relentless effort, made himself into a world-class ornithologist and successful professor at Bowdoin College in Maine. He was totally self-reliant and proud of it, as is evidenced by his remark when Harvard University attempted to lure him away from his beloved Bowdoin by touting Harvard's prestige, "I would never lean on any institution for prestige. My status was dependent on my own accomplishments" (quoted in Paynter 1971).

Gross was born in 1883 of two German immigrants, the ninth child of Henry and Sophia Gross, in rural Mackville, Illinois. He was brought up on the family farm, where, according to his unpublished autobiography (Gross unpubl.), he survived a happy though adventuresome childhood. As a small child he hung out an upstairs window by his hands and was unable to pull himself back in; he stuffed his ear with tiger lily bulbets that swelled and took weeks to remove; he fell out of an apple tree and landed on his head; and he accidentally discharged his 12-gauge shotgun in his bedroom; etc., etc. His father was, as Gross described him, "a real naturalist," who instilled a conservation ethic in his youngest son. For example, when they discovered a bird nesting in the clover they were about to mow, the elder Gross placed stakes around the area to avoid mowing over the nest. His brothers, however, taught him how to shoot a gun, an event that led to many a local rabbit paying the ultimate price. His interest in natural history led to his room being crammed full of stuffed birds and mammals, snakes, insects, and frogs by the time he graduated from high school in 1900 as valedictorian of his class. When his father thought that at 17 Alfred should work full time on the farm, he donated his stuffed menagerie to his high school and prepared to make his way in the world.

He hated farm work and hence applied for and received a tuition scholarship to the University of Illinois Academy, Urbana, in 1902, where he got enough advanced schooling to be eligible for admittance to the University of Illinois. To earn money to support himself, Gross became a taxidermist at the university's Natural History Museum, preparing bird skins for the university ornithology course and mounts for museum display. He struggled financially through the Academy and into the University in 1903, working odd jobs and doing his taxidermy, and surviving bouts of severe tonsillitis and scarlet fever and the attendant medical bills. He was, however, befriended and mentored by Frank Smith, Professor of Zoology and Curator of the Museum, who let him attend zoology classes without being registered, thus easing his financial problems and encouraging his field studies of birds.

When he was a junior in 1905, Gross got his big break. He had become a regular birder, arising most mornings before dawn to visit the university arboretum and list the birds encountered, and he was established as a taxidermist at the University

Museum. Another mentor, Professor Forbes, who was Director of the Illinois Natural History Laboratory (predecessor of the Illinois Natural History Survey), offered him a job directing the brand new Illinois Statistical Ornithological Survey at \$75 a month plus expenses. The job involved creating and testing a protocol for the survey. Gross decided on a survey with two people walking 30 yards apart and counting all birds inside or crossing a strip 50 yards wide and 100 yards in front of the observers. During the summers of 1906 and 1907 Gross and an assistant walked more than 3,000 miles of these transects, a staggering series of treks across Illinois. In making his identifications of birds, Gross used binoculars, establishing him as one of the earliest practitioners of this art. He also used a 16-gauge shotgun to collect approximately 200 birds for identification and for the museum. He also took hundreds of photographs to document habitat (Gross unpubl.). This was the first attempt by any state to census its bird populations.

Gross and his assistant tried to plan their schedule to be in a large town on Sundays, where they could get a hotel and write journals, skin birds, and coordinate field notes and, "If time permitted we attended church for relaxation and where we made a point of meeting local people to obtain information concerning the region being censused [undergoing the census]." (Gross unpubl., p. 51). This survey provided the information for a series of papers and notes, the first in 1908: "Swainson's Warbler *Helinaia swainsoni* in Southern Illinois." The survey results also became the basis for a comparison of Illinois bird populations a half century later (Graber and Graber, 1963). Using slides made from survey photographs, Gross gave a series of lectures to civic organizations, nature study groups, and various groups of academics. Thus he paved the way for his academic career. As well as professional development, the survey provided Gross with enough money to complete his college career, graduating with Special Honors in Zoology and an A.B. degree in 1908. He was on his way to a career as an ornithologist, but he had one more large step to take.

In September 1909, Gross boarded a train to Boston to begin study for a Ph.D. at Harvard University. It was his first real trip outside of Illinois, and he arranged to stop along the way to visit Niagara Falls. While at Harvard, he made friends with James L. Peters, a sophomore there, and was taken birding to Franklin Park and the Arnold Arboretum. On his own, Gross birded all the local haunts, including Mount Auburn Cemetery, Fresh Pond, and Middlesex Fells. This was the beginning of a lifelong friendship with Peters, who was to become the Curator of Birds at the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard and an internationally prominent ornithologist (Davis 2001). Gross had his usual problems with financial matters, but he did odd jobs and earned scholarships, including a research fellowship for summer research in Bermuda.

At the Bermuda Biological Station Gross spent his time studying the life history of the White-tailed Tropicbird, a study that he published in *The Auk* in 1912, the first of a series of life history studies that have become classics. At the time these were groundbreaking, with their detail, quantitative approach, and biological breadth and depth. Gross was several decades ahead of most American ornithologists, who were stuck in the quagmire of bird distribution and extra-limital records. He was now not

just an ornithologist but an exceptional ornithologist. During his second summer in Bermuda he met Edna G. Gross (no relation), who became his wife in 1913. Their honeymoon consisted of a canoe trip up the Kennebec River and a chain of lakes in the area, an adventuresome trip in which he, going for supplies by himself, capsized his canoe and nearly drowned. (Gross unpubl., pp. 69–70).

Gross completed his degree in 1912, and as a bright young Harvard Ph.D., he received a number of job offers, including a grant to do research in Russia; teaching positions at colleges in South Dakota and Ohio and at Bowdoin College in Maine; and the directorship of a Washington state museum. Gross chose the position at Bowdoin and in the fall of 1912 began a 60-year relationship with the college. He first taught at the Maine Medical School, a Bowdoin College affiliate, and was promoted from Instructor to Associate Professor. After the Medical School was closed in 1920, he became a regular Bowdoin College faculty member, being promoted to full Professor in 1922. In 1950 he became the Josiah Little Professor of Natural History.

Gross spent two summers at the Marine Biological Station in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, working on invertebrates, but he much preferred fieldwork on birds. In 1918 Gross and his two sons spent the summer in Illinois and did another of his life history studies, this time on Dickcissels, and produced another long, two-part paper for *Auk*. In 1920 he spent the summer at Sandy Neck on Cape Cod doing an intensive life history study of the Black-crowned Night-Heron. The monographic treatment that resulted (1923) was his typical thorough, quantitatively based work, and a classic study. When somewhat restricted by the birth of his daughter, Gross studied a pair of Common Nighthawks nesting on a gravel roof in town. This produced two papers, one a typical monographic study of their life history (1940).

Perhaps his most impressive and longest research project involved the Heath Hen. In 1923 he was approached by the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game to make a comprehensive study of the last remaining Heath Hens on Martha's Vineyard. In 1916 there had been a population of 800, but numbers had subsequently declined. By 1923, when Gross made the first of his spring visits to the island, there were only 28 birds left, mostly males, and the population was heading for extinction. Gross monitored the decline through the period from 1929–1932, when a lone male, no longer “booming” on its lek, survived—a sad remnant of the once vibrant population. Gross published 17 papers on the study between 1923 and 1937, including his 1928 monograph *The Heath Hen*, a remarkable corpus of work. In an April 5, 1930, letter constituting his report on the 1930 Heath Hen census, we get to read about the sad demise of the species and get a glimpse at the personal side of Gross:



Alfred Gross holding a Heath Hen.

“During the year 1928 the number of Heath hen dwindled from three to one lone male. This bird was alive at the time of the annual census taken March 30 to April 3, 1929. Though suggestions have been made to the State Department of Conservation to collect and preserve this last bird for science, it has been allowed to live its normal life among the scrub oaks on the sandy plains of Martha’s Vineyard Island.... It is truly remarkable that this lone bird, subjects to all the vicissitudes of the weather, to disease, and to natural enemies, has been able to live in solitude for such a long time.... During the spring of former years the Heath Hen appeared in the open fields in the early morning hours following dawn and again in the late afternoon preceding sunset, to go through their weird and extraordinary courtship performances. The lone bird has appeared regularly this year but the courtship performance has been omitted; in fact it has not been heard to utter a single note.... From a sentimental standpoint how much better it is to permit this last heath hen to live out its normal life in its natural environment than it would be to have it stuffed to collect dust on some museum shelf.... The State department has assured us that the bird will be allowed to live, and when death comes, whether it is due to old age, disease or to violence, we will at least know that the life of the last Heath Hen was not willfully snuffed out by man.”

During the same period, Gross was involved in the study of the Ruffed Grouse. In 1924 he was hired to study this bird in New York State by the Roosevelt Wild Life Experiment Station, and in 1925 he became Director of the New England Ruffed Grouse Investigation, with the primary purpose of studying the cyclical population fluctuations of the species. Thousands of dead birds were sent to him to study in the lab for parasites and diseases, and for analysis of stomach contents. He hired assistants to help with the lab work, and he carried out field investigations throughout New England and in Labrador. When the study extended to a study of grouse predators, the lab received a number of hawks and owls. This enormous project produced many papers, including some in leading journals such as *Science* (1925).

Alfred Gross also combined work and play on occasions when he took the family traveling. In 1925, for example, he took them to Barro Colorado Island in Lake Catun in Panama. Here he studied birds and had an adventure or two:

“One day while I was photographing the vireos [from a blind near a vireo nest] a troop of about 15 Black Howler Monkeys were approaching via way of the jungle tree tops. This was not unusual hence I paid no attention to the noisy howling creatures. However, in a relatively short time they were directly above me. One of the monkeys caught sight of me in the blind and uttered a series of grunts which attracted the other members of the troop to halt and look. Soon there were 15 pairs of black eyes intently peering at me. Their curiosity brought them nearer and nearer and I became apprehensive that as a group they might attack me. How could I get rid of them? I thought of the long-bladed machete, which I always carried with me while in the jungle. I stood up in the blind, open at the top, shouted my loudest and waved the glistening blade in circular arcs at the intruders. The monkeys

thrashed around leaping from branch to branch, chattering, gesticulating, and finally went on their way as they uttered their ghastly howls. I must admit I was frightened.” (Gross unpubl., p. 76)

Gross was soon again up to monkey business, this time to collect a specimen for the Bowdoin Natural History Museum:

“I finally shot a large male that came crashing through the foliage to the ground. The other members of the group would not proceed further without the male I had killed.... They moaned and uttered queer noises through the night and all the next day. It gave me an intensely guilty feeling. I felt like a murderer rather than a scientific collector. It was the first and I vowed it would be the last monkey I would cause to die.” (Gross unpubl., pp. 77–78).

This certainly doesn’t sound like a hard-nosed collector.

Gross was to return to Barro Colorado again in 1927 and 1949. He published 10 papers on the results of his trips, including another life history study, this time on the Purple Gallinule (1929), published jointly with prominent Michigan ornithologist Josselyn Van Tyne. On the 1927 trip he and one of his sons continued on to Ecuador where they collected birds. On that trip they also visited Costa Rica, where they collected and studied birds in banana plantations of the United Fruit Company. In 1928 he made a family gathering out of a stay at the University of Michigan’s Biological Station in northern Michigan. He turned down an offer to lead an expedition to the south Atlantic and to become Director of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History—Gross loved his Bowdoin.



Alfred Gross with the only monkey he ever collected.

In 1929 and 1930, he studied Greater Prairie Chickens for the Wisconsin Conservation Commission and with his usual thoroughness studied their general ecology, behavior, predators, diseases, and feeding habits. From the study he produced 10 publications, some popular. During the study he had a run-in with a bull while he was cutting saplings for poles to use in constructing blinds from which to watch the displaying birds:

“...the herd [of cows] was led by a fierce-looking bull. As he approached the area where I was cutting the trees he seemed intent in getting me out of his way. In an effort to ward him off I took one of the cut poles rushed toward him and plunged it into his side. This enraged the bull and instead of

retreating he snorted, pawed the earth with his front legs and then rushed headlong towards me. There was no tree large enough to climb or to hide behind so in desperation I hurled my hand axe with all my might and fortunately it struck the charging bull at a vital spot of its head. The bull reeled and fell on his side. It was my chance to get away and I ran from the scene at a speed I never before exceeded.... No doubt the bull survived the stunning blow but I shall never know for certain. Needless to say the Prairie Chicken's nest was never photographed and studied." (Gross unpubl., p. 83).

In 1931 Gross went to Labrador with his son Bill and Thornton Burgess. Photography had always been an integral part of Gross's research, and this time he took motion pictures as well as stills of the various seabird colonies. On the way back he attended an international conference on cyclic fluctuations, gave a talk on cycles in the Ruffed Grouse, and brought back a Huskie dog puppy. He returned to Labrador in 1932 with his wife Edna.



Alfred Gross at Kent Island.

Sterling Rockefeller had purchased Kent Island in the Bay of Fundy with the hope of protecting the large population of nesting Common Eiders. Gross was invited to study them, and began his study in 1932. Gross's son William A. O. Gross, while an undergraduate at Bowdoin, spent a summer together with other students studying Herring Gulls on Kent Island. Eventually, with Alfred Gross's influence, Rockefeller gave Kent Island to Bowdoin College. The Bowdoin Scientific Station was established there and became the locus of operations for much of Gross's later work. Gross became Director, and his son William became the Field Director. Gross continued as Director until his retirement from Bowdoin in 1953, when Charles Huntington took over the Directorship. Long-term banding projects on gulls and Leach's Petrels provided experience for numerous Bowdoin budding student biologists and numerous publications, including Gross (1940) on the migration of Herring Gulls.

