

Falardeau et al.) and Hébertville June 27 (CC et al.), 2 localities n. of its known range. Saint-Bruno and Pointe-du-Gouvernement, 2 localities where local forests greatly suffered from last winter's ice storm, hosted single male Cerulean Warblers in early summer (SDen, v.o.). A Louisiana Waterthrush reported at Orford in May was still singing June 13 (A. Schmidt).

A small population of N. Cardinals seems to be established in the Québec City region, where at least 2 breeding pairs were observed. Extralimital sparrows included single Clay-colored Sparrows at Sainte-Anne-de-Portneuf June 1 (AR) and at Rivière-du-Loup in mid-July (JPO, ML), and a Field Sparrow at Les Escoumins July 30 (CA). A male Yellow-headed Blackbird at Saint-Luce June 2 (v.o.) and a female at Saint-Eusèbe (M&C Beaulieu) were out-of-range.

INTRODUCED

A Bar-headed Goose lingered at Barachois June 4–14 (É. Arseneault, v.o.). A White-cheeked Pintail appeared at Longueuil July 30 (N. Richard). A Ring-necked Pheasant with five young at Saint-Étienne-de-Beauharnois was interesting (SDen). A Ringed Turtle-Dove was at Lennoxville in July (CD, H. Durocher). A Crested Myna of unknown origin was observed at Amos June 20–22 (A. Lefebvre et al., A.G. Bernier). Two spectacular species endemic to Africa were found in the Montreal Botanical Gardens, first a Paradise Whydah June 17–25 (P. Gingras, v.o.) and then a Lavender Waxbill June 30 (D. Vizbara, *vide* G. Zenaitis).

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new england region

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In marked contrast to the past few years, June was punctuated by heavy rain, cloudy weather, and cool temperatures. In Boston, rain totaled 11.58 inches, well over triple the average, and the second highest amount in the 128-year official record. Temperatures averaged 64.7°F, 3.0° below normal. July, by contrast, was practically normal, with both rainfall and temperatures falling very close to long-term averages. Not unexpectedly, there was apparently some cavity-nesting bird mortality, most notably Tree Swallows, and heavy rain was thought by some to have an adverse effect on May's super-abundant caterpillar crop, which in turn caused a sudden disappearance of cuckoos in certain parts of the Region.

First state breeding records and significant range extensions were set by Black Vulture in Massachusetts, and Fish Crow in Vermont. No less interesting were reports of Audubon's Shearwater in Maine, Little Egrets in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, White-faced Ibis in Connecticut, Gull-billed Tern in Maine, and Western Kingbird in Massachusetts.

Abbreviations: Appledore I. (*Isles of Shoals, ME*); M.V. (*Martha's Vineyard, MA*); M.D.F.W. (*Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife*); McKinney N.W.R. (*Stratford, CT*); Monomoy I. (*Monomoy N.W.R., Chatham, MA*); Plum I. (*Parker River N.W.R., Newburyport/Newbury, MA*); Scarborough Marsh (*Scarborough, ME*); South Beach (*South Beach, Chatham, MA*); Seavey I. (*Isles of Shoals, NH*); Stratton I. (*Cumberland Co., ME*); West Meadows W.M.A. (*West Bridgewater, Plymouth Co., MA*).

LOONS TO CORMORANTS

Red-throated Loons were reported from at least 10 localities, highest tallies being three each at Quoddy Head S.P., ME, July 28 (PL) and Tiverton, RI, July 19 (KH), where the observer also reported a loon in at least partial breeding plumage that was thought to be a Pacific, possibly the same bird described in the spring report from not-too-distant



Portsmouth, RI. A count of 102 non-breeding Com. Loons in Buzzards Bay, MA, June 24 (RFa) was respectable. The Bay State also boasted a seasonal total of 19 pairs of loons (*vide* BB). In Vermont, 30 nesting Com. Loons successfully raised 30 young (*vide* SF), but in Maine and New Hampshire, a report from the North American Loon Fund suggested that 25% of the loon nests in those states may have been lost to heavy rain, which created such extremely high water conditions that many shoreline nest sites were under a foot of water.

