

Blackbird visited Cap-aux-Meules and Lavernière, respectively, 6–23 Oct (m.ob.); an imm. stopped briefly in Haldimand, Gaspésie, 22 Oct (M.&E. Morency, G. Jobin). An imm. Orchard Oriole was identified by plumage and calls in Cap-Tourmente N.W.A. 9 Oct (AC). Two ad. and five juv. Com. Redpolls at a feeder in Jonquièrre 23 Aug may have indicated local breeding (D. Gervais et al.).

EXOTICS

A male Mandarin Duck appeared in Laval 20 Oct (D. Hughes) and two Chinese Geese were reported in Clarenceville 7 Oct (*vide* BH). A Chukar in La Baie early Jul–23 Aug was without doubt an escape from a local fancier (S. Tremblay, Mo. Tremblay, H. Simard). A Zebra Finch was found among a flock of House Sparrows at Hull 12 Sep (M. Tellier).

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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. In most regions, place names given in italic type are counties. Standard abbreviations that are used throughout *North American Birds* are keyed on page 20.

new england



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Autumn 1999 was considerably wetter than average, largely attributable to a wet September, in turn owing much to the drenching received from Tropical Storm Floyd 16–17 Sep, although other frontal systems pitched in, notably on 10 Sep. August and November were actually much drier than average. Temperature was above average in September and November, but a tad cool in October. Killing frost was frequent from early Oct in the north, but snow was almost absent. Bird activity tended to reflect weather, with some good flights correlating well with frontal passages; e.g., on 12 and 18–19 Sep. The best seabird "wrecks," on 4 Oct and 3 Nov, were associated with southerly blows rather than nor'easters. Floyd attracted birders to several sites along its path, but its results were modest—it displaced a handful of larids and caused some shorebird fallout inland.

The avian event of the season in southern New England was the influx of Cave Swallows to our region in November. They appeared not long after the strong southerly blow of the third but were found in clear weather with northwest winds. Lake Champlain reasserted its biogeographic status as the easternmost Great Lake with a remarkable jaeger flight and an excellent array of the smaller gulls. The Neotropical passerine migration was often painfully lacking in numbers and diversity, something

that has not been news for some time. Boreal irruptives were mixed, with few raptors save for the raptorial songbird Northern Shrike, an early Red-breasted Nuthatch flight, good numbers of Bohemian Waxwings, particularly to the north, and diverse but not overly numerous winter finches mostly along the coast. Save for the swallows, rarities were those with a track record in the region, led by Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Red-necked Stint, and Black-throated Gray Warblers.

Abbreviations: Appledore (*Appledore I., Kittery, York, ME*); Block I. (*Block I., Newport, RI*); Dead Creek (*Dead Creek W.M.A., Addison, Addison, VT*); Great Meadows (*Great Meadows N.W.R., Concord, Middlesex, MA*); Monomoy (*Monomoy N.W.R., Chatham, Barnstable, MA*); Plum I. (*Plum I., Newbury/Rowley, Essex, MA*); Rockport (*Andrew's and Halibut Pts., Rockport, Essex, MA*); S. Beach (*South Beach I., Chatham, Barnstable, MA*).

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

The usual handful of Pacific Loon reports were submitted, with a bird in partial-alternate plumage in flight at Rockport 4 Oct, the second consecutive year with such a sighting (†RH); Connecticut's second at Sherwood Island S.P., Westport, Fairfield, 19 Oct (F. Mantlik); and another in York, ME, 20 Nov (AA *vide* JD). The two Eared Grebes reported were returnees to Trustom Pond N.W.R., Washington, RI, 18 Sep–16 Nov (JStJ, D. Wilson, v.o.) and Gloucester, Essex, MA, 24 Sep+ (J. Soucy, v.o.).

Autumn 1999 was good for shelf-water pelagics, apparently due to good numbers of bait fish inshore, many of the best counts coming from shore-based seawatchers. This situation was especially true of Greater Shearwaters, with 11 counts in excess of 500, including a major flight during a sou'wester 3 Nov when a New Hampshire record 600 were counted from Ragged Neck, Rye, Rockingham, in 1.5 hours (A&BD) and 6,150 were counted in a full day at Rockport (RH). An impressive 12,600 Wilson's Storm-Petrels were tallied at Stellwagen Bank 7 Aug (†RH). N. Gannets were also numerous from August onward, the best counts associated with the 3 Nov storm, including 8,600 at Rockport (RH). Two strayed inland to cen. Maine, with imms. at Bangor, Penobscot, on a surprisingly early 12 Aug (C.

