

# new england region



## SIMON PERKINS

Two very different weather phenomena dominated the migratory "landscape" this spring. The first was a record-breaking heat wave at the end of March: On March 31 in the Boston area, the temperature spiked to an all-time high of 91 degrees. The second was a seemingly interminable spell of easterly winds that prevailed every day for the first two weeks of May.

Not surprisingly, the Heat Wave swept in some early migrants. Species whose early arrival coincided with the hot surge included Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Barn and Northern Rough-winged swallows, Eastern

Wood-Pewee, Wood Thrush, and Veery. The only drawback to the Heat Wave was that it put the emergence of foliage roughly two weeks ahead of schedule, so that late April and May migrants were much harder to see.

The prolonged east winds in the first half of May were never very strong, so they had little apparent effect on seabirds. The winds did, however, delay the large-scale arrival of many other migrants during this period, though, as they always seem to do regardless of weather, the vanguard arrived more or less on schedule. The end of migration was more protracted, and waves were virtually nonexistent until the third week of

May, when the wind finally swung back into the south and west.

Among the few who benefitted from the abysmal weather in early May was a lucky birder who, while checking Cape Cod Bay for seabirds, found a Ross's Gull. A sample of some of the other rarities found this spring included more Little Egrets in Massachusetts, two White-faced Ibises including Rhode Island's first (pending committee review), a first Regional Pink-footed Goose, New England's first Virginia's Warbler, and a Golden-crowned Sparrow.

**Abbreviations:** H.B.S.P. (*Hammonasset Beach S.P., Madison, CT*); M.V. (*Martha's Vineyard, Dukes Co., MA*); Monhegan (*Monhegan Is., Lincoln Co., ME*); Monomoy (*Monomoy Island N.W.R., Chatham, MA*); Nantucket (*Nantucket Is., MA*); P.R.N.W.R. (*Parker River N.W.R., Newbury, Rowley, and Ipswich, MA*).

## LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

A count of 550+ Red-throated Loons at Nantucket Apr. 5 (B. Perkins) represented a lower-than-average seasonal maximum for this species at this particular spring staging area; 225 Red-throateds were still there May 15-16 (SP et al.). A loon in partial breeding plumage reported as a Pacific in Portsmouth, RI, May 26 (RF et al.) was undoubtedly this species. It is now clear that virtually all the Arctic/Pacific-type loons in New England waters are Pacifics. However, as long as a (very) few birds with white flank patches continue to be reported locally, even though Arctic Loon has never been documented on the Atlantic seaboard, we should continue to carefully scrutinize these birds.

A high total of 540 migrating Red-necked Grebes was tallied from Pt. Judith, Narragansett, RI, Apr. 11 (RF), and other locally high counts of Red-neckeds included 37 at Shelburne Bay, L. Champlain, VT, Apr. 22 (TM), and 200 on the coast of Maine, in Saco, Apr. 11 (P. Comins). A smattering of Red-neckeds noted inland in Massachusetts during or immediately after the March Heat Wave included birds at Turner's Falls, Quabbin Res., Gardner, and

Concord. The Eared Grebe that spent another winter in E. Gloucester remained through Mar. 15 (J. Soucy et al.).

There were 571 N. Fulmars counted May 29 between Bar Harbor, ME, and Yarmouth, Nova Scotia (WT), from the catamaran ferry that replaced the old "Blue-nose." Seabirding from this 21st century craft will be a bit less casual since the voyage that used to take 6 hours at roughly 20 knots is now done in 2½ hours at 50 knots! A total of 410 Wilson's Storm-Petrels noted moving by the s. shore of Nantucket May 16 (SP et al.) represented a fairly high land-based count, and on May 12, during the aforementioned prolonged stretch of NE winds, six Leach's Storm-Petrels were pushed deep into Cape Cod Bay, down to Sandy Neck in Barnstable (P. Trimble). A tally of 500 N. Gannets Mar. 7 (BN) at Monomoy represented a high total so early in the season. Two Am. White Pelicans in Shelburne Bay, L. Champlain, VT, May 22 (TM) must have made an impressive sight.

