

des-Caps, *Montmorency*, (H. Mead) were considered late migrants.

Exotics

Two Chinese Geese summered at Laval (*fide* JPP), while the Greylag Goose reported last spring at Î. Bourdon, *Repentigny*, was last seen June 2 (ND, GS). A Chukar at Saint-Basile-le-Grand July 21 was found dead the next day (SD). A Ringed Turtle-Dove was attempting to mate with a Mourning Dove at LeGardeur, *Montréal*, June 6 (R.Dion). A Eur. Goldfinch appeared at a Montreal feeder July 15–18 (*fide* JPP), while a Nutmeg Mannikin was also at a feeder at Saint-Norbert, *Victoriaville*, early July (CR, C. Goyette).

Addendum

A N. Harrier was observed at Kuujuaq May 7 (PBab), farther north than its known breeding range.

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New England Region

WAYNE R. PETERSEN

Weather for June and July was marked by a warm, dry start and a cool, wet finish. After a very warm early June, temperatures in the Boston area from mid-month through much of July proved to be slightly cooler than usual. In addition to the coolness of July, the month broke the tradition of dryness that has prevailed in New England over the past several summer seasons, as well as the months since January, and actually ended up being the wettest July in the Boston area since 1988 and the twelfth wettest in 126 years. Hurricane *Bertha*, whose remnants passed just west of Boston July 13, deposited 3.36 inches of rain in Bean Town, which was the greatest single July day total since 1921.

Among the highlights in New England this summer were a long-awaited return in numbers of tubenoses to the inshore waters of Massachusetts; a new northernmost continental record for "Great White" Heron; indications of a possible decline in the Regional breeding status of the Cattle Egret; the return of a Black-tailed Gull to Rhode Island for the second consecutive year; a first Connecticut record for Gull-billed Tern; a problematic and temporarily (?) indeterminate large swift species in Massachusetts; and first Regional breeding records for Blue Grosbeak in Connecticut and Clay-colored Sparrow in Maine.

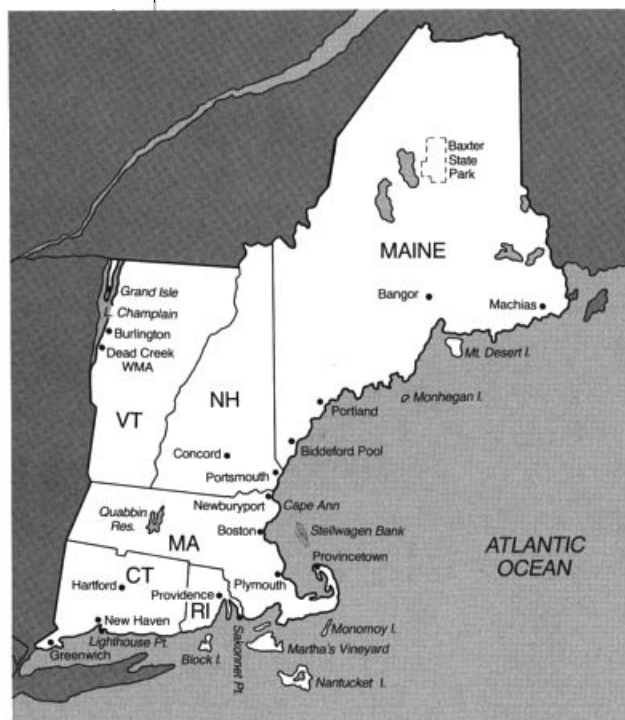
Abbreviations: A.S.N.H. (*Audubon Society of New Hampshire*); H.B.S.P. (*Hammanassett Beach State Park*); M.V. (*Martha's Vineyard, MA*); M.A.R.C. (*Massachusetts Avian Record Committee*); M.D.F.W. (*Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife*); N. Monomoy I. (*Monomoy N.W.R., MA*); Plum I. (*Parker River N.W.R., MA*).

