

reported at a number of locations across the Region in late Jun and Jul, chiefly e. of Québec City, and juvs. were frequently sighted at feeders.

Corrigendum: The Yellow-throated Warbler reported at Asbestos in early winter 2004 (N.A.B. 59: 235) was last seen 13 Dec rather

than 5 Dec (G. Lacroix, *vide* D. Gagné).

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New England



lowed by a maximum monthly low of 54° F. July was generally sunny and less than a degree cooler than normal. The 8.5 cm of rain that fell in Boston was practically normal. Most of the problems encountered by nesting birds this year occurred during the first half of June or during May, when conditions were unseasonably harsh.

As is usually the case when late-spring conditions are cold, wet, and windy, there was serious mortality and nest failure among early-nesting species, particularly among coastal breeders (e.g., Piping Plover, American Oystercatcher, and terns), aerial foragers such as Purple Martins, and cavity nesters such as Eastern Bluebirds. There were also indications that several waterbird groups, especially long-legged waders, Piping plovers, and terns attempted to re-nest after the destructive weather events of May.

Breeding highlights featured new state nesting records of Ruddy Duck in Maine, Sedge Wren in Rhode Island, and Mourning Warbler in Connecticut, along with an assortment of stunning Regional rarities, including Red-billed Tropicbird in Maine, Magnificent Frigatebird, White-faced Ibis, two Little Stints, and Bridled Tern in Massachusetts, and Black Rail in Connecticut. All in all, an interesting summer season, punctuated by ups and downs across the board.

Abbreviations: M.A.R.C. (Massachusetts A.R.C.), M.D.F.W. (Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife), N. & S. Monomoy I. (Monomoy N.W.R., Chatham, Barnstable, MA), Noman's Land (Dukes, MA), Plum I. (Parker River N.W.R., Newbury/Rowley, Essex, MA), South Beach (Chatham, Barnstable, MA), U.S.F.W.S. (United States Fish & Wildlife Service).

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In marked contrast to May, which was notably cold and wet, June was warm (despite extreme high and low temperatures) and very dry, with rainfall in Boston 4.5 cm below normal. Early in June, Boston temperatures averaged over 9° F degrees above normal, and conditions were generally hot and humid. This pattern changed abruptly in mid-month, with nearly a week of unseasonably cold temperatures that averaged almost 12° F below normal. During the hot spell, a record-high monthly minimum temperature was set of 75° F, shortly fol-

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

Several Red-throated Loons were recorded in s. New England waters, including 3 in Massachusetts (B.O.) and one in Rhode Island (CR). More unusual, although becoming increasingly frequent in early summer, was a Pacific Loon in breeding plumage off Noman's Land 2 Jun (JH, AK). A tally of 42 Common Loons migrating at Provincetown 9 Jun (BN) reflects how late some of these n. interior nesters are still moving. Vermont again set a new state record for the number

of nesting pairs of Common Loons, with 53 nests producing 70 chicks, a total that included seven new pairs (*vide* E. Hansen). Notable by their continued scarcity as breeders in s. New England, Pied-billed Grebes were confirmed nesting at three locations in New Hampshire (Pierpont, *Grafton*; Rochester, *Stratford*; and Rye, *Rockingham*; *vide* BT), and the appearance of 2 ads. and 2 juvs. at Plum I. 26 Jun (TW) was mildly encouraging. Summering Horned Grebes lingered at Odiorne S.P., Rye, *Rockingham*, NH (m.ob.) and Gloucester, Essex, MA 20 Jun-30 Jul (RH), and a Red-necked Grebe in breeding plumage appeared at Ninigret Pond, Charlestown, *Washington*, RI 21-30 Jul (m.ob., *vide* RF).

