

## FIELD NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE \_\_\_\_\_

### TERRITORIAL BLUE GROSBEAK AT BROAD MEADOW BROOK

On May 23, 1991, Francis McMenemy found a singing male Blue Grosbeak at Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary in Worcester. Many birders saw the bird until it was last seen on July 30. The grosbeak was a first-year bird, with the brown plumage on the upper back, nape, and wings.

I observed the Blue Grosbeak for more than thirteen hours on twelve different days. The bird actively defended a territory consisting of a large overgrown meadow with tall deciduous trees on one side and a brook with thick bushes and medium deciduous trees on the other side. It vigorously chased a male Indigo Bunting for several hours on several occasions: June 7, 24, and 25, and July 10, 14, and 17 (June 7 and July 10 observations by McMenemy). It sang often, primarily from high perches, but the singing was seldom heard after mid-July. Its characteristic chip note often identified its presence when hidden in the tall grass or bushes.

The grosbeak fed primarily on red raspberries (see photograph) in late June and early July. It also ate weed seeds occasionally during this time period, and more often after mid-July. It was perched on black raspberry and other berry bushes in late July, but I did not see it eating these berries.

This is the seventh record of a Blue Grosbeak in Worcester County in the sixty years that the Forbush Bird Club has published records in *The Chickadee*. It is the first record of a territorial bird, as all other reports were one day sightings. Four records occurred in May (1932, 1948, 1969, and 1982), and the other two in September (1960 and 1980).

Robert Bradbury, Worcester, Massachusetts



*Blue Grosbeak  
Worcester, MA  
June 18, 1991  
Photo by Robert Bradbury*