Loons to Gannets

Always uncommon in New England in summer,

single Red-throated Loons were present at Plum I., July 27 (RH) and N. Monomoy I., July 28 (VL). Significantly more unusual was a carefully described Pacific Loon at Rye Ledge, NH June 14–20 (DA, DE, SM, PH). The identification of this species in non-breeding plumage in summer, is often controversial; however, this individual was in breeding plumage and apparently showed no evidence of the conspicuous white flank patches said to be diagnostic of Arctic Loon. Twenty-four migrating Com. Loons at Provincetown, MA June 1 (BN) was a reminder of how late some loons apparently wait before heading for interior n. lakes. With the continuing decline of breeding Pied-billed Grebes throughout most of New England, a report of a pair with seven young at Calais, VT June 17 (M. Fullerton, *fide* JP) was gratifying, especially since the only other Regional reports were of single grebes from 4 other localities. Tardy (or summering?) Red-necked Grebes included singles at Adison, VT June 10 (B. Gilbert, *fide* JP) and N. Monomoy I., July 18 (E. Pierce, *fide* B.O.) and two throughout the period at E. Gloucester, MA (J. Soucy, *fide* B.O.).

An apparent increase in the local abundance of sand lance (*Anmodytes* sp.) resulted in a dramatic and corresponding increase in the numbers of tubenoses and whales found on the inshore fishing grounds off Massachusetts. Exemplary of this phenomenon was a Stellwagen Bank count of 790 Greater Shearwaters, 1150 Sooty Shearwaters, three Manx Shearwaters, and 1200 Wilson's Storm-Petrels July 18 (RH). Stellwagen



Bank Marine Sanctuary has not witnessed numbers of shearwaters and Wilson's Storm-Petrels like these in summer since 1988. Beginning the Fourth of July weekend and continuing throughout the period, hundreds of Greater and Sooty shearwaters were a regular feature on nearly all Massachusetts whale-watching trips to Stellwagen Bank and Jeffreys Ledge. A robust tally of shearwaters including 600 Greater and 600 Sooty, along with >1500 Wilson's Storm-Petrels approximately 20 mi s.e. of Chatham, MA June 29 (SH), was somewhat more expected in the vicinity of the Great South Channel. Species normally associated with the warmer waters s. of Martha's Vineyard were only marginally reported, the most notable being two Audubon's Shearwaters at Cox's Ledge s. of Block I., RI July 31 (C. Avenengo, *vide* DE).

Errant Am. White Pelicans appeared at S. Dartmouth, MA July 12–31 (B. Eliason, v.o.) and Niantic Harbor, CT July 23 (MS, DP). A probable Brown Pelican was noted flying S far offshore at N. Hampton Beach S.P., NH June 13 (PH). Off the Massachusetts coast, several higher-than-usual early summer counts of 15–20 N. Gannets may have reflected a greater-than-usual abundance of bait fish.

Herons to Waterfowl

If reports in recent years are at all indicative of their current status, breeding Am. Bitterns must be all but extirpated from s. New England. Only slightly more optimistic were reports of Least Bitterns from only 3 localities, the most notable being Cotuit on Cape Cod, MA June 5 (S&EM). Unquestionably the most remarkable wader report of the season was a white-morph Great Blue Heron first noted at Nauset Marsh, Eastham, MA at least as early as July 9 (K. Marty, D. Bessum, ph., v.o.). This report not only represents the first definitive record of the "Great White" Heron for the Region, but what may also be the northernmost record of this morph in North America. Previous extreme extralimital records include birds at Pymatuning L., PA May 14, 1938, and Long Island, NY Sept. 3–Oct. 15, 1949 (*vide* Bull, 1964, *Birds of the New York Area*). Because the data generated by the 1994–1995 United States Fish and Wildlife Service Atlantic Coast colonial waterbird census is currently unavailable, the reported numbers of breeding herons and egrets in all of the New England states must be viewed as incomplete. In Rhode Island, wader numbers were thought to be stable when compared with last season's totals (*vide* DE), and in Massachusetts, a wader pair count from Kettle I., Manchester, June 1 (SP) included 40 Great Egrets, 150 Snowy Egrets, 15 Little Blue Herons, and 60 Glossy



A remarkable find for New England was this bird, thought to be the "Great White" race of Great Blue Heron from the region of Florida and the Caribbean (rather than just an albinistic Great Blue), present on outer Cape Cod, Massachusetts, in July 1996. Photograph/Roger S. Everett.

