

SUMMARY FOR AUGUST 1977

August was hot and dry, the mercury averaged 73.4°, 2.1° above normal. This was the warmest August since 1973, and the 14th warmest in 107 years. The first 10 days were hot, averaging 5° above normal, while the rest of the month was mostly very moderate and comfortable. A short hot spell brought 95° highs on both the 28th and 29th. The average daily maximum was 82.3°, the low averaged 64.5°.

Rain totaled 2.91 inches, 0.55 under normal and only a bit over a third of last year's wet August. Measurable amounts fell on 12 days; the most in 24 hours was 0.71 inch on the 1-2nd. Many northern suburbs had much more, up to several inches in heavy showers.

Fog was a frequent visitor, noted on 17 days. There was dense fog on the 12th and 31st.

Northwest winds, those favorable for fall migration, occurred on the 20th and 25th.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

A record count of 225 Common Loons for the month of August was noted on a fishing party boat from Gloucester to Georges Bank on the 29th (RSH, MK), the previous high count for August was 49 off Monomoy in 1941.

Fifty Cory's Shearwaters were reported off Tuckernuck Island on the 2nd (RRV, MJL) and 38 were seen out of Woods Hole on the 6th (GRF). These counts are considerably higher than in previous years with only one reported in August 1976, 6 in 1975 and a total of 34 in August 1973. Thirty Greater Shearwaters were noted off Monomoy on the 10th (WRP). The Brookline Bird Club recorded over 500 at Stellwagen Bank on the 28th (BBC-WCD, HW#), and 920 were noted on a fishing party boat from Gloucester - Georges Bank, the majority being seen in the vicinity of Pollocks Rip (RSH, MK). Sooty Shearwaters were noted off Monomoy on the 10th, when 8 were counted (WRP), 25 were recorded at Stellwagen Bank on the 28th (BBC-WCD, HW#), and in the vicinity of Pollocks Rip on the 28th over 100 were observed (RSH, MK). Manx Shearwaters were recorded in usual numbers with 8 being noted at Stellwagen Bank (BBC-WCD, HW) and 11 recorded at or near Pollocks Rip on the 28th (RSH, MK). On the 31st a single Manx was noted at Sandy Neck, Barnstable (DTB#) and 2 were observed at Provincetown (BN#) on the same day.

Over 300 Wilson's Storm-Petrels were noted at Stellwagen Bank on the 28th (BBC-WCD, HW), and on the same day 760 were counted in the Pollock Rip - Georges Bank area (RSH, MK). Five Gannets were noted on Cape Cod Bay on the 11th (SZ) and one was seen at Sandy Neck, Barnstable, on the 31st (JM#).

At Great Meadows, Concord, as many as 10 Great Blue Herons were noted (v.o.) and a Great Egret was present there throughout the month (v.o.). Herons were coming to a roost at Plum Island each evening and the following counts were made: Great Egrets, 10; Little Blue Herons, 4 adults, 15 immature, 1 pied plumage; Snowy Egrets, 350; and Louisiana Herons, 4 (W. Byrne). Immature Little Blue Herons were noted in East

Boston on the 5th (SZ), in Weston on the 7th (LJR), the first Weston record since 1915 (R.B. May), and on Nantucket on the 28th (SZ); another pied plumaged bird was found in Duxbury on the 17th (R. Walton). At Ipswich as many as 45-50 Cattle Egrets were present (J. Nove#), and in Marshfield 10 were noted all month (v.o.). The Forbush Bird Club recorded 35 Great Egrets on a trip from Fall River - Westport (D.Crompton#). There were no less than 10 individual Yellow-crowned Night Herons during the month on Cape Cod, with 5 at a roost in Eastham (fide BN). Two immature Yellow-crowned Night Herons were also reported from the 25th on at P.I. (RSH#). Least Bitterns were present throughout the month at Plum Island with at least two birds reported.

A total of 46 Glossy Ibis' were counted at Rowley on the 6th (RHS#). The highlight of the month was an immature WHITE IBIS first noted at the North River, Scituate, on the 21st (Ellie Sabin and v.o.), and found again on the 28th at Third Cliff, Scituate (Neil and Sharon Osborne). The only recent records were that of an immature bird in the Dartmouth - Westport area 23 August '75 on; and presumably the same bird in Chatham on 19 August '75. Three were seen flying over Westhampton on 12 May '74.

