

SUMMARY FOR JUNE, 1977

June averaged a bit below normal in temperature and below normal in rain, though light rains were frequent. The mercury averaged 67.4° , 0.6° below normal and 7.0° colder than the record-hot June, 1976. This was the first below normal month since January. The high temperature was 90° on the 28th, the low was 50° on the 4th and 8th. No temperature records were broken. Rain totaled only 2.49 inches, 0.7 inch below normal, but still the most in June since 1973. Heavier rain fell in many suburban areas, and fog was noted on twelve days. A storm on the 10th and 11th brought strong northeast winds, especially south of Boston. Many pelagics were noted in good numbers on those days from Cape Cod Bay.

TUBENOSES

During the month of June, which marks the arrival of the southern hemisphere pelagic species to New England, we had the opportunity to view the ornithological events on Georges Bank as well as monitoring them from coastal vantage points. Northern Fulmar numbered 300, all but three in the light phase on Georges Bank in the vicinity of the Russian fleet June 1-14 (RRV). Cory's Shearwaters began arriving on the continental slope of Georges Bank during the first week of June, when 50 were counted there between June 1-14 (RRV), and built up to 200 between the 18-22 (VL). Greater Shearwaters numbered a staggering 20,000 in the close vicinity of the Soviet fishing fleet June 1-14 (RRV) and 30,000 were estimated in the vicinity of Hydrographic and Oceanographer Canyons along the southern edge of the Banks June 18-22 (VL). Inshore, 5 were noted at Pollock Rip on June 5 (BBC-HHD'E). Sooty Shearwaters numbered 60 off Chatham on the 5th (BBC-HHD'E#), 4 at Provincetown on the 3rd (RAF,WB), 11 off Rockport on the 10th (RSH), and 5 off Nahant on the same day (SZ). On Georges, 4000 Sooty Shearwaters were estimated among the Greaters June 1-14 (RRV), yet had apparently dwindled to 1000 by June 18-22 (VI). A total of 10 Manx Shearwater reports included singles at Provincetown June 4, 11 and 26 (FJG#,BN,WRP#), one at Barnstable (RFP), and 1-2 at Rockport (GLS,RSH) June 10, and four singles on Georges Bank June 1-14 (RRV). Leach's Storm-Petrels were uncommon but widespread on Georges Bank throughout the month, with some 200 reported (RRV,VL), and one was seen from shore June 10 at Rockport (GLS). A count of 200 from Barnstable June 11 (WRP#) was particularly surprising considering their relative scarcity in adjacent Gulf of Maine waters at this season. Some 50,000 Wilson's Storm-Petrels were feeding by the Soviet fleet June 1-14 (RRV), 1000 were seen off Chatham June 5 (BBC-HHD'E#), and 100 were estimated in Cape Cod Bay on the 11th (WRP#). Thirty Gannets were observed passing Rockport on the 10th (RSH), and 150 were in Cape Cod Bay the next day (v.o.).

HERONS

Herons were nesting again at Clarks Island, Duxbury, House Island, Manchester and some of the Boston Harbor islands. Totals of success are not available at this time, however. Seven Great Blue Herons were noted at Nauset on the 5th (DTB#). An adult Little Blue Heron was found on the Greater Boston Breeding Bird Census (GBC) at Squantum (DTB#). As many as nine Cattle Egrets were found in Marshfield on the 4th (WRP), and 4 were present at Ipswich (EWT#) on the same day. Two pairs of Great Egrets were found nesting on Sampson's Island, Osterville on the 15th (RAF). Yellow-crowned Night Herons were reported from five locations, with singles at Dorchester on the 6th (J.Murphy), possibly the same bird at Wollaston on the 15th (DTB) and 1 at Annisquam on the 26th (H.French#). As many as 3 adult Yellow-crowneds were found at P.I. (B.Morrissey# & v.o.), and 2 were present throughout the month in Centerville (VL).

