



Wayne R. Petersen

Unlike June 2006, June 2007 was generally dry, with slightly below-average temperatures and normal amounts of sunshine. Although the first half of the month was relatively cool and damp, the second half was warm and humid. Rain in the Boston area was slightly below normal and significantly lower than the 25+ cm that fell in 2006. July was normal in all departments, with temperatures in Boston averaging close to 72° F, despite several oppressively warm and humid days late in the month and rainfall totaling a little less than 10 cm.

With most of the spring's wet weather occurring in April this year, nesting of many species was less hampered by weather than during the past few years. Predation was an issue at two of New Hampshire's largest Common Loon nesting lakes, and although this problem continues at certain Regional coastal waterbird colonies, overall productivity was decent this season. Seabird numbers appeared to enjoy a "return to normalcy" this summer, and with Vermont and Massachusetts now engaged in breeding bird atlas projects, interesting or new breeding confirmations were inevitably made. Foremost of these were first state breeding records for Sandhill Crane in Massachusetts and Vermont and Clay-colored Sparrow in Massachusetts. Outstanding seasonal rarities included Western Grebe in New Hampshire; Red-billed Tropicbird, Brown Pelican, and Bridled Tern in Maine; Lewis's Woodpecker in Vermont; and Northern Wheatear in Massachusetts.

Abbreviations: B.O. (Bird Observer), G.O.M.S.W.G. (Gulf of Maine Seabird Working Group), N.H.E.S.P. (Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program), M.A.S. (Maine Audubon Society), M.D.F.W. (Massachusetts Division of Fisheries

and Wildlife), M.B.R.C. (Maine B.R.C.), N. & S. Monomoy I. (Monomoy N.W.R., Chatham, Barnstable, MA), Plum I. (Parker River N.W.R., Newbury/Rowley, Essex, MA), South Beach (Chatham, Barnstable, MA), Stratton I. (Saco, York, ME), T.N.C. (The Nature Conservancy), T.T.O.R. (The Trustees of Reservations), U.S.F.W.S. (United States Fish & Wildlife Service), V.B.R.C. (Vermont B.R.C.), W.A.R.B. (Westover Air Reserve Base).

WATERFOWL THROUGH HERONS

As in most summer seasons, there was a scattering of misplaced, lingering, and non-breeding waterfowl scattered throughout the Region. Most notable were 2 Brant at Rockport, Essex, MA 7 Jul (JB) and another at Plum I. 17 Jul (RH); a Ring-necked Duck at Pembroke, Plymouth, MA 31 Jul (WP); a Harlequin Duck at Sakonnet Pt., Newport, RI 28 Jul (RE); an inland Surf Scoter at Pittsburg, Coos, NH 17 Jun (EN); a Long-tailed Duck at Old Greenwich, Fairfield, CT 1 Jun (C. Ehlinger); and single Ruddy Ducks at Woburn, Middlesex, MA 18-25 Jul (MR) and Farmington, Hartford, CT throughout the period (P. Cianfaglion). A reminder of the increasing spread of breeding Common Eiders in s. New England was reflected by a total of 185 nests located on several Boston Harbor Islands (*vide* RS) and two broods of young at Sakonnet Pt., Newport, RI 6 Jul (RE). Although conclusive nesting of this species in the Ocean State has yet to be confirmed, the regular presence of eider broods in the state for over a decade is certainly suggestive of local breeding, which if confirmed would represent the southernmost breeding station in North America. A brood of Hooded Mergansers at Easton, Fairfield 3 Jun (L. Tiller) was unusual so far s. in Connecticut, while a brood of 45 juv. Common Mergansers with a single female on L. Winnepesaukee, Carroll, NH 9 Jul (S. Gosselin) surely represented a case of either dump nesting or delinquent parenting.

