



NEWS AND NOTES: Here we are in the summer once again. After a rather wet, dreary late spring the weather had turned into a much more comfortable mode. This issue covers the spring however and as it is composed it seems like the arrival of many of our migrants seems to be so long ago. There are some nice rarities in the bird section and a few have shown up in early July just as this is being written. We do cover any significant and/or interesting reports up until the time this issue is finished being typed up.

Reports came in fast and furious during the spring arrivals but as expected, dropped off in late June and at the start of July as many of our observers went on vacations, and the migratory influx of birds slowed down.

We have three "missing members" as of the last issue. Sandy Cullison/Jim Annis of Cambridge, MA who, although they have been members for years, had their mail returned as "no such address", Dr. Frank Moyer of Coral Gables, FL returned as "unable to forward", and Rayna Palm of Albion, ME listed as "not known" even though her mail seems to have gone through for the past year.

Apologies are offered in advance for the lateness of this issue. The two "summer" issues, written up in July and September are nearly always late due to a combination of the editor's summer work, summer visitors, and summer weather, and summer laziness all of which conspire to use up available time.

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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: As we enter the summer months we find **Mercury** swinging out around the right side of the Sun in July and passing behind it. It will swing wide around the left side and become visible in the west at sunset in mid. September.

Venus remains ahead of us in orbit and is slowly pulling away. Visible off to the right of the Sun it remains a bright morning "star" rising in the east about 3:30 a.m. in July and 4 a.m. in August.

Here on **Earth** the northern hemisphere is slowly tilting away from the sun with the days growing shorter by about 10 minutes per week. We will reach autumn equinox on September 23; about the time you get the next issue of the newsletter.

We are pulling ahead of **Mars** and it is in the western sky at sunset. It will set a little after 11 p.m. in mid-July and about 9:30 p.m. at the end of August. The robot craft crawling around on the surface are still sending back clear pictures and a wind storm recently blew off dust that had accumulated on the solar panels allowing for more electrical production and new life for one of the older rovers.

Jupiter is far behind us in orbit and disappeared behind the Sun in early July. It will reappear around the right side of the Sun and be in the early morning sky rising about 4:30 a.m. for you early risers in late August.

Saturn is also falling behind us and is already in the southwest at sunset. It sets in the west about 11:30 p.m. at the end of July, a bit earlier each night and will be setting about 9:30 at the end of August.

We are catching up with distant **Uranus** and it rises in the east about 10 p.m. at the end of July and two hours earlier by the end of August.

Even more distant **Neptune** is in the sky all night and will be directly outward from us and due south at midnight on August 28. It is necessary to use a telescope to find the outermost (since Pluto has been demoted) planet.

Meteors. There should be a diffuse shower of faint meteors, the Delta Aquarids that reaches maximum on **July 30**. These are faint but with occasional bright, slow moving meteors and might total 20 per hour.

August 12-13 (late on the 12th and into early morning on the 13th) is the date for the well-known Perseid meteors. It will be in the sky all night with bright meteors that leave persistent trains. Unfortunately the moon is just a couple of days past full and rises at 9 p.m. and will wash out all but the brightest of them.

August 14 is the night of the Kappa Cygnids with only about 5/hour they are bright, move slowly and often have fireballs.

September 1 is the night of the Aurigids. These are fast, bright meteors that will start to be seen after the moon sets about 10 p.m. and will reach a possible peak of only 5-10 per hour after midnight.

Most of these showers are actually spread out over several days and the dates given are the peak times. It will be worthwhile to sit outside on any nice warm summer nights all through late July and August as there is an increased chance of seeing "falling stars".

Some dates to look forward to are: **7/28-31** look for the young crescent moon low on the western horizon right after sunset. **8/2** just 20 minutes before sunrise look for Jupiter and Mercury very close together on the eastern horizon. On **8/10** the moon is closest to the earth (221,765 miles away) and a true "super moon". **8/18** at one hour before sunrise Jupiter and Venus are extremely close and only 0.3 deg. apart just before dawn.

9/8 is the full moon and the third closest moon of the year. **9/21-22-23** just before sunrise watch the old moon slowly slide past Venus in the east.

The Rosetta spacecraft, launched in 2004 is approaching the comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko and will attempt to fly adjacent to it starting in mid-August. In November it will attempt to land probe which will anchor itself to the comet and take pictures and measurements as it approaches the sun and becomes an active comet.

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WEATHER: We have already had an early hurricane, Arthur, which caused damage along the Maine coast. Hurricanes for 2014 are Arthur, Bertha, Cristobal, Dolly, Edouard, Fay, Gonzalo, Hanna, Isaias, Josephine, Kyle, Laura, Marco, Nana, Omar, Paulette, Rene, Sally, Teddy, Vicky, and Wilfred.

May was wet but June was wetter still, at least at some reporting stations.