WATERFOWL

Brant were lingering at Plymouth, where five were observed on the 4th (BBC-HHD'E) and one was at Squantum on the 18th (GBC-DTB#). At Plum Island, 30 Gadwalls were noted on the 27th (BBC-RSH#), and 80 Blue-winged Teals were counted there on the 6th (BBC-WCD#). An American Wigeon was found lingering at Brookline Reservoir on the 18th (GBC-AA). A female Wood Duck with 10 young was observed at Milton on the 24th (RPE#). Other lingering ducks included one Ring-necked Duck at Lakeville on the 26th (WRP,KSA), three Greater Scaup at Squantum (GBC-DTB#), two Bufflehead at Squantum and one oiled bird at Revere on the 18th (GBC-DTB#,SZ#). Twenty-six Surf Scoter were observed off Rockport on the 11th during the storm (RSH), and one Black Scoter was seen there (RSH). A pair of Hooded Merganser were found nesting in Rowley on the 9th (DCA), and 26 Red-breasted Mergansers were counted in Ipswich on the 20th (BBC-J.Nove). Up to 5 Oldsquaw were present throughout the month in Stage Harbor-Mill Pond, Chatham (fide B.N.).

RAPTORS - RAILS

Two Turkey Vultures were observed flying over at Hardwick on the 2nd (HM). Goshawks were successful in Weston (LJR), and another pair was found nesting in Hingham (fide WRP#). A Sharp-shinned Hawk was noted carrying food at Mt. Watatic on the 30th (PMR). Seven Red-shouldered Hawks were reported, two each from Annisquam on the 8th (HTW), Georgetown on the 14th (RSH), Waltham on the 18th (GBC-RHS#), and a single bird from Milton on the 19th (DTB#). An immature Bald Eagle was present in Orleans on the 4th and 5th (FJG,R.Norton); this same bird was noted at Monomoy on the 5th (CAG). Fifteen American Kestrels were noted in the Greater Boston area on the 18th (GBC-v.o.).

Ruffed Grouse were noted in Sherborn and Natick (EWT), Middlesex Fells (PMR), Milton (DTB#), and one was found with young at Mt. Watatic (PMR). Bobwhites continue to show up closer to Boston, with singles from Newton (MSM) and Squantum (DTB).

A King Rail was heard "calling" at Plum Island on the 29th to 30th (RSH). A Sora Rail at Breakheart Reservation in Saugus was an interesting find on the 18th (GBC-SZ & CJ).

SHOREBIRDS

American Oystercatchers were present throughout the month at Nauset Beach, but there is no evidence of nesting (fide BN). Two Oystercatchers were found at Sandy Neck, Barnstable (WRP), and four were present at Barney's Joy, S. Dartmouth on the 19th (Mrs. Henry Bragdon). Oystercatchers were also present in usual numbers at Monomoy, Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, Tuckernuck and Muskeget. Piping Plovers totaled 19, with three nests at Crane's Beach, Ipswich on the 4th; on the 11th, 11 were noted but the nests were washed out; on the 20th, 16 were counted (JWB & J.Nove). Ten pipers were recorded at Plymouth Beach on the 4th (BBC-HHD'E), and a pair with three young were observed at Scituate (WRP). A Wilson's Plover was found at Nauset Beach on the 1st and 2nd (Dave Fisher, D. Taylor, WWB); traditionally, this species is often recorded near the last week of May-early June and should be looked for (May 27, 1974, May 24, 1975). A Golden Plover was noted at Nauset on the 5th (DTB#), and 90 Black-bellied Plovers were counted at Crane's Beach, Ipswich, on the 4th (BBC-JWB). An American Woodcock was banded at Manomet on the 4th (Staff), and five Common Snipe were observed in Bolton on the 29th. Two Willets present at Sandy Neck were strongly suspected of nesting (RFP), as were the two-four Willets near Plum Bush (RMB & v.o.); another two were found at Scituate's Third Cliff on the 14th (GRF). White-rumped Sandpipers numbered 10 at Plymouth Beach on the 4th (BBC-HHD'E), one at Nauset on the 5th (DTB#), and two were present at P.I. on the 6th (BBC-WCD). Shorebirds were returning by month's end in low numbers. On the 27th at P.I., four Greater Yellowlegs, 40 Lesser Yellowlegs, four Short-billed Dowitchers, eight Semipalmated Sandpipers were counted (RSH). The first returning Hudsonian Godwits were reported from Monomoy on the 27th (CAG, BN). A "juvenile" Ruff was observed at P.I. on the 29th & 30th (RSH#). Two Wilson's Phalaropes were reported from P.I. on June 4-6 (MJL), and another was seen at Nauset on the 5th (DTB#); a single Northern Phalarope was noted off Provincetown on the 4th (FJG, R.Norton).

