

Northern Mockingbird about 150 km n. of Lebel-sur-Quévillon in early Jun was unexpected so far north (M. Poulin). Bohemian Waxwings still made the news this summer; a flock of 12 was found at Brisay 3 Jun, but the ultimate proof of breeding in the Region is still awaited (RC, JFS).

Extralimital warblers included a male Blue-winged Warbler that stopped at Bromont 16 Jun (BH), a singing male Prairie Warbler also at Bromont 8-13 Jun (JM. Béliveau, m. ob.), a Worm-eating Warbler on Mount Mégantic 5 Jun (K. Clark), and a Yellow-breasted Chat at Wakefield 24 Jul (*vide* DT). Two Vesper Sparrows at Carleton 4 Jun were considered rare for the Gaspésie region (R. Caissy). Le Conte's Sparrows were doing extremely well in the Témiscamingue region, as shown by counts of 16 at Fugèreville 23 Jul, 6 at Saint-Eugène-de-Guigues 22 Jul, and 2 at Notre-Dame-du-Nord 29 Jun (JF), but a count of 181 individuals in the s. James Bay region 21-26 Jul was outstanding (MR, FS, BJ, LR). Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were also surprisingly abundant in the same area, with 422 individuals counted mostly in Cabbage Willow Bay and Boatswain Bay (MR, FS, BJ, LR). According to these observers, several thousand birds were probably nesting there. Two recently-fledged birds on Île aux Fermiers near Montréal in late Jul provided a long-awaited and definitive breeding record for this site, where the sparrow has showed up annually for more than two decades (J. Perras et al.). Single White-crowned Sparrows at Sorel 18 Jun (C. Geoffroy) and at Sacré-Cœur-de-Marie, near Thetford Mines 5-7 Jul (L. Lemoine) were well s. of their breeding range.

A pair whose both members were carefully identified as Western Meadowlarks nested successfully at Saint-Eugène-de-Guigues, Témiscamingue 8-22 Jul, raising at least 2 young (JF, ph.). One of the highlights of the summer was the discovery of the first nests ever reported in the Region for the **Orchard Oriole**. One was discovered 25 Jun at Saint-Armand, where 3 young were successfully fledged 3 Jul (JG. Papineau et al., m. ob.). A second nest was discovered at Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Montréal 26 Jun, a mere 24 hours later; 4 young left this nest 29 Jun (B. Barnhurst, R. Perreault, m. ob.). In addition, an ad. male was seen at Cap Tourmente 6 Jun (R. Lepage, *vide* JM. Giroux), and an apparent juv. at Saint-Hubert 28 Jul (R. Belhumeur). The Baltimore Oriole was reported from several localities in Gaspésie throughout Jun, and breeding was finally confirmed at Restigouche 2 Jul, a first for this region (C. Pitre).

ADDENDUM

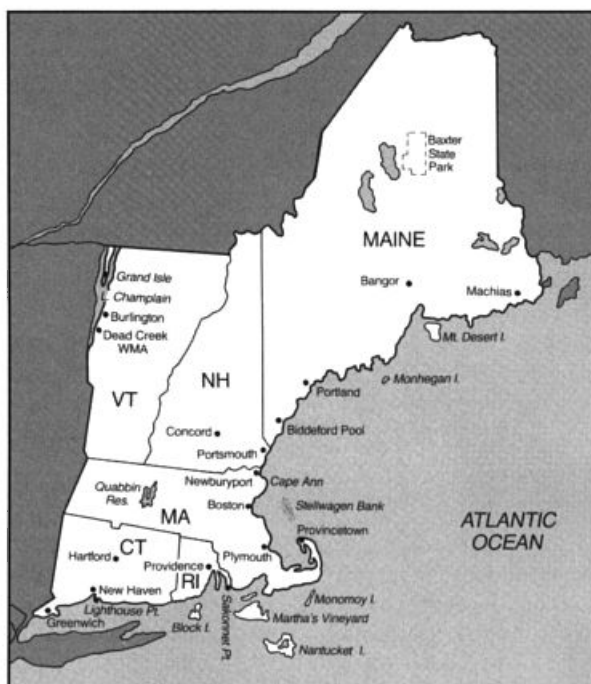
The Black-headed Grosbeak present at Sainte-Brigitte-de-Laval last winter continued through 22 Mar (ME. Lepage, J. Marcotte, *vide* MR).