Holbrook *vide* WT), and Holden, *Penobscot*, 10 Oct (LL). A **Brown Pelican** at Hingham, *Plymouth*, MA, 16 Aug was a good find (E. Perry, *vide* MR). Only one Great Cormorant appeared inland, but it was as far from regional tidewater as possible on L. Champlain at Burlington, *Chittenden*, VT, 28 Nov (†W. Scott, †TGM).

Least Bitterns were few, with only single reports from Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. The dry summer shifted southern herons out of "normal" patterns at the traditional Plum I. roost and more n. venues were blessed with extraordinary numbers. Perhaps the Merrimack and Ipswich estuaries were rendered more saline by drought. Great Egrets established their best counts since 1948 in n. New England with up to 21 at Scarborough, *Cumberland*, ME, in Aug/Sep (LB, v.o.), 13 at Colchester, *Chittenden*, VT, 8 Sep (TGM, v.o.), and 46 at Seabrook, *Rockingham*, NH, 20 Sep (SM). Excellent counts of Snowy Egrets in NH and ME included 252 at Seabrook (SM) 20 Sep and 351 at Appledore Sep 4 (DH). One turned up well inland on L. Champlain at Colchester 23 Sep (TGM). Yet another excellent count was 30 Little Blue Herons at Scarborough, ME, 28 Aug (G. Carson). Also notable were two inland at Turners Falls, *Franklin*, MA, 10–15 Aug (MF, v.o.) and at Enfield, *Grafton*, NH, 5–14 Sep (†PH, v.o.). High counts of Cattle Egrets included 62 visitors from New York's Four Brothers Is. in Shelburne, *Chittenden*, VT, Aug 21 (J. Arrowsmith), and 30+ at Thomaston, *Knox*, ME, of uncertain origin given no known local colony, Aug 19 (*vide* WT). One of only a few reported Yellow-crowned Night-Herons strayed far e. to Calais, *Washington*, ME, Aug 10 (M. Mills). The Glossy Ibis that bred at Four Brothers also favored Vermont for foraging as up to four were seen along L. Champlain from Swanton to Shelburne Aug 7–Sep 9 (m. ob.). Indeterminate *Plegadis* ibis included one inland at Concord, NH, Sep 8 (M. Amaral, M. Bartlett), and a very late one Nov 25 at Stratford, *Fairfield*, CT (*vide* J Hunter). The only Black Vulture reported was far n. at Colchester, VT, Sep 3 (†RL)

WATERFOWL

A dozen Gr. White-fronted Geese matched 1997's noteworthy total; they included two at Dorset, *Bennington*, VT, 12–25 Oct (†B. Powers, v.o.); one killed by a hunter at Sebasticook L., *Penobscot*, ME, 29 Oct (*vide* D Mars); at least three in MA, and six in CT Ross's Geese continue to appear among the tens of thousands of Snow Geese in the Champlain Valley, with up to two ad. at

Dead Creek 6–15 Oct (m.ob.). As Ross's Geese increase so do birds of mixed ancestry with Snow Goose. This fall there were reports of two hybrids, a blue morph at Dead Creek 15 Oct (ph. DJH) and a white morph at Plum I. 9–27 Nov (D.&I. Jewell, m.ob.). Reports of Richardson's (Canada) Geese (*hutchinsii*) are increasing, as two were at Dead Creek 5–9 Oct (v.o.) and three were at Great Meadows 17 Oct (D. Sibley). Also unusual was a small dark Canada Goose, presumably *minima*, at Grand Isle, VT, 2 Oct (DJH). Three Brant apparently summered at Young I., *Grand Isle*, VT (ph. DJH, v.o.). The peak inland flight was early, with 276 on L. Champlain 1–2 Oct and in w. MA 235 were reported 12–24 Oct (*vide* SK). This autumn's Barnacle Goose was at S. Kingstown, *Washington*, RI, 19 Oct (M. Tucker). The only Tundra Swans reported were three at a traditional wintering area at Naples, *Cumberland*, ME, 29 Nov+ (P. McGowan). Feral Whooper Swans continued in *Essex*, MA (JB, v.o.) and an approachable individual was on Cobbosseecontee L., *Kennebec*, ME, in Aug (L. Poland, *vide* JD). Eurasian Wigeon numbered 13, with four on Great Bay, NH, (A&BD) and nine in e. MA. Canvasback and Redhead numbers remain low, although the latter appeared in VT and ME, where scarce. **Tufted Ducks** included Maine's third and fourth 13–20 Nov at Rockport, *Knox* (M. Andrews, v.o.), and 14 Nov at Bar Harbor, *Hancock* (WT). The *Worcester*, MA, drake returned for its fifth winter 11 Oct, almost matching its arrival date in 1998 (ML, m.ob.).

