

Grosbois 8 Jul (*vide* PB); smaller groups were scattered throughout the Region. An early juv. was at Maple Grove 22 Jul, but local breeding remains to be confirmed. Two ad. *Chlidonias* terns flying away from the observer at Île Charron, Boucherville 23 Jun were believed to be **White-winged Terns** (Y. Gauthier). Both birds exhibited immaculate white tail and rump as well as white upperwings, contrasting with black head and body. Unfortunately, the underwing pattern could not be seen. Although there are now six records in the province, this is the first sighting involving two ads.

OWLS THROUGH SPARROWS

The Barred Owl nested well e. of its normal range in the province, as shown by the presence of an ad. and a juv. 5 Jul at Mont-Sainte-Geneviève, 36 km e. of Havre-Saint-Pierre on the lower North Shore (Y. Rochepault, CB). In the wake of last winter's invasion, an ad. and 2 juv. Great Gray Owls were found 15 Jul in the Réserve faunique des Laurentides, well outside their normal breeding range (Y. Hamel, J. Desmeules). Also exceptional was a pair at Pointe-au-Père for most of Jul (J. Marcoux, S. Rhéaume, m. ob.).

A Red-headed Woodpecker reported at Sainte-Pétronille 29 Jun–1 Jul represented the northernmost sighting for the summer (C. Touzin). The Abitibi region was graced by a singing Sedge Wren at Arntfield 6–7 Jun, the first ever for the area (F. Bédard). Most probably related to the unprecedented movement of Northern Wheatears in Newfoundland last Spring, 2 males of this species were found at Grande-Entrée, Îles de la Madeleine 7 Jun (CT, ML). For a 3rd consecutive year, the Golden-winged Warbler was almost absent from the Region (*vide* SD); no breeding attempts were noted even at sites where it used to nest. It is hard to explain the "crash" of the species considering the relative health of its habitat and the absence of the competitive Blue-winged Warbler in the Region. A Clay-colored Sparrow hybridized with a Chipping Sparrow at Saint-Fidèle 1 Jun–4 Jul (M. Robert).

The first Vesper Sparrow in Îles de la Madeleine since 1978 made a brief appearance at Pointe-aux-Loups 18 Jun (CT, ML). A totally unexpected Grasshopper Sparrow at Val d'Espoir 20 Jun–22 Jul represented the first ever for the Gaspésie region (M. Larivée, O. Deruelle). In its normal range in the sw. regions, the species seems to be disappearing, mainly on account of habitat loss; nevertheless, a pair was found carrying food at Saint-Lazare 21 Jun (PB), and singles were located at Charteris and at Yarm in Pontiac region 15 Jul

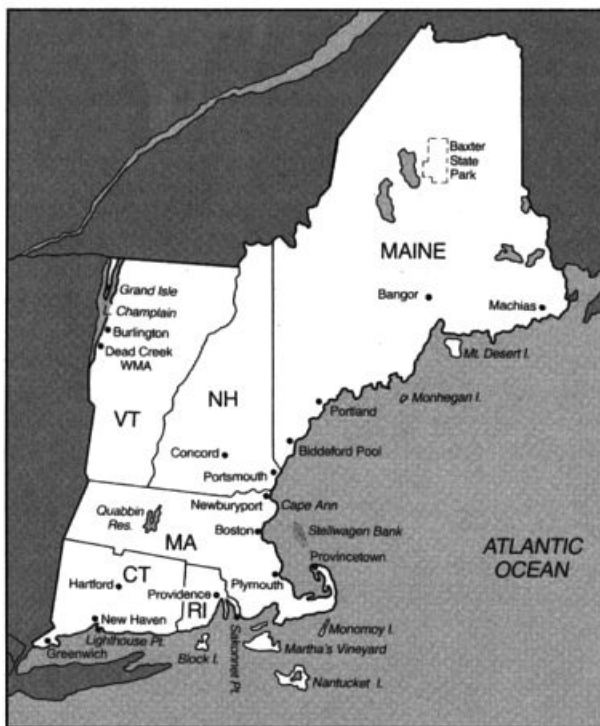
(D. St-H, G. Desjardins). Finally, Abitibi's first Lark Sparrow was a one-day wonder at Val-Senneville 21 Jun (S. Lehouiller).

