

Cerulean Warbler was out of range and habitat at Baie-du-Febvre 10 May (H. Brunoni, M. Bisson). A female Prothonotary Warbler visited Sabrevois 23 May, providing a 14th Regional record (A. Labelle). The Louisiana Waterthrush pair was back in Gatineau Park 12 May (D. Dallaire, J. Dubois), though nesting could not be confirmed as last year. A male Yellow-breasted Chat at Cap Tourmente 31 May–2 Jun was notable (RL, m.ob.), but especially intriguing were 2 individuals, one of which was quite vocal, at Saint-Elzéar (Gaspésie) 26 May (M. Bourdages).

First-spring male Summer Tanagers were reported singly at feeders at Beauport 15-19 May (M. Lacroix, JD. Poulin, m.ob., ph.) and Grand-Ruisseau, Magdalen Is. 21 May (S. Cyr et al., ph.). A male Western Tanager frequented feeders at Saint-Méthode, Lac-St-Jean 23 May (P. Simard, J. Boulanger, ph.). Unlike most of its species seen in the Region away from the breeding range, which are usually observed at feeding stations, an Eastern Towhee protecting a territory atop Mt. Arthabaska, Centre-du-Québec 21 May+ (C. Roy) was behaving much like those of the small breeding population on Mt. St-Hilaire,

over 100 km to the southwest. An ad. Harris's Sparrow was at La Sarre, Abitibi 8 May (C. Saint-Pierre), the 3rd individual in that region since last Dec. Single Oregon Juncos were reported at Lac-St-Charles 10 Mar (R. Morin) and at Île-Bizard Nature Park, Montréal 11 Apr (P. Tarassoff).

Largely irregular in spring, a Dickcissel at Baie-Saint-Paul 23 Apr bested the previous record arrival by three weeks (L. Rousseau, N. Burgdorfer). A Yellow-headed Blackbird at Saint-Étienne-de-Beauharnois 4 Mar was likely one of the birds that were sporadically seen in the area through the winter (E. Samson, A. Lacasse), while single males were reported from the w. of the province at Authier-Nord 13-17 May (J. Plante) and at Rouyn-Noranda 24 May (M. Bélanger, ML. Marcoux). Three Orchard Orioles were reported in mid-May in the Region: an ad. male at Saint-Thomas-de-Joliette 10 May (N. Coulombe), an imm. male at Île-de-la-Visitation Nature Park, Montréal 11-12 May (S. Vanier, J. Coutu), and a female at Cap Tourmente 18 May (JPO). A European Goldfinch, assumed to be an escapee, was at Destor, Abitibi 11 May (L. Beauregard).

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## New England



### Simon Perkins

A very intense, three-day “sou’easter” formed off the middle Atlantic coast in mid-April 2007, at a time of year when storms this powerful are rather rare. The storm tracked slowly northward along the coast, stalled once or twice, and eventually passed across the interior of the Region. Consequently, the winds, which briefly

reached hurricane force, never “backed” (counterclockwise) northeastward, as they would have had the storm passed offshore. Instead, they “veered” (clockwise) into the south, southwest, and eventually, northwest. As a result, birders on the shores of Rhode Island and Connecticut observed species that went undetected on the eastern shores of Massachusetts and Cape Cod Bay, these latter areas being more productive during nor’easters. The storm’s fallout included various early (one record-early) marine migrants, five Sooty Terns, and a smattering of early trans-Gulf passerine migrants.

A classic example of “spring” weather in New England came in mid-March. On the 14th, in many parts of Massachusetts, the mercury reached 70° F. Two days later, Worcester, Massachusetts was hit with 46 cm of snow, Lenox, Massachusetts got 50 cm, and Millbury, Vermont was clobbered with 94 cm! These prodigious amounts of snow had predictable effects on early migrants such as American Woodcocks and Fox Sparrows.

The latest trend in the documentation of rarities is the use of cell phone cameras. While the resolution of such images is still



This Tundra Swan, the only one reported in New England in spring 2007, was in East Bridgewater, Massachusetts 27-30 (here 27) March 2007. Photograph by Jim Weidenteller.

low (compared to standard digital cameras), the quality can be more than adequate for acquiring images through spotting scopes (“phone-scoping”). For examples, see White-faced Ibis, American Avocet, Ruff, and best of all, the Addendum!



This Eurasian Teal (left) at Bellow's Falls, Vermont 7-13 (here 7) April 2007 apparently represented the first photographically substantiated record for the state. Photograph by Hector Galbraith.

**Abbreviations:** C.R.V. (Connecticut River Valley); Hammonasset (Hammonasset Beach S.P., Madison, CT); M.A.R.C. (Massachusetts A.R.C.); M.V. (Martha's Vineyard, *Dukes*, MA); Monomoy (Monomoy Island N.W.R., Chatham, MA); Nantucket (Nantucket I., MA); P.R.N.W.R. (Parker River N.W.R.); P.I. (Plum l. area, including P.R.N.W.R., Newburyport, Newbury, Rowley, and Ipswich, Essex, MA).