A stunning 100,000 Com. Eiders massed 1–2 Nov off Schoodic Pt., *Hancock*, ME (WT), rivaling counts from Monomoy in years past. Harlequin Ducks continued in excellent numbers in favored haunts, with 67 at Rockport 18 Nov (JB) and 35 at Sachuest Pt., *Newport*, RI, 26 Nov (CR). One was well west in Long I. Sound 28 Oct–17 Nov at Stamford, *Fairfield*, CT (PD). The best coastal scoter flight 4 Oct included a notable 1,950 Blacks at Rockport (RH). Single Barrow's Goldeneyes were in VT, NH, and MA, and 14 were in Maine 1 Nov+. The 7,000+ Com. Mergansers on Sabattus Pond, *Androscoggin*, ME, 27 Nov was three times the previous maximum (PV). Ruddy Ducks were both widespread and numerous. High counts in n. New England, where usually uncommon, were 43 in Newmarket, *Rockingham*, NH, 1 Nov (SM), 18 in Bridport, *Addison*, VT, 4 Nov (SW), and 500+ (previous high 44) in Stockton Springs, *Waldo*, ME, 7 Nov (LL). In s. New England counts ranged upwards to over 900 in e. MA.

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES

Twenty-five migrating ad. Ospreys at Light-house Pt., *New Haven*, CT, 3 Aug (GH, MS) suggest that some raptor movement takes place much earlier than tradition dictates Good Osprey counts at more expected dates were a New Hampshire record 150 at Odiorne Pt., Rye, 18 Sep (SM), and a w. Massachusetts season record 284 counted at Granville, *Hampden* (TS, JW). Cooper's Hawks set a season record at Granville with 94, nonetheless they were outnumbered by Sharp-shinned Hawks 11:1 (*vide* SK). The Broad-winged Hawk migration was unimpressive but had its usual discrete peak, with Vermont's high count 18 Sep and the Massachusetts wave crest a day later. The lone Swainson's Hawk was a light morph at Mt Watatic, *Worcester*, 19 Oct (D. McCullough, *vide* MR). Proving the value of post-Sep hawkwatching were 969 Red-tailed Hawks tallied for the season at two w. MA hawk watches (Granville, and N. Adams, *Berkshire*; *vide* SK). A baker's-dozen Golden Eagles were reported from four states, including seven on w. MA hawkwatches 17 Oct–15 Nov (*vide* SK). Am. Kestrels appeared to temporarily interrupt their decline; encouraging reports included a staggering 328 seen during a tour of *Washington*, ME, blueberry barrens 11 Sep (NF), and a New England inland record 633 at Granville, MA, with a peak of 70 on 2 Oct (JW, TS). The Merlin's range expansion continues, with successful nesting on the urban Bates College campus, Lewiston, *Androscoggin*, ME (T. Hayward, v.o.). A New Hampshire record 84 were counted at Odiorne Pt. 18 Sep (SM). A Gyrfalcon showed up early and well to the s at Old Lyme, *New London*, CT, 19 Oct (DP)

Spruce Grouse were well reported from known but seldom-checked venues in New Hampshire, with eight in *Coos* and *Grafton* (*vide* SM). A Yellow Rail was reported 1 Nov from Marshfield, *Plymouth*, MA (D. Furbish, *vide* MR). Noteworthy among over 30 Com. Moorhens were one far n. at Easton, *Aroostook*, ME, 7 Sep (MT) and a late one 28 Oct–14 Nov at Exeter, *Rockingham*, NH (D. Green, L. Ring, v.o.). At least five Sandhill Cranes graced the Region, with a long-staying imm. at Monroe, *Grafton*, NH, reported 18 Aug (*vide* SM). Although Internet postings indicated it arrived in spring, stayed much later, and strayed to Vermont, no other reports were supplied Other cranes included at least one in ME and individuals in sw. VT and RI.

