

NEWS AND NOTES : This issue of the newsletter covers the summer months. It is a quite late due to the usual litany of summer excuses: work, visiting company, good weather, and the occasional desire of the editor to be out "in the field" rather than in his cellar study typing up other members reports.

Reports were rather sparse for this issue but it is usually this way each summer. People are out and about, birds are quiet due to nesting, and everyone is busy with family and friends and not sitting down to write up reports, although many of you did just that.

Weather was good and the editor's tour boat lost only a couple of days due to weather related causes such as high wind and/or fog.

In spite of the decreased number of reports there were some good sightings this summer. Also, as this is being written in late Sep. the fall bird migration is fully underway and reports are pouring in. Some of these will be cited as those sections are composed although technically they should be in the next (Sep.-Oct.) issue.

We have almost expended our Society auto stickers and plans are being made to have new ones printed up.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS AND RENEWALS: If it is time to renew it will say so beside your name on the address label. Dues are for membership in the Sorrento Scientific Society of which the Guillemot is the official newsletter. Do not worry about membership obligations as we have not yet held a meeting, incorporated, elected officers, written any by-laws or formed any committees. The Guillemot is defined as "an amateur, bimonthly newsletter concerning natural history in Maine."

We have two memberships, **Regular** which is \$5 per year and **Sustaining** which is any amount over the regular. It is this latter that allows us to have the newsletter printed and mailed as first class mail. Each issue costs about \$550 to produce and mail. We do not advertise the newsletter except by word-of-mouth, or via gift subscriptions. There have been occasional news articles about us that have also helped. A sample copy will be sent to anyone if you send along their name and address. The mailing list is never given out or used for any other purposes.

Auto stickers with the Society logo are available for \$1.50. New subscribers get one with their first issue.

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ASTRONOMY: This issue is running so late that it will most likely be October when you receive it. The upcoming astronomical items that follow will cover Oct. and Nov.

Mercury is off to the left side of the sun at the end of Sep. and was low on the western horizon at sunset. It passes the sun and just below it on Oct. 16. As it swings out around the right side it will start to be seen as a morning "star" very low in the east before sunrise the first week of Nov.

Venus is far ahead of us in orbit and remains as a morning "star" lower and lower in the east at sunrise through Oct. It disappears around the right side of the sun the last week of Oct. and reappears around the left side of the sun and high enough to be seen in the evenings the last week of Nov. It finally becomes an evening "star" after having been in the early morning sky since January.

Mars is out ahead of us and we are slowly catching up. It is in the west at sunset and sets at about 8 p.m. with little change in time right from now until the end of the year.

Jupiter is outward and ahead of us. We see it rising above the eastern horizon about 2 a.m. at the start of October and earlier each night for the rest of the year. It will be bright and obvious in the east between 8 and 9 p.m. by the time Christmas comes around.

Saturn is low in the west at sunset setting about 8 p.m. in early October and will disappear in the glare as it passes behind the sun through November.

Uranus is directly outward from us in the evenings through Oct. and Nov. but you will need optical aid to see it.

Neptune is also outward from us and due south about 9 p.m. in Oct. and around 7 p.m. in November.

Meteors: **Oct. 8** the Draconids and on **Oct 10** Taurids. Fairly good showers but the moon is full on 10/8 and will hinder any observations. The Taurids are slow moving and produce a few bright fireballs so it might be worth watching for some.

Oct. 18 is the date for the Epsilon Geminids which is a minor (3-5 per hour) of very fast meteors. It is the dark of the moon (new Moon on 10/23) so you might see some.

Oct. 21 the Orionids. Coming from the club of Orion they are swift, often bright, and many leave glowing trails. They range in a cycle of from 20 to 70 per hours. This year is the low part of the cycle but it is also only two days before the new moon so the sky will be dark.

Nov. 17 is the Leonids. Very variable in number with as low as 5 per hour and a high in 1966 of 144,000/hour (40 per second)!! The peak will be right after dark on this date and the moon will not rise until midnight.

Some upcoming dates: **10/8** is a total eclipse of the moon. Here in Maine the moon will reach totality just before sunrise and will set in the west while it is eclipsed. **10/10** the winter Pleiades will rise in the east two hours after sunset tonight. **10/19** the comet C/2013 A1 Siding Spring (that is its name) will graze and possibly hit the planet Mars. There is some concern about the dust impacting our various spacecraft that are currently orbiting Mars. **10/22** Venus is the brightest it will be this year.

10/23 there is a partial eclipse of the sun that will be visible in all of the United States except for Maine where it sets just before the eclipse. **10/25** is the Muslim New Year of their year 1436 A.H. (A.H. is After Hijira). Also this date look for a very new moon just above and to the left of Saturn 40 minutes after sunset.

Nov. 2 set clocks BACK one hour at 2 a.m. (or do it when you go to bed Sat. night Nov. 1). **11/6** is the full moon.

On 9/22 the U. S. spacecraft MAVEN (Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution) went into orbit around Mars and is sending back scientific readings of the Martian atmosphere. On 9/24 India also placed a spacecraft into orbit around Mars.

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WEATHER: We could almost cut and paste last year's July and August comments about weather into this issue. August temperatures were cooler than July for a second year.

