

THE BIRD OBSERVER SUMMARY FOR AUGUST

The month of August found the shorebird migration at its peak and land birds were also beginning to move. A Manx Shearwater chick was fledged on Penikese Island. An outstanding count of 3500 Wilson's Storm Petrels was found off Chatham. The increasing reports of Yellow-crowned Night Herons were encouraging, however, only a lone Least Bittern was reported. Limited reports of hawks were highlighted by two Turkey Vultures in Dedham. An immature Yellow Rail came aboard a fishing boat at Little George's Bank on August 24th and remained there for three days until docking at Vineyard Haven, Martha's Vineyard. The bird was taken to Felix Neck Audubon Sanctuary on August 27th. Attempts to feed the bird in captivity failed; it was banded, photographed and released. Reports of shorebirds reflected a good migration and included a large number of Golden Plover, Red Knot, several Whimbrel, Willet, Baird's and early Buff-breasted Sandpipers. Two Marbled Godwits were also reported and a Ruff was found in Newburyport.

A Lesser Black-backed Gull was identified on Coast Guard Beach, Eastham, and an excellent report is included in this issue.

A Gull-billed Tern was found in the salt pans at Plum Island early in the month where it continued into September. Forster's Terns were reported in unusual numbers this year, in comparison with previous years. Good counts of Black Terns were also reported. Black Skimmers, on the other hand, were discouragingly scarce. An interesting report of three different songs from the same Alder Flycatcher was notable. Warbler reports were headlined by two Cerulean and one Kentucky Warbler. Two Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen, and two out-of-season Red Crossbills were found on Martha's Vineyard.

The Henslow's Sparrows successfully nested at Leicester. Early Lark and Clay-colored Sparrows rounded out an eventful month of birding.

Cory's Shearwater:

24	Tuckernuck I., Chilmark(M.V.)	10,4	R.Veit, A.Keith
29&30	Chilmark(M.V.)	20+	A.Keith, R.Sargent
Greater Shearwater:			
4,11	off Eastham, off Rockport	200+, 20	W.Petersen#, BBC(H.L.Jodrey)
13,20	off Chatham, Plymouth	75+, 1	W.Petersen#, H&D Carmichael
Sooty Shearwater:			
13	off Chatham	1	W.Harrington#
Manx Shearwater:			
6,13	off Chatham	1,1	W.Harrington#
16	Penikese I.	1 chick	P.Garrey
Leach's Storm Petrel:			
12,13	off Chatham	2,3-4	W.Harrington, W.Petersen
Wilson's Storm Petrel:			
12&13	off Chatham	<u>3500</u>	W.Harrington, W.Petersen
Gannet:			
11,22	off Rockport, Barnstable	2,3	BBC(H.L.Jodrey), W.Petersen
Double-crested Cormorant:			
16,29	Squantum, P.I.	150+, 150+	E.Morrier, H.Bates#
Great Blue Heron:			
26	Eastham(F.H.)	40+	W.Petersen
Little Blue Heron:			
1,8	P.I., Monomoy	1 imm., 1	M.Gardler, J.Harris & v.o.
13,22	Tuckernuck I., Barnstable	2, 1 imm.	R.Veit, W.Petersen
Cattle Egret:			
23,27-31	Barnstable, Edgartown(M.V.)	1, 1	R.Pease, S.Whiting#
Great Egret:			
thr., 18-31	Eastham, P.I.	1, 1	v.o., v.o.
5,17	Hingham, Squantum	1, 1	C.Clark, A.Agush
22,25	Wellfleet, Westport	1, 2	B.Nikula#, BBC(S.Grinley)
Snowy Egret:			
thr.	P.I.	max.250(18th)	D.Alexander & v.o.
Louisiana Heron:			
1-8,15	Monomoy, Eastham	1, 1	v.o., W.Petersen# & v.o.
22,23-31	Barnstable, Chappaquiddick I.	1, 4	W.Petersen, E.M.Sears#
Black-crowned Night Heron:			
thr., 6	Eastham, Squantum	96(at most), 14	B.Blodget & v.o., E.Morrier

