

THE BIRD OBSERVER SUMMARY FOR JULY

The month of July was very hot for the first couple of weeks, and precipitation, while widespread, was heavy only in the southeastern sections of the state. From midmonth on, temperatures were more nearly normal, however, rain shower activity persisted in varying degrees all over Massachusetts.

Birding in July was highlighted by several interesting breeding records, a first Atlantic Coast record, and a well-represented shorebird migration. A paucity of reports of breeding birds makes this group difficult to review.

Most remarkable of the Massachusetts nesting records was the finding of an active Manx Shearwater nest on Penikese Island in the Elizabeth Islands. A newborn chick found in a burrow on July 23rd established a first North American breeding record for this species. More on this remarkable discovery will follow in a later issue.

A first Massachusetts nesting for the Fish Crow took place in urban West Roxbury this summer. Two active nests were located, thus establishing long-overdue, positive, breeding evidence.

On the elusive side were the established nestings of Barn Owls in Sandwich and Henslow's Sparrows in Leicester.

Certainly, one of the most bizarre field records of the decade was the discovery and capture of a Red-billed Tropicbird in Providence, Rhode Island. The exhausted bird was caught alive while it was sitting on the tenth floor window sill of the Rhode Island Hospital Trust Bank Building. It found its way first to Alfred Hawkes of the Rhode Island Audubon Society and finally to James Baird at Drumlin Farm in Lincoln. The bird died on July 4th and has been preserved for the state collection of Rhode Island birds. It constitutes the first confirmed report on the eastern coast of the United States.

Among the shorebirds, two very early Long-billed Dowitchers were noted, as were a number of uncommon species such as American Oystercatcher, Ruff, Avocet and Wilson's Phalarope. As with the nesting birds, a lack of reports from the key shorebird areas makes a more complete summary impossible.

A Northern Skua, well-studied from a boat off Chatham, is just one more record in the growing file of records for this species in northeastern offshore waters. While Royal Terns were represented by seven reports, they were distinctly absent from their traditional outer Cape Cod beaches. The continuing fade-out of the Black Skimmer at the northern limit of its range was evidenced by only two reports all month.

Again, a Chuck-will's Widow remained throughout the month on Chappaquiddick Island! While nesting has been suspected, it is always difficult to prove for such an elusive species.

R.H.S.

Common Loon:			
thr.	Monomoy	max. 16	J.Harris
Red-throated Loon:			
8;19,20	Manomet; Monomoy	2;1	J.Loughlin; J.Harris
Pied-billed Grebe:			
23	P.I.	5(3 yg.on ad.back)	BBC(G.Soucy)
17	P.I.	4 families	W.Petersen
Greater Shearwater:			
1	Barnstable, Wellfleet	1,1	R.Pease#, W.Bailey
22	Chatham(Pollock's Rip)	40-50	W.Harrington#
Sooty Shearwater:			
1,4	Barnstable, Provincetown	1,1	P.Martin#, H.D'Entremont#
Manx Shearwater:			
23	Penikese Island	1 chick at burrow	G.Ben David
25	Barnstable(Sandy Neck)	1	R.Pease
Wilson's Storm Petrel:			
4,22	Boston Harbor, Chatham(P.Rip)	220,1000	D.Brown#, W.Harrington#
Gannet:			
1,21	Barnstable, Eastham	2,1	R.Pease, B.Nikula#