In spite of a scattering of Pied-billed Grebe reports, the only confirmed breeding in s. New England was an adult with a juvenile at Tyngsboro, Middlesex, MA. Unusual was a Horned Grebe that spent June at W. Haven, CT (GH), as were single Red-necked Grebes at 2 localities on the New Hampshire coast in late June (SM). Tubenoses made a modest showing, as reflected by the following *maxima*: 475 Greater and 260 Sooty shearwaters at Stellwagen Bank July 22 (MG), 361 Sooty Shearwaters at Provincetown June 13 (ML), and 20 Manx Shearwaters at Truro June 13 (ML) and 15 off Rockport, MA, July 15 (GW). Wilson's Storm-Petrels were notably scarce over most inshore waters throughout the season. More notable was a very well-described **Audubon's Shearwater** observed between

Bar Harbor and Petit Manan I., ME, July 26–27 (D. Czaplak, M. O'Brien). Always rare away from Gulf Stream waters, this species' occurrence in Maine is currently listed as hypothetical (*vide* JD).

A total of 152 N. Gannets at Rye, NH, June 14 (SM, DA) was possibly a high inshore summer count for the Granite State. An imm. Great Cormorant at Plum I. June 14 (RH) was unexpected at that locality, while approximately 4138 Double-crested Cormorant nests counted in L. Champlain, VT (*vide* D. Capen), represented a 43% increase from 1997. The escalation in numbers of this species is best described as scary!

HERONS TO WATERFOWL

Three territorial Am. Bitterns in *Litchfield*, plus singles in Stratford and S. Windsor, represented an especially good season in Connecticut (*vide* GH). Least Bitterns appeared at 4 Massachusetts localities, including Great Meadows N.W.R., where nesting was confirmed for the first time in a number of years (R. Murphy, v.o.). The only colony nesting data available came from Kettle I., *Essex*, MA, where a nest count included 80 Great Egrets, 176 Snowy Egrets, 21 Little Blue Herons, nine Black-crowned Night-Herons, and 99 Glossy Ibises (SP). Only Glossy Ibis showed a significant increase this year. Heading the list of unusual long-legged waders was the 2nd New Hampshire record of **Little Egret**, an adult at Newmarket June 30–July 31 (SM, DA, m ob.). Although the bird was missing one of its long nape plumes, it lacked the shag normally present on Snowy Egrets, possessed gray lores, and was structurally slightly larger than adjacent Snowy Egrets. Additionally, a Little Egret at Tuckernuck I., MA, June 3 (R. Veit) was likely the same individual seen at Nantucket I. in May; however, its facial skin had faded to yellowish-orange. A Little Blue Heron at Longmeadow, *Hampden*, MA, July 31 (*vide* SK) was out of place so far inland. Tricolored Herons failed to nest at Stratton I., the only regular nesting locality in the Region, for the first time since 1988 (*vide* LB), and Cattle Egrets were missing from the same heronry for the 4th year in a row (*vide* JD). Two ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons at Block I., RI, June 23–29 (C. Raithel) suggested that this rare Regional breeder may have nested on the island this year, which is not unprecedented. Unusual were two Glossy Ibises inland at Gardner, *Worcester*, MA, July 27 (T. Pirro), and one that remained throughout the period at Grand

Isle, *Grand Isle*, VT (DH, RL). A **White-faced Ibis**, a 3rd state record present since May at Hammonasset Beach S.P., Madison, CT, continued throughout the period (v.o., *vide* GH).

Black Vultures made news in Massachusetts when a first state breeding record was established; a nest was discovered in the Blue Hills, Milton, *Norfolk*, June 23 (NS). The one young that ultimately fledged in early August may represent the northernmost Black Vulture ever fledged in North America. Black Vultures probably also nested in w. Connecticut in 1995, based on the discovery of a young bird that was taken to a zoo, but the precise fledging location of that bird was indeterminate (*vide* GH). Further indications of the range expansion of this species were shown by the continued presence of several birds at Sheffield, *Berkshire*, MA, June 17–July 7 (D. Reid), and a well-described individual at Aurora, *Hancock*, ME (K. Emerson, *vide* JD).