In the wake of a well-documented Massachusetts Yellow-nosed Albatross sighting in May, reports of unidentified albatrosses came from the ocean off Lynn Beach, Essex 12 Jul (J. Quigley) and off Nantucket I. 26 Jul (D. Sutherland). A repeat performance of last summer's inshore dearth of tubenoses was generally suspected of being tied to another year of apparent baitfish shortage, most notably of sand lance (*Ammodytes* sp.). (A major "red tide" along the Bay State coast this season may have been implicated along with the harsh storms of late May, but it seems unlikely that the storms influenced pelagic waters so much that plankton abundance or fish populations were adversely affected for the better part of the summer.) Based upon the modest totals of shearwaters on Stellwagen Bank and in the waters e. of Chatham, MA in early Jun, one gets the impression that soon after their arrival from the Southern Hemisphere, austral-breeding seabirds found little to eat. Counts matching the 600+ Greater Shearwaters, 600 Sooty Shearwaters, and 1000 Wilson's Storm-Petrels on Stellwagen Bank 11 Jun (JH) and 500+ Greater Shearwaters and 1000+ Sooty Shearwaters 16 km e. of Chatham 8 Jun (B. Perkins) were essentially unreported for the rest of the period, suggesting that these species may have quickly dispersed afterward. In Long Island Sound, 2 Manx Shearwaters were noted off Norwalk, *Fairfield*, CT 10 Jul (T. Dickinson); there is only a single sight record of the species for Connecticut, from 1990. Likewise, 100+ Wilson's Storm-Petrels were present in the sound in early Jul (*vide* GH), and an estimate of 1000 along the New Hampshire coast on 9 Jul (SM) was notable there. Four Leach's Storm-Petrels at Noman's Land 2 Jun (AK) hinted at the probable continued nesting of the species at this recently discovered Massachusetts breeding site.

Pelecaniformes made a dazzling Regional showing this season. Heading the hit parade was a well-documented ad. **Red-billed Tropicbird** in the Gulf of Maine, first off Machias



This apparently territorial Clay-colored Sparrow was found singing at Hedgehog Mountain Park, Freeport, Cumberland County 30 June 2005. Photograph by Derek Lovitch.

Seal I. in Canadian waters 11 Jul (ph. T. Ewert, ph. L. Starr, m.ob.), then off Seal Island N.W.R., *Knox*, ME 13 Jul (*vide* DL), for a 2nd Maine record. Such n. records of this species are intriguing. American White Pelicans were noted at Falmouth, *Cumberland*, ME 4 Jun (LB); Narragansett, *Washington*, RI 8 Jun (T. Seiter); Plum I. 30 Jun (D. Noble, J. Nelson); and at the Charlestown Breachway, RI 2 Jul (m.ob.). More unusual was a flyby Brown Pelican at Stratford, *Fairfield*, CT 18 Jul (C. Lovell). Finally, a female **Magnificent Frigatebird** was photographed at South Beach 22 Jul (p.a., ph. RM).

The annual census of long-legged wading birds at Kettle I., Manchester, Essex, MA was taken before the late-May nor'easter this year. Consequently, census figures may not provide an accurate indication of how many birds actually nested this year, since it is known that a number of coastal nesting birds took a major hit from this storm. The nest count at Kettle I. included 84 Great Egrets, 177 Snowy Egrets, 11 Little Blue Herons, 24 Black-crowned Night-Herons, and 51 Glossy Ibis (SP). These numbers are in line with recent past years, with only minor increases or decreases noted. A pair-count at Sarah I. in Hingham Harbor, Ply-

mouth, MA 20 Jun (SP) produced 40 Great Egret, 25 Snowy Egret, and 200 Black-crowned Night-Heron pairs. Comparable nest-count data for combined Narragansett Bay colonies in Rhode Island produced 121 Great Egrets, 64 Snowy Egrets, 3 Little Blue Herons, 233 Black-crowned Night-Herons (+28 pairs), and 65 Glossy Ibises (+ three pairs) (RFe, CR). The numbers of Great Egret and Glossy Ibis were significantly lower than last year, and at Rose I., mink depredation was thought to be a possible cause of Glossy Ibis decline. As Cattle Egrets continue to decline in the Region, reports of one at Tuckernuck I. 8-20 Jun (S. Murphy et al.) and 2 at Lyme, *New London*, CT 16 Jun (J. Gaskell) are noteworthy. An egret exhibiting plumage features of both Little Egret and Snowy Egret discovered in late May at Nantucket I. continued to be seen through 23 Jun (RV). A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Monhegan I. 26 Jul (B. Boynton) was definitely out of place, but not as much so as the White Ibis at Middletown, *Newport*, RI 26 Jul (J. Gee) and the White-faced Ibis in the Plum I./Newbury area of Essex, MA May-7 Jun (F. Vale, ph., m.ob.).