From 1932 to 1952, Gross was a consultant for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, studying the burgeoning Herring Gull and Double-crested Cormorant populations, which were crowding out nesting terns, eiders, and other nesting species along the New England coast. Of course, they

were seriously irritating the commercial fishing industry. Gross developed a method in which eggs were sprayed with oil and formalin, which was effective and comparatively humane. He also got to visit and study a host of seabird colonies from Long Island to the Bay of Fundy, and band as many birds as possible. As one point, while chasing a gull chick, on Brother's Island near Jonesport, Maine, he caught his foot between rocks and broke his leg. Gross had to be carried down a treacherous cliff on an improvised stretcher. As the area was remote, it was not until the following day that the leg could be set and a cast provided. This 19-year project produced more than a dozen scientific papers concerning cormorants, eiders, and several gull species.

In 1934 Gross was the ornithologist on the Bowdoin MacMillan Arctic expedition, aboard the ship *Bowdoin* commanded by Donald B. MacMillan. They had many adventures, some of which were a bit scary:

“One of our first spectacular stops was at Bird Rock in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence. Bird Rock is completely encased in sheer rocky cliffs rising abruptly out of the sea. There is no harbor and the only way to reach the summit was by a crude elevator basket operated by the light house motor. As we ascended we had a close view of the hundreds of Kittiwakes, Puffins, Murres and other birds nesting on the many ledges [missing word?] either side of the elevator.... We could stay only a few hours because of an impending storm. As it was we had difficulty jumping from the lower platform of the elevator to the dory which was violently tossed up and down by the ocean swell. Each of us in turn had to jump at just the right moment or else we might land in the icy water and be hurled against the rocks. Fortunately all of us debarked without mishap....” (Gross unpubl., pp. 94-95).

From time to time the weather got a bit rough:

“I was deathly sea sick as were most of the others. I clung tightly to my bunk wishing the Bowdoin would sink and end the misery. Meals could not be served but the cook tried to prepare a fish chowder in an iron kettle bolted to the stove. At every lurch the chowder spilled on the hot stove filling the entire interior of the boat with nauseating fumes. In spite of the closed hatches, sea water seeped in to mingle with the putrid, sickening bilge water. Finally an extremely high mountainous wave struck us broadside causing all my books, instruments and specimens on the shelves of my cabin to fall in a disorderly mess onto the floor. The door of the refrigerator just outside the door was forced open spilling all the contents to mix with our precious belongings. So many ludicrous things happened that we all started yelling and laughing and for a moment we forgot our sea sickness and the damage to our equipment.” (Gross unpubl., pp. 95-96).

Later, when they were camped on an Arctic island, their mess tent burned up, and they were stranded by stormy conditions and nearly had to hole up for the winter in an Eskimo village to await rescue. Later they ran aground and the boat keeled over on

its side awaiting high tide, which fortunately floated them off. There were no rescue helicopters in those days, and ornithological expeditions were apparently challenging on occasion. As usual, Gross managed to squeeze a half-dozen papers of his adventures. A decade later, the then Rear Admiral Donald B. MacMillan, while mapping the coast of Baffin Island, named one of the islands Gross Island after Alfred—Gross was “highly pleased.”

In 1947–1948 Gross and his wife embarked on a 21,000-mile grand tour around the United States, Mexico, and Canada, with a side trip to Cuba, visiting ecologists and ornithologists along the way. The list of people who hosted the Grosses is impressive, a veritable who’s who of American ornithologists of the period. The list included Harold Egerton of M.I.T., who engineered among other things, the high speed photography of hummingbirds; Arthur Cleveland Bent and Joseph Hagar, other Massachusetts dignitaries; Arthur A. Allen, Paul Kellogg, and Donald Griffin at Cornell; Josselyn Van Tyne and George Miksch Sutton at Michigan; S. Charles Kendeigh and Victor Shelford at Illinois; Herbert Stoddard, Harold Bailey, Alexander Sprunt, Pierce Broadkorb, and Edward McIlhenny of Avery Island fame, all from the Southeast; Herbert Brandt; Harry Oberholser; and many more. In 1950 Gross and his wife did a similar tour of Europe after attending the International Ornithological Congress in Uppsala, Sweden, where he presented a paper on his gull and cormorant work. The following year they visited Alaska. Gross was winding down his career and enjoying the fruits of his labors. After retiring in 1953 he did another Europe tour after the 1954 International Ornithological Congress, and in 1955–1956 made an around the world trip by boat and plane. Letting no grass grow, he made a 1956–1957 trip to the West Indies and South America, visiting, among others, William Beebe and Jocelyn Crane in Trinidad, and William H. Phelps in Venezuela. Another around the world trip in 1957–1958 was spiced by an incident in which the ship ran aground on a coral reef between Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula. Gross reported, “In fact we enjoyed the unique experience which lasted for 9 days. I climbed down the ship’s ladder to examine the rich marine life of the coral island.” (1966, pp. 134–135) In 1959 he made an extensive trip through the African continent, and in 1960–1961, on his last major international trip, visited Australia, New Zealand, and the Fiji Islands. In his post-retirement years, he certainly made the most of his professional connections and his international reputation as a research scientist.

In 1952 Gross received an Honorary Doctor of Science Degree from Bowdoin, and the following year, after 41 years of service, he retired from Bowdoin College, having taught his last day at the Kent Island Scientific Station on 15 May. The reviews of Gross as a teacher are mixed:

“For most students he was a rather remote figure, even on a campus as small as Bowdoin’s.... he arrived shortly before class time, trudged the long flight of stairs to his third-floor office, and immediately after class left for his comfortable study at home. His lectures were carefully prepared and thorough, but a student could appreciate little of his personality from these brief and formal encounters. In the field or in his gracious home students found him a warm, considerate person with a streak of gentle humor.

Mornings before field trips his class assembled at his nearby home for coffee and doughnuts. A sleepy latecomer, arriving after the doughnuts were nearly depleted, might discover himself biting into a carefully sugar-dusted rubber replica.” (Paynter 1971).

Gross did, however, have an impressive number of students who eventually became professional biologists. But in the teaching-research balance, Gross tipped the scales to the research side. He rewarded the college by endowing a scholarship for students, preferably working on ornithology, and donated his ornithological library, about 1,500 bird skins, and his photographic library of 12,000 negatives and motion pictures.

In all, Gross published 193 scientific papers, notes, and reviews (a few) from 1908 to 1966. In addition, he published 68 short articles in the *Maine Coast Fisherman*, mostly on individual bird species. One of his greatest contributions was his writing 15 species accounts for Arthur Cleveland Bent’s *Life Histories of North American Birds*, the monumental 23-volume set published by the Smithsonian Institution. These papers, together with his other natural history monographs represent among the best ornithological natural history works done in the first half of the 20th century in North America. His contributions to the ornithological literature were indeed impressive.



Alfred Gross at his desk.

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RUDDY TURNSTONE, AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER, AND LAUGHING GULL BY DAVID LARSON

ABOUT FILM

Feathered Epic

Mark Lynch

Epic Journeys. A documentary film by Migration Productions (2012)

“Migration is the greatest adventure in the life of a bird, the greatest risk it must take.” Roger Tory Peterson

(I viewed a “working draft” of this film, the version shown at the Mass Audubon Birders’ Meeting on March 3, 2012. The finished film, which will be made available to the public, will be a slightly “tweaked” version of this film. As of this writing, this is not yet available. Background information on Shawn Carey and Migration Productions was taken from an interview with Shawn Carey recorded for my radio show, *Inquiry* (WICN 90.5FM) on June 21, 2012)



Have you ever tried to explain what you love about birding to non-birding friends and relatives? Have you ever tried to make them understand what it is about birds that makes you get up before dawn and suffer heat, cold, clouds of mosquitoes, and the real threat of Lyme, EEE, and West Nile just for the chance to see them? Have you ever tried to convey the deep connection to the natural world you feel when you see a migrating group of shorebirds, shearwaters, or warblers? Have you ever managed to get across why birding is so damned special?

We have all been in the sometimes embarrassing situation of trying to make our passion understandable to a non-birder. Ideally you would find the time to take your non-birding cohorts out into the field and just show them what you find so interesting. But in reality, without a lot of preparation, many a non-birder’s first field trip will be frustrating. Many birds move fast and are typically not close by. Besides, it’s not just seeing the bird that inspires a joy of birding, it is understanding what the bird is doing. Seeing a Great Shearwater zipping along a wave trough is a kick, but when you understand that you are seeing this bird off the Massachusetts coast at one small point in it’s lengthy migratory circle of most of the Atlantic, that is when birding begins to transcend merely ticking a species name off a list. What would help give your non-birding friend a small clue about your fascination with birding is a good documentary. This would be an educational film with wonderful photography and enthusiastic human narration that explains what you are seeing.

There are lots of great nature documentaries and series now available and even entire TV channels dedicated to nature films. So where to begin? I would suggest the short documentary, *Epic Journeys*, by Migration Productions. It is a perfect film for novices and hardcore birders alike. *Epic Journeys* is a compelling glimpse of a

dramatic and risky part of a bird's life, migration. The film is focused on three species of shorebirds: the Red Knot, the Piping Plover, and the Semipalmated Sandpiper. Years in the making, the photography is wonderful, and the narration is provided by a variety of field ornithologists and conservation workers who are knowledgeable, passionate, and articulate about birds.

“Now that's 10,000 miles from Tierra del Fuego to the Arctic. And another 10,000 miles back again. Every year 20,000 miles just in migration. We are recapturing birds now that we banded on our first visit in 1997. Since then, and they were already adults then, they have now made the journey twelve times. Twelve times is 240,000 miles just in migration. What's the distance from here to the moon? It's just over 200,000 miles.” (Clive Minton, Ph.D., of the Delaware Shorebird Project speaking about the Red Knot in *Epic Journeys*)

Epic Journeys is subtly structured. Originally intending to make a general film about shorebird migration, Shawn Carey and Jim Grady consulted experts like Wayne Petersen of Mass Audubon about their project. Wisely, Wayne suggested a much narrower focus on a few species. The Red Knot was chosen as an example of a northbound shorebird migrant, and filming took place at Delaware Bay, New Jersey. The focus of this section of the film is the delicate and complex relationship between north flying knots and their need to rapidly put on weight for the final leg of their flight to their breeding grounds in the Arctic. To facilitate this weight gain, knots need to stuff themselves in a hurry with horseshoe crab eggs. The numbers of this ancient arthropod are declining due to loss of shore habitat on which to breed, human beach use at the time of breeding, and the harvesting of horseshoe crabs for eel and conch bait. With fewer horseshoe crab eggs laid in increasingly narrower sections of beach, the Red Knots are hard put to find enough fuel for that journey north. As Clive Minton succinctly explains it in *Epic Journeys*:

“If you don't get that right weight on in time, then you don't get 'to the church on time' up in the Arctic the first week in June. You might as well have stayed in South America because you will not breed successfully.”

A cadre of dedicated scientists and volunteers carefully monitors the weight of captured northbound Knots. Birds that overwintered in Florida or nearby need to put on only a small amount of weight in Delaware Bay because they have not flown that far. But knots that overwintered in southern South America arrive at Delaware Bay in critical condition, and they need lots of horseshoe crab eggs quickly. If they do not find enough eggs, it is assumed that they will perish en route to the Arctic. All of this is explained clearly and accompanied by state of the art photography. The interviews with the researchers are mostly done at the shoreline of Delaware Bay so you see knots feeding and flying in the background while the researchers explain how knot numbers have decreased dramatically in just the last few decades.

The second section of *Epic Journeys* focuses on a species of shorebird that breeds locally, the Piping Plover. Any birder who has visited Plymouth Beach or Plum Island in summer knows the challenges that face the conservation of a species that

needs large sections of beach to breed for nine weeks during the peak time that many people want to use those same beaches. As many of you know, these conflicts can get downright ugly. Although it certainly addresses these plover/people problems seriously, the film, to its credit, never descends into preachy rancor. Narrators like David Clapp acknowledge the beachgoers' desires and explains in a positive way that it is possible for recreational beachgoers and plovers to co-exist, if in a somewhat tense stand off.

Piping Plovers, perhaps more than most other North American shorebird, are superbly photogenic, and the camera work on *Epic Journeys* captures some wonderful close ups of adult nesting birds and their precocial chicks zipping along the beach. There is a shot of an adult nestling down on the beach, when suddenly a plover chick emerges from underneath the adult, pauses to let the viewer fully appreciate its inherent cuteness, and then runs away. It is a perfect "aww" film moment. If that one scene doesn't grab the attention of your non-birding friends, nothing will. You have to be pretty hard hearted not to enjoy watching Piping Plovers.

The final section of *Epic Journeys* concerns itself with Semipalmated Sandpipers on their southward journey as they feed in the Bay of Fundy. The focus is mostly on the Johnson's Mills area. For many coastal birders, the Semipalmated Sandpiper is a common species and is treated as nothing special. Certainly, flocks of "Semis" are pored over hopefully to find an uncommon species like a Western Sandpiper or a real rarity like a Rufous-necked Stint. But how many of us really spend time with and enjoy Semipalmated Sandpipers? In *Epic Journeys*, these sandpipers create a breathtaking spectacle as dense flocks of up to 300,000 birds wheel back and forth over the tidal mud flats. But it is not just the visual experience of this event that *Epic Journeys* captures. At one point, all narration stops and you clearly hear the sound of thousands of birds flying by. I can only describe this sound as something like wind in the trees combined with a deep sizzling, growing louder and softer as the birds change direction. This unique birding experience is perfectly captured in the film.

The film explains that 75 to 95% of the world's population of this species may visit the Bay of Fundy in any one year. The sight of these massive single species flocks flying over the exposed flats and later roosting in dense numbers at high tide is something to behold. It's a spectacle we can only get an inkling of here in Massachusetts. The conservationists and natural history volunteers explain why the birds are here, and they give the timing of when females, males, and first year birds arrive on the flats. What they also excitedly explain is how watching these huge flocks is a special personal experience. In a memorable section of the film a university student who works at the Johnson's Mills center recounts the first time she actually saw this Semipalmated spectacle and how it took her breath away. This part of *Epic Journeys* perfectly captures that moment when bird migration transitions from a concept learned in a lecture to an awesome experience that you will never forget.