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New England



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Early summer in New England was cool, wet, and relatively sunny this year. In the Boston area, temperatures averaged slightly below normal for the second month in a row, a situation that had not existed in southern New England since late in 2000, and rainfall in Bean Town was 3.9 cm above the average. In marked contrast, July was hot, dry, and sunny, and the average Boston temperature of 75.1° F made the month the 12th hottest in 132 years. An extreme heat wave in early July significantly helped bring up the month-long average. Not

surprisingly, the month also ranked 22nd as the driest in 132 years, with measurable amounts of rain having fallen on only seven days.

The impact of this rather disparate early summer weather on breeding birds was definitely reflected in some early-season nesting failures in Bald Eagles, quite possibly Massachusetts tern breeding success, and Eastern Bluebird productivity. Given the known mortality for closely monitored species such as bluebirds, it seems quite likely that other less carefully monitored cavity-nesting species may also have taken a hit as a result of the cool, wet weather in June. Otherwise, things seemed pretty normal among Regional breeding populations, in addition to some notable successes. The nesting of Sandhill

Cranes in Maine for the third consecutive year was without question the zenith of breeding bird activity in New England this season, although the confirmed breeding of Wilson's Phalaropes in Maine, an event marking only the third confirmed breeding locality on the East Coast of the United States, wasn't too shabby either! At least two Caspian Terns nests were located at Lake Champlain in Vermont this year, but unfortunately neither was successful. More optimistic was the spectacular growth of Common Tern breeding numbers at New Hampshire's Isles of Shoals. Other nesting activities worthy of comment pertain to the near saturation of Rhode Island Double-crested Cormorant colonies, the first natural, cliff-nesting of Peregrine Falcons in Massachusetts in over half a century, and the continued decline in the Region's American Kestrel and Golden-winged Warbler populations.

Although early summer is not a time of year generally known for producing rarities, this season held its own, with a Swainson's Hawk and a record number of Mississippi Kites in Massachusetts, a Boreal Owl (actually in late May) in New Hampshire, and a Western Kingbird in Maine. All told, a very interesting summer!

Abbreviations: A.S.N.H. (Audubon Society of New Hampshire), E.M.H.W. (Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch), G.B.N.W.R. (Great Bay N.W.R., Newington, *Stratford*, NH), M.D.F.W. (Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife), M.S.S.F. (Myles Standish State Forest, *Plymouth*, MA), Noman's Land (*Dukes*, MA), N. & S. Monomoy I (Monomoy N.W.R., Chatham, *Barnstable*, MA), Penikese I. (*Dukes*, MA), Plum I. (Parker River N.W.R., Newbury/Rowley, *Essex*, MA), South Beach (Chatham, *Barnstable*, MA), S S B C (South Shore Bird Club), Trustom Pond N.W.R. (*Washington*, RI), W.M.V.O.A. (Western Massachusetts Voice of Audubon).

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

Commensurate with the increase in Vermont Common Loons, 39 pairs produced 53 chicks (not including L. Champlain) for a record new state high count (E. Hanson, *fide* JN). The only breeding confirmations of Pied-billed Grebe in s. New England were a pair with 2 young at Trustom Pond N.W.R. 7 Jun (R. Larson, G. Williams, *fide* DE) and an ad. with 4 young at Spencer, *Worcester*, MA 25 Jun (JL). Lingerers included a Horned Grebe at Scarborough, *Cumberland*, ME 25 Jun (S. Bloomfield) and a Red-necked Grebe at Cape Elizabeth, *Cumberland*, ME 12 Jun (*fide* KG).