Errant N. Shovelers included singles at Appledore I. June 6 (DH); Nashua, NH, June 12 (RA); and E. Boston July 29 (GW), as well as 20 adults and young at Christina Res., Ft. Fairfield, *Aroostook*, ME, in mid-July (BS). In a state where there are very few confirmed breeding records, a Green-winged Teal with a brood of four at McKinney N.W.R. July 10 (PC, C. Barnard) was decidedly interesting. Inexplicable describes single occurrences of Redhead at Nantucket I. June 5 (ER) and Ring-necked Duck at W. Bridgewater, MA, June 20 (SA). Unexpected sea duck occurrences included a female King Eider at Hampton, NH, June 20–July 1 (SM, v.o.); a Harlequin Duck at Machias Bay, *Washington*, ME, in late June (NF); and a White-winged Scoter at Turner's Falls, *Franklin*, MA, July 24–25 (*vide* SK). Late migrant Buffleheads in Massachusetts included one at Brockton June 2 (SA) and a pair at Beverly June 11 (RH). Harder to define were three Ruddy Ducks at Nantucket I. June 25 (*vide* ER) and one at Plum I. July 21 (WD).

RAPTORS

A manifestation of the Osprey's recovery in the Region was the presence of 25 nesting pairs and 47 young fledged in Vermont (*vide* SF). Swallow-tailed Kites graced Massachusetts with single sightings at W. Tisbury, M.V., June 13 (A. Woodruff, *vide* R. Ferren) and N. Rehoboth June 23 (A. Weimer, *vide* DE). In addition to reports of wandering sub-ad. Bald Eagles throughout the Region, breeding success included four young fledged out of 2 nests at Barkhamsted and

Suffield, CT (*vide* J. Kaplan); 12 young (plus two foster young) fledged from 7 Massachusetts nests (*vide* B. Davis, M.D.F.W.); and a new "house-keeping" pair at Nelson, NH (*vide* RQ), which, if successful next year, would furnish only the 2nd nest ever confirmed in the Granite State. At McKinney N.W.R., where nesting was suspected last year, a pair of N. Harriers raised two young in a state where the last confirmed breeding was in 1991 (PC, C. Barnard, *vide* GH). The date and behavior of an imm. Red-shouldered and three imm. Broad-winged hawks at Gay Head, M.V., June 28 (GD, AK) suggested that the birds were migrants, but their origin and destination seemed uncertain. Of 52 Am. Kestrel nest boxes monitored by Smith in e. Massachusetts, none produced any young, when 13 years ago the same boxes held more than 20 pairs (NS). While this handsome little falcon appears to be slipping away in s. parts of the Region, breeding Merlins continue to increase in the north. The Merlins mentioned in the Spring Report at Johnson, VT, nested successfully, as did others at Morrisville (*vide* S. Laughlin) and Errol, NH (*vide* RQ). An early migrant (?) Merlin at Guilford, CT, July 23 (PC) is also part of a continuing, if not related, pattern of mid-summer reports in recent years. In Connecticut, summering Peregrine Falcons were present at Bridgeport and Stamford (*vide* GH), and in Hartford, where the species' first recent Connecticut nesting occurred last year, a nesting attempt was washed out by heavy rains in June (*vide* J. Kaplan). In Massachusetts, 4 pairs of Peregrines produced 11 young (*vide* B. Davis, M.D.F.W.), while Vermont's 15 nesting pairs fledged 24 young (SF).

RAILS TO SHOREBIRDS

An apparently territorial pair of King Rails present since May at West Meadows W.M.A. was last recorded July 19 (SA), and another at the n. limit of the species' range was seen at Scarborough Marsh June 20–29 (PC, v.o.). West Meadows W.M.A. also yielded a robust tally of 24 Virginia Rails July 4 (SA). These records, along with four Soras and a Com. Moorhen found at a nearby marsh in W. Bridgewater July 5 (SA) serve to illustrate how rails and other elusive marshbirds apparently still exist in respectable numbers in s. New England freshwater wetland habitats when appropriate effort is made to locate them. A Purple Gallinule captured alive at Little Compton, RI, June 11 (G. Dennis, *vide* DE) was later released in Massachusetts. The only confirmed breeding Com Moorhens were 2

pairs at Stratton I. (*vide* LB), and a single bird at S. Wellfleet, MA, June 1–13 (from May) (v.o.) was unusual for that location.