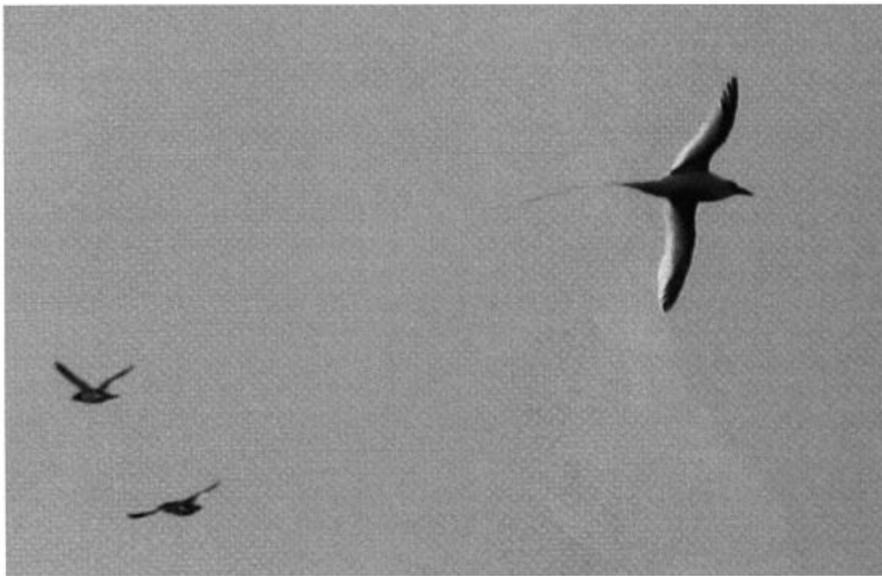
Two Black Vultures at Charlestown, *Washington*, RI 5 Jun (S. Mitra) and one near Bar Harbor, *Hancock*, ME mid-Jul (*vide* JD) underscore the continued penetration of this species into

New England. A Turkey Vulture nest containing 2 young in a barn in Williamstown, *Berkshire*, MA in early Jul (*vide* T. Walsh, T. French) illustrates one of the ways this successful species is "making it" in Massachusetts.

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

A chilling example of how feral Canada Goose populations are increasing in New England is indicated by the results of a neck-collaring study conducted in Massachusetts by Mass Wildlife that revealed that the Bay State feral goose population has gone from approximately 6000-8000 birds in 1970 to over 40,000 in 2005 (TF, *vide* H. Heusmann).

One of Maine's premier waterfowl nurseries, L. Josephine, Easton, *Aroostook* produced several broods of American Wigeons and Northern Shovelers this summer, along with the state's first-ever nesting of Ruddy Duck, a pair with 6 ducklings photographed 24 Jul (ph. BS, D. Shaw). Noteworthy in the lingering department was a pair of Redheads at L. Josephine 25 Jun (BS), the drake remaining until 5 Jul; 2 Ring-necked Ducks at S. Monomoy I. 21 Jun (RM); and three reports of single King Eiders in s. New England, the latest being a drake off Woods