## WATERFOWL

Waterfowl made a splash this spring. The headliners were Rhode Island's first **Pink-footed Geese**, which first appeared during the winter season and remained in Richmond through 6 Mar (m.ob., *vide* R. Farrell). About 2400 Snow Geese spent the last week of Apr feeding in fields in Caribou, ME (BS), and an estimated 10,000 Snows ("and perhaps many times that...in three enormous flocks") on L. Champlain, Alburg, VT 24 Mar (TGM) were probably staging for their northward departure. Reports of Greater White-fronted Geese included at least 8 in Massachusetts, 5 in New Hampshire, and singles in Vermont, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. Four Greater White-fronteds reported from Charlestown, NH 24 Mar and Northfield, MA 23 Mar (M. Taylor) were probably part of the flock of 5 that was on the Connecticut R. at Hinsdale, NH 18 Mar (EM, ph.). The Vermont bird was in Springfield 30 Mar (K. Cox), which is only about 76 km upriver; it may also have been part of this group. A big push of geese along the Bay State's length of the Connecticut R. in Hadley 25 Mar included 6000 Canada, 2 Cackling, and one **Barnacle Goose** (B. Zajda), the latter possibly the same individual as seen the day before in Deerfield (B. Kane) and again on the river just n. of the state line in Hinsdale, NH and Vernon, VT 25-28 Mar, also in the company of 2-4 Cacklings (ph. TW, M. Resch). Another Barnacle, a holdover from winter, was in Portsmouth, RI 4-5 Mar (E. Stedman, m.ob., ph.), and other Cackling Geese includ-

ed 2 elsewhere in Massachusetts, one elsewhere in New Hampshire, and 2 in Rhode Island, for a Regional total of 10-12.

Seven Trumpeter Swans that were tagged as part of Ontario's reintroduction program appeared in Connecticut: one was along the Connecticut R. between Hadlyme and Chester 10-18 Mar; another 2 were on Cedar L., Chester 18-22 Mar; and 4 were on the Pratt Read Res. 6 Apr (*vide* GH). The only

Tundra Swan report came from Bridgewater, MA 27-30 Mar (ph. J. Weindenfeller et al.). Brant reported from points inland included 22 in Littleton, *Grafton*, NH 17 May (B. Bradley), one in Clinton, MA 19 May (K. Bourinot), and one in Sunderland, VT 28 May (R. Stewart). The Regional total of 14 Eurasian Wigeons included 4 in Vermont, one of which was very late in Cornwall 13 May (TW); an American Wigeon × Eurasian Wigeon hybrid was in Concord, MA 26-28 Mar (SP, ph. BH); and a total of 10 Eurasian Teal in Mar and Apr included 5 in Massachusetts, 3 in New Hampshire, and 2 in Maine. One thousand American Black Ducks were reported from the Connecticut R. at Hinsdale, NH 9 Mar (EM); if accurate, this

count represented one of the highest known inland counts for the Region. As they have been for the past few years, both Northern Shoveler and Redhead continued to be cited by subregional editors as being present in above-average numbers. A Ruddy Shelduck in York, ME 10 Apr (SCBA) was presumed an escapee.

A **Tufted Duck** was discovered in Addison, VT 31 Mar (TGM), and a hybrid *Aythya* received a lot of scrutiny in Scarborough, ME 8-13 Apr (DL, ph. L. Seitz). Judging by its reddish head, one parent was probably Redhead,



This apparent hybrid *Aythya* in Scarborough, Maine 8-13 (here 13) April 2007 had birders guessing. Reddish tones about the head made a strong case for one parent being Redhead. The white wing-stripe seemed to indicate scaup, but the dark back and whitish sides were more consistent with either Ring-necked or Tufted Duck. Photograph by Luke Seitz.

the other either Ring-necked Duck, Tufted Duck, or a scaup. The best evidence for scaup parentage was its bold white wing stripe. A "major feeding group" of waterfowl off West-

**SA** The discovery of an **Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross** aground in a field in Maine set the stage for what became a sad saga. The bird was found in a cow pasture in Cape Neddick, ME 28 Apr (R. & S. Coite). It was meticulously rehabilitated for three weeks, initially at the Center for Wildlife clinic in Cape Neddick, then at the Tufts Wildlife Clinic in Grafton, MA. When it was deemed strong enough, it was fitted with a satellite transmitter and then released from a beach in Falmouth, MA 20 May. Two hours after the release, it was spotted flying down a highway in Plymouth, MA roughly 16 km from the release point, and, the next day, was found grounded again, sitting under an overpass along that same stretch of highway. Once again it was taken to Tufts, and on 2 Jun, it was released again, this time from a boat 48 km e. of Boston. Unfortunately, the transmitter failed, so no location data were received following this release. In the end, the bird was found dead on a beach in Barnstable, MA 26 Jun (B. Harris), and, based on the condition of the carcass, it was judged to have been dead for roughly two weeks. Because it did not survive long after the second release, the data probably would not have revealed much about the movements of an albatross in the "wrong" hemisphere in any case. Following a necropsy, the specimen will be housed at the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University.