SHOREBIRDS

Inland drought conditions created large mudflats on shallow L. Champlain, produc-

ing a memorable shorebird migration. Record or near-record counts from Vermont included 14 Black-bellied Plovers, 70 Semipalmated Plovers, 5 Red Knots, and 780 Least Sandpipers (RL, DL, FP, DJH, v.o.). Am. Golden-Plovers were well reported, including a maximum of 62 in Bridport and Weybridge, *Addison*, VT, 20 Sep (RL). Evidence of good breeding success for the threatened Piping Plover were 85 and 200 reported 4 and 23 Aug, respectively, from S. Beach and S. Monomoy at Cape Cod's "elbow" (BN, WP). Whimbrels included one 5 Sep in Milton, *Chittenden*, VT (RL), one over a hawkwatch 7 Sep at Granville, MA (JW), and two at Christina Res., *Aroostook*, ME, 12 Sep (MT). Hudsonian Godwits also occurred inland, with six in nw. Vermont 16 Sep–31 Oct (†FP, TGM) and a juv. 17 Sep at Great Meadows (SP); an above-average four were found in CT (*fide* GH). Twenty-one Marbled Godwits included one way Down East on the Lubec Flats, *Washington*, ME, 13–31 Aug (D. Crockett, v.o.) and high counts of four at Jerusalem, *Washington*, RI 24 Aug (D. Kraus), and 7 at Monomoy 11 Sep (BN).

Besides a remarkable 15 inland Red Knots along L. Champlain, another land-lubber was at Longmeadow, *Hampden*, MA, 15 Aug (T. Gagnon). Down-East Maine shorebird hotspots produced some fine counts, including 7,500+ Semipalmated Sandpipers in Harrington, *Washington*, 15 Aug (NF) and 200 White-rumped Sandpipers on the Lubec Flats 8 Sep (NF). Again one of the season's shorebird highlights was a **Red-necked Stint** found in e. Massachusetts, a Bay State fifth and a regional sixth, this one at S. Beach 5–13 Sep (Gd'E, m.ob.). The L. Champlain mudflats helped generate the highest Baird's Sandpiper total in at least 20 years, with 30 of the 65 found in the Region, including 11 on 28 Aug (RL); numbers were near average elsewhere. Due to dry inland conditions Pectoral Sandpipers were common, producing maxima of 88 at Dead Creek 17 Sep (RL, DL, TGM), a New Hampshire record 60 in Exeter 7 Oct (D. Abbott, SM), and 115 at Great Meadows 2 Nov (SP). Among the Pectorals was a regional fifth and a state second **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** at a drained pond in Waterbury, *New Haven*, CT, 11 Aug (MS). As usual the lone inland Purple Sandpiper sighting was from L. Champlain at Grand Isle 25 Oct (RL). Coastal Stilt Sandpipers were less frequent than usual but more than average inland, with 17 in VT, one in ME, and eight in MA. Only 25 Buff-breasted Sandpipers were reported, but

with five in Vermont and five inland in Massachusetts. Two Ruffs were located, including one at Portsmouth, *Newport*, RI, 11–15 Aug (P. Buckley, JStJ, DE) and a juv. at Eastham, *Barnstable*, MA, 12 Sep (S.&D. Carlson). Wilson's Phalaropes included two in VT and three on the coast in ME and MA. A late Red-necked Phalarope was at Boston 20 Nov (RD). This autumn's inland Red Phalaropes, all juveniles, were at Great Meadows 25–30 Sep (R. Walton, v.o.), Piermont, *Grafton*, NH, 2 Oct (†L. Buntten), and Shelburne Bay, VT, 3 Oct (†TGM, R. Fleming).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS

Coastal jaeger maxima were 25 Parasitics 16 Sep at Race Pt., Provincetown, *Barnstable*, MA (RH), and 61 Pomarines 3 Nov at Rockport (RH). Six skuas were reported from Maine, two identified as Great and one as S. Polar; an additional unspecified skua was at Rockport 6 Sep (RH). A juv. Laughing Gull was deposited at Wachusett Reservoir, *Worcester*, 17 Sep by Tropical Storm *Floyd* (ML, SP), but the origin of three at Dead Creek 6 Oct was not obvious