Piping Plovers continue to respond to the many recovery efforts being implemented on their behalf. In New Hampshire, where three young plovers raised in 1997 were the first since the early 1970s, 17 young were fledged, and in the Bay State, the total of nesting pairs reached 500, the highest since the species was listed as Threatened by the U.S.F.W.S. in 1986. American Oystercatchers nested for the 5th consecutive year at Stratton I. (*vide* LB), and a pair with one juvenile at Pine Pt., Scarborough, July 26 (PL) may have been from Stratton I. Indications of the continued growth of the Regional oystercatcher population included counts of 80 at N. Monomoy I. July 27 (BN) and 40 at Chappaquiddick I., M.V., July 26 (GD). American Avocets staged a minor invasion (or else two birds really did some traveling!), with doubles appearing at Charles-town, RI, June 28 (A. O'Toole *vide* DE); Scarborough June 29 (from May?) (G. Carson, *vide* JD); and N. Monomoy I. July 15–31 (J. Ehret, *vide* B.O.). A survey of important Massachusetts Upland Sandpiper nesting areas produced approximately 65 pairs at 5 sites (AJ, RL), and a similar effort in Vermont's Champlain Valley produced 45 sandpipers in 22 towns surveyed, compared to 126 birds in 1991 (JP). Clearly, these lovely shorebirds are in trouble!

Characterizing mid-summer shorebird migration is helped by distinguishing between late spring migrants and arriving southbound migrants, accounting for non-breeding summering birds, and highlighting rarities. Although some of these distinctions are not always obvious, it is reasonable to assume that 20 Semipalmated Plovers, 200 Ruddy Turnstones, 40 Red Knots, 350 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 20 White-rumped Sandpipers, and four Dunlin at N. Monomoy I. June 7 (BN) were probably northbound migrants. Early southbound migrants almost certainly included an ad. Am. Golden-Plover at Edgartown, M.V., July 30–31 (VL); 21 Lesser Yellowlegs and 16 Least Sandpipers at Newburyport June 25 (SP); a Marbled Godwit at E. Boston June 28 (SZ); a Pectoral Sandpiper at N. Monomoy I. July 2 (BN), and seven Short-billed Dowitchers at Plymouth Beach June 28 (EN, *vide* B.O.). The period's southbound migration was punctuated by the following selected *maxima* from one of the Region's premiere shorebird localities at South Beach/N Monomoy I. 250 Greater

Yellowlegs July 27 (BN); 110 Willets, including 10 of the interior race *inornatus*, July 12 (RH); 50 Hudsonian Godwits July 19 (HF); 285 Red Knots July 12 (RH); 900 Sanderlings July 27 (BN); 2800 Semipalmated Sandpipers July 27 (BN); 530 Least Sandpipers July 12 (RH); and 1800 Short-billed Dowitchers at N. Monomoy I. July 19 (HF). No less notable were counts of 600 Sanderlings at Plymouth Beach, MA, July 26 (ENE, *vide* B.O.), 2100 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Newburyport July 26 (ML), 38 Stilt Sandpipers at Plum I. July 21 (BD, *vide* B.O.), and 1234 Short-billed Dowitchers migrating over Seavey I., Isles of Shoals, NH, July 8 (RQ).

Clearly in the unusual category were a Bar-tailed Godwit, probably a holdover from May, at N. Monomoy I. June 17–July 12 (BN, v.o.), an unusual spring Stilt Sandpiper at Scarborough June 2–3 (LB, KG), a Ruff at Petit Manan N.W.R. July 18 (R. Hildreth, *vide* JD), and a Wilson's Phalarope at Rye, NH, June 1 (SM). Although as many as four Wilson's Phalaropes were seen at Plum I. (v.o.) throughout the period, no evidence of breeding was reported.

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS

Jaeger numbers were disappointing, although three Parasitic Jaegers at Rye, NH, June 13–14 (SM) were deemed unusual in inshore New Hampshire waters at this date. An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger from Cox's Ledge s. of Block I., RI, July 4 (S. Tsagarakis, *vide* DE), while certainly early, was not without precedent in those waters at this season. In Massachusetts, 211 nesting pairs of Laughing Gulls at Plymouth Beach (*vide* BB, M.D.F.W.) represented the 2nd largest colony in a state where the total number of pairs is 706. Summering imm. Little Gulls included singles at Lynn, MA, June 5–12 (GW, v.o.); Rye, NH, June 13–26 (RQ, SM); and Edgartown, M.V., July 28 (VL). Three Bonaparte's Gulls at Pittsburg, Coos, NH, June 20 (RQ) were most unusual so far inland at that date, and a post-breeding concentration of 5000 at Eastport, Washington, ME, July 25 (NE, *vide* JD) smacked of concentrations recorded during the 1970s and early 1980s. Rounding out the list of interesting gulls was a tardy Iceland Gull at Salisbury, MA, June 28 (S. Webb, *vide* B.O.); three imm. Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Manchester and Stratford, CT, in early July (PC, *vide* GH); and an ad. Black-legged Kittiwake at Rockport, MA, June 27 (RH).