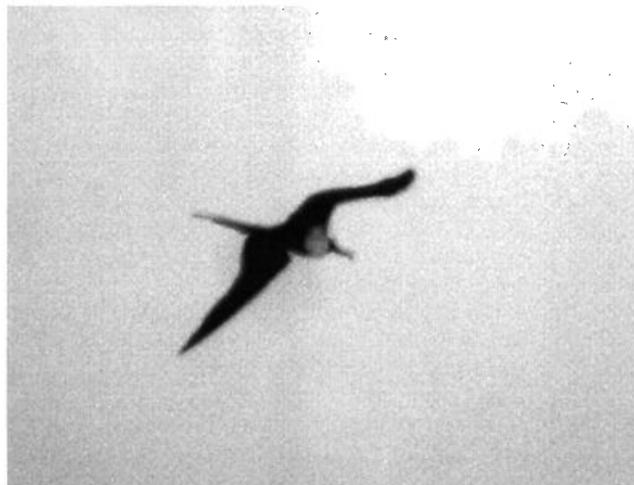


Both the New Brunswick and Maine birding communities celebrated the documentation 11 July 2005 of a Red-billed Tropicbird (here with Common Murres) at Machias Seal Island, an island claimed by both the United States and Canada. Photograph by Leslie Starr.

Hole, Barnstable, MA 1-10 Jun (P. Stanton, ph. S. Farnam).

Osprey nests increased again this year at Westport, Bristol, MA: 105 young were fledged from 73 active nests (D. Cole, T. Miller). Entries in the Region's early summer "kite festival" this year included a Swallow-tailed Kite at Woodbury, Litchfield, CT 18 Jun (S. Harvey) and single Mississippi Kites at Wareham, Plymouth, MA 13 Jun (IN), N. Truro, Barnstable, MA 14 Jun (DM), Easton, Fairfield, CT 18 Jun (L. Tiller), and Greenwich, Fairfield, CT 22 Jun (T. Baptist). Among the 23 chicks fledged from 12 successful Bald Eagles nests in Massachusetts were young from two new e. Massachusetts nests at Newbury, Essex and at Lakeville, Plymouth (*vide* TF). Once again, Northern Harriers successfully nested at Connecticut's only known breeding locality at Stratford, Fairfield (C. Barnard). A total of 86 Broad-winged Hawks at the Cape Cod Hawkwatch site at N. Truro throughout Jun (*vide* B.O.) should remind observers that imms. are still moving late in the season. The beleaguered American Kestrel continues to suffer throughout the Region. In Massachusetts, a 21-box kestrel trail maintained for many years near the Blue Hills Reservation in Norfolk once again failed to have any occupancy (N. Smith), while 35 carefully monitored boxes located in Plymouth cranberry bogs enjoyed 57% occupancy and produced 62 young (JM). This is a slight drop from last season, but when combined with long-term data (not fully collated as of press time), it is thought that this

number represents an all-time low in this 15-year study (JM). The confirmed nesting of Merlins at Treasure I. in L. Winnepesaukee, Alton, Belknap, NH 29 Jul (C. Nims) represents a significant southward extension in New England for this steadily increasing species. Two Jul migrants in the Bay State further support this trend. Despite some disappointing, storm-related Peregrine Falcon nesting failure in Massachusetts this year, where only five pairs fledged 13 chicks, Vermont enjoyed a banner season, with 26 nesting pairs producing a record-setting 57+ fledglings (S. Faccio, *vide* JN). Equally encouraging, in New Hampshire eight pairs of



This Magnificent Frigatebird at South Beach, Chatham, Massachusetts stayed for only an hour 22 July 2005. Photograph by Ryan Merrill.

Peregrines fledged 24 young at the time of writing (*vide* C. Martin). In Rhode Island, a pair on the Mt. Hope Bridge, Bristol, Narragansett produced 2 young (CR, RF).

A Black Rail heard calling at Old Lyme,

New London, CT 20-22 Jun (B. Burt) was not far from an 1884 nesting locality. Both Clapper and King Rails are at the n. limit of their range in s. New England, so the presence of a Clapper Rail throughout Jul at Hampton Marsh, Rockingham, NH (BG, v.ob.) was all the more interesting when it was joined by a King 19-30 Jun (G. Prazer, SM et al.). Up to 2 King Rails at Plum I. throughout Jun were not confirmed to be nesting this summer (*vide* U.S.F.W.S.). The presence of 5 Soras at S. Monomoy I. 8 Jun (RM) was a clear indication that this declining species could be nesting at that remote location. Fewer than five (probable) nest sites for Common Moorhen were reported this season, with breeding confirmed only at Brewer, Penobscot, ME 25 Jul (J. Markowsky) and at Sandbar W.M.A., Milton, Chittenden, VT 9 Jun (TM, S. Parren), where 5 were noted.

