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TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

This issue marks the twentieth anniversary of *Bird Observer*. To celebrate our longevity, we have compiled a series of special articles looking back in time at birding in Massachusetts. *Bird Observer*, originally titled *Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts*, published its first issue in February 1973. The inaugural issue stated that the publication was started because "Many birders, newcomers and old-timers, have expressed an interest in and a need for an informative regional publication of purely bird news." *Bird Observer* also began publishing bird reports (now "sightings") in eastern Massachusetts, an important function due to the 1968 discontinuation of the *Records of New England Birds*, published by the Massachusetts Audubon Society. Through the years many individuals (listed on pages 68 and 69) have worked hard to keep *Bird Observer* growing. In 1992 we had our highest number of subscribers ever, nearly 800, and we continue to have astounding subscriber loyalty, with an annual renewal rate of about ninety percent. We sincerely thank you, our subscribers, for your support, and we hope to continue providing a publication that enhances your understanding, observation, and enjoyment of birds.

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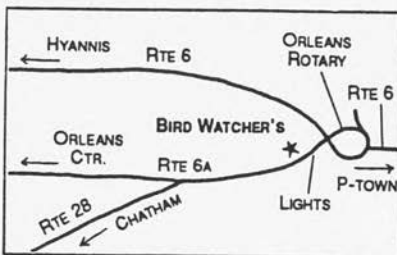
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