Yellow-crowned Night Heron:			
thr.	Centerville, Monomoy	1, 1-2	V. Laux, J. Harris & v.o.
thr.	Tuckernuck I., Chappaquiddick I.	1, 2	R. Veit, E. M. Sears#
thr.	Eastham, Wellfleet, Truro	1, 1, 1	v.o., v.o., J. Young
4&26	S. Dartmouth	1	P. Regan
Least Bittern:			
16-29	P. I.	1	v.o.
American Bittern:			
18, 20	Monomoy	1 (uncommon)	R. Stymeist#, W. Petersen#
Glossy Ibis:			
thr., 2-31	P. I., Concord (GMNWR)	2-15, 1-7	v.o., v.o.
6-11, 8-31	Squantum, Eastham	3-4, 1	E. Morrier, W. Petersen#
11, 25	Monomoy, Chappaquiddick I.	3, 1	J. Harris & v.o., R. Sargent#
25	Westport	1	BBC (S. Grinley)
Mute Swan:			
26	Chilmark (M.V.)	229	A. Keith
Black Duck:			
20	Monomoy	300+	W. Petersen#
Gadwall:			
20	Monomoy	25+	W. Petersen#
Blue-winged Teal:			
31	Martha's Vineyard	250+	A. Keith#
Northern Shoveler:			
20	Monomoy	12+	W. Petersen#
Wood Duck:			
14	Barnstable	7	R. Pease
Ring-necked Duck:			
15	Brookline	1	A. Agush
Bufflehead:			
11	P. I.	1	D. Fisher# & v.o.
Surf Scoter:			
20	Monomoy	1	W. Petersen#
Hooded Merganser:			
4&5, 26-28	Cambridge (Mt. A.), Edgartown (M.V.)	1,	A. Agush & v.o., G. Ben David#
Turkey Vulture:			
17	Dedham	2	V. Sprong#
Red-shouldered Hawk:			
25	Plymouth	1	SSBC (S. Higginbotham)
Marsh Hawk:			
20	Monomoy	6	W. Petersen#
Osprey:			
25	Westport	10	BBC (S. Grinley)
Ruffed Grouse:			
17	W. Roxbury	1	J. Pickup
King Rail:			
24	P. I.	1	BBC (H. Weissberg)
Clapper Rail:			
1	Eastham	1	W. Petersen
Virginia Rail:			
5, 18	Monomoy, Concord (GMNWR)	1, 8	B. Nikula#, A. Agush
Sora:			
19, 20	Concord (GMNWR), Monomoy	3, 1	L. DeGiacomo#, W. Petersen#
Yellow Rail:			
28	off Edgartown (M.V.)	1	R. Sargent, G. Ben David, A. Keith
Common Gallinule:			
thr.	Monomoy	1	W. Petersen
American Oystercatcher:			
thr.	Monomoy, Chappaquiddick I.	3-5 (5th), 3	v.o., M. Sears#
Semipalmated Plover:			
1; 5, 22	Scituate; Monomoy, Barnstable	800; 500, 600	J. Nichols#; W. Petersen#
Piping Plover:			
18	Monomoy	55	R. Stymeist#
Killdeer:			
7, 20	S. Dartmouth, Monomoy	14, 1 (uncommon)	R. Emery#, W. Petersen#
Golden Plover:			
16, 20	Penikese I., Monomoy	1, 1	E. Garrey#, W. Petersen#
22	P. I., Duxbury	37, 13	N. Claflin#, M. B. O. Staff

