

BIRD OBSERVER

OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS



VOL. 4 NO. 1
JAN.-FEB. 1976

MUD HEN



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF	PAULA BUTLER
EDITORIAL BOARD	JOSEPH T. BISHOP WAYNE R. FLETCHER BRUCE A. GORRILL ROBERT H. STYMELST
REGIONAL STATISTICAL EDITOR	RUTH E. EMERY
COMPILERS	(CHIEF) ROBERT H. STYMELST RICHARD R. VEIN
PRODUCTION	PERRY DEANE LOUISE DEGIACOMO GAYLE MELLOR ETHEL C. PEARSON
SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER	TED ATKINSON

TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE BIRDING EXPERIMENT AS A BIRDER'S AID.....	MIPIAM E. WICKLEY	5
SIGHTING OF AN IVORY GULL.....	C. LEON STRICKLAND	8
THE SNEW.....	ROBERT M. BUSHNELL	10
BIRDING FROM A TRAIN SEAT.....	JIM BERRY	12
THE BIRD OBSERVER SUMMARY FOR NOVEMBER 1975.....		15
THE BIRD OBSERVER SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER 1975.....		22

Subscription to BIRD OBSERVER is based on a calendar year, from January to December, at \$2.50 per year. Back issues to new subscribers will be supplied as available.

Advertising space is available on the following schedule: full page, \$40.00; half page, \$25.00; quarter page, \$10.00. Subscribers only may advertise one-of-a-kind birding items free of charge on a space available basis. Such announcements must be limited to 25 words. All advertising copy is subject to approval by the staff.

REGIONAL COMPILERS

Region 1: Middlesex, Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Plymouth, Bristol, Barnstable, Duke, Nantucket	Ms. Ruth E. Emery, 229 Belmont Street, Wollaston 02170
Region 2: Worcester, Middlesex, Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Plymouth, Bristol, Barnstable, Duke, Nantucket	Mr. Brad Nikula, Park Street, Haverhill 02645
Region 3: Worcester, Middlesex, Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Plymouth, Bristol, Barnstable, Duke, Nantucket	Mr. Robert O'Hara, 45 Duller Street, Fall River 02730
Region 4: Worcester, Middlesex, Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Plymouth, Bristol, Barnstable, Duke, Nantucket	Mr. William S. Drummond, 2 Elm Street, Haverhill 02630
Region 5: Worcester, Middlesex, Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Plymouth, Bristol, Barnstable, Duke, Nantucket	Mr. Robert H. Stymelst, 58 Bank Street, Cambridge 02138
Region 6: Worcester, Middlesex, Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Plymouth, Bristol, Barnstable, Duke, Nantucket	Mr. Bradford Blodgett, 75 Railroad Avenue, Worcester 01606

Ms. Ruth E. Emery
 229 Belmont Street
 Wollaston, MA 02170



EDITOR'S PAGE

CORRECTION

The author of "The House Finch in Massachusetts," published in the November-December 1975 issue (Vol. 3, No. 6) of B. O. E. M. is Betty Smyth of Marshfield Hills, not Bruce A. Sorrie. Bird Observer regrets this error!

COMING EVENTS: Annual Meeting of the Brookline Bird Club, 2 April 1976.

Don Hopkins, co-founder of the New England Hawk Watch, will give a program entitled "New England Hawk Watch---A Summary of 5 Years of Study," at the Boston Museum of Science. The program begins at 7:30 p.m.

The Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas needs volunteers. This project is designed to map the breeding distribution of this state's birds during the five-year period from 1974 through 1978. It is jointly sponsored by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Game and by the Massachusetts Audubon Society. If you know the common breeding birds now by sight and sound and are willing to commit a few hours each week during the breeding season to the Project, contact Richard Forster, Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln, MA 01773. The telephone number is 259-9500.

On Saturday, the 21st of February, a Peterson's Field Guide was found in Newburyport. There was no name or address inside. The owner may recover it by contacting Helen C. Bates, 1341 Plumtree Road, Springfield, Massachusetts 01119.

FOR SALE: Binoculars, Nikon 7 x 35, shallow and regular eyecups, excellent case, \$90 ppd. Scope, Swift Zoom, excellent with screw clamp and UV filter, \$90 ppd. J. Wall, 76 Brambach Road, Scarsdale, N. Y. 10583

BE A PART OF MBO



Probably most of you have heard of MBO - many of you have visited us - and many of you are members - BUT if you are not, we need YOU to help provide funds for:

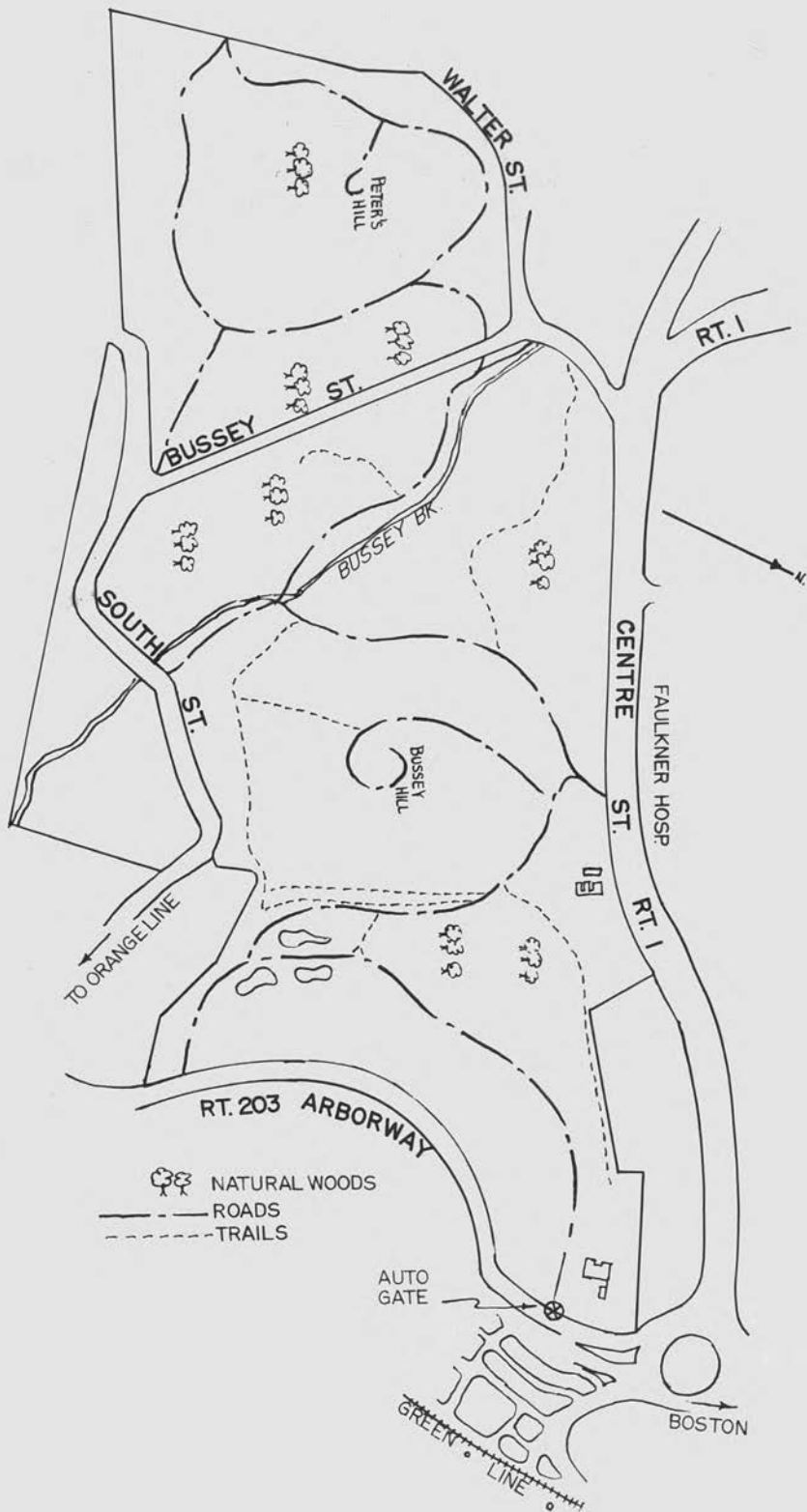
- 1) non-government research in environmental biology,
- 2) support of the Intern Program,
- 3) maintaining the bird-banding operation, and
- 4) publishing scientific reports and papers.

Manomet Bird Observatory is the only organization working full-time on Massachusetts' bird populations. Join MBO and tell your friends about us.

Single Membership...\$7 Family Membership...\$10

Manomet Bird Observatory
Box 0
Manomet, Massachusetts 02345

*
* *
*



WALTER ST.

PETER'S HILL

RT. 1

BUSSEY ST.

BUSSEY BK.

SOUTH ST.

FALKNER HOSP.
CENTRE ST.

BUSSEY HILL

RT. 1

TO ORANGE LINE

RT. 203 ARBORWAY

NATURAL WOODS
ROADS
TRAILS

AUTO GATE

GREEN LINE

BOSTON

THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM AS A BIRDING AREA

by Miriam E. Dickey, Boston

The Arnold Arboretum as a good birding area year round. Only four miles from downtown Boston, it is easily reached either by car or by public transportation. The Arboretum is situated in the Jamaica Plain section of Boston, at the intersection of Routes 1 (to Providence) and 203 (to the South Shore). There is very limited parking at each of the entrances, but cars also park along Centre Street (Route 1) and along the Arborway (Route 203).

To reach the Arboretum by public transportation, take the Orange Line to the Forest Hills Station, and then walk west a short distance along the Arborway. (Start out from the station by walking underneath the railroad overpass.) One can also reach the Arboretum via the Green Line. Take an Arborway via Huntington Avenue car from Park Street and get off at the corner of Eliot and Centre Streets. Then walk farther west on Centre Street to the main entrance of the Arboretum. (It is safest to turn left when one first reaches the Arborway and walk the short distance to the traffic lights that are at the Arboretum entrance.)

The Arnold Arboretum consists of 265 acres of varied habitats. There are small ponds, a meadow, a brook, cliffs of conglomerate, hills and a Hemlock Woods. The three largest and most permanent ponds are near the Forest Hills gate. The meadow lies immediately to the west, across from the Administration Building. Bussey Brook runs through the group of conifers near the Walter Street gate. It was at one time an Indian camp site, and in 1692 there was a sawmill on it. The two largest hills are Bussey Hill (behind the ponds) and Peter's Hill (across Bussey Street). Both are drumlins, hills formed by the glacier. Bussey Hill was probably virgin forest 300 years ago.

This land was originally given by the Massachusetts Bay Colony to Captain Joseph Weld, who bequeathed it to his son Jonathan. It was home for seven generations of Welds until 1806, when it was bought by Benjamin Bussey. Mr. Bussey constructed walks around his farm and woods and opened them to the public. Later, in 1842, he gave the land to Harvard. James Arnold of New Bedford in 1868 gave Harvard College a large sum of money for the purpose of establishing an arboretum. Frederick Law Olmstead, the designer of Boston's extensive park system, suggested incorporating the area into the city's "emerald belt." This was done, and the Arboretum opened in 1870, with Professor Charles Sprague Sargent as its first director.

Today, the Arboretum is a museum of living trees and shrubs. The land has been leased to Harvard for 1000 years, and the University supervises the botanical research. The trees and shrubs have been planted in groups by families: the maples are near the meadow and ponds; the birches are between the greenhouses and Bussey Hill; the beeches are near the South Street gate. There are also three natural woods, good for warblers during migration.

The City of Boston maintains and polices the roads. The Arboretum is surrounded by a stone wall and a chain link fence, but the gates are open daily from sunrise to sunset. The following rules apply: no picking or collecting of plant material, no fires, no pick-nicking, no bicycling, dogs only on leash, and no automobiles within the gates. (It is possible on weekdays to obtain an automobile pass at the Administration Building.)

I have birded here quite regularly and have been keeping records since 1939. Over most of this time span there have been regular birding walks each Saturday morning, from 8 to 10 a.m. These walks still continue, and visitors including children are welcome. (It is well to telephone 325-1483 to check on schedules.) Many of the boys and girls from the Children's Museum, which originally sponsored these walks, have spent many additional hours here, and each year we have done a Christmas Census. We have found that we can reach several good habitats by following the itinerary below:

Start by checking the feeder at the back of the Administration Building. This has often been a good spot for Red-breasted Nuthatches, and Ring-necked Pheasants feed on the ground under the feeder. In the spring, grackles and Blue Jays are common here; and Red-winged Blackbirds, Yellow Warblers, Common Yellowthroats and Savannah Sparrows are to be seen in the meadow across the road.

From the Administration Building we walk along the road toward the ponds. In the winter, Dark-eyed Juncos and White-throated and Tree Sparrows feed on the ground on both sides of the roadway, while American Goldfinches and Pine Siskins can usually be found in the tree tops. During the spring and summer, this area is good for both orioles, vireos, American

Robins, Common Flickers, Gray Catbirds and Brown Thrashers. The pond area frequently provides Green Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Mallard, Black Duck, Wood Duck, Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers during the spring migration.