Information from New Hampshire indicated that 215-220 pairs of Common Loons successfully fledged 96 chicks this season, despite heavy predation at L. Umbagog and

Squam L., two especially important nesting sites (Loon Preservation Committee, *vide* TV). Very encouraging was news that for the 2nd year in a row a wetland mitigation area at Brentwood, Rockingham, NH, hosted at least seven broods of Pied-billed Grebes (T. Bronson)—evidence that wetland mitigation can have significant bird conservation impact. Out-of-season grebes included a Horned Grebe at Jamestown, Newport, RI 22-23 Jun (RFe), a Red-necked Grebe at Nahant, Essex, MA 24 Jul (RH), and an unprecedented New England summer occurrence of a Western



An almost annual visitor to New England in recent years, this Swallow-tailed Kite was in Rochester, Plymouth County, Massachusetts 9 June 2007. Photograph by Charlie Wade.

Grebe at Squam L., Holderness, Grafton, NH 21 Jul (J. Cooley, ph. R. Mongeau, *vide* TV).

For the 2nd year in a row, early summer tubenose numbers off Cape Cod were considerably higher than the depressed numbers that characterized these waters several years ago. Representative of this concentration were one-day tallies in the inshore waters off Cape Cod's backside of 125 Northern Ful-



One of few on the East Coast in summer 2007, this Franklin's Gull (left) was found by Wayne Petersen at Plum Island, Massachusetts on 9 June 2007. Photograph by David Larson.

mars, 2500+ Greater Shearwaters, and 4000+ Wilson's Storm-Petrels 10 Jun (SP, WP), 1700+ Sooty Shearwaters and 31 Manx Shearwaters 12 Jun (RH), and 37 Manx Shearwaters 30 Jun (RH). Evidence that austral-breed-



This Little Gull visited Hill's Beach in Biddeford, York County, Maine 18 June 2007. Photograph by Derek Lovitch.

ing species were still arriving in mid-June was indicated by a migratory movement of 250+ Greater Shearwaters, 850+ Sooty Shearwaters, 22 Manx Shearwaters, and 12,000+ Wilson's Storm-Petrels at Nantucket I. 16 Jun (SP). Three Audubon's Shearwaters observed in the Gulf Stream-influenced waters of the outer Continental Shelf s. of Nantucket I. 21 Jul (RH) are no longer considered unexpected in light of increased pelagic investigation of those waters in recent years.

A Red-billed Tropicbird that first appeared 28 May, possibly the same individual seen last summer in the Gulf of Maine, was still being observed in the vicinity of Matinicus Rock until at least late Jul (ph. PV, m.ob.). A remarkable late spring aggregation of 3900+ Northern Gannets off outer Cape Cod 12 Jun (RH) was no doubt concentrated by the abundance of baitfish that also brought so many shearwaters to those waters during the same period. A convincing report of a Brown Pelican observed on the n. side of Casco Bay in the area s. of Brunswick, Cumberland, ME 16 Jun was independently well described (C. Hintz, J. Crosby, *vide* M.A.S., JD), and the report is currently under review by the M.B.R.C. There are only five previous records for the Pine Tree State. Another Brown Pelican was reported at Hyannis, Barnstable, MA 15 Jul (J. Huckameyer, *vide* B.O.).

The appearance of 3 juv. Least Bitterns at Plum I. 27 Jul (JB) confirmed for the 2nd year in a row the nesting of this elusive marsh dweller at this Regionally important wetland site. Two pairs of Least Bitterns at Kent, Litchfield in early Jun (J. Johnson, *vide* GH) were deemed notable for this threatened species in