A significant, early-season concentration of

seabirds occurred off Cape Cod where 3600 Greater Shearwaters, 2000 Sooty Shearwaters, 18 Manx Shearwaters, and 1600 Wilson's Storm-Petrels were tallied off Provincetown, *Barnstable*, MA 15 Jun (BN). Less impressive, but still notable, were a Northern Fulmar, 89 Sooty Shearwaters, and 1410 Northern Gannets at Andrew's Point, Rockport, *Essex*, MA 20 Jun (RH). Wilson's Storm-Petrels were particularly numerous in coastal New England throughout the period, as indicated by 7000 at Wellfleet, *Barnstable*, MA 29 Jul (MF), and comments by Greg Hanisek suggest that in Long Island Sound off Connecticut, small numbers of storm-petrels are becoming increasingly routine (GH). At last year's newly discovered Leach's Storm-Petrel colony at Noman's Land off Martha's Vineyard, at least 10 occupied nests were counted 11 Jun (TF), and at the established Penikese I. colony, five pairs were suspected of breeding (*fide* J. Garvey). In the Ocean State, a grand total of 2175 nesting pairs of Double-crested Cormorants is now thought to be nearing the saturation point (RE, CR *fide* DE); however, 850 pairs of cormorants at Weepecket I. in Buzzards Bay 18 Jun (CB) is down from a total of 1878 pairs there during the 1994-1995 Massachusetts Coastal Colonial Waterbird Inventory.

Least Bitterns nested for the 2nd year in a row at Willowdale S.F., Ipswich, *Essex* (JB), and 1-2 birds at Stubbs Pond, G.B.N.W.R. 18 Jun—8 Jul (SM) were potential breeders as well. The pair counts of nesting wading birds at Kettle I., *Essex*, MA included 73 Great Egrets, 140 Snowy Egrets, approximately 10 Little Blue Herons, 6 Black-crowned Night-Herons, and 41 Glossy Ibis (SP), all of which are down slightly from a careful nest count made in 2000. In Rhode Island, pair counts of colonies in Narragansett Bay included 251 Great Egrets, 90 Snowy Egrets, 5 Little Blue Herons (down from 17 nests last year), 233 Black-crowned Night-Herons, and 392 Glossy Ibis (up from 185 last year; all RE, CR, *fide* DE). Currently in s. New England, only Great Egret and Glossy Ibis (in Rhode Island) appear to be stable or increasing; however, in the Ocean State, night-herons have dropped from 300-500 pairs in the 1990s and 500-700 pairs in the 1980s. It seems pretty clear that something serious may be happening to Black-crowned Night-Herons, just as it did half a century ago as result of DDT. A pair of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons in New Haven, *New Haven*, CT was the farthest e. that the species has ever conclusively nested in the Nutmeg State (*fide* GH).

Despite the continued presence of as many as 4 Black Vultures in the vicinity of Sheffield,

Berkshire, MA (v. o.) throughout the period, conclusive nesting in the s. Berkshires has yet to be confirmed.

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS

A Snow Goose in Sheffield, *Berkshire*, MA in early Jul (W.M.V.O.A.) was significantly late, as was a Brant at West Alburg, *Franklin*, VT 25 Jun (TM) and another at Winter Harbor, *Hancock*, ME 29 Jul (WT). Two broods of Northern Shovelers at Stratton I., *Saco* (*fide* S Hall, JD) provided rare breeding evidence for s. Maine. In a state with no breeding records, 3 Ring-necked Ducks present in Rhode Island during Jun and Jul were intriguing (*fide* DE). In New Hampshire, out-of-season scaup included a Greater Scaup at G.B.N.W.R. 8-25 Jun (SM) and a Lesser Scaup at Exeter, *Rockingham* 12-21 Jul (SM, DA). Common Eiders continued to increase as breeders in Massachusetts: broods were seen at Bourne, *Plymouth*; Boston, *Suffolk*; and Gloucester, *Essex* (B.O.). Unusual inland in summer was a Common Goldeneye at Montague, *Franklin*, MA 22 Jul (RP). Despite the fact that Ruddy Ducks are sporadic breeders in the Region, apparently none of the 14 at Fort Fairchild, *Aroostook*, ME in late Jul (BS), the 9 at Stamford, *Fairfield*, CT 16 Jun (FG), or the 19 at Middletown, *Newport*, RI 23 Jul (J Manning *fide* DE) showed any evidence of nesting.