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New England



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Weather during the period was relatively uneventful this year. June was notably sunny and warm, with temperatures averaging several degrees above normal in Boston, even though rainfall actually exceeded the average by almost 2 inches. Jul was also sunny, but the month was dry and very cool, with the temperature averaging nearly four degrees Fahrenheit below normal. There seemed to be little indication that weather during the period had any appreciable effect on breeding bird populations, unlike the rainy and snowy March that definitely impacted nesting success of early

breeders such as Bald Eagles and possibly several other raptor species.

A brief summary of Regional breeding-season highlights includes the discovery of a new nesting locality for Leach's Storm-Petrels at the extreme southern terminus of the species's breeding range in New England; further indication of the negative impact of nesting Double-crested Cormorants on colonial waterbird nesting sites; confirmation that Common Eiders have firmly consolidated their breeding range to include Boston Harbor; indications that gull-removal programs in Massachusetts are beginning to pay dividends for breeding terns; information that Boreal Owls nested in northern New England; and a reminder that Chuck-will's-widows still remain to be confirmed as a breeding species in New England.

In addition to the above, notable rarities in

New England this season included Anhinga, a continuing (from May) Swainson's Warbler, and an extraordinarily late Dovekie in Massachusetts; a Painted Bunting in New Hampshire; and a White-faced Ibis and a Western Meadowlark in Maine.

Abbreviations: M.D.F.W. (Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife); Muskeget I. (*Nantucket*, MA); Noman's Land I. (*Dukes*, MA); N. & S. Monomoy I. (Monomoy N.W.R., Chatham, *Barnstable*, MA); Plum I. (Parker River N.W.R., Newbury/Rowley, *Essex*, MA); S. Beach (South Beach, Chatham, *Barnstable*, MA); Tuckernuck I. (*Nantucket*, MA).

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

Most notable among several typical early-summer Red-throated Loon reports was a bird in the Connecticut R. at East Haddam, *Middlesex*, CT 16 Jun (J. Morin, *vide* GH). In Vermont, a total of 34 nesting pairs of Common Loons successfully reared 48 young, the greatest productivity in the state since 1978 (*vide* E. Hanson). Farther s., Massachusetts hosted 23 pairs, 11 of which fledged 8 young (*vide* BB). Pied-billed Grebes made news in Massachusetts when a pair raised 3 young at Willowdale State Forest, Ipswich, *Essex*, the first confirmed nesting in that county in many years (JB). "Tardy" best describes a Horned Grebe at *Essex*, *Middlesex*, CT 11 Jun (A. Griswold, *vide* GH).

Overall, inshore tubenose numbers were typical of recent past seasonal totals, with the notable exception of a robust count of 6 Cory's Shearwaters, 350 Sooty Shearwaters, 60 Manx Shearwaters, 850 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, and 6 Leach's Storm-Petrels tallied off S. Beach 29 Jul (JT). A three-hour seawatch that logged 61 Manx Shearwaters at Andrew's Point, Rockport, *Essex*, MA 26 Jul (RH) was equally noteworthy. More interesting was the discovery of at least three pairs of Leach's Storm-Petrels nesting on Noman's Land off Martha's Vineyard 13 Jun (TF), thus establishing a 2nd Massachusetts location for this species at the s. terminus of its breeding range in the Atlantic Ocean.

Disquieting news on the burgeoning Double-crested Cormorant front was suggested by the fact that on Little Gould I. in the Sakonnet R., RI, a cormorant colony that started with a single pair in 1987 and grew to 753 pairs in 1996 has now declined to 596 pairs, apparently because guano from the colony is killing the nest trees and rendering the island unacceptable to both cormorants and nesting herons (RF *vide* DE)! **Anhingas** in Massachusetts continue to tantalize those not



Another tale of northward is expansion is that of Black Vulture into New England. This bird was photographed smartly on 2 July 2001 at Halibut Point, Rockport, Massachusetts, just a stone's throw from the surf! *Photograph by Byard Cobb.*

able to be at the right place at the right time to see them; however, this season singles at *Essex*, *Essex* 17 Jun (TY) and Avon, *Norfolk* 19 Jun (RT) were especially well seen and described in flight.