The only Least Bittern reports came from Massachusetts, where at least five were seen in May. Unfortunately, this species has continued to show a steady decline in numbers throughout the Region. Meanwhile, **Little Egret** has become nearly annual in New England. Two different birds, discovered May 16 only 5 hours and roughly 25 mi apart, included a bird in high breeding

condition at Nantucket (SP, T. Maloney, A. Jones) that possessed bright reddish-orange facial skin and toes, and a bird at N. Monomoy I., Chatham, MA (B. Loughran, P. Trimble et al.) that displayed gray facial skin and yellow toes. Neither of these two individuals were seen again during the reporting period (but see the upcoming summer season report).

Reports of Glossy Ibises, noteworthy for being far inland, included single birds in Amherst, MA, Mar. 28 (*vide* SK), and Grand Isle, VT, May 28 (RL), and two different (?) **White-faced Ibises** were seen in Jamestown, RI, Apr. 13 (J. St. Jean), and at H.B.S.P. May 10–31 (B&K Finnan et al., ph.). If the Rhode Island bird passes muster with the local records committee, it will represent the first state record. White-faced have occurred previously in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire.

Black Vulture has become so common in w. Connecticut that reports are no longer enumerated by local compilers. Yet the species is still very uncommon elsewhere in New England (and rare n. of Massachusetts), though their numbers continue to slowly increase. Among a total of roughly eight outside Connecticut, one was in Rockland, ME, Apr. 11 (S. Benz), and the rest were in Massachusetts. Two seen repeatedly throughout the spring around the Blue Hills

in Milton, MA, were suspected of nesting (NS). Despite their recent resurgence into Connecticut, Black Vultures have yet to be found nesting there; the closest known nesting site is still n.e. Pennsylvania.

#### WATERFOWL

In addition to the Greater White-fronted Goose mentioned in the SA below, another five White-fronteds (forms unspecified) were reported from elsewhere in Connecticut. The only notable counts of Snow Geese, all from Haverhill, NH, in the Connecticut R. Valley, included 800 on 2 days in late March, and 1200 Apr. 7 (RB). Two **Ross's Geese** were found again in Grand Isle, VT, Mar. 27 (D. Hoag). After roughly 10 years of autumn sightings, this year marked only the 2nd (consecutive) year in which Ross's Goose had been recorded in spring.

Tundra Swan reports included nine in Brandon, VT, Apr. 8–14 (*vide* JP), and a lone bird in Easthampton, MA, Apr. 5–15 (*vide* SK). Despite recent efforts by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife to stem the further multiplication of feral Whooper Swans in Essex, MA, seven were seen at P.R.N.W.R. Mar. 8 (S. Grinley).

Eurasian Wigeon reports included only

**SA** Vying for the Bird-of-the-Season award was a **Pink-footed Goose** in Mansfield, CT, Mar. 21–25 (J. Stephen Mortytko et al., ph.). The Avian Records Committee of Connecticut has since accepted this record and added the species to the state list. This action was based, primarily, on the results of exhaustive research on the part of the secretary of the Committee, Mark Szantyr. This work ultimately led the members to the unanimous conclusion that the bird was a *bona fide* vagrant rather than an escapee.

The facts are compelling:

- The bird appeared at a time when other members of this species are moving from their wintering quarters in Europe to their breeding grounds in Iceland and Greenland—at a time when a migrant is most likely to overshoot those breeding grounds.
- Among 150 Canada Geese neck-banded in Greenland in the past few years, six are known to have wintered in Connecticut, some as recently as this year. This firmly establishes that at least some geese move between Greenland and New England.
- The flock of Canada Geese in which the Pink-footed was found also contained a Greater White-fronted Goose (through Mar. 28) thought to be of the Greenland form.
- According to sources in Greenland, the numbers of Pink-footeds that nest in Greenland have greatly increased in recent years.
- The occurrence in N. America of free-flying Pink-footed Geese has recently increased, and the records form a clear seasonal pattern. Most have occurred during migration, especially in the spring (e.g., one in Newfoundland spring 1980; at least three in Québec including fall 1988, 1996, and 1997; five in Newfoundland spring 1995; a single in Pennsylvania spring 1997 and again in 1998).
- The bird was wary and showed no signs of having been in captivity.
- Apparently Pink-footeds are very seldom kept in captivity in N. America, and the one New England aviculturist known to have Pink-footeds in his collection accounted for all of them.