This outcome was especially disappointing in the context of a debate surrounding the recent increase in the number of Yellow-nosed Albatross sightings in the Northwest Atlantic: at issue is whether these sightings have involved one or more individuals. A ray of illumination came this summer, when at least 2-3 different birds appeared in various locations in Europe, including one wandering down a driveway in Somerset, England (see *Birding World* 20: 279-295). These records support the notion that the recent multiple albatross sightings in New England pertain to more than one bird.

**Table 1.** Marine birds associated with the "Patriot's Day Storm" in New England, 16-19 April 2007.

Date	Apr 16					Apr 17				Apr 18				Apr 19				
	NH	AP	PJ	HA	SO	NH	AP	LC	CB	AP	EX	CCC	SN	CB	PJ	NA	SN	CB
Northern Fulmar		49												9				2
Sooty Shearwater		4																
Leach's Storm-Petrel	5	66				1		3				8	12	4				
Red Phalarope										3		1	3	1	1			1
Pomarine Jaeger													1	2				
Parasitic Jaeger													2	1				
Black-legged Kittiwake		352						43					16	372				
Least Tern				1*														
Sooty Tern			3		1			1 dead										
Thick-billed Murre							27				5		3			5		4
Razorbill		390											2	14			14	
large alcid		290																805

**Abbreviations for locations (and observers):**

NH: Hampton, NH (EM, SM); AP: Andrew's Pt, Rockport, MA (RSH), NA: Nahant, MA (L. Pivacek), CCC: Cape Cod Canal (east end), Sandwich, MA (M. Keleher)  
 SN: Sandy Neck, Barnstable, MA (M. LaBossiere, M. Malin), CB: Corporation Beach, Dennis, MA (BN, P. Flood), PJ: Point Judith, Narragansett, RI (PAB, W. Munns)  
 LC: Goosewing Beach, Little Compton, RI (G. Dennis), HA: Hammonasset Beach, Madison, CT (*vide* GH), SO: Southington, Hartford, CT (*vide* GH)

\* new record-early date for Region

port, MA 11 Mar (FM) included 2500 Greater Scaup, 1500 Long-tailed Ducks, 300 Common Goldeneyes, and 600 Bufflehead. Inland Barrow's Goldeneyes included a pair in Grand Isle, VT 24 Mar (TGM) and one on the Connecticut R. at Turner's Falls, MA 10 Mar (TP). Very rare inland anywhere s. of Canada, 4 Common Eiders at the Barkhamsted Res., CT 19 May (ph. FZ) represented the first inland record for state.

**LOONS THROUGH TROPICBIRD**

A total of 5 Pacific Loons included 4 in Massachusetts and one in New Hampshire, the



**This Brown Booby, representing only the fourth for fifth record for Massachusetts and the first ever photographed, was found in Hull in late June or early July of 2005. It was standing on a busy beach filled with sunbathers, kite-fliers, and dogs. The photographer was a non-birder/passersby who clicked this shot with his cell phone and emailed it (albeit two years later) to Mass Audubon's Wildlife Information Line for an identification. Photograph by Marc Quigley.**

latter in breeding plumage off Rye 15 May (SM et al.). Counts of 800 Red-throated Loons and 600 Common Loons in Nantucket Sound 5-7 May (RRV) were high for the date,

and a count of 9 Red-necked Grebes in Farmington, CT 2 May (P. Cianfalone) was noteworthy for an inland site. An Eared Grebe that spent part of the winter in Rye, NH was last reported there 14 Mar (B. Griffith), and the amazing Gloucester, Massachusetts Eared Grebe that spent its twelfth winter there was last reported 21 Apr (B.O.).

Records of waterbird species associated with the April Patriot's Day Storm are summarized in Table 1. Other records that were apparently also associated with the Storm included 2 Bonaparte's Gulls in Southwick, MA 15 Apr (SK), a Laughing Gull in Acton, MA 16 Apr (SP), 3 Bonaparte's Gulls in Turners Falls, MA 16 Apr (M. Taylor), and 3 Bonaparte's Gulls in Concord, MA 16 Apr (E. Nielsen et al.). In addition to those associated with the April Storm, other fulmar sightings that involved more than one or 2 individuals included 90 off Rockport, MA during a hard easterly blow 2 Mar (RSH) and 12 on 24 May (ST) in the "Mud Hole," an offshore fishing area e. of Block I., RI. Moderate easterly winds during the 3rd week of May persisted long enough to push modest numbers of pelagics into the North Shore of Massachusetts. At Rockport 18 May, these included 2 Northern Fulmars, 3 Manx Shearwaters, 16 Black-legged Kittiwakes, and a Thick-billed Murre (CC et al.); at the same site 19 May, a Parasitic Jaeger and 3 Razorbills (SM); and at Pt. 18 May, 5 Arctic Terns (T. Wetmore). During the same storm that produced the aforementioned Northern Fulmars on 2 Mar, pelagics seen from Rock-