Nesting Sandhill Cranes at Belgrade Lakes, Kennebec, ME fledged one young this season; another nest at nearby Smithfield failed (*vide* SM). Two Sandhill Cranes at Leeds, Androscoggin, ME gave no indication of nesting (*vide* JD), nor did 2 at New Marlboro, Berkshire, MA (*vide* B.O.) Interesting was an ad. Whooping Crane that appeared first at Dead Creek W.M.A., Addison, VT 9 Jun (D. Sausville), then later at Lamoille R. floodplain, Bridgport 26 Jun (TM, S. Parren). From color bands on the crane, it was determined that it was a female hatched in 2003 as part of the Wisconsin Whooping Crane reintroduction program. The bird was apparently led to Florida by an ultralight on its first southward migration; it was last seen departing in a southwesterly direction on 30 Jun (S. Wetmore).

SHOREBIRDS

Totals for coastal nesting shorebirds this year were disappointing; mortality sustained during the late-May nor'easter and depredations by Red Fox were to blame. A total of 475 pairs of Piping Plovers in Massachusetts produced 483+ chicks (1.02 fledged/pair), for the worst total since 1988 (M.D.F.W. *vide* SM). At South Beach, one of the Bay State's most important sites, 37 nests were destroyed by the late-May nor'easter, yet at least 14 pairs promptly re-nested after the storm (E. Jedrey). In Rhode Island, 14 pairs of American Oystercatchers produced only 2 young with certainty (RFe, CR), and in Massachusetts 183 pairs were able to only generate 0.35 chicks/pair, a decrease from 0.50/pair in 2004 (M.D.F.W., *vide* SM). One does not have to be a biologist to appreciate the significance of these kinds of numbers: our populations of these species cannot sus-

tain themselves at such low levels of productivity. American Oystercatcher is ranked as a Species of High Concern by the *United States Shorebird Conservation Plan* (2001). A total of 22 Upland Sandpipers at just three Massachusetts airports suggests that at least within these managed sites, this otherwise troubled species is hanging on in s. New England (*vide* B.O.).

Leading the list of unusual shorebirds for the period was **Wilson's Plover**, a species that seemingly underwent something approaching an irruption this summer, or else a single individual covered a lot of territory. The reports included singles at N. and S. Monomoy I. 5 (S. Ellis) & 8 Jun (RM), respectively; Nantucket I. 11 Jun (ph. E. Ray); Napatree Pt., *Washington*, RI 15 Jun (CR); Gay Head, Martha's Vineyard 21 Jun (L. Johnson, *vide* B.O.); and South Beach throughout Jul (m.ob.). Since the gender of several of these reports is unknown with certainty, it is difficult to determine how many birds may have been involved. The individual at South Beach was no doubt the same bird reported throughout Jul, and probably also pertained to at least one of the Monomoy birds reported in Jun. No less interesting were one or 2 carefully identified ad. **Little Stints** at South Beach 7-20 Jul (R. Clem, ph., m.ob.). Among the unusual shorebird reports was an early American Golden-Plover at Charlestown Breachway 2 Jul (ST, v.ob.); rare-in-spring Hudsonian Godwits at Charlestown Breachway 5 Jun (m.ob., *vide* RF) and Scarborough, *Cumberland*, ME 7 Jun (P. Vickery, J. Pierson); an early Marbled Godwit at N. Monomoy I. 23-29 Jun (RM); 2 unusual-in-spring Western Sandpipers at E. Gloucester, *Essex*, MA 8 Jun (C. Leahy); ad. Baird's Sandpipers at Plum I. 23 Jul (TW) and South Beach 23 Jul (B. Harrington); a very early ad. Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Bolton Flats, Bolton, *Worcester*, MA 10 Jul (K. Hartel); a Ruff at N. Monomoy I. 20 Jun (BN); a displaying Wilson's Snipe at Gay Head, Martha's Vineyard 15-26 Jun (AK); and a robust total of 8 Wilson's Phalaropes at Plum I. 30 Jun (RH). Several of the highest reported migrant shorebird totals came from South Beach 28 Jul (BN), including 1400 Semipalmated Plovers, 350 Willets (including 15+ *inornatus*), 150 Whimbrels, 80 Hudsonian Godwits, 1100 Red Knots, 3500 Sanderlings, 5500 Semipalmated Sandpipers, and 4200 Short-billed Dowitchers. Other high tallies were 760 Lesser Yellowlegs at Newburyport 25 Jul (RH), 600 Least Sandpipers at South Beach 15 Jul (BN), and 25 Stilt Sandpipers at Plum I. Jul 28 (RH). Readers are reminded that these numbers are representative at best. With more careful shorebird monitoring and counting at other key sites, our knowledge of the Regional status of shorebirds, many of