	Augusta	Bangor	Bar Harbor	Caribou	Portland	Kittery	Frenchville
May temp	56 deg.	55	52	53	55	55	50
June temp	64	64	61	63	64	66	62
May precip	3.56 inches	3.31	2.56	3.17	3.87	2.77	3.77
June precip	4.91	3.59	4.82	2.61	4.30	2.28	4.11

As can be seen, coastal areas were cooler and in June rain stayed farther south toward the coast.

	Buoy 007 (12 mi. out of Portland)	Buoy 005 (78 mi. south of Portland)	Buoy 034 (15 mi. off Schoodic Pt.)	Buoy 024 (179 mi. south of Mt. Desert)	Tide station ATGM1 Bar Harbor harbor	Tide station Eastport harbor
5/31/14	56 deg.	54	47	51	48	Inoperable
6/30/14	58	60	49	57	53	Inoperable

As this is being written there is a confirmation of a tornado in St. Albans on 7/15. It was a level EF-1 (86-110 mph) and a half mile wide and remained on the ground for 2.75 miles.

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GEOLOGICAL: No earthquakes were recorded in Maine in May and June.

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INVERTEBRATES: Coelenterates. Compared to the past couple of summers there are many more

Moon Jellyfish (*Aurelia auritus*) being seen all along the coast.

Mollusks. **Long-finned Squid** are being caught off docks in Northeast Harbor and Bar Harbor as they are attracted to lights at night.

Insects. **Bumble Bees** started being reported on 5/11 at Veazie (JM). There is a new Field Guide to the Bumble Bees of North America that is now available from the Princeton University Press.

There was a good hatch of **Fireflies** during the first half of June (DR, BBo). Also in the beetle family the first **June Bugs** started being seen the first week of June at several locations. An **American Carrion Beetle** was found feeding on a dead Chipmunk in Bar Harbor on 6/30 (WT). A **Multicolored Asian Lady Beetle** flew aboard a boat 2 miles off Schoodic Pt. on 7/8.

Butterflies. A **Brown Elfin** and a **Clouded Sulphur** were at Steuben on 5/22 (RH). Others noted were **Spring Azure** at Orono 5/11 (EG), **Tiger Swallowtails** at eleven different locations between 5/31 and 6/2. A **White Admiral** was at Orono 6/17 and a **Northern Pearly-eye** was also there on 7/8 (EG).

Dragonflies. A **Green Darner** was at Biddeford 5/11. On 5/25 a **Lancet Clubtail** was found at Princeton (RH). In Orono a **Chalk-fronted Corporal** was seen on 6/1 and a **Common Whitetail** on 6/16

In mid-June moths caught at a trap in St. George included **Harris' Three Spot**, **Putnam's Looper**, and a **Streaked Orange** (AB).

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FISH: **Mackerel** started being caught the first week of July from Mt. Desert Island and eastward. A **Sturgeon** was seen jumping in the Androscoggin River 7/9 (CJ). The automatic camera at the Seal Island NWR shows Puffins and Terns bringing what often seems to be **Inshore Sand Lancets**.

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AMPHIBIANS: **Spring Peepers** and **Wood Frogs** made their appearances back in April. Throughout May there were general reports of **Leopard**, **Green**, and **Pickerel Frogs**.

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REPTILES: In the snake category only **Garter** and **Red-bellied Snakes** were noted. A 5-inch **Snapping Turtle** was noted in Bangor on 5/8. As this is being written a 7 ft. **Leatherback Turtle** was found and photographed about a mile off Schoodic Point (CW).

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MAMMALS: Carnivores included **Coyotes** noted at several locations with many being heard the first week of June (MPH *et al*). **Red Fox** were seen in Lamoine (DR) and one in Prospect Harbor was chasing a Raccoon (*fide* RB). A couple of **Gray Fox**

were reported, the northernmost being in Bangor. **Gray Fox** are much more southern animals and there is also an identification problem as either species can be quite red or gray.

Bear were seen at Steuben where one devastated a set of bird feeders on 5/20 (RH). Others were at Prospect Harbor (*fide* RB), Baxter SP, and at Portage Lake.

A **Fisher** was at Baxter SP 7/1. Two **Otter** were seen at Capisic Pond in Portland on 5/29 and another at Beaver Pond in Acadia NP on 6/2.

A family of **Mink** live under the old Bluenose Ferry terminal dock in Bar Harbor and are regularly seen (WT, CW).

On 6/23 there were 29 **Big Brown Bats** seen leaving an attic in Unity (TA).

Rodents were reported in general and included **Beaver**, **Muskrat**, **Porcupines** (one was busily eating grass on a lawn in Harrington (MAA)), **Woodchuck**, **Red**, **Gray** (including an albino), and **Flying Squirrels**. **Deer Mice** and **Meadow Voles** were seen both alive and as prey throughout the period.

We were unable to get any reports from the Bar Harbor whale watch boats in time for this issue. Through mid-June they were traveling as far east as Grand Manan Island to find whales but in late June up to eight **Humpbacks** started appearing at the usual feeding grounds off Mt. Desert I. A dead juvenile **Harbor Porpoise** was found at Biddeford Pool on 7/2. **Harbor Seals** had finished pupping by the 10th of June in Frenchman Bay. The first **Northern Gray Seals** started showing up on haul-out ledges on June 25th, a little later than usual.