**Pink-footed Goose (in front with Canada Goose) at Mansfield, Connecticut, March 23, 1998.**  
Photograph/ Mark S. Szantyr

two in Massachusetts, one each in Vermont and Maine, and three on Great Bay, near the mouth of the Piscataqua R., NH, Mar. 1 (SM). The only "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal was an over-winterer in S. Hempstead, RI, that remained through Mar. 7 (*vide* DE). An impressive count of 1249 Ring-necked Ducks was recorded in Alburg Passage on L. Champlain, VT, Apr. 4 (TM). Tufted Ducks were still rare in New England only a decade ago. Quite suddenly, they have become regular winter visitors. In Massachusetts, two over-wintering individuals remained into March in Westport and Sterling/West Boylston, and a 3rd was present in Peabody between Mar. 29 and Apr. 18 (D&I Jewell et al.) In Connecticut, a drake Tufted found in Niantic Mar. 9 remained for more than a week (G. Knoecklein). Sachuest Pt., Middletown, RI, remains the center of abundance s. of Maine for wintering Harlequin Ducks. Seventy-four were still there Mar. 19 (WE, NM).

A female **Bufflehead** with young was found in the Sand Bar W.M.A. on L. Champlain, in Milton, VT, May 28 (RL). This extraordinary record represented the first for New England, the closest known nesting area being e. Ontario! Two single Barrow's Goldeneyes were seen inland in Concord, MA, Mar. 16 (K. Dorsey), and in Wesboro, MA, Mar. 1-15 (M. Lynch et al.).

## KITES THROUGH SANDPIPERS

**Mississippi Kites** have now occurred annually in New England for several years, and the appearance of a bird in Provincetown, MA, May 31 (J. Trimble) kept the record intact. Large numbers of Bald Eagles seen on L. Champlain, VT, during ice-out included a peak count of 25 Mar. 15 (TM). An early Broad-winged Hawk was noted in Ridgefield, CT, Mar. 26 (L. Havey).

The P.R.N.W.R. is currently the most productive site in New England for observing the diurnal passage of spring migrants. Hawks, for example, are nowhere more numerous. Noteworthy totals there this year included 445 Sharp-shinned Hawks in the last 13 days of April, and 531 Am. Kestrels Apr. 18 & 21 (TC). Three Gyrfalcons were reported from Massachusetts: the bird that over-wintered at Logan Airport, Boston, remained in the vicinity until May 4 (NS), and two others, both well-described, were in Edgartown Mar. 21 (M. Pelhkan), and Concord Apr. 21 (MR). The pair of Merlins that nested on the campus of Johnson State College, Johnson, VT, last summer (first Vermont breeding record) returned again this spring (S. Laughlin). By

the end of the reporting period, their nesting status was not yet known.

New England being the n. limit of the species' range, Regional reports of King Rails are always noteworthy. One was in S. Kingston, RI, May 2-4 (D. Krauss et al.); another was noted in Middleboro, MA, May 26-30 (R. Finch et al.); and an apparent pair was on territory in W. Bridgewater, MA, May 31 (SA). Common Moorhen remains very scarce throughout New England. Three reports included individuals in Wellfleet, MA, May 31 (S. Clifton et al.); Ferrisburg, VT, the same day (A. Strong); and Old Town, ME, May 28 (J. Markowsky). Sandhill Cranes were widely scattered: two in flight over E. Greenwich, RI, May 8 (M. Resch); one in Truro, MA, Apr. 24-27 (R. Beatty); and one in Turner, ME, Apr. 29 (JD).

Single Am. Golden Plovers were found in Scarborough, ME, May 23 (LB), and at 3 locales in Massachusetts: Edgartown May 3 (A. Keith), N. Monomoy May 31 (BN), and an especially early bird at Nantucket Mar. 17-18 (E. Ray et al.). American Oystercatchers were noted in Maine again. A bird was seen as far north and east as Portland Mar. 26 (R. Eakin), and one-two seen periodically throughout spring between Biddeford and Scarborough included a copulating pair at the latter locality, where the species was first found breeding 2 years ago. At that time, Scarborough was the northernmost known breeding site for the species. But last year (July 1997) the species established a new outpost in s. Nova Scotia.