Although Osprey numbers in Vermont were down slightly from the record set in 2001, a total of 61 young fledged from 36 nests was still above the species's Vermont recovery goal set in 1994 (J. Gobeille, *fide* JN). In Massachusetts, a careful census of the Bay State's largest Osprey colony along the Westport R. in South Dartmouth and Westport, *Bristol* documented 68 active nests that fledged 75 young (DC, AP). A summary of active Bald Eagle nests in New England this year indicates that there are 269 in Maine, 8 in New Hampshire, 8 in Massachusetts, and 6 in Connecticut (*fide* TF). These numbers, and the fact that in the Bay State alone 151 eagle chicks have been fledged since 1989, clearly reflect the remarkable comeback of this magnificent raptor in New England. In Massachusetts, a total of 9 Mississippi Kites at North Truro, *Barnstable* 1 Jun (D. Manchester, E.M.H.W.) smashed all previous Regional single-day counts, and singles at *Barnstable*, *Barnstable* (S. Hecker) and Lincoln, *Middlesex* (W. Harrington) 6 Jun further augmented this plethora of kites. For the 2nd year in a row, Northern Harriers successfully nested at Plum I. (RH, JB), and a pair with 2 young at Stamford Great Meadows, *Fairfield*, CT (CB)

was at the only known breeding site in the state. A nesting pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks at Breakheart Reservation, Saugus, *Essex*, MA (D. and I. Jewell) was remarkably close to urban Boston for this relatively rare Bay State breeding species. A total of 124 Broad-winged Hawks at North Truro, *Barnstable*, MA 1-21 Jun (E.M.H.W.) is a reminder of how late subad. Broad-wingeds are still on the move, but a dark-morph **Swainson's Hawk** at Chickataubut Hill, *Norfolk*, MA 19 Jun (NS, MMc) was both anomalous as well as a rare early-summer occurrence. Further indication of the continued decline in Regional American Kestrel populations was provided by an historic nest box program in the cranberry bogs of *Plymouth*, MA, which this year saw 34 pairs use 68 boxes and fledge 110 young, the lowest totals in the past decade (JM, MM). Out-of-season Merlin reports in Massachusetts included singles at Medford, *Middlesex* 5 Jun (MR) and Hingham, *Plymouth* 21 Jul (DL); a nesting attempt at Plymouth, *Grafton*, NH (*vide* BT) was apparently unsuccessful. Among five nesting pairs of Peregrine Falcons in Massachusetts, a pair that fledged 4 young at an historic eyrie in Erving, *Franklin* (*vide* M.D.F.W.) marked the first "natural" nesting in the Bay State since 1951. A bittersweet reminder of the history of this splendid raptor is that by 1966 there were no Peregrines nesting anywhere east of the Mississippi R., and the last time the Erving site fledged young was 1942. Regional data suggest that a total of 54 pairs of Peregrines fledged 219 chicks throughout New England this year, including 14 pairs in New Hampshire—the highest count in that state since the post-DDT era (*vide* C. Martin, A.S.N.H.) and a first-time nesting on Rhode Island's Newport Bridge (*vide* TF).

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A King Rail at G.B.N.W.R. 8 Jun (ph. SM) was at the n. extreme of the species's range in New England, and another, possibly a subad., at Scarborough Marsh, *Cumberland*, ME 31 Jul (DM et al.) was even more exalimital. A New Hampshire marshbird survey turned up a Common Moorhen at G.B.N.W.R. 25 Jun (SM) for only the 3rd Granite State record since 1995, whereas a brood of American Coots in Jul at Stratton I., Saco, *York*, ME (S. Hall *vide* JD) represented an unusual breeding record for the Pine Tree State and a first for Stratton I. Two coots observed in mid-Jul were the first summer records in the Ocean State since at least the early 1970s (*vide* DE).