The numbers of migratory **Humans** were increasing rapidly along coastal areas as of mid-June.

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BIRDS: There were several birding festivals held since the last issue of this newsletter. There were also four "Big Day" outings where teams of birders attempted to see how many species they could tally in a 24-hour period. These teams took monetary pledges related to the number of species found with the funds going to environmental education and camp scholarships. A team on Monhegan Island had a total of 73 species. The "Jonathan Kingfishers" in the Blue Hill area had 80 while a second Blue Hill group managed to tally 102 which was the highest number noted. The "Acadian Flycatchers" on Mount Desert I. totaled 91 species.

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS: Two juvenile **Mute Swans** were found at South Bath on 6/12.

A single **Snow Goose** at Fryeburg on 5/8 was the only one reported. A pair of **Brant** were off Isle au Haut 5/18, others at South Lubec 5/28, and three were at Pine Pt. in Scarboro 6/17. **Canada Geese** with broods of goslings were at Calais and Whiting (FH) on 6/2.

The first brood on **Wood Ducks** was noted on Long Island in Casco Bay on 6/3 and others were seen at Bar Harbor on 6/17.

Green-winged Teal were here-and-there through May and were at the Sanford sewer ponds and north at Easton 6/3 and 6/10.

Black Ducks had ducklings at Unity 6/16 (TA) while **Mallards** had families at Orono 5/24 (*fide* EG), and Lake Josephine in Easton 6/18.

Blue-winged Teal were noted at Weskeag Marsh in South Thomaston 5/18 and Sanford 6/3.

Northern Shovelers were at Pleasant Point (Sipayik - Passamaquoddy Land) 5/12 (MAA), Weskeag Marsh 5/29, Easton 6/4, and Mars Hill Pond 6/12. **Gadwalls** were Scarboro Marsh 5/13-6/10 and four broods were seen at Lake Josephine in Easton 7/13 (BS).

Also at Lake Jo there is a **Eurasian Wigeon** as of 7/13 along with several broods of **American Wigeon**. The latter were also found at Edmunds on 5/12. A **Canvasback** was also there on 6/18 along with a pair of **Redheads**. Redheads are the cowbirds of the ducks and lay their eggs in other nests. On 7/13 a **Ring-necked Duck** was seen there caring for a brood of Redheads.

Greater Scaup were at East Sullivan, Bar Harbor, and Unity the first two weeks of May and a pair was at the Sanford sewer ponds on 6/3. **Lesser Scaup** were found only at Unity on 5/11 (TA), and Lake Jo in Easton 6/4.

Common Eider ducklings were showing up in Casco Bay 6/3 and eastward at Machias Seal Island 6/22. Many half grown birds were in Frenchman Bay as of the first week of July.

In May **Long-tailed Ducks** were still being seen from Kennebunk to Mount Desert. One inland at Unity 4/28-5/4 was unusual and the last date noted was a bird at Penobscot on 6/4 (BBo).

Harlequin Ducks were seen off Schoodic Pt. until 5/13 (SB).

Black Scoter numbers were much higher this spring with flocks of up to 3000 birds seen at Biddeford Pool and smaller flocks of 20-75 elsewhere all along the coast. Most had moved north by the end of the first week of June.

The latest report of **Surf Scoters** was from Reid SP in Georgetown on 6/11 while **White-winged Scoters** were fairly common through May with the last report being one from Peaks Island in Casco Bay on 6/5.

Single male **Common Goldeneyes** were at Unity 5/23 (TA), and Kittery 6/12. A female with 7 ducklings were at a beaver pond north of Monson on 6/21. The last noted **Bufflehead** was a bird at Christina reservoir in Presque Isle 6/12.

Hooded Mergansers were well reported through May but then went invisible as they started nesting in June. A brood was seen at Sanford on 7/3. **Common Mergansers** had young at Acadia NP on 7/6 (LH) the same day a brood with 30 young was photographed on Sebago Lake. Most likely this was a combined set of several broods.

Ruddy Ducks were east at Addison on 5/13 and one was seen with ducklings on 6/18 at Lake Josephine in Easton.

GROUSE: **Spruce Grouse** were seen at Lubec and Baxter SP in May and June. There were a number of **Ruffed Grouse** reported throughout May and June and all across the state. The only **Ring-necked Pheasant** showed up in a report from Criehaven Island. A **Bobwhite** at Harmony on 6/29 was determined to have come from a release site eight miles away. The bird had no "street-smarts" and was found road killed on 7/2.

LOONS: **Red-throated Loons** were still in winter plumage at various spots along the coast as of the first week of June. **Common Loons** in all stages of plumage were noted all along the coast right into mid-July. The inland water loon count is scheduled as this is being written.

GREBES: The arrival of **Pied-billed Grebes** was back in early April. A **Horned Grebe** in breeding plumage was off Schoodic Pt. 5/13 and another was at Kittery on 6/29. A **Red-necked Grebe** was at Unity 5/18 and two were at Biddeford Pool 7/12.