The confirmed breeding of Least Bittern in Massachusetts at Rockport and Willowdale State Forest, Ipswich, *Essex* (v. o.) is noteworthy in light of the fact that the species is listed as Endangered in the Bay State. Elsewhere in Massachusetts, a count of fledgling wading birds at Kettle I., *Essex* 18 Jul (SP) included 140 Great Egrets, 300 Snowy Egrets, 10+ Little Blue Herons, 4 Tricolored Herons (the first confirmed Bay State nesting since the mid-1970s), and 30+ Glossy Ibises. Tricolored Herons also nested at Stratton I., Saco, *York*, ME for the first time since 1997 (*vide* KG). In Rhode Island, heron and egret nest tallies from the Sakonnet R./Narragansett Bay region included 219 Great Egrets, 86 Snowy Egrets, 16 Little Blue Herons, one Cattle Egret, 275 Black-crowned Night-Herons, and 185 Glossy Ibis (RF, *vide* DE). Practically all Ocean State wading bird species except Great Egret have shown notable declines since the 1970s, and this year's ibis total was the 2nd lowest in over a decade. Of special note was the reappearance 8–14 Jul of a **White-faced Ibis** in "fading plumage," originally seen in May at Scarborough, *Cumberland*, ME (LB, RL). Although there was speculation about the possibility of breeding (with what?) at nearby Stratton I., there was apparently no firm evidence to support such a claim.

Black Vultures continue to consolidate their claim in s. New England, as indicated by multiple reports from w. Massachusetts, including a bird sitting on rocks within 100 feet of the ocean (!) at Halibut Point S.P., Rockport, *Essex*, MA 2 Jul (ph. B. Cobb) and a road-killed individual found at Derby, *New Haven*, CT (*vide* GH).

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS

A reminder of the lateness of their migration and the overland track of their spring flight was provided by a Brant at Errol, *Coos*, NH 5 Jun (G. Gavutis) and 150 at Florence, *Hampshire*, MA 7 Jun (TG). A Northern Shoveler in the Lordship marshes in Stratford, *Fairfield*, CT 13 Jul (MS) was intriguing in that it was at a locality known to have hosted other uncommon breeding puddle duck species in the Nutmeg State. Waterfowl on the tardy side of the ledger included Ring-necked Ducks at Plum I. 6 Jun (RH), W. Tisbury, Martha's Vineyard 10–12 Jun (G. Ben David, *vide* B.O.) and Hadley, *Hampshire* 28 Jun (C. Gentes, *vide* B.O.); a Long-tailed Duck at Rockport, *Essex*, MA 26 Jul (J. Barber, *vide* B.O.); 2 Common Goldeneyes at Trustom Pond N.W.R., RI 18 Jul (CR); and a Ruddy Duck at Southwick, *Hampden*, MA 1 Jun (SK) and 2 at Melrose, *Middlesex*, MA 14–15 Jul (D. & I. Jewell). An amazing tally of 214 Common Eider ducklings in Boston Harbor, *Suffolk*, MA 8 Jun (P. Paton) suggests that this species has finally established a substantial Bay State breeding population

away from Buzzards Bay. Common Mergansers made news by breeding only a few miles from Bridgeport, *Fairfield* (D. Varza, *vide* GH), part of the gradual southward spread of this species as a breeder in Connecticut.