In Massachusetts, 530 pairs of Piping Plovers represented a 7% increase from 2001

SA Unquestionably the most exciting breeding news of the period was the successful nesting of **Sandhill Cranes** in n. *Kennebec*, ME (SM, v. o.) for the third year in a row. In an effort not to disrupt the initial breeding efforts in 2000 and 2001, along with nesting activity this season, the precise breeding location is being discreetly withheld. This year, a pair of cranes fledged 2 young, while in previous years only single young were fledged. Historical accounts suggest that the Sandhill Crane was a regular migrant in New England several centuries ago, and that occasional breeding may even have occurred. However, "There are no records that unambiguously document breeding by Sandhill Cranes in Maine or New England" (Melvin, S. 2002. First breeding records and historical status of Sandhill Cranes in Maine and New England. *Northeastern Naturalist* 9: 193-202). With the continued increase of this species in Ontario and the Upper Great Lakes region, perhaps additional nesting efforts in the wilds of n. Maine should be optimistically anticipated? Additional Sandhill Crane reports were singles at Monroe, *Grafton*, NH (*vide* BT) and Barrington, *Bristol*, RI 29 Jun (SR).

(*vide* SM, M.D.F.W.), and an intensive effort to census breeding Bay State American Oystercatchers revealed a total of 150 pairs, a significant number, when one considers that the species only reclaimed its historic breeding range in New England as recently as 1969. Most notable in the northward-bound, misplaced, and summering shorebird category were 5 Black-bellied Plovers and a White-rumped Sandpiper at Alburg, *Franklin*, VT 9 Jun (TM, RL), 60 Red Knots at Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard 5 Jun (AK), 650 Semipalmated Sandpipers at N. Monomoy 3 Jun (BN), 2 Purple Sandpipers at Isles of Shoals, NH throughout the period (*vide* BT), 2 Marbled Godwits at South Beach 3-18 Jul (BN) and another at Sherwood I., Westport, *Fairfield*, CT 15-17 Jun (A. Hand, *vide* GH). Although most maximum counts of south-bound shorebird species in New England are not normally attained until early Aug, the Jul tallies worthy of mention included 250 Willets at South Beach 16 Jul (BN), 112 Whimbrels at Wellfleet 28 Jul (MF), and 1000 Semipalmated Plovers, 51 Hudsonian Godwits, 900 Red Knots, 6000 Sanderlings, 4000 Semipalmated Sandpipers, and 3000 Short-billed Dowitchers at South Beach 30 Jul (BN). In the unusual

shorebird category belong an American Avocet at Plum I. Jul 3 (v.o., *vide* B.O.) and a Ruff (Reeve) at Scarborough Marsh, *Cumberland*, ME 27-31 Jul (LB, v. o.). As if the nesting of Sandhill Cranes weren't enough, **Wilson's Phalaropes** successfully bred for the first time in Maine: two nests were located at Scarborough Marsh, *Cumberland* 14 Jun (LB, PV), where 2 juvs. were subsequently observed in Jul. Apart from the traditional (?) Plum I locality and a single confirmed nesting attempt at North Monomoy in 1980, this nesting marks only the 3rd breeding station known on the Atlantic Coast s. of Atlantic Canada.

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS

Several South Polar Skuas were reported from the relatively warm waters of Cox's Ledge s. of Block I., RI, including singles on 21 Jun (1st J) and 20 Jul (ST) and (2) 18 Jul (CN). Although skuas are certainly regular in these waters, observers are reminded that the precise distribution, seasonality, and possibly even the taxonomy (!) of skua species in the w. North Atlantic continues to represent something of an identification frontier. Let's be careful out there! Two ad. Long-tailed Jaegers at Andrew's Point, Rockport, *Essex*, MA 15 Jun (RH) were most unusual inshore, although the observation falls within the period when this species typically moves northward along the outer Continental Shelf of North America.

At their Regional breeding stronghold in Massachusetts, a total of 1094 pairs of Laughing Gulls was 17% lower than last season (*vide* M.D.F.W.). Two Little Gulls were noted at Lynn Beach, *Essex*, MA 21-25 Jul (v. o., *vide* B.O.), and the most interesting of seven Lesser Black-backed Gull reports Regionwide was one at Longmeadow, *Hampden*, MA 7 Jul (*vide* W.M.V.O.A.). Certainly out of season was a Glaucous Gull at Cape Elizabeth, *Cumberland*, ME 5 Jun—27 Jul (KG, LB), and a Sabine's Gull 22 km. e. of Mt. Desert Rock in the Gulf of Maine 23 Jul (*vide* WT) was close to a month earlier than expected.