	Augusta	Bangor	Bar Harbor	Caribou	Portland	Kittery	Frenchville
Jul temp	70	70	67	68	70	72	66
Aug temp	67	68	65	66	67	67	63
Jul precip	6.37	6.78	6.37	7.06	6.12	6.02	6.35
Aug precip	5.23	2.96	1.33	1.79	8.56	3.51	1.96
Summer 2014	67	67	64	65	67	68	62
Summer 2013	67	67	65	63	68	70	62
Summer 2012	68	68	66	66	69	70	64

August temperatures and in most cases precipitation were lower. Some Kittery figures are from nearby Portsmouth, NH when they are not available from Kittery. Summer temperatures June 21 to Sep. 22 are the same or slightly cooler than last summer and show a continuing decline over the past couple of years.

Ocean temperatures.

	Buoy 007 (12 mi. out of Portland)	Buoy 005 (78 mi. SE of Portland)	Buoy 44034 (16 mi SW of Schoodic Pt.)	Buoy 024 (179 mi. south of Mt. Desert)	Tide station ATGM1 Bar Harbor harbor	Eastport harbor inoperative
7/31/13	66	69	55	66	58	M
8/31/13	60	65	56	64	56	M

The hurricane season has been fairly quiet so far with storms up to and including Edouard. This latter storm sent 6 ft. waves along the Maine coast even though it was 1400 miles out to sea.

The 7/15 tornado in St. Albans was cited in the last issue. An EF 1 (80-90 mph) it was on the ground for over 2 miles.

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INVERTEBRATES: **Cnidaria.** **Moon Jellyfish** ((Aurelia) were quite common this summer right through the end of August. On 9/15 a short search was made for them between Mt. Desert Island and Schoodic Pt. but only a couple of well-

worn individuals were seen. On 8/25 a red **Lions Mane** jellyfish (Cyanea) nearly 3 ft. in diameter was seen off Ironbound Island in Frenchman Bay. Several hydrozoan **Siphonophores** colonies were drifting off the Eastport town dock on 8/8.

Ctenophores. Several 2-3 inch **Comb Jellies** were caught in a plankton net off a dock in Bar Harbor on 8/17.

Bryozoa. A pair of binoculars recovered under a dock in Bar Harbor had been underwater for six weeks and were covered with a colony of unidentified lace-like **Bryozoans**.

Arachnids. **Daddy Longlegs** were much in evidence during the wet periods in August. Various spiders were reported including **Yellow Sac Spiders** (SS), **Northern Wolf Spiders**, and **Garden Spiders**.

Two **Hummingbird Bees** were seen at Kenduskeag on 8/18 (CMD). **Tiger Beetles** were reported from Popham Beach on 8/27.

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has moved the Cobblestone Tiger Beetle status from threatened to endangered.

A variety of butterflies were reported throughout the summer. In July **Common Wood Nymphs**, a **Delaware Skipper**, **Eyed Brown**, **Pearly-eye**, **Silver-spotted Skipper**, and **Viceroy** were reported from the Orono-Old Town area (EG). **White Admirals**, **Bronze Copper**, **Common Ringlet**, **Dun Skipper**, and **Broad-winged Skipper** were found in the same areas (EG).

Cabbage White, **Clouded Sulphur**, **Great Spangled Fritillary**, **Black Swallowtails**, and **Mourning Cloaks** were reported from many other locations across Maine in both July and August.

Monarch butterflies were prominent in the news this summer with a several articles showing concern about their decrease in numbers. There were quite a few reports from across the state from 7/13 until at least 9/14.

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has changed the status of two insects from "threatened" to "endangered".

Note: Threatened is any species that is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all of a significant portion of its range.

Endangered is any species that is in danger of extinction throughout all of a significant portion of its range.

The **Frigga Fritillary** butterfly and the **Cobblestone Tiger Beetle** have been moved to the endangered status. The **Roaring Brook Mayfly** was moved from endangered to threatened.

Other insects reported through the summer included the **Dogday Harvestfly** (Cicada) heard until 9/6 at Old Town. Dragonflies noted were **Black-shouldered Spiny Dragonfly** at Old Town

7/23 to 8/16, **Twelve-spotted Skimmer** 7/27, and **Broad-winged Meadowhawk** 8/16 (all from EG).

Clear-winged Sphinx moths and **Fall Webworm** caterpillars were at Lamoine (DR), and a **Gallium Sphinx** moth was found at Orono 8/3 (EG).

Various **Crickets** and **Grasshoppers** of undetermined species were widely reported from late July through August.

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FISH: On 7/23 a **Great White Shark** was seen and photographed just outside of the harbor in St. Andrews, New Brunswick and which puts it in Passamaquoddy Bay. A **Blue Shark** was seen from the Portland to Yarmouth ferry on 8/15. A trip out of Cutler on 8/20 had sighted several **Basking Sharks**.

Ocean Sunfish (*Mola mola*) were fairly common this summer with sightings off Portland, Bar Harbor, Cutler, and many of the whale watching trips off Schoodic Pt. On 8/25 many **Bluefin Tuna** were off Machias Seal Island.