WATERFOWL THROUGH SANDHILL CRANE

A single Brant was noted off Monomoy on the 10th (WRP), the only other recent August record was in 1974 when 8 were present throughout at Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. Gadwalls continue to increase as breeding birds and a maximum of 50 were noted at Plum Island on the 1st (MK). American Wigeons were noted at GMNWR on the 21st (BBC-JFK) and 3 were seen at Plum Island on the 30th (F. Maher). Sixty-five Wood Ducks were counted at GMNWR on the 6th (BBC-A+NC) and one was observed on Monomoy on the 10th (WRP), this is exceptionally unusual for the island.

Single Greater Scaups were noted at Squantum on the 8th (WRP), and in Danvers on the 9th (RSH). A single Bufflehead was reported from Acoaxet on the 6th (FBC-DCC). White-winged Scoters were moving on the 31st when 175 were counted at Sandy Neck, where 22 Surf Scoters were also recorded (DTB, JM). A pair of Ruddy Ducks with eight young were observed at Plum Island on the 27th (HTW). Single Hooded Mergansers were noted at Tuckernuck on the 6th (RRV, MJL), in West Newbury on the 26th (WRP), and on Monomoy on the 26th (BN, CAG).

An immature Goshawk was observed in West Newbury on the 14th (RSH), and a Sharp-shinned Hawk was present throughout the month in Middleboro (DB). A wing-tagged immature Bald Eagle was noted from the 18th - 31st in the Orleans - Wellfleet area (v.o. fide BN). As many as 8 Marsh Hawks were noted on Nantucket during the last week of the month (SZ), and 3 were seen at P.I. (RMB#). A banded Peregrine Falcon was noted at P.I. on the 16th. James and Bonnie Baird were able to read the tag as the bird perched close by (2/8/M). An untagged Peregrine adult was noted at Monomoy on the 18th (J. Nelson#). One Merlin was noted at Sandy Neck, Barnstable, on the 31st (DTB, JM). (The Sandhill Crane was seen again on the 8th on Marthas Vineyard (fide SZ); and was noted on Penikese Island on the 26th (Leslie Chalmers).

JAEGERS, GULLS AND TERNS

The Brookline Bird Club trip to Stellwagen Bank on the 28th produced 5 Pomarine, 3 Parasitic and 12 unidentified jaegers (WCD, HW#). Single Pomarine Jaegers were also noted off Sandwich on the 24th (RFP), and another in the vicinity of Pollocks Rip on the 29th (RSH, MK). At the south end of Plum Island and in the Ipswich area between 3-4 Parasitic Jaegers were noted from the 9th on (R. Moore#, v.o.). On a trip from Gloucester to Georges Bank 7 Parasitics were noted on the 29th (RSH, MK), and on the 31st 4 were observed at Provincetown (BN, DW), and 3 at Sandy Neck, Barnstable (DTB, JM).

Black-headed Gulls were noted only at Revere where an adult was seen at Point of Pines on the 24th (SZ), and another was found at Monomoy on the 26th (BN, CAG). Laughing Gulls continue to increase with as many as 200 still at Monomoy throughout the month (v.o.) and a maximum of 8 at Plum Island on the 30th (F. Maher, v.o.). At Acoaxet, the Forbush Bird Club totalled 100 on the 6th (D.C.C.), and 75 were noted on the BBC boat trip from Lynn to Stellwagen (WCD, HW). An amazing 600 Bonaparte's Gulls were counted in Revere on the 13th (SZ), where there were never less than 300 present during the month. At Newburyport 1-2 adult Little Gulls were present throughout the month and another adult was found at Revere on the 18th (SZ). The highlight of the month was an adult Sabine's Gull found at sea on the 28th (BBC-WCD, HW + v.o.). The only other recent August record was an adult present on Monomoy from the 9th-24th in 1974. A single Black-legged Kittiwake was noted at Stellwagen Bank on the 28th (BBC-WCD, HW).