which are declining, could be substantially enhanced.

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS

As with tubenoses this summer, jaegers were scarce. Only slightly unusual were 2 Parasitic Jaegers at Norwalk, *Fairfield*, CT 17 Jul (L. Flynn) and a single in upper Narragansett Bay, RI 6 Jul (G. Dennis). The most interesting larid of the season was an imm. **California Gull** at Nantucket I.; it was first



This male King Eider was found 3 June 2005 on an island off Woods Hole, Massachusetts, among a colony of nesting Common Eiders. Photograph by Phil Stanton.

located last winter and was still present 26 Jun (RV). Also lingering were Iceland Gulls at S. Monomoy I. 8 Jun (RM) and Napatree Pt., *Washington*, RI 12-19 Jun (CR) and a Glaucous Gull at S. Monomoy I. 1-8 Jun (E. Banks). Laughing Gulls nesting in the Bay State amounted to 1312 pairs, up slightly from last season (*vide* SM, C. Mostello, M.D.F.W.). Regionwide there were 10-11 Little Gulls reported this season, most from s. New England, and 2-3 Black-headed Gulls were seen in Massachusetts in early Jun (*vide* B.O.). Unusual for the early summer date was a total of 30 Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Nantucket I. 2 Jun (RV).

Although there were several reports of Caspian Terns on the Vermont side of L. Champlain in late Jul (*vide* JN, TM), no Regional nesting evidence for this species was obtained this season. Reports of single Royal Terns came from Rhode Island (2), Massachusetts (5), and Outer Green I., Casco Bay, ME. More unusual, Sandwich Terns appeared at South Beach 21 Jul (N. Bonomo et al.) and Ninigret Pt., Charlestown, *Washington*, RI 30 Jul (m.ob., *vide* RF). Total nesting pairs of terns in Massachusetts included 15,429 Common Terns (down from last year's modern-day record of 16,087 pairs),

1528 Roseate Terns (stable), 6 Arctic Terns, 2647 Least Terns, and 5 Black Skimmers (C. Mostello, M.D.F.W., *vide* SM). Productivity was generally low this year, especially for Least Terns, a species that overall is not reproducing well, despite appearing to hold its own at the pair-count level (A. Jones, E. Jeddrey, *vide* Mass Audubon Coastal Waterbird Program). At White I. and Seavey I., Isles of Shoals, NH, about 2500 pairs of Common Terns and 50 pairs of Roseate Terns nested

this season (*vide* BT). An ad. **Bridled Tern** paid two brief visits to the large tern colony at Bird I., off Marion in Buzzards Bay 11 & 14 Jun (IN)—apparently an event without precedent n. of Florida. At Sandy Pt., West Haven, *New Haven*, 26 ad. Black Skimmers were counted in mid-Jul at Connecticut's relatively new and only colony (*vide* GH).