Ibises. A similar effort at Eagle I., Salem, MA June 17 (SP) produced 4 pairs of Cattle Egrets among 50 pairs of Black-crowned Night-Herons. At Stratton I., ME, 150 pairs of Glossy Ibises was the highest total since 1986, and a count of >56 ibises at N. Monomoy I., July 7 (BN) was the highest count ever for Cape Cod. In contrast, there has been a total absence of breeding Cattle Egrets at Stratton I. for the past 2 years (*vide* JD). Recalling that last year this species disappeared as a breeder from L. Champlain and was described as "becoming rare" in Connecticut begs the question of whether this alien egret is "maxing out" in New England. Out of place can only describe a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron that daily fed on earthworms on a lawn at Northbridge, MA June 1–29 (D. Morus, *vide* B.O.). A wader thought to be a White-faced Ibis was seen and well described among Glossy Ibises at the Stratton I. rookery June 6–18 (L. Tanino *et al.*, *vide* JD). If accepted by the Maine Records Committee, this would furnish a first record for the Pine Tree State.

Of dubious distinction was the first fully documented Maine nesting record of Mute Swan at Kittery (BC, LB) at a location where the species reportedly also nested last year. Practically as notable was a Brant reportedly seen on the Connecticut R., in Bloomfield, VT June 27 (*vide* JP). Uncommon, though apparently now regular, were nesting N. Shovelers at Ft. Fairfield, Aroostook, ME (*vide* JD) and Am. Wigeons at Grand Isle, VT (D. Hoag, *vide* JP). Unusual sea duck reports included two Com. Eiders in Long Island Sound at Old Saybrook, CT June 7 (H. Golet); 25 Black Scoters at M.V., June 26–28 (VL) and a single at Stamford, CT July 18–30 (P. Dugan); and a White-winged Scoter inland at Turner's Falls, MA July 18 (H. Allen, *vide* SK). Always scarce in summer, Buffleheads were noted at Little Compton, RI July 4 (DE) and Newburyport, MA July 6 (M. Lynch, *vide* B.O.). Perhaps most enigmatic of all

the waterfowl reports was an apparently juv. Red-breasted Merganser that put in a brief appearance at Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, MA July 24 (RS). This duck is a rare and irregular nester throughout most of the Region except n. Maine, where it is only slightly more frequent.

Raptors

This year's scattering of Black Vulture reports included one n. to Bethel, VT June 1 (M. Choukas, *vide* JP) and singles at M.V., June 17–18 (VL) and Sheffield, MA July 22 (SK). In Massachusetts, state wildlife officials were optimistic that this year's nesting Osprey total "might surpass 300 pairs;" officials also noted that there were 10 territorial Bald Eagle pairs in the Bay State, 8 of which successfully fledged 14 chicks (*vide* M.D.F.W.). Similar good news was received from Connecticut, where 2 new Bald Eagle nests were discovered on the Connecticut R., which brings that state's total to 3 nesting pairs. In Worcester, MA, an urban breeding pair of Red-tailed Hawks successfully fledged two chicks from a window ledge nest site (*Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch Newsletter*).

The continued consolidation of n. New England into the breeding range of Merlins was reinforced again this year by probable nesting records at no fewer than 4 Maine localities (*vide* JD) and suspect New Hampshire reports from Pittsburg June 5 (EN, *vide* RQ) and Conway June 29 (RQ). Similar to last summer, an early migrant (or dispersing young?) was noted at Plum I., July 28 (SA, WP). Peregrine Falcons similarly showed signs of continued increase. Two new Massachusetts nests at Boston and Fall River bring the Bay State total to 4 pairs, which this season fledged ten chicks (M.D.F.W.). In Vermont, 8 nesting pairs out of 12 territorial pairs fledged 17 young (*vide* J. Corser).