A convincing description accompanied a report of a Black-necked Stilt at Odiorne Point S.P., Rye, NH, May 23 (A. Stewart), and at least five Am. Avocets graced 3 New England states this spring. Two of these were in N. Scituate Mar. 17-27 (W. Lackey et al.); another (or perhaps one of the two Scituate birds) was seen briefly in Brewster Mar. 29 (P. Trull); one was in Little Compton, RI, May 14 (R. Farrell); and another two were at Hills Beach, Biddeford, ME, May 10-30 (P. Moynahan et al.).

Early sandpipers in Massachusetts included a Willet and a Pectoral Sandpiper, both at Nantucket Mar. 24 (E. Ray, E. Andrews, respectively); an Upland Sandpiper at Logan Airport, Boston, Mar. 31 (NS); and 10 Com. Snipe at Nantucket Mar. 1 (E. Ray). One of two Whimbrels that spent most of the winter (the first on record in New England) in Yarmouth, MA, remained at least until the end of March (M. Kasprzyk). The **Bar-tailed Godwit** that spent most of the winter in Plymouth, MA,

was relocated at Monomoy May 15 (BN), and the only Ruff of the season was in W. Bridgewater May 10-13 (WP). An inland fallout of shorebirds in Haverhill, NH, May 24 (RB) brought three Black-bellied Plovers, a Dunlin, and roughly 200 Short-billed Dowitchers. A Short-billed Dowitcher of the race *hendersoni*, seen in Newburyport, MA, May 24 (RH), apparently represented the first spring record of this subspecies in the Region. In Massachusetts, *hendersoni* is an uncommon migrant that is recorded primarily in the latter half of July. Coincidentally, the first spring record of this subspecies was also noted this year in New Jersey (P. Lehman, pers comm).

The only known nesting sites in New England for Wilson's Phalaropes are at N. Monomoy and P.R.N.W.R., so spring sightings away from these areas are noteworthy. In Connecticut, one was at H.B.S.P. May 18 (A. Ackermann) and another was in Durham May 28 (W. Schultz); and in Rhode Island, two were in Portsmouth May 21 (DF). In Massachusetts, Wilson's Phalaropes noteworthy for being inland included single birds in W. Bridgewater May 10-12 (SA) and Concord May 17 (LN). A Red-necked Phalarope was unusual even slightly inland in Exeter, NH, May 27 (SM), and flocks of migrating phalaropes were seen moving along the s. shore of Nantucket May 16, following the 2 weeks of easterly winds. A 2-hour count produced 142 Red-neckeds, 135 Reds, and 292 that were too distant to identify to species (SP et al.).

## GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS

Black-headed Gull reports from 3 states included five in Connecticut, four in Massachusetts, and two in Maine. Connecticut also produced three Little Gulls, Rhode Island and Massachusetts two each, and Maine one. The Mew Gull that wintered in Winthrop, MA, was last seen Mar. 29 (R. Cressman). A Lesser Black-backed Gull in Scarborough, ME, May 29 (P. Comins) represented the only report outside Massachusetts, where at least six were found. An always sensational **Ross's Gull** in breeding plumage was briefly seen standing among a small flock of Bonaparte's Gulls at Sandy Neck Beach in Barnstable, MA, May 13 (S. Miller). The appearance of this bird, probably in part a product of the prolonged E and NE winds that prevailed for the first 2 weeks of May, represented the 4th state record.

Migrant Caspian Terns were reported from 3 states: one each in Rhode Island and Maine and five in Massachusetts. In New

England, Forster's Tern has been known to nest only at P.R.N.W.R. The presence of two Forster's there May 9 (RH) suggested that this species might still maintain a local breeding toehold, though direct evidence of this behavior has been lacking since shortly after they were discovered nesting there 6 years ago. Black Skimmers also cling tenuously to their northernmost nesting outposts in Massachusetts. At the end of the reporting period, one-two pairs initially ensconced in a tern colony in Orleans had moved to another tern colony at the n. end of S. Monomoy (*vide* B. Prescott). Another pair of skimmers returned for the 2nd consecutive year to Sandy Pt. in West Haven, CT, May 28 (*vide* GH). The nesting effort there this year represented only the 3rd known time the species had attempted to breed in the state.