**SA** Last year it was a White-tailed Hawk. This year the raptor quandary of the season involved a **Crested Caracara**, a one-day wonder on Martha's Vineyard 14 May (W. Manter). For years, caracaras, including the first in the Region (in Middleboro, MA 3-9 Jan 1999) were given short shrift, largely because caracaras away from Florida and the border states were, as yet, still few and far between. The 1999 record was not accepted because of questions of provenance. However, the numbers of extralimital Crested Caracaras in the United States and Canada have increased sharply since then, and, largely on the strength of this fact, the M.A.R.C. has since re-evaluated and accepted the 1999 record. The occurrence of the same or another Crested Caracara at Sandy Hook, NJ 5 May will add a bit more grist to the mill when it comes time for the respective records committees to do what they do!

port also included 2170 Black-legged Kittiwakes, 29 Common Murres, 3 Thick-billed Murres, 3760 Razorbills, and an additional 1090 large alcids (RSH). A **Red-billed Tropicbird** at Matinicus Rock, s. of Penobscot Bay, ME 28 May+ (*vide* Z. Klyver, ph.) was assumed to be the same individual that appeared at nearby Seal I. in Jul 2006.

**EGRETS THROUGH RAPTORS**

For the 3rd consecutive season, at least one small, white egret possessing traits consistent with both Snowy Egret and Little Egret was at Nantucket 16 May+ (ph. ER et al.). Photographs suggest that there may have been 2 such birds, which in the past have been presumed hybrids (but see <www.martinreid.com>). Connecticut's 5th **White-faced Ibis**

**SA** The remarkable, sudden colonization of New England by Sandhill Cranes continued this spring. A new all-time high total of roughly 27 Sandhill reports did not include the several (four or five) nesting pairs in Maine. The Bay State's 2nd Breeding Bird Atlas project got off to a fast and auspicious start when, shortly after the early Apr launch of the first Atlas field season, a resident in New Marlboro, *Berkshire*, MA added Sandhill Crane to the state list of breeding species with her discovery of a pair of ads. and a colt (S. Mullen). A pair of Sandhills that, for the past two years, had attempted but failed to fledge young in Bristol, VT returned to the same site again this year, but the outcome of their most recent effort is not yet known. Despite the presence this spring of a single Sandhill in Munroe, NH for the ninth consecutive year, no evidence of breeding has yet been found. Nonetheless, with birds now nesting in Maine, Vermont, and Massachusetts, the species is halfway through the process of colonizing all six states in the Region. Sandhills presumed to be migrating included 4 over Hollowell, ME 31 Mar (J. Wells) and 3 over Ludlow, VT 1 May (C. Johnson). The latest of 16 Bay State reports this season included 2 in Northfield 18 May (M. Marchello) and 2 in Quincy 20-21 May (J. Poggi, ph.).



Except for the two longer plumes emerging from its bushy crest, this possible Little Egret x Snowy Egret hybrid at Nantucket, Massachusetts 16 May 2007 appeared to be identical in plumage and structure to nearby Snowy Egrets. Another possible hybrid, found nine days later and roughly 11 kilometers away, lacked recurved aigrettes on the back, indicating that it was almost certainly a different individual. The color of the facial skin can fade quickly from reddish-orange (breeding condition) to yellow, making this feature less useful than plumage for differentiating individuals. *Photograph by Eddie Ray.*

was at Hammonasset 18-22 Apr (R. Baade et al., ph.) and one or 2 toured four towns (Newbury, Rowley, Essex, and Topsfield) in Essex, MA 26 Apr+ (MD, ph. RSH, et al.). Three of 4 wayward Glossy Ibis found in Cornwall, VT 30 Apr were still there 1 May (TGM). Black Vultures were reported again from all three northern-tier states, the northernmost of which were 2 near Burlington, VT 8 Apr (G. Askew). Closer to the source, before roosts broke up in Mar, sample Black Vulture counts from three different interior regions of Connecticut included 31 in Kent (J. Dugan), 25 in Watertown (GH), and 7 in Storrs (S. Morytko).