Black Sea Bass were regularly caught under the old Bluenose ferry terminal at Bar Harbor this summer. Thirty years ago one was caught off the Cranberry Isles south of Mt. Desert and was rare enough to make the news at the time.

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AMPHIBIANS: Not many reports but those that came in included **Red-backed** and **Spotted Salamanders**, **Green**, **Pickerel**, and **Wood Frogs** and a few late calling **Spring Peepers** in mid-July.

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REPTILES: Likewise for reptiles. Not many reports. Most reported were **Garter Snakes** and a few **Milk Snakes**, **Green Grass Snakes**, and a **Red-bellied Snake** were noted (RS, WWM). **Snapping** and **Painted Turtles** were seen in a number locations across the state in both July and August.

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MAMMALS: In the insectivore group, a **Star-nosed Mole** was found dead in Orono 7/9. A few **Big Brown Bats** were noted. The Maine DIFW is moving the **Little Brown Bat** and the **Northern Long-eared Bat** to endangered status and is considering putting the **Eastern Small-footed Bat** on to the threatened list. As near as I can determine we have never received any reports of the latter two species for this newsletter.

Red Fox was the most common canine carnivore to be noted. A **Mink** was after squirrels under a bird

feeder in Lamoine (DR), along the Rockland breakwater 8/23, and two adults with two young have been seen daily diving into the water and swimming around the Bluenose ferry terminal in Bar Harbor (WT).

River Otter were observed at Ogunquit (JW), and Sullivan (AET).

Beaver, Muskrats, Meadow Voles, Red-backed Voles, and Deer Mice made up all the rodent species that were reported.

Deer and Moose were mentioned in a few reports and usually without comment.

Northern Gray Seals were seen from Popham Beach east to Lubec with highest numbers at the more easterly locations. **Harbor Seals** were seen along the entire coast throughout the summer.

About 300 **White-sided Dolphin** were off Cutler on 8.20 while **Harbor Porpoise** were noted along the entire coast and on off shore trips.

Fin Whales were seen from the Portland-Nova Scotia ferry 8/15 and four were up in Passamaquoddy Bay on 8/29. **Minke Whales** were seen on various dates during the whale watching trips out of Portland. A lone male **Killer Whale** (Orca) continues to be seen east of Grand Manan Island for the sixth summer. We were unable to get any figures from the Bar Harbor whale watch boats for this issue but it is understood that they had a number of sightings this summer including many Humpbacks.

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BIRDS: As mentioned earlier, it was a somewhat quiet summer. Reduced numbers of bird reports but punctuated now and then with some interesting sightings.

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS: A pair of **Mute Swans** at Phippsburg were reported from 7/19 until 8/16. A search for them on 9/10 failed to find them.

Canada Geese were commonly seen. Two goslings were seen at Sullivan on 7/18 (SH). On 9/14 several vees of migrating birds were passing over Mt. Desert Island.

Wood Ducks were in eclipse plumage in Old Town by 8/20. This species was widely reported across the state in August. There was a high count of 22 at Florida Lake in Freeport on 9/5.

Note: Eclipse plumage is a dull plumage that males usually molt into after the breeding season. It resembles the female. Some species then molt into a winter plumage while some retain this dull plumage all winter until they molt into their breeding plumage again in the spring.

A pair of **Green-winged Teal** at the Essex Woods marsh in Bangor were seen throughout the summer and on 9/7 nearly 300 were counted in Merrymeeting Bay off Bowdoinham.

Black Ducks were mentioned only in passing as were **Mallards**. The latter had ducklings along the Androscoggin River on 7/20 (CJ).

Blue-winged Teal were noted in Bangor the last week of July. There was a high count of 1100 seen in Merrymeeting Bay on 9/7.

A **Gadwall** had several juveniles with her at Lake Josephine in Easton 7/29. Also at Lake Jo was one of our less common ducks, a **Eurasian Wigeon** that was there from 7/13 to at least 7/29 (BS).

Common Eider numbers remained low throughout the summer but they were present all along the eastern coast. Half-grown young were at Machias Seal Island on 8/19, a rather late date. Most July reports were of juveniles and females. On 9/13 flocks of from 25-200 sub-adult males started showing up from Mt. Desert and eastward.

A female **Bufflehead** at Roque Bluffs SP on 7/24 was unusual for that date.

Black Scoters made a July appearance at Popham Beach. On 8/29 there were five seen far down east at Sipayik (the Passamaquoddy nation) (MAA), and small flocks were being seen east at Frenchman Bay and south to Ogunquit the second week of Sep.

Summer **Surf Scoters** were rare with birds at Sipayik on 8/29 but a flock of 150 was seen off Roque Island on 9/5 (NF). Two **White-winged Scoters** off Quoddy Head SP on 7/21 were the only ones reported.

A female **Hooded Merganser** with five young were seen at the old Brunswick Naval base on 7/20 (CJ). A female **Red-breasted Merganser** was north at Long Lake in St. Agatha 8/2 (BS). **Common Mergansers** were at Eagle Lake in Acadia NP and at Sebago Lake in early July but this species dropped out of sight after that.

GROUSE, TURKEYS: Two **Bobwhite** were calling at Berwick on 8/3. Most sightings of this species are most likely escaped birds that were being used to train bird dogs.