Epic Journeys ends with ornithologists like Brian Harrington making a compelling pitch for why protecting these species is important globally. Though the focus of *Epic Journeys* is certainly on migratory shorebirds, the film also focuses on

people: the ornithologists, university students, and volunteers researching these species as well the every day non-birders impacted by the different conservation efforts. As New Englanders, we have met, talked with or birded with some of the people seen in the film. The focus of the film is along the north eastern coast of North America. Because of this, *Epic Journeys* has a personal, local feel to it, which adds to the enjoyment.

Looking Skyward: A Passion for Hawkwatching (2006) was the first documentary film made by Migration Productions, and that film took five years to complete. Wanting to make another film about migration, Shawn Carey and others at Migration Production decided to film *Epic Journeys*. In all Migration Productions projects there is a strong environmental message. All their projects are pretty much home grown efforts, with various local talented people pitching in writing scripts, filming, and editing. They all know their craft well and turn out an accomplished finished film. *Epic Journeys* is a compelling, enjoyable, and well-structured documentary film with some truly wonderful photography. It deserves a wider audience than just birders, and I hope it is used in high school and university classrooms and will eventually get a showing on television.

“A Picasso or a Rembrandt we all revere. They are something beautiful that we want on our earth, in our lives, because they are beautiful and complex. Well, so are all these animals. Each one is its own Picasso or their own Rembrandt.”

“I don’t have a lot of patience for the ‘so what?’. It isn’t part of my world (the) ‘so what?’ We have got be taking care of our world. There is no ‘so what?’ There’s just not room for that.” (Ornithologist Brian Harrington in *Epic Journeys*) 🐦



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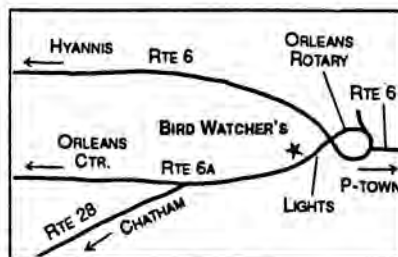
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BIRD SIGHTINGS

May–June 2012

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

May 2012 was warm and slightly cloudy with normal precipitation. The month started with eight straight days of cool temperatures; seven of those days saw lows in the 40s. From May 9 to the end of the month, however, there were only two days with below average temperatures. The high in Boston was 86° on May 26, 15° above the average for that date. Measurable amounts of rain fell on 13 days. Severe thunderstorms pelted Western Massachusetts with heavy rain and damaging winds on May 29–30. The storm brought some hail, up to two inches of rain, and wind gusts of 50 miles per hour in Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire counties, and in Berkshire County a tornado watch was posted. Southwest winds were noted on May 6, 24, 25.

The average temperature in June 2012 was below normal in Boston and ended a streak of 11 consecutive months with above average temperatures. The average temperature was 66.8°, 0.9° below average. The high for the month was 97° in Boston on June 20. A 96° reading on June 21 surpassed the previous daily record of 95°, set in 1949. Rainfall totaled 4.71 inches in Boston, 1.03 inches greater than average, but leaving the year-to-date with a six-inch deficit. Measurable amounts fell on 13 days.

R. H. Stymeist

WATERFOWL THROUGH ALCIDS

A late Snow Goose lingered at Plum Island though the beginning of May. Because Long-tailed Ducks typically vacate the state by the beginning of May, June sightings from three locations were noteworthy.

On June 13 an observer on a NOAA vessel on George's Bank reported an impressive 73 Northern Fulmars, but he also saw six **South Polar Skuas** and a single **Red-billed Tropicbird**, both of which eclipsed the fulmar sighting. For seven summers a tropicbird has returned to Seal Island on the coast of Maine and has loitered near tern and alcid colonies. Tropicbirds can cover a tremendous distance in a short time, but because the distance to Seal Island is close to 200 miles, it is likely the George's Bank skua was a different bird.

Brown Pelicans were reported from three locations, starting in Chatham on May 17. Another report from Gloucester on June 5 was closely followed by one from Boston Harbor. This latter sighting began as marine radio gossip and was confirmed on June 9 by James Mullaney. The proximity of the two June sightings suggested they were the same bird, but the Chatham sighting may have been of a different individual.

Cattle Egrets have been reported annually from Essex County for many years, but reports of these birds from Marstons Mills and Foxboro were unusual. The saga of the Essex County **White-faced Ibis** continued as confirmation of breeding was tantalizingly close. On May 19 a group went to the Kettle Island rookery in Manchester to census breeding herons. They had not been there long when a White-faced Ibis flew in and eventually dropped down to a probable nest site. Despite a long vigil at the site, the birders could not see if it was actually on a nest or if it was paired with another White-face (hybridization with a Glossy Ibis was possible). On May 27 they made a second visit and saw the White-face at the same probable nest location and also observed a second White-face. Once again, they were unable to confirm nesting, but the behavior of the first bird was extremely suggestive of brooding or incubating behavior.

During the May–June period in 2011 there had been a virtual fallout of **Mississippi Kites**, mostly on Cape Cod and the Islands, but this year there was only one report, a bird reported from the Pilgrim Heights Hawkwatch in North Truro. Although last year was exceptional, it has become almost routine to have several reported from Pilgrim Heights in May. A single Swallow-tailed Kite was reported from Nantucket. This species, now seen more frequently, has been an annual visitor since 2005.

Common Moorhens were reported from only two locations, a disappointing dip from last year's five probable breeding locations. A plover warden on Martha's Vineyard saw more than she had expected when she spotted a Wilson's Plover. Oddly it was not her first Wilson's for the Vineyard; she had also spotted one at Gay Head on June 21, 2005. The shorebird of the season was Bar-tailed Godwit—but how many were there? On June 7 Dick Veit photographed a basic-plumaged individual on Tuckernuck Island. On June 21 Blair Nikula photographed one in the same plumage on South Beach in Chatham. Given its rarity, it was almost surely the same bird.

A single report of **Little Gull** was less than typical for the period. Caspian Terns were well reported, with three inland sightings, more than what is typical. June is usually a good time for Royal Terns, but with no reports in the previous two Junes, it was refreshing to have sightings from three locations. In early June, there were noteworthy reports of **Long-tailed Jaegers** from Cape Cod.

M. Rines

Snow Goose				5/5	Northfield	1	J. Rose
5/6	PI.	1 blue	J. Berry#	5/6	S. Quabbin	1	J. Orcutt
Brant				5/12	Gloucester (E.P.)	1 f	S. + J. Mirick
5/3	Duxbury B.	200	E. Dalton	5/16	PI.	1 m	MAS (B. Gette)
5/5	Plymouth H.	300	BBC (GdE)	Greater Scaup			
5/14	Squantum	30	V. Zollo#	5/2	Randolph	4	G. d'Entremont
5/16	PI.	60	MAS (B. Gette)	5/12	PI.	1	S. Sullivan# + v.o.
6/7	Winthrop	1	M. Iliff	Lesser Scaup			
6/17	Rockport	1	M. Flor	5/2	Randolph	2	G. d'Entremont
Wood Duck				5/5	Turners Falls	1	J. Rose
5/2	Bolton Flats	40	A. Dunn	King Eider			
5/7	GMNWR	16 ad, 30 juv	A. Bragg#	5/6	Manchester	1	E. Nielsen
6/11	Newton	73	P. Peterson	Common Eider			
6/15	Waltham	35	J. Forbes	5/5	Tuckernuck	350	R. Veit#
Gadwall				5/13	Cape Ann	88	J. Berry#
5/5, 6/26	PI.	23, 46	Nielsen, Heil	6/2	Nahant	100	L. Pivacek
5/12	S. Dart. (A. Pd)	2	R. Stymeist#	Harlequin Duck			
5/20	Nantucket	6	M. Faherty	5/4	Scituate	4	E. Dalton
American Wigeon				Surf Scoter			
6/1	PI.	1	P. Peterson	5/5	N. Scituate	100	BBC (GdE)
Blue-winged Teal				5/18	S. Quabbin	8	M. Lynch#
5/thr	PI.	1	v.o.	6/6	P'town	2	B. Nikula
5/5	DWWS	pr	BBC (GdE)	White-winged Scoter			
5/5	Plymouth	pr	K. Doyon	5/5	Tuckernuck	100	R. Veit#
5/5	N. Truro	1	B. Nikula#	5/11	Revere B.	58	R. Stymeist
5/14	Squantum	pr	V. Zollo#	5/15	Southwick	54	S. Kellogg
5/18	GMNWR	2	v.o.	5/16	Wachusett Res.	17	B. Kamp
5/25	Wayland	1 m, 1 f	S. Arena	5/19	Eastham	105	G. d'Entremont#
Northern Shoveler				6/6	P'town	14	B. Nikula
5/thr	PI.	2	v.o.	6/26	PI.	3	R. Heil
5/12	Chatham	1	K. Miller#	Black Scoter			
5/13	Bolton Flats	pr	v.o.	5/6	Gloucester (E.P.)	50	BBC (S. Hedman)
5/29	Milton	pr	R. Donovan#	5/23	Revere	8	P. Peterson
6/10	GMNWR	1 m	W. Hutcheson	6/29	Rockport	21	M. Flor
Northern Pintail				Long-tailed Duck			
5/31	PI.	pr	T. Wetmore	5/5	Tuckernuck	30	R. Veit#
Green-winged Teal				5/9	Newbypt H.	500	MAS (D. Larson)
5/1	Rowley	12	J. Berry#	6/3	Chatham	2	B. Nikula
5/1	Southwick	2	S. Kellogg	6/5	PI.	2	T. Wetmore
5/2	Bolton Flats	55	A. Dunn	6/29	Rockport	1 m	M. Flor
5/5, 6/26	PI.	63, 36	Nielsen, Heil	Bufflehead			
5/5	DWWS	2 pr	BBC (GdE)	5/4	PI.	22	K. Marshall#
5/5	Turners Falls	1	J. Rose	5/5	Plymouth H.	75	BBC (GdE)
Ring-necked Duck				5/5	N. Truro	5	B. Nikula
5/4	Belchertown	1	L. Therrien	5/12	Hingham	3	SSBC (GdE)

Common Goldeneye				6/15	N. Stellwagen	1	O. O'Brien
5/4	Sandwich	1 f	M. Keleher	6/24	E. of Chatham	45	B. Nikula
5/6	Gloucester (E.P.)	2	BBC (S. Hedman)	Great Shearwater			
5/6	S. Quabbin	1	J. Orcutt	6/2	Rockport (A.P.)	1	R. Heil
Hooded Merganser				6/3	Chatham	3	B. Nikula
5/12	Ware R. IBA	1 f + 3yg	M. Lynch#	6/5	P'town	3	B. Nikula
5/28	W. Warren	3 f	B. Zajda	6/24	E. of Chatham	600	B. Nikula
5/28	GMNWR	2 ad, 3 juv	A. Bragg#	Sooty Shearwater			
6/5	Plainville	3	J. Fecteau	5/19	Eastham	1	G. d'Entremont
6/8	DWMA	3 f	C. Cook	6/2	Rockport (A.P.)	6	R. Heil
6/10	DFWS	4	P. Sowizral	6/3	Eastham (F.E.)	275	B. Nikula
6/17	Bolton Flats	9	N. Paulson	6/3	Chatham	1300	B. Nikula
Common Merganser				6/24	E. of Chatham	1200	B. Nikula
5/12	Quabbin Pk	1 m	S. Moore#	Manx Shearwater			
5/12	Ware R. IBA	2 f	M. Lynch#	5/5	Tuckernuck	1	S. Perkins#
Red-breasted Merganser				5/6, 6/14	P'town	1, 20	B. Nikula
5/2	Quabbin Pk	2	L. Therrien	5/23	Revere B.	18	P. Peterson
5/3, 6/29	P'town	1500, 8	B. Nikula	6/2	Rockport (A.P.)	5	R. Heil
5/10	Washington	3	T. Swochak	6/3	Eastham (F.E.)	16	B. Nikula
6/1	Essex	4 f	D. Brown	6/30	N. Truro	10	B. Nikula
6/3	P.I.	2	K. Elwell	Wilson's Storm-Petrel			
Ruddy Duck				6/5, 29	P'town	7, 75	B. Nikula
5/5	Pembroke	70	BBC (GdE)	6/17	E of Jeffrey's L.	12	J. Rose#
5/12	Chestnut Hill	1	R. Scott	6/23	N. Truro	50	B. Nikula
5/30	Waltham	1	J. Forbes	6/24	E. of Chatham	1200	B. Nikula
6/26	P.I.	2 m, 1 f	R. Heil	Red-billed Tropicbird			
Northern Bobwhite				6/13	George's Bank	1	T. Johnson
6/11	Truro	5	C. Turnbull	Northern Gannet			
6/24	Falmouth	2	M. Keleher	5/3	Duxbury B.	10	E. Dalton
Ring-necked Pheasant				5/4	Tuckernuck	60	S. Perkins#
5/12	Cumb. Farms	2	N. Paulson#	6/2	Nahant	18	L. Pivacek
5/24	W. Newbury	1	P. Vale	6/2	Rockport (A.P.)	24	R. Heil
Ruffed Grouse				6/5	P'town	780	B. Nikula
5/7	Quabbin Pk	2	E. Labato	6/9	Eastham (F.E.)	230	B. Nikula
5/12	Ware R. IBA	3	M. Lynch#	Double-crested Cormorant			
5/12	Mashpee	3	M. Keleher	5/6	Tuckernuck	350	S. Perkins#
5/19	S. Quabbin	6	L. Therrien	5/8	N. Truro	200	D. Manchester#
6/10	Phillipston	1 f + 8 yg	M. Lynch#	5/9	GMNWR	200	P. + F. Vale
Red-throated Loon				6/7	P'town H.	275	B. Nikula
5/5	Tuckernuck	325	S. Perkins#	Great Cormorant			
6/3	Marshfield	1	G. d'Entremont#	5/12	N. Scituate	5	SSBC (GdE)
6/3	Falmouth	1	G. Hirth	5/12	Rockport (A.P.)	1	S. + J. Mirick
6/5, 17	P'town	5, 2	B. Nikula	5/12	Scituate	1	E. Giles#
6/26	P.I.	1	R. Heil	Brown Pelican			
Common Loon				5/17	Chatham	1	M. Faherty
5/4	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	97	V. Zollo#	6/5	Gloucester	1 ph	J. Barber + v.o.
5/5	Tuckernuck	30	S. Perkins#	6/7-30	Boston H.	1	v.o.
5/8	N. Truro	40	D. Manchester#	American Bittern			
5/8	S. Quabbin	25	L. Therrien	thr	Bolton Flats	2	v.o.
6/3	Falmouth	128	G. Hirth	5/5	Cumington	2	M. Kelly
6/23	Wellfleet	15	B. Nikula	5/5	Quabog IBA	3	M. Lynch#
Pied-billed Grebe				5/5	GMNWR	3	S. Arena
5/5	Quabog IBA	1	M. Lynch#	5/26	Moran WMA	2	B. Zajda#
6/6	P.I.	1	L. Richardson	5/27	Brookfield	3	R. Jenkins
6/16	Belchertown	1	S. Surner	Least Bittern			
6/24	GMNWR	2 ad, 5 juv	S. Arena	5/18-6/30	GMNWR	5	v.o.
Horned Grebe				5/25-26	Wayland	3 m, 1 f	S. Arena
5/6	S. Quabbin	2	J. Orcutt	5/28	Harwich	2	B. Harris
5/28	Squantum	1 br pl	R. Donovan#	6/7-22	P.I.	2	v.o.
Red-necked Grebe				6/17	Bolton Flats	1	N. Paulson
5/13	Cape Ann	1 br pl	J. Berry#	Great Blue Heron			
5/16	Wachusett Res.	1	B. Kamp	5/4	Middleton	59 nests	J. Berry#
5/20	P'town	1	B. Nikula	5/13	Sturbridge	13 nests	M. Lynch#
6/3	P.I.	1	R. Heil	5/26	Newbury	10 nests	J. Berry#
6/8	Salisbury	1	E. Labato	5/28	W. Warren	16 ad, 17yg	B. Zajda
Northern Fulmar				6/5	Rowley	17 nests	J. Berry
6/5	P'town	1	B. Nikula	6/9	Sudbury	10 ad, 20yg	J. Hoye#
6/13	George's Bank	73	T. Johnson	Great Egret			
6/15	N. Stellwagen	3 lt	O. O'Brien	5/4	Tuckernuck	4	S. Perkins#
6/17	E. of Jeffrey's L.	3	J. Rose#	5/12	Westport	9	R. Stymeist#
Cory's Shearwater				5/13	Essex	12	J. Berry#
6/3	Chatham	1	B. Nikula	5/15	Eastham	15	E. Hoopes
6/3	Eastham (F.E.)	3	B. Nikula	5/19	Manchester (KI)	188 nests	S. Perkins#