The early appearance of a Swallow-tailed Kite in Aquinnah, Martha's Vineyard 16 Apr (N. Weaver) may have been associated with the Patriot's Day Storm, which was just beginning to strengthen. Other more seasonable Swallow-tailed Kite reports included singles in Wellfleet, MA 5 May (D. Murley et al.) and Rochester, MA 16 May (L. West). A Missis-

sippi Kite in Kensington, NH 24 Apr (D. Finch) might have been New Hampshire's first. The N. Truro, MA hawkwatch site produced a seasonal total of 5 Mississippi: one on 13 May, 2 on 16 May, and 2 on 30 May (D. Manchester et al.). Others were in Greenwich, CT 27 May (B. O'Toole et al.) and Provincetown, MA 26 May (BN). By recent standards (the past 25 years), the total of 669 Broad-winged Hawks in Holyoke 23 Apr (TG) represented a very high spring count for the Region. The fifth of May marked the first day in the ten-year history of the Pilgrim Heights hawkwatch in North Truro, MA ("kite central") on which the day total exceeded 300 birds (including vultures). Selected subtotals from the day-total of 302 included 44 Turkey Vultures, 4 Bald Eagles, 162 Sharp-shinned

Hawks, 10 Cooper's Hawks, 37 Broad-winged Hawks, and 12 Merlins (DM).

## GALLINULE THROUGH TERNS

A Purple Gallinule adorned a small, backyard pond in Stratford, CT 29 Apr (S. Kruitbosch,



The presence of this Wilson's Plover in West Haven, Connecticut 11 May 2007 came to light only after it had departed and the photographer submitted the image to surprised experts for identification. *Photograph by Robert White.*

m.ob., ph.). Considering that the species occasionally misses New England entirely in spring, the occurrence of at least 7 American Golden-Plovers was remarkable, especially because half of the 6 total in Massachusetts were found in Apr, which is early. The Bay State birds were at P.I./Newbury 10-14 Apr (RSH), Orleans 22 Apr (J. Hoyer et al.), Monomoy 24 Apr and (same?) 3 May (BH), Tuckernuck I. Nantucket 5 May (RRV), and P.I. 18 May (MD); another was at Dead Creek W.M.A., Addison, VT 22 May (R. Payne). Though Wilson's Plover is nearly annual in Massachusetts of late, one at Sandy Pt., West Haven 11 May (ph. R. White) furnished Connecticut's first record in 18 years. Plum I. hosted the Region's only American Avocet 13-20 May (B. Murphy, m.ob., ph.) and one of the 2 Marbled Godwits 11-19 May (J. Fenton, m.ob., ph.); the other was in Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard 7-10



To the delight of its many admirers, this Purple Gallinule remained in a small pond in Stratford, Connecticut from 29 April (here) through the remainder of the spring 2007 season. *Photograph by Julian Hough.*

Mar (R. Culbert) and then (presumably the same) at Monomoy 11 Apr (BH). If this latter individual was the same as the bird recorded a few months earlier on the C.B.C. nearby in Bourne, MA, it probably overwintered. A Black-tailed Godwit in Cornwall, VT 29-30 Apr (P. Folsom, m.ob., ph.) represented the first record for Vermont and the 5th for the Region, the four previous records being from Massachusetts. A very early male Ruff that was in basic plumage when first found in Newburyport, MA 8 Apr (D. Chickering, m.ob., ph.) had molted in much of its black ruff by the time it left 5 May. Three other Ruffs included a Reeve in Saco 19-21 May (F. Mitchell et al.), a Reeve in Westerly, RI 31 May (C. Raithel et al.), and a black male at Hammonasset 22 May (T. Antanaitis et al.). A very early Short-billed Dowitcher was in Wakefield, RI 17 Mar (C. Nunes et al.). When and if they are definitively identified to species, early (and late) dowitchers in the Northeast usually prove to be Long-billed. As is often the



This "phonescoped" image of an American Avocet at Plum Island, Massachusetts 13-20 (here 13) April 2007 was captured with a cell phone through a spotting scope. Photograph by Richard Heil.

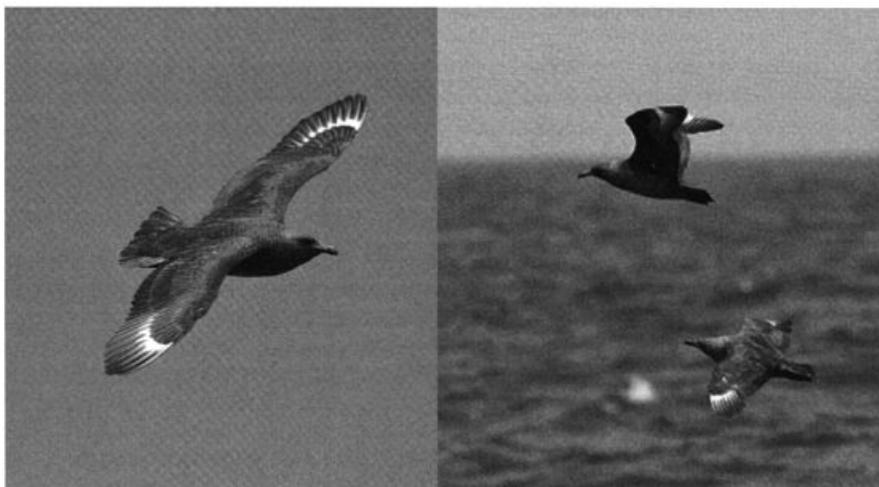
case with spring storms, heavy snows associated with a mid-Mar storm forced many American Woodcocks into urban areas and along plowed roads in search of open ground. Reports of this phenomenon were especially widespread in parts of Connecticut. In Downeast Maine along Rte. 1 in Machias, Jonesboro, and Columbia Falls, a systematic roadside count 24 Apr yielded 125+ displaying woodcocks (N. Famous). A Red Phalarope in Newburyport, MA 17 Mar was very early (M. Goetschkes et al.).