At the ponds we turn left and go up the hill at the bubbler with the forsythias on our right. Mockingbirds and Cardinals reside year-round in this area, and Cedar Waxwings are frequently seen here. At the top of Bussey Hill turn to the left and then after a short distance to the right again. There are compost piles here that seem to attract sparrows year round. Bussey Hill is a superb location from which to see warblers during the spring migration. Not only will it attract a wide variety of species, but the hill also provides an excellent line of sight. The warblers will be found in the shrubbery and in the oaks to the right of the path down by the azaleas. Since these trees are downhill, you, on the path, will be more on a level with the upper branches in which the warblers will be feeding. This area is also good for Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Scarlet Tanager, Rufous-sided Towhee and Indigo Bunting.

From the top of Bussey Hill, our route goes down by the Chinese Path Area and then to the right toward the beeches. Chickadees, woodpeckers and nuthatches work the trees in this area, while sparrows and juncos go over the ground. When we reach the brook, we follow it (or the nearby road) toward the Walter Street gate. The rhododendron and mountain laurel areas along the brook are excellent in the spring for migrant warblers, and in the winter Boreal Chickadees can often be found quite near the gate itself. In the spring, if you have time, climb Hemlock Hill. This area is good for warblers, vireos, thrushes and Scarlet Tanagers.

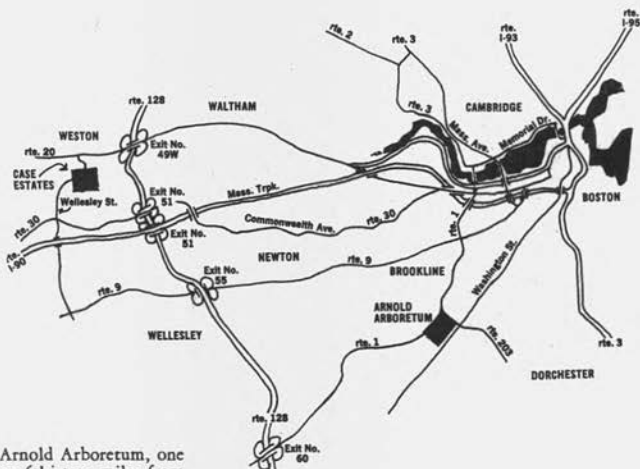
For the last section of our route, we cross Bussey Street to get to Peter's Hill. There are many crab apple trees here which are good for American Robins and Cedar Waxwings. The conifers are also good for Boreal Chickadee during influx years.

In the years since 1939, my group has seen close to 150 species of birds in the Arnold Arboretum. Some were easy; others took a good deal of sleuthing. Our composite list follows. Species marked with an asterisk have been seen occasionally; all others have been seen fairly regularly. Those species that have been seen on a nest with eggs or young are marked with a plus sign.

Double-crested Cormorant*	Rock-Dove+
Great Blue Heron	Mourning Dove+
Green Heron	Yellow-billed Cuckoo*
Black-crowned Night Heron	Black-billed Cuckoo*
American Bittern*	Barn Owl*
Canada Goose*	Screech Owl+
Mallard+	Great Horned Owl
Black Duck+	Snowy Owl*
Wood Duck+	Barred Owl*
Common Merganser*	Long-eared Owl*
Goshawk*	Saw-whet Owl*
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Common Nighthawk
Cooper's Hawk	Chimney Swift+
Red-tailed Hawk	Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Red-shouldered Hawk	Belted Kingfisher
Broad-winged Hawk*	Common Flicker+
Rough-legged Hawk*	Pileated Woodpecker*
Osprey*	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Peregrine Falcon*	Hairy Woodpecker
Merlin*	Downy Woodpecker
American Kestrel	Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker*
Ruffed Grouse*	Eastern Kingbird+
Bobwhite*	Great Crested Flycatcher+
Ring-necked Pheasant+	Eastern Phoebe+
Semipalmated Plover*	Eastern Wood Pewee
Killdeer*	Tree Swallow
American Woodcock*	Bank Swallow*
Spotted Sandpiper	Rough-winged Swallow
Solitary Sandpiper	Barn Swallow
Lesser Yellowlegs*	Cliff Swallow
Semipalmated Sandpiper*	Purple Martin*
Great Black-backed Gull	Blue Jay+
Herring Gull	Common Crow+
Ring-billed Gull	Fish Crow

Black-capped Chickadee+
 Boreal Chickadee
 Tufted Titmouse
 White-breasted Nuthatch+
 Red-breasted Nuthatch
 Brown Creeper
 House Wren+
 Mockingbird+
 Gray Catbird+
 Brown Thrasher+
 American Robin+
 Wood Thrush+
 Hermit Thrush
 Swainson's Thrush
 Gray-cheeked Thrush
 Eastern Bluebird*
 Golden-crowned Kinglet
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
 Cedar Waxwing+
 Northern Shrike*
 Starling+
 White-eyed Vireo
 Solitary Vireo
 Red-eyed Vireo+
 Philadelphia Vireo*
 Warbling Vireo+
 Black-and-white Warbler
 Golden-winged Warbler*
 Orange-crowned Warbler*
 Nashville Warbler
 Northern Parula
 Yellow Warbler+
 Magnolia Warbler
 Cape May Warbler
 Black-throated Blue Warbler
 Yellow-rumped Warbler
 Black-throated Green Warbler
 Blackburnian Warbler
 Yellow-throated Warbler*
 Chestnut-sided Warbler
 Bay-breasted Warbler
 Blackpoll
 Pine Warbler
 Prairie Warbler+
 Palm Warbler
 Ovenbird+
 Northern Waterthrush*
 Louisiana Waterthrush*
 Common Yellowthroat+
 Yellow-breasted Chat*
 Wilson's Warbler
 Hooded Warbler*
 Canada Warbler
 American Redstart
 House Sparrow+
 Bobolink*
 Eastern Meadowlark

Red-winged Blackbird+
 Orchard Oriole*
 Northern Oriole+
 Rusty Blackbird
 Common Grackle+
 Brown-headed Cowbird
 Western Tanager*
 Scarlet Tanager+
 Cardinal+
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak+
 Indigo Bunting+
 Evening Grosbeak
 Purple Finch
 House Finch
 Pine Grosbeak*
 Common Redpoll*
 Pine Siskin
 American Goldfinch+
 Red Crossbill*
 White-winged Crossbill*
 Rufous-sided Towhee+
 Savannah Sparrow
 Vesper Sparrow
 Lark Sparrow*
 Dark-eyed Junco
 Tree Sparrow
 Chipping Sparrow+
 Field Sparrow
 White-crowned Sparrow
 White-throated Sparrow
 Fox Sparrow
 Swamp Sparrow
 Song Sparrow+
 Snow Bunting*



THE CASE ESTATES of the Arnold Arboretum, one hundred twelve acres in Weston (thirteen miles from Jamaica Plain), serve as the nursery and experimental planting area of the Arboretum. Also included are ground cover and flower displays, small and ornamental trees, and shrubs.

SIGHTING OF AN IVORY GULL

C. Leon Strickland, Rochester, N.H.

Strong winds had been blowing in from the sea for a considerable time, with intermittent rain, snow and sleet. When the weather is like this, we like to check the coastline to see what might have been blown in by the storm. (For 47 years I have been an increasingly avid, intemperate, inveterate, incurable, dedicated naturalist and outdoorsman, with a particular interest in birds, perhaps because they are the most appealing and readily observable of the wild fauna.) My son, Carl III, and his wife, Kathy, were visiting us from New York state for the holidays. Since they share our interest, they decided to take my wife, Beverly, and me to Plum Island.

We drove to the island, and, hoping to find an area where birds might have taken refuge from the storm at open sea, we hiked to the far northeastern corner. However, far up the Merrimack the great waves were being lashed to foam, and no sensible bird would linger at the mouth of the river. We saw none, except for an occasional gull moving with the wind and a couple of Savannah Sparrows in the grass and weeds. The tide was coming full and was encroaching on the land more than usual.

We decided to try the Salisbury side of the mouth of the Merrimack. I could see gulls flying over the distant Salisbury marsh. Maybe there would be an unusual one among them, or a Snowy Owl, or an uncommon duck, or at least Horned Larks, Snow Buntings and Lapland Longspurs on the large, flat camping and recreation area.

After checking the south end of Salisbury beach, we headed down toward the boat launching ramp and parking area, where a number of duck hunters had parked their vehicles. With an ardor and enthusiasm worthy of a better cause, and in spite of the weather, they had actually taken small boats out into those dangerous seas to blinds and other hiding places from which they might destroy the wildlife we had come to admire. We felt there was little hope of seeing much with the hunters around ready to shoot anything that came in sight, if not in range, but we drove on down to the boat ramp. We had started to turn around, as the cars do to back up and put the boats into the water, when my wife and my daughter-in-law both said, "That gull is different!" I heard it twice before I "came to" and asked, "Where?" "On that cement platform by the boat ramp," they said.

When I turned around to look at what they were talking about, I saw a small, mostly white gull. At first glance, I wondered if the Ross' Gull might have miraculously returned. I even imagined that I might be seeing the pointed tail, but those with me showed me that the tail was straight across, and that I was looking at the long, pointed wings extending over the shorter tail. We had only the Golden Press Field Guide with us, but, even with those rather poor pictures and scanty information, we quickly identified the bird as an Ivory Gull that had not reached adult plumage. We particularly noted the short, black legs and white pantaloons, the neat, black, horizontal Vs on the primaries, and the touch of dark on and between the shoulders. The sooty area extending to the throat from the beak and down from the eyes threw us off a bit, as did the yellow-tipped, blue-grey (rather than black) bill. But we almost immediately felt that, because of size, shape, and other identifying marks, it could be nothing but an Ivory Gull. It was our first sighting of the species, and we knew it was rare, but we had little concept of how rare.

So began an hour and a half or more of observation at close range. The gull appeared to be pecking at some stringy, wet animal remains on the wet, three- or four-foot wide, cement platform. Too little remained of the food for us to see it, except when the bird would raise a stringy bit with its beak. The bird seemed to be unafraid and only a bit cautious if we approached it too closely. It appeared hungry, weary and reluctant to fly.

The wind was changing toward the north, and there was increasingly more sleet mixed in with the rain. A foggy mist obscured the view at any distance, but we stayed on. We saw the bird lift its long, wide, white wings, as a gust of wind threatened to blow it off the cement platform. My son took pictures at different angles, with and without his scope--about twenty in all. I told him that the bird might not stay, and we should have proof that we had seen it. Hunters approached, and we heard one say, "There's that odd gull again." We (perhaps foolishly) feared for the bird's life. We appealed to them not to harm or frighten it and explained that it was a rare bird, and they were really very respectful.

It was about two o'clock on the afternoon of December 22, 1975, when we first saw the bird. As the hours wore on, the blowing sleet came faster. The darkness of evening was

coming on prematurely because of the storm, and we knew that we should be leaving soon. Assuming that neither we nor anybody else might ever have a chance to see this bird again, we decided to try for a real close-up picture, even if we should frighten the bird away. My son approached to within a few feet before the bird flew a short distance into the wind, and then returned as Carl retreated. For the next half hour, we watched it fly and return, fly and return, sometimes alighting on an ice floe and floating by on the swiftly receding tide, sometimes flying without fear so close to the car that we could almost have touched it. Then the time came when we knew that we must go. As we left, the gull flew back to the ramp where we had first seen it. It was still there when we lost sight of the ramp. We stopped to see a Short-eared Owl in a nearby bush, then headed for home in Rochester, New Hampshire.

I thought of stopping in Portsmouth to ask Leon and Betty Phinney if an Ivory Gull had been reported, but it was dark, cold and stormy, and, as we had missed out noon meal, we were anxious to get home.

The next day, I went up to the Skowhegan, Maine area, and then back to Kittery that evening. Sometime after nine o'clock that Tuesday night, more than a day after we had seen the bird, I called Leon Phinney from a friend's home in Kittery to ask if an Ivory Gull had been reported. He assured me that it had, and I thought it was just "old stuff" to the bird-watching world. Imagine my surprise when I got home to find out that my son had reported it, and that we really were the first to see and identify it!

We went back to see the bird the day before Christmas without any luck, and we assumed it had become refreshed and homesick and had left; but we were very pleased to see it again the next Sunday along with dozens of fine bird-watching people. Meeting them is a joy comparable to seeing the Ivory Gull, and very likely more enduring.

A RARE BIRD INDEED!

A couple of years ago, I remember being fooled on a Christmas Count by a decoy that had gotten loose. Perhaps that is forgivable, but if I'm ever again in the vicinity of Vancouver International Airport, I'll think twice before adding a Peregrine Falcon to my list.