Misplaced and out-of-season alcids in Massachusetts included a Common Murre at S. Monomoy I. 20 Jun (RM), a Black Guillemot at Sesuit Harbor, Dennis, *Barnstable* 10 Jul (ph. S. Finnegan), up to 5 guillemots at several *Essex* locations throughout Jun and Jul (JB), and an Atlantic Puffin at Nantucket I. 10 Jun (J. Decker). A Common Murre and an Atlantic Puffin were at the Isles of Shoals 14-15 Jun (*vide* BT); both species are now thought to be regular at this offshore outpost.

CUCKOOS THROUGH THRUSHES

In areas where heavy forest defoliation occurred as a result of caterpillar infestation in the spring, several observers commented on generally higher-than-usual numbers of Yellow-billed Cuckoos. Only one known Barn Owl pair nested at Martha's Vineyard this season, compared to 37 pairs as recently as

three years ago (*vide* G. Ben David). Severe mortality due to harsh winter weather during the past several years is believed to be the cause. Vermont had an ad. and 4 juv. Long-eared Owls at Charlotte, *Chittenden* 8-9 Jun (M. Medler, TM); Regional confirmation of nesting Long-eared Owls is always noteworthy. At least as unusual was a pair of Short-eared Owls with 4 juvs. at Tuckernuck I. 29 Jun (RV et al.), one of the Region's last known regular nesting areas. A calling Chuck-will's-widow at Nehantic S.E., Lyme, *New London*, CT, a state where the species has yet to be confirmed as a breeder, was vocal until at least 10 Jun (m.ob., *vide* GH).

A total of 4 Red-headed Woodpeckers was reported, 3 in Connecticut and one in Massachusetts. Indications are good that Red-bellied Woodpeckers are still continuing to push northward in Maine, and it will only be a matter of time before a first nesting record is established (*vide* JD). Two Olive-sided Flycatchers at October Mountain S.P., *Berkshire*, MA 17 Jun (G. d'Entremont) is encouraging; this species is rarely reported as a breeder in the Bay State in recent years. Three Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were at Mt. Greylock, *Berkshire*, MA 18 Jun (SK et al.); the species has never been positively confirmed to breed in Massachusetts, despite nearly annual mid-Jun appearances at this location. A total of 32 Least Flycatchers at New Marlboro, *Berkshire*, MA 25 Jun (ML) demonstrates that where suitable forest habitat exists this species is still relatively common, despite its virtual disappearance in e. Massachusetts. A misplaced Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was apparently seen and photographed at St. George, *Knox*, ME 10 Jun (*vide* N. O'Brien).

A tally of 38 Warbling Vireos near the Charles R. in urban Watertown, *Middlesex*, MA 21 Jun (RS) is indicative of how common this species can be where the right riparian habitat exists. Curious were 16 migrating Blue Jays at Chatham on the elbow of Cape Cod 19 Jun (BN). Cool and rainy late-spring conditions had a negative impact on nesting swallows. In Massachusetts, Purple Martin colonies produced 116 pairs that fledged 315 young, compared to 238 pairs that fledged 500+ young in 2004 (survey results *vide* DC). Martins were said to return much later in spring and in noticeably smaller numbers than usual this year. Sedge Wrens made news in Rhode Island when at least one and probably two pairs nested for the first time at *Newport* 23 Jun–30 Jul (RF, ph. G. Dennis). In Massachusetts, 2 male Sedge Wrens were found at Stockbridge, *Berkshire* 18-25 Jun (ML) and another at the Eugene Moran W.M.A., *Windsor*, *Berkshire* 4

Jul (ML).

Eastern Bluebirds also had a difficult nesting season. In the Ocean State, a 12-year-old bluebird trail in Smithfield that usually averages 45 pairs of bluebirds per year had only 22 pairs this season, and productivity dropped from an average of 300 fledglings to 101 (R. Marr, *vide* RF). A bluebird trail in se. Massachusetts that last year hosted 18 pairs of Eastern Bluebirds had only 13 pairs, and productivity dropped from 112 fledged young in 2004 to 49 young this year (JM).