The continued recovery of Regional Osprey populations is perhaps best reflected by the fact that 41 nests fledged 77 young in Vermont, where numbers have exceeded the recovery goal set for delisting the species in 1994. The next step in the Vermont recovery plan is to try to link the Green Mountain State Osprey population with populations in Massachusetts and Connecticut by establishing a "breeding corridor" along the Connecticut R (*vide* L. Garland). The now-annual early summer appearance of Mississippi Kite in Massachusetts was this year provided by singles at N. Truro and Yarmouth, *Barnstable* 4 Jun (D. Manchester, *vide* B.O.) and 6 Jun (B. Loughran, P. Trimble, *vide* B.O.); another was at Oxford, *New Haven*, CT 24 Jun (K and B. Finnan, *vide* GH). Bald Eagles showed a similarly positive, though less dramatic, trend, as indicated by the presence of 3 nests at L. Umbagog, *Coos*, NH (*vide* WT), 12 territorial pairs in Massachusetts, 5 of which successfully fledged 10 young (*vide* TF), and a new pair in Connecticut's Housatonic R. drainage, a first successful breeding away from the Connecticut R (*vide* GH). The confirmed nesting of Northern Harriers at Plum I. was the first in *Essex* in 40 years (RH). Elsewhere, six pairs of harriers raised 16 young at Tuckernuck I., MA (*vide* RV), and a pair was present throughout the period at Stratford, *Fairfield*, CT (*vide* GH). Sharp-shinned Hawks fledged 3 young at Willowdale State Forest, Ipswich, MA, for the 2nd confirmed nesting in *Essex* in as many years (JB). The almost meteoric increase and spread of Cooper's Hawks in s. New England was intimated by the presence of a nesting pair at unlikely (?) Tuckernuck I., MA (RV), and another pair nesting 30 feet above a well-used suburban driveway in Natick, *Middlesex*, MA (E Taylor). Despite continued concern over diminishing American Kestrel numbers throughout the Region, a nest box trail maintained in cranberry bogs in *Plymouth*, MA this year produced 117 young from 38 occupied nest boxes out of a total of 65 boxes monitored (JM). Out-of-season migrant Merlins included singles at Truro, *Barnstable*, MA 6 Jun (MF), Plum I. 14 Jun (JS), and Grafton, *Worcester*, MA 22 Jul (ML), and nesting was confirmed at Hanover, *Grafton*, NH (*vide* WT) and Morrisville, *Lamoille*, VT 28 Jul (*vide* AA), and probable breeding took place at Camden, *Knox*, ME (*vide* JD). Information available at the time of writing indicates that 12 nesting

pairs of Peregrine Falcons in New Hampshire represented a modern-day high total, and in Massachusetts, four out of five breeding pairs successfully fledged 13 young (*vide* TF).

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

The ever-elusive King Rail was reported from three Massachusetts localities this season (*vide* B.O.), and a total of 8 Virginia Rails at Noman's Land off Martha's Vineyard 16 Jul (RL) seemed like a surprisingly remote location for such a number. Aside from birds at two traditional Maine localities, the only Common Moorhen reported was one in Brookfield, *Worcester*, MA 3 Jun (ML). This species continues to decline in s. New England as many historic breeding localities change, either through natural wetland succession or by becoming overrun and despoiled by exotic or invasive vegetation. As has increasingly become the custom in recent years, no fewer than 3 Sandhill Cranes were present in both New Hampshire and Maine during the period (*vide* WT & JD).

American Golden-Plovers were somewhat unseasonal at Plymouth, *Plymouth*, MA 3 Jun (WP) and Duxbury, *Plymouth*, MA 3 Jul (DC), as were a Willet of the race *inornatus* at S. Beach 13 Jun (BN) and a lingering Purple Sandpiper at Seavey I., Isles of Shoals, NH 2-6 Jul (RS, AL *vide* WT). A Marbled Godwit at S. Monomoy I. 23 Jun (RL), a Curlew Sandpiper at Plum I. 27 Jun (RH), a Ruff at Monomoy I. 23-26 Jun (RL, BN), and 2 Red Phalaropes off Cutler, *Washington*, ME 23 Jun (PL) were also somewhat out of season. Based upon reports of a pair of American Oystercatchers with 2 young in the vicinity of Saco Bay, *York*, ME, it seems probable that the species nested successfully at Stratton I. again this year (*vide* JD).