Black-bellied Plover:			
22,25	Plymouth,Duxbury	350,700	M.B.O.Staff
Ruddy Turnstone:			
16,19	P.I.,Ipswich	200+,300+	M&A Argue,J.Berry
Common Snipe:			
26	Concord(GMNWR)	10	L.Robinson
Whimbrel:			
5,13	Monomoy,Tuckernuck I.	10,11	BBC(H.D'Entremont),R.Veit
Upland Sandpiper:			
25,30	Katama(M.V.),Newburyport	4,2	E.Chalif#,F.Atwood
Spotted Sandpiper:			
16	Penikese I.	30+	E.Garrey#
Solitary Sandpiper:			
2-26	Concord(GMNWR)	1	v.o.
20	Monomoy,Winchester	1,1	W.Petersen#,M.McClellan
Willet:			
7-24	Plymouth	1-6	Carmichaels & v.o.
15-31	Eastham	1-5	W.Petersen# & v.o.
20,28	Ipswich,Monomoy	2,5	J.Berry,R.Pease#
Greater Yellowlegs:			
23	Duxbury	100	M.B.O.Staff
Red Knot:			
1,19	Scituate(Third Cliff)	2000+,300	J.Nichols#,C.Clark#
7,22;22	Plymouth Beach;P.I.	1000+,200;200	Carmichaels;S.Swaebe#
Pectoral Sandpiper:			
5-31	Concord(GMNWR)	max. 30(26th)	L.Robinson & v.o.
5,20	W.Newbury,Monomoy	24,20	R.Stymeist#,W.Petersen#
White-rumped Sandpiper:			
22	Plymouth Beach	<u>90</u>	B.Sorrie#
Baird's Sandpiper:			
14,18	Monomoy,Tuckernuck	1,1	W.Bailey,R.Veit
19,28	Scituate,Duxbury	1,1	C.Clark,M.B.O.Staff
28-31	P.I.	1-2	v.o.
Short-billed Dowitcher:			
5,12	Monomoy,Eastham	500,500	R.Pease#,W.Petersen#
Long-billed Dowitcher:			
16,18	Tuckernuck I.,P.I.	1,2	R.Veit,P.Butler#
Stilt Sandpiper:			
thr.	P.I.,Monomoy	max.40(11th),max.20	R.Stymeist#&v.o.,J.Harris#&v.o.
Semipalmated Sandpiper:			
4,6	Barnstable,Plymouth	1700+,5500+	BBC(H.D'Entremont),M.B.O.Staff
Western Sandpiper:			
thr.	Eastham,Monomoy,Wellfleet	maxs.33,15+,5	v.o.
30	Duxbury Beach	20	M.B.O.Staff
Buff-breasted Sandpiper:			
21,23-31	Tuckernuck I.,Eastham	1,1-4	R.Veit,v.o.
14-30,23	P.I./Newburyport,Plymouth	1-4,1	v.o.,Carmichaels
Marbled Godwit:			
12,14	Eastham,Monomoy	2,1	W.Petersen#,W.Bailey
Hudsonian Godwit:			
thr.	Monomoy,P.I.	max.95(5th),max.60(16th)	W.Petersen#&v.o.,M&A Argue&v.o.
Ruff:			
1	Newburyport	1	M.Gardler
Sanderling:			
12,23	Plymouth,Duxbury	1000+,800	R.Stymeist#,M.B.O.Staff
Red Phalarope:			
8-31,11	Nauset,off Rockport	max. 2,5	W.Petersen#,BBC(H.L.Jodrey)
12,13;28	off Chatham;Monomoy	1,1;1	W.Harrington;M&A Argue
Wilson's Phalarope:			
5,8;7,23	Monomoy;Nauset	1-2;1,1	W.Petersen#;v.o.
11 on	P.I.	8	v.o.
23,24	Wellfleet(WBWS)	1,1	B.Nikula & v.o.
Northern Phalarope:			
6,11	off Chatham,off Rockport	200,235	W.Petersen#,BBC(H.L.Jodrey)
13;14,19	Plymouth Beach;P.I.	40;5,4	M.B.O.Staff;M.Gardler,D.Alexander
Pomarine Jaeger:			
9,15	Plymouth Beach,Barnstable	1,1	Carmichaels,R.Pease
29	Vineyard Sound	1 ad.	A.Keith,R.Sargent