SKUAS, JAEGERS

During the June 1-14 patrol of Georges Bank, RRV noted 25 Skuas feeding in the close vicinity of the Russian fleet. Of these, at least 8-10 were identified positively as the SOUTH POLAR SKUA (Catharacta macormickii), those that could be identified as to age were juveniles. RRV feels that the likelihood of the remaining 15 Skuas observed being C. macormickii is great; we saw no individuals resembling any of the forms of C. skua. Roughly 20 Pomarine Jaegers, mostly sub-adults, were observed in that area as well, June 1-14. Single Pomarine Jaegers were seen at Provincetown June 1 (CAG, VL) and off Provincetown June 5 (RN). On June 5, Parasitic Jaegers were seen off Chatham (HHD'E) and from E.

Orleans (WRP). Following the storm of June 9-10, 14 adult Parasitic Jaegers were counted in Cape Cod Bay June 10 (RFP), and 20 adults the next day (WRP). Five Parasitic Jaegers were seen at Provincetown June 5 (BN). RRV noted adult Long-tailed Jaegers on June 7 and 8, both of which were photographed, and a first winter bird June 12. All of these were seen harrassing storm-petrels in the wake of Soviet vessels.



South Polar Skua (Catharacta maccormickii)
photographed by Richard R. Veit, Georges Bank, June, 1977

GULLS - TERNS

Iceland Gulls lingered at Nauset, where one was observed on the 1st, and two were noted on the same day in Provincetown (CAG, BN); another one was observed off Chatham on the 5th (BBC-HHD'E). Over 300 Laughing Gulls were present at Monomoy throughout the month and nesting was well underway. An immature Little Gull was noted off Sandy Neck during the storm of the 11th (WRP#), where as many as 30 Black-legged Kittiwakes were also noted (WRP#). Kittiwakes were also reported from Rockport during the storm when four were counted on the 10th (MK).

Common Terns totaled over 1000 at Plymouth Beach on the 4th (BBC-HHD'E), where three Arctic, three Roseate, and 20 Least Terns were also noted. Over 300 portlandica Arctic Terns were observed at Monomoy on the 25th (I.Nisbet); portlandica is a plumage assumed to occur among aberrant second year birds. In Ipswich, over 150 Least Terns were counted at Crane's Beach on the 4th, after the storm on the 10th and 11th, only 40

were noted, and by the 20th, the count climbed to 90 (JWB, J.Nove). The largest Least Tern colony seemed to have been destroyed by the tide and storm, and the other two colonies apparently were abandoned. Other Least Tern reports were 20 from Plymouth (HHD'E), 120 from Nauset (JM#), 40 from West Dennis Beach (C&B Holdridge), and between 40-50 at Plum Island (RSH). Royal Terns were noted at Monomoy on the 5th (CAG), Provincetown on the 12th (BN) and another from Nauset on the 30th (BN). Two Caspian Terns were seen at P.I. on the 27th (RSH). Black Terns were noted off Monomoy on the 5th (BBC-HHD'E), four from Squaw Rock, Squantum on the 18th (GBC-DTB#). Black Skimmers were observed at West Dennis Beach and on Monomoy on June 21 (I.Nisbet).

Two alcid (species) were recorded, one large unidentified off First Encounter, Eastham on the 12th, and two thought to be murre (species) off Andrews Point, Rockport on the 10th (MK). A summer plumage Black Guillemot was noted on the 10th at Andrews Point, Rockport (MK).

CUCKOOS - FLYCATCHERS

Cuckoo reports seem to increase each year. Herewith are the reports received:

Yellow-billed Cuckoo:

3,12-19	Wellesley, Westwood	1,5(all different)	RAF, JJC
19	Milton, Georgetown	2,1	BBC(DTB), RSH
20	Topsfield(IRWS)	1	DCA

Black-billed Cuckoo:

5,15	Westwood, Plymouth	1,pair copulating	JJC, WRP
16,18	E.Bridgewater, Newburyport	1,1	WRP, S.Garret#
19	Milton, Ipswich	2,2	BBC(DTB), JWB
21,26	Topsfield, Newburyport	3,1	RSH, GLS

A family of 4-5 Screech Owls and a family of 5-6 Saw-whet Owls were found in Ipswich during the month (JWB). Other Saw-whet Owl reports came from Centerville (VL), two in Brewster (CAG, BN), and two adults and three young from Wellfleet (DMcN).