Among the more notable tallies of tarrying northbound species were 250 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Plum I. 6 Jun (RH) and 45 White-rumped Sandpipers at both Plum I. 4 Jun (RH) and N. Monomoy I. 8 Jun (BN). Of the early southbound species, the most interesting were 7 Hudsonian Godwits at S. Beach 26 Jun (BN) and a Stilt Sandpiper at Plum I. 28-30 Jun (P. Brown et al.). Birds whose direction of migration was indeterminate included a Whimbrel at S. Wellfleet, *Barnstable* 19 Jun (J. Sones), another at Martha's Vineyard 13 Jun (MP, PL), and 95 Red Knots at South Beach 26 Jun (BN). The knots were likely southbound or oversummering. Peak shorebird counts made at South Beach included 1400 Semipalmated Plovers, 220 Willets, 95 Hudsonian Godwits, 2000 Red Knots, 3500 Sanderlings, 4000 Semipalmated Sandpipers, and 3200 Short-billed Dowitchers 27 Jul (RH, BN). Other seasonal high tallies were 480 summering Black-

bellied Plovers at S. Beach (BN), 750 Lesser Yellowlegs at Newburyport, *Essex* 12 Jul (RH), 6500 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Plum I 24 Jul (RH), and 42 Stilt Sandpipers at Plum I 22 Jul (RH). The continued presence of 2-3 Wilson's Phalaropes apparently holding territory at Plum I. throughout Jun suggests that they nested this year, just as they have presumably done irregularly since 1979 (v. o.).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS

Jaeger totals were unexceptional this season, although reports of a South Polar Skua and 7 Pomarine Jaegers at Cox's Ledge s. of Block I, RI 3 Jun (CN) and a group of 9 Pomarine Jaegers observed following the clearing of an onshore fog bank at Sakonnet Point, *Newport*, RI 24 Jun (RE) were of interest. At L. Champlain, VT, where seabird watches have become increasingly organized in recent years, at least 4 jaegers were sighted during Jul (*vide* AA).

A Laughing Gull at Cabot, *Washington*, VT 15 Jul (*vide* AA) was notable so far inland, but it was eclipsed by an ad. Franklin's Gull at Plum I. 12 Jun (RH), where one to 2 Little Gulls and up to 3 Black-headed Gulls were also seen throughout most of the period (RH, v. o.) Perhaps more significant was the fact that the Massachusetts Laughing Gull breeding population of 1322 pairs was a 21% increase over last year and virtually represented a new modern-day high count (*vide* BB). Out-of-season Iceland Gulls included singles at Portland, *Cumberland*, ME 14 Jun (PL, LB et al.) and Bar Harbor, *Hancock*, ME 20-31 Jul (WTo). After last summer's Lesser Black-backed Gull explosion on Cape Cod, a high count of 4 at S. Beach 27 Jul (RH) seemed paltry; however, a tally of 26 Black-legged Kittiwakes at Chatham, *Barnstable*, MA 30 Jun (BN) was certainly unexpected.

Despite the presence of 2 Caspian Terns at Young I., L. Champlain, VT 23 Jul (*vide* AA), apparently no nesting evidence was obtained following last summer's tantalizing suggestion of the possibility. The only other Caspian Tern reports were of 5 individuals at three Bay State locations during Jun and early Jul (B.O.) Of 6 Royal Terns reported throughout the Region, one at Biddeford, *Saco*, ME 15 Jun (PM) was farthest north, but even more interesting was a Sandwich Tern at Stratton I., *Saco*, ME 18 Jun (PM) that represented only the 10th (?) record for the Pine Tree State. At White I. and Seavey I., Isles of Shoals, NH, a pair of Roseate Terns fledged one young for the first time ever among a colony of 800 pairs of Common Terns (DH, AL). Less heartening was the 20% decline in Roseate Tern pairs in the Bay State, down to

1697 pairs, from the last season; however, the reasons for the decline are unknown (*vide* BB). Common Terns received mixed reviews at Rock I. and Popasquash I., L. Champlain, VT, where 175 pairs represented the highest total since the 1980s, although the 14 surviving chicks was the worst productivity in 14 years (*vide* M. LeBarr). Farther s., at Muskeget I., MA, 165 nesting pairs of Common Terns represented a giant step in a recovery effort to get nesting terns back to that historic colony site (RV), and the Massachusetts state total of 14,378 pairs represented the highest since 1970 (*vide* BB). A pair of Forster's Terns present at Plum I. throughout Jun (RH) offered no indication of breeding this year. The only conclusive breeding of Black Skimmers in the Region was provided by approximately three pairs that fledged chicks at Cockenoe I., Norwalk, Fairfield, CT (A. Hand, *vide* GH) and three pairs at Monomoy (*vide* BB).