Large congregations of Dunlin gather there during migration, causing a potential threat to aircraft. Though common "scare" tactics failed to disperse the birds, trained Peregrines were effective but expensive.

Yet, most birds are affected by the shape of a predator. Would a falcon-shaped model aircraft work? Robert Randall (right in picture) built such a radio-controlled device. According to Science Dimension Vol. 7, No. 6, "Dunlins, ducks, gulls and geese treated the falcon-shaped model as a potential threat and were effectively dispersed from the area. It still has to be determined if, through repeated exposure to the model, the birds will learn that it is different from a live falcon and not a threat to them."

L. J. Robinson



THE SMEW

by Robert M. Bushnell, North Providence, R.I.

On January 3, 1976, in Middletown, Rhode Island, Hugh Willoughby and I found what is apparently the first Smeu (Mergus albellus) ever to be acceptably recorded in the contiguous forty-eight states. By now this famous bird has been seen by hundreds of birders from all over the United States and Canada. Since this adult drake Smeu is such a beautiful and distinctive bird, and one with which everyone has by now become familiar, it is not necessary to repeat its field marks here. However, details of the sequence of events which led to its fame may not be familiar to the general reader. Certainly, it has been a unique experience which we shall not soon forget.

On that memorable day we arrived at Green End Pond at 9:35 a.m. The weather was cold and raw, with the sky overcast and threatening, but no rain had yet fallen. We began to examine the small portion of the pond which is north of Green End Avenue. Hugh used his binoculars while I methodically looked over all of the gulls and ducks with my gunscope. Suddenly, there it was. I knew instantly that it was not a North American species nor any other species with which I was acquainted. I blurted out my initial reaction: "What the hell is THAT?" Hugh turned to see where I was looking; spotting the rear view of a white duck, he said, "Looks like an Oldsquaw." But just as quickly the bird turned, and Hugh immediately negated his offhand remark. After a moment of thought he said that he thought it was a Smeu, but that he could not be positive. We decided to study it more closely and to write down complete field notes. After studying the bird swimming and diving for approximately thirty minutes, we then left in order to bird another nearby area--where we were pleased to find several good species for our rapidly growing 1976 Annual List.

As you can see, our initial reaction to the Smeu was one of decidedly suppressed excitement. For one thing, we were not yet certain of its identification. Further, we both felt that if indeed it was a Smeu, there was only a slim chance of its being a wild individual. As we talked it over while we birded Sachuest Point, we gradually realized that it would be best to check out the various possibilities. About an hour after we had left Green End Pond, we stopped at Middletown's Norman Bird Sanctuary to examine a European field guide. Because the sanctuary was closed, however, we had to wait the additional hour until we had arrived home before we were able to verify the tentative identification. Since the hour was later than I had told my wife and family to expect me, I merely dropped Hugh off at his front door and drove home. As I was coming in the door, Hugh telephoned me. We were both happy with his report that our field notes matched perfectly with the description and color plate of the Smeu in Roger Tory Peterson's Field Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe. After conferring with me, Hugh then immediately called Charles Wood of the Audubon Society of Rhode Island to report the presence of this extraordinary record and to express our puzzlement about the question of whether or not it might possibly be a wild bird. I also called Charles a few minutes later to add my own information. Charles is, of course, the co-editor of our monthly Rhode Island Field Notes and has been an outstanding birder for many years. Charles felt, as we still did, that it must be an escaped bird, but he was nevertheless very much interested by the intriguing possibilities. We agreed that the situation should be checked further, but no definite plans to do so were made at that time.

Our next bit of data came in on the following afternoon (Sunday, January 4) when Charles rather excitedly called Hugh. He had arranged an excursion to Middletown to check things out, like the careful observer he is. The group consisted of Dr. Douglas L. Kraus, Eloise Saunders, T. Morton Curry, and of course Charles Wood--all of them members of the Little Rest Bird Club. They found the Smeu actively feeding where we had left it the day before. They became increasingly interested as the bird was clearly very shy and wary and would not allow a close approach. In fact, when they tried to get within about 100 feet of it, the bird took off and flew very strongly to Easton's Pond, which is adjacent to Green End Pond. At this point Dr. Kraus, who is the dean of Rhode Island ornithologists and an extremely knowledgeable birder, expressed his conviction that this Smeu could very well be a legitimate wild individual. This impression was certainly not shaken by an immediate check with the neighbors which was undertaken by Charles: local people who feed the domestic and wild waterfowl in the small pond stated emphatically that they had never seen the small whitish duck until the previous afternoon (that is, on January 3 at feeding time).

During that day Hugh had remembered reading an article by Richard Ryan of West Orange, New Jersey, in a 1972 issue of Birding magazine which stated that any Smeu appearing in the wild in North America would very likely be a genuine vagrant because the species is so rarely maintained in captivity. Thus it seemed that the more we learned, the more likely

it was becoming that our little discovery was legitimate! At this point our excitement was beginning to build, but we still could not be certain of the origin of this scarce Eurasian merganser.

On Monday, January 5, Charles Wood made a major decision: he called the Massachusetts Audubon Society to report the Smew's presence to their staff. He asked for Peter Alden since Peter has often birded in Rhode Island and is in fact a frequent leader on the Block Island fall round-ups of the Audubon Society of Rhode Island. But Peter was in Caracas or some such place--as usual! The word reached Mrs. Ruth P. Emery that evening at the Nuttall Ornithological Club meeting in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Accompanied by Bruce A. Sorrie, Mrs. Emery was at Easton's Pond on Tuesday morning. The bird was not to be found! Guided by Robert A. Conway, one of the leading Rhode Island field men, the little band of searchers checked out every pond on the southern end of Aquidneck Island which Bob could think of. No luck! Bob had to get back to his professional duties, so Bruce and Mrs. Emery made one more attempt to locate the bird on Easton's Pond. There it was! Drawing upon her familiarity with the species in Europe, Mrs. Emery had no difficulty whatsoever in confirming the Smew. She also ran into Hugh, who was just arriving after a morning at work; Hugh gave her a copy of an article which he had written hurriedly the previous evening in which he had presented his opinion (with several reasons stated) that the bird was very possibly and indeed rather probably a natural occurrence. His major point was the fact that a once-in-a-lifetime giant storm had just ravished western Europe. Its very strong winds were in just exactly the required directions to bring a storm-tossed waif to North America from the British Isles or even from southern Scandinavia--both of which are areas where Smews are regular in that season. In any case, Mrs. Emery returned home, presented her findings to her colleagues at the Massachusetts Audubon Society, and The Word went out.

The staff at MAS alerted the National Audubon Society in New York; with their assistance Dick Forster and others determined the identity of all aviculturalists who just MIGHT keep Smews in captivity. All of them were contacted, and all of them took a census of their Smews, if any. The continental grand total of eleven Smews were all accounted for. Meanwhile, continually adding further data were the excellent birders who came to see for themselves. For example, on Wednesday, January 7, Davis W. Finch found the Smew sitting on the ice and noted that it did not have a leg band or any other form of marking which a captive bird might have. He also noted that it was feeding in a normal merganser manner; he remarked that if it had ever been a tame bird, then someone had done an excellent job of getting into a SCUBA outfit to teach it how to dive! The evidence was becoming very convincing indeed. On Thursday, January 8, the good news was announced: the Smew was almost certainly wild! Thus we added another species to the previous Saturday's list. That same Thursday the news made the headlines of newspapers across the nation, largely through the efforts of William I. Claiborne, staff writer for the Washington Post. The race of birders to Little Rhody was on.

Throughout the episode of the Smew, Hugh and I have been impressed by the efforts of all those who helped in establishing the authenticity of this rare record. It was very gratifying to see so many sincere people were interested not only in listing the bird but also in helping with the big job of verifying its wild status. Several of these good people have been mentioned here, but obviously there are many others whose important involvement is not specifically known by us. On behalf of all birders, we would like to thank each of these people--although of course the real thanks in most cases was a good look at the Smew itself. We sincerely hope that everyone who came to see the bird has succeeded in doing so.

As of February 4, 1976, the Smew is still present and very healthy despite the exceedingly cold weather of January. It appears to be finding sufficient food, and it resolutely refuses to become pauperized--as the Ivory Gull has been. In our turn, we are asking very little of our local Smew: only that it be on public display during good weather and on all weekends! Its contract runs through the remainder of the winter, but (as all good birders know from sad experience) wild birds can be very independent thinkers and do not necessarily have a reliable history of meeting their contractual commitments. We can only hope that The Official Bird of the City of Newport, Rhode Island, continues to honor the solemn ceremonial obligations of its august position.

BIRDING FROM A TRAIN SEAT

by Jim Berry, Ipswich

Over the past three and one half years since moving to Massachusetts, I have been a daily commuter on the Boston and Main railroad from Ipswich to Boston. The tracks pass in several places through fine habitat, particularly good for waterbirds.

Appleton Farm in Ipswich/Hamilton is dependable for Cattle Egrets in summer and Red-tailed Hawks year-round. The marsh in Wenham next to the golf course probably has breeding ducks (Black Ducks and Mallards) and once in a while yields an American Bittern. Beverly harbor is good for cormorants (including Great), and the adjacent North River in Salem is the winter home of several hundred Black Ducks and several dozen Buffleheads. At low tide (in season) it is an excellent tidal flat for shorebirds, and it was in this heavily populated area one morning that Stan Baker saw a Great Horned Owl sitting on a telephone pole!

The next spot, and one of the best, is the marsh beside the Salem Municipal Golf Course. Herons, American Coots, Wood Ducks, American Bitterns, and Common Gallinules are common here, and the latter three probably breed. It was here that I saw a bird that I may never again see from a moving train, a Least Bittern, which obligingly flew up from near the tracks and showed me its striking back and wing pattern on a lucky summer morning.

Far and away the best location on the trip is the salt marsh in Saugus and Revere, despite the presence of an enormous (and obviously leaching) dump. In this marsh I have seen six species of herons, a Glossy Ibis or two, Double-crested Cormorants, scaup, Red-breasted Mergansers, at least eight species of shorebirds, Bonaparte's Gulls, Common Terns, Belted Kingfishers, and in January 1975 a Snowy Owl close enough for easy identification. The dump itself provides food not only for thousands of gulls, but also for pheasants and American Kestrels (year-round) and for occasional Red-tailed and Rough-legged Hawks in winter. On 29 April 1975 I was lucky enough to see a Short-eared Owl fly off the garbage and follow the train right beside my window before veering off to the inner wilds of the Saugus Dump. (Mine was one of the few clean windows; there are obstacles to be overcome in trying to watch birds from the Boston and Maine.)

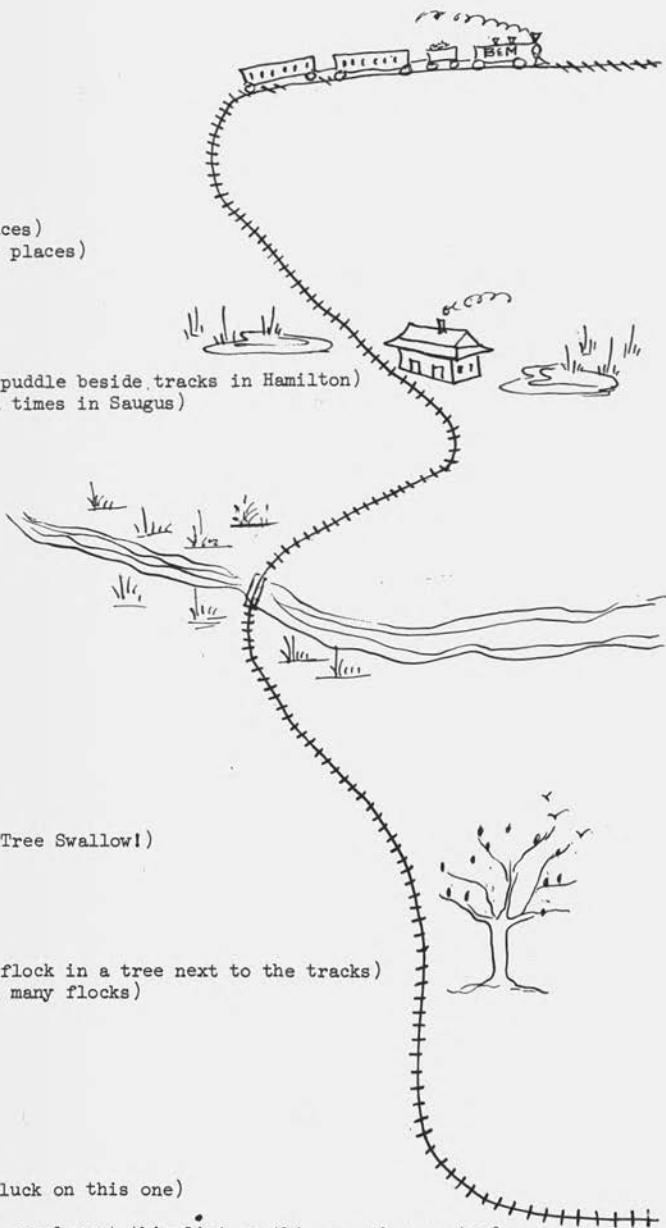
From Revere the tracks turn southwest down the west side of the Chelsea River--another good shorebird spot at low tide--then swing west through Chelsea and Everett, before turning back to the south to cross the Mystic River at the Monsanto Chemical plant. For several years (at least) Herring Gulls have bred here, with some chicks hatching and growing up within two feet of the tracks. There is a half-sunken barge/crane combination that gives the place a rather surrealistic appearance. A few of the Herring Gulls nest right on the barge, which is piled with dirt with weeds growing out of it. If Great Black-backed Gulls haven't yet bred in this area, it is probably only a matter of time. In other seasons I have seen Ring-billed, Bonaparte's and even Laughing Gulls here (these last, two or three times last fall, in flight and easily recognizable). Other species found in this area include Pied-billed Grebes, Ring-necked Pheasants (no kidding), kingfishers, dowitchers, Ruddy Turnstones, several other shorebirds, and a Common Goldeneye.

