Bird Observer

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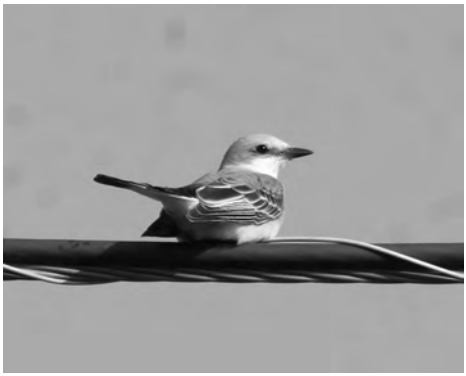
HOT BIRDS

Marshall Iliff found and photographed this **LeConte's Sparrow** (left) on October 20, 2009, at Cumberland Farms in Halifax/Middleboro.

On October 21, 2009, Jeff Johnstone found a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** (right) at the Orange Airport, and later that day Bob Stymeist took this photograph.



Cumberland Farms is a fall hotspot. On November 4, 2009, Jim Sweeney discovered a **Lark Bunting** (left), and later that day Wayne Petersen took this image.

On November 17, 2009, Paul Petersen discovered this **MacGillivray's Warbler** (right) in the Victory Gardens in Boston's Fenway. On November 22, Phil Brown took this fabulous portrait.

Rick Heil found this **Mew Gull** (left), possibly of the Kamchatka race, on November 26, 2009, in Gloucester Harbor. Phil Brown took this great photo in Brace's Cove on December 7, 2009.

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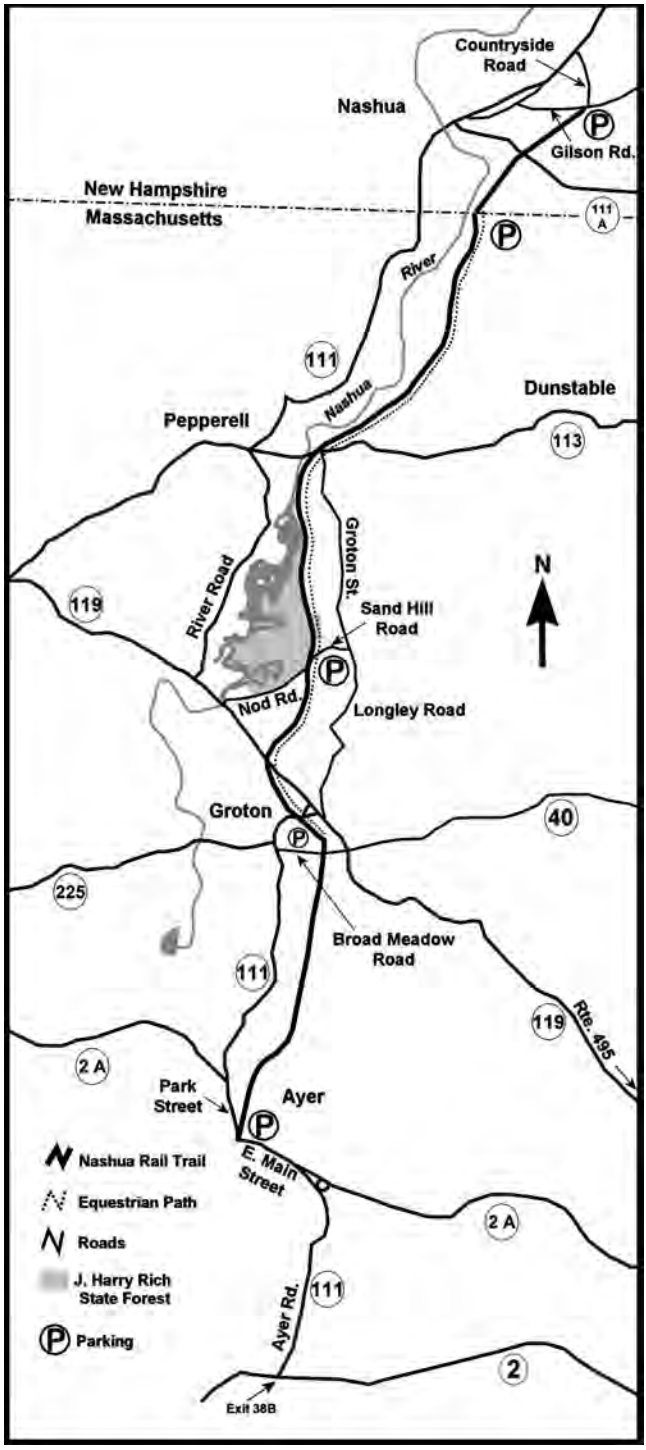
Birding by Bicycle on the Nashua River Rail Trail

David Deifik

For those of us who are enthusiastic cyclists, the advent of recreational trails built on old railroad beds has been an exciting development. If the trail happens to traverse nice birding habitat, that is even better. There are few places that I know of in the Boston area that are as ideal for combining the two activities as the Nashua River Rail Trail, which was developed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. The right-of-way was originally part of the Worcester and Nashua Railroad, which opened in 1848. As the Hollis Branch of the Boston and Maine Railroad, it had train traffic until 1982. Five years later the right-of-way was purchased by the DCR. Finally, in 2002 the Nashua Rail Trail was completed and opened. Located in northern Middlesex County, the trail originates in Ayer and goes through the towns of Groton, Pepperell, and Dunstable.

The total length of the trail in Massachusetts is eleven miles. A few years ago a private developer and the City of Nashua, New Hampshire, extended the trail an additional mile into New Hampshire. The trail is paved and is ten feet wide, allowing the variety of users a safe and comfortable ride. It is popular with cyclists, walkers, and roller bladers. Equestrians can use the gravel shoulder of the trail that extends from Groton Center north to the New Hampshire border. Motorized vehicles are prohibited. There are only ten road crossings on the entire route, and they are conspicuously marked for safety. Given that the trail does not closely parallel any major roads, it is relatively quiet throughout its length. There is extensive shade over most of the trail, which makes riding even on the steamy days of summer relatively comfortable. Besides the right-of-way itself, much of the route is preserved by private, town, or state conservation organizations. A variety of habitats can be found, with mixed forest predominating. There are sections with ponds, freshwater marsh, open fields, farm, and orchard. There is a minimum of building immediately adjacent to the trail as one goes through the centers of Ayer, Groton, and Pepperell. Even there, most of the house lots backing up to the trail are large and well vegetated, giving a very exurban feeling to the riding experience.

Start of the rail trail in Ayer — all photographs by the author



Map by Dorothy Graaskamp

A Ride north on the Trail

Powerline cut at mile 0.6

Mileage is marked every half-mile on the pavement. Most of the original granite mileposts are still in place on the eastern side of the trail. The first one, mile post 29 (29 miles from Worcester) is approximately 0.8 mile north of Ayer. Mile post 40 can be found on the Nashua section 0.4 mile from the end of the trail.

0.6 mile — Pause at a large power line cut with an excellent brushy patch. Gray Catbirds abound. In the breeding season several warbler species can be observed. The most notable has been a Blue-winged Warbler. For the last few seasons it has been heard giving the alternate song. It doesn't sound anything like the expected two-syllable buzz. To my ear it sounds more like a robust, musical Grasshopper Sparrow! Other warblers often present include Yellow, Prairie, Chestnut-sided, and Common Yellowthroat. Brown Thrashers are present as well.

1.0 mile — The trail is elevated above two large ponds on both sides. During migration they are quite attractive to Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles.

1.1 miles — Listen for Prairie Warblers, Eastern Towhees, and Field Sparrows at the wide power line cut. North of the cut there is mature forest on both sides of the trail. Great Crested Flycatchers, Northern Orioles, and Scarlet Tanagers are often encountered.

Groton Trails Network access at mile 1.5

1.5 miles — Watch carefully on the right for a cut in the brush with a post on the side of the trail. This bears the marking of the Groton Trails Network. Beyond are extensive weedy fields. This was recently cut through to the trail, so I don't have any records for this area, but it should be excellent for fall migrants in particular.

2.0 miles — Groton School Pond. This is a very pretty spot. The pond is bisected by the trail. There are places to stop and sit by the edge on both sides. The property on the west side belongs to the Groton School. Eastern Kingbirds are always noisy and conspicuous at the pond. Great Blue Herons and Green Herons are occasionally seen as well. There is a beaver lodge on the edge of the pond.

2.5 miles — Right after the trail opened in 2002 I saw a beaver feeding in the swampy woods just beyond the pond. It was right at the edge of the trail about ten

Broad Meadow marsh near Groton center at mile 3.1

feet from where I stopped my bike, totally oblivious of me and other passersby. It chewed through a good-sized branch and then proceeded to drag it out into the swamp. Yellow-throated Vireos have been heard in this area.

3.0 miles — Broad Meadow is an extensive freshwater marsh close to the center of Groton. The tall steeple of the Unitarian Church can be seen in the distance across the marsh. The Lawrence Academy is just next door. You can bike east up Broad Meadow Street to get to Main Street to explore this very pretty New England town. Warbling Vireos reach their greatest abundance along this stretch. Other species heard and seen include Willow Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, and Song and Swamp sparrows.

Hayfield at mile 4.8

3.8 miles — This extensive brushy area is a good spot for a variety of small passerines in both migration and the breeding season.

4.8 miles — There is a large hayfield on the right. I've seen and heard Bobolinks here before the field is cut.

5.0 miles — This is a particularly good area for woodpeckers, with Northern Flickers and Red-bellied Woodpeckers often in evidence.

5.2 miles — This is one of a few areas where I've seen Wild Turkeys. Not so wild is the Common Peafowl kept in the property nearby. Its loud cry can startle you as you ride by.

J. Harry Rich State Forest at mile 5.7

5.5 miles — Just before the intersection of the rail trail with Sand Hill Road is a parking lot on the right. This also offers access to the Shepley Hill Tract of the Groton Conservation Trust. Once the rail trail crosses the road, you begin passing through the most extensive and deepest forest on the ride. The J. Harry Rich State Forest extends for 1.5 miles along both sides of the rail trail.

Three species of thrush can usually be heard in this area, with Veery being particularly in evidence, followed by Wood and Hermit thrushes. Eastern Wood-Pewees are heard along with Pine and Black-and-White warblers. Ovenbirds are also common. It's the only area where I have heard a Winter Wren sing. There are unpaved roads and trails in the forest as well. They are good routes for mountain bikes, but I would not recommend taking road bikes off the paved rail trail.

An oxbow lake of the Nashua River can be accessed from one of these roads. To get there, turn off the rail trail at the Sand Hill Road intersection going west (left turn). At 0.3 mile from the turn, you will see a gate and a DCR sign for the J. Harry Rich State Forest on the north (right) side of Sand Hill Road. Going north into the forest on this dirt road you can see a trail leading down to the water on the left a short distance from the entrance. The oxbow is a good spot for Wood Ducks and Great Blue Herons. Retrace your route to return to the rail trail and continue north. At mile 6.5 there is a gate on the left marking the entrance to a small dirt road that offers further access to the forest.

7.0 miles — A granite column marks the border between Groton and Pepperell at this point. This is the only area where you can actually see the Nashua River other than close to downtown Pepperell as you approach and pass by the dam.

8.0 miles — An ice cream at the Rail Trail Ice Cream Shop in downtown Pepperell is a real treat for a warm summer day of riding!

Downtown Pepperell at mile 8.0

8.5 miles — The trail down to the Nashua River is for mountain bikes only.

8.8 miles (mile post 37) — Usually just Canada Geese and the occasional Double Crested Cormorant are found here. However, earlier in the spring I have seen both Common and Hooded mergansers here.

9.2 miles — This power line cut is good for Prairie Warblers, Indigo Buntings, and Eastern Towhees. The forest beyond often has singing Hermit Thrushes.

10.0 miles — Unquetynassett Pond. One of the large dead trees in the middle of the pond east of the trail has an Osprey nest that has been used almost every year since the trail opened. Northern Orioles are conspicuous as the trail passes through the farm to the north of the pond.

Unquetynassett Pond at mile 10.0

11.0 miles — I don't make a habit of riding at night, but one evening I was running late and was delighted to hear a Whip-poor-will at about this spot. Just beyond here the trail reaches the Massachusetts/New Hampshire border. The original trail veers off to the parking area just south of the state line. It's about one more mile to the new terminus at a large paved parking lot at the intersection of Gilson and Countryside Road in Nashua. If one wants some pleasant birding in New Hampshire, an access point to Southwest Park is close by. Take the path near the entrance to the parking area that goes around the pond. At the first intersection, turn left into the woods. In a few hundred yards there are several boulders that mark the boundary of the park. A Lawrence's Warbler spent the 2009 breeding season in the large field just beyond the boundary. Other uncommon birds seen in the area that year were Yellow-breasted Chat, Orchard Oriole, and Northern Goshawk.

Directions to the Nashua River Rail Trail

Ayer: From the Boston Area or points west to the Ayer terminus of the trail, take Route 2 either east or west to Exit 38B-Route 110-111 in Harvard, which is also called Ayer Road. Take Route 110-111 north to a rotary. Turn on Route 2A or East Main Street, which is the third right halfway around the rotary. Go west on Route 2A-111 through downtown Ayer. The start of the trail is on the north side of the street across from the T-station and a Mobil gas station. To reach the parking area, continue on Route 2A-111 as it takes a right turn onto Park Street. The next right turn onto Groton Street takes you to the parking lot entrance a few hundred feet from the corner.

Groton: Downtown Groton can be reached by taking Interstate 495 to Exit 31-Route 119 and following Route 119 west for about six miles. Just past the Unitarian Church on the right is an intersection with Route 40 on the right. Take the *left* turn at that junction onto Broad Meadow Road. The trail and a parking lot are about 0.25 mile down Broad Meadow Road.

J. Harry Rich State Forest: The closest parking area to the forest can be found where the rail trail intersects Sand Hill Road in Groton. This is also the location of the Shepley Hill Preserve. From Route 113 in downtown Pepperell (see below) go left (south) onto Groton Street (rather than north to cross the trail). The road changes names to Longley Road. Turn right (west) onto Sand Hill Road about 2.5 miles from downtown Pepperell. The trail is about 0.5 mile from the intersection.

Pepperell: The parking area in downtown Pepperell can be reached by taking Route 3 to Exit 35-Route 113. Follow Route 113 west through Dunstable into Pepperell. There is parking next to the trail, which crosses Route 113 just after it turns north onto Groton Street. The Rail Trail Ice Cream Shop is also at this location. This spot can also be reached from Ayer by continuing north on Route 111 past Groton to Route 113 in Pepperell. Take Route 113 east about 0.8 mile to the intersection with the rail trail.

Nashua: The northern terminus in Nashua can be reached by taking Route 3 north to Exit 5W-Route 111 (West Hollis Street). Go west about 3.0 miles, and take a left

turn on Countryside Road (this is a T-intersection). In 0.3 mile there is a T-intersection with Gilson Road. The entrance to the parking area is directly across the intersection.

Visiting the Rail Trail by Rail

The Ayer terminus of the Rail Trail is across East Main Street from the Ayer T-station. This is on the Fitchburg/South Acton commuter line that leaves from North Station. Bicycles are allowed on the trains except during peak hours in-bound in the morning and outbound during the afternoon. Folding bicycles are allowed at all times. The earliest weekday train leaves North Station at 8:55 a.m. during the week and 8:35 a.m. on weekends.

David Deifik *is a lifelong birder and cycling enthusiast. He grew up in New York City and has been living in New Hampshire for the last twenty-five years. He has birded extensively within the United States as well as internationally, principally in Latin America. He is past President of the Nuttall Ornithological Club and a past member of the New Hampshire Bird Records Committee. Dave is currently the Winter Season Editor for* New Hampshire Bird Records*, published by the Audubon Society of New Hampshire.*

GREAT BLUE HERONS BY DAVID LARSON

Hey, Captain, the Birds are over *There*

Frederick Wasti

Whale watching trips do provide convenient opportunities for birders to see pelagic birds offshore. Going on such trips, however, can be a frustrating experience since the primary focus of most whale watches is whales, not birds. This situation can be annoying especially to birders just starting to get their feet wet (so to speak) with pelagics. Veteran pelagic birders may be able to ignore almost everything that's not avian, while they contentedly target birds with their binocs. Pelagic newbies, however, may suffer the frustration of seeing species of birds offshore that they could use help in identifying.

As a whale watch naturalist for thirty years, I've talked with quite a few birders and birding groups who were using the whale watch boat as a vessel of opportunity to get offshore. Some of these birders were very skilled (certainly more so than I), but many others were much less experienced, even if they had an extensive knowledge of landbirds.

The purpose of this article is to offer some considerations for birders taking whale watch trips while offering strategies that might make such birding experiences more productive. Little of the following, however, will be relevant for those participating in the less frequent dedicated pelagic birding trips, which are the ideal way for birders to seek the offshore experience.

First, here are the bad news factors.

In my experience, the naturalist/narrator on most, if not all, whale watch boats has been assigned a specific and somewhat constraining set of tasks. Bird details are likely to be too far down on the list to satisfy birding passengers. Although the naturalist may point out the more obvious birds (that should be part of his job, which

BUBBLE-FEEDING HUMPBACKS BY DAVID LARSON

is describing the natural world on the water), he may or may not do much more. The naturalist's attention has to be directed toward finding whales and explaining them, the job both the passengers (consumers) and the whale watch company (the employer) expect. Although he may also point out what to look for or how to describe locations around the boat, etc., the naturalist is looking for spouts, backs, flukes, etc., on the horizon and not for birds sitting or zipping by at much closer range. While watching whales from the boat, the naturalist's narration must be primarily directed toward them. Even if there are zillions of diving gannets and swooping shearwaters around and above some feeding whales, most of the narration has to be about the whales.

Simply from listening to the disembodied voice of the naturalist, passengers may not realize that he may be trying to juggle a camera (or two), a pair of binocs, a clipboard with data sheets, a pen or pencil, a flukeshots catalog, a railing (on choppy days), and (of course) a microphone. Therefore, quite simply, a birder should not expect the naturalist to be attentive to individual birds around the boat. He will instead be concentrating on individual whales, and only more passively observing birds in the vicinity.

Like birders, whale watch naturalists are a pretty diverse lot, but it is likely that most naturalists probably (and properly, I would say) know more about whales than anything else they might encounter on the water.

Some whale watch naturalists may innocently overlook or misidentify certain birds. I think this may be caused simply by missing the less common birds (e.g., lumping all storm-petrels together as Wilson's without detecting the occasional Leach's or not noticing the occasional Cory's sitting in the middle of a raft of Greater Shearwaters). Such errors may be due to a lack of birding experience, or the naturalist may be forced to concentrate on other priorities.

To be honest, most (but certainly not all) whale watch passengers really don't want to hear too much about birds, especially if they think that bird talk is taking time

FEEDING STORM-PETRELS BY DAVID LARSON

or attention away from what they have paid good money to see and hear about. A whale watch should be primarily a whale watch, the expectation from the start. The texts and pictures in whale watch advertisements and brochures emphasize whales, not birds.

From a public education perspective, if not from the perspective of a birding purist, the naturalist should not religiously point out each bird species. He might better choose to focus on groups of birds such as shearwaters, in an effort to keep information overload to a minimum. While any birder aboard would certainly prefer that the naturalist call out each shearwater specifically, it may be enough for many passengers to hear simply that some of those dark gull-size birds that alternate several flaps with long glides are not seagulls but open ocean travelers from the Southern Hemisphere. After all, whale watch boats are really offshore classrooms with heterogeneously grouped students.