A Regionally rare Gull-billed Tern graced South Beach 16-31 Jul (BN, PF). This season, single Caspian Tern nests with eggs were found at Popasquash I. and Young I., L. Champlain, VT (M. LaBarr, D. Capen et al., *vide* JN); however, neither nest was successful. "Try, try again!" is the best way to describe the breeding attempts of Caspian Terns in New England, as this is the 3rd year in a row that unsuccessful nesting behavior has been observed. Two Royal Terns at Popham Beach, Phippsburg, *Sagadahoc*, ME 22 Jun (PV) were beyond the range of the species's regular mid-summer peregrinations. Granite State tern restoration

efforts enjoyed success this summer when 25 pairs of Roseate Terns fledged 16 young and 1700 pairs of Common Terns fledged 2500 young at White I. and Seavey I., Isles of Shoals (*vide* SM). These numbers are especially notable when compared to the six pairs of Common Terns present there in 1997. Breeding results in Massachusetts were less optimistic, possibly because of Coyote predation at one large colony, or because of cool, wet weather in Jun. Bay State breeding pair numbers and their percent of change from 2001 were 1460 Roseate Terns (down 14%), 13,608 Common Terns (down 5%), 5 Arctic Terns (down 29%), and 2789 Least Terns (down 18%, *vide* M.D.F.W.). Black Skimmers apparently failed to breed successfully in New England this year.

Seasonally unusual was the appearance of a Common Murre at Andrew's Point, Rockport, *Essex* 7 Jun (J. Soucy, *vide* B.O.), and the discovery of a dead Atlantic Puffin at Martha's Vineyard 26 Jul (*vide* TF) was also most unseasonable.

CUCKOOS THROUGH THRUSHES

A half-day breeding bird survey in Plymouth's M S S E. produced a tally of 16 Black-billed Cuckoos and 17 Yellow-billed Cuckoos, totals reflective of a local abundance of army worms and tent caterpillars (KA, S.S.B.C.). A nest of Barn Owls with 7 young at Middletown, *Newport*, RI 11 Jul (J. Zybrowski, *vide* DE) represents the only known nest-site on the Ocean State mainland, while 2 juv. Northern Saw-whet Owls at Cornwall, *Litchfield*, CT in mid-Jul (G. Buck, *vide* GH) offered scarce proof of the breeding of this forest gnome in the Nutmeg State. A belated yet significant report in light of last summer's nesting in the Region was an ad. **Boreal Owl** at Mt. Parker, Bartlett, *Carroll*, NH 29 May (R. Horak, *vide* P. Hunt).

In addition to the regular presence of Chuck-will's-widows on Martha's Vineyard, this summer also found summering individuals at Wellfleet (*vide* B.O.) and Truro, *Barnstable* 30 Jun (T. Lipsky, *vide* B.O.). The only notable tally of Whip-poor-wills was 37 at Lancaster, *Worcester*, MA 24 Jun (RL). A well-documented Red-bellied Woodpecker nest at Windham, *Rockingham*, NH (MH) offered firm evidence of this species's continued spread into n. New England. Possibly even more notable was a Three-toed Woodpecker at New Sweden, *Aroostook*, ME 22 Jul (ph. N. Hudak, *vide* JD).

A singing Acadian Flycatcher at Pawtucketaway S.P., *Nottingham*, NH 4-20 Jul (A & B. Delorey) apparently gave no indication of breeding, and 5 at Tiverton, *Newport*, RI 22 Jun (RE) was a robust total for the Ocean State. Most unusual was a **Western Kingbird** at