The rest of the trip into North Station is uneventful, with little to be seen on the Charles River except the ubiquitous Herring Gulls and a few oil-eating Mallards.

So there it is: one of the more mundane birdwatching experiences of our time, but every once in a while good for a surprise or two. As of now my species total since July 1972 is 69, plus a few probables. Here are the species, annotated where appropriate to mollify the skeptical:

Pied-billed Grebe
Great Cormorant (1 im. flew over train in Beverly Harbor, October 1975)
Double-crested Cormorant
Great Blue Heron (sometimes in mid-winter in Saugus)
Green Heron
Cattle Egret
Great Egret (several times in Saugus, Salem)
Snowy Egret
Black-crowned Night Heron (common in Saugus)
Least Bittern (see text)
American Bittern
Glossy Ibis
Canada Goose

Mallard
 Black Duck
 Pintail
 Blue-winged Teal
 Wood Duck
 Scaup (sp.)
 Common Goldeneye
 Bufflehead
 Red-breasted Merganser
 Red-tailed Hawk
 Rough-legged Hawk
 American Kestrel (many places)
 Ring-necked Pheasant (many places)
 Common Gallinule
 Semipalmated Plover
 Killdeer
 Black-belled Plover
 Ruddy Turnstone
 Common Snipe (1 flew from puddle beside tracks in Hamilton)
 Spotted Sandpiper (several times in Saugus)
 Yellowlegs (sp.)
 Dunlin
 Dowitcher (sp.)
 Semipalmated Sandpiper
 Great Black-backed Gull
 Herring Gull
 Ring-billed Gull
 Laughing Gull
 Bonaparte's Gull
 Common Tern
 Rock Dove
 Mourning Dove
 Snowy Owl
 Short-eared Owl
 Chimney Swift
 Belted Kingfisher
 Common Flicker
 Eastern Kingbird
 Eastern Phoebe
 Barn Swallow (but never a Tree Swallow!)
 Blue Jay
 Common Crow
 Mockingbird
 Brown Thrasher
 American Robin
 Cedar Waxwing (happily, a flock in a tree next to the tracks)
 Starling (unhappily, many, many flocks)
 House Sparrow
 Bobolink (Appleton Farm)
 Eastern Meadowlark
 Redwinged Blackbird
 Northern Oriole
 Common Grackle
 Brown-headed Cowbird
 American Goldfinch
 Rufous-sided Towhee (pure luck on this one)



Can any other train commuters supplement this list on this or other routes?

On Saturday, the 21st of February, a Peterson's Field Guide was found in Newburyport. There was no name or address inside. The owner may recover it by contacting Helen C. Bates, 1341 Plumtree Road, Springfield, Massachusetts 01119.

For Sale: Binoculars, Nikon 7X35, shallow and regular eyecups, excellent case \$90 ppd. Scope, Swift Zoom excellent with screw clamp and UV filter \$90 ppd. J. Wall, 76 Brambach Road, Scarsdale, N.Y. 10583.

The following is reprinted from Nature's Ways by Wayne Hanley, Massachusetts Audubon Society.

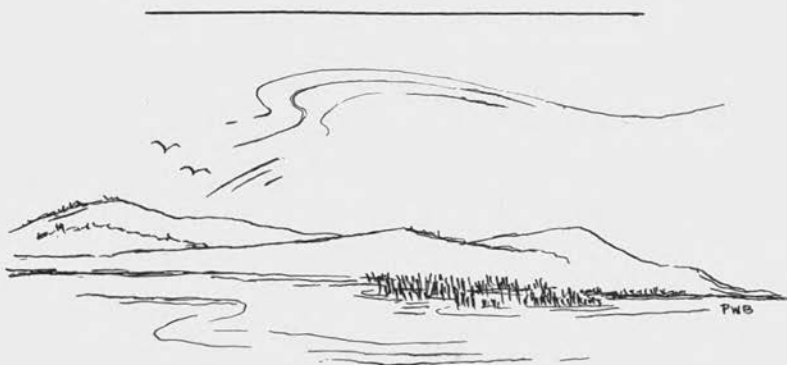
For an excellent view of young ospreys ready to fledge, one might visit the Wolf Neck Woods State Park in Freeport, Maine.

From Station No. 2 on the Wolf Neck trail map, one may gaze across a deep but narrow gouge that Casco Bay has made in the solid stone coast and watch two young ospreys no more than a couple hundred feet away. So near, in fact, that markings on the birds can be seen clearly without the use of binoculars. In a nearby tree on this rock known as Goggins Island the adult ospreys frequently perch, alert to scatter any interlopers that might endanger the young.

The tableau will not last much longer for the young already are flapping their wings and occasionally becoming airborne above the heap of sticks that serve as a nest. Any day, one of them will discover that the world is larger than a hundred pounds of limbs latticed in a dead tree top. They should, however, devote much of the remainder of the summer to sunning themselves on perches on the island.

It is encouraging to see a Maine nest with two young, for Massachusetts ospreys have done rather poorly this season. Gilbert and Jo Fernandez of Dartmouth, who devote each summer to monitoring ospreys along the Westport River, report that only nine were hatched this summer, compared to 24 last year.

The Wolf Neck Woods ospreys are a dependable enough feature to rate an interpretative board on the coastal trail at the Casco Bay park.



Birdwatchers
Don't Forget
MONOMOY
In Your Summer
Tours

For More Information
Call or Write:
ARTHER GOULD
Box 3
West Chatham Ma. 02669
(617) 945-2443

THE BIRD OBSERVER SUMMARY FOR NOVEMBER, 1975

Record mild temperatures prevailed during this month in eastern Massachusetts, with an average temperature of 51.8° for the entire month, 6.6° higher than normal. No temperatures below freezing were recorded during the month; the previous latest date of the first freeze was November 30, 1968. The only heavy rain fell during the northeasterly storm of the 12-13th.

A tremendous number of Horned Grebes was observed on November 15th in upper Buzzard's Bay; most of the estimated 1000 birds were noted sitting on the water.

The storm of the 12-13th was presumably responsible for bringing a spectacular flight of shearwaters close to the eastern shores of Cape Cod on the 14th; 3000 Greater Shearwaters and 40+ Sooties were noted feeding in the rips off North Truro and Provincetown at this time. The only previous record for comparable numbers of these species for this date in the state was on November 30, 1957 when 3700 Greater and a few Sooty Shearwaters were noted off Nauset Beach. In addition, a Northern Fulmar was observed in Cape Cod Bay on the 28th.

At least 17 Whistling Swans were recorded during the course of the month, and other migrant waterfowl continued at maximum concentrations, as no inland water froze. A Common Teal was observed at Plum Island, and 6 drake European Wigeons were reported from various localities. The highest counts of Ring-necked Ducks and Canvasbacks were from Lakeville, where a Tufted Duck was also seen on the 8th. This was assumed to be the same bird present last winter. Fulvous Tree Ducks continue to wander to this state; one was shot out of a flock of 7 in Marshfield "late in October," and another flock of 4 was observed on the outer Cape.

A Gyrfalcon was seen on Monomoy; there is doubt as to whether this is the same bird of previous winters returning due to apparent differences in facial markings.

Late shorebird migrants included Semipalmated Plover (28th), Short-billed Dowitcher (5th), Marbled Godwit (30th) and Hudsonian Godwit (8th). The Lesser Black-backed Gull continued at Orleans until the 4th.

A startling flock of 40 Thick-billed and 2 Common Murres was seen sitting on the water at Manomet following a night of northeasterly winds on the 25th. Dovekies were virtually absent from the region this fall.

The only pronounced movement of passerines and other land birds occurred on the 22nd-23rd. The most interesting birds recorded then were 2 Myiarchus flycatchers, one identified as a Great Crested in Rockport and the other as an Ash-throated in Orleans. We are still awaiting details on these observations.

Irruptions of Bohemian Waxwings and Boreal Chickadees seem likely for this winter; the reports of several of each species in the state this month reflect reports of larger numbers in northern New England already this fall.

R.R.V.

Common Loon:			
2,29	Sharon, P.I.	17,26	D.Clapp, BBC(R.Veit)
Red-throated Loon:			
9,17	Salisbury & P.I., Quincy	90,45	R.Forster#, D.Brown
30	Revere-Winthrop	47	R.Stymeist#
Red-necked Grebe:			
1,9	Scituate, Salisbury	3,6	SSBC(J.Nichols), R.Forster#
30	Revere	2	R.Stymeist
Horned Grebe:			
15	Upper Buzzards Bay	<u>1000+</u>	W.Petersen, B.Sorrie
Northern Fulmar:			
28	Eastham(First Encounter Beach)	1	C.Goodrich, B.Nikula
Greater Shearwater:			
14	N.Truro-Provincetown	<u>3000+</u>	R.Veit, W.Russell, G.McCaskie
Sooty Shearwater:			
14	N.Truro-Provincetown	<u>40+</u>	R.Veit, W.Russell, G.McCaskie

<u>Leach's Storm-Petrel:</u>			
14	Eastham(First Encounter Beach)	1	R.Veit
22	W.Gloucesterc	1	BBC(G.Soucy)
<u>Gannet:</u>			
14,30	N.Truro,Nantucket	<u>8000+</u> ,500+	R.Veit,W.Russell,S.Perkins
<u>Great Cormorant:</u>			
1,22	Scituate,Lakeville	25,1 imm.	SSBC(J.Nichols),W.Petersen
30	Braintree	1 imm.	W.Petersen
<u>Double-crested Cormorant:</u>			
9,15,29	P.I.,Lakeville,Nantucket	10,1,3	H.Merriman,W.Petersen,S.Perkins
<u>Little Blue Heron:</u>			
20-29	Falmouth	1 imm.	A.Clarke
<u>Cattle Egret:</u>			
13-23	Orleans	1	v.o.
<u>Snowy Egret:</u>			
1,8;16-30	P.I.;Falmouth	2,1;1	M&A Argue,BBC(R.Heil);A.Clarke
<u>Black-crowned Night Heron:</u>			
8,11	P.I.,Dartmouth	1,1	BBC(R.Heil),P.Regan
<u>American Bittern:</u>			
1,9	Eastham(F.H.),P.I.	7,4	V.Laux,H.Merriman
<u>Whistling Swan:</u>			
2	Salisbury,Nauset	9,7	N.Wheelock & M&A Argue,V.Laux
23,29	Westport,Acoaxet	1 ad.,1 ad.	W.Petersen,BBC(R.O'Hara)
<u>Canada Goose:</u>			
1,29	P.I.	1000,250	BBC(R.Braun),BBC(V.Albee)
<u>Brant:</u>			
2,9	Eastham,Brewster	1000, <u>3500+</u>	R.Veit & S.Perkins,W.Petersen#
9	Newburyport	<u>27</u>	R.Forster
<u>Snow Goose:</u>			
8,19	Truro,Falmouth	1,1	B.Nikula#,A.Clarke
<u>Gadwall:</u>			
22,30;30	Ipswich;Concord	<u>50+</u> ,28;75	J.Berry;H.Merriman
<u>Pintail:</u>			
9,15	P.I.,Ipswich	30,10	H.Merriman,J.Berry
<u>Blue-winged Teal:</u>			
2-16	3 localities	7 individuals	v.o.
<u>Green-winged Teal (Eurasian):</u>			
30	P.I.	1	I.Giriunas
<u>European Wigeon:</u>			
thr.;15-16	Nantucket;Westport	3 m.;1 m.	R.Veit & Andrews#;v.o.
26	Cohasset	1 m.	G.Wilson & R.Emery
<u>American Wigeon:</u>			
2,8,10	Ipswich,Nantucket,Woburn	75+,300+,500	J.Berry,R.Veit,R.Forster
<u>Northern Shoveler:</u>			
9,14	Monomoy,P.I.	<u>200</u> ,53	C.Goodrich#,T.Lawrence
<u>Wood Duck:</u>			
5-16	5 localities	7 individuals	v.o.
<u>Redhead:</u>			
8;15,30	Nantucket;Braintree	65+;12,20	R.Veit;W.Petersen
18	Falmouth	11+	A.Clarke
<u>Ring-necked Duck:</u>			
thr.;8,22	Cambridge(F.P.);Lakeville	48;235+, <u>660+</u>	R.Stymeist;W.Petersen
<u>Canvasback:</u>			
8,18	Nantucket,Falmouth	250+,150+	R.Veit,A.Clarke
8,30	Lakeville	120,250+	W.Petersen,D.Briggs
<u>Greater Scaup:</u>			
thr.	Cambridge(F.P.)	130	T.Lawrence
15&22	Lakeville	50&100	W.Petersen & SSBC(S.Higginbotham)
<u>Lesser Scaup:</u>			
8&15	Lakeville	235&300	B.Sorrie,W.Petersen
<u>Tufted Duck:</u>			
8	Lakeville(Assawompsett)	1 m.	W.Petersen,B.Sorrie
<u>Common Goldeneye:</u>			
19,22	Wollaston,Cape Ann	12,10	E.Morrier,BBC(E.Pyburn)
<u>Bufflehead:</u>			
2,19	Newburyport,Wollaston	500+,450	J.Berry,E.Morrier
29	Nahant	850	R.Forster,P.Buckley