Spruce Grouse were regularly seen by birders in the Baxter SP and Telos Road areas throughout the summer. **Ruffed Grouse** were noted here-and-there, mostly in eastern and northern parts of Maine.

We don't usually note **Wild Turkey** as they have become so common. We do get many reports

of them just the same. Several people noted family groups with the hens tending as many as 12 poults. The dates of most of the young birds centered on 7/15 across most of the state.

LOONS: We hadn't received any reports of Red-throated Loons as of 9/10. They are winter residents but there are usually a few that show up in early Sep. **Common Loons** were around all summer both on their lake breeding territories and many non-breeding birds seen on salt water. The 2014 Loon census was held on 7/19 but no figures have been released as of 9/1.

GREBES: Our breeding member of this group, the **Pied-billed Grebe** was seen at Bangor, Moosehorn NWR, and Bar Harbor in July, and Lake Messalonskee in mid-August.

There was a **Red-necked Grebe** at the Christina reservoir in Fort Fairfield on 7/12. The first "winter" bird was one down east at Pleasant Point in Eastport on 8/28 (MAA).

TUBENOSES: Three **Cory's Shearwaters** seen from one of the Portland whale watch boats on 8/28 were the only ones reported so far.

Great Shearwaters were notable by their absence for the early part of the summer. On 8/8 a couple were seen off Portland and on 8/15 there were 173 counted along the Portland to Nova Scotia ferry route. They moved farther down east with 30 off Machias Seal Island 8/20. A few were seen on the 9/20 Maine Audubon pelagic field trip but those figures will be in the next issue.

Eight **Sooty Shearwaters** were off Machias Seal Island on 7/20. Just 1-2 birds were seen from other offshore trips and from the Nova Scotia ferry. There may have been more but we are missing the notes from the many whale trips out of Bar Harbor this summer.

Manx Shearwaters were off Matinicus Rock on 8/5, the Portland whale watch 8/28. The greatest concentration was five birds of Machias Seal Island 8/19.

Leach's Storm-Petrels, total of 55, were seen by watchers on the Nova Scotia ferry on 8/15. **Wilson's Storm-Petrels** were seen by observers off Machias Seal, Camden, Matinicus, the Nova Scotia ferry (167 birds on that trip), and Cutler this summer.

PELECANIFORMES: The **Red-billed Tropicbird** off Seal Island was seen 6/28 for the 10th summer and was last noted on 8/4.

Gannets were sparse this summer. It was reported that warm water temperatures around

Newfoundland caused a decrease in food fish and that most of the birds abandoned their nests. There were a scattered few along the coast with from 2 to 20 birds seen of Machias Seal, Cutler, Portland, Bar Harbor, and two were seen nearly at Boothbay on 8/24 which was an unusual distance from the open ocean.

Great Cormorants were seen regularly east of Mt. Desert. On 8/16 one was up the Stillwater River at Old Town where it remained until 8/20 (EG). Another was quite a distance inland on the Sebasticook River at Pittsfield on 9/13.

Double-crested Cormorants were well reported from the coast, most major river systems, and on Long Lake in St. Agatha in northern Aroostook County.

HERONS: **American Bitterns** were seen at Old Town, Bangor, Bar Harbor, Lake Messalonskee, and along the Kennebec River at Rangeley on dates ranging from 7/17 to 8/25.

Great Blue Herons were well reported all summer and from nearly the entire state. A few reporters noted their prey which included, frogs, eels, and in one case a mallard duckling.

Snowy Egrets were pretty much limited to southern parts of the state with most reports coming from Popham Beach south. On 8/12 a total of 273 were counted at the Pine Pt. section of Scarborough.

Great Egrets were a bit more widespread with birds at Owls Head (JW), Addison Marsh, Harrington, and Milbridge along the coast, and north and inland at Bangor, Cupsuptic Lake in Rangeley, and Mars Hill (BS). Most of the non-southern dates were between 8/28 and 9/10 which might indicate the dispersal of young birds at the end of summer.

All **Little Blue Heron** reports came from the Scarborough Marsh area.

Green Herons were seen at Ogunquit and a family group at the Essex Marsh in Bangor were seen, photographed, and reported extensively through 9/4 this summer.

Black-crowned Night Herons were at the Newcastle fish ladder on 7/18, Damariscotta Mills 7/23 (RS), Pine Pt. Scarborough (21 birds on 8.12) and Thompson Island at the head of Mt. Desert I. on 9/2 (CP). It is interesting to note that the Maine DIFW is proposing to move this species from threatened to endangered status.

Yellow-crowned Night Herons were at Westport Island, an immature bird there on 7/14 (SN). Wells. 8/3. east at the Wonderland section of

Acadia NP on 8/7 (CK), an adult on Machias Seal Island 8/9, and an immature at Biddeford Pool 9/3 to at least 9/7.

Glossy Ibis were in their usual haunts at Scarboro Marsh throughout and one or two **White-faced Ibis** were there also through at least 8/10.

An **unknown heron**, believed to be a Snowy Egret x Tricolored Heron hybrid was being seen at Scarboro Marsh from 8/7 to 9/7.