Great Egret (continued)											
6/26	P.I.	53 ad	R. Heil	Swallow-tailed Kite	5/31	Nantucket	1 ph	K. Griswold#			
Snowy Egret				Mississippi Kite	5/7	N. Truro	1	Hawkcount (DM)			
5/13	Essex	35	J. Berry#	Bald Eagle	5/5	Winchester	2	J. Kovner			
5/17	Boston (O. Brewster)	21 nests	Stymeist	5/14	P'town	2		B. Nikula			
5/19	Manchester (KI)	258 nests	S. Perkins#	Northern Harrier	5/4	Tuckernuck	5	S. Perkins#			
6/30	P.I.	57	P. + F. Vale	5/6	Ware R. IBA	1 m		M. Lynch#			
Little Blue Heron				5/13	P.I.	3		P. + F. Vale			
5/8-11	DWWS	1 imm	v.o.	6/17	October Mt.	1 m		SSBC (GdE)			
5/12	Westport	1 ad	L. Abbey#	6/20	Chatham	1		B. Nikula			
5/12	Plymouth B.	1	P. Champlin#	Sharp-shinned Hawk	5/thr	N. Truro	92	Hawkcount (DM)			
5/18	Dartmouth	1	J. Bogart	5/12	P.I.	34		Hawkcount (TM)			
5/18	Swansea	1	D. Hlousek	Cooper's Hawk	5/2	GMNWR	2	S. Perkins			
5/19	Manchester (KI)	6 prs	S. Perkins#	5/12	Fairhaven	2		R. Stymeist#			
6/21	WBWS	1	E. Orcutt	6/24	Woburn (HP) pr + 3 yg			S. Selesky			
Tricolored Heron				Northern Goshawk	thr	Groveland	pr n, 3 yg	K. Elwell#			
5/6	Fairhaven	1	C. Longworth	5/7	Westboro	1		N. Paulson			
5/8	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1	P. Champlin	5/12	Quabbin Pk	1		S. Moore#			
5/13	Falmouth	1	G. Hirth#	6/3	Granville	1		S. Kellogg			
Cattle Egret				6/17	New Salem	1 ad		M. Lynch#			
5/11	Marstons Mills	4	J. Trimble#	Red-shouldered Hawk	5/7	Wompatuck SP	2	P. Loranger			
5/13-29	Ipswich	3	v.o.	5/12	Wareham	2		K. Hartel#			
5/22	Foxboro	1 ph	J. Lawson	6/3	Blandford	3		T. Swochak			
Green Heron				6/3	Southwick	2		E. Goodkin			
5/3	DWWS	1	E. Dalton	6/19	Concord	2		P. Peterson			
5/25-26	Wayland	2	S. Arena	Broad-winged Hawk	5/thr	N. Truro	182	Hawkcount (DM)			
5/27	Groveland	ad + 4 yg	J. Berry#	5/thr	N. Truro	54		Hawkcount (DM)			
5/28	Medfield	2	W. Webb#	5/7	Quabbin Pk	2		E. Labato			
6/24	Worcester	1 ad, 2 juv	J. Rees	6/8	DWMA	3		C. Cook			
Black-crowned Night-Heron				6/30	Florida-Monroe	6		M. Lynch#			
5/4	Tuckernuck	25 pr n	R. Veit#	American Kestrel	5/thr	N. Truro	23	Hawkcount (DM)			
5/17	Boston (O. Brewster)	41 nests	Stymeist	5/2	GMNWR	2		S. Perkins			
5/19	Manchester (KI)	36 nests	S. Perkins#	5/5	Plymouth	4		BBC (GdE)			
5/24	P.I.	17	S. McGrath	5/12	Cumb. Farms	2		N. Paulson#			
6/4	Medford	35	M. Rines	6/1	Falmouth	2		P. + F. Vale			
6/17	Gloucester	9	C. Haines	6/10	Westfield	3		R. Shain			
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron				6/18	Southwick	2		J. Zepko			
5/11-6/16	P.I.	5 max	v.o.	Merlin	5/thr	N. Truro	24	Hawkcount (DM)			
5/25, 6/23	S. Dartmouth	1	A. Morgan	5/10	P.I.	8		Hawkcount (TM)			
6/5	Falmouth	2	Nev Wells	6/29	Northampton	1		T. Gagnon			
6/28	Martha's Vineyard	1	A. Greene	Peregrine Falcon	thr	Woburn	pr n	M. Rines			
Glossy Ibis				5/1	Lawrence	pr, 2 juv		C. Gibson			
5/5	N. Truro	1	J. Trimble#	5/5	Deerfield	2		J. Rose			
5/5	Deerfield	1	J. Rose	5/15	Brockton	pr		K. Ryan			
5/5	Tuckernuck	1	S. Perkins#	6/21	Worcester	pr, 3 juv		K. Allen			
5/7	Chatham	1	B. Nikula	Clapper Rail	5/4-6/30	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1-2	v.o.			
5/17	Boston (O. Brewster)	3 nests	Stymeist	5/27	Plymouth	1		R. Schain			
5/19	Manchester (KI)	106 nests	S. Perkins#	6/12	Chatham (S.B.)	1		B. Nikula			
5/31	Chatham	8	D. Clapp	6/14	Fairhaven	1		C. Longworth			
White-faced Ibis				King Rail	5/5-06	GMNWR	2	S. Arena			
5/1-09	Rowley	1	v.o.	5/13	W. Bridgewater	1		S. Arena			
5/19, 27	Manchester (KI)	1 ad, 2 ad	S. Perkins	Clapper/King Rail	5/8-17	Harwichport	1	B. Nikula			
Black Vulture				Virginia Rail	5/2	Ipswich	4	J. Berry			
thr	Reports of indiv. from 17 locations			5/5	Quabog IBA	5		M. Lynch#			
5/12	Westport	2	K. Hartel#	5/5	GMNWR	37		S. Arena			
5/13	DWWS	2	S. Mohammadi#	5/25	Wayland	57		S. Arena			
5/20	Norwell	2	W. + A. Childs	6/16	Lenox	3		S. Surner			
6/3	Palmer	2	B. Platenik	6/24	Ashby	4		M. Lynch#			
6/17	Barre	4	M. Lynch#								
6/27	Fitchburg	2	T. Pirro								
Turkey Vulture											
5/thr	N. Truro	183	Hawkcount (DM)								
5/12	Westport	16	R. Stymeist#								
5/15	Ware	12	P. + F. Vale								
5/18	S. Quabbin	14	M. Lynch#								
6/thr	N. Truro	87	Hawkcount (DM)								
6/10	Nantucket	15	K. Blackshaw#								
6/17	Barre	42	M. Lynch#								
Osprey											
5/thr	N. Truro	81	Hawkcount (DM)								
6/7	Rowley/Ipswich	21	J. Berry#								
6/10	Nantucket	10	K. Blackshaw#								
6/26	P.I.	18	R. Heil								

Sora				5/9	Amherst	4	L. Therrien#
thr	Reports of indiv. from 7 locations			6/28	Chatham (S.B.)	9	B. Nikula
5/5	GMNWR	4	S. Arena	Willet			
5/7	Chatham	2	B. Nikula	thr	P.I.	70 max	v.o.
5/12	Rockport	2	S. + J. Mirick	5/4	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	12	V. Zollo#
5/13	W. Bridgewater	2	S. Arena	5/6	Fairhaven	16	C. Longworth
6/17	Ipswich	2	J. Berry	5/28	Duxbury B.	53	R. Bowes
Common Gallinule				6/28	Chatham (S.B.)	40	B. Nikula
5/5	Longmeadow	1	C. Suprenant	6/24	Essex	20	J. Berry#
6/9	Lenox	2	M. & K. Conway	Western Willet			
American Coot				6/28	Chatham (S.B.)	3	B. Nikula
5/2, 6/9	GMNWR	13, 1	Bragg, Arena	Lesser Yellowlegs			
5/3	Wayland	1	J. Malone	thr	P.I.	9 max	v.o.
5/12	Gloucester (E.P.)	1	v.o.	5/3	W. Harwich	13	B. Nikula
Sandhill Crane				5/4	Topsfield	10	J. Berry
5/8	Dorchester	3	S. Donovan	5/10	Mashpee	42	M. Keleher
5/12	N. Truro	1	D. Manchester#	5/11	N. Truro	13	B. Nikula
5/12-16	Bolton Flats	1	v.o.	5/16, 6/28	Chatham	8, 4	B. Nikula
6/16	New Marlboro	pr + 1 yg	M. Lynch#	Upland Sandpiper			
6/22	Harwichport	3	L. Hale	5/11	Westover	8	S. Surner
6/23	Chatham	3	C. Lapite#	5/13	Bedford	3	W. Hutcheson
6/24	Cumb. Farms	3	J. Carlisle	5/27	Plymouth Airport	1	SSBC (GdE)
6/24	Carver	1	D. Bernstein	Whimbrel			
Black-bellied Plover				5/12	Cumb. Farms	1	N. Paulson#
thr	Duxbury B.	260 max	E. Dalton	5/12	Wellfleet	1	M. Keleher
5/23, 6/28	Chatham	640, 300	B. Nikula	5/23	Chatham	1	J. Hoye#
5/25	P.I.	69	S. Sutton	Hudsonian Godwit			
6/1	Essex	59	D. Brown	6/28	Chatham (S.B.)	1	B. Nikula
American Golden-Plover				Bar-tailed Godwit			
5/28	Boston (Thompson I)	1	R. Donovan	6/7-9	Tuckernuck I.	1 ph	R. Veit
5/18	Martha's Vineyard	1 ph	L. Johnson	6/21, 28	Chatham (S.B.)	1 ph	B. Nikula
Wilson's Plover				Marbled Godwit			
Semipalmated Plover				5/29-6/2	P.I.	1	v.o.
5/11	Revere B.	1	R. Stymeist	6/29	Chatham	1	E. Orcutt
5/12	Bolton Flats	3	B. Kamp	Ruddy Turnstone			
5/13	P.I.	300	D. Larson	5/16, 31	Duxbury B.	5, 525	R. Bowes
5/19, 6/28	Chatham	30, 19	B. Nikula	5/19, 6/28	Chatham	14, 20	B. Nikula
5/31, 6/27	Duxbury B.	75, 2	R. Bowes	5/27	Plymouth B.	20	SSBC (GdE)
6/7	Ipswich (C.B.)	2	J. Berry/BBC	6/1	Essex	18	D. Brown
Piping Plover				6/3	P.I.	27	T. Wetmore
5/2	Ipswich (C.B.)	16	J. Berry	Red Knot			
5/27	Plymouth B.	19	SSBC (GdE)	5/19	N. Chatham	90	B. Nikula
5/28	Duxbury B.	5	R. Bowes	5/31, 6/27	Duxbury B.	40, 1	R. Bowes
6/16	Chatham (S.B.)	19	R. Schain	6/3	P.I.	12	E. Nielsen
Killdeer				6/7	Revere B.	6	M. Garvey
6/10	DFWS	13	P. Sowizral	6/28	Chatham (S.B.)	280	B. Nikula
6/26	P.I.	13	R. Heil	Sanderling			
American Oystercatcher				5/2	Ipswich (C.B.)	90	J. Berry
5/12	Fairhaven	6	R. Stymeist#	5/4	Tuckernuck	8	S. Perkins#
5/13	Nantucket	2	K. Blackshaw#	5/31	Duxbury B.	150	R. Bowes
5/14	Boston (Calf I.)	5	R. Stymeist#	6/28	Chatham (S.B.)	12	B. Nikula
6/1	Duxbury B.	4	R. Bowes	Semipalmated Sandpiper			
6/12	Winthrop	5 pr	T. Factor#	5/13	Rockport	1	J. Berry#
Spotted Sandpiper				5/14-6/24	P.I.	425 max	v.o.
5/2	Attleboro	5	J. Sweeney	5/19, 6/28	Chatham	1300, 35	B. Nikula
5/8	P'town	4	B. Nikula	5/31, 6/27	Duxbury B.	200, 6	R. Bowes
5/14	Squantum	6	V. Zollo#	Least Sandpiper			
6/16	W. Gloucester	3	P. Peterson	5/1	Newbury	50	P. + F. Vale
6/18	Gloucester	nest/4 yg	J. Berry#	5/3, 15	W. Harwich	28, 115	B. Nikula
6/30	P.I.	4	P. Vale	5/8	E. Boston (B.I.)	22	P. Peterson
Solitary Sandpiper				5/14	P.I.	55	J. Berry
5/4	Topsfield	12	J. Berry	5/15	Longmeadow	15	A. & L. Richardson
5/6	Squantum	6	R. Donovan	6/28	Chatham (S.B.)	9	B. Nikula
5/9	Easton	4	K. Ryan	White-rumped Sandpiper			
5/10	Waltham	3	J. Forbes	6/3	P.I.	57	R. Heil
5/18	P'town	3	B. Nikula	6/12, 28	Chatham (S.B.)	2, 6	B. Nikula
Greater Yellowlegs				6/27	Duxbury B.	1	R. Bowes
thr	P.I.	35 max	v.o.	Pectoral Sandpiper			
5/2	GMNWR	13	S. Perkins	5/1	Newbury	2	K. Elwell
5/3	W. Harwich	25	B. Nikula	5/6	Topsfield	4	D. Bates#
5/4	Tuckernuck	15	S. Perkins#	Purple Sandpiper			
5/4	Topsfield	18	J. Berry	5/7	Plymouth B.	12	S. Hecker
5/5	N. Truro	78	J. Trimble#	5/12	Westport	8	R. Stymeist#