Connecticut. A nest count of long-legged wading birds at Kettle I., Manchester, Essex, MA tallied 98 Great Egrets, 230 Snowy Egrets, 18 Little Blue Herons, and 185 Glossy Ibis (SP, T.T.O.R. staff). At nearby Eagle I., Salem, totals included 21 Great Egrets, 26 Snowy Egrets, 2 Cattle Egrets, 39 Black-crowned Night-Herons, and 4 Glossy Ibis (SP, JB). Similar counts made at Sarah I., Hingham, Plymouth, MA totaled 32 Great Egrets, 25 Snowy Egrets, and 169 Black-crowned Night-Herons (*vide* RS), and numbers at Monomoy N.W.R. were one Great Egret, 12 Snowy Egrets, and 139 Black-crowned Night-Herons, the last figure down from 158 in 2006 (*vide* MB, U.S.F.W.S.). Cumulative census totals of approximately 50 pairs of Snowy Egrets and 200 pairs of Black-crowned Night-Herons at colonies in Narragansett Bay, RI were described as "the most pathetic in recent memory" (RFe, CR). If there is a silver lining to any of these numbers, it is the fact that Glossy Ibis numbers appear to be recovering after a decline for a number of seasons. The total of 270 pairs on just two islands in Narragansett Bay represents a significant increase from a total of 98 pairs in 2006, and 185 pairs at Kettle I. represents quite a jump from the previous all-time high of 117 pairs in 2006. Despite the general Regional increase shown by Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, and Glossy Ibis (this year), concern continues over the apparent

steady decline of Black-crowned Night-Heron numbers. A Cattle Egret at South Beach 29 Jul (A. Farnsworth) was most unusual by both date and location.

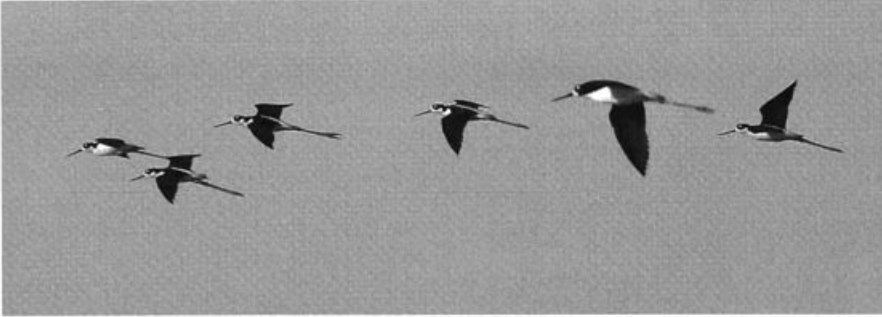
RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES

Regional Osprey numbers generally reflected the species' continuing recovery from the dark days of pesticide contamination nearly a half a century ago. In n. New England, 78 successful nests in Vermont fledged an estimated 164 chicks (*vide* T. Scharf), and 35 nests in New Hampshire fledged 71 chicks for a new state high (*vide* CM). At Massachusetts's largest colony along the Westport R., Bristol Ospreys also saw their best production ever with 62 successful nests fledging 130 young (DC). A Swallow-tailed Kite first reported in May at Rochester, Plymouth, MA was seen again 9 Jun (ph. C. Wade), and a report at nearby Middleboro 15 Jun (J. Harrison) almost certainly pertained to the same individual. The sole Mississippi Kite report of the season was an ad. at Roxbury, Fairfield, CT 12 Jun (J. Johnson, *vide* GH). Similar to Ospreys, Bald Eagles continue to flourish in the Region. Despite some mortality due to weather inclemency early in the season, 15 pairs in New Hampshire fledged 12 young (*vide* CM), and an unsuccessful nesting attempt for at



A Wilson's Plover at Sandy Point, Plum Island, Massachusetts on 17 June 2007 was captured photographically by mobile phone and spotting scope! Photograph by Rick Heil.

least the 2nd year in a row at Windham, VT would have represented the first breeding in Vermont in over half a century had it been successful (F. Hammond, *vide* JN). In Massachusetts, 22 successful pairs (a new high) fledged 32 young (TF), and in Connecticut 10 pairs fledged 16 young (*vide* J. Victoria). For at least the 3rd year in a row, Sharp-shinned Hawks successfully nested in Ipswich, Essex, MA (JB), a county where breeding was practically unknown throughout the twentieth century. Despite the continued depressed numbers of American Kestrels in a long-term monitoring study conducted in se



On 7 (here 18) June 2007, Mike O'Connor got a call from a woman reporting a dozen Black-necked Stilts at Forest Beach in Chatham, Massachusetts, and although he was skeptical, he was astonished to find six! Stilts are rare in Massachusetts, but six individuals at one location in the state is unprecedented. Photograph by Blair Nikula.

