

BIRD OBSERVER

OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS



DECEMBER 1982

VOL. 10 NO. 6



BIRD OBSERVER

OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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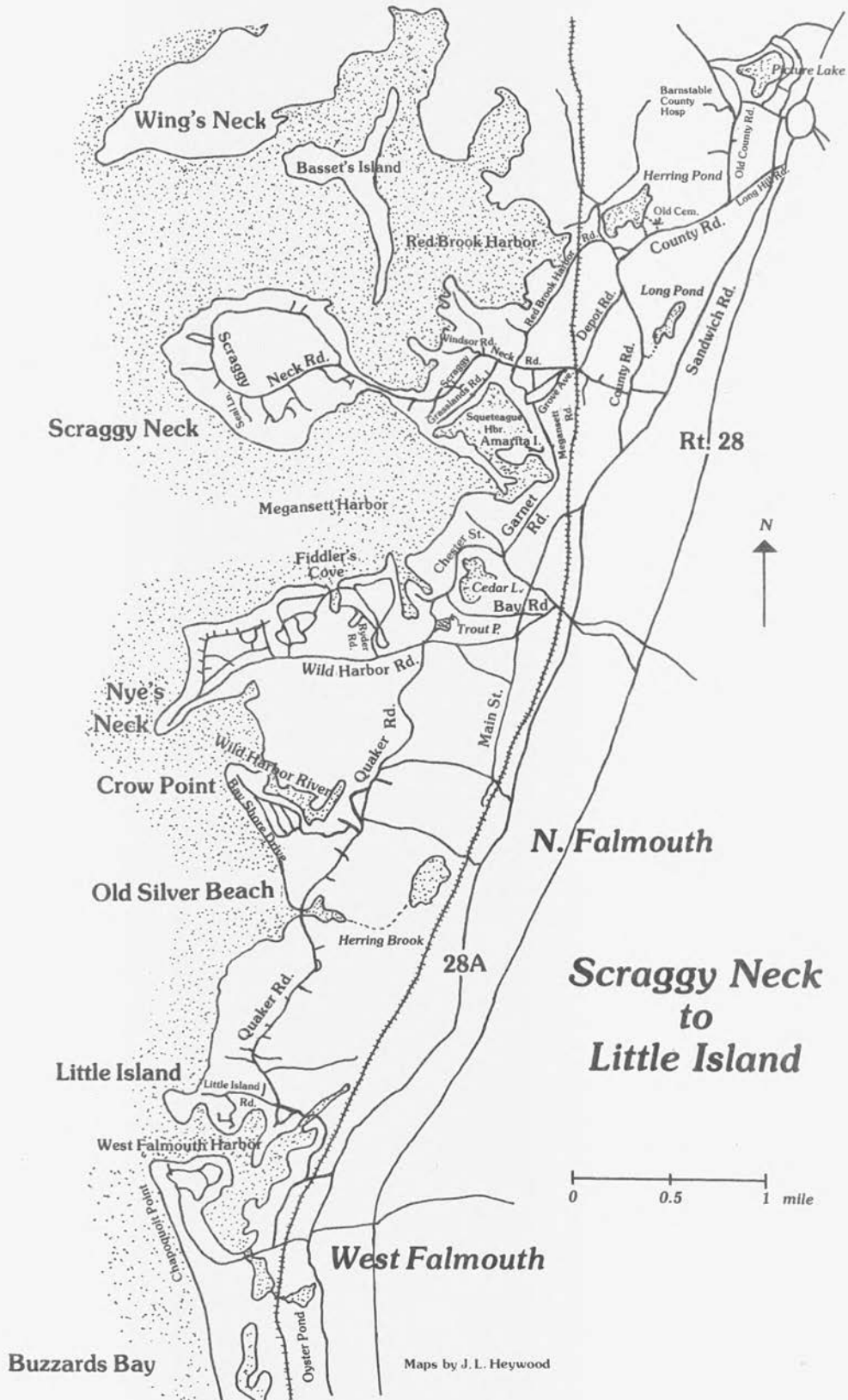
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RENEWAL NOTICE

This issue concludes Volume 10 of Bird Observer. If you have not yet renewed your subscription for Volume 11, 1983, please do so now. There should be a handy renewal form inserted inside the cover of this issue. Please send that form or send your name and address along with your check made out to Bird Observer to 462 Trapelo Road, Belmont MA 02178. The subscription rate remains at \$7.50.

TASL WINTER HARBOR SURVEYS

Surveys of the waterfowl of Boston and Newburyport harbors will be held on February 12 and March 12 (Boston) and on February 13 and March 13 (Newburyport). For details of times, meeting places and leaders, please contact Craig Jackson, 321-4382, or Soheil Zende, 628-8990.