SA Although debate may rage over some identifications, there is one indisputable fact about lake watching on L. Champlain at Charlotte, *Chittenden*, in Oct and Nov 1999. More jaegers were reported from this place than had been seen in all previous ornithological record for Vermont. At least 23 jaegers were counted from the shores of this township 18 Oct–25 Nov (†TGM, †DJH, v.o.). The mix of species is not entirely clear because identifications were often based on general morphology and observer impressions, with not quite enough plumage detail. It seems apparent that **Pomarine Jaegers** outnumbered **Parasitics** in Nov, but there is no specimen evidence for Pomarine Jaeger in Vermont and no incontrovertible proof for Parasitic Jaeger either. The only jaeger with specimens or a definitive photo is, remarkably enough, the **Long-tailed**, for which there are two specimens and one photograph, all from late Aug to mid-Sep. A bird that strongly suggested a juv. **Long-tailed Jaeger** was seen briefly at Dead Creek during Tropical Storm *Floyd* 17 Sep (†TGM).

(†RL). The region's lone Franklin's Gull sighting occurred on Long I. Sound 24 Oct–3 Nov at Cove I. Park, Stamford (ph., PD). The majority of the region's 60 Little Gulls was on L. Champlain; at least 50 were seen on New England's "west coast" 21 Aug–15 Nov, including daily maxima of 11 each 15 and 28 Sep (RL, FP, TGM et al.). The 31 Black-headed Gulls were the most autumn reports since the mid-1970s. These included one in Ferrisburg, *Addison*, VT, 4 Nov (†J. Peterson, SW), 10 in ME including the seasonal maximum of 6 in Eastport and Lubec 7 Oct (NF), 16 in e. MA, and four in coastal NH. Bonaparte's Gulls were also well reported, with good counts at several traditional staging sites, headed by 50,000 in the Eastport, ME, area 7 Oct (NF). Nine Sabine's Gulls included seven in Bay State waters 17 Aug–17 Sep, with a maximum of three at Stellwagen Bank 14 Sep (BN), a juv. on L. Champlain at Milton 19 Sep (†A. Strong), and an exceptionally late one at Rockport 30 Nov (†G. LeBaron). A juv. Black-legged Kittiwake strayed inland 8 Sep to L. Morey, Fairlee, *Orange*, VT (†M. Scott).

A significant tern and skimmer fallout was associated with Tropical Storm *Floyd* (Table 1). Highlights were brief visits by a few Sooty and Bridled Terns, primarily on Cape Cod and the Islands. Forty Caspian Terns were reported beyond the 17 correlated with *Floyd* in mid-Sep, including at least three frequenting ne. L. Champlain 3 Aug–4 Sep (m.ob.) and eight at Seabrook, NH, 4 Sep (A&BD). Few Royal Terns were not associated with *Floyd*, but eight Sandwich Terns were encountered on Martha's Vineyard 8 Sep (M. Pelikan, T. Raymond). Forster's Terns were numerous in October, but it is unclear whether they arrived with the storm and stayed, or arrived later. Good counts included a Maine record 11 at Scarborough 6 Oct (PV, m.ob.) and 53 at Newburyport, *Essex*, MA, 3 Oct (RH). Alcids were scarce with the exception of Razorbill, now the most common inshore auk, and Black Guillemot. The best Razorbill count was 960 at Provincetown 28 Nov (BN); non-breeding Black Guillemots peaked at 42 at Marshfield, MA, the same day (Gd'E). Vermont's fourth **Black Guillemot** was spotted in Charlotte 30 Nov (†TGM). Atlantic Puffin reports are more frequent these days, including six for the season at Rockport, with an early three in Aug (RH).

CUCKOOS THROUGH FLICKERS

There was a fairly strong coastal reverse migration of Yellow-billed Cuckoos, with a