Oldsquaw:				
2, 24	Newburyport, Barnstable (S.N.)	40, 400		M&A Argue, R. Pease
27	Rockport, Manomet	200+, 200		R. Forster, W. Petersen
29	Nantucket	400+		S. Perkins
King Eider:				
15, 25	Rockport, Barnstable (S.N.)	1 f., 1 m.		R. Stymeist, R. Forster
Surf Scoter:				
9, 15	Gloucester, Lakeville	100, 1 m.		H. Merriman, W. Petersen
Black Scoter:				
1	Scituate	200		SSBC (J. Nichols)
Ruddy Duck:				
1, 9	Eastham	150+, 50		W. Petersen, SSBC (R. Fox)
20, 29	Fall River, Lakeville	100+, 220		T. Athearn, W. Petersen
Hooded Merganser:				
8, 9	Lakeville, Lincoln	30, 15		W. Petersen#, R. Forster
15	Buzzards Bay	9		B. Sorrie
Common Merganser:				
9, 18	Lincoln, Falmouth	10, 16+		R. Forster, A. Clarke
22	Lakeville	24		SSBC (S. Higginbotham)
Red-breasted Merganser:				
8, 8-22	Tuckernuck Bank, Lakeville	2000+, 1		R. Veit, W. Petersen
30	Revere-Winthrop	109		R. Stymeist
<u>Fulvous Tree Duck:</u>				
Nov.	Marshfield	1 shot out of flock of 7 (from		Oct., specimen at M.B.O.)
18	Eastham	4		R. Clem
Goshawk:				
15-29	5 localities	singles		v.o.
Sharp-shinned Hawk:				
1-29	11 localities	16 individuals		v.o.
Cooper's Hawk:				
1, 9-29	Salisbury, P.I.	1, 1		J. Baird, M. Gardler
9	Monomoy	1		C. Goodrich, B. Nikula
18&20, 19&26	Middleboro, Sandwich	1, 1		D. Briggs, R. Pease
Red-shouldered Hawk:				
thr.	Bridgewater	1		J. Flaherty
12, 15-16	N. Norwell, Orleans	1, 2-3		B. Sorrie, B. Nikula#
Rough-legged Hawk:				
2-29, 29	6 localities, Nantucket	12 individuals, 7		v.o., S. Perkins
Bald Eagle:				
9, 15-28	Waltham, Lakeville	1 imm., 1 imm.		R. Forster, v.o.
29, 30	Orleans, Rochester	1 ad., 1		fide V. Laux, J. Flaherty
Marsh Hawk:				
2	Orleans	8		F. Gardner & P. Donahue
29, 30	P.I., Bridgewater	10, 1 f.		BBC (R. Braun), D. Briggs#
Osprey:				
2, 3	Lynn, Weston	1, 1		R. Heil, R. Forster
4, 6	Scituate, Wayland	1, 1		M&A Argue, D. White
<u>Gyr Falcon:</u>				
29	Monomoy	1		W. Bailey
Peregrine Falcon:				
2&22, 9	Orleans, Monomoy	1&1, 1		F. Gardner# & v. Laux#, C. Goodrich#
9, 12	Salisbury, Framingham	1, 1		J. Murphy#, K. Hamilton
16; 29	P.I.; Cambridge	1; 1		R. Forster; R. Stymeist, H. Butler
Merlin:				
1-16, 1, 29	P.I., Eastham, Nantucket	1-3, 2, 1		v.o., W. Petersen, S. Perkins
Kestrel:				
thr.	9 localities	24 individuals		v.o.
Ruffed Grouse:				
17	Hingham	5		D. Brown
Virginia Rail:				
2, 25	Harwich, S. Peabody	6+, 4		R. Veit#, R. Heil
Common Gallinule:				
16-27	Sandwich	1		R. Pease
American Coot:				
19	Lakeville	2000		R. Maxim
Semipalmated Plover:				
4, 6	Plymouth, Eastham	1, 3		B. Sorrie, J. Clancy
28	Green Harbor	1		W. Petersen

Killdeer:				
1,23	Lancaster,Ipswich	75,40+		H.Merriman,J.Berry
Golden Plover:				
1-2	Newburyport	1		J.Baird,J.Berry
15	Newburyport	1		R.Veit,D.Finch,G.McCaskie
Black-bellied Plover:				
9,29	Eastham,Acoaxet	65,30		P.Aiken,W.Petersen
Ruddy Turnstone:				
1	Scituate	40		SSBC(J.Nichols)
American Woodcock:				
9	Bridgewater	1		J.Flaherty
Common Snipe:				
6,8,9	Truro,Lancaster,W.Roxbury	7,30,12		J.Clancy,H.Merriman,R.Stymeist
Willet:				
9,16	Eastham(First Encounter Beach)	2,1		W.Petersen#,B.Nikula
Greater Yellowlegs:				
9,30	Eastham(F.H.),E.Boston	140,6		SSBC(R.Fox),R.Stymeist
Lesser Yellowlegs:				
2,8	Rowley,P.I.	11,4		J.Berry,BBC(R.Heil)
15,22	Squantum,Newburyport	1,1		E.Morrier,F.Gardner
Red Knot:				
2	Monomoy;Newburyport	8;9		R.Veit,S.Perkins;J.Berry
9,19	Chatham,Barnstable	2,3		BBC(P.Aikens),V.Laux
Purple Sandpiper:				
29;30	Acoaxet,Marblehead;Winthrop	80,250;100+		W.Petersen#,R.Forster;R.Stymeist
Pectoral Sandpiper:				
9	Truro,Newburyport	2,1		SSBC(R.Fox),K.Hamilton#
White-rumped Sandpiper:				
1;1,8&9	Nauset;Newburyport	5;1,2		V.Laux;J.Baird,K.Hamilton#
Dunlin:				
2,15	Newburyport,P.I.	500+,1000		J.Berry,BBC(N.King)
6,30	Eastham,Winthrop	375,400+		J.Clancy,BBC(R.Stymeist)
Short-billed Dowitcher: (no details)				
5	P.I.	1		C.Leahy
Long-billed Dowitcher:				
15	Newburyport	3+(latest)		R.Veit,D.Finch
Semipalmated Sandpiper:				
1	Scituate	25		SSBC(J.Nichols)
Western Sandpiper:				
1	Orleans	2		R.Forster,V.Laux,W.Petersen
Marbled Godwit:				
20,30	Eastham(Nauset)	4,1		C.Goodrich,W.Bailey
Hudsonian Godwit:				
1,8	Newburyport	2,1		R.Veit,J.Baird,R.Forster#
Glaucous Gull:				
27	Gloucester	2		R.Forster
Iceland Gull:				
4,25	Plymouth,Barnstable	1,2		B.Sorrie,R.Forster#
27,29	Gloucester,Nantucket	5,3		R.Forster,S.Perkins
Great Black-backed Gull:				
22	Cape Ann	3000+		BBC(E.Pyburn)
Lesser Black-backed Gull:				
4	Orleans	1		D.Brown
Ring-billed Gull:				
22	Middleboro	600		SSBC(S.Higginbotham)
Black-headed Gull:				
16,30	Salisbury,Ipswich	1 ad.,1 ad.		R.Forster,J.Berry
30	Winthrop,E.Boston	2,4		R.Stymeist,R.Veit#
Laughing Gull:				
18	Squantum	16		G.Wilson
Bonaparte's Gull:				
8,22	Newburyport	100+,400+		BBC(N.King),R.Forster
29	Nahant	2000+		R.Forster,P.Buckley
Little Gull:				
chr.;9	Boston;Newburyport	1 imm.;1 ad.,1 imm.		D.Brown#;J.Murphy#
28	Eastham(First Encounter Beach)	1		B.Nikula
Black-legged Kittiwake:				
12	Tuckernuck Island	300		R.Veit

<u>Forster's Tern:</u>		
18	Barnstable(S.N.)	1 B.Nikula,V.Laux
Common Tern:		
12	Tuckernuck Island	40 R.Veit
15,16	Bourne,Revere	2,1 W.Petersen,BBC(P.Butler)
Razorbill:		
22,24,30	Salisbury,Barnstable,Nantucket	1,1,3 F.Gardner,R.Pease,S.Perkins
<u>Common Murre:</u>		
25	Manomet Pt.	2 B.Harrington
Thick-billed Murre:		
25	Manomet Pt.	40 B.Harrington#
Dovekie:		
14	Eastham(First Encounter Beach)	30+ R.Veit,W.Russell,G.McCaskie
Black Guillemot:		
24	Manomet Pt.	1(breeding plumage) M.B.O.Staff
28,30	Rockport	4,1 R.Forster,M&A Argue
Yellow-billed Cuckoo:		
16	Sandwich	1 R.Pease
Barn Owl:		
28-30	Boston(Long Island)	1 M.Kasprzyk#,E.Pearson#
Screech Owl:		
9	Lincoln	3 R.Stymeist
Great Horned Owl:		
4,30	Chatham(N.Beach),E.Milton	1,1 D.Brown
7-8	P.I.(unusual location)	1 M.Gardner,B.Cassie#
29	Boston Harbor(Thompson's Is.)	1 T.White
Snowy Owl:		
thr.,15 on	Ipswich,P.I.	1,1 D.Alexander,R.Veit & D.Finch
25,29	Chatham(N.Beach),Salisbury	1,2 B.Nikula,BBC(R.Braun)
Long-eared Owl:		
4	Orleans(Pochet Is.)	1 D.Brown
Short-eared Owl:		
8&22,9	Bridgewater,Salisbury	2,1 W.Petersen,R.Forster
11,17	Squantum,Plymouth	1,1 E.Taylor,E.Cammack
Saw-whet Owl:		
1-8,4	P.I.,N.Scituate	1,1 v.o.,D.Brown
4,6	Orleans,Boston(downtown)	1,1 D.Brown,H.Parker#
19	Manomet(M.B.O.),Plymouth	1 b.,1 b. M.B.O.Staff
20,23	Bourne,Ipswich	1 b.,1 M.B.O.Staff,J&N Berry
<u>Chuck-will's-widow:</u>		
15	Dartmouth	1 f.(found dead) J.Fernandez
Pileated Woodpecker:		
thr.	Lancaster	2 H.Merriman
Red-bellied Woodpecker:		
15-23	S.Natick	1 m. M.Russell,H.Drury#
Red-headed Woodpecker:		
22	Dennis	1 imm. V.Laux
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:		
2,19	Wayland,Cambridge	1,1 H.Parker,J.Clancy
29	So.Wellfleet(WBWS)	1 B.Nikula,C.Goodrich
29	Vineyard Haven(M.V.)	1 M.Hancock
Western Kingbird:		
8-9	Nantucket	1 R.Veit
23	Manomet/Sagamore line	1 Mr.&Mrs.R.Lucid
<u>Myiarchus, sp?</u>		
22,23	Orleans,Rockport	1,1 V.Laux & C.Goodrich,R.Heil
Eastern Phoebe:		
9	Westwood	2 J.Clancy
Horned Lark:		
23	Ipswich	40+ J.Berry
Tree Swallow:		
9,11	Monomoy,Tuckernuck Is.	2000+,1000+ C.Goodrich#,R.Veit
16	P.I.	1(last) H.Wiggin#
Barn Swallow:		
9,23	Monomoy,Westport	1,3 C.Goodrich#,BBC(R.O'Hara)
15,22	Gloucester	5,1 J.dela Torre,BBC(G.Soucy)
Common Crow:		
2,22,26	Orleans,Dover,Bridgewater	400+,375,100+ F.Gardner#,J.Clancy,J.Flaherty