Gull-billed Terns made news when single adults appeared at Stratton I., July 1 (*vide* LB), Hampton, NH, for a possible first

state record, July 23 (SM, DA); and Plum I. July 24 (S. Haydock, *vide* B.O.). The pattern of these occurrences suggests that these reports might all pertain to the same bird. A Royal Tern at Scarborough, ME, July 15 (T. Vazzano, *vide* KG) pushed the geographical limit of the species' pattern of occurrence in New England. Terns breeding in the Region appear to have had a banner season. At Stratton I., 86 pairs of Roseate and 973 pairs of Common terns provided record highs (*vide* LB). In Massachusetts, a statewide total of 1693 Roseate Tern pairs was up 16% from 1997 and the total of 13,160 Common Terns was an increase of 11% (*vide* BB, M.D.F.W.). Arctic Terns at the s. terminus of their range in Massachusetts more than doubled their numbers from 5 pairs in 1997 to 12 pairs this year (*vide* BB, M.D.F.W.), however, readers are reminded that approximately 400 pairs bred in Massachusetts in the mid-1940s. Four pairs of Black Skimmers nested in Massachusetts (*vide* BB, M.D.F.W.), and in Connecticut a pair was observed copulating at W. Haven June 12. By late July, 10 adults and 13 juveniles were present at the site (P. Fusco, *vide* GH). This was only the 2nd-ever successful nesting in the Nutmeg State.

Tardy Black Guillemots in Massachusetts appeared at Ipswich June 26 (D. McHale, *vide* B.O.), Rockport June 27 (RH), and Gloucester July 3 (F. Vale, *vide* B.O.). An Atlantic Puffin at Chatham, MA, June 26 (H. Davenport, *vide* B.O.) was significantly out of place.

DOVES TO WAXWINGS

A **White-winged Dove**, the 7th Maine record, put in a brief appearance at Kennebunk, York, June 6 (J. Ficker, *vide* JD). The number of June and July records for this species in New England clearly fall into a well-defined pattern. Following a heavy spring flight of both Black-billed and Yellow-billed cuckoos in e. Massachusetts, numbers fell off dramatically by early summer, causing one observer to note that heavy rains in early June seemingly "rotted out" many super-abundant caterpillars that may have concentrated the cuckoos in the first place. A stunning 11 pairs of Short-eared Owls at Tuckernuck I., MA (R. B. Bowen, *vide* AJ), unquestionably represents the greatest concentration in New England of this Regionally endangered species. The only other report was a pair at nearby Nantucket I. (*vide* ER). In a state where the species has still not been confirmed as a breeder, frustrating can only describe two Chuck-will's-widows at Bourne (BR) and

another at Wellfleet, MA, (v.o.), that began calling persistently in May and continued throughout the period. Despite concerns repeatedly expressed over Regional declines in Whip-poor-will populations, systematic survey efforts in Massachusetts produced noteworthy concentrations of 54 at Ft. Devens, Lancaster, Worcester, MA, June 10 (RL) and 27 at Myles Standish S.F., Plymouth, June 25 (Gd'E).

The increasingly regular appearance of Rufous Hummingbirds in New England was continued this summer when an adult male appeared at W. Arlington, Bennington, VT, July 10 (C. Chapin, *fide* JP). The current scarcity of Red-headed Woodpeckers as breeders in New England was underscored by a total of 3 Regional reports, none of which pertained to nesting birds. In Connecticut, record numbers of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were located in Litchfield, and several nests were found s. of previously known breeding limits (R. Naylor, *fide* GH).

A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at S. Boston June 18 (RD) was a quite late migrant, and another bird at Pawtuckaway S. P. June 21–July 11 (A&BD) was considerably s. of other traditional New Hampshire breeding sites. In Massachusetts, three Yellow-bellied Flycatchers present at Mt. Greylock, Berkshire (RR), throughout the period tortured birders seeking to confirm breeding in the state. Less ambiguous was the discovery of an **Acadian Flycatcher** nest at Pawtuckaway S. P. July 25 (DA, PL) for a 2nd confirmed state nesting record. Exceedingly rare in summer in New England (although see Spring Report), a carefully identified **Western Kingbird** at E. Boston June 28 (SZ) has as its only precedent a bird identified at Chatham June 30, 1986 (see *Birds of Massachusetts*, 1993). Slightly less unusual were reports of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers at Cushing, Knox, ME, June 20 (*fide* JD); Franklin, Hancock, ME, July 14 (B. Garrett et al), and Marshfield, Plymouth, MA, June 18–22 (D. Grimm, v.o.).