record seven banded at Appledore in Sep (DH), 10 in e. MA 1 Oct (v.o.), and one far e. at Cutler, *Washington*, ME, 12 Oct (NF). Snowy Owls numbered only eight, the first pushing all the way to Stamford, CT, 26 Oct (PD); up to three were at Logan Airport, Boston, by season's end (NS). Many N. Saw-whet Owls seemed to be on the move, with 356 banded at Freeport, *Cumberland*, ME, mid-Sep to mid-Nov (twice last year's number; J. Walker) and 35 banded 8 Nov on Block I. (SC). The peak Com. Nighthawk flight occurred 23–24 Aug, with 2,000 in Worcester, MA, on the former (ML) and 2,050 in Southwick, *Hampden*, MA, on the latter (SK). Chimney Swifts were observed in impressive numbers and lingered late, with a maximum 2,000 migrating (not pre-roost) 29 Aug at Great Meadows (SP), 60 still present in e. MA 17–18 Oct, and one still coursing over Nahant, *Essex*, MA, 8 Nov (RD). Only two Rufous Hummingbirds were found, an ad. male at Scarborough, ME, 5–7 Aug (J. Walker, KG) and the ad. female returned for her third consecutive autumn at Agawam, *Hampden*, MA, 24 Aug (L. Fieldstad). More Red-bellied Woodpeckers strayed n. than in 1999, with five in Vermont, three in New Hampshire, and ten in Maine, one e. to *Washington*. Migrating N. Flickers crested on Block I. with a substantial 450 from 1–3 Oct (RF).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WRENS

Among flycatchers there was little of note save for a cooperative Ash-throated in Westport, *Bristol*, MA, 5–7 Nov (D. Hidreth, v.o.), a late Great Crested photographed at Little Compton, *Newport*, RI, 30–31 Oct (G. Dennis), and a modest 10 W. Kingbirds, one in CT, approx. five in ME, and four in the Bay State, one inland at

Bolton Flats, *Worcester*, 3 Oct (ML). It was a banner year for N. Shrikes. Over 120 were reported across the Region, 30 reaching Connecticut and "several" in Rhode Island, including a maximum of three on Block I. 8 Nov (CR et al.). Northerly White-eyed Vireos were at Vermont's Button Bay S.P., *Addison*, 25 Sep (†E. Buford, †TGM) and Monhegan I., ME, in late Sep (B. Boynton). Other vireos lingered late, with a Yellow-throated in Sandwich, *Carroll*, NH, 6 Oct (TV), a Blue-headed in *Cumberland*, *Cumberland*, ME, 11 Nov (LB), a Connecticut record-late Warbling at Hammonasset Beach S.P., *New Haven*, 6 Nov (DP), and a Philadelphia on Block I. 21–23 Oct (CR).

Rarely encountered migrant Purple Martins were on Nantucket 19 Sep (E. Andrews) and inland at Great Meadows 25 Sep (SP). Tree Swallows took advantage of

SA The event of the season, representing a first for the Region, was an influx of **Cave Swallows** along the Long Island Sound shore. On 7 Nov approximately 10 were observed at Hammonasset (DP et al.), six were photographed at Lighthouse Pt. (F. Mantlick et al.), and three were at Napatree Pt., *Washington*, RI (SSM). The next day two turned up at Stamford, CT (PD, F. Gallo) and three reached inland to Mansfield Hollow, *Tolland* (MS). Singles continued to 16 Nov in Connecticut, but none reached the Bay State.

mild Nov weather, with 250 counted at Provincetown, MA, 15 Nov (P. Trull). Good numbers of N. Rough-winged Swallows included 150 in Grand Isle, VT, 26 Aug

(DJH), 70 still present at Great Meadows 9 Oct, and record late singles there 7 Nov (SP) and at Ipswich, *Essex*, 9 Nov (RH) by observers seeking exotic fare (read on!). In contrast, most Barn Swallows seem to have departed in Aug, with a huge count of 4,500 in Newburyport 13 Aug (†RH).

Boreal Chickadees departed boreal forests in small numbers, with one banded at Manomet, *Plymouth*, MA, 29 Oct, and three in coastal CT early Nov. Moving in the opposite direction, a couple of Tufted Titmice almost made it to New Brunswick, with reports from Topsfield, *Washington*, and Bancroft, *Aroostook*, ME. Red-breasted Nuthatches moved out early, with 80 of 100 banded for the season on Appledore caught in Aug (DH), peak counts of over 20 on the Massachusetts Is. in mid-Sep and 115 on Block I. 1–3 Oct (RF et al.). Carolina Wrens continue to increase in s. New England strongholds, evidenced by 117 on Block I. (CR et al.); they are also reappearing in the North Country. Winter Wren maxima of seven each came from Salisbury, *Addison*, VT, 20 Sep (SW) and Block I. 8 Nov (CR et al.). A Sedge Wren was in Stratford, CT, 28 Sep (P. Comins).