The alcid of the season was a **Dovekie** observed at Nahant, Essex, MA 23 Jun and 8 Jul (J. Jokela, RH) that established an extraordinarily late state record, if not a late date for the entire Region. Less remarkable, but nonetheless notable, was a Common Murre at Chatham, Barnstable, MA 1 Jun (PF), 3 Razorbills at Menemsha, Martha's Vineyard, throughout Jul (R. Cohen, VL et al.), and single Atlantic Puffins at Noman's Land off Martha's Vineyard 13 Jun (TF) and Plum I. 15 Jul (RH), with 3 at Rockport, Essex, MA 26 Jul (RH)

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

Enigmatic was a **European Turtle-Dove** killed by an automobile at Tuckernuck I., Nantucket, MA 19 Jul (N. Brewer, RV). Especially intriguing is the fact that increasing numbers of this species are appearing in Iceland, and in May 2001, a turtle-dove was recorded on the French island of St. Pierre in Atlantic Canada (N.A.B. 55 3). Slightly encouraging news about Massachusetts's beleaguered Short-eared Owl population came that two pairs raised 6 young at Tuckernuck I. and one pair raised 2 young at Nantucket I. (RV). If these insular breeding efforts cease, this species will be virtually extirpated as a breeder in New England.

A minimum of 11 calling Chuck-will's-widows at Martha's Vineyard 12 Jun (VL, PL) underscores with irony the fact that this species has yet to be confirmed as a breeder in New England. Likewise, a robust total of 59 Whip-poor-wills at Lancaster, Worcester, MA 14 Jun (RL) during a now-annual survey reinforces the value of monitoring known, high-density areas for this Regionally declining species. The scarcity of Red-headed

SA The most extraordinary discovery of the summer was the confirmation of nesting **Boreal Owls** in New England. Although the actual breeding confirmation did not come until early Aug, the genesis of the story occurred in the White Mountains of New Hampshire on 29 Jul, when Rob Sawyer and his son were hiking at 4310 ft on Mt. Pierce, Bean's Grant, Coos. Much to their surprise and delight, at 0730, the fortunate twosome discovered an ad. Boreal Owl along the trail they were hiking. The owl let them approach within 10 ft before flying and landing ahead of them several times, ultimately disappearing into the heavy spruce forest adjacent the trail. This remarkable sighting ultimately led to the discovery and videotaping of at least one juv. Boreal Owl in the same vicinity on 4 Aug (SM). More specific details and location information of this remarkable discovery will be included in a subsequent seasonal report; however, suffice it to say that this event marks the first confirmed breeding of this species in the e. United States.

This, however, is not the end of the story. Incredibly, in neighboring Vermont, a Boreal Owl flew into a mist net set for Bicknell's Thrushes, and subsequently a bird was heard vocalizing several times in the same area throughout Jun (K. McFarland et al., *vide* SM)! This is a story whose final chapter has yet to be written.

Woodpeckers in the Region was reflected by only two reports of singles at Pittsfield, Berkshire, MA (M. Thorne, *vide* B.O.) and Weston, Middlesex, MA 13-20 Jul (B. Fullerton, *vide* B.O.). Even more unusual was the presence of a pair of Three-toed Woodpeckers at Bethlehem, Grafton, NH 13-18 Jun (D. & G. McDonald, C. Bretton *vide* WT). This elusive woodpecker surely ranks as one of the rarest resident species in the Region.