Rails to Shorebirds

A King Rail, always rare n. of Massachusetts, was seen and heard calling at Scarborough, ME June 11–July 7 (LB). Slightly less uncommon, but nonetheless unusual on Cape Cod, was a bird at W. Harwich June 1–July 17 (BN). Only 4 confirmed breeding reports of Com. Moorhens Regionwide (2 in Maine, and one each in Massachusetts and Connecticut) underscores the increasing rarity of this marsh bird, just as does the paucity of reports of Pied-billed Grebes and Am. Bitterns.

Breeding Piping Plovers continue to respond to the various recovery efforts taking place on their behalf. This season, nearly 450 pairs nested on Massachusetts beaches (*vide* SH), and in Rhode Island the species was described as having its "best year ever" (*vide*

DE). Noteworthy among reports of other New England shorebird breeding species were nesting Am. Oystercatchers at Stratton I., ME for the 3rd consecutive year (*fide* JD), and a single bird at Seabrook, NH July 9 (G. Mitchell) for one of only very few state records; a robust tally of 26 Upland Sandpipers at Hanscom Airport, Bedford, MA July 29 (RL); a Willet 20 mi inland at Sunkhaze N.W.R., Milford, *Penobscot*, ME June 11 (J. Markowsky, *fide* JD); and a ♀ Wilson's Phalarope at a potential breeding situation at Scarborough, ME June 11 or 12 (*fide* JD).

Arctic-breeding shorebirds present in the Region during June are often regarded as enigmatic. Indeed, differentiating between tardy north-bound migrants, early south-bound migrants, and lingering non-breeders is often difficult. Nonetheless, a careful examination of the plumage of such early summer shorebirds, particularly when combined with an understanding of their migration timetables, can go a long way towards answering the question. Some Regional examples of each of these different groups this season very likely include the following records: In the tardy north-bound category probably belonged a Solitary Sandpiper at Northampton, MA June 1 (SK); a Ruddy Turnstone at Rye, NH June 14 (DA); 35 Red Knots at N. Monomoy I., June 21 (BN); 100 Semipalmated Sandpipers, a Pectoral Sandpiper and 35 Short-billed Dowitchers at N. Monomoy I., June 6 (BN); and eight White-rumped Sandpipers at N. Monomoy I., June 26 (BN). In the early south-bound group undoubtedly were a Lesser Yellowlegs, two Hudsonian Godwits, a Least Sandpiper, and 60 Short-billed Dowitchers at N. Monomoy I., June 26 (BN), and a Whimbrel the same day at S. Wellfleet, MA (R. Prescott, *fide* B.O.). Falling in the lingerer/non-breeder category were 150 Black-bellied Plovers at N. Monomoy throughout June (BN) and a Dunlin at the same locality June 21 & 26 (BN). The Region's only Curlew Sandpiper at N. Monomoy I., June 23 (J. Smith, *fide* B.O.) practically belonged in this last category as well.

High-water conditions at Plum I. were responsible for the notably few Stilt Sandpipers and Long-billed Dowitchers there. More significantly, on Cape Cod the great numbers of shorebirds that formerly roosted at high tide at N. Monomoy I. are now increasingly roosting at S. Beach, Chatham, where they tend to be more dispersed and are seemingly being under counted and under reported in recent years. Otherwise, shorebird counts were seasonally typical, the most notable being 850 Lesser Yellowlegs and 8500 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Newburyport, MA July 28 (WP);

482 Whimbrels at N. Monomoy I., July 28 (BN); and two Marbled Godwits at S. Beach, Chatham, July 18 (E. Pierce, *fide* B.O.), as well as 125 Hudsonian Godwits (H. Ferguson) and 2000 Red Knots (W. Miller) at the same locality July 28.