THRUSHES THROUGH WARBLERS

A researcher found 15 Bicknell's Thrushes still calling and singing on Mt. Mansfield, VT, 14 Sep (K. McFarland). A Wood Thrush at winter's door was studied at length 30 Nov in Charlotte, VT (TGM). A female Varied Thrush was in Hamden, *New Haven*, CT, 18–20 Nov (A. Brand). Bohemian Waxwings arrived 19 Oct in n. ME and 28 Oct in VT. The largest tally was 146 in Ferrisburg, VT, 14 Nov (FP); several made it to Massachusetts in Nov, including a flock of 10 well out Cape Cod in the Truro/ Wellfleet area (v.o.). Cedar Waxwings gathered in force at Gay Head, *Dukes*, MA, 12 Sep, when 2,000 were counted (VL).

Observers noted a less-than-memorable warbler flight in 1999. As we have come to expect in recent years, budworm specialists (Tennessee, Cape May, and Bay-breasted Warblers) were reported in dismal (mostly single-digit) numbers from each state. Nonetheless, some flight days were observed 12, 19, 26, and 27 Sep on Appledore (DH), and 12, 18, 27 Sep and 1 Oct at Bluff Pt., Groton, *New London*, CT. (D. Sosensky). A Golden-winged Warbler was banded at Appledore and five others were sighted in Massachusetts. A female Lawrence's Warbler showed up in Stoughton, *Norfolk*, MA, 21 Sep (R. Titus). New England reports of Orange-crowned Warblers have come to outnumber all other species totals for

Table 1. Tropical Storm Floyd Tern Fallout in New England 17–20 September 1999

Species	Number	Location	Observer(s)
Caspian Tern	1	Cape Elizabeth, ME	J. Suchecki
	1	Rye, NH	SM
	15	e. Massachusetts	v.o.
Royal Tern	2	Cape Cod	v.o.
	10	Martha's Vineyard	L. McDowell
Sandwich Tern	1	Mt. Desert Rock, ME	LB; 9th for ME
	10	Martha's Vineyard	L. McDowell
	1	Little Compton, RI	RE
Common Tern	8	Mascoma L., <i>Grafton</i> , NH	PH
	4	Wachusett Res, MA	ML
Forster's Tern	1	Wachusett Res, MA	ML
Least Tern	8	Cape Cod	BN, W. Ellison
Bridled Tern	3	Martha's Vineyard, Cape Cod	L. McDowell, WP
Sooty Tern	6	Cape Cod	WP, BN
	1	Sakonnet Point, RI	R. Emerson
Black Tern	2	Gill, <i>Franklin</i> , MA	MF
	1	Pt. Judith, RI	JStJ
Black Skimmer	5	Martha's Vineyard, Cape Cod	v.o.



This apparent hybrid White-throated Sparrow Dark-eyed Junco was at Litchfield, Connecticut, 15 Nov 1999. The hybrid combination has been previously documented but is rarely encountered. Photograph/Mark Szantyr

Vermivora, save for Nashville. This year there were 43, including a maximum of three on Block I. 1–3 Oct (RF et al.). Eighteen warbler species were noted in Nov, including a Yellow 11 Nov in Belmont, *Middlesex*, MA (†MR), a Magnolia 20 Nov in Saco, *York*, ME (AA), an Am. Redstart 7 Nov in Lincoln, *Providence*, RI (E. Caporelli), an Ovenbird from mid-Nov to at least 11 Dec in Falmouth, *Cumberland*, ME (M. J. Northrup, *vide* KG), and a N. Waterthrush 28 Nov at Arlington, *Middlesex*, MA (MR). A **Black-throated Gray Warbler** on Star I., *Rockingham*, 21–22 Sep was the first photographically documented in New Hampshire (†R. Suomala et al.). Two others turned up in Connecticut, at Hammonasset 6 Nov (L. Clancy, J. Mehmel) and Southbury, *New Haven*, 7 Nov (KF). Southern reverse-migrant warblers included two Yellow-throateds in MA, a Cerulean in ME (E. Obercian), four Prothonotaries in coastal MA, a late Worm-eating banded at Block I. 2 Nov (SC), two Kentuckies in MA, and six Hoodeds n. to Appledore. Good numbers of Palm Warblers were reported, with a high count of 66 from Block I. 1–3 Oct (RF et al.). A Louisiana Waterthrush banded on Appledore 28 Aug (DH) provided a second island record, followed by the third there 12 Sep (D. Trested, *vide* DH). The lately annual **MacGillivray's Warbler** showed up 28 Nov+ at Boston (R. Stymeist, m.ob.). Banders at Appledore handled a record 25 Yellow-breasted Chats, including three 20 Sep (DH), about 40% of the 60 reported for the Region.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