VULTURES: **Turkey Vultures** were well reported across the state albeit primarily along coastal areas all summer.

HAWKS, EAGLES: **Osprey** were seen all summer and migratory birds were being tallied at various hawk watch sites as of mid-Sep. A nest in Lamoine had two young on 7/14 which left the nest on 7/27 but continued to roost in it off-and-on to 8/28 (DR).

Bald Eagles were also well reported. Several successful nestings were noted. Off Eastport nine were diving in the water after fish that were in turn being brought to the surface by porpoise. Southward movement of young birds was being noted at various hawk watches starting the second week of Sep.

Harrier movement was underway the second week of August as young birds and a few adults were being seen particularly along the coast.

Sharp-shinned Hawks were moving south with as many as 20 per day noted passing over Mt. Agamenticus on 9/14. **Cooper's Hawks** were mentioned in only a couple of reports.

On 7/25 a **Golden Eagle** was seen over Mooselookmeguntic Lake in Rangeley and another was at China Lake in China on 9/11. **Broad-winged Hawks** were generally reported throughout the summer months.

Our rarity of the season was a **Crested Caracara** that appeared at the Benton-Norridgewock town line on 8/26. Seen by many and photographed it was present until 9/8. There are six Nova Scotia records the most recent on 1/2014 and two New Brunswick records with their most recent being on April 2014. There is a small population of them in Florida and the majority are found in the Texas area.

Kestrels were generally reported through the summer with hawk watch birds being seen starting the first week of Sep. A pair of breeding **Merlin** were on the Univ. of Maine campus in Orono (*fide* EG) and others were seen at Popham Beach, Mt. Agamenticus, and Schoodic Pt.

Peregrine Falcons were seen east at Calais, two young fledged from a cliff-side nest on Ironbound I. in Winter Harbor on 7/22. One was seen daily on Machias Seal I. with others noted at 11 other locations from Bangor to Lewiston to Scarboro.

RAILS: A **Sora** at the Essex marsh in Bangor had one chick on 7/18 and a month later on 8/18 it was still being regularly seen but with three chicks.

Two **Common Gallinules** were at Waldoboro on 7/11 (RS) and another was seen at the Christina reservoir in Fort Fairfield on 8/12.

CRANES: **Sandhill Cranes** were seen at widely scattered locales this summer. One was far east at Campobello Island (*fide* FH), two at Raymond were around all summer, one at Chelsea, two adults and an immature at Norridgewock, two at Carroll Plantation, and two at Gray with dates from 7/30 to 9/11.

SHOREBIRDS: This was by far the most widely reported family with 32 species being noted. As usual, the southward migration overlapped with a few northward moving and also a few lingering birds.

Black-bellied Plover first were seen at the Lubec flats on 8/2. Numbers built up and on 8/19 there were 138 counted at Wharton Pt. in Brunswick. **Golden Plover** arrived a bit later with the first birds found at Popham Beach and Biddeford Pool on 9/3. One was east at Lubec on 9/5.

Seven **Piping Plover** were at Seawall Beach in Phippsburg 8/4, two were at Popham Beach 8/6, and a juvenile was at Kittery on 9/4.

Semipalmated Plover were arriving east at Harrington on 7/22 and within a week counts of 150 or more were being made from there to Scarboro.

Killdeer had chicks by the second week of July. Fifty-two were congregated together at Easton in Aroostook County (BS).

Two **American Oystercatchers** and two young were at Hills Beach in Biddeford 8/24-9/7. Two were at Cape Elizabeth on 9/6. A single **Avocet** was found at Scarboro Marsh on 8/10 and was there that day only. On 7/14 a **Black-necked Stilt** made a one-day appearance at Popham Beach SP.

Greater Yellowlegs are one of the "overlapping" species and have been seen all summer. Southward migrants were definitely being seen as of 8/24. The first **Lesser Yellowlegs** were noted at Milbridge on 8/24 (JM) and were regularly being seen after that date.

Six **Solitary Sandpipers** at Bangor on 7/18 were most likely southbound birds. From 8/4 on they were found at Bar Harbor, Old Town, East Boothbay, and Machias Seal I.

Both **Eastern** and **Western Willets** were at Seawall Beach in Phippsburg 8/12.

Spotted Sandpipers are still being seen along coastal islands as this is being written on 9/22.

Upland Sandpipers were on the runway at the old Loring Air Force base at Limestone 8/12 and some were found on the blueberry barrens in Columbia on 9/3.

Twenty-two **Whimbrels** at Harrington on 7/21 must have been a southward migratory wave. From 7/27 on all sightings were from Popham and south.

A single **Hudsonian Godwit** was at Popham Beach 7/18. The next sightings were at Lubec on 8/29. The most seen at once were five there on 9/5. Two **Marbled Godwits** at Scarboro 8/29-9/2 were the only ones reported.

Ruddy Turnstones were at Popham on 7/27 and scattered along the coast from 8/9 on. Two at St. Agatha on 8/2 were unusual that far north and inland. **Red Knots** were seen only at Biddeford, Kittery, and Popham 8/3-9/8. **Sanderlings** were seen from Lubec south to Biddeford Pool 7/18 through at least 9/8. Up to 200 were at Popham on 9/8.