A Chuck-wills'Widow was present on the 13th at WBWS, Wellfleet (PB, v.o.), however, none was found on either Nantucket or Martha's Vineyard as in the past four years. Seven Whip-poor-wills were calling at Crane's Beach on the 20th (JWB), and as many as eight Common Nighthawks were reported in Cambridge (RHS).

A Ruby-throated Hummingbird's nest was found in Norwell with two young on the 21st (BL & v.o.). Red-bellied Woodpeckers were finally confirmed nesting in both South Natick (Richard Lent, EWT, LJR) and at Adamsdale (C.Wood & RAF); see this report on these discoveries elsewhere in this issue. Another Red-bellied Woodpecker was found in Milton on the 15th (DTB). Two adult Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were found feeding young in nest at Mt. Watatic on the 25th (PMR).

Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were migrating in early June with one-two individuals reported from MNWS (MK#), one from Nahant on the 5th (RSH), from Topsfield on the 8th (RSH), and a very late migrant from the Middlesex Fells on the 18th (GBC-PMR).

Acadian Flycatchers were found nesting in Middleboro by months end (WRP, KSA, RAF). One bird was singing on the 26th, there were two pairs on the 29th, and one pair started building a nest ten feet up in a tupelo on the 30th. This is the only breeding record since 1888. Other Acadian Flycatchers were as follows:

June

3-6,4 MNWS, Sandwich	1-2(on June 6),1	MK# & v.o., RFP
4,9,19 P.I.,Manomet,Mashpee	1,1(b.),1	CJ#, Staff, WRP

Six Willow Flycatchers were noted at Great Meadows on the 9th (EWT#); another six were found within Greater Boston on the 18th (GBC). Alder Flycatchers were noted in Topsfield on the 8th (RSH), in Newburyport on the 18th (S.Garret) and 26th (GLS), and in Milton, two were noted on the 19th (DTB). A Least Flycatcher was found nesting in Hamilton (JWB); and Olive-sided Flycatchers continued at MNWS until the 7th (C.Blaszczak#); another was observed at East Orleans on the 5th (WRP). On the 30th, three Olive-sided Flycatchers were noted at Mt. Watatic and presumably were nesting (PMR).

SWALLOWS - PIPIT

The Bank Swallow colony in Rowley contained over 100 birds, down from last year (JWB & v.o.), and another colony of 50 was found in Marion (G. Mock). A Cliff Swallow was nesting at the Warden's on P.I. (v.o.), and eight were found in Gloucester on the 8th (RSH). Eight colonies of Purple Martins, totaling over 100 birds, were located in Middleboro (D. Briggs), while 60+ were nesting on P.I. (v.o.).

Fish Crows were found in Plymouth, where six-eight birds were located on the 12th (WRP), two in East Bridgewater on the 16th (WRP), three in the Boston area on the 18th (GBC), and two in West Wareham on the 19th (D.Briggs). A Winter Wren was found in Halifax on the 19th (WRP), and three were present at Mt. Watatic on the 25th (PMR). Two Short-billed Marsh Wrens were found building a nest in Hadley on the 26th (RRV,MJL), and possibly another pair was present there.

A Swainson's Thrush was banded at Manomet on the 9th (Staff), and a Gray-cheeked Thrush was noted at Nahant on the 4th (RSH). Two Eastern Bluebirds were found in Westboro (HM), one in Woburn (RRV#), and four in Bourne on the 26th (AAC). Gnatcatchers continue to increase as breeding birds each year; five were found in the Middlesex Fells (PMR), five-six in Harvard (ONWR)-(HM); a pair in Milton (DTB), and singles in Hardwich (HM) and Boxford (EWT#). Two or three singing Golden-crowned Kinglets were found in Lakeville from the 26th (WRP, KSA). An even more startling find was two singing Ruby-crowned Kinglets on Hog Island,

Essex on the 18th (JWB). Although this kinglet has been known to nest in Massachusetts, it has not been confirmed in over 50 years. A Water Pipit was found in Provincetown on the 3rd (RAF); late stragglers have, however, occurred before in June (6-25-63 S. Wellfleet and the latest, 6-28-51 Nantucket).