While it is likely there will be birds on the way to and from the whales and around the whales (especially if surface bait is available for both whales and birds), it is also true that agonizingly long periods may occur when there are no birds close to the boat, and the boat is not moving at all because there just happen to be cooperative whales close by.

Even if a particular naturalist is inclined to point out birds, he is probably only one of several guides that work for the whale watch company. Generally "ya nevah know" exactly which naturalist is going to be on your trip until you actually get to the boat, and you may not know about the level of bird attention until you are already offshore.

Nonetheless, there is good news, too. There are things you can do to better your chances of success on a whale watch.

There are usually, if not always, lots and lots of neat birds and bird behaviors to observe offshore. If, in a worst-case scenario, they are ignored by the naturalist, they do not have to be ignored by you.

If you identify yourself to the naturalist early on as being very interested in birds (as well as whales, it doesn't hurt to say), you may find out that he just might pay more attention to the birds, although, of course, not every naturalist will be so inclined.

A good approach when introducing yourself to the naturalist might be to ask what pelagic birds have been seen lately. Not only might the answer be helpful for your birding efforts, it may help you learn about the birding interests and expertise of the naturalist. You may be pleasantly surprised.

When speaking to the naturalist, try to find a time when he seems to be less harried than usual. Not interrupting his required routine might pay dividends, human nature being what it is. Going on a morning whale watch trip, when crowds tend to be smaller than on midday or afternoon trips, may help (and may also provide you with more rail space).

When speaking to the naturalist, remember that sharing bird details can be a two-way street. He may be more interested in spotting and identifying birds if he believes he will notified of good birds in return. When offshore, however, the extent of such two-way communication between naturalist and a birding passenger can vary a lot. Sometimes boat logistics or protocol (as well as the personality and birding interest of the naturalist) allow back-and-forth chatter when looking at whales and sometimes not.

When speaking to the naturalist, it may help to speak pluralese (i.e., employing occasional use of we, us, our, and ours, instead of the singular equivalents, even if you might be the only birder on board).

Pay attention to the other passengers, not just the birds. If you do find another birder early in the trip, the two of you can help each other with spotting and identifying. You know what signs to look for, right? — someone using serious binocs early and often or carrying around a raggedy dog-eared Peterson's or Sibley's, etc. (I won't get into what typical birder plumage is like.) If the other birder is more expert than you, so much the better, but, if not, he can still help in spotting, and he will allow you to speak pluralese to the naturalist with conviction.

If those on board see you as interested in birds, their interest might be stimulated. The naturalist might be more attentive to birds if he feels there is an actual audience for bird lore, and certain passengers might be less likely to grumble to the naturalist about too much bird info. Many birders find it incredibly hard to believe, but some people just don't welcome intensive bird info. Don't be afraid to call out the birds you see; obviously this is more natural when working with other birders.

Please note that it does not hurt to actually pay attention to whales on a whale watch trip, especially when they are close or active. A birder who constantly turns his back on interesting whales (yes, I've seen that happen) does not help how the birding community is viewed by either fellow whale watch passengers or the boat's crew, all of whom tend to think that whales are pretty important.

If the naturalist seems to have made an attempt to point out birds or explain them (even if his efforts have not helped you personally), don't forget to thank him later in the trip or when getting off the boat. It might be nice to mention the birds or behaviors that were especially interesting to you. Expressing gratitude is not just a courtesy; it is also a way of encouraging naturalists to remember that birders are likely to be aboard at times and that they do appreciate any attention paid to birds.

In conclusion, I have tried to provide a number of things for birders to consider when taking whale watch trips to see offshore birds. I do hope that at least some of the items I've discussed may help at least some birders experience more successful birding around whales and whale watch boat passengers and crews.

***Frederick Wasti**, senior whale watch naturalist on the Captain John Boats of Plymouth, has had the good fortune of watching local whales and pelagic birds since the late 1970s. Fred is also an adjunct instructor of science at Babson College in Wellesley, Massachusetts. He enjoys observing and photographing pelagic birds, as well as larger wading birds and raptors, and, of course, whales. Fred lives in Marshfield, Massachusetts.*

[Editor's note: The following article is reprinted with permission from the Autumn 2009 issue (Vol. 49, No. 1) of *Sanctuary, the Journal of the Massachusetts Audubon Society.*]

The Political Landscape: Dark City

Jennifer Ryan and Christina McDermott

Nighttime views of city skylines, glittering from the inside out, have become synonymous with urban glamour and after-hours vibrancy. But eco-conscious? Hardly.

Now Mass Audubon and the city of Boston have been shaking up this notion through the success of their EPA award-winning Lights Out Boston! Thanks to the leadership of Mayor Thomas Menino, some of the city's most prominent building owners, and Mass Audubon advocacy staff, we have now celebrated two seasons of conservation through reductions in nighttime lighting.

In accordance with the voluntary Lights Out initiative, commercial skyscrapers in downtown Boston dim or extinguish internal lighting from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. during the spring and fall bird migration seasons, a practice that saves the lives of birds while conserving energy. Normally, illuminated structures attract birds during night flight. When a bird has a migratory route that takes it through a brightly lit city, it can become "trapped" by building lights, circling a tower and eventually colliding with it or dying of exhaustion. Reducing urban lighting during migration seasons directly benefits bird populations by limiting such occurrences.

Equally important are the significant energy cuts that result from the Lights Out program. Climate change is the greatest threat facing the nature of Massachusetts, and immediate action must be taken if we are to curb its effects. Lights Out provides a simple way for Boston to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to mitigation efforts. Participation can reduce the amount of electricity a building uses for lighting by an impressive 25 percent. The program also ties into an executive order issued by Mayor Menino pledging to reduce Boston's greenhouse gas emission levels to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012, with a long-term goal of 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

Forty-seven buildings currently participate in Lights Out Boston — a number that has exceeded expectations and speaks to the environmental commitment of city property owners. The core group of building owners and managers supporting Lights Out Boston represents more than 31 million square feet of high-rise office space in the city.

Of course, reducing energy use at this scale isn't only good for the planet; it's also good for the wallet. Less wattage means lower electricity bills, and who isn't

trying to cut back on expenses in this economy? It is exciting to be able to offer environmental programming that actually rewards participants by putting money back in their pockets.

This April, Lights Out Boston was the recipient of an EPA New England Environmental Merit Award and Mayor's Green Business Award, which honor outstanding contributions on behalf of the environment. Mass Audubon was proud to accept the awards along with the city of Boston and CB Richard Ellis, Lights Out's lead building owner.

Our next goal for Lights Out is to expand beyond the spring and fall migration seasons to a program year-round. Many building owners already follow the Lights Out requirements after the end of the migratory season, recognizing the environmental and financial benefits. To reduce energy consumption on a permanent basis would be an even bigger environmental triumph for the city and would take us closer to our greenhouse gas reduction goals.

By implementing Lights Out, Boston has set an example for other cities and individuals to change their energy-use habits. As a society, we consume far more energy than we need. We might leave lights on in an empty room or drive somewhere when we could easily walk. It is often easier to follow familiar patterns than consider alternatives. It is our hope that the Lights Out initiative will raise awareness of energy-use norms and serve as a catalyst for their restructuring. Looking toward the Boston skyline, we can all see how easy it is to do our part.

City lights? Overrated. Citywide effort to save energy and birdlife? Now that's a bright idea.

Jennifer Ryan *is Mass Audubon's legislative director.* ***Christina McDermott*** *is assistant to the director of Public Policy and Governmental Relations at Mass Audubon.*

MISSISSIPPI KITE FEEDING YOUNG IN NEWMARKET, NEW HAMPSHIRE, IN JULY 2009, BY DAVID LARSON

Not Just another Birding Contest — This is the Superbowl!

David Larson

Everybody has heard of the World Series of Birding — the 24-hour contest held in New Jersey in May. Perfectly fine for birders who like to gambol around in the springtime flowers. However, the real hardcore birders, those with guts, attitude, padded clothing, and a shorter attention span, flock to the Superbowl of Birding, in January, in New England. This year's Superbowl VII, pitting some of the world's finest birders against each other and the elements in Essex County, Massachusetts, and Rockingham County, New Hampshire, will be held on January 30, 2010.

The Superbowl of Birding is organized and run by Mass Audubon's Joppa Flats Education Center in Newburyport, Massachusetts, and is sponsored by Minox and other companies. Teams of four to seven participants have from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Superbowl Saturday to tally the maximum number of points in competition for the coveted Minox Joppa Cup. Points are assigned to individual species based on their rarity in the area. Write-ins and uncommon species like Gyrfalcon earn five points, while common species like Black-capped Chickadees earn only one point.

To add an interesting wrinkle and to make sure that everyone, contestant or not, gets to see as many of the day's hot birds as possible, all 5-point birds have to be called in to Superbowl Headquarters at Joppa Flats, with periodic notices about these rarities going out over the Massbird and New Hampshire Birds email lists. The first team to report a 5-point species gets a 3-point bonus. You may not be able to watch this game on television, but you can follow it on your computer or smart phone.

Aside from the Minox Joppa Cup, awarded for the most points amassed by a team (Table 1), there are prizes for most species recorded, most points in Rockingham County, most points in Essex County, most points on the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, most points from a fixed location, most points for a team with at least two members who are under 17, and the team member with the most lifers. There is also a Seekers Award for the first team to fill in a checklist of twenty designated species. These awards entail more than just bragging rights. Each winning team member receives a gift certificate redeemable at Bird Watcher's Supply and Gift or the Nature Shop at Joppa Flats.

Table 1: Winners of the Superbowl's Minox Joppa Cup

Superbowl I (2004)	Swarovski Hawks
Superbowl II (2005)	Monadnock Merlins
Superbowl III (2006)	Wicked Pishahs
Superbowl IV (2007)	Raven Loon-a-tics
Superbowl V (2008)	Raven-Loon-a-tics
Superbowl VI (2009)	Return of the Great Auks

The range of awards highlights one of the most inclusive parts of this event. Anyone can have fun approaching the Superbowl at any level. Some teams spend weeks scouting and working on strategy. One team has a full sit-down breakfast while watching feeders and then heads off to see what's around. Since there is a fixed location award, there is always a team inside the Joppa Flats, eating and watching.

Superbowlers Harvey Paclat and David Weaver at Andrews Point, Rockport, in a photograph by team member Brenda Eunson

Superbowls I-VI have averaged 25 teams and 125 participants. Participants have come from as far away as Pennsylvania and Virginia. In the past three years youth participation has increased, due in part to teams from Mass Audubon's Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary in Lincoln. Species totals have run from 118 to 133 per year. The list for all six years is 176 species, with highlights including Pacific Loon, Thayer's and Slaty-backed gulls, Townsend's Solitaire, Western Tanager, and Harris's Sparrow.

Picking the perfect team name is a very important part of the ritual. Perennial powerhouse, the New Hampshire 4th and Longspurs, draws on a football motif; the Not-So-Oldsquaws is a team of young ladies; frequent winners the Raven Loon-a-tics and the Burger Kinglets are firm believers in the power of puns; and last years' Minox Joppa Cup winners, the Return of the Great Auks, is clearly a team of wishful thinkers.

When the tally party starts at the end of the day, everybody gets to warm up and chill out. The judges, lead by Madam Chief Justice Ann Gurka, grill the team captains on their sightings while their teams get to relax, eat pizza, and hope to score one of the door prizes (from bird seed to binoculars!) donated by sponsors. Finally, Joppa Flats Sanctuary Director Bill Gette and Education Coordinator David Larson announce the winners, with a background of cheers, groans, catcalls, and bad jokes.

How many points for a Snowy Owl? Photograph by the author.

Media coverage has included a spot on NPR's "Only a Game," *Yankee Magazine*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, and the *Boston Globe*.

So, if you think you are tough enough, and good enough, get a team together and show everybody your birding chops this winter. On the other hand, if you aren't all that tough or good, come

play anyway. Information, rules, checklists, and registration forms are available on the Mass Audubon website at <http://www.massaudubon.org/superbowl>. What could be more fun than running around looking for birds along the coast of Massachusetts and New Hampshire in January? At least you don't have to worry about mosquitoes like those folks in that ersatz baseball contest.

David Larson *is the Education Coordinator at Mass Audubon's Joppa Flats Education Center and the Production Editor of* Bird Observer. *He has to work on every Superbowl Saturday.*

SUPERBOWL OF BIRDING VII

SUPERBOWL - SEEKERS AWARD - 2010.DOC

SEEKERS AWARD

RULES AND CHECKLIST

Objective: Be the first team to find and identify all of the bird species on the Seekers Checklist.

Rules Specific to the Seekers Competition:

1. To win the Seekers Award, a team must be the first team to notify the Superbowl of Birding judges that they have completed the Seekers Checklist. Telephone Number: 978-462-9998.
2. Teams competing for the Seekers Award are permitted to bird throughout the contest area (i.e., Essex and Rockingham counties).
3. Teams must comply with all of the other Superbowl of Birding VII rules.
4. A team claiming the Seekers Award cannot win any other team award.
   Note: A member of a Seekers Award team is eligible for the Lifer Award.

SEEKERS CHECKLIST (30)

____ Red-throated Loon	____ Northern Harrier
____ Horned Grebe	____ Red-tailed Hawk
____ Red-necked Grebe	____ Purple Sandpiper
____ Northern Gannet	____ Iceland Gull
____ Great Cormorant	____ Black Guillemot
____ Gadwall	____ Snowy Owl
____ Harlequin Duck	____ Downy Woodpecker
____ Surf Scoter	____ Horned Lark
____ White-winged Scoter	____ White-breasted Nuthatch
____ Black Scoter	____ Carolina Wren
____ Long-tailed Duck	____ Northern Mockingbird
____ Common Goldeneye	____ Cedar Waxwing
____ Common Merganser	____ American Tree Sparrow
____ Red-breasted Merganser	____ White-throated Sparrow
____ Bald Eagle	____ American Goldfinch

FIELD NOTES

Two Observations of Walking or Running by Northern Flickers, *Colaptes auratus*

Jim Berry

On May 17, 2008, while watching a Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker foraging for ants on a paved walkway across a dam in Ipswich, Massachusetts, I noticed with surprise that the bird appeared to *walk* a few steps in between the normal hops. I thought that perhaps my eyes had deceived me and waited without success to see it walk again. I vowed to watch flickers on the ground more carefully in the future.

It took another year to see it, but on July 25, 2009, a flicker feeding on a grassy trail in Ipswich with American Robins (*Turdus migratorius*) did the same thing. I wrote in my notes, "I saw a flicker follow its hopping with what I'm certain were several fast walking steps, almost running, along the road where it was feeding with robins." Prior to these observations I had no idea that flickers could do anything but hop to move themselves on the ground.

Fortunately, I'm not the only person to have seen this phenomenon. In his life history of the Northern Flicker, A. C. Bent (1939) had this to say: "On the ground, the flicker proceeds slowly by short hops, but sometimes it runs rapidly for a few steps and then stops . . . ." He wrote this in a matter-of-fact way, as if it were not unusual. I wonder, however, how many people have become conscious of this method of locomotion, occurring as it apparently does in short bursts and easily escaping notice.

The real significance of the behavior is what it says about the evolution of the means by which birds move around on the ground. Even a casual consideration of hopping vs. walking and running would be enough to persuade one that walking and running are more efficient methods of locomotion than hopping. It is also logical to deduct that since birds in trees primarily hop to move around the trunk or branches, they would naturally hop after descending to the ground in search of food. From there it is not a great leap of faith to conclude that hopping would typify a species that has not been a ground-feeder for a very long time in evolutionary terms. This would be true of the flicker and other hoppers such as waxwings.

Other birds, like sandpipers, robins, sparrows, larks, pipits, and so forth, are accomplished walkers or runners. Such species would have perforce been ground-feeders for much longer periods of geological time than the hoppers, because it must take countless generations for such a dramatically different behavioral trait to evolve. (I recognize that some forms of evolution can occur over much shorter periods of time, but walking by birds seems unlikely to have been one of them.)

Charles W. Townsend of Boston and Ipswich was one student of bird behavior who considered this question thoroughly and wrote about it. In fact, he devoted an

entire chapter of one of his books to evolution among birds. Here is part of what he had to say about hopping vs. walking and running:

> The tree dwellers naturally hop from branch to branch, and it is probable that the earliest birds were arboreal. When the tree-dwelling bird descends to the ground it naturally hops there also, but hopping is not a satisfactory method of progression for a ground feeder; it does not permit of cautious approach, and it is decidedly jarring. A walking gait, therefore, may be understood to indicate a long custom of feeding or dwelling on the ground. Although the flicker is frequently seen on the ground, the ground habit is probably but recently acquired, for it has not learned to walk [though it may be learning!], while the robin, for example, is able to run and does so much more often than he hops. Young robins show, however, their arboreal ancestry by hopping more than they run. Pipits, horned larks and Ipswich sparrows have so completely departed from arboreal habits, that they run easily and walk with grace (Townsend 1913).

Flickers may or may not develop this gait with time, but the possibility is there, and precedents are abundant. It is a pleasure to watch behavior that may signal evolution in action.

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Notes on Nestling Coloration and Feeding Frequency in the Eastern Wood-Pewee, *Contopus virens*

Jim Berry

On July 31, 2009, I found the nest of a pair of Eastern Wood-Pewees that offered me the best chance I have ever had to observe the behavior of adults, nestlings, and fledglings in and around the nest. The site was Essex County Greenbelt's Pingree Reservation in Hamilton, a mixed pine-oak forest characteristic of the area. The nest was in a fork of a lichen-covered but otherwise bare horizontal branch about forty-five feet up in a red oak. It was coated with lichens so that it resembled a bump on the branch. The adults were feeding unseen (small) young that day, and the female covered them when it started to rain.

It rained hard that day, so I returned on August 6 at mid-day to see how the birds had fared. I found a comfortable place to sit and leisurely observed three large, active young in the nest (all pewees, no cowbirds), with both parents feeding them often — twenty-seven times in sixty minutes, to be exact. Most feeding visits lasted a few

seconds at most, and I was not always sure that food had been delivered. The frequency of feeding visits and their briefness suggested that the parents were bringing only a single food item at a time. Only once did I see two young fed on the same visit, and only once did I see a fecal sac removed. But it was clear that the alert young were well-fed, and occasionally one would flutter its wings in the tiny, crowded nest. I returned again with Lynne Holton on August 11 to show her the nest, from which the young had now fledged. For an hour we watched the parents feeding all three young, now free-flying but still short-tailed, in the canopy near the nest. At times all three young lined up on the same branch.

Some other observations seem pertinent. The parents foraged largely in the vicinity of the nest and apparently did not range far from it. The male bird did not sing near the nest as much as male pewees I have seen feeding young at other nests, though the time of day may have been a factor. The adult birds sometimes made chattering noises when they were around the nest at the same time. The most intriguing observation was that the dorsal coloring of the nestlings was not plain brown, as with the adults and, later, with the fledglings. Instead it was a mottled light gray, so that from above the young, like the nest, resembled the lichens on the branch. This mottling suggests that the species has evolved protective coloration in the nestling stage specific to the commonly chosen micro-habitat of lichen-covered branches.