Great Blue Heron:			
20,25	Eastham,P.I.	5,5	v.o.,M&A Argue
Green Heron:			
thr.	P.I.	max. 8(23rd)	v.o.
Cattle Egret:			
8,10-15	Ipswich,S.Dartmouth	1,12	J.Loughlin,PBC(P.Regan)
Great Egret:			
thr.,1	P.I.,Westport	1-3,2	v.o.,E.Morrier
5,22	Fall River,Squantum	1,1	R.Langley#,J.O'Regan
Snowy Egret:			
thr.	P.I.	max. 100	v.o.
Louisiana Heron:			
23	P.I.	1	D.Brown
Black-crowned Night Heron:			
12,23	Cambridge,P.I.	20,2C	R.Stymeist,BBC(G.Soucy)
28	Eastham	64+	W.Petersen
Yellow-crowned Night Heron:			
10	Eastham(Coast Guard Beach)	1	W.Bailey#
Least Bittern:			
thr.	P.I.	1	v.o.
American Bittern:			
23	P.I.	1	BBC(G.Soucy)
Glossy Ibis:			
thr.,8-31	P.I.,Halifax	max. 40,15	v.o.,D.Briggs#
2,4	Manomet,Duxbury	3,14	T.Lloyd-Evans,D.Gray
6,28	Squantum,S.Westport	6,2	A.Agush,Tuckerman
Gadwall:			
thr.	P.I.	max. 15	v.o.
17	P.I.	2 f. & yg.	W.Petersen
Pintail:			
thr.	P.I.	max. 12	v.o.
Green-winged Teal:			
thr.	P.I.	max. 24	v.o.
Blue-winged Teal:			
thr.	P.I.	max. 12	v.o.
Baldpate:			
17	P.I.	5	W.Petersen
Northern Shoveler:			
thr.,18	Monomoy,N.Quincy	max. 12,1	J.Harris,W.Cornwell
Wood Duck:			
thr.	W.Roxbury,Concord(GMNWR)	1f.&4yg.,2f.&8yg.	F.Atwood,E.Taylor
4,28	P.I.	1f.&4yg., 9 yg.	J.Berry
Common Eider:			
1	Chatham	1	R.Pease
White-winged Scoter:			
17,28,30	Chatham,P.I.,Ipswich	1,2,5	B.Nikula#,J.Berry,R.Dwellely
Surf Scoter:			
thr.	Eastham(Coast Guard Beach)	2	B.Nikula#
Ruddy Duck:			
thr.	P.I.	max. 4	v.o.
Goshawk:			
8	Groton	1	B.O'Hara
Cooper's Hawk:			
5	Middleboro	1	D.Briggs
Broad-winged Hawk:			
thr.	Sherborn(Broadmoor)	1	E.Taylor
Marsh Hawk:			
22	Monomoy	1	R.Pease
Osprey:			
3,28	Barnstable,Manomet	3,1	R.Pease,J.Loughlin
Ruffed Grouse:			
6,10	Hingham,Sandwich	1,1	C.Clark,R.Pease
Clapper Rail:			
9-10	Eastham	1	B.Nikula#
Virginia Rail:			
thr.,28	W.Roxbury,P.I.	3-5,2	F.Atwood,J.Berry
Sora:			
13,21,28	W.Roxbury,Concord(GMNWR),P.I.	1,1,1	F.Atwood,E.Taylor,J.Berry

Common Gallinule:		
thr.	P.I.	max. 12 v.o.
12,21	W.Harwich,Concord(GMNWR)	1,2 B.Nikula,BBC(E.Taylor)
American Oystercatcher:		
thr.	Monomoy	3 v.o.
Semipalmated Plover:		
9,23,31	Plymouth,P.I.,Squantum	2,12,20 Carmichaels,G.Soucy#,D.Brown#
Piping Plover:		
2,10	P.I.,Plymouth Beach	6,2 chicks BBC(G.Soucy),Carmichaels
Golden Plover:		
15	P.I.	2 G.Soucy#
Black-bellied Plover:		
thr.,31	P.I.,Squantum	1-5,34 v.o.,D.Brown#
Ruddy Turnstone:		
thr.	P.I.	1-4 v.o.
American Woodcock:		
1,2,30	Rowley,Canton,Manomet	2,1,1 J.Clancy,E.Morrier,T.Lloyd-Evans
Whimbrel:		
thr.	P.I.,Monomoy	2,max. 6 G.Soucy#,v.o.
21,29	Wellfleet(WBWS),Barnstable	7,2 R.Stymeist#,H.D'Entremont#
Upland Sandpiper:		
thr.	Newburyport	max. 3 v.o.
Solitary Sandpiper:		
1,15	Middleboro,Halifax	1,2 D.Briggs
21,29	Concord(GMNWR),Eastham	1,5 BBC(E.Taylor),W.Petersen
Willet:		
4	P.I.	1 J.Berry
8,22	Monomoy	5,1 W.Harrington,BBC(R.Stymeist)
Greater Yellowlegs:		
thr.	P.I.	max. 75+ v.o.
Lesser Yellowlegs:		
thr.,17	P.I.	max. 75,125+ v.o.,W.Petersen
Red Knot:		
9,22	Plymouth,Chatham	2,150 Carmichaels,W.Harrington
23	P.I.,Scituate	95,300 BBC(G.Soucy),C.Clark
Pectoral Sandpiper:		
thr.,29	P.I.,Chatham(North Beach)	1-2,31 v.o.,F.Atwood
White-rumped Sandpiper:		
8,22,25	Squantum,Chatham,P.I.	3,2,1 D.Brown,W.Cornwell,M&A Argue
Least Sandpiper:		
thr.	P.I.	max. 100+ v.o.
Dunlin:		
21,22	P.I.,Monomoy	1,1 L.Robinson,BBC(R.Stymeist)
Short-billed Dowitcher:		
thr., 8	P.I.,Squantum	max. 1000,250 v.o.,D.Brown
Long-billed Dowitcher:		
17	P.I.	2 ad. in breeding plumage W.Petersen,R.Forster
Stilt Sandpiper:		
thr.,17	P.I.	max. 8,14 v.o.,W.Petersen
26,29	Monomoy,Rowley	2,2 W.Petersen,M&A Argue
Semipalmated Sandpiper:		
thr.	P.I.	max. 5000 M&A Argue
Western Sandpiper:		
9,21	Eastham(Coast Guard Beach)	1,1 B.Blodget,B.Nikula
27	Eastham(Coast Guard Beach)	1 W.Petersen
Marbled Godwit:		
18,21	Newburyport	2,2 M.Gardler,J.Baird
Hudsonian Godwit:		
thr.	Monomoy,P.I.	max.60,max.40 J.Loughlin#,D.Crompton & v.o.
Ruff:		
1-17,29	P.I.,Newburyport,P.I.	1-2,1 v.o.,H.L.Jodrey#
12	Eastham	1 B.Nikula
Sanderling:		
16,31	P.I.,Plymouth Beach	50,1000+ BBC(S.Garrett),Carmichaels
Avocet:		
25	Eastham(Coast Guard Beach)	1 W.Petersen,C.Goodrich,v.o.
29-30	Barnstable(Sandy Neck)	1 W.Drummond#,H.D'Entremont#