Monhegan I., *Lincoln*, ME 13-15 Jun (M. Allen, DF, ph. DA). This is the 2nd period record of Western Kingbird in New England in three years! Further evidence of the continued spread of Common Ravens in s. New England was obtained this summer when a pair fledged 2 young on a cell tower at F. Gilbert Hills S.F. on the Wrentham/Foxborough line, *Norfolk*, MA (*vide* TF). In addition at least one pair probably nested somewhere in the Blue Hills, *Norfolk*, MA (v. o.), per the Spring Season report. A pair of Cliff Swallows at Hopkington, *Washington*, RI 1 Jun (G. Williams, *vide* DE) holds the distinction of being the only known breeding pair in the state. The production of 81 young by 21 pairs of Eastern Bluebirds on a 134-box bluebird trail in *Plymouth*, MA was 42 less than in 2001 (JM), allegedly due to losses sustained during cool, wet weather in Jun.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Not a single report of a Golden-winged Warbler was received for the period, although a total of 3 "Brewster's" Warblers and 2 "Lawrence's" Warblers was noted, including a "Lawrence's" at Sebago Lake S.P., *Cumberland*, ME (J. Vogel, *vide* JD). Wandering Tennessee Warblers, possibly failed breeders, appeared in Massachusetts at four different localities in Jul (B.O.), 3 of them on 7 Jul, clearly suggesting that something out of the ordinary was happening with this species this summer. A Bay-breasted Warbler at Mt. Greylock, *Berkshire*, MA 23 Jun (J. Hoye *vide* B.O.) was most unusual at that location so late in the season, while in Vermont, 3 Cerulean Warblers at Highgate, *Franklin* 9-10 Jun (TM, RI) and 2 at Colchester, *Chittenden* 13 Jun (TM) were at more traditional locations. In Massachusetts, apparently lonesome male Prothonotary Warblers were present in Hingham, *Plymouth* (from May) 1-4 Jun (*vide* B.O.) and Pepperell, *Middlesex* 21 Jul (M. Resch, *vide* B.O.). A Yellow-throated Warbler at Freetown S.F., Fall River, *Bristol* 1 Jun (RH) and single Kentucky Warblers, both 4 Jun, at Belchertown, *Hampshire* (MW) and Ipswich, *Essex* (JB) were both likely late migrants in the Bay State. A Yellow-breasted Chat at Dover, *Rockingham*, NH 4-5 Jun (MS) was likely also a migrant; however, 2 at Ninigrit Park, *Washington*, RI 8 Jun (G. Williams, *vide* DE) were at the only known breeding site in the state.

A spectacular total of 373 Eastern Towhees at M.S.S.F. 23 Jun (KA, S.S.B.C.) gives heightened meaning to the expression, "Build it and they will come." The extensive pine barren and shrubland habitat of this spectacular state forest undoubtedly supports higher breeding densities of several early successional habitat

specialists (e.g., Whip-poor-will, Hermit Thrush, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, and Eastern Towhee) than almost any comparable area in New England. Although Clay-colored Sparrows again made their now-annual early summer appearances, none provided convincing evidence of nesting. The greatest reported concentration of Grasshopper Sparrows was 53 males at Ft. Devens, Lancaster, *Worcester*, MA (RL), and yet again 5 Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were found at Stratham, *Rockingham*, NH 14 Jun (SM), well s. of where they are "supposed to be." A pair of Dark-eyed Juncos at Thomaston, *Litchfield*, CT 14 Jul (JM) was at the same site where a juv was observed last year. Misplaced best describes a Blue Grosbeak at Scituate, *Plymouth*, MA 26 Jun (E. Burbank, *vide* B.O.), a Painted Bunting at Biddeford Pool, *York*, ME (from May) 1-2 Jun (v. o., *vide* JD), and a Dickcissel at Sunderland, *Franklin*, MA 2-13 Jun (DC)

A Yellow-headed Blackbird at Monhegan I., *Lincoln*, ME in mid-Jun (B. Boynton, *vide* JD) was clearly not where it belonged. Five Boat-tailed Grackles were noted at New England's only nesting location at Stratford Great Meadows, *Fairfield*, CT (FG), and a count of 12 Orchard Orioles at Woburn, *Middlesex*, MA 28 Jul (MR) was quite a robust total for mid-summer. Notable in se. Massachusetts, particularly in the wake of a light flight year, was the confirmed breeding of Pine Siskins at Middleborough, *Plymouth*, MA 3 Jul (AB)

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