TUBENOSES: Sightings of members of this family have been scarce this spring. **Greater Shearwaters** and a few **Sooty Shearwaters** have been seen in Canadian waters off Passamaquoddy Bay and Grand Manan I. Three **Manx Shearwaters** were seen off Seal Island NWR on 7/12. A few **Wilson's Storm-Petrels** were seen between Schoodic Pt. and Petit Manan on 7/8.

Of interest was a dead shearwater found on the beach at Ogunquit on 6/10. It had been dead for some time. It was photographed but when the

observers returned to recover the body it was gone. It is thought to possibly have been a **Herald Petrel**.

PELECANIFORMES: The **Red-billed Tropicbird** returned to the waters off Seal Island NWR on 6/28 for the 10th year! It was still being seen as of 7/12.

Gannets have been conspicuous by their absence this spring. Numbers at the mouth of the Bay of Fundy are low and only two have been hanging around Machias Seal I. Three were seen on a trip to Eastern Egg Rock on 6/6.

The four **White Pelicans** seen off Falmouth on 5/8 were listed in the last issue.

Great Cormorants are now being seen regularly along the coast and in May were found as far south as Kittery. Nesting is now regular along the Washington County coast. Large numbers of **Double-crested Cormorants** were often seen up freshwater rivers during the Alewife run. An adult and a juvenile were inland and north at Presque Isle on 6/18.

HERONS: **American Bitterns** arrived back in April. For the first time in a couple of years there were **Least Bitterns** reported. One was at Essex Marsh in Bangor on 5/13 and another at Lake Jo in Easton 6/12.

Great Blue Herons have been in the news lately due to a noticeable decline in their numbers. A heronry of 70 was found at Benton on 6/16 (TA).

Great Egrets were common in southernmost Maine and on 6/14 one was unusually far north at Presque Isle. Most **Snowy Egrets** were also found in southern areas with one east at Eastport on 5/12.

All **Little Blue Heron** reports came from Scarboro Marsh. **Green Herons** were reported from Portland and Bangor 5/15 and 5/16 respectively.

A **Tricolored Heron** has been at Scarboro Marsh from 5/11 to at least 7/9. On 5/28 one was far downeast at the South Lubec flats.

Black-crowned Night Herons were at their usual haunts in Portland, South Portland, and Long Island in Casco Bay. **Yellow-crowned Night Herons** were found at Scarboro Marsh and nearby Pine Pt.

VULTURES: **Turkey Vultures** were mentioned only as ticks on various trip lists. A total of 380 were counted passing the Bradbury hawk watch.

EAGLES, HAWKS: **Osprey** were on nests as early as the first week of May. The Bradbury hawk watch (hereafter cited simply as 'the hawk watch' tallied a total of 724 at the end of their count season on 5/15.

A **Swallow-tailed Kite** at Brunswick on 5/7 was the 7th Maine record. One was counted at the hawk watch. A **Mississippi Kite** at Pownal on 5/15 was the 8th Maine record. Another example of southern birds moving into Maine??

Bald Eagles were well reported across the state. A couple of monitored nests had single nearly full sized eaglets as of 7/15.

Harriers were seen here-and-there throughout May and June. Bradbury Mt. totaled 139.

The hawk watch had a total of 1058 Sharp-shinned Hawks this spring. **Cooper's Hawks** were noted in 18 locations including the 86 passing the hawk watch site. A **Goshawk** was seen at Bowdoin on 6/18 and was the only one found in any reports.

Bradbury had 191 **Red-shouldered Hawks** pass by. One was at the Taylor bait farm in Orono on 5/23. **Broad-winged Hawks** started arriving in late March and had spread across the state by the end of April. The hawk watch tallied a total of 2357 birds.

Red-tailed Hawks were noted across most of the lower half of the state through the end of May. There were 419 that passed Bradbury. Only one **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen at the hawk watch however.

Kestrels started arriving at the end of March with a total of 400 passing the hawk watch. Young were out of the nest at Unity on 6/16. **Merlin** at the hawk watch totaled 88. One was on Machias Seal Island 6/7 and one was after shorebirds at Popham Beach on 7/8.

There are four **Peregrine** nestlings at the Precipice trail site in Acadia NP and two nearly full grown fledglings at the nest on the seaward cliffs of Ironbound I. in Frenchman Bay as of 7/8. Both were gone as of 7/23 (WT).

RAILS: **Virginia Rails** were seen and heard from Biddeford, out on Monhegan I. east to Calais, and north to Easton mostly between 5/11 and 6/9. A **Sora** was at Unity 5/14 and another out on Stratton Island 6/29.

CRANES: **Sandhill Cranes** were at Lake Messalonskee, New Gloucester, West Poland, and Troy through the end of June. Nesting is suspected but none found so far.

SHOREBIRDS: The family had the most reports on any due to the overlap of northward and southward migration.

Black-bellied Plover were commonly seen through May but there were no June reports. **Semipalmated Plovers** were around until late May. One at Biddeford on 7/9 may have been an early

migrant. **Piping Plover** were on nests at Wells Beach on 6/1.