Purple Sandpiper (continued)				6/10	Truro	3	M. Taylor
5/12	N. Scituate	5	SSBC (GdE)	6/17	New Salem	1	B. Lafley
5/14	P.I.	8	T. Wetmore	6/20	Northampton	1	C. Gentes
Dunlin				6/22	Orleans	1	E. Orcutt
5/2	Ipswich (C.B.)	40	J. Berry	Black Tern			
5/3, 31	Duxbury B.	1000, 20	E. Dalton	5/16	Westboro	2	B. Kamp
5/13, 6/16	P.I.	300, 1	Larson, Wetmore	5/17	GMNWR	2	A. Bragg#
5/13	Essex	50	J. Berry#	5/27	Plymouth B.	1 ad	SSBC (GdE)
5/15	Newbypt	120	J. Berry#	6/3	P.I.	2	S. Grinley
5/23, 6/28	Chatham	800, 12	B. Nikula	6/29	P'town	1	T. Green
White-rumped Sandpiper X Dunlin				Roseate Tern			
6/28	Chatham (S.B.)	1	B. Nikula	5/7	Plymouth B.	1	S. Hecker
Stilt Sandpiper				5/14	Squantum	2	V. Zollo#
5/1-06	Rowley	1	v.o.	6/2	Salisbury	14	S. Grinley#
5/3-5	W. Harwich	1	B. Nikula#	6/18	Dennis	3	B. Nikula
5/6-11	P.I.	1	v.o.	6/29	P'town	3	B. Nikula
Short-billed Dowitcher				Common Tern			
5/10	Mashpee	3	M. KeleherAm	5/4	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	2	V. Zollo#
5/13	Bolton Flats	1	B. Kamp	5/5	Tuckernuck	10	S. Perkins#
5/14-6/30	P.I.	14 max	v.o.	5/20	P'town	1500	B. Nikula
5/22-6/30	Chatham	140 max	B. Nikula	5/27	Plymouth B.	1250	SSBC (GdE)
5/25	E. Boston (B.I.)	2	P. Peterson	6/12	Hull	150	T. Factor#
5/28	Duxbury B.	3	R. Bowes	6/17	Chatham	650	B. Nikula
Wilson's Snipe				6/22	Pittsfield (Onota)	2	J. Lucier
5/2	Bolton Flats	6	A. Dunn	6/26	P.I.	500	R. Heil
6/9	Tyringham	3	M. & K. Conway	Arctic Tern			
American Woodcock				5/13	P.I.	1	D. Larson
5/1	Concord	3 juvs	S. Perkins	5/27, 6/29	P'town	1, 1	Harris, Nikula
5/12	Leicester	11	M. Lynch#	5/28	Plymouth B.	1	S. Hecker
5/19	P.I.	10	J. Trimble	5/28	Chatham	3	B. Harris
5/28	W. Warren	2 ad, 10yg	B. Zajda	6/2	Rockport (A.P.)	2 ad	R. Heil
Wilson's Phalarope				Forster's Tern			
5/2-4	Rowley	4	v.o.	5/11	P.I.	4	T. Wetmore
5/27-6/13	P.I.	1	v.o.	5/27	P'town	1	B. Harris
6/10	Nantucket	1	J. Morse	6/21	Chatham (S.B.)	1	B. Nikula
6/12, 28	Chatham (S.B.)	1	B. Nikula	Royal Tern			
Red-necked Phalarope				6/10	Nantucket	2	S. Langer
6/8	P.I.	1 f ph	E. Labato#	6/29	P'town	2	T. Green
Bonaparte's Gull				6/30	Plymouth B.	2 ph	P. Briggs#
5/3	Quabbin Pk	14	T. Pirro	Black Skimmer			
5/3	Turners Falls	2	J. Smith	5/28	Duxbury B.	1 ad ph	R. Bowes
5/16	Wachusett Res.	1	B. Kamp	5/7-10	Chatham	1	B. Parker#
6/3	P.I.	34	L. Waters	6/28	Martha's Vineyard	6	A. Greene
Little Gull				South Polar Skua			
6/3-5	P.I.	1 ph	P. + F. Vale#	6/13	George's Bank	6	T. Johnson
Laughing Gull				Skua species			
5/3	Duxbury B.	40	E. Dalton	6/2	Rockport (A.P.)	1	R. Heil
5/12, 6/16	P'town	260, 400	B. Nikula	Pomarine Jaeger			
5/27	Plymouth B.	300	SSBC (GdE)	5/31, 6/5	P'town	1, 2	B. Nikula
6/4	P.I.	4	J. Lawson	6/8	Stellwagen	2	B. Nikula
6/18	Dennis	150	B. Nikula	Parasitic Jaeger			
Iceland Gull				5/5	Tuckernuck	2	S. Perkins#
5/6, 27	P'town	5, 1	B. Nikula	5/12-6/30	P'town	5 max	B. Nikula
5/31	N. Truro	1	B. Nikula	6/2	Rockport (A.P.)	1 dk	R. Heil
6/1	Duxbury B.	1	R. Bowes	6/3	Eastham (F.E.)	2	B. Nikula
Lesser Black-backed Gull				Long-tailed Jaeger			
5/4	Tuckernuck	3	R. Veit#	6/3	Eastham (F.E.)	1 ad	B. Nikula
5/27	N. Truro	2	B. Nikula	6/6	P'town	1 sub-ad	B. Nikula
6/thr	P'town	1-2	B. Nikula	Dovekie			
6/16	P.I.	1	M. Iliff	6/13	George's Bank	2	T. Johnson
Least Tern				Razorbill			
5/4	Tuckernuck	3	S. Perkins#	5/12	Gloucester (E.P.)	1	S. + J. Mirick
5/7, 30	Plymouth B.	4, 30	Hecker, GdE	6/1	Essex	1	D. Brown
5/13	Essex	10	J. Berry#	6/10	off P'town	2	J.Hoye#, ph.
5/30	Winthrop B.	130	D. Swain	Black Guillemot			
6/5	P.I.	500	J. Carroll	5/2	P.I.	1	MAS (B. Gette)
6/30	Chatham	180	B. Lagasse	6/14	Rockport (H.P.)	1	A. Prazar
Caspian Tern				Atlantic Puffin			
5/4	Turners Falls	1	J. Smith	6/13	George's Bank	1	T. Johnson
5/5	Plymouth H.	2	BBC (GdE)				
6/3-6	P.I.	2-3	R. Heil				

DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

A **White-winged Dove** was photographed on Nantucket in early June, at least the seventh record for the island. The exceptionally mild April weather continued into May and reinforced the trend of exceptionally early arrival dates for migrants. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen on May 4 at Mount Auburn Cemetery, almost two weeks before the typical arrival date.

The last Snowy Owl captured by Norm Smith at Logan Airport was released on Plum Island on May 29. This was one of the best Snowy Owl seasons for many years; Norm banded a total of 42 Snowies between November and May at Logan, including a recapture of an owl he banded two years ago. He captured another four owls at Duxbury Beach and six at Plum Island. The spring migration of Common Nighthawks continued to show signs of a diminishing population in the Northeast. There was no report of more than seven individuals during the period, and none were reported in June even though the familiar call had been heard in our cities not that long ago. **Chuck-wills-widows** were noted from four Cape Cod locations, and good numbers of Whip-poor-wills were counted on Plum Island and at the Myles Standish State Forest in Plymouth.

The first four days of May saw strong northwest winds and nearly an inch of rain, but on the fourth day winds switched to the south. On May 5–7 the floodgates opened, and the first real migrant push was noted. A scan of the May 5th warbler records shows impressive numbers of birds from Provincetown to Amherst. The next wave was during the morning of May 13 and 14 following west and northwest winds, which can often bring fallout especially at coastal locations. The Manomet banding station recorded its busiest day on May 14 with 121 birds captured and 114 new birds banded. Provincetown birders also reported good numbers.

Less common migrants included 14 Olive-sided Flycatchers, 13 White-eyed Vireos, **Golden-winged Warblers** in Provincetown and Brookfield, **Prothonotary Warblers** in Pocasset and Ipswich, and a **Yellow-throated Warbler** in Washington.

There was a smattering of Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeak in early May with the majority seen in Franklin and Berkshire counties.

On a more somber point, the long stretch of drizzly, rainy, cold weather from May 28 through June 8 was feared to have had an impact on the swallows and martins. The damp cold weather increases the time needed to brood young, and it grounds insects, making finding food difficult.

R. H. Stymeist

White-winged Dove				5/12	Wompatuck SP	4	SSBC (GdE)
6/3-05	Nantucket	1 ph	K. Blackshaw#	5/17	Boxford (C.P.)	2	T. Aversa
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				6/15	Lenox	2	G. d'Entremont
5/4	Mt.A.	1	BBC (L. O'Bryan)	Northern Saw-whet Owl			
5/12-6/25	Reports of indiv.	from 20	locations	5/3	MSSF	1	G. d'Entremont#
5/27	N. Truro	7	D. Manchester#	5/12	Leicester	1	M. Lynch#
Black-billed Cuckoo				5/29	Mt. Greylock	1	T. Gagnon
5/6	Quabbin (G53)	2	B. Zajda#	6/7	Sharon	1	C. Turnbull
5/7	P.I.	2	P. + F. Vale	6/14	Montague	1	A. Magee
5/15	Woburn	4	M. Rines	Common Nighthawk			
5/18	Lexington	3	A. Piccolo#	5/7	Westboro	1	N. Paulson
6/16	Mt. Greylock	3	SSBC (GdE)	5/9	Amherst	1	I. Davies#
Great Horned Owl				5/10	S. Quabbin	5	L. Therrien
5/12	Wompatuck SP	2	SSBC (GdE)	5/13	Granby	4	L. Hoffmann
6/10	W. Bridgewater	pr	S. Arena	5/13	Belchertown	7	L. Therrien
Snowy Owl				5/17	S. Natick	5	M. Salett#
5/3	P.I.	1	S. McGrath#	Chuck-will's-widow			
5/11, 29	Boston (Logan)	1, 1	N. Smith	6/thr	Orleans	1	v.o.
5/27	P'town	1	J. Young	5/30	Chappaquiddick	1	H. Potter
Barred Owl				6/19-30	Truro	1-2	v.o.
5/3	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	2	A. + D. Morgan	6/26	Yarmouthport	1	M. Craig#
5/6	ONWR	pr	G. Gove	Eastern Whip-poor-will			
5/11	Ipswich	2	J. Berry#	5/5	Northfield	3	J. Rose

