

CONTENTS

BIRDING HIGH RIDGE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA GARDNER/WESTMINSTER/ASHBURNHAM, MASSACHUSETTS	<i>Tom Pirro</i>	425
OF MASCOTS AND MIGRANTS: THREE DECADES OF KEEPING TABS ON THE BIRDS OF BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE	<i>Richard L. Ferren</i>	433
THE ADVENTURES OF AN <i>EAGLE</i> PHOTOGRAPHER	<i>Ben Garver</i>	439
COME HERE MY LITTLE CHICKADEE: SIXTEEN YEARS OF BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE BANDING AT PLEASANT VALLEY WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, LENOX	<i>René Laubach</i>	442
THE PITTSFIELD NIGHTHAWK WATCH: 1993-2001	<i>Scott and Joan Robinson</i>	446
OBSERVATIONS AT A BROAD-WINGED HAWK NEST	<i>Jill Johnson</i>	448
LIFE AND DEATH ON THE LINKS: MONITORING A BLUEBIRD TRAIL	<i>Kate Ryan</i>	450
FIELD NOTES Bluebird Dad	<i>Tom Killoren</i>	453
THE WIRED BIRDER Birding Weather	<i>David Larson</i>	455
102 nd CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT		459
ABOUT BOOKS A Grand Synthesis: <i>The Sibley Guide to Bird Life & Behavior</i> .	<i>Mark Lynch</i>	461
BIRD SIGHTINGS: July/August 2001 Summary		465
ABOUT THE COVER: Ruddy Duck	<i>William E. Davis, Jr.</i>	483
ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST: Don Radovich		484
AT A GLANCE	<i>Wayne R. Petersen</i>	485

Editor's note: In the December 1999 issue of Bird Observer, which focused on the birds of Berkshire County, René Laubach, director of the Mass Audubon's Berkshire Wildlife Sanctuaries, reminded readers that "yes, there is (avian) life west of Worcester!" We are reminded of this as we once again welcome René as guest editor and especially thank our western neighbors who contributed their insights and observations to this special issue.

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