Massachusetts cranberry bogs since 2001, 18 occupied nests out of 65 nest boxes produced 53 young this year, a figure not inconsistent with last year and also rivaling productivity during the best of past years (JM). Persistent questions remain, however, about the causes of decline in this species in the Northeast, with leading hypotheses including impacts from West Nile virus, increased predation by a burgeoning Cooper's Hawk population, habitat alteration or destruction, and possibly the cumulative effect of increased nest mortality caused by a series of cold, wet springs. Following last year's weather-stricken nesting season, totals of Peregrine Falcons fledged in several key states included a robust 56 in Ver-



This Common Murre at Jeremy Point, Wellfleet, Cape Cod, Massachusetts was found on 10 July 2007; the species is very rare in the state in summer. Photograph by Robbie Hunsinger.

mont (fide M. Foule), 24 in New Hampshire (A.S.N.H., fide TV), and 25 in Massachusetts (TF)—a dazzling reflection this species' marvelous post-DDT recovery. Two falcons also fledged from a new nest under an I-95 bridge in Westport, Fairfield, CT (FM).

A Purple Gallinule at Stratford, Fairfield, CT present since late Apr was last observed 11 Jul (J. Scott, fide GH). A pair of Common Moorhens with several young at Lenox, Berkshire, MA in late Jun (G. Hurley, fide B.O.) represented a very infrequent Bay State breeding confirmation in recent years for this species. As noted in the previous issue, Sand-

hill Cranes continue to expand their breeding population in New England. As nearly as can be determined, this season at least three pairs nested in Maine (fide SM, PV), a pair successfully bred in Berkshire, MA (S. Mullen, SM), and a pair that has tried unsuccessfully to nest for three years finally fledged one young this spring in the Champlain Valley of Vermont (E. Elithorpe, fide JN).

SHOREBIRDS

The U.S.F.W.S. Piping Plover Recovery Plan calls for attaining a minimum subpopulation total of 625 pairs in New England for five years in a row, so this season's minimum total of 671 pairs is very encouraging, particularly when ongoing predation, human competition on barrier beaches, and weather-induced nest failures are factored into the equation. Preliminary totals for nesting Piping Plovers in 2007 included 35 pairs in Maine (fide M.A.S.), three pairs in New Hampshire (fide New Hampshire Fish & Game), 545 pairs in Massachusetts (fide N.H.E.S.P., U.S.F.W.S.), 74 pairs in Rhode Island (fide T.N.C., U.S.F.W.S.), and a minimum of 14 pairs in Connecticut (M. Stockmal, fide GH).

Massachusetts hosted 199-203 pairs of American Oystercatchers that produced 74-79 chicks (M.D.F.W., fide EJ), although unfortunately gull and coyote predation continue to plague this population, especially at Monomoy N.W.R. (fide U.S.F.W.S.). American Oystercatchers were confirmed nesting in Essex, MA, for only the 2nd time ever when 3 ads. and a juv. were observed at Salem 24 Jul (P. Brown, fide B.O.). Encouraging was a count of 122 ad. Upland Sandpipers at W.A.R.B., Hampden, MA 11-15 Jun (SM, M.D.F.W.), a tally down only slightly from numbers counted in 2005.