Jaegers to Skimmer

An unidentified jaeger at Ipswich, MA June 2 (C. Ralph, *fide* B.O.) and two Parasitic Jaegers in Vineyard Sound, MA June 4 (AJ) were the last of the northward flight, and by July only three southward-bound jaegers had been reported from Stellwagen Bank (*fide* B.O.). Of greater note was a well-described Great Skua seen from the *M.V. Bluenose*, approximately 3 hours out of Bar Harbor, ME June 20 (R. Gutierrez, *fide* JD). Massachusetts' Laughing Gull population of 685 pairs was down approximately 17% from 828 pairs last year (*fide* SH), although no explanation seems apparent. Allowing for duplication, approximately six imm. Little Gulls were noted in New Hampshire and Massachusetts, including observations of two at once at N. Hampton Beach, NH July 14 (SM) and Lynn, MA June 12–15 (J. Q., *fide* B.O.). For the 2nd consecutive summer, a **Black-tailed Gull**, this year in full ad. plumage, appeared at Middletown, RI July 25–31 (W. Mathews, v.o., *fide* DE). The gull's whereabouts from when it was last seen in mid-January until July remains a mystery. A scattering of four Lesser Black-backed Gulls in Massachusetts (*fide* B.O.) was about average; however, a gull described as a Herring x Great Black-backed hybrid at Lynn, MA June 18 (JQ, *fide* B.O.) was less typical. "Unprecedented" was the word used to describe an ad. Black-legged Kittiwake seen at H.B.S.P., Madison, CT July 17 (J. Gaskell, *fide* GH) and reported to the Avian Records Committee of Connecticut (*fide* GH).

Two Gull-billed Terns at Greenwich, CT June 15 (J. Bova, M. Sampson, *fide* GH), if accepted by the state records committee, would represent a long-overdue first confirmed Connecticut record. Inexplicable best describes a bird briefly seen passing overhead in the fog and reported as a Royal Tern at Moosehorn N.W.R., Baring, *Washington*, ME July 3 (C. Duncan, J. Dunn, *fide* JD). Other Royal Terns slightly farther north than usual included one at Wells, ME June 4 (*fide* JD) and singles at Hampton Harbor, NH July 10 (RQ) and Seabrook, NH July 17 (G. Mitchell, *fide* RQ). The season's only Sandwich Tern report came from S. Monomoy I., July 10 (J. Megyesi *et al.*, *fide* B.O.). Nesting tern figures for Massachusetts suggest that Bay State populations have been more or less stable for the past several years, although this year's 1676 pairs of Roseate Terns showed a

13% increase over last season's total (*fide* SH). A Com. Tern inland at Egremont, *Berkshire*, MA (*fide* SK) in midsummer was notable, and at Popasquash I., L. Champlain, VT, Com. Terns apparently sustained heavy nesting mortality due to predation pressure from Black-crowned Night-Herons (*fide* JP). Counts of 90 Arctic Terns in first-summer (i.e. "portlandica") plumage at S. Beach, Chatham, July 6 (VL), and 30 July 14 (BN) were higher than in most recent summers. The variability in numbers from year to year of first-summer Arctic Terns in the n. hemisphere, an age class normally summering in the winter quarters, is somewhat mysterious. The presence of two Forster's Terns in breeding plumage at Plum I., June 2 (SP) and another July 28 (WP) suggested that the species probably nested there again—an event first confirmed at the site in 1991. The only recognizable seabird fallout from hurricane *Bertha*, whose path crossed the Region July 13, was a Sooty Tern at Old Lyme, CT July 14 (DP, *fide* GH) and another found dead at Eastham, MA July 16 (B. Annett). A failed nesting attempt by a pair of Black Skimmers at W. Haven, CT (P. Fusco, *fide* GH) represented only the 2nd-ever such effort in the Nutmeg State. A similar first attempt in 1982 was also unsuccessful.

Pigeons to Waxwings

For the 2nd consecutive year and the 2nd time ever, a **Band-tailed Pigeon** appeared in Massachusetts, this year at Nantucket I., June 22–25 (F. Pease, v.o., *fide* B.O.). The mechanics of vagrancy to n.e. North America for this strong-flying columbid remain somewhat puzzling, especially because the birds seem to show up at all times of year. Considerably more regular was a White-winged Dove at Provincetown, MA June 23 (and apparently earlier) to July 4 (N. Champlin, ph.). The always elusive Long-eared Owl appeared at possible nesting locations in Connecticut during June at Woodbury and Roxbury (A. Dimmitt, R. Naylor, *fide* GH). An errant Chuck-will's-widow was found at Post Office Square in downtown Boston June 18 (N. Smith, *fide* B.O.), and another slightly less anomalous individual was heard and taped at S. Wellfleet, MA July 22–27 (*fide* R. Prescott). The trend of declining Whip-poor-wills appears to be continuing, at least in Massachusetts. This year's high tally in the annually censused Myles Standish S.F., Plymouth, was 20 June 6 (G. d'Entremont, *fide* B.O.). This falls short of last year's record low of 22 and further departs from a yearly average of 43 birds since 1989. The recent annual occurrence of Rufous Hummingbirds in New England was manifested this season by ad. males at Pomfret, VT July 5 (P. Gilbreath,