Parasitic Jaeger:			
13,23,25	Barnstable	singles	R.Pease
16-24	Tuckernuck I.	2-20	R.Veit
22	Manomet Point,Plymouth Beach	7,15	J.Loughlin,B.Harrington
Great Black-backed Gull:			
18	Eastham(C.Guard Bch.),Monomoy	2500,3000	BBC(R.Stymeist)
Lesser Black-backed Gull:			
16-17	Nauset(Coast Guard Beach)	1(sub adult)	W.Petersen & C.Goodrich & v.o.
Black-headed Gull:			
5,28	Monomoy	1,1	W.Petersen#,R.Pease#
Laughing Gull:			
4&5	Chatham	25	BBC(H.D'Entremont)
10,14	Winthrop,Squantum	4,30	M&A Argue,D.Brown#
12,18	Hingham,Monomoy	2,30	C.Clark,BBC(R.Stymeist)
31	Edgartown(M.V.)	5	A.Keith#
Bonaparte's Gull:			
6	Newburyport	50	BBC(S.Garrett)
21,22	Plymouth Beach	1,2	H.D'Entremont,Carmichaels
Little Gull:			
12,16,29	P.I.,Newburyport	1,1,1	G.Soucy#,fide M&AArgue;J.Baring
Black-legged Kittiwake:			
15,18,23	Sandwich/Barnstable	1,1,2	R.Pease
19,21	Manomet,Tuckernuck I.	1 imm.,1	M.B.O.Staff,R.Veit
22	Barnstable	5 imm.	W.Petersen#
Gull-billed Tern:			
5 on	P.I.,Newburyport	1	J.Baird# & v.o.
Forster's Tern:			
12 on	Newburyport,Plymouth Beach	max.3,max.4	v.o.
22	Wellfleet(WBWS)	1	V.Laux
thr.	Nauset,Monomoy	max.7(30th),max.5	v.o.
Common Tern:			
4,21	S.Dartmouth,Plymouth Beach	10-12(4yg.),1000	P.Regan,H.D'Entremont#
18,23	Monomoy,Wellfleet(WBWS)	400,24+	BBC(R.Stymeist),Holdridge
Arctic Tern:			
12,18	Plymouth Bh.,Monomoy,W.Glouc.	1;1,1	R.Stymeist#;R.Pease#,H.Wiggin
Roseate Tern:			
7	Westport(Gooseberry Neck)	100	R.Emery#
16,25	P.I.,Plymouth Beach	35,92	Argues,SSBC(S.Higginbotham)
Least Tern:			
4,18	S.Dartmouth,Eastham	6-8,10	P.Regan,BBC(R.Stymeist)
Royal Tern:			
11,12	Squantum,off Chatham	1,1	E.Morrier,W.Harrington#
19-27,20	Plymouth Beach,Monomoy	1-2,1	Carmichaels,J.Harris#
Black Tern:			
9-23;5,28	Barnstable;Monomoy	max. 27;1,1	R.Pease#
20	Plymouth	1-2	Carmichaels#
21,29	Nauset Beach	2,1	H.D'Entremont,Argues
Black Skimmer:			
-4,8	P.I.,Monomoy		R.Hauselman,J.Loughlin
24-25,24	Plymouth Beach,Duxbury Beach	1,1	SSBC(S.Higginbotham)#,M.B.O.Staff
Mourning Dove:			
19	Medfield	150	E.Taylor
Yellow-billed Cuckoo:			
5,20	Hingham,Monomoy	1,1	C.Clark,W.Petersen#
Black-billed Cuckoo:			
thr.,6	Annisquam,Sandwich	1,1	H.Wiggin,R.Pease
thr.,18	W.Roxbury,Concord(GMNWR)	1,3	F.Atwood,A.Agush
9,16	Milton(F.M.),Westminster	1,1	A.Agush,B.Blodget
Screech Owl:			
27,29	S.Dartmouth,Annisquam	1,1	P.Regan#,H.Wiggin
23	Monomoy	1	J.Harris#
24	Oak Bluffs-Seuqueconteecket(M.V.)	2	M.Hancock#
Whip-poor Will:			
28,30	Westminster,Eastham	1,1	B.Blodget,W.Petersen
Common Nighthawk:			
24,26	Weston,Newton	30-40,14	L.Robinson,G.Walsh
Ruby-throated Hummingbird:			
5-29,28	Sandwich,Carlisle	max.2,1	R.Pease,C.Carbone