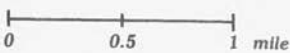


Rt. 28



N. Falmouth

**Scraggy Neck
to
Little Island**



West Falmouth

Buzzards Bay

Maps by J. L. Heywood

WINTER BIRDING ALONG BUZZARDS BAY-
SCRAGGY NECK, BOURNE, TO FALMOUTH CENTER

by Robert H. Stymeist, Brookline

The Buzzards Bay area of Cape Cod offers a great day of winter birding for anyone looking for a good selection of waterfowl and an ideal location for regular winter birds as well as a good area for semi-hardy winterers and tardy migrants. The area that this article deals with comprises primarily the coastal necks from Scraggy Neck in Bourne to Quissett Harbor just north of Woods Hole and the Falmouth Center area including several freshwater ponds. This is precisely the section that the author has canvassed for the Buzzards Bay Christmas Bird Count since 1974. Some of the sections that this article deals with include the villages of Cataumet, Megansett, North Falmouth, West Falmouth, Sippewisset, and Quissett.

This region, approximately 55 miles south of Boston, enjoys much the same mild winter climate as outer Cape Cod with generally much less snow than areas to the north and west of Boston. There are numerous saltwater bays and freshwater ponds that remain open for much of the winter. The area abounds in thickets, low swampy woods, and many berry-bearing delicacies for birds (bittersweet, privet, and multiflora roses).

Since 1974, a total of 117 species and one additional race (Oregon Junco) have been recorded in this area on the Buzzards Bay Christmas Count generally held in mid-December. Some of the more noteworthy highlights of this survey over the years include Snowy Egret, Clapper Rail, Least Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Western Kingbird, House Wren, Solitary Vireo, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Chipping and Vesper sparrows.

Our winter trip begins at the rotary on Route 28 at the Howard Johnson's on the cape side of the Canal. Drive south on Route 28 four miles to Route 28A (shore route). Drive past Picture Lake - no need to stop for usually there are just Mallards here - and at County Road you should take a left. Shortly after you pass the Barnstable County Hospital, there is a very active feeding station on the left (875 County Road, Pocasset) and an equally fantastic hedgerow next to an open field on the right. The very friendly owner, Robert Whittemore, makes his own feeders, and these can be easily studied from the road. He has had hundreds of Evening Grosbeaks at times, and there is usually a handful of Purple Finches among the score of House Finches. The multiflora rose hedgerow is a great attraction to many robins and scolding mockingbirds. In late November 1981, a Nashville Warbler was present. Spishing here could bring out a Hermit Thrush or a Brown Thrasher. The fields have been good for lingering

meadowlarks. Continue down County Road, and just beyond where Long Hill Road meets County Road, a cranberry bog on the left often has Great Blue Herons. Farther along on the right you may drive through an old cemetery that backs up to Herring Pond, famous for the Tufted Duck in years past. There are usually Mute Swan, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, and Hooded Merganser on the pond. The pines along the hillside of the cemetery are frequented by Golden-crowned Kinglet and Brown Creeper. Now, before continuing, it should be noted that there are many roads that will require criss-crossing and backtracking because of the necks, and that there can be many productive stops along this route. Thickets are everywhere; some of the streets I have yet to explore, and who knows what might be found. You are now in a very productive area and you should follow your hunches.

For those of you who still need guidance, take a left on Red Brook Harbor Road to Scraggy Neck Road, take a left to Grasslands Road on the right, a dead end at Squeteague Harbor. There is usually a kingfisher here and many Red-breasted Mergansers and Common Goldeneye. Grasslands Road has a fine privet hedgerow and catbrier thickets that have harbored Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Carolina Wren, and Rufous-sided Towhee. Continue a short distance to Windsor Road to an ample pull-off for parking and explore the thickets. Along the dirt road you may flush a Ruffed Grouse; I have done so twice, but you are more likely to see a covey of Northern Bobwhite, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Carolina Wrens, or a towhee, as well as many titmice, chickadees and Cardinals. On the road again, just short of a mile you will come to the Scraggy Neck causeway. Here, next to the sign "for residents only" there is a place to park and scan both sides of the road for bay ducks. All three scoters, goldeneyes, Buffleheads, and Red-breasted Mergansers are usually well represented. Surprisingly Common Eider is rare; in nine years we have recorded only four individuals! On the right, look closely at Basset's Island and you should see Great Blue Heron; we had seven in 1975 and seven again in 1981. Scraggy Neck, mostly oak and "scraggy" pines, is on the whole disappointing for land birds, but a recent visit this past November found three well-stocked feeding stations. Bear right at the end of the causeway to Seal Lane (0.9 mile). This is a good look-out into Megansett Harbor for more bay ducks. Spish here and be overwhelmed by Yellow-rumped Warblers, Red-breasted Nuthatches (at the right time), House Finches, and Blue Jays. There is a good feeder at the last house. Another 0.7 mile is a feeder and another lookout towards Wing's Neck, a very good spot to see Oldsquaw, and Black and Surf scoters. Retrace your steps from Scraggy Neck back to County Road. At this intersection an old over-grown field has yielded a Dickcissel, White-crowned Sparrow, and Carolina Wrens. No wonder several feeding stations are in this neighborhood; streets are named for sandpipers, sanderling, partridge, pheasant, bobwhite, shearwater, dove, puffin, tattler, pintail, willet and whim-