Killdeer arrivals were cited in the last issue and there were mentioned only generally the past two months.

An early **American Oystercatcher** was east at Schoodic Pt. on 5/13 (SB). Young birds were at Stratton I. on 6/29. **Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs** were seen through the end of May at several locales.

Solitary Sandpipers were at Unity 5/7 and Orono 5/11. **Willetts** were seen from Biddeford Pool east to Addison in May and 30 were at Biddeford on 7/1.

Spotted Sandpipers are being noted all along the coast. **Upland Sandpipers** were found at the old Brunswick NAS, the Kennebunk Plains, and on 6/26 chicks were at the old radar station in Columbia Falls.

A single **Whimbrel** was found at Pine Pt. Scarboro on 7/9. **Ruddy Turnstones** were only as far north as eastern Egg Rock as of 6/6.

Northbound **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were noted through June including one inland at Allagash Lake. Southbound birds started being seen at Machias Seal I. on 7/5. Fall migrant **Least Sandpipers** started being seen on 7/1. The last spring **Pectoral Sandpiper** was one at Lubec 5/25. Small groups of **Bagpipers** were seen and heard in Bangor and Bar Harbor on 7/4.

The last of our **Purple Sandpipers** were at Acadia NP on 5/25 (CrK) and Kittery on 5/27. **Dunlin** were reported only through 5/28.

On 5/14 a **Ruff** was found at Penjajawoc Marsh in Bangor.

The last north bound **Short-billed Dowitchers** were at Reid SP on 6/11 while the first south bound birds started being seen along the coast on 7/5.

Wilson's Snipe and **Woodcock** were both regularly noted through May but became invisible once their flight displays ceased at nesting time.

A **Wilson's Phalarope** at Unity on 5/15 was the sole member of this group to be noted (TA).

GULLS, TERNS, JAEGERs: **Laughing Gulls** are being seen along the entire coast. Over 50 were off Petit Manan I. 6/30 and 422 counted at Matinicus I. on 6/6. On 7/1 a **Little Gull** was seen at Pine Pt. in Scarboro. **Bonaparte's Gulls** were increasing in numbers in early July.

Ring-billed and **Herring Gulls** were noted on most trip lists with little comment. Nearly full grown chicks were on Egg Rock in Frenchman Bay as of 7/20. A single **Iceland Gull** was in Bar Harbor on

6/7 (ZK). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were found at Knox on 5/4 and Rockland 5/19.

A **Great Black-backed Gull** banded at Appledore I. was recently seen on Lake Michigan.

Caspian Terns were found at Lake Messalonskee on 6/23, Addison Marsh 6/26, and Biddeford 7/8. **Royal Terns** showed up in July with birds at Biddeford 7/7, Popham Beach 7/8.

Over 100 pair of **Roseate Terns** are on Stratton I., 30 were at Eastern Egg Rock 6/6 and one is a Petit Manan Island as of 7/10. **Common Terns** are doing fairly well this summer. Nearly 1000 are at Petit Manan I. and 1308 pair were counted on Stratton I. There is a nesting colony inland a Allagash Lake. Eight pair of **Arctic Terns** are at Stratton I. and about 400 were counted at Machias Seal I.

All **Least Tern** sightings were from southern Maine with 30 at Scarboro Marsh, Popham Beach, and 99 pair at Stratton I.

Black Terns were at Unity, and Lake Messalonskee in May and June. On 6/8 one was found at the common tern colony on Allagash Lake.

On 7/11 a **Black Skimmer** was found at Basket I. in Biddeford. Another is being seen east in New Brunswick.

An adult **Parasitic Jaeger** was off Eastern Egg Rock on 6/6. An unidentified **Skua** flew by Machias Seal I. on 6/20.

ALCIDS: **Common Murres** were seen at Petit Manan I. on 5/30 (WT), 25 were at Matinicus on 6/6, and chicks were hatched on Machias Seal I. by 6/24. **Razorbills** were noted at several places through May and June, Petit Manan, Eastern Egg Rock (450 birds), and Machias Seal I.

Black Guillemots were all along the coast and were the prey of Peregrines on Machias Seal I.

Atlantic Puffins were at Seal I. NWR, over 100 at Petit Manan, and 473 at Eastern Egg Rock which was considered a low number, and Machias Seal I. Making birding headlines was a **Tufted Puffin**, a Pacific Ocean bird that appeared at Machias Seal I. on 6/17 and was there until at least 7/18. This is only the fifth Atlantic Ocean record. There were sightings from Greenland and Great Britain in 2009, Sweden in 1995, and Maine in 1831 (the bird illustrated by Audubon himself).

Out of our area and time but of interest was a video of an Ancient Murrelet in Vermont on 4/17.

DOVES: Other than resident **Mourning Doves**, the only other report was of a **White-winged Dove** at Seal I. NWR on 5/22.

CUCKOOS: The first **Black-billed Cuckoos** were at Portland on 5/12, followed by several sightings on 5/21. On 6/2 the first **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was seen at Auburn, the next was a month later with one at Turner on 7/1.