Fish Crow:	21,23	Brookline, Jamaica Plain(A.A.)	2,20	H.Wiggin, BBC. (P.Deveau)
Boreal Chickadee:	1-27	14 localities	<u>21</u> individuals	v.o.
Red-breasted Nuthatch:	28	Baldwinville	20	J.O'Regan
House Wren:	15	Gloucester	1	R.Stymeist
Winter Wren:	2,8	Norwell, Lakeville	2,4	W.Petersen#
	9-30	4 localities	singles	v.o.
Carolina Wren:	thr.,1	Dartmouth, Lancaster	4,1	P.Regan, H.Merriman
	1,2,30	Mattapoissett	singles(different birds)	G.Mock
	12,24	W.Newton, Walpole	2,1	E.Cappadoda, Mrs.Marshall
Long-billed Marsh Wren:	9,23;12	Westport; Nantucket	1,1;1	P.Regan, BBC(R.O'Hara), R.Veit
	22,28	E.Bridgewater, Marshfield	1,1	J.Loughlin, W.Petersen
Gray Catbird:	21,29	Manomet, Mattapoissett	4,2	B.Sorrie, G.Mock
Brown Thrasher:	28	Gloucester	1	R.Forster
American Robin:	1,17	Jamaica Plain, Flamingham	100,40	BBC(P.Deveau), K.Hamilton
Hermit Thrush:	1-22	5 localities	7 individuals	v.o.
Swainson's Thrush:	20,22	Wellesley, Lakeville	1,1	K.Hamilton, SSBC(S.Higginbotham)
	23	Jamaica Plain(A.A.)	2	BBC(E.Taylor)
Eastern Bluebird:	9	Yarmouth	3	W.Petersen
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:	3,4,9	M.B.O., Manomet Pt., Bourne	1,1,1	M.B.O.Staff, C.Rimmer, T.Lloyd-Evans
	29,30	Marblehead Neck, Bridgewater	1,1	P.Buckley & R.Forster, J.Flaherty
	30	Plymouth, N.Scituate	1,1	J.Clancy, D.Brown
Water Pipit:	1,30;22	Wachusett Res.; Bridgewater	50,30;175+	H.Merriman; SSBC(W.Petersen)
	thr.	Lancaster	5-30	H.Merriman
	1,27	Bridgewater, Middleboro	20,33	J.Flaherty, D.Briggs & v.o.
Bohemian Waxwing:	1	N.Scituate	4	B.Sorrie & SSBC
	22-23	Rockport	1	H.Murphy# & BBC(R.Heil)
Northern Shrike:	1-26	7 localities	13 individuals	v.o.
Loggerhead Shrike:	9 on	Salisbury	1	R.Forster# & v.o.
Solitary Vireo:	11	P.I.	1	T.Lawrence
Tennessee Warbler:	2	Orleans	1	B.Nikula
Orange-crowned Warbler:	2,3	So.Wellfleet(WBWS), S.Peabody	1,1	R.Veit & S.Perkins, R.Heil
	9,21	Brewster, Manomet(M.B.O.)	1,1 b.	SSBC(R.Fox), M.B.O.Staff
	23	Orleans	1	B.Nikula, W.Bailey
Parula Warbler:	29	Orleans	1	B.Nikula
Cape May Warbler:	28-29	So.Wellfleet(WBWS)	2	W.Bailey#
Yellow-rumped Warbler:	29	Nantucket	300	S.Perkins
Black-throated Green Warbler:	2,10	Mattapoissett, S.Peabody	1,1	G.Mock, R.Heil
Blackpoll Warbler:	2;10	Orleans(Pochet); S.Peabody	6;1	F.Gardner, P.Donahue; R.Heil
	11,28	Cambridge(Mt.A.), Needham	1,1(dead)	R.Stymeist, H.Parker
Pine Warbler:	11,15	P.I., Wareham	4,1	T.Lawrence, W.Petersen

Palm Warbler:				
2;22	Orleans;Salisbury-P.I.	10;5		F.Gardner,P.Donahue;R.Forster
Common Yellowthroat:				
8-25	5 localities	singles		v.o.
Yellow-breasted Chat:				
4,11,16-18	Plymouth,Wellesley,Medford	1,1,1		S.Parsons,D.Ewer,Treat
American Redstart:				
1	Lancaster,Peabody	1,1		H.Merriman,M.Kasprzyk
23	Jamaica Plain	1		BBC(E.Taylor)
Northern Oriole:				
1-2,15	Peabody,Provincetown	1,1		M.Kasprzyk,R.Veit & W.Russell
Rusty Blackbird:				
9	W.Roxbury	1		R.Stymeist
Brewer's Blackbird: (no details)				
17	Provincetown	1 m.		C.Goodrich
Brown-headed Cowbird:				
22	Framingham	220		K.Hamilton
Indigo Bunting:				
1-2	Truro	1		V.Laux,R.Forster,R.Veit#
Dickcissel:				
1-30	11 localities	12 individuals		v.o.
Evening Grosbeak:				
thr.	12+ localities	186+ individuals		v.o.
Pine Grosbeak:				
3-8,9	P.I.,Framingham plus scattered reports of 1-10 birds, totaling 23 birds	12,17		v.o.,K.Hamilton
Common Redpoll:				
22,26	P.I.,Rowley plus many scattered flocks of 5-10 birds, totaling 50+ individuals	25,100		D.Alexander,R.Forster
Pine Siskin:				
1,5	Sterling,P.I.	100,200		H.Merriman,C.Leahy
27,30	Bridgewater,Framingham	62,54		J.Flaherty,K.Hamilton
Red Crossbill:				
9;10	P.I.,Eastham;Jamaica Plain	70,40;50		D.Brown,W.Petersen,D.Brown
White-winged Crossbill:				
7-24	7 localities	95+ individuals		v.o.
Rufous-sided Towhee:				
5	Manomet(M.B.O.)	1		J.Loughlin
Savannah Sparrow: (Ipswich)				
2,9-22	Sandwich,Salisbury	1,1-2		R.Pease,R.Forster#
15,23	Bourne,Dartmouth	2,3		W.Petersen,R.O'Hara
Sharp-tailed Sparrow:				
1	Eastham(F.H.)	1		V.Laux
Seaside Sparrow:				
1	Eastham(F.H.)	1		V.Laux
Dark-eyed Junco:				
8,16	P.I.,Weston	35,125		BBC(R.Heil),L.Robinson
23	Jamaica Plain	50		BBC(P.Deveau)
Tree Sparrow:				
2,9	S.Peabody,P.I.	10,45		R.Heil,R.Forster
Chipping Sparrow:				
1,2	Truro,Clinton	1,1		V.Laux,H.Merriman
18	P.I.	1		R.Forster,P.Ramsbotham
Field Sparrow:				
1,9-16	Scituate,P.I.	1,1		SSBC(J.Nichols),v.o.
10,12	S.Peabody,Plymouth	8,1		R.Heil,S.Parsons
16,18	Wellesley,Dartmouth	1,3		R.Forster,P.Regan
23,25	Mattapoisett,Clinton	6,8+		G.Mock,H.Merriman
White-throated Sparrow:				
8,23	P.I.,Jamaica Plain	10,35		BBC(R.Heil),BBC(P.Deveau)
Fox Sparrow:				
1-28	9 localities	12 individuals		v.o.
Lincoln's Sparrow:				
19	N.Scituate	1		D.Brown,J.Murphy
Lapland Longspur:				
3,7,9	Salisbury	5,10,12		M.McClellan,M.Gardler,R.Forster
Snow Bunting:				
2,8	Salisbury	2500,1000		M&A Argue,v.o.
4,9	Orleans,Monomoy	500,1000		D.Brown,C.Goodrich

THE BIRD OBSERVER SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER, 1975

December was mild, quite wet and very snowy. The temperature averaged 34.3°, 1.3° above normal, but still 3.5° under the very warm December of 1974. The mercury reached 66° on the 15th, breaking the old mark of 63° set in 1918 for that date. The low temperature was 4° on December 24th. Precipitation totaled 4.80 inches, the most in 24 hours was 1.50 inches on the 25-26th. Snowfall totalled 19.3 inches, over double the 7.9 inch 40-year average. A major storm on the 20-22nd brought 18.2 inches, a new record storm total for December.

A total of 201 species plus 4 additional races (Common Teal, Bullock's Oriole, Ipswich Sparrow, Oregon Junco) were observed during the month. Most of the records are compiled from the Seventy-sixth Christmas Bird Count (CBC). Highlights from the counts include Western Sandpiper, Ovenbird, Grasshopper Sparrow and 9 White-crowned Sparrows.

Other highlights included Little Blue Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Golden Eagle, Gyrfalcon and Peregrine Falcon. There were 19 species of shorebirds reported, almost unbelievable for December; Semipalmated Plover, Golden Plover, Western Sandpiper, and Marbled Godwit were among the best. Note especially the high count of Oldsquaw at Nantucket.

The Lesser Blacked-backed Gull and the Gyrfalcon were back on Nauset Beach. A Myiarchus flycatcher was observed on the Taunton Christmas Count, and there were reports of Boreal Chickadee from 11 localities. The mild weather during the first half of December was probably responsible for the number of lingering migrants, notably Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Worm-eating Warbler, Northern Parula, Cape May Warbler, Ovenbird and numbers of Northern Oriole.

The spotlight of the month is awarded to the immature Ivory Gull, which took up residence at Salisbury, Massachusetts and has delighted photographers and hundreds of birders since its discovery on December 22 by Rev. and Mrs. C. Leon Strickland and Mr. and Mrs. Carl L. Strickland of Rochester, New Hampshire and Union Springs, New York. This is the first well-documented Ivory Gull since 1959. It breeds in northern Greenland, Spitzbergen and other high arctic islands, and seldom winters below the limit of the pack-ice. It was the nicest Christmas present for everyone.

R.H.S.

Common Loon:

11,21	Framingham, Plymouth	10,14	M. Rhodes, CBC
28	Nantucket	273	R. Veit, S. Perkins

Red-throated Loon:

21,27	Orleans, Scituate	15,12	CBC
28	Boston, Nantucket	15,129	CBC

Red-necked Grebe:

21,23	Plymouth, Rockport	4,5	CBC, R. Veit#
28	Boston, Nantucket	4,2	CBC

Horned Grebe:

2,21	Dorchester, Chatham	12,25	J. Murphy, CBC
27,28	Salisbury, Boston	15,29	BBC(G. Soucy), CBC

Pied-billed Grebe:

21	Plymouth, Brewster	14,18	CBC,CBC(N. Hill)
21	Eastham	10	CBC

Sooty Shearwater:

21	Sandwich	1	R. Pease
----	----------	---	----------

Gannet:

13,21	Nantucket, Orleans	400+,18	R. Veit, CBC
-------	--------------------	---------	--------------

Great Cormorant:

13,14	Squantum, Manchester	30,36	BBC(E. Taylor), BBC(G. Hotz)
21,28	Orleans, Boston	30,98	CBC

Double-crested Cormorant:

16,22	Rockport	1 adult	R. Veit, S. Perkins
-------	----------	---------	---------------------

Great Blue Heron:

21,27	Cape Cod, Marshfield	74,36	CBC
-------	----------------------	-------	-----

Little Blue Heron:

8	Falmouth	1 imm.	A. Clarke
---	----------	--------	-----------

Snowy Egret:

1-12, 14-31	Falmouth, Eastham	1,1	A. Clarke, W. Bailey#
28	Nantucket	1	CBC

Black-crowned Night Heron:			
19,20	Nahant, Quincy	24,12	D. Bangs, CBC
21	Eastham	12	CBC
Yellow-crowned Night Heron:			
19	Eastham (F.H.)	1	W. Bailey
American Bittern:			
2,20	P.I., Westport	2,1	D. Alexander, CBC
21	Chatham, Nauset	1,2	CBC
Canada Goose:			
20,21	Worcester, Cape Cod	324,1555	CBC
21,27	Plymouth, Duxbury	530,738	CBC
27	Newburyport	500	BBC(G. Soucy)
Brant:			
13	Squantum	40	BBC(E. Taylor)
21	Cape Cod, Plymouth	1993,204	CBC
27,28	Duxbury, Boston	420,16	CBC
Snow Goose:			
7,19	Brookfield, Nauset	1,1	H. Merriman, W. Bailey
29-31	Chatham	1	B. Nikula#
Mallard:			
21	Orleans	200	CBC
Black Duck:			
13,21	Newburyport, Plymouth	5000+,663	BBC(P. Alden), CBC
21,28	Cape Cod, Boston	1847,1688	CBC
Gadwall:			
14,18,13	P.I., Concord, Lakeville	30+,120,11	J. Berry, J. Hines, R. Emery#
Pintail:			
20,21,28	Milton, Plymouth, Boston	8,11,4	CBC
Green-winged Teal:			
2,18	P.I.(Common type), Concord	2,45	D. Alexander#, J. Hines
21,28	Cape Cod, Nantucket	30,250+	CBC
Blue-winged Teal:			
18,27	Buzzard's Bay, Marshfield	1,8	B. Sorrie#, CBC
27,28	Nantucket	3	CBC(H. Connors#)
European Wigeon:			
thr.,20	Nantucket, Cohasset	4,1	v.o., CBC
American Wigeon:			
21,28	Plymouth, Orleans, Boston	50,33,35	CBC
Northern Shoveler:			
6,18	P.I., Concord (GMNWR)	15,1	H. Merriman, J. Hines
21	Plymouth, Brewster, Orleans	1,7,1	W. Petersen, CBC
Wood Duck:			
4,14	Falmouth, Lincoln	1,1	A. Clarke, R. Forster
21	Plymouth, Winchester	2,2	CBC, G. Gove, R. Clayton
28	Boston, Concord	2,1	CBC
Redhead:			
3,20	Braintree, Falmouth,	21,77	J. Hines, CBC
28	Nantucket	638	CBC
Ring-necked Duck:			
11,27	Lakeville, Chatham	1000+,70	R. Maxim, CBC
Canvasback:			
7,13	Acoaxet, Assonet	225,2500	K. Hamilton, N. Hill
20,21	Cambridge (F.P.), Taunton	96+,1507	R. Stymeist, CBC
Greater Scaup:			
13,20	Wollaston, Hingham	800+,1350	BBC(E. Taylor), CBC
27,28	Newburyport, Boston	200,2276	BBC(G. Soucy), CBC
Lesser Scaup:			
2,21	P.I., Cape Cod	2,15	D. Alexander, CBC
28	Nantucket	465	CBC
Common Goldeneye:			
21,23	Plymouth, Newburyport	193,1500+	CBC, R Veit#
28	Boston	608	CBC
Barrow's Goldeneye:			
6,21	Rockport, Chatham	1,2	BBC(G. Nove), CBC
27,28	Nantucket	1	R. Veit, H. Connors
Bufflehead:			
21,28	Cape Cod, Boston	1151,536	CBC
Oldsquaw:			
13,28	Nantucket	73500,27000	R. Veit, CBC

Harlequin Duck:			
7,13	Chatham, Tuckernuck Is.	1,3	B. Nikula, R. Veit
28	Nantucket	2	CBC(S. Perkins)
Common Eider:			
21	Chatham, Plymouth	5600,3058	CBC
27	Marshfield	4706	CBC
King Eider:			
13	Rockport, Chatham	1,1	M. Gardler, W. Bailey
21	Chatham, Orleans Beach	2,2	CBC
White-winged Scoter:			
13,27	Squantum, Duxbury	300+,234	BBC(E. Taylor), CBC
26	Nantucket Sound	2500	R. Veit
Surf Scoter:			
21,28	Plymouth, Boston	46,3	CBC
Black Scoter:			
21,26	Orleans, Nantucket	80,350+	CBC, R. Veit
Ruddy Duck:			
7,20	Waltham, Cambridge	40,48	R. Stymeist, T. Lawrence
21	Orleans, Orleans Beach	157,100	CBC(J. Baird), (C. Goodrich)
Hooded Merganser:			
18,21	Waltham, Orleans	19,12	J. Hines, CBC
13,28	Lakeville, Boston	18,14	R. Emery, CBC
Common Merganser:			
14,21	Lincoln, Brewster	65,90	R. Forster, CBC
21	Plymouth	408	CBC
Red-breasted Merganser:			
13,21	Chatham, Tuckernuck Is.	2900,3500+	H. Rich, R. Veit
Goshawk:			
7-27	10 localities	11 individuals	v.o.
Sharp-shinned Hawk:			
21,28	Orleans, Nantucket	3,6	CBC
28	Concord	3	CBC
Cooper's Hawk:			
13,20	E. Orleans, Eastham	1,1	C. Goodrich, B. Nikula
20,28	Worcester, Waltham	1,1	CBC
28	Nantucket	1	CBC(S. Perkins)
Red-tailed Hawk:			
28	Boston, Concord	<u>24,34</u>	CBC
Red-shouldered Hawk:			
thr. 18	Bridgewater, Assonet	1,1	J. Flaherty, J. Rivard
27,31	Rowley, E. Orleans	1 ad., 1 ad.	C. Goodrich
Rough-legged Hawk:			
13,28	Nantucket, Bridgewater	4-5,4	R. Veit, J. Flaherty
31	Marshfield	6	W. Petersen
<u>Golden Eagle:</u>			
5,7	Rowley, Dartmouth	1 imm., 1	D. Alexander, R. Forster & K. Hamilton
Bald Eagle:			
Dec., 20	Orleans, Eastham	1 ad., 1 ad.	fide V. Laux, C. Goodrich
22	Lakeville area	6 dates, 1 imm.	F. Correia
Marsh Hawk:			
13,21	P.I., Concord	4,4	BBC(P. Alden), CBC
<u>Gyr Falcon:</u>			
20,21	Eastham(F.H.)-Orleans	1	C. Goodrich, W. Bailey, R. Emery
<u>Peregrine Falcon:</u>			
20,21	Eastham(F.H.), Orleans	1,1	C. Goodrich#, CBC
Merlin:			
21,27	Orleans, Marshfield	1,1	CBC
28	Nantucket	3	CBC
American Kestrel:			
21,28	Chatham, Concord	10,15	CBC
28	Boston	10	CBC
Ruffed Grouse:			
21	Plymouth	8	CBC
Bobwhite:			
21	Plymouth, Taunton	47,137	CBC
Ring-necked Pheasant:			
28	Boston	<u>206</u>	CBC

<u>Clapper Rail:</u>				
20,21	N. Falmouth, Eastham	1,1		CBC(R. Stymeist#), CBC, P. Bailey
28	Brewster	1		B. Holdridge
<u>Virginia Rail:</u>				
21,27	Chatham, Marshfield	3,8		CBC
28	Concord	4		CBC
<u>Common Gallinule:</u>				
17,19	P.I., Sandwich	1 imm.,1		R. Veit, R. Pease
27,28	Marshfield, Nantucket	5,4		CBC, CBC(E. Andrews)
<u>American Coot:</u>				
11,14	Fall River, Eastham	750,450		T. Athearn, B. Nikula
21	Eastham	138		CBC(P. Bailey, J. Baird)
<u>Semipalmated Plover:</u>				
23	Manomet	1		B. Sorrie#
<u>Killdeer:</u>				
21	Taunton	16		CBC
<u>Golden Plover:</u>				
14	Lincoln (Cambridge Res.)	1		R. Forster
<u>Black-bellied Plover:</u>				
7,21	Squantum, Orleans	20,20		BBC(G. Wilson), CBC
<u>Ruddy Turnstone:</u>				
20,27	Quincy, N. Scituate	6,3		CBC
<u>American Woodcock:</u>				
13	E. Braintree, Nantucket	1,1		M. Rhodes, R. Veit
21	Chatham, Manomet	2,1		CBC
28	Nantucket	1		CBC(S. Perkins)
<u>Common Snipe:</u>				
20,21	Buzzard'd Bay, Chatham	23,9		CBC
<u>Spotted Sandpiper:</u>				
19-31	Chatham	1		R. Clem#
<u>Greater Yellowlegs:</u>				
21	Chatham, Nauset, Eastham	1,1,1		CBC
<u>Lesser Yellowlegs:</u>				
14	Rowley	1(broken wing)		J. Berry
<u>Red Knot:</u>				
21,28	Cape Cod, Boston	137,7		CBC
<u>Purple Sandpiper:</u>				
20,28	Cohasset, Winthrop	50,65		CBC
<u>Dunlin:</u>				
7,20	Duxbury, Cohasset	425,500		SSBC(B. Smyth), CBC
21,27	Orleans, Marshfield	800,426		CBC
<u>Dowitcher(species ?):</u>				
20	W. Falmouth	1		R. Stymeist, R. Veit
<u>Semipalmated Sandpiper:(no details)</u>				
19	Nauset	2		W. Bailey
<u>Western Sandpiper:</u>				
21	Orleans	1		CBC(M. Gardler)
<u>Marbled Godwit:</u>				
1-17	Nauset	1		v.o.
<u>Sanderling:</u>				
21,28	Orleans, Boston	300,232		CBC
<u>Red Phalarope:</u>				
21	Eastham	3		CBC(W. Bailey, R. Emery)
<u>Jaeger(species ?):</u>				
13-15	Tuckernuck Is.	1 dark imm.		R. Veit
<u>Glaucous Gull:</u>				
1-6,11-27	Natick, Mamomet	1,1		E. Taylor#, B. Sorrie#
13,19	Squantum, Gloucester	1,4		E. Morrier, R. Heil
21,24	Orleans, P.I.	1,1		CBC, W. Petersen
27,28	Marshfield, G. Boston	3,1		CBC
<u>Iceland Gull:</u>				
13,19	Nantucket, Gloucester	5,12		R. Veit, R. Heil
29	Nantucket	9		S. Perkins#
<u>Great Black-backed Gull:</u>				
21	Chatham	3000+		CBC(H. Rich)
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull:</u>				
7	Nauset, Eastham	1		V. Laux, C. Goodrich, B. Nikula

<u>Herring Gull:</u>			
21	Plymouth, Chatham	2645,6000	CBC
27	Marshfield	4749	CBC
<u>Ring-billed Gull:</u>			
13	Newburyport, Chatham	100,170	CBC
21	Plymouth	183	CBC
<u>Black-headed Gull:</u>			
4,20	Manomet, Dartmouth	1,3	B. Harrington, CBC
21,28	Cape Cod, Boston	3,3	CBC
<u>Laughing Gull:</u>			
6,21	Hull, Chatham	2,1	E. Taylor, CBC
28	Boston	2	CBC(D. Brown#)
<u>Bonaparte's Gull:</u>			
13,21	Newburyport, Cape Cod	350,144	BBC(P. Alden), CBC
28	Boston	331	CBC
<u>Little Gull:</u>			
19,21	Nauset, Orleans	1 ad., 1 ad.	J. Baird, R. Emery
28	Boston	1	CBC(D. Brown)
<u>Ivory Gull:</u>			
22 on	Salisbury	1 imm.	Rev. and Mrs. C. Leon Strickland, Mr. and Mrs. Carl L. Strickland & v.o.
<u>Black-legged Kittiwake:</u>			
28	Nantucket	1350+	CBC(S. Perkins)
<u>Razorbill:</u>			
13	Nantucket	6	R. Veit
21	Orleans, Manomet	12,1	CBC(C. Goodrich), CBC
23	Rockport	2-3	R. Veit# & v.o.
<u>Common Murre:</u>			
22	Nantucket	1	E. Andrews
<u>Dovekie:</u>			
14,21	Rockport, Eastham, Brewster	3,1,1	G. Soucy, CBC
<u>Black Guillemot:</u>			
6,13	Rockport, Nantucket	1,1	BBC(G. Nove), R. Veit
13,23	Gloucester, Eastham	5,1	R. Forster, B. Nikula
28	Nantucket	1	CBC(R. Veit)
<u>Mourning Dove:</u>			
21,28	Taunton, Concord	471,876	CBC
<u>Barn Owl:</u>			
7	Long Island (Boston)	1	BBC(G. Wilson)
<u>Screech Owl:</u>			
28	Boston, Concord	8,12	CBC
<u>Great Horned Owl:</u>			
thr.	8 localities	12 individuals	v.o.
<u>Snowy Owl:</u>			
2-28	11 localities	17 individuals	v.o.
<u>Barred Owl:</u>			
8-9,28	Boston (downtown), Waltham	1,1	J. Sze, CBC
21	Brookline, Taunton-Middleboro	1,1	A. Agush, CBC
21	Freetown	1	S. Kittler
27,28	Salisbury, Concord	1,2	v.o., CBC
<u>Long-eared Owl:</u>			
20,23	Westport, Bridgewater	2,2	CBC, S. Higginbotham
27	Duxbury	2	CBC
<u>Saw-whet Owl:</u>			
2,13	Groton, P.I.	2,1	D. Lamont#, M. Kasprzyk
28	Nantucket	1-2	CBC H. Connors, S. Zende#
<u>Belted Kingfisher:</u>			
21,27	Cape Cod (7 places), Marshfield	24,7	CBC
28	Concord, Boston	7,4	CBC
<u>Common Flicker:</u>			
21,27	Cape Cod, Marshfield region	63,10	CBC
<u>Pileated Woodpecker:</u>			
thr.	4 localities	5 individuals	v.o.
<u>Red-bellied Woodpecker:</u>			
thr.	Natick	3	W. Biggart
18-25	Marston's Mills	1	T. Preston
<u>Red-headed Woodpecker:</u>			
15	Nantucket	1	fide E. Andrews