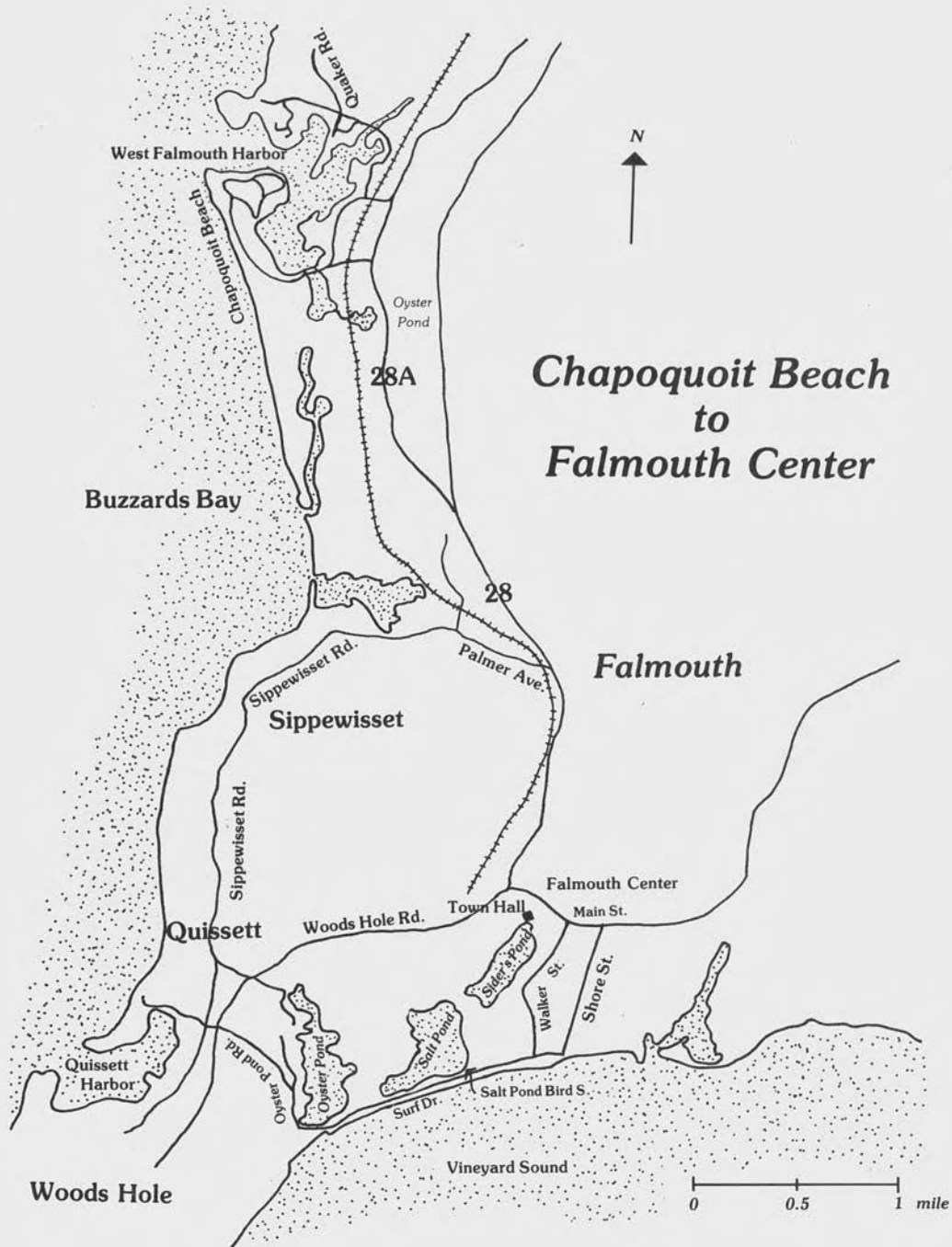


Carolina Wren

Illustration by Denise Braunhardt

brel. I doubt you will find many whimbrels on the drive or willets in the circle, but you have a good chance of finding a dove on the lane.