Most notable among alcid reports were two late Atlantic Puffins seen off the s. shore of Nantucket May 16 (SP), during the same seabird flight that brought the above-mentioned oceanic phalaropes. Following a winter in which both species of murre were reported in higher-than-average numbers, especially in Massachusetts, both Common and Thick-billed murre continued to be reported from Provincetown, MA. For example, on Mar. 7 three Commons and seven Thick-billed were noted (B.O.).

#### **PARAKEETS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS**

Monk Parakeets continue in small numbers, year round, in 2-3 border towns in s. Massachusetts. Yet despite the fact that this species has been breeding for years in Connecticut and Rhode Island, and birds comprising the Massachusetts "colonies" have constructed nests, this writer is unaware of any monks (birds) in the Commonwealth that have actually produced young. Following the early appearance of two different Yellow-billed Cuckoos in Sandwich, MA, Apr. 20 & 26 (P. Trull, P. Trimble, respectively), both cuckoo species arrived in Massachusetts in force. In May, reports in e. Massachusetts alone totaled roughly 50 Black-billed and 40 Yellow-billed. Oddly, with the exception of another early Yellow-billed at Monhegan Is., ME, Apr. 26 (B. Boynton), and an early Black-billed in Bar Harbor, ME, Apr. 29 (*vide* WT), reports from elsewhere were completely lacking.

Two wintering **Northern Hawk Owls** in Maine remained into the spring. One in Hermon was last reported Mar. 13 (M. Lukey), and another, which had not been

detected in the area earlier, was reported in Ft. Kent on the late date of May 1 (F. Du-mond). A winter roost of Long-eared Owls in Plymouth, MA, still contained at least three birds through early April (B.O.).

Migrant Com. Nighthawks in New England are much less numerous in spring than they are in the fall. Notable counts included 30+ in Wayland May 19 (N. Patterson), and 34 in Ipswich the next day (D. Brown). Small numbers of Chuck-will's-widows have been present in Edgartown, M.V., each summer for several years. They almost certainly breed there, though efforts to confirm this have failed. Nearby, at Cape Cod, MA, single Chucks that were heard singing in Bourne and Wellfleet further fueled hope that this species will soon be added to the Commonwealth's list of breeding birds. Meanwhile, numbers of Whip-poor-wills continue to decline throughout the Region. A newly discovered "whip" enclave in Lancaster, MA, contained at least 55 singing birds in mid-May (RL).

Red-headed Woodpecker has become very scarce in our Region. All but one report, from Maine, came from Massachusetts. A pair in Malden, MA, May 5-31 (D&I Jewell et al.) was suspected of nesting. The early arrival of several Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine coincided with the Heat Wave at the end of March. A well-described and illustrated Black-backed Woodpecker that had drifted S of its usual range was reported from Uxbridge, MA, Mar. 18 (B. Kimball).

The Heat Wave was probably responsible, at least in part, for the appearance of an extraordinarily early E. Wood-Pewee, well seen and heard in Killingsworth, CT, Mar. 29-31 (J. Himmelman). Acadian Flycatcher is seldom found in either New Hampshire or Maine. One was in Nottingham, NH, May 31 (A&BD), and three were banded in May on Appledore I., York, ME (D. Holmes). Another Acadian returned to a pine plantation in Chilmark, M.V., May 28 (T. Rivers et al.), where the species has been suspected of breeding for the past few years. Rarely seen here in spring, a W. Kingbird was carefully scrutinized at H.B.S.P. May 30 (D. Abbott), and a well-described **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was seen briefly in Hope Valley, RI, Apr. 26 (E. Harlan, *vide* DE).