Winsor Tyler, the guest contributor for this species in Bent (1942), addresses this phenomenon, saying that "in color [the nestlings] match the surrounding bark and lichens so closely that they remain inconspicuous . . . ." Yet in the *Birds of North America* account (Mccarty 1996), essentially a literature search, "no information" is entered in the section on the growth and development of the young, where the dorsal coloring is relevant. Under "appearance," the only entry that pertains to nestlings is "Hatchling downy but otherwise not described." In the section called "rate of feeding," the entry is "no details known." In fact, the species has apparently been little studied around the nest. Mccarty (1996) comments as follows: "As a result of its inaccessible and cryptic nest, much of this widespread species' reproductive biology remains unknown."

Naturally, I would need samples from many more nests to draw conclusions about the rate of feeding, and it would be instructive to see the dorsal coloring on nestlings in different parts of the breeding range. But these observations seem to add heretofore unknown or little-known information about the reproductive cycle of this common eastern forest flycatcher.

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Bent, A. C. 1942. *Life Histories of North American Flycatchers, Larks, Swallows, and their Allies*. Washington: U.S. National Museum Bulletin 179.

Mccarty, John P. 1996. Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*), in *The Birds of North America Online* (A. Poole, ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/245>.

Update on Lesser Black-backed Gull

Julie Ellis

In May 2007, we observed a Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) at a nest with a Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) on Appledore Island, Maine. This record represents the second observation of breeding by a Lesser Black-backed Gull in North America (outside of Greenland) and the first record for the Atlantic coast of North America (Ellis, et al., 2007, 2008).

The gulls returned the following year. We banded the Lesser and Herring gull pair at their nest in May 2008. We were also able to observe the pair copulating, which confirmed that the Lesser Black-backed Gull was the male. We banded their chicks that same year and plucked two feathers from each of them for use in genetic analyses. Genetic tests, which are pending, will ascertain whether the Lesser is the genetic father of the chicks.

On January 21, 2009, the Lesser Black-backed Gull (LBBG) was observed and photographed in Florida! Michael Brothers, Alvaro Jaramillo, and Bob Wallace led a birding field trip to Daytona Beach Shores, Volusia County, Florida, for the evening gull fly–in, where they saw him loafing with some other gulls.

The Lesser Black-backed Gull at Daytona Beach Shores, Florida. (Photo by Michael Brothers)

The LBBG continued to "vacation" in Florida and was observed on February 23, 2009, by Chuck Teague. He was loafing on a beach with other gulls (mostly Ring-billed and Herring gulls). The beach was about a quarter of a mile north of the jetty at Ponce Inlet, Volusia County, about six miles south of Michael Brothers' sighting.

In May 2009 the LBBG and his Herring Gull mate returned to the same nest site as in previous years, where they produced two chicks. The chicks apparently fledged successfully.

These birds have one metal (federal) band on the right leg and a field-readable plastic band on the left leg. All the plastic bands are green with white lettering and have a 3-digit alphanumeric code (letter_number_number). The Lesser Black-backed Gull is banded "F05," his mate is "F01," and their chicks from 2008 are "F02" and "F03." Those from 2009 are "F04" and "F06."

The author bands Herring and Great Black-backed gulls at Appledore Island. Resights of these birds are posted at her new blog: <http://gullsofappledore.wordpress.com>.

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Specimen of a Eurasian Tree Sparrow Found Dead in a Shipping Container from China

Tom French

With huge volumes of freight traveling to the United States from all over the world, it is inevitable that some of these shipments will contain animals that entered shipping containers in their country of origin before the containers were sealed. On January 17, 2008, a dead Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanas*) was found in a marine shipping container carrying auto parts to Auto Parts International in Norton, Massachusetts. This bird was found lying on its back on top of a crate inside the container. This particular container had been shipped from Qingdao in Shandong Province on the northeastern coast of China, across the Yellow Sea from South Korea. Qingdao is one of China's largest ports, with ships traveling to approximately 450 ports in 130 countries worldwide. From Qingdao ships go directly to Boston in twenty-two to twenty-eight days, far too long for a bird to survive without food or water. In fact, this bird had been dead for many days, as evidenced by its sunken eyes and mild smell of decomposition. I was told by the building manager, George Loring, that of the thousands of shipping containers received by this company, this was the first bird ever found in a container. This company alone receives about 1440 shipping containers each year. The only other animals seen inside the containers were several small live lizards, which were not caught. I would guess that these were probably geckos, of which there are now thirteen non-native species with established breeding populations in the continental U.S. Most of these geckos are believed to have arrived on ships. The most successful of these is the Mediterranean gecko (*Hemidactylus turcicus*), which is known to be established in eighteen states, but not yet in Massachusetts.

The Eurasian Tree Sparrow is widespread and common across Europe and Asia and has spread to many sites outside of its natural range through deliberate introductions and ship-assisted travel. In an Internet search I found a short article from November 6, 2006, titled *Birding in Qingdao with Brian Westland*. He states that "Of course the most common bird to be seen in Qingdao is the Eurasian Tree Sparrow which hangs out in groups or 'Flocks'." So, it is no great surprise that at least one might get trapped in a shipping container. In the U.S. the Eurasian Tree Sparrow was introduced deliberately to Lafayette Park, St. Louis, Missouri, from Germany in 1870. This population has remained mostly confined to St. Louis and adjacent areas of Missouri and Illinois, with birds occasionally dispersing farther. By 1973, this population was estimated to include about 25,000 birds (Long 1981, p. 385). In Massachusetts, only one individual Eurasian Tree Sparrow has been reported. This was an adult male that visited a feeder in the Brighton section of Boston in Suffolk County, from November 6 through December 31, 1995 (Forster, et al., 1996, p. 113). Because of the questionable origin of this bird, it was not accepted by the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee (Petersen 1997, p. 194). The committee considered this "a most interesting report in that several Eurasian Tree Sparrows were noted well east of the Missouri stronghold the same winter" (Kaufman 1996, p. 139).

Although the travel time from Europe or Asia is too long for a bird to survive inside a container, it is quite plausible that one or more could survive on the deck of a ship. House Sparrows easily survive for long periods within large stores and warehouses. Apparently they find food and water even when there are no obvious sources. Because the distance from Brighton to Boston's Conley Container Terminal is only about five air miles, the Brighton bird could have traveled on a ship to Boston and then made its way to Brighton.

Considering the huge number of shipping containers that arrive in the U.S. each year, it is remarkable that so few birds apparently get trapped inside them. The only other case that I am aware of was a dead Eurasian Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*), which was believed to have been transported in a shipping container to Indiana in 2000 (Dunning, et al., 2002). In 2008, according to data from MassPort, Boston's Conley Container Terminal received about 193,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEU) directly from ports in Europe and Asia. A TEU is a standard industry measure of cargo volume equal to the capacity of one standard twenty foot intermodel (shipping) container, but since most containers in U.S. commerce are forty-feet long (equal to 2 TEU), the actual number of containers moved is not reported. In the entire U.S., about 17,107,164 twenty-foot equivalent units were imported in 2008, according to data from the World Shipping Council.

Although shipping containers are not a viable source of live birds, the ships themselves are. There are many documented cases of ship-assisted bird travel, and by this route all sorts of bird species, as well as their parasites and diseases, could sail right into the Port of Boston or New York City, where by coincidence West Nile Virus was first discovered in College Point, Queens, in 1999. Within four years it had spread to the Pacific Coast.

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On August 23, 2009, Hurricane Bill apparently deposited a White-tailed Tropicbird in Carlisle. The immature bird was very thin and died not long after being found. This was only the eighth record of this species for Massachusetts. The photo was taken by Bill Byrne, MassWildlife.

ATTENTION: Writers, Photographers, and Artists!

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A Comparison of the Avian Communities in Winter in a Forest and Adjacent Suburb

William E. Davis, Jr.

From the winters of 1976–1977 through 2001–2002, I made eight to eighteen census runs per year in a 29-acre plot of conservation land forest in the town of Foxboro, Massachusetts, for a total of 338 census runs over the 26 years. The forest was dominated by maple, oak, and pine, and is typical for the region. During 25 of those years, I also censused birds at multiple bird feeders and yards at homes along the approximately one-quarter mile of road along two sides of the census area, including feeders at my own home, for a total of 328 censuses. I present here an analysis of the twenty-five years of census data from the adjacent forest and suburb and compare the two bird communities.

Different habitats support different bird communities, and the main factor that determines the structure of communities is the resource base. Winter in the northern United States is harsh, the resource base is limited, and winter appears to limit population size in some bird species. For example, Bock and Lepthien (1976) concluded that over-winter survival controlled northern Blue Jay population numbers, and that people feeding birds in winter were responsible for increased survival rates and resultant population increases of this species. Winter mortality in birds has been frequently documented. For example, Graber and Graber (1979) found that during the severe winter of 1976–1977 in Illinois, the forest bird population in their study area declined by 66%, and they found carcasses of 20 species of birds. They attributed some of this decline to local movement and emigration and noted that there was a 9% increase in birds in urban habitat. Many common species, including Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, Northern Mockingbird, American Robin, European Starling, Purple Finch, Dark-eyed Junco, Tufted Titmouse, and White-throated Sparrow, appeared to have shifted to urban residential habitat from woodlands, and their survival was presumed, to at least some degree, to be due to the presence of bird feeders and exotic plantings.

There is experimental evidence that feeders in winter improve survival in some species. Desrochers et al. (1988) found that, for a northern population of Black-capped Chickadees, survival rates were higher in areas where supplemental food was supplied than in areas where it was not, and concluded that food abundance governs winter survival. In another study, Egan and Brittingham (1994) also found that chickadees with supplemental food had higher survival rates. With changing winter conditions, birds in many circumstances move to other habitats where the resource base is more acceptable. Thus the species and numbers of individuals of birds that constitute a bird community can change through time, particularly as conditions change. For example, after the Blizzard of 1978, on February 6 and 7, census runs in the forest on February 10, 11, and 12 produced the only forest record of Evening Grosbeak in the 25 years of the two censuses, the only record for Field Sparrow, and one of two records of Northern Shrike. Birds were clearly on the move.

The results of the censuses for the two communities (forest and suburban) are presented in Table 1. The species (and the number of years that they were recorded) are grouped into three categories: (1) species recorded only or predominantly in the forest community, (2) species recorded only or predominately in the suburban community, and (3) species recorded in both communities. I have included the Northern Shrike and Sharp-shinned Hawk in the "both" category because I have

Table 1. Species found only or predominately in forest, only or predominately at feeders, or found in/at both (number of years recorded). For birds that occasionally used the other habitat, the number of years is in a second set of parentheses. Common names for birds follow Sibley 2000.

forest only	feeders only	found at/in both	(# years in forest)	(# years at feeders)
Brown Creeper (20)	House Sparrow (25)	Black-capped Chickadee	25	25
Golden-crowned Kinglet (16) (1)	Mourning Dove (25) (1)	Downy Woodpecker	24	25
Ruffed Grouse (15)	European Starling (24)	Tufted Titmouse	24	25
Red-tailed hawk (11)	Song Sparrow (21)	White-breasted Nuthatch	23	22
Hermit Thrush (5)	Tree Sparrow (18)	Blue Jay	15	24
EasternScreech-Owl (5)	White-throated Sparrow (17)	American Crow	15	11
Turkey Vulture (2)	House Finch (16)	Dark-eyed Junco	14	25
Winter Wren (2)	Evening Grosbeak (7) (1)	Hairy Woodpecker	12	7
Saw-whet Owl (1)	Red-winged Blackbird (5)	Northern Cardinal	9	25
Barred Owl (1)	Rock Pigeon (5)	American Robin	8	3
Great Horned Owl (1)	Northern Flicker (4)	Northern Mockingbird	4	20
	Pine Siskin (4)	American Goldfinch	3	18
	Fox Sparrow (3)	Carolina Wren	3	10
	Red-bellied Woodpecker (2)	Purple Finch	3	6
	Common Grackle (2)	Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	0
	Eastern Bluebird (1)	Cedar Waxwing	2	1
	Rusty Blackbird (1)	Northern Shrike	2	0
	Common Redpoll (1)	Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	2
	Northern Bobwhite (1)			
	Brown-headed Cowbird (1)			
	Eastern Meadowlark (1)			

recorded both at my feeders on non-census days, the Sharp-shinned Hawk on numerous occasions, the shrike once (Davis 1997). Why is it that some birds are unique, or nearly so, to the forest community while others are found only at feeders, and a large contingent are found commonly in both? The answer, I believe, lies in the differences in social structure of individual bird species and in the differences in the resource base of the forest and suburban habitats.

The forest-only group is composed of species with fairly specific food requirements that the forest resource base supplies better than the suburban habitat does. For example, the Brown Creeper is a bark-forager, and its diet in winter is more than 90 % insects (Williams and Batzli 1979). The Golden-crowned Kinglet and Winter Wren are also largely insectivorous, even in winter. The Ruffed Grouse in winter feeds mostly on catkins, buds, and twigs that are presumably more readily available in a forest habitat. The Hermit Thrush is primarily insectivorous but supplements its diet in winter with fruits and berries. The owls are forest dwellers, largely nocturnal, and in winter prey primarily on small mammals. The forest also presumably provides a higher availability of roost trees.

The feeder-only group is dominated by birds that in winter are primarily seed-eaters. This includes the sparrows, finches, and blackbirds. Even the Red-bellied Woodpecker eats more than 90 % vegetable matter during winter (Shackelford, et al. 2000). Seeds make up 99 % of the Mourning Dove diet (Mirarchi and Baskett 1994). Forests generally have few seeds, although they often have berries. The two major exceptions are the European Starling, which is omnivorous with about half its diet animal material year-round (Cabe 1993), and the Northern Flicker, whose diet is about 60 % animal food during the year but shifts more to fruit and seeds in winter (Moore 1995). Starlings take both seeds and suet at feeders, are an open-country species, and are rarely observed in forested habitat.

The found-in-both group is dominated by species that tend to be omnivorous, such as chickadee, titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Blue Jay, and American Crow. For example, chickadees have a winter diet that is about 50 % animal food (Smith 1993), the nuthatch about 30 % (Williams and Batzli 1979). Blue Jays in winter have mast as about two-thirds of their diet (Tarvin and Woolfenden 1999), and I suspect that their foraging in the forest in winter is largely for acorns. Crows did come to my feeders occasionally and take suet. Chickadees, titmice, and nuthatches were present in both communities most years, and from my observation of them foraging in the forest I think that they were foraging for insects and spiders; they took seed at the feeders. Dark-eyed Juncos are primarily seed-eaters, and their presence in the forest appears anomalous. However, during the early years on the census, the study plot included a grassy field of about an acre, and junco sightings were in or near this field. Succession returned the field first to shrubs and finally to trees; no juncos were recorded in the forest during the last seven years of the census.

Purple Finches observed in the forest were, in all cases, eating eastern red-cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) berries; they took seeds at the feeders. Carolina Wrens took mostly sunflower seeds and some suet at the feeders, but were probably foraging for insects in the forest. I have argued that their ability to survive northern winters is

dependant on a shift to mostly vegetable food in winter (Davis 1991). Downy and Hairy woodpeckers take mostly suet at the feeders (but will take sunflower seeds) and forage for insects and perhaps berries in the forest. The Northern Mockingbird eats mostly berries in winter, particularly those of the multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*). I had a large patch of multiflora in my yard, which accounts for the presence of mockingbirds. They appeared to be foraging for berries when observed in the forest. It has been suggested that the range expansion of the mockingbird north over the past half century has been linked to the spread of multiflora rose (Stiles 1982). The American Goldfinch was present at feeders in 18 of the census years but observed only three times in the forest. The goldfinches in the forest were all near the edge of the plot, and I suspect that they were passing through rather than actively foraging. Northern Cardinals are largely seed-eaters but also take fruits and berries. I suspect that the cardinals foraging in the forest were eating berries, since several sightings were in a grove of red-cedar trees.

Another factor in the presences of chickadees and titmice in the forest is the social structure of the species. For example, chickadees and titmice form stable flocks that have distinct home ranges. Winter chickadee home ranges of 23-36 acres have been reported (Smith 1993), and in the case of the titmice the range may extend up to 3000 linear feet (Condee 1970). The edge of the study area was no more than 300 feet from most of the bird feeders and would be well within the range of titmouse or chickadee flocks. It may be that chickadees and titmice foraged in the forest and at the same time patrolled their home range. Junco flocks have winter home ranges of up to 82 acres (Gottfried and Franks 1975), and it is possible that their presence in the forest had a home-range-patrol element.

One important question is: are the individuals of a species recorded at feeders the same individuals that are recorded in the adjacent forest, or are they separate groups of birds? In an attempt to address this question (and others), I trapped and fitted birds at my feeders with USFWS aluminum bands from 1978 to 1986 and from 1993 to 1998. I then observed each bird, when possible, on the forest census runs for the presence or absence of bands. The sample size is small because it is often difficult to see the bands in flocks of swiftly moving birds, or to be sure that you are looking at different individuals in a flock. The results, however, indicate for many species that there is an overlap between the birds at the feeders and the birds in the forest (Table 2). Sixteen percent of chickadees were banded, 10 % of White-breasted Nuthatches, 5 % of titmice, 10 % of Dark-eyed Juncos, and 38 % of Blue Jays. These numbers

Table 2. Numbers of banded birds and unbanded birds recorded during forest census runs.

	Banded	Not banded
Black-capped Chickadee	37	161
White-breasted Nuthatch	3	27
Tufted Titmouse	1	20
Dark-eyed Junco	2	19
Blue Jay	5	9
Downy Woodpecker	0	9

suggest a considerable overlap between the constituents of the two communities for the common birds.

In summary, during the 25 years of the dual censuses 11 species were unique, or nearly so, to the forest; 21 unique, or nearly so, to the feeders and yards; and 18 present in both. Banded individuals of five of the most common species were observed in both communities and thus shared membership in the two. These birds all have a social structure in which the joint flocks have winter home ranges or territories, and thus their presence at both feeders and in the forest may reflect a home-range-patrol element. Whether a species is a member of the feeder community, the forest community, or both is strongly influenced by the species' dietary preferences. Seed and other vegetable-food-eating birds were predominately feeder birds, while animal-food-eating birds were predominately forest dwellers. The birds that frequented both habitats were predominately omnivorous. Also present in the "both" category were fruit- and berry-eating species. The presence of suburban bird feeders promotes bird species richness and bird abundance in a habitat that may not normally be preferred (Wilson 1996).

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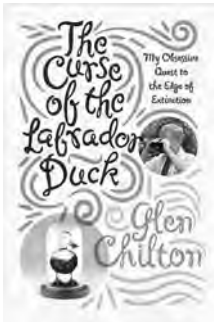
HOODED MERGANSER BY SANDY SELESKY

ABOUT BOOKS

Hot on the Trail of a Cold Duck

Mark Lynch



The Curse of the Labrador Duck: My Obsessive Quest to the Edge of Extinction. Glen Chilton. 2009. New York, New York: Simon and Schuster.

Never waste your powder on a dead duck. — Old American proverb

I seldom go into a natural history museum without feeling as if I were attending a funeral. — John Burroughs

Birding literature is full of books recounting obsessive quests. There are numerous accounts of "big years" or Herculean attempts to acquire the longest regional list. One of the better examples of this type of book is *UK 500: Birding in the Fast Lane* by James Hanlon, a breathless account of whipping around Britain over many years attempting to twitch five hundred species, accompanied by the author's own mediocre photographs. My favorite extreme birding account still remains *The Big Twitch* by Sean Dooley, which being Australian in both author and setting, means that it was written with an outsider and rowdy attitude that makes it a uniquely enjoyable book. The apotheosis of this kind of writing is *Birding on Borrowed Time*, Phoebe Snetsinger's posthumously published account of her life-long obsession with accruing the longest world list of birds. The problem with many of these "obsessive quest" books is that they are written by birders and not by professional writers. This means that reading them can be like listening to your best friend's account of his trip to some exotic destination. It's interesting only up to a point. It's not a ripping yarn solely because it takes place in another country and a lot of stuff happened. You have to be able to write a good yarn. At their heart, many of these quest books are just a laundry list of birds ticked off by the author and are therefore sadly boring.