Always rare in the Region, a Wilson's Plover at Plum I. 17 Jun (ph. RH) was notable, but an amazing total of 6 Black-necked Stilts at Chatham, Barnstable, MA 7-12 Jun (M. O'Connor, ph. BN, m.ob) was unprecedented. The fact that at least 2 of these birds were observed copulating raised suspicions about possible nesting; however, no further evidence was observed. An American Avocet at Millford, New Haven, CT 3 Jun (R. Muller) and another at Sandwich, Barnstable, MA 19 Jun (E. Winslow) could have been the same individual. Seasonally unusual shorebird appearances included Willet (subspecies *inornata*) at South Beach 18 Jun (BN), Hudsonian Godwit at S. Monomoy 28 Jun (BH), Marbled Godwit at N. Monomoy 23 Jun (BH), Baird's Sandpiper at Duxbury, Plymouth 11 Jul (RB), Purple Sandpiper at Eastham, Barnstable 12 Jun (ph. E. Hogan), Stilt Sandpipers at N. Monomoy 7 Jun (BH) and Plum I. 21-26 Jun (v.o., fide B.O.), Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Plum I. 28 Jul (TW), and Wilson's Phalarope at South Beach 26 Jun (BN). Also interesting was a possible Little Stint at Seawall Beach, Phippsburg, Sagadahoc, ME 31 Jul (ph. PV), a probable White-rumped Sandpiper × Dunlin hybrid at South Beach 29 Jul (ph. MJI), and a Curlew Sandpiper at Hull, Plymouth, 7 Jun (H. Lappen, fide B.O.). Though none are earth-shattering, selected high migratory shorebird tallies included 417 Willets, 3 Marbled Godwits, 700 Red Knots, and 3000 Sanderlings at South Beach 29 Jul (MJI); 790 Lesser Yellowlegs at Newburyport 17 Jul



An increasing vagrant, or pioneer, out of range, mostly in the warmer months, two White-winged Doves attended a feeder in Orleans, Barnstable, Massachusetts from 1-21 (here 20) July 2007. Photograph by Stephanie Weeks.

(RH); 46 Hudsonian Godwits at South Beach 31 Jul (G. Gove, fide B.O.); 8000 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Newburyport 31 Jul (RH); and 600 Least Sandpipers and 3500 Short-billed Dowitchers at South Beach 22 Jul (BN).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS

A scattering of Parasitic Jaegers were reported, as well as a Pomarine Jaeger off Truro, Barnstable, MA 10 Jun (WP), 4 Poms off Nantucket I. 16 Jun (SP), and an imm. Long-tailed Jaeger at the Nantucket Shoals 21 Jul (RH et al.). A total of 1498 nesting pairs of Laughing Gulls at Monomoy N.W.R. (*vide*



This Western Kingbird was found by Steve Langer on Nantucket Island, Massachusetts on 16 June 2007 (here). Photograph by Simon Perkins.

U.S.F.W.S.) was augmented by 59 pairs at Plymouth Beach, Plymouth, MA for a first-ever nesting at that locality (N.H.E.S.P., U.S.F.W.S., *vide* EJ). The presence of Laughing Gulls adjacent to Bay State tern colonies is a matter of increasing concern due to the impact of kleptoparasitism and nest-site encroachment on breeding terns. Unusual larids reported during the period included an ad. Franklin's Gull at Plum I. 9 Jun (WP, ph. D. Larson), an imm. Little Gull at Biddeford, York, ME 12-19 Jun (ph. DL, v.ob.) and one or 2 at Plum I. throughout Jul (B.O.), a Black-headed Gull at Newburyport 17-31 Jul (RH, v.ob.), an imm. Glaucous Gull at Little Compton, Newport, RI (G. Dennis), an imm. Iceland Gull at E. Gloucester, Essex, MA 13 Jun (RH), an ad. Sabine's Gull at E. Egg Rock in the Gulf of Maine 23 Jun (*vide* M.A.S.), and an imm. Black-legged Kittiwake at Manomet, Plymouth, MA 13 Jun (I. Davies, *vide* B.O.).