#### **SHRIKES THROUGH WAXWINGS**

Loggerhead Shrike, now nearly a thing of the past in the New England landscape, staged a mini comeback this spring. Four reports from Vermont included only two

that were documented: Weybridge Apr 26-28 (JP) and Grand Isle May 9 (N Dickinson). In Massachusetts, a bird seen by many was in Newbury May 16-21 (D Davis et al.). In Maine, 2 reports that were not accompanied by details were nonetheless convincing from the standpoint of dates: Frankfort Apr. 28-29 (*vide* KG), and Kennebunk May 8 (*vide* B. Coullon).

Fish Crows reached new n. limits at L. Winnepesaukee, NH, May 15 (T. Vazzano), and in Burlington, VT, where four-six birds included a pair that was thought to be nesting; Fish Crow has never been documented adequately enough to be added to the Vermont list. Meanwhile, the occurrence of Com. Raven continues to increase in s e New England.

Being the aerialists that they are, swallows are especially prone to displacement by wind. The blast of SW winds that produced the Heat Wave probably accounted for the early appearances of a Barn Swallow in Richmond, RI, Mar. 28 (D. Waits), and two N. Rough-winged Swallows in Lakeville, MA, Mar. 30 (M. Boucher).

House Wrens winter in New England with just enough frequency to make it difficult to judge the over-winterers from the early migrants. Such was the case this year with three House Wrens in Massachusetts Mar. 3, 13, & 28 (B.O.). The last of these, as well as another in Scarborough, ME, Mar. 31 (D. Haines), were the best candidates for being early migrants. A Sedge Wren was seen in Derry, NH, May 19 & 21 (A&BD)

Twenty-five Swainson's Thrushes banded at the Manomet Center in Plymouth, MA, during the last 2 weeks of May (TLE), and roughly 40 Veeries counted over Plum I. predawn May 18 (RH), provided the only evidence that the passage of migrant thrushes involved any more than a few individuals. The early arrivals of a Veery in Westport, CT, Mar. 30 (E&L Hiestand), and a Wood Thrush in Wilton, CT, Apr. 4 (J Hunter), were attributed to the Heat Wave

Away from the species' usual winter haunts in n. New England, the only report of Bohemian Waxwing involved a bird in Pomfret, CT, Mar. 17 (MS).

#### **WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES**

Overall, most species of warblers were underreported this spring, no doubt because of the unfavorable winds during the first 2 weeks of May. These winds also delayed the arrival of the main thrust of birds. For example, banders at the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences handled their highest single-day total of indi-

viduals (134) on the late date of May 28 (*vide* TLE). However, warbler migration was far from devoid of highlights.

Orange-crowned Warblers were well reported, with one each mentioned in

**SA** Geoff Dennis, a Rhode Island birder/photographer who is relatively new to the bird game, while celebrating his anniversary with his wife on Monhegan May 21, photographed a warbler he didn't recognize. He concluded (uneasily) that the bird was an aberrant Nashville Warbler. Several days later, he happened to notice a bird illustration by John Sill on the May page of the Massachusetts Audubon Society's 1998 Bird Identification Calendar. Immediately upon seeing the illustration, he recognized it as the species that he had seen at Monhegan. The illustration was labeled "Virginia's Warbler." His photographs amply confirmed a **Virginia's Warbler**.

Pending acceptance by the Maine records committee, this sighting will represent a first Regional record, and only the 2nd for the e. United States (one record from New Jersey). However, Virginia's Warbler has a remarkable record of occurrence in e. Canada, having been reported previously from Ontario, Nova Scotia, Labrador, and New Brunswick.

Maine, Rhode Island, and Connecticut, and no fewer than eight in Massachusetts. Blue-winged/Golden-winged hybrids included at least five "Brewster's" Warblers in Massachusetts, and a "Lawrence's" in Dayton, ME, May 19 (P. McGowan et al., ph).

Far-flung southern warblers in the north included a Prothonotary in Ferrisburgh, VT, May 20 (J. Appleton et al.); a Worm-eating Warbler in Portland, ME, May 4 (D. Ladd et al.); and Hooded Warblers in Maine at Bar Harbor May 25 (C. Witt) and Monhegan May 26 (BB).