OWLS: In the last issue we noted the gradual disappearance of our **Snowy Owls** that invaded during the winter. We have additional late dates for several. One in Kennebunkport was present until 7/10. One in West Paris was hit by a car on 6/23 and died in rehab. It was reported that it was severely infected with parasites and fungus. Other last dates that we know were Presque Isle 6/14, Madawaska 6/10. The final Biddeford Pool bird was on 5/29.

A **Great Horned Owl** was on a nest with two owlets in the middle of a heronry in Benton 5/20.

Barred Owls were heard at several locations through May. **Saw-whet Owls** here heard at Bar Harbor, Harrington, and Augusta in early June.

GOATSUCKERS: After a couple of early **Nighthawks** at Monhegan and Orono mentioned in the last issue, all of the arrival reports were during the last week of May.

Whip-poor-wills were heard at Milford on 5/3, Bowdoinham 5/13, and the Wonderland section of Acadia NP on 6/15.

SWIFTS: **Chimney Swifts** were seen at Gardiner 5/3, Bangor 5/13, Waterville 5/17 and east at Lubec 5/31 (MAA).

HUMMINGBIRDS: A few arrivals the first week of May were listed in the previous issue. There were 21 additional "first of year" sightings all of which fell between 5/11 and 5/13 all across Maine.

WOODPECKERS: A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was being seen in West Rockport on 5/15 (*fide* BBa).

A few **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** were scattered about with birds reported from Deer Isle (BBo), Steuben (RH), Little Cranberry I. (CrK) and one in South Portland that was excavating a nest cavity.

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers arrived in April and were well established on nesting territory by mid-May. **Downy** and **Hairy Woodpeckers** were reported with little or no comment.

Three-toed Woodpeckers were seen at Chamberlain Lake and east of Eagle Lake while **Black-backed Woodpeckers** were mostly in north woods areas with birds at Baxter SP and the Telos checkpoint. One was found on the coast at Corea on 5/24 (RH).

Flickers and **Pileated Woodpeckers** were reported but usually just as part of a trip list and without comments.

FLYCATCHERS: The numbers of **Olive-sided Flycatchers** are continuing to increase after several years of decline. Birds started appearing in Portland on 5/12 and within two weeks had spread across the state. **Eastern Wood Pewees** started showing up in late April that there was a small flight that arrived 5/20-24.

Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were seen at Portland 5/20, Jefferson 5/22, with several "first seen" reports 6/7-8. Other arrival dates were 5/13 for **Alder Flycatcher** in Acadia NP (RM), 5/21 for **Willow Flycatcher** at Viles arboretum in Augusta, and 4/28 for **Least Flycatcher** (cited in last issue).

Eastern Kingbirds and **Great Crested Flycatchers** were first seen on 5/5 in Portland. **Eastern Phoebes** were on nests the first week of July at several locations. Our rarity for this family was a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** for one day, 6/9, at Wells.

VIREOS: We had six species of vireos this spring. **White-eyed** were more common than usual with birds at Appledore I. 5/10, Vinalhaven I. 5/14, Portland, Phippsburg, Monhegan I., and Biddeford all between 5/14-5/17.

Blue-headed Vireos were well reported throughout May as were **Philadelphia**, **Warbling**, and **Red-eyed**. One of the latter, banded in Falmouth in 2010 returned on 5/21.

Yellow-throated Vireos were singing in Monmouth on 5/21 and seen at Rockport 5/23.

CORVIDS: **Gray Jays** were seen on many trips to Baxter SP and areas north of there. On the coast they were seen at Whiting and Prospect Harbor (RB).

Blue Jays were mentioned only generally in reports as were **Crows** and **Ravens**. There were 19 **Fish Crows** in Brunswick on 5/27 an high number.

LARKS: The sole report was of **Horned Larks** at the Lubec bar on 5/31 (MAA).

SWALLOWS: The arrival of all of our swallow species was documented in the last issue with dates ranging from 4/1 to 5/4. Incoming migratory waves seemed to occur the second week of May. On 5/13 there were 100 **Bank Swallows**, 1500 **Tree Swallows**, and 600 **Barn Swallows** over Scarboro Marsh. On 7/9 a small flight of Tree Swallows was seen heading south over the ocean south of Mt. Desert I.

TITS: **Boreal Chickadees** were found during trips to Lubec, Evans Notch, Gulf Hagas, and Baxter SP. **Black-capped Chickadees** were mentioned only as "list" birds during various counts and field trips.

Tufted Titmice were noted from Roque Island to the east (GH), in land to Bangor and Augusta, and south to Kittery.

NUTHATCHES: Both **Red-breasted** and **White-breasted Nuthatches** were mentioned only generally with little comment.

CREEPERS: **Brown Creepers** were also only generally mentioned in various reports and again with little comment.