A Gull-billed Tern at Manchester, Essex, MA 5 Jun (ph. RH) seemed curiously out of place, and Royal Terns at Stratton I. 16 Jun and Biddeford, York, ME 20 Jul (*vide* DL) were the northernmost reports in the Region this season. Sandwich Tern, a species appearing in the Region with increasing frequency in recent years, was recorded this season at Provincetown, Barnstable, MA 23 Jun (J. Hoye) and 22 Jul (BN), and Stratford, Fairfield, CT 31 Jul (C. Barnard, *vide* GH). Preliminary Regional numbers of nesting pairs of Roseate Terns included 227 in Maine (G.O.M.S.W.G., *vide* EJ), 52 in New Hampshire (N.H.E.G., *vide* EJ), and 1730 in Massachusetts (N.H.E.S.P., U.S.F.W.S., *vide* EJ). Comparable numbers of Common

Terns were 7710 in Maine (G.O.M.S.W.G., *vide* EJ), 2121 in New Hampshire (N.H.E.G., *vide* EJ), 170 in Vermont (M. LeBarr, *vide* JN), and 15,827 in Massachusetts (N.H.E.S.P., U.S.F.W.S., *vide* EJ). Least Tern numbers were 196 pairs in Maine (G.O.M.S.W.G., *vide* EJ) and 3139 in Massachusetts (N.H.E.S.P., U.S.F.W.S., *vide* EJ). Regionwide, breeding

terns appeared to remain relatively stable in comparison to last year, although the large Bay State colonies reflected a five per cent increase in Roseate Tern numbers and a 20% increase in Least Terns from last season. Despite these local increases, throughout the Region the specter of predation and local food shortages continue to plague certain colonies from one year to the next. For the 2nd year in a row, a Bridled Tern that first appeared at Stratton I. 16 Jul (S. Hall, *vide* PV) was sighted until at least month's end at several islands in Casco Bay and beyond (*vide* S. Hall, PV). The only nesting Black Skimmers in the Region were four pairs that fledged 2 young at Monomoy N.W.R. (*vide* MB, U.S.F.W.S.). Four Black Skimmers were also noted at Charlestown Breachway, Washington, RI 7 Jul (*vide* RF). Extralimital alcids included a Common Murre at Wellfleet, Barnstable, MA 10 Jul (ph. R. Hunsinger, *vide* B.O.) and up to 40 at Matinicus Rock in the Gulf of Maine in mid-Jun (*vide* M.A.S.). Also unusual were 3 Razorbills at Rockport, Essex, MA 13 Jun (RH) and an Atlantic Puffin at Provincetown, Barnstable, MA 6 Jun (BN).

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

White-winged Dove reports included one at Cumberland, Cumberland, ME 13-16 Jul (*vide* DL), one at Nantucket I. in early Jun (*vide* B.O.), 2 at a feeder at Orleans, Barnstable, MA 1-21 Jul (S. Weeks, *vide* B.O.), and one that first appeared at a Branford, New Haven, CT, feeder in Feb and remained throughout the period (D. Lorello, *vide* GH).

A pair of Barn Owls with 2 chicks in lower Fairfield, CT (P. Comins, *vide* GH) was the only reported nesting in the Region this season. No less interesting were 4 juv. Eastern Screech-Owls at Concord, Merrimack, NH 17 Jul (R. Woodward, *vide* TV)—in a state where only a single breeding confirmation was obtained between 1981-1986 (*Atlas of Breeding Birds in New Hampshire*, 1994). Out of place best describes a dead Barred Owl found in Truro, Barnstable, MA (P. Trull, *vide* B.O.),

where this species is rare at any season. No fewer than 30 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds visited a feeder complex at Little Compton, Newport, RI 21-31 Jul (G. Dennis, *vide* RF).

Stunning is the only way to describe a Lewis's Woodpecker well described and photographed at Lyndonville, Caledonia, VT 6-8 Jun (P. Therrian, R. LaPoint, *vide* V.B.R.C.). If accepted by the V.B.R.C., this would represent only the 4th record for the Region, previous occurrences being two in Massachusetts and one in Rhode Island; there are very few other records for the American East. For the 2nd year in a row, Red-bellied Woodpeckers nested in at least two localities in s. Maine (*vide* DL). Eleven Yellow-bellied Flycatchers banded at M.C.C.S., Manomet, Plymouth, MA 5 Jun (*vide* B.O.) was a reminder of the lateness of this species' migration peak. Acadian Flycatchers made news in Massachusetts, with two first-ever county nesting records at Mashpee, Barnstable in late Jun (M. Keleher, *vide* B.O.) and Salem, Essex 1-28 Jul (JB). A Western Kingbird at Nantucket I. 16 Jun (S. Langer, ph. SP) represented a very rare early summer New England occurrence. The presence of a singing Yellow-throated Vireo at Wellfleet, Barnstable, MA 10 Jun (SP) was



Always rare in spring in the Northeast, this Northern Wheatear at Manchester, Massachusetts on 18 June 2007 was discovered by Susan Hedman. Photograph by Rick Heil.

anomalous; this species has never been known to breed on Cape Cod.