The Curse of the Labrador Duck: My Obsessive Quest to the Edge of Extinction by ornithologist and behavioral ecologist Glen Chilton is certainly a book that belongs in the "birding quest" genre, but with some important differences. Chilton is whipping around the globe on a peculiarly monomaniacal search, looking for only a single species and a dead one at that. This also means that the locations he visits on his travels are exotic in very unexpected ways. Instead of fighting mosquitoes in the papyrus swamps of Uganda or altitude sickness in the high Andes, Chilton visits some of the great natural history collections of Europe, Russia, and North America. Instead of dealing with the recalcitrant bureaucracy of some Third World birding hot spot, Chilton finds himself facing equally hostile and overly protective museum guards and curators.

On page one, fully owning up to be being obsessive since childhood, Chilton traces his first look at the Labrador Duck (*Camptorhynchus labradorius)* to a

childhood memory of a set of collecting cards put out by Brook Bond Foods in boxes of Red Rose Tea. But it was only as an adult ornithologist, when asked to write the account of the Labrador Duck for *The Birds of North America* series, that he realized what a truly odd duck this was. Unlike the Passenger Pigeon, Great Auk, or Eskimo Curlew, about which a number of books have been written and specimens are found worldwide, the Labrador Duck seems to have disappeared almost as soon as it was discovered, and only a reported fifty-four skins or mounted specimens still exist. Our knowledge of this unique duck's nesting habits and breeding range is almost nonexistent. The lack of hard facts about the Labrador Duck piqued Chilton's curiosity, and thus began his quest to see every specimen, critically appraise its condition, and take its measurements. As in all classic bird quests, Chilton certainly racked up the frequent flyer miles:

> Despite my failure to travel to Redonda and Brooksville, my quest required me to travel 72,018 miles on airplanes, 5,461 miles on trains, 1,565 miles in private automobiles, and a further 1,843 miles in rental cars, and 158 miles in taxis. Add to that 43 miles on ferries, and 1,169 miles on buses, and it adds up to a whacking great 82,257 miles, or 3.3 times around the planet at the equator. (p. 5)

You would be forgiven for thinking that a decade-long search for dead ducks in the dusty back galleries of the museums of the world does not sound like a promising premise for an enjoyable book. Luckily, Glen Chilton, though certainly no Paul Theroux, is amusing company and a writer who knows the journey is as interesting as the quarry. So the reader is treated to a lot of "color commentary" like graphic lessons in how to prepare a study skin or a list of the top ten things to do to stay alive in Paris or ten things you should know about writer Georges Sand. Some of these digressions are more interesting than others, as when in Vienna he takes a side trip to see if he can find various landmarks seen in *The Third Man*.

The Curse of the Labrador Duck is very much a revealing behind-the-scenes look at natural history museum culture. Every collection has its own unique and sometimes odd and colorful history. Beginning in the late nineteenth century, Walter Rothschild accumulated the largest private collection of birds in the world, with 300,000 mounted specimens and 200,000 eggs, but he is eventually forced to sell much of this avian treasure to the British Museum because of being blackmailed for fathering an illegitimate child. His collection contained two Labrador Ducks.

Each Labrador Duck specimen has a story. Though the provenance is poorly known for many of them, we do know that some have been traded back and forth several times like an underperforming ballplayer. A few survived the World War II bombings of Dresden and London. One was stolen from an exhibition display, apparently by construction workers, and has never been recovered. Though most of the curators Chilton meets are helpful, certain other museum personnel are petty and overly protective of what they consider their personal treasures. Chilton has no qualms about calling out the numbskulls and crazies he meets along the way.

Shockingly, though some of these prized specimens have been kept like the treasures they are, others are now dusty, decrepit, mouse-chewed shadows of their former selves. A few immature males have been misidentified as females. Often the bills of the mounted specimens have been crudely hand painted in a variety of colors and patterns. The glass eyes inserted in the mounts also vary in color and size. In one specimen, only the bill was from a real Labrador Duck, while the rest of the body was that of a badly painted domestic duck.

One by one, Chilton confronts each Labrador Duck with a critical eye, looking at its condition the same way an art curator would look at a newly discovered Tintoretto. The reader, therefore, gets to know each individual duck, and it is genuinely sad when a skin is badly botched.

> The drake in the research collection had beaten-up feathers and his legs and bill were inexpertly painted and varnished. The taxidermist had mounted his body too close to his feet and his head too far from his body. The specimen's eye sockets and the base of the bill are greasy, and he was given yellow glass eyes too big for his head, making it appear as though he has an overactive thyroid gland. Poor sod. (p. 233)

This pales in comparison to what Chilton finds out about the nine known specimens of Labrador Duck eggs. Using painstaking techniques to carefully extract material from the interior of each egg, he has the DNA analyzed and finds that six of the eggs are in fact Mallard eggs, and the remaining three are those of a Red-breasted Merganser. In other words, there are no specimens extant of the egg of a Labrador Duck, and furthermore there are no reliable reports of anyone actually seeing a nest. This includes John James Audubon, who traveled to Labrador and painted the "Pied Duck" for his book. Apparently his plate is based on previously killed and stuffed ducks that now reside in the Smithsonian. The more Chilton uncovers about the Labrador Duck, the more of a phantom it becomes.

The Curse of the Labrador Duck is very much about the people Chilton meets during his odd quest. The book is full of descriptions of close friends, odd colleagues, and his ever-patient wife, who somehow continues her serious medical career and still manages to support Chilton's flaky and self-supported insanity. There are also cameo appearances by a few other famous writers of nature history. Most notable among these "guest stars" is the premiere historian of extinct birds, Errol Fuller, who is critical in bringing Chilton in contact with a few of his sought-after ducks.

> Errol, a self-described vandal, is never far from a little trouble. He likes to piss on rules, and would probably rather wear a brassiere than a seat belt. A look in his eye speaks vaguely of danger. He seems quite taken with causing a bit of trouble here, there, and everywhere. If trouble requires a large gin and tonic, so be it. (p. 88)

Fuller pops in and out of Chilton's narrative like some kind of rowdy fairy godmother of the extinct. It is Fuller who facilitates Chilton's meeting with a duck mount that was thought to be in very private hands and no longer available to the

prying eyes of obsessive natural historians. This particular convoluted and crazy duck tale is worthy of a film treatment.

Does Chilton get to examine all of the Labrador Duck skins that could exist? There are some specimens that are still "lost." A Colonel Nicholas Pike shot a Labrador Duck in November 1844 at the mouth of the Ipswich River near the south end of Plum Island. The bird was stuffed and given to what was to become the Brooklyn Historical Society. This museum narrowed its focus in the 1930s and 1940s and dispensed with the natural history collection, and nobody knows what became of the duck. Chilton checked of course. But it is possible that in someone's home gathering dust in an attic or even on a mantel, there rests an undiscovered ornithological treasure.

Chilton has published in journals, or is about to publish, several professional papers on his findings. For the first time, a single person looked at all the known Labrador Ducks, took scientific measurements, and wrote extensive notes on the condition of those specimens. This is where Chilton's story differs most dramatically from all other birding quests. In the end, instead of merely having a longer life list, something of lasting ornithological value was learned.

The Curse of the Labrador Duck is a genuinely amusing account of Chilton's travels and travails searching through the world's great bird collections. But just below the surface of Chilton's droll humor is a grim realization. This is all we have left of a very curious bird. There are a few specimens in varying condition, but no eggs and no accounts of breeding or nesting behavior. Do we really know what its range was? Can we even be sure of the Labrador Duck's appearance? What was its real eye and bill color for instance? We will never know the answers to these questions because this is what extinction means: the end of inquiry.

> No one knows the diversity in the world, not even to the nearest order of magnitude . . . . We don't know for sure how many species there are, where they can be found or how fast they're disappearing. It's like having astronomy without knowing where the stars are. — Edward O. Wilson, quoted in Jamie Murphy and Andrea Dorfman. 1986. The Quiet Apocalypse. *Time*: October 13, 1986.

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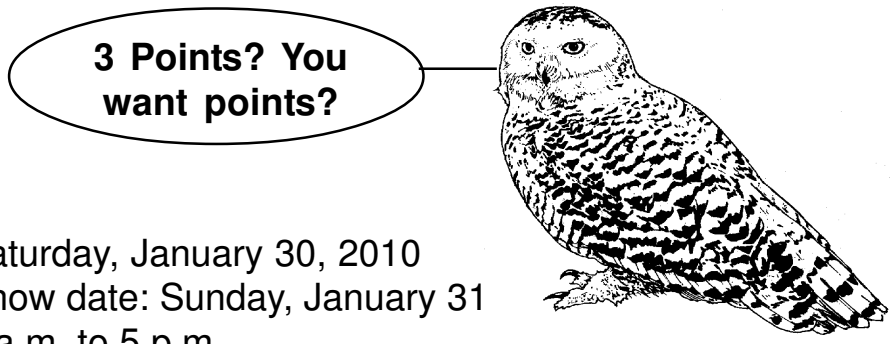
TIME FOR THE

SUPERBOWL OF BIRDING VII



Saturday, January 30, 2010
Snow date: Sunday, January 31
5 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Winter birding in northeastern Massachusetts and southeastern New Hampshire is great! Superbowls I - VI were great successes with birders from as far away as Delaware and Pennsylvania participating. The challenge is renewed this year, with prizes awarded in nine catagories, including the Seekers Award!

The Superbowl of Birding is a unique competition to find birds and earn the greatest number of points based on the rarity of the species recorded. **The Minox Joppa Cup** will be awarded to the team that collects the most points. Strategy and planning will be essential in order to win this competition.

Can you put together a team that can compete with the best birders in the area? Are you ready for prime time?

For more information and registration materials, call 978-462-9998 or see our website at <http://www.massaudubon.org/superbowl>.

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MINOX

BIRD SIGHTINGS

July/August 2009

Seth Kellogg, Robert H. Stymeist and Marjorie W. Rines

The month of July was nearly a carbon copy of June — cool, wet, and cloudy. The average temperature in Boston was 70.5˚, 3.4˚ degrees below normal. The high of 87˚ came at the end of the month. The combined June–July 2009 temperature tied for the fourth coldest in 138 years of record keeping and was the coldest since 1915; last year the same period ranked fourth warmest in 137 years of records! Rainfall was a whopping 6.90 inches, 3.84 inches above normal, and July ranked the sixth wettest in 138 years. Measurable amounts fell on thirteen days, with traces noted on another five days. Thunderstorms were noted on ten days in metro Boston and created wind damage in many communities.

August finally brought some much needed summer weather. The temperature averaged 73.6˚, 1.3˚ above normal and 3.5˚ degrees warmer than August of last year. The mercury hit 95˚ in Boston on August 18, the hottest day of the summer to date. Rain measured 3.24 inches for the month, which was typical; measurable amounts were noted on nine days. *R. Stymeist*

WATERFOWL THROUGH ALCIDS

A Snow Goose on Plum Island lingered well past its typical departure date. Blue-winged Teal begin moving at the end of August, but Duxbury Beach was an odd location for the two that were photographed on August 19. A King Eider photographed at Andrews Point in Gloucester was unusual for August.

The Brookline Bird Club's annual "Extreme Pelagic" trip to Atlantis Canyon once again did not disappoint. It was highlighted by the trip's first *Pterodroma* petrel, a **Black-capped Petrel**, which was enjoyed for nearly five minutes by all aboard. A total of nineteen **Audubon's Shearwaters** was a new state high count. A fishing trip off Tuckernuck resulted in the other snazzy tubenose of the season, a **White-faced Storm-Petrel**, which was watched and photographed for two minutes.

On August 23 Hurricane Bill was moving northwest, 225 miles east of Cape Ann. A **White-tailed Tropicbird** (see page 355) was discovered in Carlisle, but it was very thin and died not long after being found. This was only the eighth record of this species for Massachusetts. On this day, there were impressive sightings from Andrews Point in Rockport with high counts of Cory's Shearwaters and Northern Gannets, plus a rare sighting from land of a **Long-tailed Jaeger**. On the same day Blair Nikula described the sightings from Race Point in Provincetown as "modest." Hurricane Danny passed offshore on August 29, and numbers of pelagics seen from Andrew's Point were once again excellent; Rick Heil reported all-time high counts of Cory's, Sooty, and Manx shearwaters. Blair Nikula was in Provincetown again, and, although he described the scene as "pretty disappointing overall," an adult **Sabine's Gull** flying along the beach made his trip well worthwhile. Another adult Sabine's was seen off Provincetown the following day.

A **Great White Heron** was photographed in Fairhaven on July 9 and lingered through August 26. This subspecies of Great Blue Heron was carefully identified by its heavy and broad-based bill, thick legs, and bill and leg color. The breeding Merlins in Florence successfully raised two young.

Shorebird sightings were highlighted by an **American Avocet** in Katama on August 22 and a female **Ruff** in the same location on July 26. Hurricane Bill brought a bonanza of shorebirds to Hatfield on August 23, including American Golden-Plover and Baird's and Buff-breasted sandpipers, but the star of the show was a Whimbrel, a very uncommon inland visitor. Great Meadows NWR also showed well on August 23, with reports of American Golden-Plover, Stilt Sandpiper, and Long-billed Dowitcher. On August 30, the day after Hurricane Danny, Blair Nikula tallied an amazing thirty-three American Golden-Plovers. He said they were "All in one flock that flew in from the northwest far out over the water, then milled about high over the southern end of the beach for a couple of minutes, before disappearing off to the southeast. This is the largest flock I have ever seen in the state and appears to be the 3rd highest count ever on Cape Cod — at least since the days when market gunners were filling bushel barrels with them."

Other storm-driven birds from Hurricanes Bill and Danny included a rare inland Laughing Gull in Halifax and a **Gull-billed Tern** off First Encounter Beach in Eastham. **Long-tailed Jaegers**, rarely seen from land, were routinely spotted off Provincetown during the period, and single-date birds were seen off Manomet and Rockport. *M. Rines*

Snow Goose
- 7/1-22 — P.I. — 1 — v.o.

Brant
- 7/3 — Winthrop — 1 — M. Iliff
- 7/20 — Plymouth B. — 1 — I. Davies
- 8/19 — Chatham (S.B.) — 2 — M. Harvey

Wood Duck
- 7/18 — Petersham — 43 — M. Lynch#
- 7/18 — Wakefield — 45+ — P. + F. Vale
- 7/22 — GMNWR — 39 — USFWS

Gadwall
- thr — P.I. — 30 max — v.o.

American Wigeon
- 7/16 — P.I. — 2 — W. Tatro

American Black Duck
- thr — P.I. — 13 max — v.o.
- 7/1 — GMNWR — 4 imm — USFWS
- 7/5 — Moran WMA — ad + 4 yg — M. Lynch#
- 7/19 — Plymouth — 5 — J. Forbes
- 7/25 — Manchester — 6 — J. Hoye#

Blue-winged Teal
- 8/19 — Duxbury B. — 2 ph — R. Bowes
- 8/25 — P.I. — 48 — R. Heil
- 8/30 — GMNWR — 11 — S. Perkins#

Northern Shoveler
- 8/15 — GMNWR — 3 — G. d'Entremont

Green-winged Teal
- 7/5 — P.I. — 8 — W. Tatro
- 7/31 — E. Boston (B.I.) — 3 — C. Dalton
- 8/9 — Sudbury — 3 — B. Harris
- 8/21 — GMNWR — 4 — M. Rines
- 8/26 — P.I. — 275+ — T. Wetmore

Ring-necked Duck
- 8/20 — Cambr. (F.P.) — 1 — M. Rines

Greater Scaup
- 7/12 — P.I. — 1 f — S. Grinley#

King Eider
- 8/13 — Rockport (A.P.) — 1 m imm ph — K. Bourinot

Common Eider
- 7/6 — Boston H. — 493 f, 77 yg — R. Stymeist#
- 7/26 — P.I. — 35 — R. Heil
- 8/13 — Rockport (A.P.) — 120 — K. Bourinot
- 8/22 — S. Dart. (A.Pd) — 47 — J. Hoye#
- 8/24 — Duxbury B. — 56 — R. Bowes

Surf Scoter
- thr — Reports of 1-2 indiv. from 13 locations

White-winged Scoter
- 7/23 — Rockport (A.P.) — 15 — P. + F. Vale
- 8/20 — Cambr. (F.P.) — 1 — M. Rines
- 8/22 — P.I. — 13 — T. Wetmore
- 8/23 — Eastham (F.E.) — 14 — J. Trimble
- 8/24 — Manomet — 6 — I. Davies

Black Scoter
- 7/5 — Chatham (S.B.) — 5 — F. Atwood
- 7/26 — P.I. — 13 — R. Heil

Long-tailed Duck
- 7/11 — Chatham — 1 — J. Hoye#

Hooded Merganser
- 7/8 — GMNWR — 1 ad, 2 juv — USFWS
- 7/11 — Hyannis — 4 — B. Nikula
- 7/18 — Petersham — f + 4 yg — M. Lynch#
- 7/25 — C. Quabbin — 8 — L. Therrien
- 8/30 — Wachusett Res. — 5 — K. Bourinot#

Common Merganser
- 7/20 — N. Quabbin — 34 — L. Therrien
- 8/15 — Petersham — 6 — M. Lynch#
- 8/30 — Wachusett Res. — 5 — K. Bourinot#

Red-breasted Merganser
- 7/6 — Boston H. — 1 — R. Stymeist#
- 8/24 — Manomet — 1 — I. Davies

Ruddy Duck
- 7/5-25 — P.I. — 1 — v.o.
- 8/28 — Melrose — 1 — D. + I. Jewell

Northern Bobwhite
- 7/5 — Chatham — 2 — F. Atwood
- 7/25 — Yarmouth — 3 ad + 17 yg — McFarland
- 8/7 — WBWS — 8 — D. Berard
- 8/25 — Woods Hole — 1+ — W. Freedberg

Ring-necked Pheasant
- 7/13 — Newbury — 1 m — S. McGrath

Ruffed Grouse
- 7/16 — Petersham — 1 — M. Lynch#
- 7/19 — Savoy — pr + 3 yg — M. Lynch#
- 8/21 — Newton — 1 — H. Miller

Wild Turkey
- 7/10 — Gloucester — f + 15 yg — S. Hedman
- 7/13 — Newbury — f + 8 yg — S. McGrath
- 7/23 — Mashpee — 3 ad, 14 yg — M. Keleher

Red-throated Loon
- 7/25 — Plymouth B. — 1 — G. d'Entremont
- 8/15 — Sandwich — 1 — M. Keleher