Eastern Whip-poor-will (continued)				5/27	Lenox	6	R. Laubach
5/13	Southwick	6	S. Kellogg	5/31	W. Roxbury (MP)	7	P. Peterson
5/26	P.I.	16	J. Berry#	6/3	P.I.	15	K. Elwell
6/10	C. Quabbin	9	L. Therrien	6/18	Southwick	6	J. Zepko
6/14	MSSF	10	SSBC (GdE)	Least Flycatcher			
Chimney Swift				5/2, 5	Amherst	1, 17	I. Davies
5/2	Attleboro	30	J. Sweeney	5/5	Sudbury	9	T. Spahr
5/2	GMNWR	100	A. Bragg#	5/5	P.I.	6	E. Nielsen
5/5	Woburn (HP)	24	P. Ippolito#	5/12	Ware R. IBA	20	M. Lynch#
6/3	Warren	40	M. Lynch#	5/17	Manomet	2 b	T. Lloyd-Evans
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				6/16	Mt. Greylock	3	SSBC (GdE)
5/6	S. Dartmouth	3	A. + D. Morgan	Great Crested Flycatcher			
5/9	P.I.	4	MAS (D. Larson)	5/1	P.I.	1	S. Sullivan
5/11	Falmouth	6	M. Keleher	5/6	ONWR	6	BBC (J. Center)
5/14	Worcester	7	B. Kamp	5/7	Wompatuck SP	7	P. Loranger
Red-headed Woodpecker				5/15	Lynn	14	R. Heil
5/11	S. Dartmouth	1 imm	N. Paulson#	5/15	Medford	6	M. Rines#
5/23	Oxford	1 ad	B. Mulhearn	6/10	MBWMA	7	BBC (Ferraresso)
Red-bellied Woodpecker				6/18	Gloucester	9	J. Berry#
5/6	ONWR	5	BBC (J. Center)	6/22	Mashpee	10	M. Keleher
5/14	P.I.	7	T. Wetmore	Eastern Kingbird			
5/28	W. Warren	5	B. Zajda	5/6	Arlington Res.	4	K. Hartel#
6/24	Concord	5	R. Stymeist	5/12	P.I.	26	J. Offermann
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				6/24	Falmouth	10	M. Keleher
5/2	Boston (PG)	2	BBC (Ferraresso)	White-eyed Vireo			
5/27	Royalston	6	M. Lynch#	5/2	Fairhaven	2	A. + D. Morgan
6/16	Mt. Greylock	5	SSBC (GdE)	5/6	Winthrop	1	R. Cressman
6/16	Mt. Wachusett	11	B. Harris	5/8, 20	P'town	1, 1	B. Nikula
6/17	October Mt.	7	SSBC (GdE)	5/9	P.I.	1 b	B. Flemer#
Pileated Woodpecker				5/10	Manomet	1 b	T. Lloyd-Evans
5/4	Middleton	2	J. Berry#	5/11	Georgetown	1 m	J. Berry#
5/4	Leicester	3	M. Lynch#	5/11	Falmouth	1	M. Keleher
5/7	Quabbin Pk	3	E. Labato	5/19	Agawam	1	J. Zepko
5/7	GMNWR	2	M. Rosenstein#	5/30	Westport	2 m	P. + F. Vale
5/26	Lincoln	2	J. Forbes	6/22	Scituate	1	MAS (J. Galluzzo)
6/17	New Salem	3	B. Lafley	Yellow-throated Vireo			
Olive-sided Flycatcher				5/2	Mt.A.	1	S. Simpson#
5/11	Ludlow	1	A. & L. Richardson	5/17	ONWR	6	J. Hoye#
5/15-6/3	Reports of indiv. from 11 locations	11	N. Paulson	5/18	S. Quabbin	10	M. Lynch#
6/5	Westboro	2	N. Paulson	5/25	Wayland	4	S. Arena
Eastern Wood-Pewee				5/27	Groveland	pr n	J. Berry#
5/2	Longmeadow	1	A. & L. Richardson	5/27	Lenox	3	R. Laubach
5/5	Agawam	1	S. Perreault	6/16	Northbridge	pr n	J. Glagowski
5/26	Petersham	15	M. Lynch#	6/17	Mt. Tekoa	2	J. Hoye#
6/9	Fall River	11	SSBC (L. Abbey)	Blue-headed Vireo			
6/19	Ipswich	10 m	J. Berry	5/3	Nahant	7	L. Pivacek
6/24	Falmouth	6	M. Keleher	5/3	MNWS	6	P. + F. Vale
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				5/5	P.I.	26	E. Nielsen
5/5	Amherst	1	I. Davies	5/5	Sudbury	37	T. Spahr
5/17	Manomet	1 b	T. Lloyd-Evans	5/5	P'town	18	B. Nikula
5/20	MNWS	1	F. Vale	6/16	Mt. Greylock	6	SSBC (GdE)
5/27	Nahant	1	L. Pivacek	6/17	New Salem	12	M. Lynch#
5/29	P.I.	2 b	B. Flemer#	Warbling Vireo			
Acadian Flycatcher				5/2	Attleboro	9	J. Sweeney
5/12	Bolton Flats	1	B. Kamp	5/3	Woburn (HP)	10	M. Rines
5/13, 6/9	Fall River	2	L. Abbey	5/6	GMNWR	12	P. Peterson
5/18	Nahant	1	P. + F. Vale#	5/7	Boston (A.A.)	12	P. Peterson
5/20	Quabbin (G15)	1	R. Stymeist#	5/28	Warren	28	M. Lynch#
5/21	Granville	1	S. Kellogg	6/17	Ipswich	6	J. Berry
5/26	W. Barnstable	1	P. Crosson	Philadelphia Vireo			
5/28	Wompatuck SP	1	O. Burton	5/27	MNWS	1	J. Smith
5/29	Manomet	2 b	T. Lloyd-Evans	Red-eyed Vireo			
Alder Flycatcher				5/6	Medford	3	M. Rines#
5/12	Blandford	2	M. Conway	5/6	Hadley	5	B. Zajda#
5/20	New Braintree	11	M. Lynch#	5/19	Quabbin Pk	24	J. Hoye#
5/20	HRWMA	3	R. Stymeist#	5/26	Petersham	162	M. Lynch#
5/23	P.I.	3	J. Berry	5/28	Boxford	20	J. Berry#
5/26	Moran WMA	5	B. Zajda#	5/28	W. Warren	42	B. Zajda
6/10	Westford	3	M. Rines	6/3	HRWMA	26	T. Pirro
6/17	October Mt.	5	SSBC (GdE)	6/16	Mt. Greylock	78	SSBC (GdE)
Willow Flycatcher				6/16	Mt. Wachusett	37	B. Harris
5/13	Bolton Flats	3	B. Kamp	Fish Crow			
5/25	Wayland	11	S. Arena	5/5	P.I.	2	P. Sowizral

Fish Crow (continued)				5/6	Fairhaven	4	C. Longworth
5/21 Ipswich	18	J. Berry		5/20	HRWMA	4	R. Stymeist#
5/24 Boxford	2	J. Berry		5/28	Warren	12	M. Lynch#
6/10 Taunton	4	G. d'Entremont		6/6	Belmont	5	R. Stymeist#
Common Raven				Winter Wren			
thr Woburn	pr + 4 yg	M. Rines		5/5	Wompatuck SP	2	BBC (GdE)
5/11 Quincy	pr + 4 yg	G. d'Entremont#		5/19	Petersham	2	J. Hoye#
5/24 Wompatuck SP	2	D. Swain		5/19	Hubbardston	4	M. Lynch#
6/15 Hadley	2	M. Lynch#		6/15	Boxford	7	J. Berry
6/17 Foxboro	2	B. Cassie		6/16	Mt. Greylock	6	SSBC (GdE)
6/17 October Mt.	4	SSBC (GdE)		Marsh Wren			
6/23 W. Roxbury	6	A. Joslin		thr GMNWR	35 max		v.o.
Horned Lark				thr P.I.	40 max		v.o.
5/11 Westover	3	S. Surner		5/13	W. Bridgewater	8	S. Arena
5/12 Plymouth	8	SSBC (GdE)		6/16	Lenox	3	SSBC (GdE)
5/17 Westfield	5	T. Swochak		6/17	Ipswich	4 m	J. Berry
6/16 Chatham (S.B.)	16	R. Schain		6/17	Bolton Flats	8	N. Paulson
Purple Martin				Blue-gray Gnatcatcher			
thr P.I.	32 max	v.o.		5/3	Wompatuck SP	4	E. Dalton
thr DWWS	20 max	v.o.		5/9	W. Newbury	4	S. McGrath#
5/2 GMNWR	2	S. Perkins		5/11	Groveland	4	J. Berry#
5/11 P'town	1	B. Nikula		5/13	Wayland	6	G. Long
5/21 Rehoboth	88	R. Marr		5/15	Bolton Flats	4	D. Swain
6/30 Mashpee	40 ad + 62 yg	M. Keleher		5/18	S. Quabbin	5	M. Lynch#
Tree Swallow				6/18	GMNWR	8	A. Bragg#
5/5 P.I.	150	T. Wetmore		Golden-crowned Kinglet			
6/24 Wayland	134	B. Harris		5/12	Ware R. IBA	2	M. Lynch#
Northern Rough-winged Swallow				5/15	Falmouth	2	G. Hirth
5/5 Quabog IBA	4	M. Lynch#		5/19	S. Quabbin	8	L. Therrien
5/7 Gloucester (E.P.)	12	S. Hedman#		6/16	Mt. Greylock	5	M. & K. Conway
5/19 Magnolia	4	J. Berry#		6/17	New Salem	2	M. Lynch#
Bank Swallow				6/17	October Mt.	4	SSBC (GdE)
5/12 Burlington	55	M. Rines#		Ruby-crowned Kinglet			
5/24 Russell	100	T. Swochak		5/3	Nahant	5	L. Pivacek
6/9 Sterling	80 n	B. deGraaf#		5/5	Sudbury	15	T. Spahr
6/10 Nantucket	10	K. Blackshaw#		5/5	P.I.	12	BBC (L.de la Flor)
6/10 Templeton	40	M. Lynch#		5/10	W Springfield	1	J. Zepko
6/16 P.I.	53	M. Iliff		5/14	Squantum	1	V. Zollo#
6/17 Bolton Flats	25	N. Paulson		5/18	Medford	1	M. Rines
Cliff Swallow				Eastern Bluebird			
5/1 Rowe	2	D. Potter		5/21	Ipswich	10	J. Berry
5/4 GMNWR	10	R. Stymeist		6/10	DFWS	14	P. Sowizral
5/6 P.I.	2	J. Berry#		6/24	Harwich	17	A. Curtis
5/7-11 Newbury	7	P. + F. Vale		Veery			
5/24 Tyringham	2	T. Swochak		5/4, 6/3	Wompatuck SP	1, 22	Dalton, GdE
5/27 Royalston	2	M. Lynch#		5/12	Ware R. IBA	12	M. Lynch#
6/9 Lenox	6	S. Surner		5/27	Groveland	9	J. Berry#
6/23 Savoy-Cheshire	130 nests	M. Lynch#		5/28	Warren	41	M. Lynch#
Barn Swallow				6/9	Fall River	18	SSBC (L. Abbey)
5/4 GMNWR	80	R. Stymeist		6/17	October Mt.	12	SSBC (GdE)
5/5 Burrage Pd	50	BBC (GdE)		6/19	Ipswich	11	J. Berry
5/5 P.I.	200	T. Wetmore		Gray-cheeked Thrush			
5/5 Quabog IBA	110	M. Lynch#		5/19	P.I.	1 b	B. Flemer#
Red-breasted Nuthatch				Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush			
5/19 S. Quabbin	11	L. Therrien		5/12	Ware R. IBA	1	M. Lynch#
5/27 Royalston	8	M. Lynch#		5/28	Boston	1	T. Factor
6/3 Blandford	5	T. Swochak		Swainson's Thrush			
6/10 Concord	2	J. Forbes		5/5, 15	Medford	1, 2	M. Rines#
6/10 Winchendon	9	M. Lynch#		5/5	Woburn (HP)	1	P. Ippolito#
6/23 Boxford	2	J. Berry		5/7-31	P.I.	23 b	B. Flemer#
Brown Creeper				5/10	Boston (Fens)	5	P. Peterson
5/28 Boxford	6	J. Berry#		5/11	Mt.A.	4	P. + F. Vale
6/3 Barre Falls	2	R. Quimby		5/17	Boston (F.Pk)	3	P. Peterson
6/8 DWMA	6	C. Cook		6/16	Mt. Greylock	2	M. & K. Conway
6/11 GMNWR	4	A. Bragg#		Hermit Thrush			
6/17 October Mt.	3	SSBC (GdE)		5/2	Boston (PG)	10	BBC (Ferraresso)
6/19 Ipswich	3	J. Berry		5/2	Mt.A.	7	P. Loranger
Carolina Wren				5/5	P.I.	5	J. Offermann
5/6 Gloucester (E.P.)	8	BBC (S. Hedman)		5/12	Wompatuck SP	6	SSBC (GdE)
6/9 Monson	5	M. Lynch#		6/10	Winchendon	24	M. Lynch#
6/10 Raynham	4	G. d'Entremont		6/16	Mt. Greylock	9	SSBC (GdE)
House Wren				Wood Thrush			
5/4 Leicester	9	M. Lynch#		5/5	Medford	6	M. Rines#