Take a left on County Road to a left on Depot Road and find another fine thicket worth spishing at. Continue down Depot Road to Scraggy Neck Road - I told you we would backtrack! Take a right and then a left on Grove Avenue to Megansett Road. Along this road is a posted bird sanctuary with many winding trails through catbrier thickets in a swampy woods, an area that has in the past held many Hermit Thrushes, Ruby-crowned Kinglets and a Yellow-breasted Chat! On the right is Amarita Island. A kingfisher is usually found here. Megansett Road becomes Garnet Road in the town of Falmouth. Stop at the bridge just where the harbor comes to the road. Some winters at low tide Greater Yellowlegs are present, but the thickets and swampy inlet on the left are the main attractions. Here you can usually find Carolina Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, towhee, Swamp Sparrow, and occasionally a Yellow-breasted Chat. At the end of Garnet Road is Cedar Lake where as many as 300+ scaup can be found as well as many Ring-necked Ducks and sometimes Redheads. The thickets around the pond have Carolina Wrens, and on the 1978



Chapoquoit Beach to Falmouth Center

28A

28

Sippewisset

Falmouth

Quissett

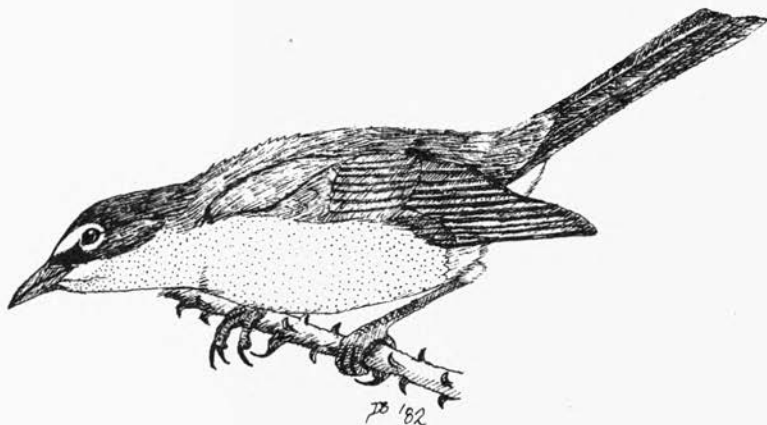
Falmouth Center

Woods Hole

0 0.5 1 mile

Christmas Count a Solitary Vireo was found here. Follow Chester Street past Trout Pond where Wood Ducks have been seen on a few occasions to a right turn on Wild Harbor Road. Take a right on Ryder Road to Fiddler's Cove. A marsh on the right has yielded Green-winged Teal, Wood Duck, American Bittern and blackbirds. Retracing the road leads to the end of Nye's Neck, more thickets and more overlooks onto Buzzards Bay.

The next major area is Crow Point, reached by taking a right onto Bay Shore Drive from Quaker Road. Here, along the inlet of Wild Harbor River, we have found Great and Snowy egrets, Great Blue Heron, Clapper Rail, Short-billed Dowitcher, Common Snipe and dabbling ducks such as Northern Shoveler and Northern Pintail among the predominating Black Ducks. There is always a kingfisher here and Hooded Mergansers have been found quite routinely. On a recent November trip a Little Blue Heron was found. Overhead we once recorded a Northern Goshawk and a Red-shouldered Hawk. Northern Harriers have been seen many times over the marsh. Back on Quaker Road you will pass Old Silver Beach; a parking lot there will enable you to scan over Buzzards Bay for loons and Horned Grebes. Across the street, Herring Brook runs from a substantial salt marsh where Great Blue Herons and Northern Harriers are frequently seen. The next neck will be Little Island, reached by driving out Little Island Road. At the end of the road there is space for one or two cars to park. Walk down the sand road to Little Island, a bird sanctuary of the town. Here you will find trails past mostly cedar trees and bayberry. There are usually many Yellow-rumped Warblers, an occasional yellowthroat or a Palm Warbler.



Yellow-breasted Chat

Illustration by Denise Braunhardt

Cedar Waxwings and American Robins like to feed here. This is also another fine lookout over Buzzards Bay and West Falmouth Harbor. Continue back along Quaker Road past West Falmouth Harbor and Oyster Pond on the left. Hooded Mergansers are usually found here, and the thickets have yielded Carolina Wren every time. Follow the coast to Chapoquoit Point and Beach along the south side of West Falmouth Harbor. Here you can find Barrow's Goldeneye, present for the last few years. From the parking lot at the beach, scan over Buzzards Bay where Red-necked Grebes have been recorded a few times. This point is the last stop of the author's official section of the Buzzards Bay Christmas Count. Depending on your ambition and numbers of stops, this can easily consume a winter's day of birding.

If you have missed some of the specialties such as Canvasback, Lesser Scaup and Redhead, you should continue up the Cape to Falmouth Center. A suggestion is to continue along Buzzards Bay through the village of Sippewisset where FOUR Yellow-breasted Chats on the December 1981 Buzzards Bay Christmas Count set a record - the highest national total of individual chats on the 1981 Christmas Count! There are excellent thickets here for chats, yellowthroats, towhees, kinglets and Carolina Wrens. Keep your eyes peeled for promising thickets. Stop and spish! It's also a good idea to drive slowly with car windows open a bit, for Carolina Wrens sing frequently during the winter months. Continue along Sippewisset Road to the village of Quissett. Quissett Harbor is another good vantage point from which to scope for bay ducks. Take a left on Oyster Pond Road, passing Oyster Pond where Mute Swans can be found, to Surf Drive. Along Surf Drive there is a good vantage point for Salt Pond Bird Sanctuary. This pond is one of the best areas in Massachusetts on which to find Redheads and Canvasbacks. There usually are a number of Ring-necked Ducks, and both species of scaup can be found here. Follow Surf Drive to Walker Street on the left. Take Walker Street to Main Street where you should take a left through Falmouth Center to the Falmouth Town Hall on the left. Park behind the Town Hall to view Sider's Pond - another fine spot for Redhead, Canvasbacks and Lesser Scaup. Even during the coldest spells there is usually open water in which the birds concentrate. You can find Pied-billed Grebe, coot and Wood Duck here. The thickets around the Town Hall contain Carolina Wrens, kinglets, Hermit Thrush and Gray Catbirds. Occasionally you might flush an American Woodcock or a Common Snipe. A Eurasian Wigeon has been recorded here, and for several years a Tufted Duck was seen among the scaup and Ring-necked Ducks.

The Butterworth Company (23 Trader's Lane, West Yarmouth, MA 02673) has produced an excellent folded street map showing all points of interest, and ponds with depths recorded in the towns of Bourne, Falmouth, Mashpee and Sandwich. It can be bought for \$1.95 in most drugstores in the area or

directly from the company. I highly recommend it.

While this article is not a complete survey of the winter birdlife, it offers an idea of the potential of the Buzzards Bay region. I hope it will stimulate your interest so that more birdwatchers can discover for themselves this little known birding hot spot.

ROBERT H. STYMEIST, an accountant by profession, has established a second career in birding as a founding member and current president of Bird Observer, on the directorial board of Brookline Bird Club (his spring walks at Mt. Auburn Cemetery are famous throughout New England), and, at present, as treasurer of the Nuttall Ornithological Club. An accomplished North American birder (over 600), he has birded in Europe and the British Isles, in Central and South America, and most recently expanded his birdwatching to Tanzania in Africa.

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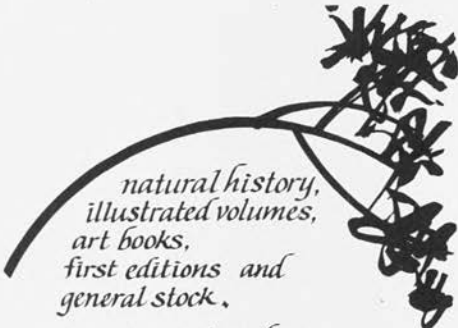


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A BIRD NAME QUIZ

by Chris Floyd, Lexington

Are the following waterfowl on your life list?

Winter Noiselet	Pointed Duck
Little White Oxhead	Red-footed Duck
Shielded Spoon	

Or this game bird?

Harefoot

Or these shore and wading birds?

Cloaked Bloodfoot	Tricolored Waterqueen
Lesser Bog-lover	Violet Nightqueen

Or this raptor?

Sociable Hookbeak

Or this coastal bird?

Black Beakface

Or the following passerines?

Reddish Bowmouth	Red-tailed Moth-eater
Wandering Worm-eater	Golden-haired Shaketail
Greenish Gnatking	Tiger-striped Tree-dweller
Rice-eating Longclaw	Many-tongued Mimic

No, you don't have to go to Africa or South America to get them; they are all North American birds. In fact, all but two of them occur regularly in Massachusetts. No, they are not new names being imposed upon us by the A.O.U. (thank goodness!). These are invented names - but invented by an orderly procedure, with some linguistic liberties taken. Perhaps you can figure out the more familiar names of these birds. In any case, these will appear in the next issue of Bird Observer, along with explanations of the invented ones.

THE FIELD IDENTIFICATION OF BALD AND GOLDEN EAGLES

by Paul M. Roberts, Medford

Illustrated by Julie S. Roberts, Medford

Massachusetts' birders have enjoyed a particularly pleasant development in recent years. The number of eagles wintering in the Commonwealth has been increasing! The counts have been larger not only at Quabbin Reservoir and in the Connecticut Valley, but also, for the past three years, wintering Bald Eagles have been observed regularly on the Merrimack River.

The "return" of the eagles has caused some confusion. Although most birders can easily identify an adult Bald Eagle when seen well, identifying immature and sub-adult Bald Eagles and differentiating them from Golden Eagles is another matter entirely. During the past two years, I've seen very competent birders unable to correctly identify sub-adult Bald Eagles even when seen well at close range. I've also seen sub-adult Bald Eagles identified as Rough-legged Hawks, Ospreys, Red-tailed Hawks, and a "possible Swainson's Hawk," and at least twice, I've seen "dark phase" Rough-legged Hawks identified as Golden Eagles.

There are good grounds for such confusion. The major birding field guides (Peterson, Robbins, Pough, and Bull) depict only two plumages, immature and adult, for the Bald and Golden eagles. This is adequate for the latter, in which the many sub-adult plumages vary only slightly from the immature plumage depicted. However, no standard field guide portrays the great variety, and disparity, of sub-adult Bald Eagle plumages. Well over half the Bald Eagles I've seen in Massachusetts during the past two years were not in either plumage represented in the field guides. These were the birds, perched, that were often seen well by other observers but misidentified because they were in sub-adult plumage.

This article attempts to supplement the information conveyed in the major guides regarding the field identification of eagles. It concludes with a special two-page "coloring book" and a request for your help in identifying and tracking the movement of individual eagles, especially in the Merrimack Valley, along the Essex County coast, and in southern New Hampshire.

BALD EAGLE

The Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) is by far the most commonly seen eagle in Massachusetts. A fish eater and scavenger, it is frequently found near dumps, roadkills and other carrion, especially along lakes, rivers, and ocean shores. The dimensions (wingspan c. 72 to 98 inches, weight 7 to 12 pounds) are quite similar to those of the Golden Eagle. The



Immature Bald Eagle at Quabbin Reservoir

Photo by Peter A. Southwick, A.P.

sexes look alike, except that the female is larger.

In Flight. Three characteristics help identify the Bald Eagle in flight.

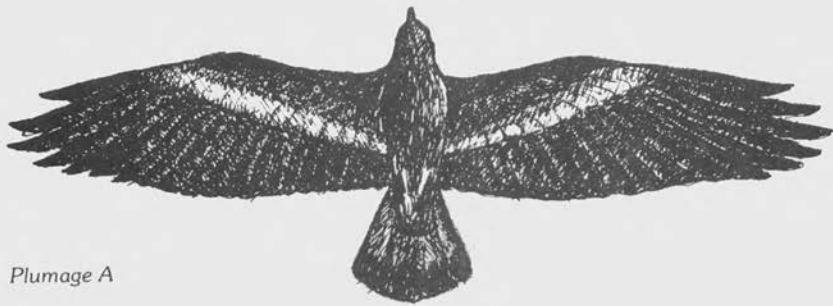
- ▶When the bird's head and tail are well seen, the large head and beak appear to stick out as far in front of the leading edge of the wing as the long tail sticks out behind the trailing edge.
- ▶The wings appear very long and consistently thick from the base of the wing to the tip. The leading and trailing edges of the wing seem parallel.
- ▶When soaring or gliding, the wings are held flat. This flatness, combined with the straightness of the wings, prompts some observers to call the bird a flying plank.

In powered flight, the wingstrokes are deep, imposingly long, and somewhat disjointed. The differences between the Bald and Golden eagle wingstrokes are subtle and subject to much qualification.

Perched. This is an extremely large bird that tends to sit very erect in trees, like a Red-tailed Hawk only much bigger. Unless the bird is quite distant, the massive head and long beak clearly differentiate it from any other perched raptor, including the Golden Eagle, seen in the Commonwealth. If you are standing under the bird, you'll note that the feathering on the tarsi stops an inch or more above the toes. The tail is impressively long, broad, and slightly rounded. (The large head can minimize the perception of a long tail.) In immature plumages, the tail often appears wedge shaped. The long beak, cere, feet, and iris are bright yellow in the adult-plumaged bird. Immatures and sub-adults have dull yellow feet, a greyish cere, a horn-brown to black beak, and a brown iris. Sub-adults can often show some yellow at the base of the mandible.

Plumage. The Bald Eagle is our national symbol, one of the most famous birds in the world, and one of the best known eagles (in scientific terms). Thus, it is surprising how little is known about Bald Eagle plumages, molt, and aging. The best discussion of Bald Eagle plumages was written by Southern (1967), who identified seven distinct plumages, at least two "transition" plumages, and attempted to correlate plumage with age. However, recent evidence has raised serious questions with regard to aging eagles by plumage. That subject will be addressed in a forthcoming article.