Common Loon
- 7/3 — Winthrop — 3 — M. Iliff

Common Loon (continued)
7/20 N. Quabbin 16 L. Therrien
8/15 Petersham 13 M. Lynch#
8/30 Manomet 21 I. Davies
8/30 Wachusett Res. 21 K. Bourinot#
Pied-billed Grebe
7/20 Rowley 1 juv J. Berry
8/16 GMNWR 2 BBC (J. Center)
8/28 Boxford 4 K. Elwell
8/30 Randolph 2 V. Zollo
Red-necked Grebe
7/3 Winthrop 2 M. Iliff
7/12 Chatham (S.B.) 1 B. Nikula
8/30 Randolph 2 V. Zollo
Northern Fulmar
7/1 Stellwagen 1 lt I. Davies
7/1 7 m. E of Orleans 1 B. Perkins#
7/2 P'town (R.P.) 2 lt. B. Zajda
Black-capped Petrel (details submitted)*
7/18 W. Atlantis C. 1 ph Smith, Heil, Trimble
Cory's Shearwater
thr P'town 1500 max B. Nikula
7/5 Tuckernuck 600 S. Perkins#
7/14-8/6 Stellwagen 582 max I. Davies
7/18 Atlantis Canyon 232 BBC (R. Heil)
8/10 Jeffries L. 62 MAS (D. Larson)
8/23, 29 Rockport (A.P.) 127, 432 R. Heil
8/23 Eastham (F.E.) 197 J. Trimble
Greater Shearwater
thr P'town 10000 max B. Nikula
7/1-8/6 Stellwagen 3906 max I. Davies
7/6 Jeffries L. 900 MAS (D. Weaver)
7/18 Atlantis Canyon 240 BBC (R. Heil)
8/1 Jeffries L. 1000 S. + J. Mirick#
8/23, 29 Rockport (A.P.) 21, 3060 R. Heil
8/30 P'town (R.P.) 1000 J. Young
Sooty Shearwater
thr P'town 2500 max B. Nikula
7/1-8/6 Stellwagen 730 max I. Davies
7/18 Atlantis Canyon 16 BBC (R. Heil)
8/1 Jeffries L. 2000 S. + J. Mirick#
8/23, 30 Rockport (A.P.) 47, 1710 R. Heil
8/23 Eastham (F.E.) 14 J. Trimble
8/30 P'town (R.P.) 200 J. Young
Manx Shearwater
thr P'town 12 max B. Nikula
7/1-8/10 Revere B. 11 max v.o.
7/6 Tuckernuck 5 S. Perkins#
7/18 Atlantis Canyon 3 BBC (R. Heil)
7/21, 24 Rockport (A.P.) 1, 7 R. Heil
7/26, 8/2 P.I. 1, 2 R. Heil
8/6 Stellwagen 11 I. Davies
8/10 Jeffries L. 12 MAS (D. Larson)
8/23 Eastham (F.E.) 15 J. Trimble
8/23, 29 Rockport (A.P.) 15, 115 R. Heil
8/30 P'town (R.P.) 22 J. Young
Audubon's Shearwater *
7/18 Atlantis Canyon 19 BBC (R. Heil)
Wilson's Storm-Petrel
thr P'town 800 max B. Nikula
7/1-8/6 Stellwagen 220 max I. Davies
7/3 Winthrop 578 M. Iliff
7/6 Tuckernuck 1000+ S. Perkins#
7/6 Boston H. 110 R. Stymeist#
7/6, 8/10 Jeffries L. 4580, 456 Weaver, Larson
7/18 Atlantis Canyon 475 BBC (R. Heil)
7/24, 8/30 Manomet 26, 37 I. Davies
8/23, 29 Rockport (A.P.) 3, 34 R. Heil
White-faced Storm-Petrel *
8/28 15 m SSW Nantucket 1 ph P. Trimble, V. Laux
Leach's Storm-Petrel
7/18 Atlantis Canyon 58 BBC (R. Heil)
8/23 Eastham (F.E.) 3 J. Trimble
8/29 Rockport (A.P.) 2 R. Heil#
8/30 P'town (R.P.) 1 J. Young
8/30 Manomet 3 I. Davies
White-tailed Tropicbird *
8/23 Carlisle 1 imm fide R. Heil
Northern Gannet
7/1-8/6 Stellwagen 34 max I. Davies
7/6, 26 Jeffries L. 225, 190 Weaver, Larson
7/9, 8/23 P'town 375, 124 B. Nikula
7/24 Rockport (A.P.) 158 R. Heil
7/26 P.I. 123 R. Heil
8/23 Eastham (F.E.) 254 J. Trimble
8/23, 29 Rockport (A.P.) 920, 300 R. Heil
8/30 Manomet 38 I. Davies
Double-crested Cormorant
7/10 Cape Ann 450+ J. Berry#
8/15, 28 Essex 115, 600 J. Berry#
8/18 off Gloucester 540 J. Berry#
8/18 Chatham (S.B.) 200 MAS (D. Berard)
8/22 Westport 237 M. Lynch#
8/30 Manomet 340 I. Davies
Great Cormorant
7/3 Winthrop 1 M. Iliff
7/6 Boston H. 3 imm R. Stymeist#
8/9 Sandwich 1 imm R. Danca
8/30 Manomet 2 I. Davies
American Bittern
7/5 Moran WMA 3 imm M. Lynch#
8/thr GMNWR 1 v.o.
8/4 P.I. 1 D. Chickering
8/28 W. Brookfield 1 M. Lynch#
Least Bittern
thr GMNWR 1 v.o.
7/1, 8/23 P.I. 1 Chickering, Grinley
Great Blue Heron
7/20 Rowley 20 pr n J. Berry
8/1 Sandwich 36 M. Keleher
8/1 Fairhaven 13 M. Lynch#
8/24 GMNWR 17 J. Trimble
Great White Heron
7/9-8/26 Fairhaven 1 ph C. Longworth#
Great Egret
7/14 Manchester (KI) 100 S. Perkins#
7/26, 8/25 P.I. 33, 130 R. Heil
8/16 E. Boston (B.I.) 40 S. Zendeh#
8/17 Eastham 21 D. Clapp#
8/22 S. Dart. (A.Pd) 82 J. Hoye#
8/26 Nauset Marsh 17 B. Nikula
8/28 Boxford 20 K. Elwell
8/30 GMNWR 5 S. Perkins#
Snowy Egret
7/11 Salisbury 53 S. Grinley#
7/25 Manchester 157 J. Hoye#
8/12 GMNWR 1 M. Rines
8/16 E. Boston (B.I.) 48 S. Zendeh#
8/22 S. Dart. (A.Pd) 50 J. Hoye#
8/25 P.I. 190 R. Heil
Little Blue Heron
7/14 Manchester (KI) 40 S. Perkins#
8/1 Bradford 1 imm D. + S. Larson
8/8 Duxbury 1 imm R. Bowes
8/14-31 GMNWR 1-2 v.o.
8/20 Gloucester 4 BBC (Marchant)
8/22 Westport 1 M. Lynch#
Cattle Egret
8/11 Ipswich 1 J. Berry#
Green Heron
7/4 Ipswich 4 J. Berry
7/19 Fairhaven 5 C. Longworth
8/7 Eastham 12 D. Clapp#
8/23 W. Springfield 6 H. Allen
8/27 Wakefield 5 imm P. + F. Vale
8/30 S. Quabbin 5 S. Surner

Green Heron (continued)

8/30	GMNWR	4	A. Bragg

Black-crowned Night-Heron

7/5	Yarmouthport	42	E. Hoopes
7/14	Manchester (KI)	20	S. Perkins#
7/24	Squantum	6	P. Peterson
8/17	Eastham	19	D. Clapp
8/27	GMNWR	5	A. Bragg#
8/28	P.I.	11	J. Hoye#

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

7/18	W. Falmouth H.	1	P. Baum#
8/9-16	Lowell	1 imm	M. Baird + v.o.
8/12	Gloucester	1 imm	S. Hedman
8/20	WBWS	1 juv ph	M. Faherty
8/20	Fairhaven	2 imm	C. Longworth

Glossy Ibis

7/3	Winthrop	1	M. Iliff
7/12	Salisbury	6	S. McGrath#
7/14	Manchester (KI)	40	S. Perkins#
7/19	P.I.	2	F. Vale
8/2	E. Boston (B.I.)	2	L. Ferraresso

Black Vulture

7/17	Sandisfield	2	M. Lynch#
7/25	Adams	2	M. Lynch#
8/7	Saugus	1	D. Ely
8/9	Brookline	1	M. Garvey

Turkey Vulture

7/3	Cheshire	11	M. Lynch#
7/11	Wellfleet	28	S. Broker
7/25	Adams	42	M. Lynch#
8/14	Concord	13	C. Corey
8/25	Northampton	21	T. Gagnon
8/28	P.I.	9	T. Wetmore
8/31	Barre Falls	12	B. Kamp

Osprey

7/3	Naushon I.	3 ad, 6 yg	R. Mussey
7/12	Westport	10 nests	M. Lynch#
7/24	Southwick	pr + 2 yg	S. Kellogg
8/1	Fairhaven	14	M. Lynch#
8/1	Mattapoisett	18	M. Lynch#
8/24-31	Chatham (M.I.)	10	D. Manchester
8/25	Woods Hole	8	W. Freedberg

Bald Eagle

7/5	Sandwich	1 imm	M. Keleher
7/5	Montague	1 ad	B. Zajda
7/5	Marshfield	1 imm	R. Ranney
7/26	Petersham	1 ad+1 1S	M. Lynch#
7/26	Melrose	1 subad	P. Roberts
7/26	GMNWR	1 ad	G. Gove#
7/27	E. Boston (B.I.)	1 imm	R. Stymeist
8/7	Rockport	2 juv	J. Wallius
8/20	W. Barnstable	1 imm	C. Walz
8/28	S. Quabbin	7	L. Therrien
8/30	Wachusett Res.	2 ad	K. Bourinot#

Northern Harrier

thr	P.I.	7 max	v.o.
thr	Chatham (S.B.)	1	v.o.
7/3, 5	Moran WMA	1 f, 1 m	M. Lynch#
7/11	P'town	1	J. Hoye#
7/30	W. Gloucester	1	J. Nelson
8/1, 10	Duxbury B.	1 m, 1 f	R. Bowes
8/18	Northampton	1	T. Gagnon
8/21	Ipswich (C.B.)	1 f ad	D. Williams
8/22	Westport	1	M. Lynch#
8/27	Leicester	1 imm	M. Lynch#
8/30	Saugus	1 juv	P. Peterson

Sharp-shinned Hawk

thr	Reports of indiv. from 9 locations		
7/23-28	Ipswich (C.B.)	4	J. Berry
7/25	Northfield	2	C. Ellison
8/17	Concord	2	C. Coppersmith
8/26-31	Chatham (M.I.)	5	D. Manchester
8/31	Barre Falls	2	Hawkcount (BK)

Cooper's Hawk

7/5	Chatham	3	F. Atwood
7/27	Newbypt	3 juv	S. McGrath
8/24-31	Chatham (M.I.)	5	D. Manchester

Northern Goshawk

7/4	Saugus	1 ad, 1 imm	C. Jackson
7/17	New Marlboro	1 ad	M. Lynch#
8/1	Sandwich	1 juv	MAS (Roberts)
8/24	Northampton	1	T. Gagnon
8/31	Barre Falls	1	B. Kamp

Red-shouldered Hawk

7/5	Williamsburg	1	C. Ellison
7/11	Plainfield	1	S. Kellogg
8/1	Stoughton	1	G. d'Entremont
8/1	Cumb. Farms	2	A. Brissette
8/1	Mattapoisett	2	M. Lynch#
8/12	Wayland	1	J. Hoye#
8/23	Fairhaven	1	SSBC (J. Sweeney)
8/24	Manomet	1 b	MBO
8/27	Sheffield	1	R. Laubach
8/30	Randolph	1	V. Zollo

Broad-winged Hawk

7/3	Cheshire	2	M. Lynch#
7/11	Quabbin (G10)	3	SSBC (GdE)
7/16	Milton	1 ad, 2 juv	P. O'Neill#
7/26	Bedford	2	C. Corey
7/27	Topsfield	1 ad, 3 juv	S. McGrath
8/1	Sharon	4	W. Sweet
8/1	Wompatuck SP	2	G. d'Entremont
8/8	Sandisfield	2	M. Lynch#

American Kestrel

7/12	Southwick	3	B. Hart
7/14	Dracut	pr + 3 yg	M. Rines
7/25	Cheshire	pr + 2 yg	M. Lynch#
8/13	Peabody	2 ad, 2 imm	J. McCoy
8/19	Duxbury B.	2	R. Bowes
8/21	Cambridge	3	G. Dysart
8/30	Leicester	4	M. Lynch#
8/30	Saugus	3	P. Peterson

Merlin

7/1	Florence	pr + 2 yg	B. Hart
8/21	P.I.	2	P. + F. Vale
8/30	Leicester	2	M. Lynch#
8/30	GMNWR	2	S. Perkins#

Peregrine Falcon

7/2	Deerfield	3	L. Therrien
7/7	Winthrop	2	P. Peterson
8/27	P.I.	3	D. Chickering#

Virginia Rail

7/4	Warren	3 ad+3 yg	M. Lynch#
7/16	Quabbin (G40)	5	M. Lynch#
7/26	Petersham	5	M. Lynch#
8/10	GMNWR	4	A. Bragg
8/16	Bolton Flats	2	M. Lynch#
8/27	P.I.	3	D. Chickering#
8/28	Konkapot IBA	3	M. Lynch#

Sora

7/13	WBWS	1	D. Berard
7/17	Chatham (S.B.)	1	D. Clapp
8/16	GMNWR	2	J. Restivo
8/24	P.I.	1	D. Chickering
8/28	Konkapot IBA	2	M. Lynch#

Common Moorhen

thr	GMNWR	1	v.o.
8/28	Konkapot IBA	2 imm	M. Lynch#

Black-bellied Plover

thr	P.I.	142 max 8/19	v.o.
thr	Duxbury B.	248 max 8/24	R. Bowes
7/3, 8/23	Plymouth B.	3, 370	I. Davies
7/19, 8/8	Chatham (S.B.)	340, 1200	Nikula, Harvey
8/12	Winthrop B.	200	P. Peterson
8/16	Squantum	125	G. d'Entremont
8/29	GMNWR	1	J. Forbes#

Black-bellied Plover (continued)

8/30	Cumb. Farms	13	J. Sweeney

American Golden-Plover

7/5	Chatham (S.B.)	1	F. Atwood
8/8, 28	P.I.	1, 1	Emmons, Hoye
8/19	Essex	1	D. Brown#
8/23, 30	GMNWR	1. 2	Gove, Ankers
8/23-31	Hatfield	14 max	v.o.
8/30	Eastham (F.E.)	33	B. Nikula
8/31	Halifax	1 ad	J. Sweeney#

Semipalmated Plover

7/12-8/19	Chatham (S.B.)	1300 max	v.o.
7/15-8/31	Duxbury B.	2237 max 8/8	R. Bowes
7/16, 8/12	Winthrop	5, 300	P. Peterson
7/17-8/31	P.I.	2000 max 8/5	v.o.
7/22-8/31	Plymouth B.	680 max 8/23	I. Davies
7/31, 8/21	Nahant	50, 230	L. Pivacek#
8/6	Bolton Flats	24	G. Gove
8/23	Hatfield	6	H. Allen

Piping Plover

7/2	P'town (R.P.)	20	B. Zajda
7/3	Winthrop B.	15	R. Cressman
7/17	Chatham (S.B.)	15	D. Clapp
7/19	P.I.	24	J. Hoye#
7/19	Duxbury B.	12	R. Bowes
7/22	Plymouth B.	21	I. Davies
8/1	Sandwich	12	M. Keleher
8/15	Chatham (S.B.)	17	BBC (L. de la Flor)

Killdeer

8/3	Amherst	40	H. Allen
8/27	Hatfield	60	S. Surner
8/28	Newbypt	114	P. + F. Vale
8/29	Halifax	65	J. Sweeney
8/30	Wachusett Res.	32	K. Bourinot#
8/30	Wayland	48	B. Harris

American Oystercatcher

thr	Fairhaven	11 max	v.o.
7/25	Winthrop	15	R. Stymeist
8/8	Chatham (S.B.)	40	B. Nikula
8/16	Squantum	4	G. d'Entremont
8/22	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	4	J. Hoye#

American Avocet

8/22	Katama	1	R. Stanton

Spotted Sandpiper

7/4	Fairhaven	3	C. Longworth
7/6	Boston H.	8	R. Stymeist#
7/13	Dartmouth	5	A. + D. Morgan
7/25	Duxbury B.	7	R. Bowes
7/28	P.I.	5	F. Vale
8/8	Bolton Flats	5	I. Davies#

Solitary Sandpiper

8/6	Bolton Flats	18	G. Gove
8/7	Cambridge	9	W. Freedberg
8/8	Bolton Flats	12	I. Davies#
8/16	Gloucester	5	P. + F. Vale
8/23	Pittsfield	4	N. Mole
8/24	GMNWR	9	J. Trimble
8/28	Wayland	5	B. Harris

Greater Yellowlegs

7/9-8/5	Duxbury B.	52 max	R. Bowes
7/19, 8/8	Chatham (S.B.)	60, 175	B. Nikula
7/19-98/31	P.I.	46 max	v.o.
8/16-31	GMNWR	11 max	v.o.
8/16	Squantum	48	G. d'Entremont#
8/23	Eastham (F.E.)	40	J. Trimble
8/30	Quincy	38	V. Zollo

Willet

thr	Chatham (S.B.)	205	B. Nikula
thr	P.I.	108 max	v.o.
thr	Duxbury B.	85 max	R. Bowes
7/4	Fairhaven	16	C. Longworth

Western Willet

thr	Chatham (S.B.)	20 max	B. Nikula

Lesser Yellowlegs

thr	P.I.	60 max	v.o.
7/19	Chatham (S.B.)	15	B. Nikula
7/22	Newbypt H.	700	P. + F. Vale
7/26-8/31	GMNWR	21 max	v.o.
8/6	Bolton Flats	26	G. Gove
8/25	Squantum	10	P. Peterson

Upland Sandpiper

7/9	Dover	1	E. Landre
8/8	Chatham (S.B.)	1	B. Nikula
8/27	Leicester	1	M. Lynch#
8/29	Hatfield	1	T. Gagnon
8/30	Halifax	1	J. Sweeney

Whimbrel

7/11-8/15	Duxbury B.	1-3	R. Bowes
7/20-8/19	Chatham (S.B.)	40 max	v.o.
7/28	Plymouth B.	16	T. Factor
7/28-8/31	P.I.	15 max	v.o.
8/9	S. Dartmouth	21	F. Bouchard
8/17	Eastham	97	D. Clapp#
8/23	Hatfield	1	S. Surner

Hudsonian Godwit

thr	Chatham (S.B.)	65 max	B. Nikula
7/20	P.I.	1	BBC (I. Giriunas)
7/20-28	Newbypt H.	1-2	v.o.
8/1	Plymouth B.	1 ph	K. Doyon#
8/9	S. Dartmouth	1	F. Bouchard
8/19	Essex	1	D. Brown#

Marbled Godwit

thr	Chatham (S.B.)	7 max	B. Nikula
7/28, 8/13	P.I.	1, 1	Chickering, Breder
7/28	Newbypt H.	1	P. + F. Vale
8/15	Essex	2	J. Berry#
8/23	Plymouth B.	2	I. Davies#

Ruddy Turnstone

thr	P.I.	7 max	v.o.
7/17-8/19	Chatham (S.B.)	300 max	v.o.
7/19-8/24	Duxbury B.	313 max	R. Bowes
8/23	Plymouth B.	115	I. Davies#
8/23	Eastham (F.E.)	45	J. Trimble

Red Knot

7/12, 8/8	Chatham (S.B.)	35, 750	B. Nikula
7/17-8/31	P.I.	14 max	v.o.
7/26-8/23	Plymouth B.	19 max	I. Davies
7/29, 8/19	Duxbury B.	1. 10	R. Bowes
8/19	Essex	5	D. Brown#

Sanderling

7/19, 8/8	Chatham (S.B.)	60, 1200	B. Nikula
7/19-8/24	Duxbury B.	1096 max	R. Bowes
7/22-8/23	Plymouth B.	1010 max	I. Davies
7/23-8/31	P.I.	150 max	v.o.
7/31, 8/21	Nahant	300, 850	L. Pivacek#
8/29	Northfield	1	H. Allen

Semipalmated Sandpiper

7/12, 8/8	Chatham (S.B.)	500, 3500	B. Nikula
7/12-8/31	P.I.	4800 max	v.o.
7/15-8/31	Duxbury B.	4102 max	R. Bowes
7/22-8/31	Plymouth B.	1600 max	I. Davies
7/26-8/31	Revere B.	790 max	P. + F. Vale
7/31, 8/21	Nahant	3000, 1160	L. Pivacek#
7/31	Cumb. Farms	23	A. Brissette
8/6	Bolton Flats	24	G. Gove
8/23	Hatfield	10	H. Allen

Western Sandpiper

7/12, 8/9	Chatham (S.B.)	2, 15	B. Nikula
7/26-8/30	P.I.	1-4	v.o.
8/3-9	Plymouth B.	1	I. Davies#
8/21	Nahant	1	L. Pivacek
8/30	Squantum	1 juv	V. Zollo

Least Sandpiper

7/8-8/31	P.I.	445 max	v.o.
7/11-8/31	Duxbury B.	343 max	R. Bowes
7/12-8/19	Chatham (S.B.)	850 max	v.o.