A Philadelphia Vireo at Oxbow N.W.R., Harvard, Worcester, MA, June 28 (D&D. Oliver, *fide* B.O.) was simply misplaced. Nesting **Fish Crows** were confirmed at Burlington, Chittenden, VT (T. Murin, audio tape), thus establishing a new n. breeding frontier in the Region, as well as a first fully documented state record. The only Sedge Wren reports were single birds at Derry, Rockingham, NH, June 2–4 (A&BD) and Amherst, Hampshire, MA, June 8–18 (*fide* SK). A territorial male Swainson's Thrush at Barkhamsted, CT, June 27–early July (DR,

fide GH) was intriguing in a state where the species has yet to be confirmed as a breeder. In Massachusetts, a tally of 20 Swainson's Thrushes in Monroe, Franklin, July 12 (RR) was certainly one of the highest in the Bay State in some time. A Bohemian Waxwing amidst a flock of Cedar Waxwings at Monhegan I., ME, June 9 (B. Boynton, *fide* JD) may represent a late date for the Region.

WARBLERS

It appears that the balance of power in favor of Blue-winged Warblers over Golden-winged Warblers, in Massachusetts at least, may be reaching the absolute point. There were literally no Golden-winged Warblers reported in the Bay State, although the genes for a "Brewster's" Warbler at Sharon June 21 (SA) and a "Lawrence's" Warbler at Wrentham July 10 (M. Martinek, *fide* B.O.) had to come from somewhere! Two N. Parulas at Pawtuckaway S.P. June 21 (A&BD) were out of place, but may have simply been very late migrants. That genuine migrants were still moving in late June was demonstrated by Magnolia and Mourning warblers at S. Boston June 15–16 (RD), N. Parula and Canada Warbler at the same locality June 23 (RD), and Blackpoll Warblers at Seavey I. June 21 (*fide* RQ) and Plum I. June 28 (FV). A Cerulean Warbler banded at Appledore I. June 5 (DH) also makes this point, and single Cerulean Warblers at 3 New Hampshire locations (*fide* RQ) and a pair at Taunton, Bristol, MA, June 10–18 (A. Leggett, v.o.) suggest that this scarce species may still be prospecting in New England. Two male Yellow-throated Warblers at Litchfield, CT, throughout July (K. Finnan) had no obvious mates. However, a pair of Mourning Warblers at Hartland, CT, June 26–July 31 (DR, *fide* GH) was clearly defending territory in a state where there are no known breeding records.

SPARROWS TO FINCHES

As Clay-colored Sparrows continue to increase in the Northeast, individuals at 2 localities in Vermont (*fide* JP), one in Maine (*fide* JD), and one in Massachusetts (*fide* B.O.) were not too surprising. Statewide monitoring efforts of Grasshopper Sparrows in Massachusetts produced a minimum of 327 pairs at 13 sites (*fide* AJ, RL). At least two– three Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows spent the summer at Newmarket, NH, (PL, SM), a locality that pushes the envelope southward from more traditional s. range limits on the Maine coast. A Lincoln's Sparrow at Ft Devens, Lancaster,

Worcester, MA, June 18 (RL) was intriguing, but a pair with one young at Windsor, Berkshire, MA, July 5 (SK) clearly represented a breeding record at this previously occupied locality. The origin of a juv. Dark-eyed Junco at Concord, MA, July 5 (EN) is completely open to conjecture.

A singing Dickcissel at Rochester, NH, June 10 (RQ, SM) was most unusual at this season. In the Bay State, a Yellow-headed Blackbird, lingering from May at S Wellfleet June 1–9 (E. Winslow, v.o.), was unexpected, but a Rusty Blackbird at Monroe June 27 (RR) was at a previously occupied nesting site. Reports from n. New England indicated that White-winged Crossbills were widespread along the Maine coast (PL) and from the White Mts. northward in New Hampshire (*fide* RQ).

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Place names that are frequently mentioned, but very long, may be abbreviated in a form such as "C.B.B.T" or "W.P.B.O." Such local abbreviations will be explained in a key at the beginning of the particular regional report in which they are used. Standard abbreviations that are used throughout *Field Notes* are keyed on page 428.