A report of three pairs of Purple Martins nesting at the Crestwood Country Club, Rehoboth, Bristol, MA (R. Marr) represents a previously unknown colony in a state where martins seem to be slowly slipping away. Compilers in Connecticut and Rhode Island commented on several surprising Jun occurrences of Red-breasted Nuthatches in their areas, possibly presaging a fall irruption (GH, RF). Carolina Wrens nesting at Yarmouth, Cumberland ME (DL) represented what is still considered



These photographs of a Hooded Warbler and its nest in Franklin Park, Suffolk County, Massachusetts was taken in early June 2007. This was the first confirmed nesting attempt in the state since the late 1960s. The warblers and their nest were discovered by Steve Baird. Photograph by Bob Mayer.

an unusual occurrence in the Pine Tree State. Almost as unusual were Massachusetts reports of Sedge Wrens at Brookfield, *Worcester* 7-16 Jun (ML, *fide* B.O.) and Amherst, *Hampshire* 11-13 Jun (H. Allen, *fide* B.O.).

A **Northern Wheatear** at Manchester, *Essex*, MA 18 Jun (ph. S. Hedman, m.ob.) marked a rare spring Regional occurrence. A long-term Eastern Bluebird nesting study in se. Massachusetts this year had 16 boxes occupied out of 108, from which 85 young were banded (JM). While not as poor as last season, these numbers are still depressed compared to those of several years ago. More encouraging was a tally of 25 Swainson's Thrushes at Mt. Greylock, *Berkshire* 16 Jul (C. Quinlan, *fide* SK), because this species has seemingly declined in some areas in the higher hills of w. Massachusetts. An American Pipit at Duxbury Beach, *Plymouth*, MA 3 Jun (RB) was unusual for such a late spring date.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

The only reported Golden-winged Warblers this season were two pairs at St. Albans Bay, *Franklin*, VT 17 Jun (TM)—a sad testament to the continuing disappearance of this lovely species as a breeder in New England. In the Bay State, where the species is listed as threatened, a Northern Parula at Harwich, *Barnstable* 21 Jun (BN) was reassuring at this historical nesting locality. Very tardy can only describe a Black-throated Blue Warbler at Chatham, *Barnstable*, MA 17 Jun (R. Clem). Palm Warbler, a rare breeding species anywhere in New Hampshire, was confirmed nesting at Effingham, *Carroll* 25-26 Jun (A. & J. Robbins, *fide* TV). This locality is well s. of any previously documented breeding attempts. Even farther s., a singing male at Bradford, *Merrimack* 17 Jun (ph. J. Block, *fide* TV) offered no other indication of nesting. A

Prothonotary Warbler at W. Gloucester, *Essex*, MA 11-19 Jun (J. Nelson, *fide* B.O.) apparently belonged to The Lonely Hearts Club, unlike a Kentucky Warbler clearly holding territory and quite probably nesting at Falmouth, *Barnstable*, MA 6-21 Jul (RF). The behavior of this individual certainly suggested that it was nesting, and if it had been conclusively confirmed, it would have represented a first Bay State breeding record. Less equivocal was an apparently unsuccessful nesting attempt by Hooded Warblers at Franklin Park, *Suffolk*, MA 1-14 Jun (S. Baird, ph. B. Mayer, *fide* MR). This breeding effort represented not only the first such in Massachusetts since the late 1960s but also the northernmost on the Atlantic Coast. In addition to its urban location, the actual nest of the warblers was located in a stand of the highly invasive Japanese Knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*)!