Bill Sheehan and Diane Shaw found and documented this family of Ruddy Ducks 24 July 2005 near Lake Josephine in Easton, Aroostook County, Maine—a first nesting record for the state. Photograph by Bill Sheehan.

This drop represented an all-time low for the long-standing trail. Like Olive-sided Flycatcher, Swainson's Thrush is seriously declining as a Bay State breeding bird; 8 was a good modern count at Mt. Greylock, *Berkshire* 18 Jun (SK).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

A selection of warbler highlights for the season includes a pair of increasingly rare Golden-winged Warblers at Hinesburg, *Chittenden*, VT 8 Jun (TM); 2 Brewster's and 3 Lawrence's Warblers in the Region; a Tennessee Warbler with a fledgling near Livermore on the Nancy Pt. Trail, NH 26 Jul (BG); a Palm Warbler at Pittsburg, *Coos*, NH 8 Jul (BG); a Cerulean Warbler at Hudson, *Penobscot*, ME 5 Jun (ph. B. Duchesne, *vide* JD); Prothonotary Warblers at Nehantic S.E., Lyme, *New London*, CT through mid-Jun (*vide* GH) and Plum I. 18 Jul (S. McGrath); a pair of Mourning Warblers feeding young at Barkhamsted, *Litchfield*, CT 3 Jul (D. Rosgen) for a first state breeding record; and nesting Yellow-breasted Chats at Leydon W.M.A., *Leydon*, *Franklin*, MA 14 Jun (B. Harris, M. Labbe). Two chats were reported in Rhode Island (*vide* RF) and one at Charlotte, *Chittenden*, VT 2 Jun (TM).

A tardy Summer Tanager appeared at Saundertown, *Washington*, RI 2 Jun (P. A. Buckley). Clay-colored Sparrows were recorded in Maine at Freeport, *Cumberland*, 23 Jun–4 Jul (ph. DL) and Monhegan I. in

early Jun (B. Boynton, *vide* JD), along with single birds at three Bay State localities (B.O.) and one at Rentschler Field, E. Hartford, CT 3 Jun (*vide* GH). Two singing Vesper Sparrows at Northwest Park, *Windsor*, *Hartford* in mid-Jul (R. Baade) were intriguing; there have not been any recent confirmed nesting records in Connecticut (*vide* GH). A total of 25 Grasshopper Sparrows at Rentschler Field, E. Hartford, *Hartford* 3 Jun (*vide* GH) is probably the highest concentration in the state. In New Hampshire, Nelson's and Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows shared marshes at Stratham and Hampton, *Rockingham*, throughout the period (*vide* BT). A Fox Sparrow was taped and photographed at Pittsburg, *Coos*, NH 30-31 Jul (E. Nielsen) at a locality where the species has been suspected of nesting in the past. A Snow Bunting at S. Harwich, *Barnstable*, MA 15 Jun was extraordinarily late (E. Banks).

A pair of Blue Grosbeaks that attempted to nest at Northwest Park, E. Hartford, *Hartford*, CT was apparently unsuccessful (*vide* GH, v.ob.), and another at Tuckernuck I. 22 Jun (RV) was probably just a wanderer. A male Painted Bunting at a feeder

in Rehoboth, *Bristol*, MA 16 Jun (J. Roche) fit the general spring vagrancy pattern in the Northeast. A male Dickcissel was at Rentschler Field, E. Hartford 10 Jun (P. Cianfaglione). A report of 64 Eastern Meadowlarks at Hanscom Air Field, *Middlesex*, MA 7-8 Jul (G. Sadoti) is encouraging, as this species continues to decline in many areas throughout New England. A pair of Evening Grosbeaks with 4 young in Exeter, *Washington*, RI 25 Jun–31 Jul (*vide* RF) represented only the 2nd nesting record for the state. Similarly, a number of sightings of pairs of Evening Grosbeaks during Jun and Jul in several areas of nw. Connecticut suggests that this species may already be nesting, or soon attempting to nest, in that area (*vide* GH).

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