A Gull-billed Tern was reported from Plymouth Beach on the 13th, however no details were submitted (H + DC). A total of 8 Forster's Terns were noted with 7 south of Boston (v.o.). During the month reports of maximum Common Terns came from Monomoy where 1500+ were noted on the 20th (RHS#), Nantucket where 4000+ were recorded on the 24th (SZ), and a maximum of 500+ at Plum Island on the 25th (RSH#). Arctic Terns were carefully noted at Plum Island on the 7th when 1 adult was seen (RSH), and from Monomoy on the 10th when 1 adult and 2 immatures were observed (WRP). A maximum count of 170 Roseate Terns was made on the 25th at Plum Island (RSH + v.o.). At the beginning of the month 20 or more Least Terns were noted at Plum Island (BBC-MK) and by the 27th only one was seen (BBC-IG). Royal Terns were noted at Revere on the 3rd when 3 were observed at Point of Pines (SZ), and 2 were observed at Acoaxet on the 6th (FBC-DCC). Single Royal Terns were seen in South Yarmouth on the 12th (KH), at Ipswich on the 14th (JN) and at Plymouth on the 20th (H + DC#). Many Black Terns and especially Black Skimmers were noted during the month. Most of the skimmers were juveniles, indicating post breeding dispersal from their breeding grounds.

Black Terns:

thr,10	P.I., Monomoy	1-4,5	v.o.,WRP#
10,18	Yarmouth,Brewster	4,3	PT,JBryant
24-30,31	Nantucket, Barnstable	15,8	SZ,DTB#

Black Skimmers:

tr.	Monomoy, Nauset	max 8/20(16 imm, 2ad), max 8	v.o., ICTW#
12on	Plymouth Beach	max 8(8/29)	H+DC#+v.o.
13-20, 15	Brewster, Sandwich	2imm, 2imm	JBryant, PT
31	Barnstable (SN)	7imm, 1ad	DTB, JM

SHOREBIRDS



Hudsonian Godwits in flight, photographed by Dick Veit on Monomoy, August 1977.

NEWBURYPORT - AUGUST, 1977

<u>Species</u>	4	7	10	11	14	16	18	20	21	26	27
Semipalmated Plovers					200+			100+	300		
Black-bellied Plovers					300	325		700	430	950	
Greater Yellowlegs	40	45	90		140	125			85		
Lesser Yellowlegs	600	500		340	150	175					
Short-billed Dowitchers	750				235		340			160	90
Long-billed Dowitchers				2		2			2	6	
Stilt Sandpipers	27	15		10	9		13			16	2
Semi-palmated Sandpipers	8500	8000		6600	2900	2500				800	
Hudsonian Godwits		33			45						11

MONOMOY - AUGUST 1977

	6	7	10	13	20
Semipalmated Plovers		600			125
Black-bellied Plovers	300		500+		650
Greater Yellowlegs	100+				150
Lesser Yellowlegs					125
Short-billed Dowitchers	600+				125
Stilt Sandpipers			10		
Hudsonian Godwits	146			100	55

The above tables depict the occurrence of shorebirds during the month of August at the two major staging areas in Massachusetts, Newburyport and Monomoy. Most apparent from these tables are the gradual diminishing of totals of Lesser Yellowlegs, Short-billed Dowitchers and Semipalmated Sandpipers during the course of the month. This decline in number correlates with the departure of adults on their southward flight. The later influx of juvenals (in the case of Semipalmated Sandpipers) is not apparent from these data, although the number of juvenals present at Newburyport increased markedly by the last week of August.

Also note the gradual departure of Hudsonian Godwits from a peak of 146 at Monomoy, and the comparatively low overall total for Stilt Sandpipers in the state (cf. 60, 126, 44, 71 totals since 1973).