A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** with a yellow leg tag at Popham Beach on 7/14 had been tagged as a first year bird in Suriname Feb. 2011. The same bird was seen at Plum Island, MA on 7/22! Another tagged bird at Popham on 7/22 had been marked at Commewijne, Suriname 4/23/13. All **Western Sandpipers** to be reported were at Biddeford Pool Beach 9/2-7.

Least Sandpipers have been moving southward since 7/27. **White-rumped Sandpipers** started being seen at Lubec on 8/2 and are still being seen as of 9/22. One was at the Caribou water treatment facility on 8/12. **Baird's Sandpipers** were reported starting on 8/10 with nearly all sightings being from Biddeford Pool southward. **Pectoral Sandpipers** were at Addison on 7/24 and Scarboro Marsh 9/7.

The first juvenile **Dunlin** were at Biddeford Pool 9/7. **Stilt Sandpipers** were Scarboro Marsh 7/27, and east at Addison 9/6.

South-bound **Buff-bellied Sandpipers** arrived fairly late with birds found at Lubec on 8/29, Kennebunk 9/3 and South Portland 9/4.

Short-billed Dowitchers are common late summer migrants and have been seen all along the coast since 7/17.

A **Woodcock** in Machias on 8/30 was the only one reported but they are certainly around.

A **Wilson's Phalarope** was at the Flood farm in Clinton on 8/27. Single **Red-necked Phalaropes** were at non marine habitats at Falmouth on 8/16 and Thorndike on 8/19. Others were seen regularly on offshore birding trips. A **Red Phalarope** was in the Morse River at Popham on 8/20. All other reports came from the offshore trips.

GULLS, TERNS, JAEGERs: **Laughing Gulls** were quite common through August but numbers dropped rapidly in early Sep. An immature was seen off Egg Rock in Frenchman Bay on 9/24 (WT). **Little Gulls** were seen at Wells on 7/17, Eastport 8/30, and at Pembroke 9in eastern Washington Co.) 9/11.

A single **Black-headed Gull** was seen in Passamaquoddy Bay on 8/30. The previous day there were an estimated 10,000+ **Bonaparte's Gulls** feeding in the tidal currents off Eastport. On 9/4 some were hawking insects over Cherryfield.

Our most common gulls, **Ring-billed, Herring,** and **Great Black-backed** were well reported. **Lesser Black-backed** were found at Eastport 8/30, Machias Bay off Cutler 9/4, and Biddeford 9/7.

All **Kittiwake** reports came from Passamaquoddy Bay with the most being 500 there on 8/29.

Other than a single **Caspian Tern** east at Lubec on 9/5 all others were seen at Scarboro, Phippsburg, and Popham, all but one of them in Sep. The only **Royal Tern** was one at Hills Beach in Biddeford on 7/12. This was also the locale some 30 **Roseate Terns** on 7/30. Two were seen off and on at Petit Manan I. through the first week of August.

Common Terns were along most of the coast all summer and a number of young were successful inland at Long Lake in St. Agatha. **Arctic Terns** made a slight comeback in eastern areas. It was felt that at least 10 chicks survived on Machias Seal I. The last one seen there was on 8/19.

Forster's Terns were at Popham and Biddeford and remained through first week of Sep. **Least Tern** numbers reached 35 at Popham Beach this summer with immature birds being seen at Wells on 9/3.

July **Black Skimmers** were at Popham and Biddeford on 7/18. One was at Scarboro on 9/2 and another at Kennebunk 9/8.

A **Pomarine Jaeger** was chasing gulls at Quoddy Head SP on 9/5. Seven **Parasitic Jaegers** were off Machias Seal I. 7/20, two at Seal Island NWR 8/4 and five at Quoddy Head SP 8/30.

Two **Great Skua** were south of Schoodic Pt. on 9/4 along with a **South Polar Skua** the same day.

ALCIDS: **Common Murres** were last seen at Machias Seal I. on 8/9. A **Razorbill** with a large chick as there on 8/16 with others seen in Passamaquoddy Bay 8/29 and Frenchman Bay on 8/30.

Black Guillemots were commonly seen all along the eastern coastal areas with many in winter plumage by the first week of Sep.

The first fledgling **Atlantic Puffins** were seen at Machias Seal on 7/25. One was carrying food to a burrow on Petit Manan Island on 8/14 (WT) and others were still bringing food to Machias Seal as late as 8/21. The **Tufted Puffin** at Machias Seal was there from 6/17 to 7/18.

DOVES: The Winterport **White-winged Dove** was last seen on 7/28. Another was at a feeder in Lincoln 8/30 to 9/4 and one was on Machias Seal on 8/9. A **Eurasian Collared Dove** was at Sanford for nearly two weeks and was last seen on 8/12.

CUCKOOS: Single **Black-billed Cuckoos** were seen at 8 locations from Lubec to Rangeley in July and August. **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were reported only from Bridgeton on 8/11 and Machias Seal 8/24.

OWLS: This family was pretty quiet throughout the summer with a few scattered reports of both **Barred** and **Great Horned Owls**.