VIREOS - WARBLERS

White-eyed Vireos were recorded from Marion (G.Mock), E. Orleans (WRP#), a pair in Abington (WRP), and three-five in Marshfield (WRP). A pair of Yellow-throated Vireos was present throughout the month in Lincoln (WWH), and a single bird was noted in Hardwick on the 4th (HM). A Solitary Vireo was still present at MNWS on the 3rd (RSH).

Six Black-and-white Warblers were found in Fowl Meadow on the 19th (DTB#). A Worm-eating Warbler was banded at Manomet during the month, and one was found in Dover on the 18th (J.Hallowell). Other late migrants included a Tennessee Warbler at MNWS on the 5th (MK), a Magnolia Warbler in Melrose on the 18th (GBC - J.Andrews), three Blackpoll Warblers on the 12th in Annisquam (HTW), and one very late Blackpoll on the 20th in Ipswich (J.Nove#). The biggest news was the discovery of a Yellow-rumped Warbler's nest in Plympton on the 19th (P.D'Neil,SH,RAF,WRP). The last recorded breeding in eastern Massachusetts was in 1920-21. Other Yellow-rumped Warblers were noted in Hardwick carrying food on the 4th (HM), another singing male in Lakeville on the 26th & 29th (WRP,KSA), and four on Mt. Watatic on the 30th (PMR). Four Pine Warblers were observed in Hardwick on the 4th (HM), two in the Middlesex Fells (GBC-PMR), two with food in South Peabody on the 24th (RSH). A total of eight Mourning Warblers were reported during the month, with three at MNWS on the 6th (RWS), and a very late migrant on the 18th in Saugus (GBC-SZ,CJ). A Yellow-breasted Chat was banded with a brood patch at Manomet on the 9th (Staff).

BLACKBIRDS - SPARROWS

Orchard Orioles continue to increase. Below is the summary for the month of June.

June

1-14, 3	S.Peabody, E.Bridgewater	1, 1	RSH, WRP
5, 9	Rowley, Concord	1, 1	JWB, EWT
12, 15	Plymouth, Manomet	1, 1 (b.)	WRP#, Staff
15, 16, 18	Scituate, Lancaster, Woburn	1, 1, 3	GRF, HM, RRV#
23	Hardwick	female & fledged yg.	RAF
	(first confirmed breeding for Worcester County)		

A female Summer Tanager was found in the Middlesex Fells on the 1st (SZ), and an adult male was seen at sea off Monomoy on the 5th (BBC-HHD'E).

Two Grasshopper Sparrows were found in Dartmouth on the 1st (J.Grugan); two in West Newbury on the 5th (MJL), and three from the Worcester

Airport on the 18th (EWT). A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was banded at Manomet during the month (Staff). Three Vesper Sparrows were located in Plymouth on the 12th (WRP). Dark-eyed Juncos were suspected to be nesting in the Fells, where three were recorded on the 18th (GBC-PMR). Two White-throated Sparrows found in Brookline on the 18th (GBC-AA) were also suspected of nesting. A late Lincoln's Sparrow was found in Boxford on the 8th (RSH).

RHS, RRV

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TIDE TABLE

Here is the tide table for Newburyport Harbor, accurate to the nearest half hour for Daylight Saving Time. For best shorebird viewing be at the harbor approximately four hours before or after high tide. An outgoing tide is usually better.

	<u>High Tide</u>	<u>High Tide</u>
Sat. September 17	2:30 a.m.	3:00 p.m.
Sun. September 18	3:30 a.m.	3:30 p.m.
Sat. September 24	9:30 a.m.	10:00 p.m.
Sun. September 25	10:30 a.m.	11:00 p.m.
Sat. October 1	2:30 a.m.	2:30 p.m.
Sun. October 2	3:00 a.m.	3:30 p.m.
Sat. October 8	8:00 a.m.	8:30 p.m.
Sun. October 9	9:00 a.m.	9:30 p.m.