The high count of Piping Plovers at Monomoy was a low 15 on August 20 (DJA, RRV), while a count of 85 Killdeers at Newburyport on August 16 was impressive (RRV). Golden Plovers totalled 57 for the month including one flock of 50 at Martha's Vineyard on August 30 (fide WWB). The higher counts of Ruddy Turnstones were 15 at Monomoy on August 13 (H.D'E#), 22 at Ipswich on August 15 (JN), and 60 at the south end of P.I. on August 21 (HM, RRV, MJL). Whimbrels numbered 140+ at Monomoy on August 9 (CAG, BN) and 35 at Nantucket on August 24 (SZ), and a count of 16 Upland Sandpipers at Marshfield on August 4 was unusually high for any locality (WRP). Solitary Sandpipers totalled 24 from 11 localities, including one at Monomoy on August 20 (BBC-RHS#), and one at Sandy Neck, Barnstable, August 31 (DTB). Six-eight Willets were reported from Monomoy throughout the month (v.o.) and four other singles were reported along the coast from the Cape to P.I., with 7 on P.I. on the 31st (RMB + v.o.). A pure albino Red Knot was found with a flock of 18 others at S.N. August 31 (JM#); while larger flocks of this species were 300+ at E. Boston August 5 (SZ), 75 at Chatham August 16 (HMF) and 100+ at Duxbury August 7 (RW). Two Purple Sandpipers, reportedly immatures, found at Plymouth Beach August 17 (NH) were certainly early migrants. Pectoral Sandpipers totalled about 60 in August, with no particular concentration reported. White-rumped Sandpipers totalled a very low 30, with 9-10 at P.I. August 18-26 (v.o.) (cf. 90+, 85, 8, 20± totals since 1973). Two Baird's Sandpipers at P.I. August 27-31 (RSH, RRV#, RMB) were unique. The Curlew Sandpiper discovered in July was still present at Newburyport August 4, and was noted to be in advanced molt (RSH). Two-five Dunlin were present on Monomoy throughout the month (WRP, RHS). Two Long-billed Dowitchers at Monomoy August 10 were comparatively early and unusual for that locality (WRP). Following a particularly weak showing in New England in the fall of 1976, Western Sandpipers were reported with some regularity this month. Reports included two at Monomoy and two at Nauset August 7 (WRP), 4 adults at Rowley August 16 (RRV), and two at Monomoy August 20 (RHS#). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper August 2 at Plymouth Beach was early (HC, DC); one was at Duxbury August 16 (RW), four were in the Newburyport region August 21 (RRV, MJL) and a single was at P.I. August 27-28 (RSH). Marbled Godwits were at Monomoy (1 - 6th WRP), (2 - 13th HD'E) and at Falmouth August 16 (1 G. Peabody), at P.I. August 16-25 (1 - RPE). A basic plumaged Ruff was at Newburyport on August 4 (RSH, MK) and a female (Reeve) at Hadley, in the Connecticut Valley, was most unusual for that inland locality (TG). A count of 3000 Sanderlings was made at Monomoy August 6 (WRP), and an American Avocet

was at North Beach, Chatham, August 16 (H_uF). Wilson's Phalaropes numbered about 8, all from the P.I. area except for 2 at GMNWR August 21 and 1 there August 31 (RAF). Fifty-two unidentified phalaropes were seen in the vicinity of Pollocks Rip August 29 where 7 Northern's were identified (RSH, MK), and 10 Northern's were observed at Stellwagen Bank August 28 (WCD#).

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

More cuckoos were reported this August than in the previous 4 years; here is the breakdown:

Yellow-billed Cuckoo:

6,14 on	Rowley, Middleboro	1,1	RHS#,DB
21,28,31	GMNWR,Nantucket,Nahant	1,1,1	RAF,SZ,MK

Black-billed Cuckoo:

thr,4,5	Middleboro,Salem,MNWS	2,1,1	DB+RB,CB,CB
6,7,14	Annisquam,P.I.,Marion	6,1,1	HTW,RSH,GM
24,31	Nantucket,Nahant	1,2	SZ,MK

A Great Horned Owl was hooting every 15 seconds for about 10 minutes on the 28th in Norfolk (RMB), where a Saw-whet Owl was found on the 10th (RMB). Five Short-eared Owls were seen together on the north end of Monomoy on the 20th (BBC-RHS). Two Barred Owls were noted on the 20th in Lancaster (HM). Common Nighthawks were migrating by month's end, but more would come in September. The Massachusetts Audubon Society is conducting a special Nighthawk watch; the full report will appear in our September records. Over 100 Chimney Swifts were seen in Salem on the 23rd (MK) and a Pileated Woodpecker was noted in Weston on the 11th (W. Conway).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SHRIKES

As many as 25 Eastern Kingbirds were recorded from Plum Island during the month. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was carefully noted at Marblehead Neck on the 28th (RSH). Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported from Winchester on the 18th (M. Martinek), and one each from Monomoy and Wellfleet on the 26th (CAG,BN). Two Least Flycatchers on the 28th in Weston was the first record in three years (LJR).