GOATSUCKERS: A few single **Nighthawks** were seen through early Aug. but migrating birds were first seen at Windham on 8/19. On 8/20-21 there were 14 reports of from 6 to 20 birds at various locations. The latest date so far was 9/14 with single birds at Belfast and Mt. Agamenticus.

SWIFTS: **Chimney Swifts** were only mentioned in a few reports and only until 8/12.

HUMMINGBIRDS: Regularly noted through July and Aug. the first migrant **Ruby-throated** arrived on Machias Seal I. 8/25. "Last seen" reports were coming in all through early Sep. Latest, so far, are birds at Thuya Gardens in Northeast Harbor as of 9/30!

KINGFISHERS: Reported only generally through the summer months. Fall migrants were being regularly reported along coastal areas as of 9/25.

WOODPECKERS: Another family that is observed but generally ignored during the summer months. Particularly noted were many juvenile **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** at Aroostook NWR on 8/12 (BS). **Black-backed Woodpeckers** and **Three-toed Woodpeckers** were seen by a number of birders in July in the north woods areas of Baxter SP and along the Telos Rd. areas. Our resident species, **Hairy**, **Downy**, **Pileated**, were mentioned only generally in various trip lists.

FLYCATCHERS: **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were recorded on July trips at Baxter SP, Rangeley, and one was on Machias Seal 8/24. **Wood Pewees** were at Bangor and Searsmont the latest date being 9/6.

Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were at Baxter SP and Machias Seal I. Several **Willow Flycatchers** landed on Machias Seal on 8/24. **Least Flycatchers** were tallied at the Cousins Island crossing in Yarmouth on 9/7.

The last date for a **Great Crested Flycatcher** was a bird at Topsham back on 7/18 (CJ). **Eastern Kingbirds** were at Old Town on 8/12 (EG) and Machias Seal 8/16. The only **Western Kingbird** report came from Machias Seal on 8/13.

VIREOS: This family became silent and virtually invisible in July and Aug. A few **Blue-headed** and **Red-eyed** were mentioned. All other species and some fairly large numbers of migrants are being seen in Sep. and will be in the next issue.

CORVIDS: **Blue Jays** fledged three young from a nest in Sullivan on 7/18 (SH). A few **Gray Jays** were seen on the late July birding trips to Baxter SP. **Ravens** and **Crows** were mentioned only generally and no Fish Crow reports were found.

LARKS: There was a single **Horned Lark** on Mt. Agamenticus on 9/4.

SWALLOWS: Twenty-two **Purple Martins**, some of them juveniles, were counted at Lake Messalonskee on 7/29.

Tree Swallows used only two of 16 nest boxes on Hardwood I. in Blue Hill Bay this summer (EP) while all 16 boxes in Augusta were successful. On 8/19 nearly 1000 were flocked at Ogunquit Beach. Last date, so far, were several at Biddeford 9/3.

Several **Rough-winged Swallows** at Addison on 7/26 were thought to be migrants (MAA).

Bank Swallows were still at Benton on 9/10 with a few **Cliff Swallows** in with them. Several **Cliff** stopped at Machias Seal on 8/16. **Barn Swallows** were moving the last week of Aug. and a few were seen at Benton on 9/10.

TITS: **Black-capped Chickadees** were feeding young, probably a second brood in Bar Harbor on 9/8 (WT). **Boreal Chickadees** were seen at Baxter SP, Rangeley, and Quoddy Head SP this summer.

No titmice were reported.

WRENS: **Carolina Wrens** were singing at Topsham 7/8, and one was seen at Camden 7/23. They disappeared from reports after that date.

GNATCATCHERS: Summer reports of **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** came from Kittery, Hollis, Wells, and Biddeford Pool.

THRUSHES: **Eastern Bluebirds** had fledglings by the third week of July.

Most thrushes went silent in mid-July. The night calls of migrating **Swainson's Thrushes** were being

heard at Gardiner on 9/13. A **Hermit Thrush** on a nest with two eggs was found at Newcastle on 8/12.

MIMICS: **Gray Catbirds** were feeding young at Topsham on 7/18 and Bangor on 7/20. **Mockingbirds** were seen at Topsham, Bangor, and Camden in July. A **Brown Thrasher** was at the summit of Cadillac Mt. on 8/2.

PIPITS: An **American Pipit** was on Machias Seal on 8/9 others were seen along Back Cove in Portland on 9/12.

WAXWINGS: **Cedar Waxwings** had young at Trescott on 7/17 (FH). They were moving in mid Aug. with birds appearing on Machias Seal I. and on 9/1 there were 31 counted as they crossed from Cousins I. in Yarmouth.

WARBLERS: Most reports were of migrating birds that started passing in early Sep. and should be cited in the next issue. Sticking to our cut-off date of 9/10 for this issue we have some dates of 9/1 for **Tennessee** at Sears I. where there were eight **Nashville** at the same time. On 9/7 there were 56 **Parula** counted at the Cousins I. crossing.

Hatching year **Yellow Warblers** were at Aroostook NWR 8/12, one few onto the Portland-Nova Scotia ferry on 8/15 and several were out on Machias Seal 8/18. Four **Chestnut-sided** were on Sears I. 9/1.

Twenty **Magnolia Warblers** were crossing from Cousins I. 9/7. **Cape May** were seen at Unity on 8/17, Quoddy Head SP 8/30, and Roque I. 9/5 (NF).