Wood Thrush (continued)				5/17	S. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien
5/12	Wompatuck SP	9	SSBC (GdE)	5/25	Cheshire	1	J. Morris-Siegel
5/12	Ware R. IBA	20	M. Lynch#		Lawrence's Warbler		
6/10	Fall River	6	G. d'Entremont	5/14, 6/16	Belchertown	1	Therrien, Young
6/24	Concord	6	R. Stymeist		Black-and-white Warbler		
Gray Catbird				5/thr	P.I.	31 max	v.o.
5/5	Quabog IBA	53	M. Lynch#	5/3	Wompatuck SP	15	E. Dalton
5/7	Gloucester (E.P.)	30	S. Hedman#	5/5	Medford	21	M. Rines#
5/11	Falmouth	52	M. Keleher	5/5	P'town	95	R. Schain#
5/20	Burlington	25	M. Rines	5/5	Sudbury	45	T. Spahr
5/23	P.I.	51	J. Berry	5/6	Ware R. IBA	34	M. Lynch#
6/1	Ipswich	25	J. Berry	5/10	Quabbin Pk	16	P. + F. Vale
Brown Thrasher				5/28	Warren	26	M. Lynch#
5/5	Medford	5	M. Rines#	6/16	Mt. Wachusett	13	B. Harris
5/11	Woburn (HP)	10	P. Ippolito#		Prothonotary Warbler		
5/11	Southwick	7	J. Zeplo	5/14-29	Pocasset	1 m	J. Kricher
6/1	Ipswich	5	J. Berry	5/19	Ipswich	1	S. Hedman#
6/3	P.I.	25	K. Elwell		Tennessee Warbler		
American Pipit				5/5	Westfield	2	S. Kellogg
5/5	Scituate	2	J. Galluzzo	5/12	Medford	3	M. Rines#
5/8	Westboro	12	S. Arena	5/13	Amherst	3	L. Therrien
5/9	Topsfield	1	W. Tatro	5/15	Mt.A.	2	BBC (C. Floyd)
5/12	P.I.	1	R. Schain	5/18	P.I.	2	v.o.
Cedar Waxwing				5/28	W. Warren	3	B. Zajda
5/2	Mt.A.	30	R. Stymeist#		Orange-crowned Warbler		
5/17	P.I.	130	T. Aversa	5/3	Upton	1	N. Paulson
5/17	P'town	35	B. Nikula	5/5	Amherst	1	I. Davies
5/26	Newbury	35	J. Berry#		Nashville Warbler		
5/26	Moran WMA	60	B. Zajda#	5/3	Nahant	6	L. Pivacek
5/26	Lincoln	25	J. Forbes	5/5	Tuckernuck	11	R. Veit#
6/15	N. Truro	43	D. Manchester	5/5	Medford	20	M. Rines#
Ovenbird				5/5	Sudbury	35 m	T. Spahr
5/6	Ware R. IBA	86	M. Lynch#	5/5	P'town	45	J. Trimble#
5/10	Quabbin Pk	30	P. + F. Vale	5/7	P.I.	20	P. + F. Vale
5/12, 6/3	Wompatuck SP	44, 41	SSBC (GdE)	5/11	P'town	11	B. Nikula
5/12	Ware R. IBA	149	M. Lynch#	6/17	Bolton Flats	1	N. Paulson
6/9	Fall River	19	SSBC (L. Abbey)	6/17	New Salem	1	M. Lynch#
6/16	Mt. Wachusett	35	B. Harris		Mourning Warbler		
6/19	Ipswich	27 m	J. Berry	5/3	Granville	1	S. Kellogg
Worm-eating Warbler				5/8, 27	Nahant	1, 2	L. Pivacek
5/2-04	MNWS	1 ph	v.o.	5/24	Washington	3	T. Swochak
5/3-08	Nahant	1	L. Pivacek	5/27	MNWS	2	J. Smith
5/3-20	Wompatuck SP	2	v.o.	5/30	P.I.	4	B. + B. Buxton
5/5	Tuckernuck	1	R. Veit#	5/30	Boston (PG)	2	L. Creasey#
5/5	Mt Holyoke	2	I. Davies		Kentucky Warbler		
5/6	Hadley	7	B. Zajda#	5/5-9	Mt.A.	1	L. Ferrarresso
5/7	Sharon	2	C. Turnbull	5/6-11	MNWS	1	D. Noble#
Louisiana Waterthrush				5/7	Sharon	1	C. Turnbull
5/4	Leicester	2	M. Lynch#	5/10	Marshfield	1	T. O'Neill
5/13	Spencer	2	M. Lynch#	5/11	Medford	1	S. Miller#
6/9	Monson	2	M. Lynch#	5/18-25	Lincoln	1 m	M. Rines#
6/16	Mt. Wachusett	2	B. Harris	5/19	Sudbury	1	B. Harris#
6/17	New Salem	1	M. Lynch#	5/24-31	P.I.	1	v.o.
Northern Waterthrush				5/27	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg
5/2	Mt.A.	3	P. Loranger		Common Yellowthroat		
5/5-26	P.I.	35 b	B. Flemer#	5/5-30	P.I.	408 b	B. Flemer#
5/10	Boston (Fens)	6	P. Peterson	5/20	Burlington	22	M. Rines
5/11	Medford	4	M. Rines#	5/26	Newbury	28	J. Berry#
5/13	P'town	9	B. Nikula	5/28	W. Warren	14	B. Zajda
5/16	MNWS	6	P. + F. Vale	6/1	Ipswich	23	J. Berry
5/27	Lenox	4	R. Laubach	6/17	New Salem	48	M. Lynch#
6/9	Fall River	4	SSBC (L. Abbey)	6/24	Falmouth	23	M. Keleher
Golden-winged Warbler					Hooded Warbler		
5/11	P'town	1	B. Nikula	5/6-6/9	Indiv. reported from 15 locations		
5/26	Brookfield	1 m	R. Jenkins	5/17	P.I.	2	S. Sullivan
Blue-winged Warbler				6/17	Montgomery	7	T. Swochak
5/2	Fairhaven	10	A. + D. Morgan		American Redstart		
5/5	Pembroke	24	J. Galluzzo	5/10	Quabbin Pk	15	P. + F. Vale
5/20	Burlington	7	M. Rines	5/13	P'town	17	B. Nikula
5/20	New Braintree	11	M. Lynch#	5/15	Medford	15	M. Rines#
6/6	Bedford	5	W. Hutcheson	5/26	P.I.	52 b	B. Flemer#
Brewster's Warbler				6/16	Mt. Greylock	18	SSBC (GdE)
5/5	Amherst	1	I. Davies	6/30	Florida-Monroe	29	M. Lynch#

Cape May Warbler				5/15	Bolton Flats	20	D. Swain
5/5	Northampton	1	A. Magee	5/31	W. Roxbury (MP)	24	P. Peterson
5/6	Quabbin (G53)	1	B. Zajda#	6/1	Ipswich	17	J. Berry
5/12	Washington	1	P. Crossen	Chestnut-sided Warbler			
5/12	Plymouth	1	K. Doyon	5/4	Leicester	4	M. Lynch#
5/12	Rockport	2 m	S. + J. Mirick	5/5	Sudbury	4	T. Spahr
5/12	Mt.A.	1	BBC (S. Martin)	5/10	Quabbin Pk	13	P. + F. Vale
5/13	Nahant	1	L. Pivacek	5/12	P.I.	10	P. Miliotis
5/13	P.I.	3 m	P. + F. Vale#	5/28	W. Warren	7	B. Zajda
5/19	Agawam	1	J. Hutichison	6/16	Mt. Greylock	15	SSBC (GdE)
5/19	Boston (PG)	1 m	P. Peterson	Blackpoll Warbler			
5/27	Royalston	1	M. Lynch#	5/12-6/10	P.I.	25 max	v.o.
Cerulean Warbler				5/12	Chestnut Hill	2	R. Scott
5/4	Leicester	1 m	M. Lynch#	5/13	P'town	12	B. Nikula
5/5	Mt Holyoke	1	I. Davies	5/15	Woburn	4	M. Rines
5/7	Nantucket	1 m	S. Langer#	5/15	Boston (F.Pk)	5	J. Young
5/7	Wompatuck SP	1	P. Loranger#	5/23	MNWS	5	F. Vale
5/12	Washington	1	P. Crossen	5/26	Rockport	4	S. Hedman
5/17	Boston (F.Pk)	1 f ad	P. Peterson	6/16	Mt. Greylock	9	M. & K. Conway
5/18	S. Quabbin	1 m	M. Lynch#	Black-throated Blue Warbler			
5/28	Boxford	1 m	J. Berry#	5/thr	P.I.	34 max	v.o.
6/15	Hadley	pr	M. Lynch#	5/13	P'town	10	B. Nikula
Northern Parula				5/18	Nahant	8	P. + F. Vale
5/1-26	P.I.	50 max	v.o.	5/19	P.I.	12	P. Miliotis
5/5	Amherst	9	I. Davies	5/26	Petersham	25	M. Lynch#
5/7	S. Quabbin	8	L. Therrien	6/16	Mt. Greylock	14	SSBC (GdE)
5/11	Medford	8	M. Rines#	6/24	W. Quabbin	19	L. Therrien
5/13	P'town	27	B. Nikula	Palm Warbler			
5/15	Boston (F.Pk.)	10	J. Young	5/3	Ipswich	7	J. Berry
5/18	Nahant	10	P. + F. Vale	5/5	Tuckernuck	2	S. Perkins#
6/3	Blandford	1	M. & K. Conway	5/5	Sudbury	4	T. Spahr
Magnolia Warbler				5/6	Mt.A.	4	D. Bernstein
5/3	Cambridge	1	J. Childs	5/12	P.I.	3	P. Miliotis
5/3	Wompatuck SP	1	E. Dalton	Pine Warbler			
5/5	Amherst	11	I. Davies	5/7	Boxford	14 m	J. Berry
5/5-31	P.I.	177 b	B. Flemer#	5/12	Ware R. IBA	21	M. Lynch#
5/11	Medford	12	M. Rines#	5/15	Lynn	18	R. Heil
5/13	P'town	17	B. Nikula	6/3	Wompatuck SP	12	G. d'Entremont#
5/18	Manomet	30 b	T. Lloyd-Evans	6/8	DWMA	13	C. Cook
5/18	Nahant	12	P. + F. Vale	6/9	Fall River	13	SSBC (L. Abbey)
6/17	October Mt.	3	SSBC (GdE)	6/17	New Salem	17	M. Lynch#
6/17	New Salem	4	M. Lynch#	Yellow-rumped Warbler			
Bay-breasted Warbler				5/4	Tuckernuck	70	S. Perkins#
5/5	Amherst	1	I. Davies	5/4	Mt.A.	100	D. Swain#
5/5	Cummington	1	G. Hurley	5/5	Sudbury	65	T. Spahr
5/5	Wilbraham	1	K. Leary	5/5	P'town	110	B. Nikula#
5/6	Quabbin (G53)	1	B. Zajda#	5/12	Agawam	72	J. Hutichison
5/7-19	P.I.	3 max	v.o.	5/14	Manomet	28 b	T. Lloyd-Evans
5/8	Upton	1	N. Paulson	6/16	Mt. Greylock	5	SSBC (GdE)
5/10	Westfield	1	T. Swochak	6/17	New Salem	14	M. Lynch#
5/12	Rockport	1 m	S. + J. Mirick	Yellow-throated Warbler			
5/13	Woburn	1	M. Rines	5/12	Washington	1	P. Crossen
5/16	Manomet	1 b	T. Lloyd-Evans	Prairie Warbler			
5/16	MNWS	1	P. + F. Vale	5/1	Sharon	1	C. Turnbull
5/16	Nahant	3	J. Hoye#	5/5	Wilbraham	7	K. Leary
5/28	Wompatuck SP	1	O. Burton	5/6	Fall River	6	A. Morgan#
Blackburnian Warbler				5/11	Southwick	12	J. Zeplo
5/3-6/3	P.I.	9 max	v.o.	5/12	Ware R. IBA	5	M. Lynch#
5/3	Ipswich	2	J. Berry	5/15	Milton	6	E. Lipton
5/5	Tuckernuck	5	R. Veit#	5/18	S. Quabbin	4	M. Lynch#
5/5	Medford	8	M. Rines#	5/19	Falmouth	7	G. d'Entremont
5/5	P'town	14	R. Schain#	5/20	Lancaster	5	R. Stymeist#
5/27	Royalston	10	M. Lynch#	5/25	Littleton	4	G. Billingham
6/16	Mt. Greylock	26	SSBC (GdE)	5/26	Newbury	4 m	J. Berry#
6/24	W. Quabbin	17	L. Therrien	5/27	Plymouth Airport	5	SSBC (GdE)
Yellow Warbler				6/7	Milton	4	P. Peterson
thr	P.I.	83 max	v.o.	6/17	Bolton Flats	6	N. Paulson
5/2	Fairhaven	15	A. + D. Morgan	Black-throated Green Warbler			
5/5	Quabog IBA	76	M. Lynch#	5/1-6/9	P.I.	26 max	v.o.
5/6	Gloucester (E.P.)	17	BBC (S. Hedman)	5/3	Wompatuck SP	15	E. Dalton
5/6	Fairhaven	18	C. Longworth	5/5	Sudbury	50	T. Spahr
5/10	Newton	22	D. Bernstein	5/5	P'town	43	J. Trimble#
5/15	S. Dart. (A. Pd)	46	G. d'Entremont	5/5	Medford	36	M. Rines#