The only W. Tanager of the season was at New Fairfield, *Fairfield*, CT, 27 Oct (D. Breeger). A total of 38 Clay-colored Sparrows was reported across the Region. A modest eight Lark Sparrows were distributed from ME (three) and NH (one) to MA and CT (two each). A female Lark Bunting attracted attention in N. Weymouth, *Norfolk*, MA, 5–6 and 24 Sep (K. Vespaziani, v.o.). A Henslow's Sparrow was at Newbury, *Essex*, MA, 26 Oct (RH) and three Le Conte's were in e. Massachusetts mid-Oct to mid-Nov. Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows appearing inland during the expected late Sep to Oct time frame included birds at Bolton Flats, Great Meadows, Wayland, Newton, and Northampton, MA. Northward-straying Seaside Sparrows were at Appledore 30 Aug (DH) and Scarborough, ME, 30 Sep (PV). Fox and White-throated Sparrows and Dark-eyed Junco were reported in good numbers. The Fox Sparrow high count was 25 at Hadley, *Hampshire*, MA, 12 Nov (*vide* SK), White-throateds numbered 450 at Worcester, MA, 14 Oct (ML), 500 juncos were tallied at Sandwich, NH, 14 Oct (TV), and another 750 juncos were in Hadley, MA, 29 Oct (P. Champlin). A hybrid White-throated Sparrow ~ Dark-eyed Junco was photographed in Litchfield, CT, 14–17 Nov (B&KF). Two Oregon Juncos were found in Amherst and Northampton, MA. Snow Buntings arrived in mid-Oct and reached maxima of 510 at Block I. 8 Nov (CR) and 3,000 at Logan Airport 12 Nov (NS). Twelve Blue Grosbeaks were well down from last autumn's 75; ME and CT garnered two each, with the balance in MA. The Region's annual Painted Bunting was a male in Watertown, *Middlesex*, MA, 25 Aug (D. Ricci). The season total of 47 Dickcissels was more typical than the 100+ in 1998. An impressive 800 Bobolinks congregated at Gay Head, MA, 12 Sep (VL). Less common icterids were Yellow-headed Blackbirds in NH (one), MA (five), and CT (two), a female Brewer's Blackbird in Orange, *Franklin*, MA, 29 Oct (†J. Johnstone *vide* MR) and three males in Columbia, *Tolland*, CT, 10 Nov (†MS), a female Boat-tailed Grackle at Milford Pt., *New Haven*, CT, 6 Aug (PD), and an imm. male Bullock's Oriole at a feeder in Stafford, *Tolland*, CT, 5 Nov+ (ph. L. Mack).

Finch numbers were decent if not impressive this season. Small numbers of Pine Grosbeaks were scattered across n. New England, while flocks of other species became concentrated along the coast in Oct/Nov. Worcester, MA, hawkwatchers counted 213 Purple Finches departing the

North Country 10 Oct (†ML). Red Crossbills peaked at 47 on Nantucket 1 Nov (E. Ray), 40 at Block I. 8 Nov (CR), and 41 at Burlingame S.P., *Washington*, RI, 26 Nov (SSM). Widely separated White-winged Crossbill high counts were 15 at Yarmouth, *Barnstable*, MA, 3 Nov (K. Hamilton) and 60 at Bangor, ME, 20 Nov (M. Lucey). Com. Redpolls became widespread in early Nov and may have had a more n. origin than most years, suggested by the early appearance of four Hoary Redpolls in MA 11–12 Nov. The coastal concentration of the flight was noticeable in Pine Siskins, with counts of 150 at Napatree Pt., RI, and 137 at Block I., and in Am. Goldfinches, with 600 and 800 at the same two locations.

CORRIGENDA

Old business: the Sandhill Crane from Connecticut, 19 Nov 1998, was at Sandy Hook, *Fairfield*, not Sandy Pt., *New Haven*. Spring Reports: Millers Falls is in the township of Montague, *Franklin*, MA, so count only two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers on 31 May 1999. The Tufted Duck at Bantam L., *Litchfield*, CT, was seen 26 Apr (not 26 May) 1999.

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