<u>Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:</u>			
1-29	S. Wellfleet (WBWS)	1	W. Bailey#
16	Vineyard Haven (M.V.)	1	M. Hancock
20,21	Hingham, Taunton	1,1	CBC
<u>Hairy Woodpecker:</u>			
28	Boston, Concord	35-95	CBC
<u>Downy Woodpecker:</u>			
28	Boston, Concord	136,231	CBC
<u>Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker:</u>			
1	W. Wareham	1	R. Maxim
<u>Myiarchus(species?):</u>			
21	Taunton	1	CBC
		(no details submitted)	
<u>Eastern Phoebe:</u>			
20	Onset	1	W. Petersen, G. Flaherty#
<u>Horned Lark:</u>			
2,21	Dorchester, Orleans	25,50	J. Murphy, CBC
<u>Blue Jay:</u>			
21	Cape Cod, Taunton	195,229	CBC
21	Plymouth	177	CBC
28	Boston, Concord	416,1162	CBC
28	Wilmington	338	CBC
<u>Common Crow:</u>			
20,21	Millis, Taunton	481,396	CBC
28	Boston, Concord	647,852	CBC
<u>Fish Crow:</u>			
thr.,11,28	Natick, Hanover, Boston	52,1,5	E. Taylor#, W. Petersen, CBC
<u>Black-capped Chickadee:</u>			
20	Worcester, Millis	458, 487	CBC
21	Plymouth, Cape Cod, Taunton	286,444,409	CBC
27,28	Marshfield, Wilmington	401,972	CBC
28	Boston, Concord	743,1757	CBC
<u>Boreal Chickadee:</u>			
1,2,3on	Athol, Royalston, Jam. Pl(A.A.)	1,3,2	K. Hamilton, K. Hamilton, J. Hines
6,8,14on	Stoneham, Newburyport, Abington	1,1,1	R. Stymeist, D. Ewer, E. Pearson
20	Worcester, Westport	1,1	CBC
21,28	Plymouth, Boston	1,3	CBC
<u>Tufted Titmouse:</u>			
20	Millis, Quincy	136,172	CBC
20,21	Worcester, Plymouth	49, 43	CBC
21	Taunton, Cape Cod	220,19	CBC
27;28	Marshfield; Boston, Concord	122,242,142	CBC
<u>Red-breasted Nuthatch:</u>			
20	Westport, Worcester, Millis	8,14,27	CBC
20,28	Quincy, Boston, Concord	16,7,12	CBC
28	Wilmington	6	CBC
<u>Brown Creeper:</u>			
28	Boston, Concord, Wilmington	29,29,14	CBC
<u>House Wren:</u>			
7,21	Acoaxet, Chatham	1,1	R. Forster, CBC
<u>Winter Wren:</u>			
6,7	Weston, Stoneham; Waltham	1,1;1	L. Robinson#; R. Stymeist#
20	Westport, Worcester, Milton	1,2,1	CBC
21	Plymouth, Cape Cod	3,1	CBC
27;28	Athol, Marshfield; Concord	1,2;4	CBC
<u>Carolina Wren:</u>			
thr.,3	Westport area, Falmouth	8,2	R. O'Hara# & v.o., V. Laux#
20	Cohasset, N. Falmouth	2,5	CBC
27,28	Athol, Lincoln	1,2	CBC
<u>Long-billed Marsh Wren:</u>			
6,21	P.I., Chatham	2,3	H. Merriman, CBC
<u>Mockingbird:</u>			
20	Quincy, Millis, Worcester	50,20,10	CBC
21	Taunton, Cape Cod	18,47	CBC
28	Boston, Wilmington	75,23	CBC
<u>Gray Catbird:</u>			
7,11	Westport, Braintree	4,1	K. Hamilton#, J. Hines
20;21	Millis, Hingham; Cape Cod	1,1;3	CBC
21,28	Plymouth, Nantucket	1,3	CBC

<u>Brown Thrasher:</u>			
7 on	8 localities	singles	v.o.
<u>American Robin:</u>			
21,27	Cape Cod, Marshfield	280,145	CBC
28	Boston, Concord	95,80	CBC
<u>Hermit Thrush:</u>			
7,14	Acoaxet, Bridgewater	1,1	R. Forster, J. Flaherty
20,21	N. Falmouth, Plymouth	9,3	R. Veit#, CBC
28	Concord, Boston	1,3	CBC
<u>Eastern Bluebird:</u>			
4,14	Sandwich, Bellingham	6,6	R. Pease, G. Davis
20,23;21	Plymouth; Cape Cod	1,1;11	CBC, D. Casoni; CBC
<u>Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:</u>			
4	Duxbury	1	H. Kelley (MBO)
<u>Golden-crowned Kinglet:</u>			
21	Plymouth, Chatham	32,29	CBC
<u>Ruby-crowned Kinglet:</u>			
7,20	Dartmouth, Quincy	1,2	R. Forster#, CBC
21	Plymouth, Cape Cod	4,3	CBC
<u>Water Pipit:</u>			
5	Lancaster	3	H. Merriman
<u>Bohemian Waxwing:</u>			
28	Athol	13	R. Coyle#
<u>Cedar Waxwing:</u>			
21;28	Taunton; Concord, Boston	70;41,30	CBC
<u>Northern Shrike:</u>			
17,21,27	Middleboro, Chatham, Scituate	1,1,1	D. Briggs#, CBC
28	Nantucket, Concord	1,1	CBC
<u>Starling:</u>			
28	Boston(Central Artery)	105,000+	CBC
<u>Worm-eating Warbler:</u>			
6	Sandwich	1	B. Nikula, V. Laux# & v.o.
		(very well seen, all field marks noted)	
<u>Orange-crowned Warbler:</u>			
3,21	Falmouth, Taunton	1,1	B. Nikula & V. Laux, CBC
<u>Northern Parula:</u>			
12	Orleans	1	V. Laux
<u>Cape May Warbler:</u>			
1-29	S. Wellfleet (WBWS)	2	W. Bailey# & v.o.
<u>Yellow-rumped Warbler:</u>			
21	Cape Cod	845	CBC
<u>Pine Warbler:</u>			
7-23,21	Bridgewater, Chatham	1,1	J. Flaherty, H. Rich
<u>Palm Warbler:</u>			
13,17	Nantucket, S. Peabody	12,7	R. Veit, R. Heil
21	Cape Cod, Plymouth	3,3	CBC
<u>Ovenbird:</u>			
21	Bourne		B. Sorrie, CBC
<u>Common Yellowthroat:</u>			
13,21	Tuckernuck I., Cape Cod	1,2	R. Veit, CBC
<u>Yellow-breasted Chat:</u>			
1	Salem	1	W. Foley
2,13-30	Plymouth, Vineyard Haven (M.V.)	1,1	S. Parsons, fide M. Hancock
20	Chatham	1	H. Rich
<u>Eastern Meadowlark:</u>			
21	Taunton, Cape Cod	45,126	CBC
<u>Redwinged Blackbird:</u>			
21,27	Chatham, Marshfield	28,30	CBC
<u>Northern Oriole:</u>			
thr.	Abington	1 imm.(Bullock's-from Nov.)	Mrs. A. Lynde & v.o.
7	E. Lexington	1	R. Stymeist#
7-27	Lexington	1(picked up dead 12/27)	J. Wanless#
15-31,20	Natick, Chatham	1,1	R. Naticchioni, fide H. Rich
22;27	Belmont, Taunton; Marshfield	1,1;3	W. Bishop, fide R. O'Hara; CBC
<u>Rusty Blackbird:</u>			
15,20	Middleboro, Millis	1,1	D. Briggs, CBC
21-23,21	Essex, Plymouth	1,1	K. Tousey, W. Petersen#
28,31	Concord, S. Peabody	8,1	CBC, R. Heil

Common Grackle:			
21	Cape Cod, Taunton	9,15	CBC
Brown-headed Cowbird:			
16,21	Middleboro, Taunton	30,39	D. Briggs, CBC
28,31	Concord, S. Peabody	20,20	CBC, R. Heil
Cardinal:			
20	Worcester, Quincy, Millis	51,71,43	CBC
21	Plymouth, Taunton	19,94	CBC
28	Boston, Concord, Wilmington	108,195,63	CBC
<u>Black-headed Grosbeak:</u>			
22-28	Littleton	1	J. Baird
Dickcissel:			
13	Danvers, Nantucket	1,2	E. Pyburn, R. Veit
Evening Grosbeak:			
20	Worcester, Quincy, Millis	251,105,108	CBC
21	Taunton, Plymouth, Cape Cod	248,110,177	CBC
28	Boston, Concord	86,524	CBC
Purple Finch:			
21;28	Taunton; Boston, Concord	111;39,88	CBC
House Finch:			
20	Worcester, Millis, Quincy	50,9,80	CBC
21	Taunton, Plymouth	61,38	CBC
28	Boston, Concord	131,10	CBC
Pine Grosbeak:			
14,27,28	Middleboro, Athol, Nantucket	2,4,2	D. Briggs, CBC, CBC
Common Redpoll:			
3,6	Royalston, Manchester	120+,1	K. Hamilton, J. Nove
13	Squantum, P.I., Marshfield	8,4,6	J. Hines#, P. Alden#, M. Wilson
20,28	Worcester, Cambridge	30,56	CBC, T. Leverich#
Pine Siskin:			
20	Quincy, Worcester, Millis	66,47,66	CBC
21;28	Taunton; Boston, Concord	83;185,375	CBC
American Goldfinch:			
20	Quincy, Worcester, Millis	133,142,180	CBC
21	Taunton, Plymouth, Cape Cod	407,85,188	CBC
28	Boston, Concord, Wilmington	209,666,476	CBC
Red Crossbill:			
10;20	W. Yarmouth; Worcester	40-50;1	P. Aiken; CBC
20,21	Quincy, Cape Cod	14,69	CBC
28	Boston, Concord	12,1	CBC
White-winged Crossbill:			
13-14,21	P.I., Taunton	7-8,20	J. Berry# & v.o., CBC
28	Boston, Concord	26,4	CBC
Rufous-sided Towhee:			
7,14	Westport area, Lexington	9,2	K. Hamilton#, T. Lawrence#
20,28	Millis, Concord	1,3	CBC
Savannah Sparrow:			
17;21	S. Peabody; Cape Cod	10;24	R. Heil; CBC
21	Plymouth	12	CBC
<u>Grasshopper Sparrow:</u>			
21	Plymouth	1	Cbc
		(no details)	
Sharp-tailed Sparrow:			
20,21	Dartmouth, Nauset	1,1	CBC
Seaside Sparrow:			
21	Nauset	8	CBC
Vesper Sparrow:			
20	Westport	1	CBC
Dark-eyed Junco:			
6,13	Ipswich(Oregon race)	1	J. Berry
20	Quincy, Millis, Worcester	300,335,445	CBC
21	Taunton, Plymouth	583,405	CBC
28	Boston, Concord, Wilmington	458,997,711	CBC
Tree Sparrow:			
20	Quincy, Millis, Worcester	139,272,163	CBC
28	Boston, Concord, Wilmington	222,674,284	CBC
Chipping Sparrow:			
20,28	Dartmouth, Concord	1,3	CBC

Field Sparrow:				
21;28	Taunton; Boston, Concord	47;10,10		CBC
White-crowned Sparrow:				
20,21,28	Westport, Fairhaven, Nantucket	1,6,2		CBC
White-throated Sparrow:				
21	Plymouth, Cape Cod	121,206		CBC
28	Boston, Concord	92,177		CBC
Fox Sparrow:				
20;28	Millis; Boston, Lincoln	6;4,4		CBC
Swamp Sparrow:				
21	Cape Cod, Taunton	18,7		CBC
28	Boston, Concord	12,17		CBC
Song Sparrow:				
20,21	Quincy, Cape Cod	77,260		CBC
28	Boston, Concord	156,155		CBC
Lapland Longspur:				
27,28	Salisbury, Boston	25,5		v.o., CBC
Snow Bunting:				
21	Taunton, Orleans Beach	1,200		CBC
21	Weston, Plymouth	1,1		L. Robinson, CBC
28	Boston, Concord	5,1		CBC

Abbreviations

ad.	adult	SSBC	South Shore Bird Club
b.	banded	M.B.O.	Manomet Bird Observatory
f.	female	WBWS	Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary
imm.	immature	A.A.	Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain
m.	male	F.H.	Fort Hill, Eastham
max.	maximum	F.P.	Fresh Pond, Cambridge
thr.	throughout	M.V.	Martha's Vineyard
v.o.	various observers	Mt.A.	Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge
yg.	young	P.I.	Plum Island
#	additional observers	S.N.	Sandy Neck, Barnstable
BBC	Brookline Bird Club	CBC	Christmas Bird Count



WHEATEAR, NANTUCKET ISLAND, 20 SEPTEMBER 1975
Photographed by Gerald L. Soucy

BIRD OBSERVER
462 Trapelo Road
Belmont, Mass. 02178

DATED MATERIAL INSIDE

THIRD CLASS MAIL

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED