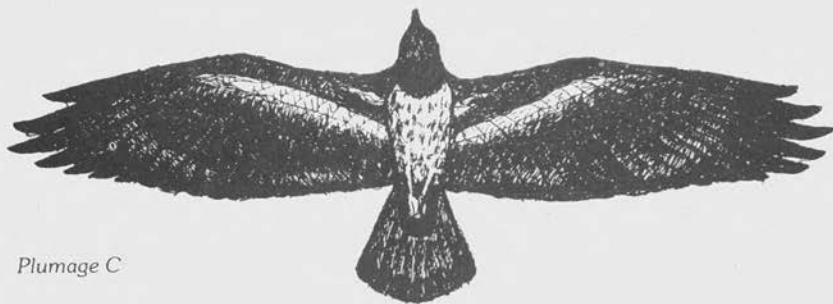
Four fairly distinctive plumages are shown here to indicate the great variability in Bald Eagle plumages. There are many gradations between these plumages that are not depicted here, and no attempt is made to correlate specific chronolog-



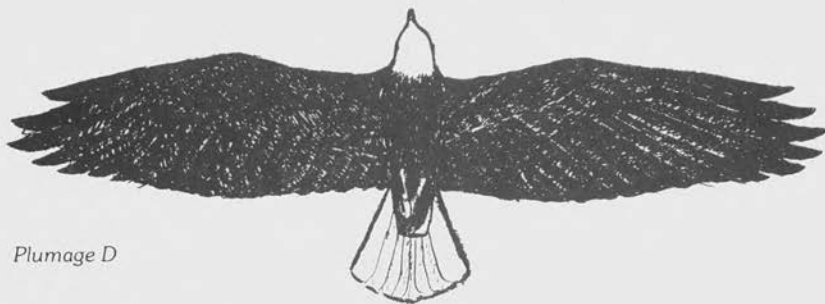
Plumage A



Plumage B



Plumage C



Plumage D

Four Bald Eagle Plumages

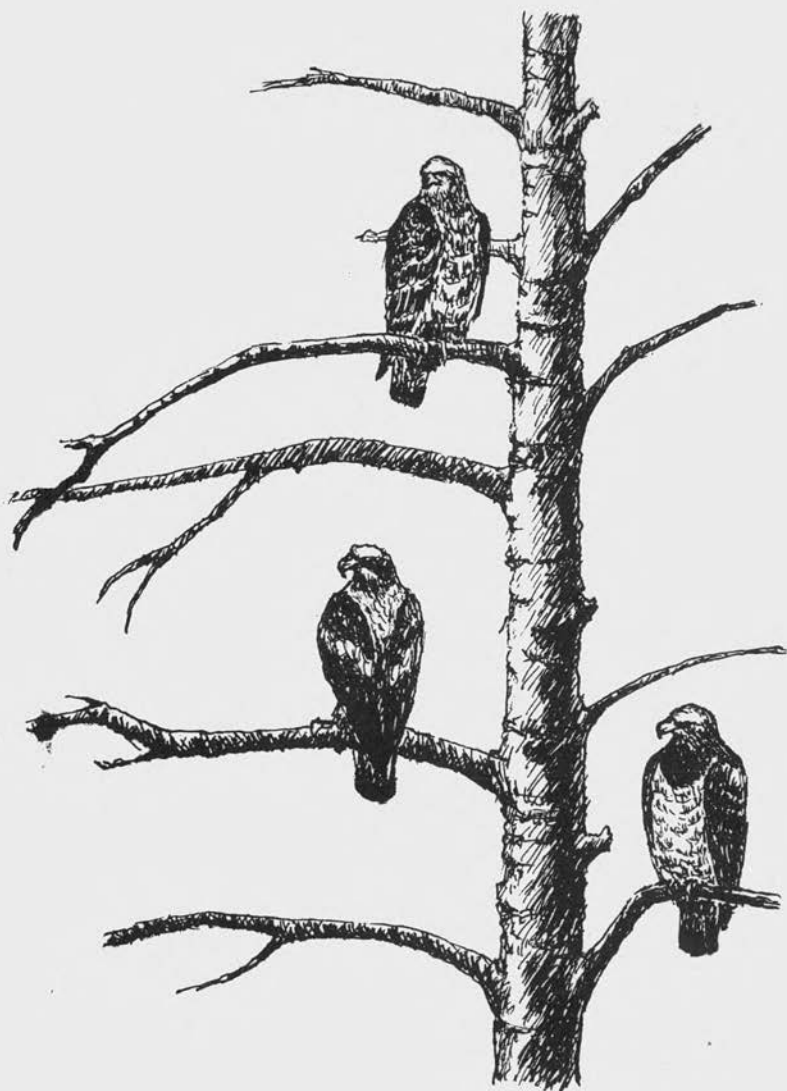
ical age with a certain plumage. However, it is generally assumed that birds progress from Plumage A, commonly considered to be the immature, first-year plumage, to Plumage D, or full adult plumage.