Tree Swallows were building up to over 6000 at Plum Island by month's end and over 300 were noted in Bolton on the 28th (HM). Two adult and 5 young Rough-winged Swallows were noted at GMNWR on the 3rd (fide RAF), and two were seen in Chatham on the 6th (WRP#). A single Cliff Swallow was noted at Lancaster on the 27th (HM). Over 100 Purple Martins were counted on Plum Island on the 6th (RHS#), and only 2 were seen there on the 25th (HTW).

A single Fish Crow was seen in Whitman on the 25th (WRP), none were reported elsewhere. Red-breasted Nuthatches were widely reported in good numbers, with fair numbers on Cape Cod. As many as 15 were noted in Lancaster (HM) and 12 were reported from Rockport on the 17th (RSH).

Only one Hermit Thrush was reported during the month, at Dennis on the 25th (J. Bryant). Four Swainson's Thrushes were recorded from Baldwinville on the 11th (JO'R), and one from Marblehead Neck on the 26th (MK). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were noted in Rowley on the 16th (RRV#) and in Rockport on the 17th (RSH). A Loggerhead Shrike was noted at Pochet, Orleans, sometime around the 21st (D.Comeau,P.Nagorniuk).

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS

An immature White-eyed Vireo at Plum Island on the 31st was the only report for the month (RMB), a single Solitary Vireo was noted in Chatham on the 31st (BN#). Philadelphia Vireos were reported from Plum Island with as many as 3 birds observed (RSH+v.o.); Marblehead Neck reported a maximum of 3 from the 25th on (MK) and 3 were noted on Monomoy on the 26th (CAG,BN). A Warbling Vireo at Provincetown on the 27th was the only report during the month (BN).

One of the largest August waves of warblers in recent years occurred on the 26th, especially on the outer Cape. Warblers were present in every suitable patch of habitat from Chatham to Provincetown. According to Blair Nikula, even by the most conservative estimates the total warbler population on the outer Cape only during this period was 100,000 to 150,000 birds! (4-5 birds per acre X approximately 30,000 suitable acres - 1/2 the total acreage of the outer Cape). Bay-breasted and Cape May Warblers comprised at least 80% of this total.

A single Prothonotary Warbler was reported on the 30th from Martha's Vineyard (fide WWB). Mark Kasprzyk noted many warblers at Marblehead Neck especially from the 26th on. Highlights included 4 Black and white, 1-2 Blue-winged (from the 19th on), 7 Tennessee, 4+ Magnolia, 12 Yellow-rumped, 1 Black-throated Green, 4+ Blackburnian, 1 Chestnut-sided, 70 Bay-breasted (RSH), 1 Blackpoll, 1 Connecticut (from the 25-31st) 5+ Wilson's, and 5 American Redstart.

From Cape Cod the following were noted during the month: Golden-winged Warbler, 1 at Chatham on the 21st, and another at Provincetown on the 27th (BN), 1 Orange-crowned at Barnstable on the 31st (DTB#), 1 Nashville from Dennis on the 28th (J.Bryant), 400 Cape May at Chatham on the 26th (CAG,BN), a Yellow-throated Warbler at Brewster on the 25th (J.Bryant) was carefully studied, 400 Bay-breasted at Chatham on the 26th (CAG,BN), one Kentucky Warbler in Chatham Center on the 28th (RVC) and another at Morris Island on the 31st (DW#), a Connecticut at Chatham on the 30th (fide WWB), 3 Mourning Warblers at Chatham on the 26th and 1 at Wellfleet on the same day (CAG,BN), a Yellow-breasted Chat on Monomoy on the 26th (CAG), and finally two Hooded Warblers - one at Chatham on the 20-21(RRV,CAG), and another at Monomoy on the 31st (BN,CAG).

Other warblers were a Brewster's at West Newbury on the 7th (RSH), 90 Cape Mays at Annisquam on the 26th (HTW), 7 Cape Mays were recorded from Lancaster on the 27th (HM). A Yellow-throated Warbler was noted in Annisquam on the 26th (HTW), 41 Bay-breasted Warblers were banded at Manomet on the 26th (Staff), where a Yellow-breasted Chat was banded on the 29th. A Louisiana Waterthrush was reported from Tuckernuck Island on the 8th (RRV,MJL), where a Hooded Warbler was noted on the 6th (RRV#). Another Hooded was found at Eastern Point, Gloucester, on the 28th (RRV,

MJL), where 12 Canada, 25 Bay-breasted and 1 Mourning were also noted.