Common Flicker:			
thr.	W.Roxbury	20-25	F.Atwood
Eastern Kingbird:			
thr.,19	W.Roxbury,Topsfield(IRWS)	22-50	F.Atwood#,J.Berry
Great-crested Flycatcher:			
thr.	W.Roxbury	11	F.Atwood,v.o.
27	Tewksbury	2	M.Wilson
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:			
thr.	Manomet,S.Dartmouth	10(banded),1(banded)	M.B.O.Staff,P.Regan#
18,20,22	P.I.,Monomoy,Sandwich	1,1,1	R.Forster,W.Petersen#,R.Pease
Willow Flycatcher:			
4,12	W.Roxbury,Sandwich	1,1	F.Atwood,R.Pease
Alder Flycatcher:			
4	Brookfield	2	R.Stymeist,R.Veit,P.Polshek
	(interesting report of three different songs from one bird!)		
Least Flycatcher:			
thr.	Manomet	7(banded)	M.B.O.Staff
Eastern Wood Pewee:			
thr.	Manomet	3(banded)	M.B.O.Staff
Olive-sided Flycatcher:			
3	Acton	1	J.Baird
Tree Swallow:			
5	Natick(Broadmoor)	young fledged	E.Taylor
22,25	Barnstable,P.I.	300,1500+	W.Petersen,R.Stymeist
Rough-winged Swallow:			
4	Brookfield	2	R.Veit,R.Stymeist
Cliff Swallow:			
18	P.I.	1	BBC(I.Girunus)
Purple Martin:			
20,25	Monomoy,P.I.	1(uncommon),25	W.Petersen#,R.Stymeist
Fish Crow:			
thr.	West Roxbury	30	F.Atwood,v.o.
Black-capped Chickadee:			
thr.	Manomet	37(banded)	M.B.O.Staff
Red-breasted Nuthatch:			
20,24-29	Eastham,W.Roxbury	1,1-3	W.Petersen,F.Atwood
Brown Creeper:			
25	Chilmark(M.V.)	1	A.Keith
House Wren:			
20	Sherborn	young fledged	E.Taylor
Carolina Wren:			
thr.	Plymouth,S.Dartmouth	1(banded),1(banded)	M.B.O.Staff,P.Regan#
19,27	Sandwich,Chilmark(M.V.)	1,1	R.Pease,E.Chalif#
Short-billed Marsh Wren:			
1,22-25	Concord,P.I.	1,1	P.Regan,S.Garrett# & v.o.
Gray Catbird:			
thr.	Manomet,Plymouth	220(banded),64(banded)	M.B.O.Staff
American Robin:			
thr.	Manomet	55(banded)	M.B.O.Staff
Wood Thrush:			
thr.	Manomet,S.Dartmouth	4(banded),5(banded)	M.B.O.Staff,P.Regan#
Hermit Thrush:			
21	Sandwich	1	R.Pease
Swainson's Thrush:			
thr.	Manomet	2(banded)	M.B.O.Staff
27	Tewksbury	2	M.Wilson
Eastern Bluebird:			
thr.	W.Roxbury,Sherborn	4,9	F.Atwood,E.Taylor
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:			
24,25	Manomet,Chilmark(M.V.)	1,1	M.B.O.Staff,A.Keith
27,30	Duxbury,P.I.	1,1	M.B.O.Staff,H.Weissberg
Ruby-crowned Kinglet:			
24,25	Tuckernuck I.,P.I.	1,1	M.LaFarge,R.Stymeist
Loggerhead Shrike:			
19,28	P.I.,Edgartown(M.V.)	1,1	S&J Harrison,A.Keith#
White-eyed Vireo:			
thr.	Manomet	6(banded)	M.B.O.Staff
26,27	Sandwich,Chilmark(M.V.)	1,1	R.Pease,E.Chalif#

Yellow-throated Vireo:				
5,25	Boxford,P.I.		3,1	A.Agush#,H.Wiggin#
Solitary Vireo:				
thr.	Manomet		1(banded)	M.B.O.Staff
Philadelphia Vireo:				
21,26	P.I.,Sandwich		2,1	M.McClellan,R.Pease
30,31	P.I.,Chappaquiddick I.(M.V.)		1,1	H.Weissberg,A.Keith#
Black-and-white Warbler:				
thr.	Manomet,Plymouth	51(banded),29(banded)		M.B.O.Staff
Golden-winged Warbler:				
5,20	W.Newbury,Tuckernuck I.		1,1	J.Leverich#,R.Veit
Blue-winged Warbler:				
thr.	Manomet,S.Dartmouth	11(banded),23(banded)		M.B.O.Staff,H.Atkinson#
5,24	W.Newbury,Gloucester(E.P.)		2,3	R.Stymeist#,H.Wiggin#
Tennessee Warbler:				
thr.,30	Manomet,P.I.		1(banded),1	M.B.O.Staff,F.Atwood
Nashville Warbler:				
thr.	Manomet		6(banded)	M.B.O.Staff
Cape May Warbler:				
20,26	Monomoy,P.I.		10,6	W.Harrington#,R.Stymeist
29	Annisquam		15	H.Wiggin#
Black-throated Blue Warbler:				
24	Gloucester(E.P.)		1	H.Wiggin#
Cerulean Warbler:				
thr.,25	S.Dartmouth,W.Roxbury		1(banded),1	H.Atkinson#,F.Atwood
Blackburnian Warbler:				
thr.	Manomet		1(banded)	M.B.O.Staff
Yellow-throated Warbler:				
12	Nantucket		1	N.Claflin
Chestnut-sided Warbler:				
thr.	Manomet,S.Dartmouth	4(banded),4(banded)		M.B.O.Staff,H.Atkinson#
Bay-breasted Warbler:				
thr.	Manomet		17(banded)	M.B.O.Staff
20,22	Monomoy,Barnstable		2,1	W.Petersen#,W.Petersen
Blackpoll Warbler:				
24,27	Gloucester(E.P.),Sandwich		1,1	H.Wiggin#,R.Pease
Pine Warbler:				
26	P.I.		1	BBC(H.Weissberg)
Prairie Warbler:				
20,23	Monomoy,Squantum		1,2	W.Harrington#,E.Morrier
Ovenbird:				
thr.	Manomet,Plymouth	18(banded),15(banded)		M.B.O.Staff
Northern Waterthrush:				
thr.	Manomet,S.Dartmouth	16(banded),7(banded)		M.B.O.Staff,H.Atkinson#
Kentucky Warbler:				
24	Chatham(Morris I.)		1	B.Nikula,V.Laux
Mourning Warbler:				
thr.	Manomet		1(banded)	M.B.O.Staff
Common Yellowthroat:				
thr.	Manomet,Plymouth	54(banded),28(banded)		M.B.O.Staff
Yellow-breasted Chat:				
thr.	Manomet		4(banded)	M.B.O.Staff
Wilson's Warbler:				
thr.,26	Manomet,W.Roxbury		2(banded),2	M.B.O.Staff,F.Atwood
Canada Warbler:				
thr.,24	Manomet,Gloucester(E.P.)	10(banded),3		M.B.O.Staff,H.Wiggin#
American Redstart:				
thr.	Manomet,S.Dartmouth	32(banded),10(banded)		M.B.O.Staff,H.Atkinson#
Bobolink:				
29,31	Annisquam,Martha's Vineyard	10,500		H.Wiggin,A.Keith#
Yellow-headed Blackbird:				
14-19,20	Truro,W.Tisbury(M.V.)		1,1	W.Petersen# & v.o.,E.Chalif#&v.o.
Orchard Oriole:				
thr.	Woods Hole		2	P.Garrey
Northern Oriole:				
thr.	Manomet,Plymouth	16(banded),8(banded)		M.B.O.Staff
21-28	W.Roxbury	29-34		F.Atwood
25-27	S.Dartmouth	30		P.Regan