Other warblers of note included two very early N. Parulas in Massachusetts, at Wellfleet Mar. 10 (J. Sones) and Nantucket Mar. 12 (R. Laterra); an over-wintering Ovenbird in Athol, MA, that stayed through Mar. 14 (D. Small); the over-wintering **Hermit Warbler** at M.V. that was last reported Mar. 4 (M. Pelikan); and single Yellow-throated Warblers in Provincetown, MA, Apr. 20 (W. Willard), Nantucket May 28 (M. Green), and E. Machias, ME, Apr. 21-28 (C. Duncan). Also, two male Yellow-

throateds were counter-singing into mid-May in Litchfield, CT (D. Rosgen), and a pair was seen nest-building in early May in Kent, CT (R. Naylor), the only known site in New England where the species has nested previously. On the late side was a Palm Warbler at P.R.N.W.R. May 23 (M. Lynch), and six-eight Palm Warblers in a bog in Lewis, VT, May 25 (T. Aversa) included a pair carrying food. This represented only the 2nd nesting record in the state following the discovery, in the same town, of adults carrying food in 1993 (*vide* WE, NM).

The only Summer Tanagers reported n. of Massachusetts were birds in Woodstock and Hartland, VT (*vide* JP).

Single Lark Sparrows were in Bowdoinham, ME, Mar. 31 (H. Lamoreau), Monhegan May 25 (LB), and Hingham, MA, May 21-24 (N. Swirka); an over-winterer in Norwalk, CT, remained through mid-March (N. Jordan).

A possible Clay-colored × Field Sparrow hybrid in Grand Isle, VT, from Apr. 28-May 31 (DH et al.) looked most like a Clay-colored Sparrow, but sang a song with components of both species. This year and last, this individual was paired with a Field Sparrow. Four pure Clay-coloredreds included three in Massachusetts and one in Connecticut. A Seaside Sparrow in Portland, ME, May 8 (LB), was n. of any known nesting area. An ad. **Golden-crowned Sparrow** visited a feeding station in Weston, MA, Apr. 9-15 (M. Hunt), and a "Gambell's" White-crowned Sparrow was found in Westport, MA, Apr. 20 (E. Nielsen). Single "Oregon" Dark-eyed Juncos were reported from Maynard, MA, Mar. 1-26 (LN), and Chester, NH, throughout March (A&BD).

A Rose-breasted Grosbeak survived the winter at a feeder in Bangor, ME, and departed Apr. 4 (*vide* JID), and a wintering Black-headed Grosbeak remained at a feeder in Hamden, CT, through mid-March (J. Buck). The only Blue Grosbeaks n. of Massachusetts included singles in Portland, ME, May 9-12 (L. Pedersen) and Monhegan May 26 (BB). Aside from a single bird in Rhode Island, all other Blue Grosbeak reports, involving one-two birds, came from 10 towns in e. Massachusetts, all but two s. of *Plymouth*.

Single Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found at Wellfleet, MA, May 28-31 (E. Winslow et al.), and Scarborough, ME, May 31 (K. Gergone), and at least two male and two female Boat-tailed Grackles, first noted Apr. 22 (C. Barnard), returned to the Lordship marshes in Stratford, CT, where,

presumably, they nest each year.

An ad. male Bullock's Oriole that spent the winter at 2 different feeders n. of Boston remained in Reading, MA, through Apr. 19 (D. Schromm et al., ph., v.t.).

White-winged Crossbills, holdovers from the winter flight, were still being reported in many parts of the Region. Townsend noted that this species was common in coastal areas "downeast" in Maine. Reports elsewhere included 10 in Hopkinton, MA, May 11 (B. Hehn); a total of four in 2 towns in w. Massachusetts May 10-11 (*vide* SK); and G. Hanisek reported "both species through mid-May, mostly along the coast" in Connecticut.

Following an active winter, Com. Redpolls in Massachusetts were recorded later than ever in the Bay State: five were seen at Nantucket May 15 (SP et al.), and two were in Cambridge May 30 (L. Ferrareso). A high total of 1460 Am. Goldfinches was tallied migrating over P.R.N.W.R., within about 3 hours, May 18 (SP), and an Evening Grosbeak was late leaving Nantucket May 28 (N. Brooks et al.).

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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 295.