Two South Polar Skuas were photographed 24 May at the fishing grounds known as the "Mud Hole" e. of Block I., RI (ST et al., ph.),



Very rare anywhere south of Canada in spring, this Northern Wheatear was in Newport, Rhode Island 31 May 2007. Photograph by Robert Weaver.

and a Parasitic Jaeger in Newburyport, MA 7 Apr (P. Roberts et al.) was the Region's earliest ever. A Forster's Tern was at P.I. 22 May (RSH). Even though Forster's Tern has not been found breeding in New England since it was first confirmed in Newburyport in 1991, spring records such as this one, in addition to other occasional sightings during the nesting season, support the theory that the species is probably still nesting locally, at least sporadically. By far, the most surprising waifs of the April Storm were



One of these same two South Polar Skuas (left) illustrates the species' typical gray-brown plumage; Great Skua is distinguished by bold yellow streaks and spots on the back and upperwings. Photograph by Paul L'Etoile.

The sighting of a single South Polar Skua on any New England pelagic trip makes for a good day. This composite image showing two (right) off the coast of Rhode Island may represent a Regional first. Photograph by Carlos Pedro.

Sooty Terns, which, on the rare occasions they do appear in the Northeast, usually do so only when they are transported by tropical storms in late summer and fall. A total of 5 included 3 flybys and one dead bird in coastal Rhode Island, plus one moribund bird in cen. Connecticut that was found shortly before it died (Table 1).

### DOVES THROUGH WARBLERS

A White-winged Dove that appeared at a feeder in Branford, CT in Feb remained through 31 May. Remarkably, it was joined by another 20-21 May (D. Lorello, ph.). The 2 birds were recognizable as different individuals by slight structural differences in their toes and bills. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Nantucket 18 Apr (S. Daniels) may have been another Storm waif. Single Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were reported from two localities in Massachusetts: Franklin 8 May (T. & K. Mongeon) and Falmouth 31 May (T. Stone).

Common Ravens continue to reoccupy areas of their pre-colonial range. In Connecticut, this process was described as being "explosive"; the newest nesting "outpost" in Massachusetts was in Waltham, just inside Rte. 128, within clear view of downtown Boston.

A two-hour total of 10,000+

migrating American Robins parading eastward along the shore of Bridgeport, CT 17 Mar (M. Aronson) must have made for an impressive sight. A Varied Thrush, first found at a feeder in Dublin, NH in Feb, lingered until 17 Apr (ph. G. Bartlett), but the thrush high-

Table 2. Totals of selected species of migrant landbirds in northeastern Massachusetts, 15 and 19 May 2007.

Location and date	P.I. (15 May)	Cape Ann (19 May)
Observers	RSH	C. Caron, R. Jenkins
Species		
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	44	0
Tree Swallow	2000+	0
Bank Swallow	200+	0
Barn Swallow	300+	0
Philadelphia Vireo	0	1
Gray Catbird	150+	224
Golden-winged Warbler	0	1
Northern Parula	65+	254
Yellow Warbler	110+	61
Chestnut-sided Warbler	19	48
Magnolia Warbler	120+	191
Black-throated Blue Warbler	80+	41
Black-throated Green Warbler	140+	0
Bay-breasted Warbler	2	31
Black-and-white Warbler	40+	46
American Redstart	100+	49
Common Yellowthroat	110+	93
Wilson's Warbler	13	21
Yellow-breasted Chat	0	1
warbler species	500+	300+
Clay-colored Sparrow	0	1
Lincoln's Sparrow	10	0
White-crowned Sparrow	5	0

light of the season was a Northern Wheatear in Middletown, RI 31 May (C. Avenengo et al., ph.). Wheatears are very rare in spring anywhere s. of Canada, yet this was the 2nd consecutive spring in which one has occurred in the Region. A Barn Swallow in Eastham, MA 23 Mar (D. Clapp et al.) was a bit early. A fallout on the North Shore of Massachusetts 23 Apr included about 100 each of Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Hermit Thrushes in Marblehead (K. Haley) and 45 Hermit Thrushes at P.I. (TW). The next day, a high count of 139 Palm Warblers came from P.I. (TW). A male Black-throated Blue Warbler that wintered in Boxford, MA remained at least until 18 Mar (ph. C. Fitch), and the well-documented Townsend's Warbler that wintered in Cambridge, MA was last seen 10 Apr (ph., vt. J. Orr, L. Cohen, m.ob.). Am Audubon's Warbler in Eastham, MA 1-27 Mar (ph. J. Hanson) probably also wintered. A Swainson's Warbler that sang persistently but refused to reveal itself for several days at P.I. might have been dismissed as a Louisiana Waterthrush with an odd song if it had not flown into a mist net 24 May (b. J. Standley, B. Gette, ph.); it lingered at least until 28 May. No details accompanied the only Regional report of a Western Tanager at M.V. 26 Mar.