Wilson's Phalarope:				
6,25-29	Monomoy, Eastham	1,1		V.Laux,B.Blodget & v.o.
Northern Phalarope:				
30	Ipswich Bay	50		R.Dwelle#
Parasitic Jaeger:				
4,22	Barnstable,Monomoy	1,1		R.Pease,W.Harrington
26,29	Monomoy,Chatham	1,1		W.Petersen,J.Loughlin
Northern Skua:				
22	Chatham(Pollock's Rip)	1		W.Harrington#
Black-headed Gull:				
6	Monomoy,Newburyport	1,1		V.Laux & v.o.,R.Forster
26	Monomoy	1	sub-adult	W.Petersen
Little Gull:				
17	P.I.	3		W.Petersen
Forster's Tern:				
29	Eastham(Coast Guard Beach)	1		B.Nikula
Arctic Tern:				
21,22	P.I.,Monomoy	2,3		L.Robinson,BBC(R.Stymeist)
22,27	Chatham,Eastham	1,1		W.Cornwell,R.Pease
Roseate Tern:				
1,4	Chatham,Ipswich	2,9		R.Emery#,M.McClellan
Royal Tern:				
14-22	Plymouth Beach	4	dates,max. 5 (15th)	Carmichaels & v.o.
16,20	Sandwich,Eastham	1,1		R.Pease,G.Soucy#
Black Tern:				
2,23,29	Plymouth Beach	1,1,3		P.Fox#,P.Donahue,Carmichaels
4,22,29	Sandwich,Chatham,Dennis	1,1,2		R.Pease,R.Stymeist#,R.Pease
Black Skimmer:				
13-15,29	Plymouth Beach,P.I.	1,1		J.Garton## Carmichaels,G.Soucy
Monk Parakeet:				
25	Middleboro	2		N.Hill
Mourning Dove:				
21	Sandwich	300+		R.Stymeist,R.Pease
Screech Owl:				
thr.	Sherborn(Broadmoor)	2		E.Taylor
Yellow-billed Cuckoo:				
2;8	Milton(FM);Manomet,Littleton	1;1,1		E.Morrier;J.Loughlin,J.Baird
21,22	Sandwich,Dorchester	1,1		R.Stymeist,J.O'Regan
Black-billed Cuckoo:				
4,5	W.Newbury,Burlington	5,1		S.Garrett,H.D'Entremont
6,7,8	Sandwich,Bedford,Sherborn	1,3,2		R.Pease,F.Atwood,E.Taylor
Barn Owl:				
thr.	Sandwich	4	yg.banded in nest	T.Lloyd-Evans
Saw-whet Owl:				
9	Winchester	1		M.McClellan
Chuck-will's Widow:				
thr.	Chappaquiddick Island(M.V.)	1		E. M. Sears
Whip-poor-will:				
1-15	Sherborn	3		E.Taylor
5,7	Foxboro,W.Roxbury	1,1		H.D'Entremont,M.Bagley
Ruby-throated Hummingbird:				
3	Sandwich	1		R.Pease
Pileated Woodpecker:				
1,12	Annisquam,Weston	1,2		H.Wiggin,D.Peebles
Eastern Kingbird:				
23	P.I.	25		BBC(G.Soucy)
Great-crested Flycatcher:				
thr.	Roslindale(Stony Brook)	6+		F.Atwood
Eastern Phoebe:				
4,13	Sherborn,W.Roxbury	5,1		E.Taylor,F.Atwood
Willow Flycatcher:				
4,7-31	Brookfield,W.Roxbury	1,5		T.Leverich#,F.Atwood
16,18	P.I.	1,1		BBC(S.Garrett),M.Gardler
Tree Swallow:				
thr.	P.I.	max. 600+	(9th)	BBC(E.Pyburn)
Bank Swallow:				
2	Middleboro,P.I.	80+,15		D.Briggs#,BBC(G.Soucy)