WRENS: All **Carolina Wren** reports came from west and south of the Penobscot River. Two hatching year birds were caught and banded at Appledore I. as early as 5/26. **House Wrens** have been reported since late April at a number of locations. **Winter Wrens** arrived at several locations during the second week of April and there was a flurry of reports that fell during 5/10-11.

Marsh Wrens were seen at Lake Messalonskee on 5/29 and Corinna on 6/4.

KINGLETS: Both **Ruby-crowned** and **Golden-crowned** were listed in various reports and usually without additional comment.

GNATCATCHERS: There was an apparent increase in the numbers of **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** this spring. There were 22 reports from 5/15 until 7/1 and locations ranged from Wells east to Moosehorn NWR at Edmunds in Washington County.

THRUSHES: The rarity of the season was the **Northern Wheatear** that was at Scarboro Marsh from 5/4 to 5/10.

Eastern Bluebirds are starting second broods as this issue is being written on 7/20. **Veerys** were here in early May and have gone silent as of mid-July probably due to being on nests.

A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was seen at Viles Arboretum in Augusta on 5/21 and a **Bicknell's Thrush** was at Saddleback Mt. 7/3.

Reports of **Swainson's Thrush** arrivals centered on 5/15 while **Hermit Thrush** were reported from across the state and are still being heard as of 7/20. **Wood Thrush** numbers seemed to up slightly this spring and nest building was seen in Portland as early as 5/16.

MIMICS: **Gray Catbirds** arrived the first week of May with arrival dates and locations continuing for the next two weeks. **Mockingbirds** were reported only from Portland and North Berwick but they are much more widely spread than this.

Brown Thrashers have been seen since their arrival at several locations back in April. A nest was found three feet off the ground in a brush pile in Sedgwick on 6/5 (CMo).

PIPITS: **American Pipits** were reported only from Biddeford and Rangeley; both on 5/11.

WAXWINGS: **Cedar Waxwings** were sparsely reported in May but there were many June reports starting on 6/7 and ranging from Unity east to Trescott (FH).

WARBLERS: There were four sightings of **Blue-winged Warblers** this spring; Two birds at Limerick on 5/13, a singing bird at Freeport 5/15, a female in Bangor 5/18 and a final report of one at New Gloucester 6/9.

Single **Golden-winged Warblers** were on Monhegan I. 5/18 and at Biddeford Pool 5/19.

Tennessee Warblers started showing up the second week of May with birds at Mt. Vernon on 5/15, Unity 5/18, and many others from 5/20 on. **Nashville Warblers** were found at six locations on 5/4 and another six on 5/5.

Maine's 4th record of a **Virginia's Warbler** was at Monhegan I. on 5/29 and present that day only.

Parula Warblers arrived on 5/4 and within two days were being reported from across the state. Also arriving the same week were **Yellow Warblers** and **Chestnut-sided Warblers** with arrivals on 5/4.

*****Note**** The majority of warblers appear to arrive on either 5/4 or 5/11. This is probably an artifact in terms of arrival dates as both days are Sundays. The 4th had light rain but was warm and the 11th was a sunny and there were probably more birders out and about on those two days.*

The first **Magnolia Warbler** here on 4/25 and there was an arriving wave of this species on 5/11. **Cape May Warblers** are usually less common and this spring was no exception. There were a few reported starting on 5/8 at Augusta.

A **Black-throated Blue** at Portland back on 4/23 was the first and others were being seen as far east as Trescott as of 5/12. Migrant **Yellow-rumped Warblers** started being seen the last week of April. **Black-throated Green Warblers** were here in April and arrivals at new location reports continued to be received right through the end of May. **Blackburnian Warblers** started being seen on 5/4 with an increase in sightings on 5/11.

The only **Yellow-throated Warbler** of the spring was a bird at Prospect Harbor on 6/9 (RB).

Our early arrivals, **Pine** and **Palm Warblers** were being seen as early as 4/11 with a noticeable number arriving on 5/4. A **Western Palm Warbler** was reported from Hinckley 5/9. **Prairie Warblers** were first at Camden on 5/8, Augusta 5/11. Nineteen were counted at the Kennebunk Plains on 6/3.

Some other dates included **Blackpoll Warbler** at Freeport 5/16, 90 **Black-and-white Warblers** banded on Appledore I., 5/11, **Redstarts** at eight locations on 5/11, **Ovenbirds** on 5/4, **Northern Waterthrush** at Unity also on 5/4, and **Louisiana Waterthrush** at Lisbon on 5/12.

A **Protonotary Warbler** was seen far down east at Trescott 5/24 (FH).

On 5/29 a rare (for Maine in spring) **Kentucky Warbler** was seen at the Rachel Carson NWR.

Mourning Warblers were at Monhegan 5/24, Freeport 6/1, and they were listed as being fairly common at Pittston Farm 6/8.

Common Yellowthroats were...common after 5/8 and **Wilson's Warblers** were seen from Scarboro Marsh to Schoodic Pt. 5/18. **Canada Warblers** seemed to be a bit more common this spring with birds starting to be seen 5/11 at Unity and all across the state by 5/18.