Cardinal:			
25	P.I.(Hellcat)	1	R.Stymeist
Rose-breasted Grosbeak:			
thr.	W.Roxbury	15-20	F.Atwood,v.o.
Indigo Bunting:			
thr.	Manomet	2(banded)	M.B.O.Staff
House Finch:			
thr.,26	Wollaston,P.I.	11,1	R.Emery,BBC(H.Weissberg)
Red Crossbill:			
23	Chilmark(M.V.)	2+	E.Chalif
Rufous-sided Towhee:			
thr.	Manomet,Plymouth	19(banded),7(banded)	M.B.O.Staff
Grasshopper Sparrow:			
8	Falmouth(CWA)	13	R.Pease
Henslow's Sparrow:			
1-15	Leicester(Worc.Airport)	1-5(max.4th)	R.Stymeist#,v.o.
Sharp-tailed Sparrow:			
25	Newburyport,Westport	20+,3	J.Berry,BBC(S.Grinley)
Seaside Sparrow:			
thr.	Manomet	1(banded)	M.B.O.Staff
4,7	Chatham,S.Dartmouth	1,7	H.D'Entremont,R.Emery#
Vesper Sparrow:			
18,24	P.I.,Wellfleet	1,6	BBC(I.Giriunas),W.Petersen#
Lark Sparrow:			
27	Monomoy	1	J.Harris,v.o.
Dark-eyed Junco:			
22	Weston	1	L.Robinson
Clay-colored Sparrow:			
31	Monomoy	1	W.Bailey,R.Pease
Song Sparrow:			
thr.	Manomet	22(banded)	M.B.O.Staff

S.P.G.

THAYER'S GULL (Larus thayeri)

J. T. Leverich, Cambridge

Now that Thayer's Gull has been officially added to the A. O. U. Check-list, Massachusetts birders will have even more incentive to watch for it. Most Thayer's Gulls winter on the Pacific coast. The species is thus decidedly rare in this state, but it may prove to be of regular occurrence. However, field identification is definitely difficult! Only those birders completely familiar with our more common winter gulls should attempt to call it. Field reports submitted to BIRD OBSERVER should be fully documented, detailing exactly which field-marks were seen, what the visibility conditions were, whether comparison birds from closely related species were present, etc.

Diagnostic field marks of the adult Thayer's Gull are as follows:

1. GENERAL PATTERN: a white-bodied gray-winged gull, rather like an intermediate between a Herring Gull and the darker race of the Iceland Gull (i.e., the subspecies referred to as Kumlien's Gull).
2. SIZE: slightly larger than Kumlien's Gull, slightly smaller than the Herring Gull.
3. EYE-RING: reddish-purple, as in all races of the Iceland Gull.
4. EYE (IRIS): dark brown, usually mottled in appearance.
5. MANTLE: light gray -- the same shade as in the Herring Gull, that is, definitely darker than the pearly gray of the Iceland and Glaucous Gulls.
6. WING-TIPS: black with white spots ("mirrors"). Compared with the Herring Gull, Thayer's usually shows less black in the wing-tips, and its mirrors are correspondingly larger.