Black-throated Green Warbler (continued)			Saltmarsh Sparrow				
5/6	Ware R. IBA	26	M. Lynch#	thr	PI.	42 max	v.o.
5/13	P'town	11	B. Nikula	5/7	Manomet	1 b	T. Lloyd-Evans
5/19	Hubbardston	47	M. Lynch#	5/7	Fairhaven	2	C. Longworth
6/24	W. Quabbin	35	L. Therrien	6/12	Chatham (S.B.)	25	B. Nikula
Canada Warbler				6/15	Newbury	16	W. Hutcheson
5/4	Newton	1	M. Kaufman	Seaside Sparrow			
5/5	Amherst	5	I. Davies	thr	PI.	4 max	v.o.
5/13	Woburn	7	M. Rines	5/8	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	3	P. Champlin
5/13-30	P.I.	24 b	B. Flemer#	Lincoln's Sparrow			
5/26	Rockport	5	S. Hedman	5/2	Pittsfield	1	T. Collins
5/27	Royalston	6	M. Lynch#	5/5	Florence	1	T. Gagnon
6/3	Blandford	7	T. Swochak	5/7	Boston (Fens)	1	P. Peterson
6/16	Mt. Greylock	3	M. & K. Conway	5/7	PI.	2	D. Chickering
6/23	Savoy-Cheshire	2	M. Lynch#	5/11	Amherst	2	L. Therrien
Wilson's Warbler				5/14	Milton	1	R. Mussey#
5/4	Pittsfield	1	G. Hurley	5/28	Nahant	1	C. Turnbull#
5/5	Sudbury	1	T. Spahr	Swamp Sparrow			
5/8	Wayland	2	B. Harris	5/5	Quabog IBA	41	M. Lynch#
5/11	Medford	2	M. Rines#	5/5-06	GMNWR	34	S. Arena
5/13	Woburn	4	M. Rines	5/25	Wayland	38	S. Arena
5/14	Boston (F.Pk)	3 m	P. Peterson	6/10	Winchendon	26	M. Lynch#
5/17	P.I.	14	T. Aversa	White-throated Sparrow			
5/26	Rockport	2	S. Hedman	5/1, 2	Manomet	42 b, 41 b	T. Lloyd-Evans
Eastern Towhee				5/3	Nahant	35	L. Pivacek
5/2	Ipswich (C.B.)	20	J. Berry	5/4	Tuckernuck	175	S. Perkins#
5/2	P.I.	30	T. Wetmore	5/4	Boston (PG)	22	P. Peterson
5/4	Tuckernuck	70	S. Perkins#	5/5	Wompatuck SP	100	BBC (GdE)
5/4	Leicester	14	M. Lynch#	5/5	P'town	55	B. Nikula#
5/5	Woburn (HP)	23	P. Ippolito#	5/5	PI.	40	J. Nelson
5/6	Ware R. IBA	21	M. Lynch#	6/17	October Mt.	7	SSBC (GdE)
5/6	P.I.	17	J. Berry#	6/23	Savoy-Cheshire	11	M. Lynch#
5/10	Quabbin Pk	15	P. + F. Vale	White-crowned Sparrow			
5/14	P.I.	39	J. Berry	5/4	Nahant	5	P. + F. Vale
5/26	Newbury	11	J. Berry#	5/5	Tuckernuck	4	R. Veit#
6/1	P.I.	26	P. Peterson	5/5	Northfield	10	J. Rose
6/1	Ipswich	12	J. Berry	5/5	PI.	6	J. Nelson
6/3	Wompatuck SP	11	G. d'Entremont#	5/5	Heath	4	D. Potter
6/6	Hanscom	12	R. Stymeist	5/5	Amherst	4	I. Davies
6/9	Monson	11	M. Lynch#	5/6	Easthampton	3 ad	B. Zajda#
6/10	Fall River	15	G. d'Entremont	5/16	Cambr. (Danehy)	1	K. Hartel
6/16	Mt. Greylock	14	SSBC (GdE)	Dark-eyed Junco			
6/17	New Salem	14	M. Lynch#	5/2	Mattapan (BNC)	1	G. Denton
Clay-colored Sparrow				5/5	Tuckernuck	1 m	R. Veit#
5/3	Nantucket	1	T. Pastuszak	5/18	Hadley	2	G. d'Entremont#
5/5	Cummington	1	M. Kelly	6/16	Mt. Greylock	19	SSBC (GdE)
Field Sparrow				6/16	Mt. Wachusett	9	B. Harris
5/5	Woburn (HP)	7	P. Ippolito#	6/23	Savoy-Cheshire	5	M. Lynch#
5/5	P.I.	10	BBC (L.de la Flor)	6/30	Florida-Monroe	17	M. Lynch#
5/20	Lancaster	4	R. Stymeist#	Summer Tanager			
5/26	Newbury	4	J. Berry#	5/5	Harwich	1 ph	T. Sponner
6/17	Bolton Flats	11	N. Paulson	5/9	Mt.A.	1	R. Stymeist#
6/24	Falmouth	16	M. Keleher	5/13	P'town Airport	1	B. Nikula
Vesper Sparrow				5/19	MNWS	1 f	D. Noble
5/5	Northfield	1	J. Rose	5/26	PI.	1	N. Landry
5/12	Plymouth Airport	2	SSBC (GdE)	5/27	Waltham	1	J. Hines#
5/19	Hadley	1	J. Rose	6/20	Brockton	1 ph	S. Donovan
5/20	Lancaster	2	R. Stymeist#	Scarlet Tanager			
5/23	Sudbury	1	D. Swain	5/1	Sharon	1	C. Turnbull
6/10	Westfield	1	R. Shain	5/5	Medford	3	M. Rines#
6/16	Hatfield	2	J. Young	5/12	Wompatuck SP	12	SSBC (GdE)
6/17	Bolton Flats	2	N. Paulson	5/12	Ware R. IBA	16	M. Lynch#
Savannah Sparrow				5/15	Lynn	13	R. Heil
5/4	Tuckernuck	25	S. Perkins#	5/26	Newbury	6	J. Berry#
5/6	Easthampton	20	B. Zajda#	6/15	Boxford	6	J. Berry
Grasshopper Sparrow				Rose-breasted Grosbeak			
5/5	Turners Falls	2	J. Rose	5/2	GMNWR	2 m	S. Perkins
5/11	Westover	14	S. Surner	5/2	Wayland	3	B. Black
5/18	Southwick	4	J. Zeplo	5/2	Amherst	13	I. Davies
5/24	Westfield	5	T. Swochak	5/5	Sudbury	25	T. Spahr
6/3	C. Quabbin	2	L. Therrien	5/12	Ware R. IBA	27	M. Lynch#
6/24	Falmouth	9	M. Keleher	5/12	PI.	16	P. Miliotis
				5/13	Woburn	12	M. Rines

Blue Grosbeak				5/6	MBWMA	1	E. Nielsen
5/5	Tuckernuck	3	S. Perkins#	5/11	P'town	1	B. Nikula
5/8	Lynn	1 f	N. Paulson	Orchard Oriole			
5/20	Plymouth	1	K. Doyon	5/7	Boston (A.A.)	4	P. Peterson
5/29-30	W. Roxbury (MP)	1 m	B. Cassie + v.o.	5/13	Woburn	9	M. Rines
Indigo Bunting				5/17	Amherst	3	L. Therrien
5/4	Tuckernuck	6	S. Perkins#	6/1	Winchester	4 pr n	R. LaFontaine
5/15	Lynn	4 m	R. Heil	6/24	Falmouth	17	M. Keleher
5/17	Waltham	5	J. Forbes	6/26	P.I.	5	R. Heil
5/20	Lancaster	4	R. Stymeist#	Baltimore Oriole			
5/25	Littleton	4	G. Billingham	5/7	Boston (A.A.)	13	P. Peterson
5/26	Newbury	17	J. Berry#	5/10	Newton	13	D. Bernstein
6/3	HRWMA	4	T. Pirro	5/12	P.I.	18	P. Miliotis
6/10	MBWMA	11	BBC (Ferrareso)	5/14	GMNWR	14	A. Bragg#
6/17	October Mt.	6	SSBC (GdE)	5/15	Lynn	20	R. Heil
Dickcissel				Purple Finch			
5/12	Westport	1	v.o.	5/1	Heath	19	D. Potter
5/28	S. Dartmouth	1	M. Bornstein	5/2	Ipswich (C.B.)	5 m	J. Berry
Bobolink				5/5	P.I.	19	E. Nielsen
5/2	Wayland	2	B. Black	5/12	Ware R. IBA	7	M. Lynch#
5/3	Belmont	2	R. Stymeist#	6/16	Mt. Greylock	2	SSBC (GdE)
5/4	Southwick	10	S. Kellogg	6/17	New Salem	6	M. Lynch#
5/8	Hingham	200	D. Larson	6/17	October Mt.	3	SSBC (GdE)
5/13	Wayland	42	G. Long	Pine Siskin			
5/16	DWWS	18	F. Bouchard	5/1	Becket	6	J. Morris-Siegel
6/24	P.I.	28	R. Shaw	5/5	Dalton	12	C. Blagdon
Eastern Meadowlark				5/5	Heath	90	D. Potter
5/4	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg	5/7	Cummington	2	J. Bishop
5/4	Leicester	1	M. Lynch#	5/9	Boxford	pr	T. Martin
5/6	Quabbin Pk	1	B. Zajda#	5/13	P'town	1	B. Nikula
5/11	Bedford	3	P. + F. Vale	5/19	Dalton	16	C. Blagdon
5/12	Leicester	4	M. Lynch#	Evening Grosbeak			
6/10	Westfield	7	R. Shain	5/1	Heath	10	D. Potter
6/20	Westover	12	S. Surner	5/7	S. Quabbin	3	L. Therrien
Yellow-headed Blackbird				5/12	Harwich	2	E. Banks
6/4	Fairhaven	1 f	C. Longworth	5/19	Hubbardston	1 m	M. Lynch#
Rusty Blackbird				5/27	Chesterfield	1	L. Therrien
5/1	Belchertown	2	L. Therrien	6/7	Belchertown	2	J. Fleming
5/2	Longmeadow	1	A. & L. Richardson	6/16	W. Quabbin	2	L. Therrien
5/5	Florence	2	T. Gagnon				



PINE SISKINS BY DAVID LARSON

ABBREVIATIONS FOR BIRD SIGHTINGS

Taxonomic order is based on AOU checklist, Seventh edition, up to the 52nd Supplement, as published in *Auk* 128 (3): 600-13 (2011) (see <<http://www.aou.org/checklist/north>>).

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

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE BIRD SIGHTINGS TO *BIRD OBSERVER*

Sightings for any given month must be reported in writing by the eighth of the following month, and may be submitted by postal mail or email. 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 email submission, visit: <<http://massbird.org/birdobserver/sightings/>>.

Species on the Review List of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, 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 email to <mattgarvey@gmail.com>.

ABOUT THE COVER

Pine Warbler

The Pine Warbler (*Setophaga pinus*) is a denizen of the pine forests and is the only wood-warbler to regularly eat seeds, particularly pine seeds. In this large wood-warbler, the male's upperparts are solid, olive green and the underparts are yellow with olive streaking on the flanks. The belly and undertail coverts are white as are the elongated spots on the outer tail feathers. The dark auriculars are highlighted by a yellow eye ring. The wings are gray with two distinct white wing bars. Females are duller and immature birds are duller and paler still. In both sexes, plumages are similar throughout the year but brighter in spring. Dull Pine Warblers can be confused with winter-plumaged Bay-breasted or Blackpoll warblers, but the Bay-breasted has buff extending to under the tail and the Blackpoll has a streaked back.

Four subspecies are generally recognized but are similar in size and appearance. *S. p. pinus* resides in most of the eastern United States and southern Canada; the other subspecies reside in Florida, the Bahamas, and Hispaniola. The breeding range in the upper two-thirds of the eastern United States is fragmented due to the distribution of the Pine Warbler's preferred pine forest habitat. The populations in this part of its range and southern Canada are migratory, joining the year-round resident birds of the Southeast in winter. The wintering area also extends beyond the resident range into southeast Texas.

In Massachusetts the Pine Warbler is an early spring migrant, arriving mid-April to early May. The peak of the fall migration is late—September and October—but birds may stay into November and later, with a few overwintering.

Only males sing a simple, rapid trill, similar to that of the Chipping Sparrow. Song functions for territorial advertisement and mate attraction. Males are aggressive and may sing year-round, including during winter when they are part of mixed foraging flocks. This winter song perhaps advertises their presence or social status. Intraspecific fights frequently occur with chases, bill jabbing, or bills locked together. Birds that are chased or supplanted often have food in their beaks, which suggests that Pine Warblers may practice kleptoparasitism, a rare behavior in passerine birds. Territorial defense is practiced by both sexes. Displays include raising and vibrating wings, or circling or gliding flight with rapid, stiff, wingbeats. They will also defend their territory and nest against interspecifics, including Blue Jays, grackles, chickadees, and woodpeckers—Pine Warblers are tough little birds.

The Pine Warbler is probably a monogamous species, but its breeding biology is poorly known and has not been well studied, probably because of the species' habit of nesting high in pine trees. In New England they tend to nest in pitch pine forest; farther inland they also nest in red and white pines. They occasionally nest in mixed deciduous/pine forest.

The female gathers most of the nesting material and apparently builds the cup-shaped nest, usually placed in a high fork of a pine tree branch. The nest is composed

of bark, stems, twigs, and roots, supplemented with spider web, and lined with feathers, hair, or fine plant fibers. The usual clutch comprises four white to greenish eggs that are speckled brown, and is probably incubated mostly or completely by the female who is fed by the male. When intruders appear, both parents may give distraction displays, fluttering down to the ground where they hop along with wings and tail spread. The chicks are altricial (helpless) but do have down. Both parents feed the young and the family stays together for some time after fledging, but details are lacking. For example, the incubation and fledging periods, as well as whether the birds raise a second or third brood, are unknown.

Pine Warblers are primarily insectivorous although they eat fruit and seeds. They forage mostly by gleaning pine needles, the base of clusters of needles, and bark of trunks and branches. They also hang-glean and hawk insects. During migration they may forage in deciduous trees. Pine Warblers eat insects, especially lepidopteran larvae, and a broad spectrum of arthropods. They also take seeds from pinecones. In winter they frequent bird feeders in the more northern climes.

Pine Warblers are only occasionally parasitized by cowbirds. Like other nocturnal migrants, they are subject to collisions with structures such as buildings and towers. The Breeding Bird Census data gives mixed messages about increase and decrease in numbers across the breeding range. In Massachusetts, particularly in the east, numbers have decreased in the past half century, and this is linked to the shift from pitch pine to oak forest. However, Christmas Bird Count data suggest a general increase in populations in the United States and Canada, which is good news for this poorly studied wood-warbler species. 🐦

William E. Davis, Jr.

About the Cover Artist: Barry Van Dusen

Once again, *Bird Observer* offers a painting by the artist who has created many of our covers, Barry Van Dusen. Barry is well known in the birding world, especially in Massachusetts, where he lives in the central Massachusetts town of Princeton.

Barry has illustrated several nature books and pocket guides, and his articles and paintings have been featured in *Birder's World*, *Birding*, and *Bird Watcher's Digest* as well as *Bird Observer*.

Barry is currently at work on illustrations for the second volume of *Birds of Brazil* by John Gwynne, Robert Ridgely, Guy Tudor, and Martha Argel, published by Comstock Publishing, a division of the Cornell University Press. For this work he is illustrating the shorebirds and their allies along with the gulls and terns. In addition, Barry continues to enjoy teaching workshops at various locations in Massachusetts.

For more information about Barry's many achievements and activities, see <<http://www.barryvandusen.com>>. 🐦

Thinking about Snowy Owls: Photographs by Sandy Selesky





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AMERICAN BITTERN BY WILLIAM E. DAVIS, JR.

AT A GLANCE is on vacation this issue.

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