This Smith's Longspur, seen by a single observer in Westport, Connecticut 23 March 2007, represented the third state record. Another was present at Jones Beach, New York from early February through roughly mid-March. Photograph by Larry Flynn.

A huge push of migrant passerines at P.I. 15 May came just ahead of the aforementioned May storm that produced the modest seabird flight on the North Shore of Massachusetts. The deep southerly airflow ahead of that storm provided the impetus for this mass movement of landbirds, and a series of showers in the early morning hours of the 15th served to ground them. Another big concentration of migrants

collected just to the e. of P.I. on Cape Ann in the days immediately following this fallout. These were largely comprised of the same species that were recorded at P.I. and were no doubt lingerers from that flight whose progress northward had been stalled by the incoming storm (Table 2). Another heavy flight, but with many fewer species, included 500+ Yellow-rumped Warblers and 100+ Palm Warblers in Freeport, ME 2 May (DL).

**SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES**

A Grasshopper Sparrow at Gloucester, MA 23 Apr (ph. P. Cozza) was either an early migrant (Storm assisted?) or wintered locally. Much rarer in spring than they are in fall, single Lark Sparrows were found in Bloomfield, CT 20 Apr (S. Fried) and P.I. 10 May (G. Gove). A heavy snowfall in mid-Mar compelled big numbers of Fox Sparrows to converge on feeders or along the edges of plowed streets. In Connecticut, sample feeder counts

included 10 in Sterling 19 Mar (R Dixon), 14 in Litchfield 17 Mar (D Rosgen), and 20 in Barkhamsted 18 Mar (FZ), and an amazing 54 were counted along the streets of Westport 17 Mar (FM). In New Hampshire 16-26 Mar, 110+ were reported in Rockingham and Strafford alone (fide PH), and a sweep of coastal New Hampshire 18 Mar yielded a total of 45 (SM). An influx of migrant Song Sparrows at P.I. 26 Mar produced a high count of 274 (I. Davies), and a big movement of White-throated Sparrows 24 Apr was evidenced by counts of 740+ at P.I. (RSH) and 300 at Marblehead, MA (J. Offerman). A Harris's Sparrow that appeared at a feeder in Georgetown on Christmas Day 2006 remained through at least 1

Mar (ph. A. O'Hare). A spate of classic trans-Gulf migrants, including tanagers, buntings, grosbeaks, and one oriole, were transported into the Region by the April Storm and appeared much earlier than normal at various Massachusetts coastal sites during and in the immediate aftermath of the Storm. The most notable among these waifs was a Painted Bunting at M.V. 16-20 Apr (J. Ganapole, ph.). Table 3 summarizes the other species reported. An early Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Nantucket 14 Apr (L. Zimmerman) came in just ahead of the Storm. Bird of the Season was a Smith's Longspur in Westport, CT 23 Mar (ph. L. Flynn), identified later by photographs. A late Lapland Longspur was found in Westport, CT 3 May (FM). A slightly above-average total of 5 Yellow-headed Blackbirds included individuals in Granby, MA 8 Apr (L. Rogers) and Nantucket, MA 29 May (O. Small), and reports of

**Table 3.** Passerine fallout associated with the "Patriot's Day Storm," 16-21 April 2007, in coastal Massachusetts.

Location	Nantucket		M.V.			Chatham	Provincetown	Acushnet	Rockport	Gloucester	Newbury		
	16 Apr	18 Apr	16 Apr	17 Apr	18 Apr	19 Apr	21 Apr	16 Apr	18 Apr	16 Apr	19 Apr	21 Apr	21 Apr
Species													
Northern Parula												1 (SH)	
Summer Tanager		1 (fide ER)											
Summer Tanager		1 (fide ER)											
Scarlet Tanager		2 (fide ER)		1 (AW)								3 (SH)	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak					1 (JG)	2 (DS)							1 (LL)
Blue Grosbeak		4 (fide ER)	1 (BK)				3 (GM)		1 (MF)	1 (JS)	1 (B.O.)		
Indigo Bunting	1 (DN)	8 (fide ER)	2 (SA, FD)					1 (CL)		1			
Painted Bunting			1 (JG)										
Baltimore Oriole	1 (DM)												

**Observer(s):**  
 SA: S. Anderson; FD: F. Demers; MF: M. Flor; JG: J. Ganapole; SH: S. Hedman; BK: B. Kimberly; LL: L. Leka; CL: C. Longworth; GM: G. Martin; DM: D. Miller; DN: D. Nicholson; ER: Edie Ray; DS: D. Scott; JS: J. Standley; AW: A. Woodruff

3 different male Yellow-headed in Rhode Island came from West Warwick 18 Mar (R. Touhill), Westerly 13 Apr (L. Gosselin), and North Kingston 14 May (J. Magill).