v.t., *fide* JP) and Fairfield, ME mid-July–July 28 (D. Mairs, PV, DA, *fide* JD).

SA Without question, the most unusual and problematic report of the season was of a large, dark, forked-tailed swift seen and photographed at Cape Pogue, Chappaquiddick I., M.V., July 14 (G. Daniels, A. Keith, V. Laux, P. Alden *et al.*). Discovered the morning after the passage of hurricane *Bertha*, a storm whose track included the Greater Antilles, the bird apparently showed many of the characteristics of a Black Swift, a polytypic *Cypseloides* species that maintains a Caribbean subspecies (*C. n. niger*). Based upon body and wing shape, tail configuration, an apparently dark throat, and at least one observer's impression of white frosting on the forehead, some observers were convinced that the swift could only be a Black Swift, most probably of Caribbean origin. Perhaps not surprisingly, a 1966 sight report of several large, dark swifts seen in the eye of a hurricane over Florida's Dry Tortugas was also thought to pertain to *C. n. niger* (Robertson & Woolfenden, 1992, *Florida Bird Species*). Observers watching the Massachusetts swift later the same day, however, failed to note white about the forehead and lores and had the impression that the bird's shape, proportions, and behavior were more like those of a swift in the genus *Apus*, possibly *A. apus*, the wide-ranging Com. Swift of the Old World, for which there is an accepted Alaskan vagrant record and a questionable sight record from Barbados (A.O.U. Checklist, 1983). Based upon the difficulty of distinguishing certain large swift species, especially in this case the Caribbean race of the Black Swift, as well as the disparity in the impressions of the various experienced observers who saw the M.V. bird, at the moment the report is most conservatively categorized as "a large swift, almost certainly belonging to the genus *Cypseloides* or *Apus*." Detailed original notes and photos of the swift are being circulated among a number of authorities, whose collective knowledge will hopefully shed further light on the correct identification of this remarkable vagrant. In any event, the M.A.R.C. really has its work cut out on this one!

Of interest among only 3 Regionwide reports of Red-headed Woodpeckers was the traditional breeding pair at Sherborn, MA (E. Taylor, *fide* B.O.) and a wanderer at Appledore I., Isles of Shoals, NH June 8 (DH). An unconfirmed report of nesting Red-bellied Woodpeckers at Harpswell, ME (*fide* JD), would be a first for that state, but would not be surprising considering this species' spread throughout the Region. During Vermont's breeding bird atlas period (1976–1981), only 4 pairs of Black-backed Woodpeckers were confirmed throughout the state. This year, a coordinated study of these boreal woodpeckers in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom turned up 18 nests (*fide* JP)! Are conditions dramatically improving there or is this figure more reflective of the species' true density in that area?

Two singing Yellow-bellied Flycatchers at Mt. Greylock, MA in early summer (*fide* SK) maintained a tradition of *possible* breeding in a state and location where the species has never been conclusively proven to nest. Slightly less unusual, but still noteworthy, were two Alder Flycatchers at Smithfield, RI June 25 (BG, *fide* DE). Two Purple Martins and 260 Blue Jays at Provincetown, MA June 1 (BN) were indicative of the tail end of spring migration, but 10,000 Tree Swallows at Plum I., July 27 (RH) were clearly southward-bound.