Rough-winged Swallow:			
5	Hingham	1	C.Clark
Purple Martin:			
thr.,16	Middleboro,E.Middleboro	8 pr.,35 pr.	R.Maxim,W.Wiksten
Fish Crow:			
14,27	W.Roxbury	2pr.(1 yg.fledged,3 yg.fledged)	F.Atwood
Red-breasted Nuthatch:			
8,20	Groton,Dedham	2,1	R.O'Hara,F.Atwood
Brown Creeper:			
7,8	W.Roxbury,Groton	2,2	F.Atwood,R.O'Hara
Carolina Wren:			
8	Newton	1	D.Howard
Long-billed Marsh Wren:			
21,23	Concord(GMNWR),P.I.	10,12	BBC(E.Taylor),BBC(G.Soucy)
Gray Catbird:			
thr.	Manomet	44(banded)	M.B.O.Staff
Hermit Thrush:			
18	Plymouth	3(singing)	R.Langley,C.Clark
Eastern Bluebird:			
thr.	Sherborn	9(2 broods)	E.Taylor
1,14	Falmouth,Roslindale	5,1	R.Pease#,F.Atwood
18	Plymouth	2	R.Langley#
Cedar Waxwing:			
8	Groton	20	R.O'Hara#
White-eyed Vireo:			
thr.,4	Manomet,W.Newbury	1(banded),2	M.B.O.Staff,J.Berry
Blue-winged Warbler:			
4,7,8	W.Newbury,Plymouth,Groton	3,2,1	J.Berry,J.Loughlin,R.O'Hara
Nashville Warbler:			
19,25	Brookline,P.I.	1,1	A.Agush,M&A Argue
Northern Parula:			
1	Harwich	1	R.Pease
Yellow Warbler:			
thr.	W.Roxbury	20	F.Atwood
Chestnut-sided Warbler:			
8	Sandwich	1	R.Pease
Pine Warbler:			
1;8	Falmouth,Wellfleet;Groton	2,1;6	R.Stymeist#,P.Martin#;A.Agush#
Prairie Warbler:			
1,4	Falmouth,W.Newbury	1,3	R.Pease,J.Berry
Canada Warbler:			
8	Groton	1	A.Agush#
Bobolink:			
2	P.I.	1	BBC(G.Soucy)
Scarlet Tanager:			
thr.	Sherborn(Broadmoor)	15	E.Taylor
Rose-breasted Grosbeak:			
2,27	Milton(FM),W.Roxbury	9,5	E.Morrier,F.Atwood
Indigo Bunting:			
thr.	W.Roxbury	6	F.Atwood
House Finch:			
5,8,21	Wollaston,Groton,W.Roxbury	3,1,6	R.Emery,R.O'Hara#,F.Atwood
Pine Siskin:			
23	Lexington	1	Mrs.P.Reed & v.o.
Savannah Sparrow:			
29,31	Chatham,Squantum	25,6	F.Atwood,D.Brown#
Grasshopper Sparrow:			
1,28	Falmouth,Worcester	5,2	R.Pease#,J.Clancy
Henslow's Sparrow:			
thr.	Leicester(Worc.Airport)	2+	F.McMenemy & v.o.
30	Leicester(Worc.Airport)	4(2 in nearby field)	W.Petersen,C.Goodrich
White-throated Sparrow:			
4	W.Newbury	2	J.Berry