On 13 Mar, a visitor to northernmost New Hampshire found finches virtually everywhere along the last roughly 80 km of road between Columbia and Pittsburg and the Canadian border. Purple Finches were the most abundant species; the day-total of 572 included 110 in Columbia, 100 in Clarksville, and 90 in Pittsburg. Pine Siskins numbered 510 on the day, and White-winged Crossbills totaled 135 (RSH). Many males of the latter two species were singing and displaying, and at least one siskin was seen collecting nesting material. The southernmost records of crossbills included 2 White-wingeds in Canton,

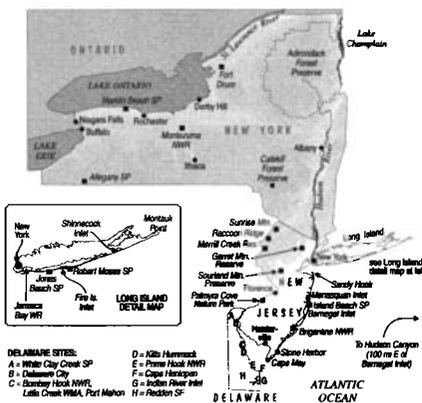
MA 26 May (E. Nielsen) and 6 Reds in Chatham, NH 19 Apr (B. Crowley). A European Goldfinch visited a feeder in Pepperell, MA 28 Mar–4 Apr (ph. J. Nevard).

**Addendum:** The presence of a **Brown Booby** on a beach in Hull, MA in “June or July of 2005” came to light when a non-birding beachgoer (ph. M. Quigley), requesting an identification, emailed photos of the bird (standing at his feet!) to Mass Audubon’s Wildlife Information Line. The photographer had taken the images with his cell phone! The small orange object on the sand nearby is a cheese cracker that a thoughtful passerby offered the bird. There are fewer than five previous records of Brown Booby in the Region; this was the first to be documented photographically.

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## Hudson-Delaware



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The Region’s weather was dominated by two major storms, on 16 March and 15–16 April. The storm in March brought record snowfalls to upstate New York and heavy rain and snow farther south. The second storm, though not tropical in origin, brought hurricane-force winds to the outer coast and dumped a foot of snow upstate, leaving thousands of residents without power. The April “hurricane” brought a diverse assortment of seabirds, including alcids and a Northern Fulmar to Cape May, and two Sooty Terns to Long Island, plus a host of early Neotropical migrants: showing up on Long Island 16–18 April during and immediately following the storm were Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Ruby-throated Hum-

mingbird, Eastern Kingbird, 50 or more Barn Swallows, a Yellow-throated Warbler, about 25 Indigo Buntings, 7 Blue Grosbeaks, a few Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and Scarlet and Summer Tanagers. Interestingly, for some of these species like Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Eastern Kingbird, individuals appeared before the storm, suggesting that exceptionally early migration was apparently underway before the storm hit. The April storm clearly had some effect upon migrant passerines as far north as New England. The low-pressure systems that converged to form this “southeast-er” had their origins over Texas and the Gulf Coast. Some such storms in the past have been thought to transport trans-Gulf passerine migrants northwards earlier than normal, resulting in the sprinkling of Indigo Buntings and other birds along the northeastern coasts in April (see *North American Birds* 59: 409), although there is much variation in this theme, and storms that originate farther east, nearer Florida or the Bahamas, typically have far more Indigo Buntings and other eastern Gulf/Caribbean migrants.

Many southern-nesting species were recorded in relatively high numbers in 2007: there were 31 Summer Tanagers this year in the north coastal area (vs. 23 in 2005) and 17 Blue Grosbeaks (10 in 2005). Kentucky Warbler was an exception, just barely: 12 were recorded in 2007, vs. 13 in 2005 and 16 in



This female Curlew Sandpiper at Heislerville, New Jersey was a bonus for teams on the World Series of Birding (here 10 May 2007). Photograph by George L. Armistead.

2006). But most of the Summer Tanagers appeared either before the storm (one at Cape May 14 April) or well after it, while 7 of the 17 Blue Grosbeaks appeared during, or immediately after, the storm. So a substantial fraction of southern passerines occurring in our Region were not associated with storms and likely indicate population expansion, perhaps in response to climate change.

**Abbreviations:** Amherst S.P. (Erie, NY); Avalon (Avalon Seawatch, Cape May, NJ); Batavia (Batavia W.T.P., Genesee, NY); Bombay Hook (Bombay Hook N.W.R., Kent, DE); Braddock Bay (Braddock Bay B.O., Rochester, NY); Brigantine (Forsyth N.W.R., Atlantic, NJ); Captree (Captree S.P., Suffolk, Long I., NY); Chazy (Chazy R. mouth, Clinton, NY); Derby Hill