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS

Over 80 Bobolinks were counted in Marshfield on the 4th (WRP) and 3 were noted in Annisquam on the 26th (HTW). A Yellow-headed Blackbird was found on Tuckernuck on the 8th (RRV,MJL) (cf. 2, 3, 4, 0 for the last 4 years during August, all but one reported from Cape Cod and the Islands). An Orchard Oriole from Plum Island on the 6th is quite unusual (TPG), and so too were 3 females from Tuckernuck on the 13th (RRV,MJL). Scarlet Tanagers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were moving on the 26th with many being reported. A Blue Grosbeak was reported from Martha's Vineyard on the 30th (fide WWB). A single Evening Grosbeak was found at Annisquam on the 26th (HTW). Two Grasshopper Sparrows were observed in Falmouth on the 20th (RHS#). On the 13th 20 or more Sharp-tailed Sparrows were located at Plum Island (LJR), and 2 Seaside Sparrows were seen carrying food there on the 27th (RAF#). White-throated Sparrows returned to P.I. on the 25th when 2 were noted (RSH), and a Lincoln's Sparrow was seen and heard singing in Baldwinville on the 26th (JO'R).

RHS,RRV

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

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CORRELEGENDA

FOR MAY 1977:

The statement in the May Summary (in reference to the Cape) "Landbird waves occurred on the 1st, 7th, 13th, 17-18th, and on the 27th, the last date being exceptional on Cape Cod," is misleading. The date is not unusual but the fact was the wave was produced by gusty Northwest winds.

FOR JUNE 1977:

The species name skua should not be capitalized, only when referring to a specific species is the name put in capital letters.

On the 29th of June only one pair of Acadian Flycatchers in Middleboro were noted, not two pairs as stated.

On the 26th of June, two pairs of Short-billed Marsh Wrens in Hadley were seen feeding young and extracting egg shells from the nest, not building a nest as stated.

FOR AUGUST 1977:

Delete Hooded Merganser: 6 Tuckernuck 1 RRV, MJL

ADDENDA

FOR MAY 1977

Gannet:

10 Eastham (1st Encounter) 500 BN

Yellow-crowned Night Heron:

thr. S. Wellfleet (WBWS) 1 imm. BN

Golden Plover:

9 Barnstable (SN) 2 RFP

Wilson's Phalarope:

17 Monomoy 6 fide BN

Black-headed Gull:

8-9 Nauset 1 ad. v.o.

Alcid (sp):

11 Eastham (1st Encounter) 3 lg. unid. BN

FOR JUNE 1977

Royal Tern:

12,30	Provincetown, Nauset should read	1,1	BN, BN
12,30	Provincetown, Nauset	2,3	BN, BN

FOR AUGUST 1977

Goshawk:

23	Grafton	1	Jeanne L. Johnson
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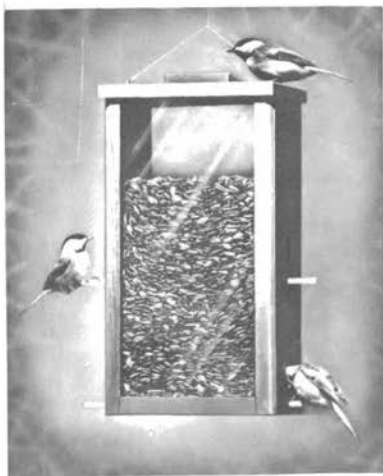
Tennessee Warbler:

27	Provincetown	40	BN
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From Manomet Bird Observatory the following banding records were received too late for inclusion in the summary: Gray Catbird 58 b 8/15; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 3 b 8/16, Yellow-throated Vireo 1 b 8/30; Philadelphia Vireo 1 b 8/26; Warbling Vireo 1 b 8/25; Golden-winged Warbler 1 b 8/26; Bay-breasted Warbler 42 b 8/25; Mourning Warbler 1 b 8/24; Yellow-breasted Chat 3 b thr; White-throated Sparrow 36 b 8/22 and Lincoln's Sparrow 1 b 8/16.

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