Least Sandpiper (continued)
7/26-8/31 GMNWR 140 max v.o.
8/1 Cumb. Farms 79 A. Brissette
8/8 Bolton Flats 156 I. Davies#
8/23 Longmeadow 45 S. Kellogg
8/23 Hatfield 36 H. Allen
White-rumped Sandpiper
7/12-8/31 P.I. 160 max v.o.
7/12, 8/22 Chatham (S.B.) 5, 150 B. Nikula
8/2 E. Boston (B.I.) 5 L. Ferraresso
8/15 Rowley 10 MAS (D. Larson)
8/19 Essex 12 D. Brown#
8/20 GMNWR 7 J. Forbes
8/23 Hatfield 1 S. Surner
8/23 Plymouth B. 5 I. Davies#
Baird's Sandpiper
7/28-8/31 P.I. 1-2 v.o.
8/15-30 GMNWR 1 v.o.
8/15 Rowley 2 MAS (D. Larson)
8/21 Newbypt 1 J. Hoye#
8/23 Northfield 2 S. Surner
8/23 Hatfield 1 S. Surner
Pectoral Sandpiper
7/22-8/31 P.I. 1-3 v.o.
7/26 Cumb. Farms 25 A. Brissette#
8/2-8/31 GMNWR 14 max v.o.
8/16 Bolton Flats 4 M. Lynch#
8/27 Newbypt 5 J. Berry#
Dunlin
7/9 Buzzard's Bay 2 E. Dalton
8/12 Newbypt H. 12 MAS (D. Larson)
8/15 Chatham (S.B.) 13 BBC (L. de la Flor)
8/30 P.I. 15 E. Nielsen
Stilt Sandpiper
7/3 Milton 2 P. O'Neill
7/26 Newbypt H. 1 ad R. Heil
7/26-8/28 P.I. 1-3 v.o.
8/1 Chilmark 1 L. McDowell
8/2 E. Boston (B.I.) 1 L. Ferraresso
8/23, 30 GMNWR 1 juv, 1 ad Forbes, Alden
Buff-breasted Sandpiper
8/22 Chatham (S.B.) 1 ad ph J. Trimble#
8/28 P.I. 2 T. Wetmore#
8/28 Nantucket 1 E. Ray
8/23, 30 Hatfield 1, 3 Allen, Fairbrother
8/30 Leicester 1 M. Lynch#
Ruff
7/26 Katama 1 f ph L. McDowell#
Short-billed Dowitcher
thr P.I. 310 max v.o.
thr Plymouth B. 828 max I. Davies
thr Duxbury B. 96 max R. Bowes
thr Chatham 2000 max B. Nikula
8/5 E. Boston 115 P. Peterson
8/6 Bolton Flats 4 G. Gove
8/23 Eastham (F.E.) 310 J. Trimble
8/23-31 GMNWR 1-3 v.o.
Long-billed Dowitcher
7/30 Plymouth B. 1 I. Davies#
8/thr P.I. 1-2 v.o.
8/9 Chatham (S.B.) 1 ph J. Trimble#
Wilson's Snipe
8/16 Bolton Flats 6 M. Lynch#
8/24 GMNWR 14 J. Trimble
Wilson's Phalarope
8/24 Manomet 1 I. Davies
Red-necked Phalarope
8/4 Stellwagen 22 I. Davies
8/10 Jeffries L. 46 MAS (D. Larson)
8/29 Rockport (A.P.) 1 B. Harris
8/30 P'town (R.P.) 10 J. Young
Red Phalarope
8/4 Stellwagen 22 I. Davies
Black-legged Kittiwake
7/11 P'town 2 B. Nikula
8/29 Rockport (A.P.) 6 J. Hoye#
8/30 Manomet 1 ad I. Davies
8/30 Eastham (F.E.) 1 juv v.o.
Sabine's Gull
8/29 Eastham (FE.) 1 ad B. Nikula
8/30 P'town (R.P.) 1 ad J. Young
Bonaparte's Gull
7/1-8/2 P.I. 34 max v.o.
7/5-8/22 P'town 75 max B. Nikula
8/thr Nahant 740 max L. Pivacek
8/24 Revere B. 610 BBC (P. + F. Vale)
8/27 Newbypt 300 J. Berry
Black-headed Gull
7/2 P'town 1 1st S B. Zajda
7/18-8/27 P.I. 1 ad N. Landry + v.o.
7/23 Rockport (A.P.) 1 P. + F. Vale
Little Gull
7/7 P'town 1 1S B. Nikula
8/8-9 N. Truro 1 1S C. Dalton
Laughing Gull
thr Plymouth B. 1135 max I. Davies
thr P'town 900 max B. Nikula
8/14 Brewster 2000 B. Nikula
8/27 Nahant 83 L. Pivacek
8/29 Halifax 1 juv J. Sweeney
8/29 Rockport (A.P.) 136 R. Heil#
Iceland Gull
7/7 P'town (R.P.) 2 1S R. Heil
Lesser Black-backed Gull
7/thr P'town 6 max B. Nikula
7/4 N. Truro 1 B. Nikula
7/19, 8/9 Chatham (S.B.) 1, 3 B. Nikula
7/28 P.I. 1 1S R. Heil#
8/1 Plymouth B. 1 ad I. Davies#
8/12 Duxbury B. 1 ad R. Bowes
Least Tern
thr P.I. 77 max v.o.
thr Plymouth B. 90 max I. Davies
thr Winthrop 150 max v.o.
7/2 P'town (R.P.) 45 B. Zajda
7/19 Mashpee 75 M. Keleher
8/8 Duxbury B. 103 R. Bowes
8/15 Sandwich 150 M. Keleher
Gull-billed Tern *
8/23 Eastham (F.E.) 1 J. Trimble
Caspian Tern
8/29 Rockport (A.P.) 3 ad R. Heil#
Black Tern
7/7, 8/9 P'town 2, 1 B. Nikula
7/21 Rockport (A.P.) 3 ad R. Heil
8/2 GMNWR 2 F. Bouchard#
8/23, 29 Rockport (A.P.) 2, 3 R. Heil
8/23 Eastham (F.E.) 93 J. Trimble
8/24, 30 Manomet 12, 121 I. Davies
Roseate Tern
thr Plymouth B. 46 max I. Davies
thr P'town 500 max B. Nikula
7/6 Jeffries L. 8 MAS (D. Weaver)
8/7 Stellwagen 10 C. Dalton#
8/19 Chatham (S.B.) 400 M. Harvey
8/23 Eastham (F.E.) 54 J. Trimble
8/29 Rockport (A.P.) 89 R. Heil#
Common Tern
thr Plymouth B. 3276 max I. Davies
thr P.I. 130 max v.o.
thr Revere B. 65 max v.o.
thr P'town 4000 max B. Nikula
8/5 Chatham (S.B.) 2000 C. Nims#
8/23 Eastham (F.E.) 420 J. Trimble
8/29 Rockport (A.P.) 580 R. Heil#

Arctic Tern			
7/thr	P'town	40 imm max	B. Nikula
7/14-8/3	Plymouth B.	1 ad	I. Davies
7/24	Rockport (A.P.)	1 ad, 1 S	R. Heil
Forster's Tern			
7/7-8/15	P'town	1-2	B. Nikula
7/26	Newbypt H.	1	R. Heil
7/28	Plymouth B.	1	A. Brissette
8/17	Chatham (S.B.)	4	G. Gove#
8/21	Wareham	2 juv	E. Dalton
Royal Tern			
7/4, 6	P'town	1	Surner, Factor
8/2	P.I.	1 ad	R. Heil
8/14	Nant. H.	1	E. Ray
8/19	Chatham (S.B.)	1 ad	M. Harvey
Black Skimmer			
7/19, 8/18	Chatham	1, 1	B. Nikula
8/9	Plymouth B.	5 ad, 1 juv	J. Fenton
Pomarine Jaeger			
7/1, 8/6	Stellwagen	1, 1	I. Davies
7/9, 10	P'town	1, 2	B. Nikula
8/23, 29	Rockport (A.P.)	1, 1	R. Heil
8/23	Eastham (F.E.)	9	J. Trimble
Parasitic Jaeger			
thr	P'town	15 max	B. Nikula
7/6	Jeffries L.	8	MAS (D. Weaver)
7/7, 6/1	Stellwagen	2, 1	I. Davies
7/24	Rockport (A.P.)	7	R. Heil
8/23	Eastham (F.E.)	27	J. Trimble
8/23, 29	Rockport (A.P.)	7, 8	R. Heil
Long-tailed Jaeger *			
7/1, 20	Stellwagen	1, 3	I. Davies
7/4, 5	P'town	1, 1	B. Nikula
7/10, 11, 12	P'town	2, 2, 2	B. Nikula
7/18, 8/30	P'town	2, 1	B. Nikula
7/24	Manomet	2	I. Davies
8/1	Jeffries L.	1 1S	S. + J. Mirick#
8/23	Rockport (A.P.)	1 juv	R. Heil
Black Guillemot			
7/9	P'town (R.P.)	1	F. Atwood
Atlantic Puffin			
7/24, 8/29	Rockport (A.P.)	1, 1	R. Heil

DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

A **White-winged Dove** chose the right feeder to visit in Manomet; it spent six days at the feeder of birder Ian Davies. Seth Kellogg reports that there have been no nesting records for Common Nighthawk in western Massachusetts since 1977, and the Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA) shows not a single confirmation so far in three years. This is probably due largely to the replacement of gravel roofs on commercial buildings with rubber. Luckily, August is prime time for migrating nighthawks, and this year was one of the better flight years in recent memory. Birders in the Northampton area recorded high numbers on several nights as did observers at the Worcester Airport in Leicester. The nights of August 30 and 31 were quite good, with over 500 in Northampton, over 700 in Leicester, and in the eastern areas good flights from Great Meadows and Mount Auburn Cemetery. On August 30 a count of over 300 Chimney Swifts was tallied from Great Meadows, and other concentrations were noted in Amherst and Grafton, and at Mount Auburn. In Lancaster Whip-poor-wills were heard calling late in July.

Despite all the rain in June and July, it was a successful nesting season for Purple Martins in Mashpee, Rehoboth, and Plum Island. The newest colony in Mashpee produced twenty-seven young, ten more than last year, thanks to the efforts of Mary and Ashley Keleher, who flung mealworms with spoons during the period's long wet and cool spell. As always, Tree Swallows gathered along the coast in extraordinary numbers, with over 100,000 estimated on Plum Island. Common Ravens are adapting more and more to eastern Massachusetts, with six birds reported in Waltham, four in Concord, and three in Wilmington.

As it gets under way by the end of July, the passerine migration is easily overlooked as most of the birding community is watching shorebirds. Olive-sided Flycatchers as well as Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, some of the last migrants in the spring, are often among the first to slip past in the fall. A total of twenty-nine warbler species were reported during the period, but notably absent for the third year in a row was the Golden-winged Warbler. Highlights included a Cape May Warbler, two **Prothonotary Warblers**, two Yellow-breasted Chats, and a Hooded Warbler that was a successful breeder in Sheffield. Lark Sparrows and Dickcissels each were noted from four locations, and in the central Quabbin area Red Crossbills and Evening Grosbeaks were noted.

A **Sedge Wren** at the Moran Wildlife Management Area in Windsor continued from June and may have been the same individual that was reported from there last year. A **Northern Wheatear** was photographed on Crane Beach in Ipswich on August 26, the first report of this species in the state since June 2007. The bird of the month continued to be the very obliging

Henslow's Sparrow, first found on June 27 in Montague and present through July 8. This rare sparrow has not bred in the state since 1994. A young male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was found at Great Meadows on August 9 and cooperated with birders and photographers through August 14. *R. Stymeist*

White-winged Dove *

8/6-12	Manomet	1 ph	I. Davies# + v.o.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

7/4	Agawam	1	J. Zepko
7/19	Montague	1	S. Surner
7/29	Yarmouth	2	E. Hoopes
8/8	Sandisfield	1	M. Lynch#
8/30	P'town (R.P.)	1	J. Young

Black-billed Cuckoo

7/6	W. Springfield	2	J. Zepko
7/6	GMNWR	1 ph	L. Thompson
7/11	Quabbin (G10)	1	SSBC (GdE)
7/18, 8/15	Petersham	2, 1	M. Lynch#
7/25	Cheshire	1	M. Lynch#
8/17	S. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien

Eastern Screech-Owl

thr	Reports of indiv. from 12 locations		
8/2	Amherst	2	H. Allen

Great Horned Owl

7/7	Andover	1 juv	J. Berry#
7/20	Newbury	pr	L. Leka
8/1	Lexington	1	C. Thrope
8/6	Sarah I.	1	R. Stymeist#
8/27	GMNWR	2	A. Bragg#
8/30	Ware	2	S. Surner

Barred Owl

7/10	Rowley	1	J. Berry#
7/11	Townsend-6	1 ad, 2 juv	M. Resch
7/25	Becket	2	R. Laubach
8/2	Barre	1	M. Lynch#
8/30	Ware	2	S. Surner

Northern Saw-whet Owl

8/8	Sandisfield	1	M. Lynch#

Common Nighthawk

8/19, 25	Northampton	124, 470	T. Gagnon
8/22, 23	Leicester	93, 200	M. Lynch#
8/22	Turners Falls	150	R. Palmer
8/23	Hatfield	731	T. Gagnon
8/24, 30	Belchertown	388, 106	L. Therrien
8/24, 26	HRWMA	78, 203	T. Pirro
8/25, 30	Grafton	142, 29	J. Liller
8/27, 8/30	Northampton	133, 528	T. Gagnon
8/27, 30	Leicester	144, 708	M. Lynch#
8/27, 30	GMNWR	71, 22	A. Bragg#
8/31	Mt.A.	115	R. Stymeist#

Whip-poor-will

7/4	Gardner	1	R. Mussey
7/6	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg
7/24	Falmouth	4	V. Zollo
7/29	Lancaster	3	G. Gove#
8/3	Plymouth B.	2	I. Davies#

Chimney Swift

8/11	Gloucester	35	S. Hedman
8/25	Amherst	100	H. Allen
8/30	GMNWR	300	S. Perkins#
8/30	Grafton	86+	J. Liller
8/31	Mt.A.	50+	R. Stymeist#

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

7/3	Milton	3	P. O'Neill
7/27	Natick	3	G. Dysart
8/9	Petersham	3	M. Lynch#
8/10	C. Quabbin	9	L. Therrien
8/13	Cumb. Farms	3	J. Sweeney
8/16	Lexington	4	C. Cook
8/22	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	3	J. Hoye#
8/28	Boxford	3	K. Elwell
8/30	Northampton	8	T. Gagnon

Belted Kingfisher

7/4	Ipswich	pr n	J. Berry
7/17	New Marlboro	3	M. Lynch#
7/27	Rowley	ad + 3 yg	J. Berry
8/28	Boxford	5	K. Elwell
8/30	Wachusett Res.	4	K. Bourinot#

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

7/3	Cheshire	5	M. Lynch#
7/3	C. Quabbin	17	L. Therrien
7/17	New Marlboro	8	M. Lynch#
7/17	Sandisfield	6	M. Lynch#
8/9	Petersham	4	M. Lynch#

Hairy Woodpecker

7/5	Waltham	3	J. Forbes
7/12	Woburn (H.P.)	4	P. Ippolito#
7/16	Petersham	5	M. Lynch#
7/17	New Marlboro	6	M. Lynch#
8/15	Petersham	5	M. Lynch#

Pileated Woodpecker

7/17	New Marlboro	3	M. Lynch#
8/9	Petersham	f + 3 yg	M. Lynch#
8/30	Wayland	3	B. Harris

Olive-sided Flycatcher

8/27	Aquinnah	1	S. Whiting
8/29-31	Amherst	1	H. Allen
8/30	Northampton	1	T. Gagnon

Eastern Wood-Pewee

7/27	Rowley	6	J. Berry
8/1	Wompatuck SP	6	G. d'Entremont
8/9	Stoughton	11	G. d'Entremont
8/15	Petersham	10	M. Lynch#
8/22	S. Quabbin	24	L. Therrien
8/28	Konkapot IBA	13	M. Lynch#
8/30	Medford	5	M. Rines

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

7/11	Moran WMA	1	B. Zajda
8/28	Konkapot IBA	1	M. Lynch#
8/28	P.I.	1	J. Hoye#
8/28	Manomet	1 b	MBO

Alder Flycatcher

7/3	Cheshire	2	M. Lynch#
7/5	Moran WMA	9	M. Lynch#
7/17	New Marlboro	16	M. Lynch#
8/28	Konkapot IBA	13	M. Lynch#

Willow Flycatcher

7/18	Wakefield	5	P. + F. Vale
7/31	P.I.	6	P. + F. Vale
8/8	Bolton Flats	1	I. Davies#
8/9	Hadley	1	S. Surner

Least Flycatcher

7/3	Cheshire	3	M. Lynch#
7/11	Quabbin (G10)	3	SSBC (GdE)
8/2	Petersham	ad + 3 yg	M. Lynch#
8/25	P.I.	3	R. Heil
8/29	Lexington	1	M. Rines

Eastern Phoebe

8/15	Hardwick	10	M. Lynch#
8/16	Bolton Flats	19	M. Lynch#
8/27	Woburn	7	M. Rines#
8/28	Konkapot IBA	32	M. Lynch#
8/30	Clinton	7	K. Bourinot#

Great Crested Flycatcher

7/10	Danvers	pr + 2 yg	P. + F. Vale
7/13	Ipswich	8	J. Berry
7/18	Petersham	6	M. Lynch#