TANAGERS: It was a good spring for **Summer Tanagers**. Between 5/3 and 6/1 there were 21 birds reported from 20 locations. **Scarlet Tanagers** were first noted at Unity on 5/7 followed by birds at Bowdoinham 5/11, Cornish 5/13, and many after that date. On 5/16 a **Western Tanager** was at Kennebunk and was seen through 5/20.

SPARROWS: **Eastern Towhees** were being seen back in April. There was a distinct wave that arrived across the state 5/8-11.

A **Tree Sparrow** lingered until 5/2 at Unity (TA). **Chipping Sparrows** were also well reported.

Clay-colored Sparrows were at Unity 5/13, Monhegan I. 5/25 and at the Kennebunk Plains 6/21. A rare **Brewer's Sparrow**, a western sagebrush species was found on Monhegan I. 5/25 and was last seen on 5/29.

Field Sparrows were territorial singing at several places from Hollis to Columbia Falls 5/11 to 5/16. **Vesper Sparrows** were at Thorndike, the Kennebunk Plains, and the old Columbia Falls radar station. The only spring **Lark Sparrow** was one at Monhegan I. on 5/14.

Savannah Sparrows were reported from across the state. They were nesting on Machias Seal I. as of 6/24. Several of the *Ipswich* variety were also noted. **Grasshopper Sparrows** seemed to be limited to the Kennebunk Plains area with all reports 6/3 to 7/3.

Nelson's and **Saltmarsh Sparrows** were found at Popham, Wells, and Scarboro Marsh. No reports came from any areas farther east.

Song Sparrows, were well reported from all areas. **Lincoln's Sparrows** were mostly seen south

of Portland with only one other report; from Bass Harbor on Mt. Desert I. All reports from 5/11 to 5/25. **Swamp Sparrows** were also pretty well spread across the state with all arrivals between 5/9-24.

White-throated Sparrows have been present across the state since early April. There seemed to be more **White-crowned Sparrows** with arrivals peaking on 5/4 and 5/11.

Slate-colored Juncos were noted all through May and usually without comment. An *Oregon* form was at Seal Island NWR on 5/30.

CARDINALIDAE: In addition to the resident **Cardinals** and regular arriving **Indigo Buntings** and **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** (both of the latter arriving the second week of May with most reports on 5/11) we had some rarities in this family. A **Painted Bunting** was on Monhegan I. 5/12 to 5/14 with another on Appledore I. 5/18-19. A **Black-headed Grosbeak**, the 8th record for Maine, was at Monhegan I. 5/14-15.

BLACKBIRDS: On 5/7 the first **Bobolink** was found at Unity and by 5/12 they were far down east at Pleasant Point in Sipayik (MAA).

Red-winged Blackbirds and **Grackles** have been reported since March and by early May the migratory flocks had dispersed into their breeding territories.

A few **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were mentioned in reports throughout May and all across the state.

Orchard Orioles started being seen on 5/5 in Bangor, Machias Seal Island 5/6, Monhegan Island and Freeport on 5/10, Deer Isle 5/13-16 (BBo), and at Spurwink Marsh in Cape Elizabeth 5/19.

Baltimore Orioles were quite common with most arrivals noted during the first week of May and by mid-month had spread east to Bar Harbor and north to Houlton.

FINCHES: Most members of this group were either mentioned generally or noted for their low numbers. **Purple Finch** reports were mixed with some reporters noting them as common at feeders and others as rare. **House Finches** were also mentioned only as "feeder" birds.

Red Crossbills were seen Mt. Megunticook 6/9 and at Baxter SP 7/1. **White-winged Crossbills** were also at Baxter on 6/23.

A **Pine Siskin** at Pownal 6/18 was the only one found in any of the reports.

Goldfinches were common and still are as of 7/20.

Evening Grosbeaks were seen at Dedham 5/18 (ME), Stow 6/2, Pittston arm 6/8, and Pownal 6/24.

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, TA Tom Aversa, AB Ann Boover, BBa Bruce Barker, BBo Bonnie Bochan, RB Roger Bowen, SB Seth Benz, TB Tom Bjorkman, ME Marcia Ellis, GF Ginny Fitts, NF Norm Famous, SF Susan Foss, EG Ed Grew, DKH Dede & Ken Heath, FH Fred Hartman, GH George Herrick, LH Lois Hatch, LHa Lynn Havsall, MPH Margot & Paul Haertel, RH Richard Hildreth, CJ Carol Jack, CoK Connie Kent, CrK Craig Kesselheim, ZK Zack Klyver, CMo Chip Moseley, CMu Carol Muth, JM John Manter, RM Rich Macdonald, WWM Wendy & Winston Moody, CP Charlie Pugh, DR Dartha Reid, BS Bill Sheehan, RS Rick Skoglund, AET Anita & Gene TeHennepe, WT William Townsend, CW Chuck Whitney, JW Jeanie Wilson. NP National Park, SP State Park, NWR National Wildlife Refuge, TWP Township, *fide* means on the word of, second-hand, unconfirmed.

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The next reporting period is July – August 2014. Reports are due by **September 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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