A single-locality migration total of 4 Olive-sided Flycatchers at Martin Burns W.M.A., Newbury, Essex, MA 1 Jun (S. Hedman, *vide* B.O.) was well above most counts in recent years. Two Acadian Flycatchers at Martha's Vineyard 13 Jun (PL, MP) were at the same location where the species was first conclusively confirmed as a breeder last year. In light of the species's steady decline in e. Massachusetts, a count of 30 Least Flycatchers at Barre Falls

Dam, Barre, Worcester, MA 16 Jun (ML) was encouraging. Also in respect to this species, it is interesting to note that in 14 years of forest breeding bird monitoring at Hiram Fox W.M.A., Chester, Hampden, MA, Least Flycatchers declined from a high total of 27 birds in the early years to *one* this season, apparently in response to habitat changes produced by the forest-cutting practices of the mid-1990s (*vide* M.D.F.W.). The Region's only Scissor-tailed Flycatcher appeared at Topsham, Cumberland, ME 14 Jun-3 Jul (C. Jack et al., *vide* JD). "Seasonally anomalous" best describes the one-day appearance of a Loggerhead Shrike at Scarborough, Cumberland, ME 7 Jun (G. Shriver, *vide* JD). Yellow-throated Vireos were said to be more numerous than usual in cen. Massachusetts this summer (GL), and the presence of a Blue-headed Vireo at Tiverton, Newport, RI 17 Jun (RE) for the 2nd year in a row suggested the possibility of a modest range extension within the Ocean State. That Fish Crows are now established throughout Cape Cod in summer was indicated by one at Truro, Barnstable, MA 4 Jun (MF). Five Sedge Wren reports included 2 at Hadley, Hampshire, MA 1-5 Jun (B. Kane, *vide* B.O.), 2 at Durham, Strafford, NH 25-31 Jul (ph. SM), and one at Wesley, Washington, ME 10 Jul (*vide* JD). A comprehensive census by canoe of what may be the Bay State's largest colony recorded 304 singing Marsh Wrens along the North River, Plymouth, MA 14 Jun (DC, D. Peacock). **Northern Wheatears** made unusual early-summer appearances at Pondicherry W.R., Jefferson, Coos, NH 3 Jun (D. Govatski, J. Fyon, *vide* WT) and Rochester, Windsor, VT 24 Jun (H. & H. Brown, *vide* AA). These were likely tied to the influx of the species in the Northeast in late May.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

As Golden-winged Warblers continue to decline in New England, this year a glimmer of hope came from the Nutmeg State, where four to six pairs were noted between Cornwell, Litchfield (M. Dahl, *vide* GH) and two locations in Canaan, Litchfield (J. Zipp, *vide* GH). A Tennessee Warbler at Wellfleet, Barnstable, MA 29 Jun (MF) was anomalous, as were a Northern Parula at Nantucket I. 27 Jun (S. Langer, *vide* B.O.) and a Bay-breasted Warbler at Barre, Worcester, MA 21 Jul (ML). However, a Northern Parula at Middleborough, Plymouth, MA 22 Jul (WP) was thought to be on territory at one of the few suspected nesting sites in Massachusetts. Four Cerulean Warblers on Mt. Holyoke, Hampshire, MA in Jun (GL) was quite a concentration for the Bay State, and at least one bird was back at Pawtuckaway S P,

Rockingham, NH 9 Jun (A. Delorey, v.o., *fide* WT). A singing **Swainson's Warbler** originally discovered in May remained at Naushon I., *Dukes*, MA until 3 Jun (S. Storer, *fide* B.O.). Always among the earliest fall warbler migrants, a Northern Waterthrush at Boston, *Suffolk*, MA 27 Jul (G. Tepke *fide* B.O.) was right on schedule. Louisiana Waterthrushes feeding young at Manchester 24 Jun (RH) confirmed a new, and only the 2nd known, breeding locality in *Essex*, MA. A Yellow-breasted Chat at Truro, *Barnstable*, MA 6 Jun (MF) was assumed to be a late migrant.