Great Crested Flycatcher (continued)

8/1	Wompatuck SP	6	G. d'Entremont
8/10	Mashpee	6	M. Keleher
8/27	Woburn	2	M. Rines#
8/30	Truro	5	J. Young
8/30	Medford	2	M. Rines

Eastern Kingbird

thr	P.I.	19 max	v.o.
7/5	Adams	11	M. Lynch#
7/25	Cheshire	19	M. Lynch#
8/1	Fairhaven	13	M. Lynch#
8/10	C. Quabbin	9	L. Therrien
8/30	Belchertown	2	L. Therrien

White-eyed Vireo

7/4	Woods Hole	1	J. Style
8/1	Mattapoisett	1	M. Lynch#

Yellow-throated Vireo

7/3	C. Quabbin	6	L. Therrien
7/9	Ipswich	1 m	J. Berry
7/18	Petersham	2	M. Lynch#
7/25	Newton	1	H. Miller
8/28	Konkapot IBA	4	M. Lynch#
8/28	Boxford	1	K. Elwell
8/30	Burrage Pd WMA	1	J. Sweeney

Blue-headed Vireo

7/3	Cheshire	8	M. Lynch#
7/8	Windsor	7	M. Lynch#
7/11	Quabbin (G10)	6	SSBC (GdE)
8/8	New Marlboro	4	M. Lynch#
8/28	Konkapot IBA	2	M. Lynch#

Warbling Vireo

7/4	Wakefield	22	P. + F. Vale
8/30	Medford	12	M. Rines

Philadelphia Vireo

8/30	P.I.	1 b	MAS (B. Flemer)

Red-eyed Vireo

7/3	Cheshire	38	M. Lynch#
7/3	N. Andover	6 m	J. Berry
7/11	Quabbin (G10)	53	SSBC (GdE)
7/17	New Marlboro	67	M. Lynch#
7/19	Savoy	54	M. Lynch#
7/27	Rowley	6 m	J. Berry
8/15	Petersham	51	M. Lynch#
8/15	Hardwick	16	M. Lynch#
8/30	Medford	4	M. Rines

Fish Crow

7/13	Waltham	2	J. Forbes
7/24	Manomet	3	I. Davies
7/30	Newbypt	3	S. McGrath
7/31	Gloucester	7	S. Hedman
8/1	Sharon	6	W. Sweet
8/1	Cumb. Farms	2	A. Brissette
8/9	Hadley	2	S. Surner
8/9	Stoughton	6	G. d'Entremont

Common Raven

7/5	Adams	5	M. Lynch#
7/19	Waltham	6	C. Leahy
7/26	Concord	4	S. Perkins#
8/2	Becket	6	R. Laubach
8/2	Petersham	3	M. Lynch#
8/16	Wilmington	3	M. Emmons
8/27	Leicester	2	M. Lynch#
8/28	Konkapot IBA	2	M. Lynch#
8/30	Wachusett Res.	2	K. Bourinot#
8/31	Barre Falls	5	B. Kamp

Horned Lark

7/5	Sandwich	3	M. Keleher
7/7	P'town (R.P.)	6	R. Heil
7/15	Truro	1	F. Atwood
7/17	Chatham (S.B.)	4	D. Clapp
7/19	Mashpee	7	M. Keleher
7/29	Plymouth B.	4 juv	I. Davies#
8/9	Northampton	6	S. Surner
8/23	Eastham (F.E.)	3	J. Trimble

Purple Martin

7/3	Mashpee	26 ad + 27 yg	M. Keleher
7/12	Rehoboth	9+	M. Lynch#
7/27	P.I.	40	S. McGrath
8/12	GMNWR	1	M. Rines
8/27	Newbypt	2	J. Berry#

Tree Swallow

7/12	Hingham	800	SSBC (L. Tyrala)
8/1	Cumb. Farms	384	A. Brissette
8/5	Chatham (S.B.)	1200	C. Nims#
8/9	Petersham	5000	M. Lynch#
8/18	Ipswich (C.B.)	50,000	D. Williams
8/22	Westport	6600	M. Lynch#
8/22	Northfield	450	S. Surner
8/28	P.I.	100,000	T. Factor
8/30	Burrage Pd	500	J. Sweeney

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

7/10	Manchester	8	S. Hedman
7/14	Magnolia	14	S. Perkins#
8/15	Wakefield	18+	P. + F. Vale
8/25	Gloucester	4	S. Hedman#
8/28	Wayland	10	B. Harris

Bank Swallow

thr	P.I.	40 max	v.o.
7/6	Methuen	100	J. Berry
7/19	Chatham (S.B.)	8	B. Nikula
7/28	Ipswich (C.B.)	100	J. Berry
8/1	Plymouth B.	12	I. Davies#
8/8	Sudbury	15	B. Harris
8/16	Bolton Flats	20	M. Lynch#
8/22	Northfield	225	S. Surner
8/24	GMNWR	4	M. Iliff
8/29	Rockport (A.P.)	4	R. Heil#
8/30	Cumb. Farms	3	J. Sweeney

Cliff Swallow

7/3	Cheshire	8	M. Lynch#
7/5	Adams	110 n	M. Lynch#
7/12	Haverhill	2	N. Landry
7/31	E. Boston (B.I.)	4	C. Dalton
8/1	Cumb. Farms	2	A. Brissette
8/6	Kingston	3	E. Dalton
8/8	Southwick	2	S. Kellogg
8/8	Tyringham	7	M. Lynch#
8/30	S. Quabbin	2	S. Surner

Barn Swallow

7/18	Petersham	560	M. Lynch#
7/25	Cheshire	95	M. Lynch#
7/28	P.I.	150	R. Heil#
8/1	Cumb. Farms	248	A. Brissette
8/1	Fairhaven	170	M. Lynch#
8/9	GMNWR	200	B. Harris
8/23	Fairhaven	55	SSBC (J. Sweeney)
8/28	Wayland	150	B. Harris
8/30	Barton Cove	150	M. Lynch#
8/30	Brookfield	150	M. Lynch#

Red-breasted Nuthatch

7/6, 8/10	C. Quabbin	14, 18	L. Therrien
7/16	Petersham	11	M. Lynch#
7/29	Middleton	3	J. Berry
7/31	Hamilton	3	J. Berry
8/9	New Salem	7	M. Lynch#

Brown Creeper

7/11	Quabbin (G10)	6	SSBC (GdE)
7/26	Petersham	4	M. Lynch#
8/3	C. Quabbin	6	L. Therrien
8/15	Petersham	3	M. Lynch#

Carolina Wren

7/12	Braintree	5	G. d'Entremont
8/1	Mattapoisett	6	M. Lynch#
8/8	Andover	3	P. + F. Vale
8/26	Wakefield	3	F. Vale

House Wren

7/3	Cheshire	5	M. Lynch#
7/24	Waltham	6	J. Forbes
7/25	Newton	8	H. Miller
8/16	Wayland	13	B. Harris
8/27	Woburn	8	M. Rines#
8/29	Lexington	16	M. Rines

Winter Wren

7/3	Windsor	2	M. Lynch#
7/3, 8/10	C. Quabbin	4, 2	L. Therrien
7/3	Cheshire	3	M. Lynch#
7/11	Moran WMA	1	B. Zajda
7/26	Petersham	2	M. Lynch#

Sedge Wren

7/5	Moran WMA	1	M. Lynch#

Marsh Wren

thr	P.I.	18 max	v.o.
7/3	Newbury	6 m	J. Berry
7/4	Ipswich	5 m	J. Berry
7/4	Harwich	12	F. Atwood
7/18	Wakefield	5	P. + F. Vale
7/27	Rowley	10 m	J. Berry
8/thr	GMNWR	12 max	v.o.
8/28	Konkapot IBA	2	M. Lynch#

Golden-crowned Kinglet

7/3	Cheshire	2	M. Lynch#
7/8	Windsor	5	M. Lynch#
7/11	C. Quabbin	15	L. Therrien
7/16	Petersham	4	M. Lynch#

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

7/4	S. Quabbin	4	L. Therrien
7/5	Belchertown	4	L. Therrien
8/8	Bolton Flats	3	I. Davies#
8/15	Petersham	5	M. Lynch#
8/27	Woburn	5	M. Rines#
8/29	GMNWR	3	M. Rines#
8/30	P'town	3	J. Hoye#

Northern Wheatear

8/26	Ipswich (C.B.)	1 ph	D. Jones

Eastern Bluebird

7/5	Ipswich	13	J. Berry
7/19	Montague	6	S. Surner
8/8	New Marlboro	6	M. Lynch#
8/21	Hamilton	9	J. Berry
8/23	Sudbury	16	B. Harris
8/28	Konkapot IBA	29	M. Lynch#

Veery

7/3	Cheshire	26	M. Lynch#
7/4	Warren	17	M. Lynch#
7/11	Quabbin (G10)	9	SSBC (GdE)
7/17	New Marlboro	11	M. Lynch#
7/18	Petersham	8	M. Lynch#
8/28	Konkapot IBA	5	M. Lynch#

Hermit Thrush

7/1	Harwich	8	F. Atwood
7/6	Methuen	2	J. Berry
7/16	Quabbin (G40)	9	M. Lynch#
7/16	Petersham	9	M. Lynch#
8/1	Lancaster	2	P. Maher
8/4	Boxford	2 m	J. Berry#
8/9	New Salem	5	M. Lynch#
8/15	Petersham	5	M. Lynch#

Wood Thrush

7/3	Cheshire	6	M. Lynch#
7/13	Ipswich	7	J. Berry
7/17	New Marlboro	17	M. Lynch#
7/29	Middleton	4 m	J. Berry
8/30	Medford	1	M. Rines

Gray Catbird

thr	P.I.	75 max	v.o.
7/3	Cheshire	40	M. Lynch#
7/4	Warren	57	M. Lynch#
7/12	Braintree	32	G. d'Entremont
7/17	New Marlboro	38	M. Lynch#
8/16	Squantum	31	G. d'Entremont
8/23	Fairhaven	25	SSBC (J. Sweeney)
8/26	Lexington	57	M. Rines
8/28	Manomet	100 b	MBO

Brown Thrasher

thr	P.I.	15 max	v.o.
7/3	Hadley	4	L. Therrien
7/23	Ipswich (C.B.)	3	J. Berry
8/12	Melrose	pr + 2 yg	D. + I. Jewell
8/21	Ipswich (C.B.)	2	D. Williams
8/30	Southwick	2	S. Kellogg

Cedar Waxwing

7/3	Cheshire	37	M. Lynch#
8/2	P.I.	83	R. Heil
8/10	C. Quabbin	67	L. Therrien
8/28	Konkapot IBA	61	M. Lynch#
8/30	Leicester	73	M. Lynch#
8/31	Amherst	100	H. Allen

Blue-winged Warbler

8/4	N. Andover	1	J. Berry#
8/9	MNWS	1	D. Noble
8/10	DFWS	1	P. Sowizral
8/10	Waltham	1	J. Forbes
8/19	Westfield	1	J. Hutchison
8/22	S. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien
8/25	P.I.	2	R. Heil
8/26	Lexington	1	M. Rines

Nashville Warbler

7/3	Cheshire	1	M. Lynch#
7/3	Windsor	1	M. Lynch#
8/1	Cumb. Farms	2	A. Brissette
8/30	W. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien

Northern Parula

7/4	Woods Hole	1	J. Style
8/15	Westfield	1	J. Hutchison
8/28	S. Quabbin	2	L. Therrien
8/30	Medford	9	M. Rines
8/31	Wayland	1	B. Harris

Yellow Warbler

7/4	Warren	19	M. Lynch#
8/2, 25	P.I.	41, 12	R. Heil
8/15	Nantucket	60	V. Laux

Chestnut-sided Warbler

7/3	C. Quabbin	77	L. Therrien
7/3	Cheshire	23	M. Lynch#
7/4	Warren	12	M. Lynch#
7/11	Quabbin (G10)	23	SSBC (GdE)
8/15	Petersham	19	M. Lynch#

Magnolia Warbler

7/3	Cheshire	6	M. Lynch#
7/8	Windsor	6	M. Lynch#
7/18	Petersham	7	M. Lynch#
7/25	C. Quabbin	9	L. Therrien
8/20	Natick	1	G. Dysart
8/30	Medford	1	M. Rines

Cape May Warbler

8/27	P.I.	1 imm f	J. Berry#

Black-throated Blue Warbler

7/3	Windsor	8	M. Lynch#
7/3	C. Quabbin	26	L. Therrien
7/8	Windsor	8	M. Lynch#
7/11	Quabbin (G10)	22	SSBC (GdE)
7/16	Petersham	6	M. Lynch#
7/19	Savoy	4	M. Lynch#
8/9	Otis	2	J. Forbes

Yellow-rumped Warbler

7/3	C. Quabbin	14	L. Therrien
7/3	Windsor	4	M. Lynch#
7/11	Quabbin (G10)	5	SSBC (GdE)
7/17	New Marlboro	6	M. Lynch#
7/18	Petersham	15	M. Lynch#
7/19	Savoy	6	M. Lynch#

Yellow-rumped Warbler (continued)

8/22	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1	J. Hoye#
8/25	P.I.	1	R. Heil

Black-throated Green Warbler

7/3	C. Quabbin	26	L. Therrien
7/3	Norwell	1	MAS (J. Galluzzo)
7/3	Windsor	9	M. Lynch#
7/11	Quabbin (G10)	7	SSBC (GdE)
7/16	Petersham	14	M. Lynch#
7/17	New Marlboro	24	M. Lynch#
7/19	Savoy	5	M. Lynch#
8/27	Waltham	2	J. Forbes
8/30	Medford	2	M. Rines

Blackburnian Warbler

7/3	Cheshire	4	M. Lynch#
7/3	C. Quabbin	13	L. Therrien
7/8	Windsor	12	M. Lynch#
7/17	New Marlboro	6	M. Lynch#
7/19	Savoy	4	M. Lynch#
8/9	New Salem	1	M. Lynch#

Pine Warbler

7/1	Salisbury	6	J. Berry
7/3	N. Andover	6 m	J. Berry
7/6	C. Quabbin	17	L. Therrien
7/16	Milton	12	P. O'Neill#
7/17	New Marlboro	11	M. Lynch#
8/2	Petersham	24	M. Lynch#
8/23	Sudbury	3	B. Harris

Prairie Warbler

7/3	Milton	3	P. O'Neill
7/11	Concord	2	J. Forbes#
7/18	Petersham	3	M. Lynch#
7/19	Montague	7	S. Surner
8/25	P.I.	2	R. Heil
8/30	Wachusett Res.	5 juv	K. Bourinot#

Blackpoll Warbler

8/2	P.I.	1 f ad	R. Heil
8/28	Konkapot IBA	1	M. Lynch#

Cerulean Warbler

7/3	C. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien
7/3	Wompatuck SP	1	MAS (J. Galluzzo)

Black-and-white Warbler

7/16	Quabbin (G40)	6	M. Lynch#
7/17	New Marlboro	8	M. Lynch#
8/1	C. Quabbin	15	L. Therrien
8/2	Petersham	8	M. Lynch#
8/9	Stoughton	3	G. d'Entremont
8/25	P.I.	3	R. Heil
8/27	Woburn	4	M. Rines#

American Redstart

7/3	C. Quabbin	63	L. Therrien
7/16	Quabbin (G40)	10	M. Lynch#
7/17	Sandisfield	9	M. Lynch#
8/2	P.I.	12	R. Heil
8/15	Petersham	26	M. Lynch#
8/30	Medford	18	M. Rines
8/31	Wayland	7	B. Harris

Prothonotary Warbler

8/24-28	Nantucket	1	G. Andrews + v.o.
8/25-27	P.I.	1 f	R. Heil

Worm-eating Warbler

7/3	Milton	2 pr	P. O'Neill

Ovenbird

7/1	Harwich	5	F. Atwood
7/3	Cheshire	12	M. Lynch#
7/3	Windsor	8	M. Lynch#
7/7	Andover	4	J. Berry#
7/11	Quabbin (G10)	11	SSBC (GdE)
8/9	Stoughton	4	G. d'Entremont
8/27	Southwick	2	J. Hutchison

Northern Waterthrush

8/2, 25	P.I.	9, 2	R. Heil
8/15	Nantucket	2	V. Laux
8/24	Manomet	2	I. Davies

Louisiana Waterthrush

8/1	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg

Mourning Warbler

7/3	Cheshire	2 m	M. Lynch#
7/11	Moran WMA	1 m	B. Zajda
8/24	Manomet	1 m imm b	MBO
8/30	Boxford	1	T. Martin

Common Yellowthroat

thr	P.I.	34 max	v.o.
7/3	C. Quabbin	131	L. Therrien
7/3	Cheshire	48	M. Lynch#
7/4	Harwich	26	F. Atwood
7/11	Quabbin (G10)	20	SSBC (GdE)
7/17	New Marlboro	30	M. Lynch#
7/18	Petersham	20	M. Lynch#
8/26	Lexington	14	M. Rines

Hooded Warbler

7/10	Sheffield	1	T. Gagnon

Wilson's Warbler

8/15	Nantucket	1	V. Laux
8/24	Nahant	1	P. Peterson

Canada Warbler

7/3	Windsor	2	M. Lynch#
7/3	Cheshire	4	M. Lynch#
7/8	Windsor	2	M. Lynch#
8/9	New Salem	2	M. Lynch#
8/27	Southwick	2	J. Hutchison
8/27	Malden	1	P. + F. Vale
8/30	W. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien

Yellow-breasted Chat

8/25	Manomet	1 b ph	I. Davies
8/31	Reading	1	P. Guidetti#

Eastern Towhee

thr	P.I.	21 max	v.o.
7/3	Cheshire	13	M. Lynch#
7/11	Quabbin (G10)	22	SSBC (GdE)
7/28	Ipswich (C.B.)	20	J. Berry
8/1	Mattapoisett	19	M. Lynch#
8/1	Wompatuck SP	24	G. d'Entremont
8/10	C. Quabbin	49	L. Therrien
8/15	Petersham	25	M. Lynch#

Field Sparrow

7/4	Warren	4	M. Lynch#
7/11	Wakefield	5	P. + F. Vale
7/12	Woburn (H.P.)	4	P. Ippolito#
7/13	WBWS	5	D. Berard
7/19	Montague	17	S. Surner
8/15	Southwick	25	S. Kellogg
8/30	Clinton	24	K. Bourinot#

Vesper Sparrow

7/11	Moran WMA	2 ad	B. Zajda
7/12	Townsend-6	1 juv	M. Resch

Lark Sparrow

8/15	Nantucket	1 imm	V. Laux
8/23	Dorchester	1	P. Peterson
8/23	W. Roxbury (MP)	1 imm	M. Iliff
8/30	Concord	1	S. Perkins#

Savannah Sparrow

7/3	P.I.	6	P. + F. Vale
7/4	Chatham	9	F. Atwood
7/5	Adams	12	M. Lynch#
8/23	W. Roxbury (MP)	8	M. Iliff
8/30	Burrage Pd WMA	5	J. Sweeney
8/30	Clinton	32	K. Bourinot#

Grasshopper Sparrow

7/24	Falmouth	4	P. + F. Vale
8/15	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg
8/30	Burrage Pd WMA	1	J. Sweeney

Henslow's Sparrow *

7/1-8	Montague	1 m	Fairbrother + v.o.

Saltmarsh Sparrow

thr	P.I.	12 max	v.o.

