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Cover Illustration: Black-legged Kittiwake by Paul Donahue Courtesy of Victor Emanuel (Victor Emanuel Nature Tours Inc.)		

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## THE END OF AN ERA

With the passing of Ruth P. Emery, 93 years old, on August 14, 1991, the birding community lost one of its most venerable and distinguished members. Ruth was both friend and mentor to several generations of Massachusetts birders. She served as the Massachusetts Audubon Society's original Voice of Audubon, beginning in 1953, and further served that organization as bird record keeper, coeditor of the *Records of New England Birds*, and field trip leader as far back as 1944 when she joined the staff. In later years, she took on additional responsibilities as regional compiler for *Audubon Field Notes* and *Bird Observer*. Ruth enjoyed nothing more than a full day in the field, followed by a convivial gathering of birding friends at the day's end. *Bird Observer* joins the entire birding community in a salute to Ruth's life and her many accomplishments.

Wayne R. Petersen