Out-of-place sparrows included Clay-colored Sparrow at Lancaster, *Worcester*, MA 12 Jun–6 Jul (RL), a Lark Sparrow at Tuckernuck I, MA 25 Jul (RV), and a Dark-eyed Junco at Melrose, *Middlesex*, MA 27 Jun (D. & I. Jewell, *fide* B.O.). In the absence of comprehensive grassland sparrow survey data this season, the most notable reports were 100 Vesper Sparrows at Columbia Falls, *Washington*, ME 26 Jun (N. Famous, *fide* JD) and 46 Grasshopper Sparrows at Lancaster, *Worcester*, MA 6 Jul (RL). A **Painted Bunting** at New Castle, *Rockingham*,

NH 11-13 Jun (v.o., *fide* WT) was one of very few records for the Granite State. Dickcissels in Connecticut at Hampden, *Middlesex* 4–5 Jun (J. Zipp, *fide* GH) and Litchfield, *Litchfield* 9 Jun (MS) appeared to be migrants or wandering birds.

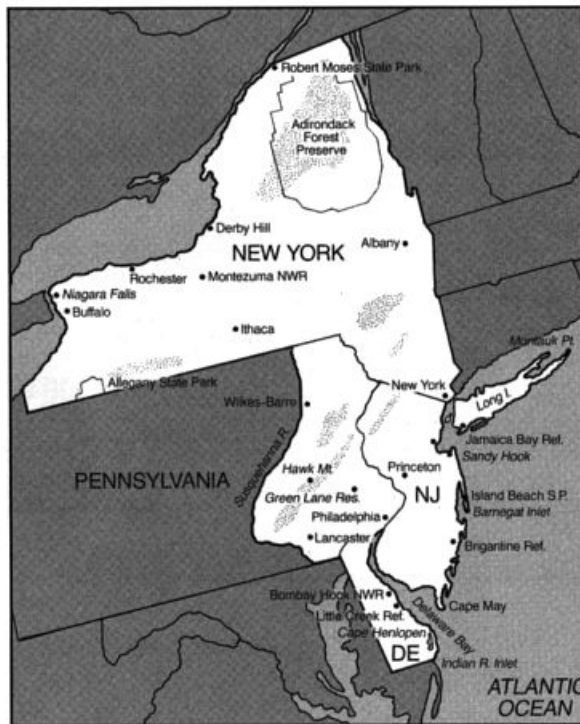
A **Western Meadowlark** discovered in May was still present at Norridgewock, *Somerset*, ME 14 Jun (WSL. Bevier, v.o., *fide* JD). Curiously, this species has notably declined as a vagrant to New England since the 1960s and 1970s, when it was significantly more regular. Yellow-headed Blackbirds were represented by singles at E. Kingston, *Rockingham*, NH 4 Jun (ph. SM) and Milford Point, *New Haven*, CT 5 Jun (F. McBride, *fide* GH). At the species's only breeding station in New England, a pair of Boat-tailed Grackles raised 3 young at Stratford, *Fairfield*, CT (D. Varza, *fide* GH). In Massachusetts, Orchard Orioles bred in Cheshire for the first confirmed nesting in *Berkshire* since 1948 (C. Quinlan), and a pair at Portland, *Cumberland*, nested at the species's only known breeding locality in the Pine Tree State (KG, *fide* JD). Seasonally extralimital

were pairs of Evening Grosbeaks at Barkhamsted, *Litchfield*, CT 22 Jun (D. Pelletier, *fide* GH), Carlisle, *Middlesex*, MA 20 Jun (D. Brownrigg, *fide* B.O.), and Mattapoisett, *Plymouth*, MA 7 Jul (M. LaBossier, *fide* B.O.).

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After a wet late May, summer was dry, especially in the north. June had hot, humid periods, exceeding 90 degrees Fahrenheit in the Adirondacks, whereas July was more comfortable—a generally favorable breeding season weatherwise. Pelagic birding was exciting off Long Island and New Jersey 23–24 June, from shore as well as at sea, apparently coinciding with the presence of a plume of warmer water. In a relatively uneventful summer otherwise, rarities included Brown Boobies, the Region's second Little Egret, and a White-winged Dove.

Amidst relentless habitat degradation in the Region, we can celebrate a few victories. In the Port of Wilmington, state and local officials are restoring 190 acres of wetland as the Russell W. Peterson Urban Wildlife Refuge