The only Sedge Wren reports came from Maine, where a nest with young was located at Eden, Mt. Desert I., July 4 (C. Witt, J. Brink, A. Bacon, *fide* JD) and Vermont, where nesting was not specifically confirmed, at Ferrisburg June 30 (F. Pratt *et al.*) and Lake Hortonia (*fide* JP). In Rhode Island, breeding Wood Thrushes have apparently shown a steep decline since 1993 (DE) and, although the sample size is relatively small, a breeding bird census conducted annually since 1987 at Hale Reservation, Westwood, MA (R. Vernon *et al.*) this year recorded only one Wood Thrush in an area where the 10-year average is 9.6.

Vireos to Warblers

Always scarce in recent summers in w. Massachusetts, a White-eyed Vireo at Russell, Hampden, June 22–July 9 (SK) was noteworthy, and a tally of 10 Philadelphia Vireos at Pittsburg, NH June 20–24 (A&BD) was probably about as many as one can record in one place in summer anywhere in New England these days. On the Golden-winged Warbler front, Vermont had "plenty of reports in the Champlain Valley" (*fide* JP); New Hampshire had 2 reports (*fide* A.S.N.H.); Maine had a single report (LB, *fide* JD); e. Massachusetts had reports of birds from 4 localities, including a female paired with a Blue-winged Warbler (MR,

fide B.O.); and w. Massachusetts had no reports (*fide* SK). The situation is simply not improving for this one! Each interesting in its own way, a N. Parula in the Boston Public Garden June 19–July 3 (K. Hudson, *fide* B.O.) was decidedly out-of-place, and another at Scituate, RI June 17 (BG, *fide* DE) was at a new Ocean State locality for the species in summer. Non-breeding wanderers or very late migrants probably best describe a Black-throated Blue Warbler at Tiverton, RI June 1–20 (DE) and a Black-poll Warbler at Cummaquid, Barnstable, MA June 25 (S&EM, *fide* B.O.). Cerulean Warblers nested for the 2nd consecutive year at Pawtuckaway S.P., Nottingham, NH (SM, v.o.) and another bird n. of Massachusetts was at Kittery, ME June 2 (*fide* JD). A Prothonotary Warbler at Great Meadows N.W.R., Concord, MA June 8–15 (v.o., *fide* B.O.) is quite likely (?) the same unmated male first noted there in 1991 and recorded there almost annually since. Sixteen Worm-eating Warblers, and as many as 11 on one survey, in the Montgomery/Russell area of Hampden during June (SK) were testament to the increasing (?) presence of this species in the s. Connecticut R. valley of Massachusetts. Of six Yellow-breasted Chats throughout the Region, perhaps a bird at Biddeford, ME May–mid-June (*fide* JD) was the most intriguing.

Grosbeaks to Finches

Blue Grosbeaks made news by nesting at Windsor, CT June 29–July 15 (LB, v.o., *fide* GH) for the first-ever definitive breeding record in the Region. Interestingly, the Windsor site is the same area where Dickcissels first nested earlier in the spring. A singing ♂ Dickcissel remained at Windsor, Berkshire, MA June 9–July 11 (v.o., *fide* SK), but was apparently unable to find a mate. After tantalizing Regional observers for more than a decade, Clay-colored Sparrows were finally confirmed breeding successfully in New England! Kudos belong to Maine, where a singing male was discovered at Arundel, York, June 9 (LB, PV, ph. *fide* JD) and a nest with young was located July 6. The birds remained in the area until at least early August. In New Hampshire, single Clay-colored Sparrows were found at Haverhill June 27 (LB) and Lee June 8 (SM, DA). A long-term study of Grasshopper Sparrows and other Massachusetts grassland birds being conducted by the Massachusetts Audubon Society continues to produce interesting results. Most noteworthy this season was the presence of 115 singing ♂ Grasshopper Sparrows at Nashawena I. in Buzzards Bay June 7 (AJ), many of which were color-banded by summer's end.

Equally important, the Grasshopper Sparrow has recently been listed as an Endangered Species in the Bay State. Other significant sparrow discoveries included the presence of a singing Fox Sparrow at Pittsburg, NH June 6–8 (EN) and the confirmed nesting of Lincoln's Sparrows at Windsor, *Berkshire*, MA June 8–July 28 (*fide* SK). Regionally, Fox Sparrow has been confirmed as a casual breeder only in n. Maine, and Lincoln's Sparrow has been found nesting in Massachusetts fewer than 10 times since first being confirmed in 1981. A report of an out-of-season Lapland Longspur at N. Monomoy I., July 10 (E. Pierce, *fide* B.O.) is awaiting a decision by the M.A.R.C.