A male Summer Tanager at Salem, *Essex*, MA 25 Jul (JB) was only slightly less unexpected than a male Western Tanager photographed at Cutler, *Washington*, ME 6 Jun (*fide* M.A.S.). A Clay-colored Sparrow was present at Wilson's Mills, *Oxford*, ME 22-27 Jun (*fide* M.A.S.), and the species conclusively nested for the first time ever in Massachusetts at the Massachusetts Military Reservation, *Barnstable*, where 4 or 5 singing males were present and at least one nest with young was located (ph. PT). Though increasingly anticipated, this confirmation represents one of very few conclusive nesting records of this species in the Region. A comprehensive grassland bird census at W.A.R.B., *Hampton*, MA produced an impressive tally of 200 male Grasshopper Sparrows (SM, M.D.F.W.), although not a single Vesper Sparrow was located. Three Grasshopper Sparrows at Block I. 21 Jun (CR) were the only ones found in Rhode Island this season—the first time in a

decade none were recorded on the mainland (*fide* RF). Very much out of season was an ad. White-crowned Sparrow at a feeder at Westbrook, *Middlesex*, CT 19-26 Jun (ph. J. Schwarz, *fide* GH). Slightly less unusual but still notable was a Dark-eyed Junco at Waltham, *Middlesex*, MA 17 Jul (J. Forbes, *fide* B.O.). As has become traditional in recent years, displaced late spring Blue Grosbeaks appeared as singles at Appledore I., Isle of Shoals 3 Jun (*fide* DL), Concord, *Merrimack*, NH 7 Jun (L. Herlihy, ph. M. Suomala, *fide* TV), and in Connecticut (*fide* GH). The only Painted Bunting of the period was a male at Yarmouth, *Cumberland*, ME 7 Jun (*fide* DL). A Dickcissel at Provincetown, *Barnstable*, MA 5 Jun (BN) could have been either a lingering wintering individual or a rare spring migrant. The importance of the W.A.R.B., *Hampden*, MA to grassland birds was further underscored by a tally of 125 Eastern Meadowlarks 11-15 Jun (SM, M.D.F.W.). A single Red Crossbill and 6 White-winged Crossbills at Mt. Greylock, *Berkshire* 16 Jul (C. Quinlan, *fide* SK) were probably wanderers, as were 4 White-winged Crossbills at Westwood, *Norfolk*, MA 25 Jun (*fide* EN). At least 3 Evening Grosbeaks appeared in Connecticut in early Jun (*fide* GH).

Exotics: A Superb Starling found road-killed beside an interstate highway in Freetown, *Bristol*, MA in mid-Jun (ph. B. King, *fide* G. Purtell) represented an exotic species seldom seen in New England. A European Goldfinch observed at Norfolk, *Litchfield*, CT 22 Jun (S. Harms, *fide* GH) is an alien species more frequently reported.

Subregional editors (boldface), contributors (italics), and cited observers: Jim Berry, *Bird Observer*, Rick Bowes, Michael Brady, Jody Despres (Maine), Robert Emerson, Rachel Farrell (Rhode Island), Richard Ferren (RFe), Tom French, Greg Hanisek (Connecticut), Brian Harris, Rick Heil, David Hoag, Marshall Iliiff, Ellen Jedrey, Seth Kellogg, Derek Lovitch, Mark Lynch, Maine Audubon Society, Chris Martin, Joey Mason, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Scott Melvin, Ted Murin, Julie Nicholson (Vermont), Erik Nielsen, Blair Nikula, Simon Perkins, Chris Raithel, Marj Rines (Massachusetts), Bob Stymeist, The Nature Conservancy, Peter Trimble, The Trustees of Reservations, Tony Vezano (New Hampshire), Peter Vickery, Tom Wetmore. 🐦

Wayne R. Petersen, P.O. Box 686
Hanson, Massachusetts 02341
(wpetersen@massaudubon.org)