Saltmarsh Sparrow (continued)			
7/4	Fairhaven	28	C. Longworth
7/10	Rowley	10	P. Peterson
7/15	E. Boston (B.I.)	8	R. Stymeist
7/19	Mashpee	8	M. Keleher
7/19, 8/25	Chatham (S.B.)	15, 30	B. Nikula
7/31	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	6	C. Marchant
8/1	Mattapoisett	16	M. Lynch#
8/30	Squantum	2	V. Zollo
Seaside Sparrow			
7/17	P.I.	4	P. + F. Vale
7/31	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1	C. Marchant
Swamp Sparrow			
7/4	Wakefield	14	P. + F. Vale
7/17	New Marlboro	31	M. Lynch#
8/28	Konkapot IBA	17	M. Lynch#
White-throated Sparrow			
7/3	Cheshire	8	M. Lynch#
7/5	Moran WMA	9	M. Lynch#
7/19	Savoy	22	M. Lynch#
Dark-eyed Junco			
7/3	Windsor	6	M. Lynch#
7/16	P.I.	1 juv	W. Tatro
7/19	Savoy	6	M. Lynch#
7/22	Southboro	1	G. Gove
8/8	Otis	2	J. Forbes#
Scarlet Tanager			
7/11	Quabbin (G10)	10	SSBC (GdE)
7/18	Petersham	9	M. Lynch#
8/1	C. Quabbin	7	L. Therrien
8/8	Sudbury	3	B. Harris
8/27	Woburn	2	M. Rines#
8/28	Konkapot IBA	2	M. Lynch#
Rose-breasted Grosbeak			
7/3	Cheshire	4	M. Lynch#
7/10	Rowley	3 juv	P. Peterson
8/9	New Salem	3	M. Lynch#
8/14	Lexington	3	J. Forbes
8/28	Konkapot IBA	3	M. Lynch#
Indigo Bunting			
7/4	Warren	6	M. Lynch#
7/13	Hamilton	6	J. Berry
8/1	Cumb. Farms	5	A. Brissette
8/3	C. Quabbin	5	L. Therrien
8/25	Lexington	12	M. Rines
8/30	Wachusett Res.	6	K. Bourinot#
Dickcissel			
7/31	Nantucket	1	N. Slavitz
8/24	Manomet	1	I. Davies
8/28-31	Wayland	1	B. Harris
8/30	Hatfield	1	M. Lynch#
Bobolink			
thr	P.I.	32 max	v.o.
7/5	Adams	30+	M. Lynch#
8/23	Northfield	55	M. Lynch#
8/27	Northampton	639	T. Gagnon
8/30	Clinton	160+	K. Bourinot#
8/31	Cumb. Farms	250+	J. Sweeney#
Eastern Meadowlark			
7/4	Warren	1	M. Lynch#
7/5	Ipswich	1	J. Berry
7/11	P.I.	3	W. Sweet
7/15	Amherst	3	H. Allen
7/28	Woburn	4	R. LaFontaine#
8/9	Hadley	5	S. Surner
8/22	Leicester	5	M. Lynch#
8/30	Wachusett Res.	4	K. Bourinot#
Yellow-headed Blackbird			
8/9-14	GMNWR	1 m imm	C. Cook# + v.o.
Common Grackle			
7/24	Squantum	300	P. Peterson
7/31	Mashpee	100	M. Keleher
8/15	Petersham	350+	M. Lynch#
8/18	Waltham	176	J. Forbes
Orchard Oriole			
7/7	Northampton	4	T. Gagnon
7/13	WBWS	3	D. Berard
7/19	Mashpee	2	M. Keleher
7/28	Ipswich (C.B.)	1 juv	J. Berry
Baltimore Oriole			
7/18	Petersham	13	M. Lynch#
8/8	Sudbury	17	B. Harris
8/25	P.I.	10	R. Heil
Purple Finch			
7/3	Cheshire	8	M. Lynch#
7/11	C. Quabbin	8	L. Therrien
7/15	P.I.	4	D. Chickering
7/28	Ipswich (C.B.)	2	J. Berry
8/4	Barnstable	2	T. Factor
8/8	Sudbury	1	B. Harris
8/28	Konkapot IBA	4	M. Lynch#
Red Crossbill			
7/11, 25	C. Quabbin	1, 2	L. Therrien
Pine Siskin			
7/4, 10	P'town	1, 1	B. Nikula
7/5, 12	Clarksburg	2, 3	L. Therrien
7/12	Westport	1	M. Lynch#
7/16	Southwick	2	S. Kellogg
7/26	P.I.	1	R. Heil
Evening Grosbeak			
7/3, 25	C. Quabbin	3, 4	L. Therrien
7/9	Tolland	6	D. James

NORTHERN GANNETS ADRIFT BY DAVID LARSON

ABBREVIATIONS FOR BIRD SIGHTINGS

Taxonomic order is based on AOU checklist, Seventh edition, 42nd through 50th Supplements , as published in *The Auk* 117: 847-58 (2000); 119:897-906 (2002); 120:923-32 (2003); 121:985-95 (2004); 122:1026-31 (2005); 123:926-936 (2006); 124(3):1109–1115, 2007; 125(3):758–768, 2008; 126(3):705-714, 2009 (see <http://www.aou.org/checklist/north/index.php>).

Location-#	MAS Breeding Bird Atlas Block
ABC	Allen Bird Club
A.P.	Andrews Point, Rockport
A.Pd	Allens Pond, S. Dartmouth
B.	Beach
B.I.	Belle Isle, E. Boston
B.R.	Bass Rocks, Gloucester
BBC	Brookline Bird Club
BMB	Broad Meadow Brook, Worcester
C.B.	Crane Beach, Ipswich
CGB	Coast Guard Beach, Eastham
C.P.	Crooked Pond, Boxford
Cambr.	Cambridge
CCBC	Cape Cod Bird Club
Corp. B.	Corporation Beach, Dennis
Cumb. Farms	Cumberland Farms, Middleboro
DFWS	Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary
DWMA	Delaney WMA Stow, Bolton, Harvard
DWWS	Daniel Webster WS
E.P.	Eastern Point, Gloucester
F.E.	First Encounter Beach, Eastham
F.P.	Fresh Pond, Cambridge
F.Pk	Franklin Park, Boston
G40	Gate 40, Quabbin Res.
GMNWR	Great Meadows NWR
H.	Harbor
H.P.	Halibut Point, Rockport
HRWMA	High Ridge WMA, Gardner
I.	Island
IRWS	Ipswich River WS
L.	Ledge
MAS	Mass Audubon
M.P.	Millennium Park, W. Roxbury
M.V.	Martha's Vineyard
MAS	Mass. Audubon Society
MBWMA	Martin Burns WMA, Newbury
MNWS	Marblehead Neck WS
MSSF	Myles Standish State Forest, Plymouth
Mt.A.	Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambr.
NAC	Nine Acre Corner, Concord
Newbypt	Newburyport
ONWR	Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge
P.I.	Plum Island
Pd	Pond
P'town	Provincetown
Pont.	Pontoosuc Lake, Lanesboro
R.P.	Race Point, Provincetown
Res.	Reservoir
S.B.	South Beach, Chatham
S.N.	Sandy Neck, Barnstable
SRV	Sudbury River Valley
SSBC	South Shore Bird Club
TASL	Take A Second Look Boston Harbor Census
WBWS	Wellfleet Bay WS
WMWS	Wachusett Meadow WS
Wompatuck SP	Hingham, Cohassett, Scituate, and Norwell
Worc.	Worcester

Other Abbreviations	
ad	adult
b	banded
br	breeding
dk	dark (morph)
f	female
fl	fledgling
imm	immature
juv	juvenile
lt	light (morph)
m	male
max	maximum
migr	migrating
n	nesting
ph	photographed
pl	plumage
pr	pair
S	summer (1S = 1st summer)
v.o.	various observers
W	winter (2W = second winter)
yg	young
#	additional observers

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE BIRD SIGHTINGS TO *BIRD OBSERVER*

Sightings for any given month must be reported in writing by the eighth of the following month, and may be submitted by postal mail or e-mail. Send written reports to Bird Sightings, Robert H. Stymeist, 36 Lewis Avenue, Arlington, MA 02474-3206. Include name and phone number of observer, common name of species, date of sighting, location, number of birds, other observer(s), and information on age, sex, and morph (where relevant). For instructions on e-mail submission, visit: <http://massbird.org/birdobserver/sightings/>.

Species on the Review List of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee (indicated by an asterisk [*] in the Bird Reports), as well as species unusual as to place, time, or known nesting status in Massachusetts, should be reported promptly to the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, c/o Marjorie Rines, Massachusetts Audubon Society, South Great Road, Lincoln, MA 01773, or by e-mail to <marj@mrines.com>.

ABOUT THE COVER

Downy Woodpecker

The Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*) is North America's smallest and most adaptable woodpecker, inhabiting a broad spectrum of altitudinal and floristically different environments—almost any place with trees. This largely black-and-white species, which flies with the characteristic woodpecker undulating flight, is separated from other small black-and-white woodpeckers by its white back and underparts. It is separated from the similarly plumaged Hairy Woodpecker by its proportionally smaller bill, smaller size, and dark barring on its outer tail feathers. The Hairy Woodpecker also has a higher pitched, stronger call. Male Downies have a red nape patch, and juveniles of both sexes typically have a reddish cap. The Downy Woodpecker is a polytypic species, with six to eight subspecies recognized by taxonomists. Geographic variation in this widely distributed species follows Bergmann's Rule, with birds at high elevations and latitudes being larger. Downies in the western interior have much reduced spotting on the wings. Downy Woodpeckers are more closely related to two western woodpecker species, Nuttall's and Ladder-backed, than to the similarly plumaged Hairy Woodpecker.

Downy Woodpeckers are more or less sedentary and breed from nontundra Alaska across Canada to Newfoundland, and south through Florida, Texas, and southern California. Although nonmigratory, they sometimes experience long-distance dispersal. In Massachusetts, the species is considered a common resident.

Downy Woodpeckers are monogamous and may remain with the same mate for more than a year. They are widespread in deciduous forests and woodlands, less abundant in pure coniferous stands. Having adapted well to human settlement, they utilize orchards, parks, and residential areas, where they sometimes cause damage to houses by pecking holes in wooden shingles. Calls, given by both sexes, include a broad repertoire of *kiks*, *piks*, *checks*, *kweeks*, *chicks*, and whinnies. Both sexes drum with an average of about seventeen beats per second in bouts that last one to two seconds. The functions of drumming may include territorial defense, advertising for mates, strengthening of pair bonds, or acting as a contact call. Both sexes defend their territory: males against males, females against females. Both also have a threat display that involves a raised crest, fanned tail, and waving of the bill. The courtship flight includes exaggerated wing beats and moth-like flight, often with the pair flying in tandem.

Downy Woodpeckers excavate nesting and roosting cavities. Either bird selects the site, often in a dead stub of a living tree. Cavities take about two weeks to excavate. The eggs rest on a bed of wood chips. The average clutch is five white eggs, the color typical of most cavity-nesting birds. Both parents develop brood patches, and both sexes incubate for the twelve days until hatching, the male at night with shared duties during the day. Brooding of the young is nearly constant for the first four days after hatching, with males brooding at night and taking turns with the female during the day. Fecal sacs are removed from the nest. Males feed the young

more than the females during the three weeks to fledging and for three weeks after fledging. At hatching, the chicks are naked and helpless with eyes closed. Chicks have translucent eyelids and can sense light changes through them. When an adult blocks the light from the cavity opening when returning with food, it elicits a food-begging response from the chicks.

Downy Woodpeckers are active foragers, hitching up tree surfaces using their stiff tail feathers as a prop. They glean surfaces, probe bark, or excavate shallow prey. They prey largely on invertebrates, fruit, seeds, and sap. On average, about three-quarters of their diet consists of animal prey that includes beetles, weevils, ants, and caterpillars. Among plants, poison ivy berries are commonly taken. Goldenrod gall fly larvae are a common prey. Males tend to forage on the smaller branches in trees, with females foraging on larger branches and trunks, probably an artifact of male dominance (when males are removed, females forage in the more typically male-dominated parts of trees). Tapping substrates with the bill is apparently associated with locating subsurface prey. In winter, Downy Woodpeckers commonly join mixed-species foraging flocks and are frequently observed at bird feeders, particularly those with suet.

Downy Woodpeckers are preyed upon by raptors, and their nests are predated by squirrels and snakes. They are sometimes victimized by lightning strikes of their cavity trees. Populations may be limited by the availability of suitable cavity locations. In some cases, forest clearing has been beneficial for Downy Woodpeckers because they do well in successional and edge habitats. However, clear felling and even-age monoculture practices are obviously not beneficial. This species appears to be increasing in some areas and declining in others, but its broad geographic and altitudinal range and adaptability to human settlement make its population secure.

William E. Davis, Jr.

About the Cover Artist: Julie Zickefoose

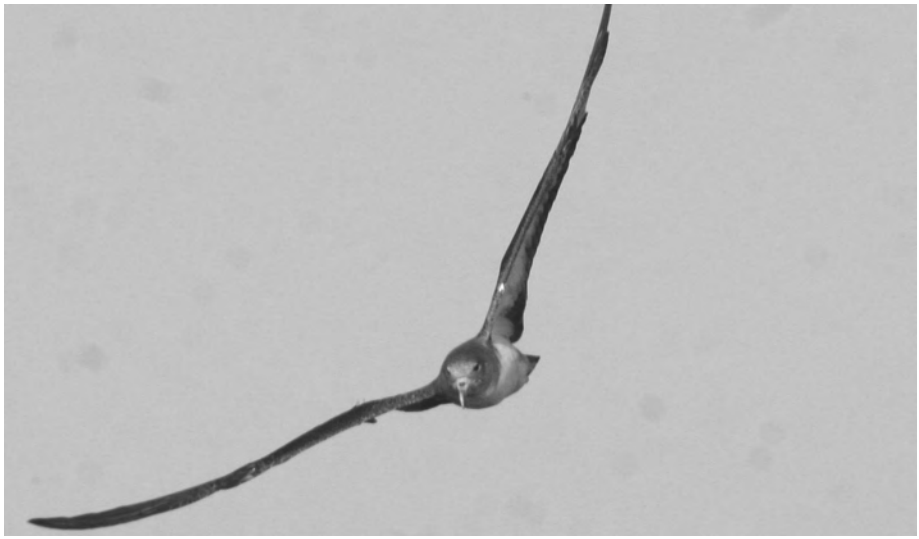
Julie Zickefoose began as an illustrator of natural history subjects in 1976, when she was a college freshman. A six-year stint as a field biologist with The Nature Conservancy's Connecticut Chapter proved a strong motivator both to learn more about ecosystems and to go back to drawing as a career of sorts. (Drawing was easier, and the pay was better.) Along the way, Julie began to write essays about birds and animals, and writing slowly came to the forefront of her interests. Since 1986, *Bird Watcher's Digest* has been the major print venue for her writing as well as her illustrations, and her husband, Editor Bill Thompson III, maintains that it has nothing to do with favoritism. Julie has also contributed short commentaries, mostly critter stories, to National Public Radio's afternoon news program "All Things Considered."

Julie's first book of illustrated essays, *Letters from Eden*, was published in 2006. Her current book, a memoir about birds, is due out from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt in 2010, but first she has to finish the paintings, so you never know.

Julie and her family live in Whipple, Ohio, in a ranch house topped by a forty-two-foot birdwatching tower (Bill's idea).

AT A GLANCE

October 2009



WAYNE R. PETERSEN

No problem identifying the October mystery bird, right? Since it has its wings cast upward in an obvious dihedral profile, Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, Swainson's Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, or even Golden Eagle might spring to mind as possibilities. After taking more than a glance, however, certain photographic details reveal some problems with these initial impressions.

An obvious coloration anomaly is the mystery bird's white underparts, which apparently extend from the neck to the belly. This coloration eliminates Turkey Vulture and Golden Eagle, both of which are dark below. Other details seen on the bird's left wing are white wing-linings and dark trailing edges. These features, the appearance of pure white underparts, and an absence of a dusky wrist mark on the underside of the wings remove Rough-legged Hawk as a candidate. They would seem to point to a Swainson's Hawk in the light morph as the correct identification. But, wait, there's something wrong with this picture!

What's going on with the mystery bird's head and bill? A close look reveals what looks like a large opening right above an obviously pale bill. Although a light morph Swainson's Hawk would have a white face and a yellow cere above a relatively small hooked beak, there would never be the appearance of a large single opening above the bill. Relatively few bird species exhibit this unusual feature. Most notable among those that do are members of the Order *Procellariiformes*, or tubenoses (e.g., petrels,

shearwaters, storm-petrels, etc.). Tubenoses have two distinct tubes (i.e., nares) located side by side on their upper mandible which, when viewed head-on, look like those of the bird in the photograph. Once it is determined that the mystery bird is a seabird and not a raptor, the identification is considerably simplified.

The long slim wings and obvious large size of the bird remove any of the petrels or storm-petrels regularly occurring in Massachusetts waters. The white underparts eliminate Sooty Shearwater, leaving only Cory's or Greater Shearwater as possibilities. The smoky appearance of the face, nape, and sides of the neck combined with the pale bill identify the bird as a Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*). The slightly smaller Greater Shearwater would have a dark cap and white sides to the face and neck.

Cory's Shearwaters are irregularly common to abundant summer visitors in the waters south of Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard. They occasionally range farther north into the southern Gulf of Maine in considerable numbers as they did in the summer of 2009. The author photographed the pictured Cory's Shearwater at Stellwagen Bank in August 2009.

Wayne R. Petersen

From MassWildlife: Over 10,000 Acres of Wildlife Land Protected in FY 09

Over 10,280 acres of fish and wildlife habitat in 42 towns were protected for wildlife and the public by the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) in the past fiscal year (July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009).

These wildlife lands will be added to the list of over 170,000 acres currently under the care and control of MassWildlife, most of which are Wildlife Management Areas (WMA). Most properties this year were purchased outright (in fee); however from an acreage perspective, approximately 75% of lands protected in FY 09 were via conservation easements that restrict development and allow public access for wildlife-related recreation but still leave the land in the hands of the original owner. All lands protected are open to fishing, hunting, trapping, wildlife observation, boating, hiking, and other wildlife-related recreation. A listing of the FY 2009 properties by town can be found at <http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/habitat/land/land_acquisitions.htm>.

Perhaps the most notable acquisition is the 158-acre AD Makepeace (ADM) transaction in Plymouth and Wareham. It created two new WMAs, Halfway Pond and Maple Springs, but more importantly paved the way for future protection of thousands of acres of ADM property. Much of this property is considered by MassWildlife's Natural Heritage Program to be some of the most valuable rare and endangered species habitat in the eastern part of the state. This complex project involves the ADM Co., local municipalities, non-profits/land trusts, and the Commonwealth, and under options will span several decades.

AT A GLANCE

WAYNE R. PETERSEN

Can you identify the bird in this photograph?
Identification will be discussed in next issue's AT A GLANCE.

BIRDERS!

Duck Stamps are not just for hunters.

By purchasing an annual Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation ("Duck") Stamp, you contribute to land acquisition and conservation.

Duck Stamps are available for $15 from U.S. Post Offices, staffed National Wildlife Refuges (where it serves as an annual pass), select sporting goods stores, and at Mass Audubon's Joppa Flats Education Center in Newburyport.

Display your Duck Stamp and show that birders support conservation too.

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