A flurry of Cape Cod, MA, Yellow-headed Blackbird reports included singles (same bird/birds?) at Provincetown June 16 (J. Alciadi, *fide* B.O.), Chatham June 19 (E. Gelsey, *fide* B.O.), and Otis A.F.B., Mashpee, June 20 (A. McCloud, *fide* B.O.). The always unpredictable Red Crossbill this year made an unusual appearance when two showed up at a feeder at Chappaquiddick I., M.V., July 16 (F&R Clay, *fide* B.O.). Slightly less surprising were two Evening Grosbeaks at a feeder at Essex, MA in late July (M. Hoar, *fide* B.O.).

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Hudson-Delaware Region

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This season featured hurricane *Bertha*, cool wet weather, and such red-letter rarities as Williamson's Sapsucker and Northern Lapwing.

Spring was already abnormally cool and wet; the Mother's Day storm of May 12 buried one Adirondack Bald Eagle nest under 9 inches of snow (PN). June and July continued cool and wet. In Philadelphia, it was the ninth wettest and the eleventh coldest July on record. Increased mortality was noted among monitored box-nesters, such as Tree Swallows and Eastern Bluebirds (RPY, VP, SK). "Buckets" of rain "really hammered" Ospreys, Peregrines, and Bald Eagles in the Adirondacks (JMCP, REL, PN). Beach-nesting terns, skimmers, and Piping Plovers were affected by rain at hatching time, and by hurricane *Bertha's* surge tides. Beach-nesters also suffered increasing predation by gulls, crows, and foxes, all flourishing in human vicinity. Marsh-nesters met a new scourge: jet-skis.

The cool spring extended migration later than normal. The Manitous, *Monroe*, NY banding station captured the migration's maximum of Swainson's Thrushes (16) and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers (13) June 1 (G. Jones), and a Bicknell's Thrush June 6 (R. McKinney).

Far more shorebirds than usual were still moving in early June, and more than usual apparently never went north. An exceptional flock of more than 6000—mostly Ruddy Turnstones with some Red Knots and Sanderlings—was over Green Lane Reservoir, *Montgomery*, Pennsylvania, around 8 p.m., June 2 (ph. J. Horne).

Seven Arctic-breeding species of shorebirds—including White-rumped, Stilt, and Western sandpipers, Red Knots, about 150 Short-billed Dowitchers, and six-plus Long-billeds—were at the Logan Tract June 19–23 (CDC, T. McGrath, JFS). Were the 100 Red Knots at Slaughter Beach, *Sussex*, DE June 22–23 (Philadelphia Birdline) unable to find enough horseshoe crab eggs to fuel their trip north? On the Lake Champlain shore between the two Chazy River mouths, *Clinton*, New York, five species of shorebirds, including an unusual Western Sandpiper, plus 25 Bonaparte's Gulls, were found between June 12–20 (B. Krueger, C. Mitchell).

Results from surveys of colonial waterbirds on Long Island and in coastal New Jersey in 1995 enable us to comment on medium-term trends in certain herons, gulls, and terns.

Abbreviations: Avalon (*barrier beach at Townsend's Inlet, Cape May, NJ*); Bombay Hook (*Bombay Hook N.W.R., near Smyrna, DE*); Braddock Bay (*Braddock Bay S. P. and vicinity, Monroe, NY*); Brig (*Brigantine Unit, Edward P. Forsythe N.W.R., Atlantic, NJ*); Derby Hill (*hawk watch at s.e. corner of L. Ontario, Oswego, NY*); Jamaica Bay (*Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, New York City*); Little Creek (*Little Creek Wildlife Area, near Dover, Kent, DE*); Logan Tract (*unit of Ted Harvey Conservation Area s. of Kitt's Hummock, DE*); N.Y.D.E.C. (*New York Department of Environmental Conservation*); Port Mahon (*marshes and bay shore east of Little Creek, Kent, DE*).