Yellow-rumped are still around as of 9/22 with migratory birds being seen starting 9/1. There were 18 **Black-throated Green** at Cousins I. on 9/1. A single **Blackburnian** was seen on Sears I. also on 9/1. **Pine Warblers** were reported from 8 locations the first week of Sep. A **Palm Warbler** was carrying food to a nest at Stockholm on 8/12.

The first week of Sep. found **Bay-breasted** and **Blackpoll Warblers** at Sear I., Searsmont, and Cousins I. A **Black-and-White Warbler** was still singing at Roque I. 9/5.

Our rarity of the fall, so far, was a **Prothonotary** at Rachel Carson NWR on 8/17-18.

Northern Waterthrush were up along the St. John R. 8/2 and one spent a week on Machias Seal I. 8/11-18. Six **Mourning Warblers** were seen at Dallas Plantation (part of Rangeley) on 8/18.

The latest date for a **Canada Warbler**, so far, was 8/24. On 9/1 a total of 93 **Redstarts** were counted at the Cousins I. to Yarmouth crossing.

TANAGERS: **Scarlet Tanagers** were mentioned only a couple of times in reports and only in July.

SPARROWS: Not that many July-Aug. reports but this will be one of the most reported families in the next issue.

Eastern Towhees were seen at Blue Hill Mt. on 7/17 (TB), and Topsham 7/18 (CJ). As soon as they stopped singing they dropped out of sight.

Chipping Sparrows are still active as of 9/28. **Clay-colored Sparrows** were being seen on the Kennebunk Plains with 7/16 being that last summer date.

Several **Vesper Sparrows** were seen on the barrens at Columbia 9/3. A **Lark Sparrow** on Monhegan I. 8/20 was the only one to be reported.

Savannah Sparrows had what seemed to be a third brook out on Machias Seal I. as of 8/24.

A possible **Seaside Sparrow** was at Scarboro Marsh on 8/1. It seem that we should have more of this species as there is a population just across the Bay of Fundy in southern Nova Scotia.

Nelson's Sparrows were noted at Mt. Desert and Scarboro through the last week of Aug. **Swamp Sparrows** were widely reported through mid-August.

White-throated Sparrows were generally noted and numbers are increasing as of mid Sep. **Slate-colored Juncos** were here-and-there all summer with numbers increasing as feeders began to be set up for autumn.

CARDINALIDAE: **Cardinals** had young by the last week of July. **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** had fledglings at Trescott on 9/17 and juvenile plumaged birds were being seen regularly up and down the coast the first week of Sep.

Indigo Buntings were common this spring but none were reported after the first week of July.

BLACKBIRDS: Another family that will be flocking up and more widely reported during the fall. On 9/7 up to 90 **Bobolinks** were counted in the Richmond area and one was at the Cousins I. crossing the same day. **Red-winged Blackbirds** and **Grackles** are just starting to be noted in flocks as of the third week of Sep. A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was seen and photographed on Great Wass I. 8/22.

FINCHES: **Purple Finches** were at feeders here-and-there during the summer months. **House Finches** were also regular town and feeder birds all summer.

Three **Red Crossbills** were seen at Stow on 7/31. **Pine Siskins** were at a feeder in Rome on 8/2, one was on Machias Seal I. 8/9 and a pair at Aroostook NWR 8/12.

Goldfinches are coming to feeders as of early Sep. and numbers seem to be a bit lower than usual.

On 7/26 there was a pair of **Evening Grosbeaks** at Pownal.

REPORTERS: Anyone may send in reports for the newsletter. Please understand that not all reports are cited individually but all of them are necessary for interpreting and understanding the natural history covered in each issue. Everyone is busy and the editor appreciates the time spent writing and sending the reports. Initials of reporters are not used all of the time due to space limitations and some have asked that their initials not be used. The following people made this issue possible: MAA Merle & Anne Archie, RB Rogen Bowen, TB Tom Bjorkman, CMD Charles & Mary Dorchester, MD Marcia Demento, ME Marcia Ellis, NF Norm Famous, EG Ed Grew, LH Lois Hatch, MPH Margot & Paul Haertel, RLH Ralph & Liedeke Hagopian, SH Susan Highland, CJ Carol Jack, CK Craig Kesselheim, HK Hilary Kammerer, JM John Manter, PM Peg Myers, WWM Wendy & Winston Moody, SN Susan Nergaard, MO Mary Opdyke, CP Charlie Pugh, EP Eliot Paine, DR Dartha Reid, BS Bill Sheehan, RS Rick Skoglund, SS Shirley Smith, AET Anita & Gene TeHennepe, WT Bill Townsend, JW Jeanie Wilson. ANP Acadia National Park, MAS Maine Audubon Society, NWR National Wildlife Refuge Plt Plantation, SP State Park, TWP Township. *fide* means on the word of, second-hand, unconfirmed.

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The next reporting period is September-October 2014. Reports are due by **November 10th**. **MAIL** reports to 12 Spring St. Bar Harbor, ME 04609, **PHONE** them to 207-288-5654, or **eMAIL** them to wtownsend@roadrunner.com.

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