Plumage A. The head is dark brown to black. The body is similarly colored, with occasional white feathers (bases) evident. The wings are also dark brown, but diffuse grey mottling is evident at the base of the flight feathers, the primaries and secondaries. Greyish-white is often found on the dark brown tail, especially on the central rectrices. What white there might be on the tail is most apparent ventrally.

Plumage B. The head and body are dark brown. The neck, however, may be lighter brown or tan, contrasting with the dark brown crown and nape, perhaps creating the impression of golden hackles. Occasionally, there are white feathers on the lower back; sometimes this white is quite extensive. The upper breast is dark brown, creating a "bib" effect as it contrasts with a lighter brown lower breast and belly. This lighter brown area is often streaked with white, giving the lower breast and abdomen a light, speckled "salt and pepper" appearance. The primaries are dark brown to black, but there can be diffuse white mottling on the secondaries and wing linings. The tail usually has dirty-white patches, often flecked with brown, and the dark tips to the rectrices create the effect of an ill-defined terminal tail band.

Plumage C. This is the most enigmatic plumage. The head is generally dark brown, but the crown and nape can be tawny. There may be a tan eye stripe contrasting with a dark brown face patch. The throat can be tan or streaked white. The back is dark brown, but often there is a large white patch on the back. When the bird is perched with wings folded, the patch looks V-shaped. When the wings are spread, however, the full extent of the patch is visible and it is usually rectangular. The upper breast has a distinctive, but not sharply delineated, dark brown bib (or breast shield) contrasting with a lighter brown lower breast and belly that are heavily streaked with white. Often, the lower breast and belly appear white streaked with brown, variable from individual to individual. The contrast between the bib and the belly is much more pronounced in this plumage than in Plumage B. Diffuse dirty-white mottling is found in the wing linings and in the tail.

Plumage D. In the familiar adult plumage, the bird has acquired a bright white head and tail and a lighter brown cast to the body. Some brown mottling will occasionally be found on the head and tail. The flight feathers and wing linings are dark brown. Occasionally, pale-edged, or faded, worn feathers are seen, especially on the wings.



Some Sub-adult Bald Eagle Plumages

There are probably more variations between plumages C and D than any others, but birds in such plumages are progressively less difficult to identify because they increasingly resemble adult eagles. One "transition" plumage deserves special mention, however. Before advancing to full adult plumage, many birds develop a dusky white head and neck mottled with brown streaks. The remnants of the brown face patch can extend around the eye to the back of the head, giving the bird a distinct Osprey-like head pattern that can easily confuse the observer unfamiliar with sub-adult eagle plumages. (See "Other Likely Sources of Confusion" in this article.)



Bald Eagle in "Osprey-like" Transition Plumage

GOLDEN EAGLE

The Golden Eagle (Aquila chrysaetos) is seen much less frequently in Massachusetts than is the Bald Eagle. The Golden Eagle is usually found in mountainous terrain or over fields, hunting for larger mammals such as rabbits and woodchucks. The Golden Eagle is every bit as large as the Bald, with a wingspan ranging between 75 to 94 inches and weight between 7 to 14 pounds. Again, the sexes look alike, with the exception of the larger female size.

In Flight. Three characteristics help identify the Golden Eagle in flight.

- ▶When the bird's head and tail are well seen, the head and beak appear significantly shorter than the long tail. That is, the head and beak do not stick out in front of the leading edge of the wing nearly as much as the tail protrudes from the trailing edge of the wing.
- ▶The long wings noticeably vary in thickness. The wing appears pinched at the base, especially on the trailing edge. The wing gradually broadens to the "wrist" and narrows on the "hand." This gives the trailing edge of the wing a modest but distinctive "S" curve.

▶When soaring or gliding, the bird has a slight dihedral, most obvious on the hand. When soaring, the wings often seem to be swept forward, as though the primaries were attempting to encircle something in front of the bird.

Perched. This is an extremely large bird that dwarfs other hawks or crows perched nearby. The head and beak are much smaller than those of a Bald Eagle, yet noticeably larger than those of a "dark-phase" Rough-legged Hawk. The smaller head dramatizes the effect of the long tail, which can be straight, slightly rounded, or deeply rounded. If your vision is acute, you might note the tarsi are fully feathered to the toes, a characteristic shared with the Rough-legged Hawk. Many birds will have greyish-white, not brown feathers on the tarsi. At close range the Golden Eagle's talons are impressively large; the Roughleg's are not.

Immature, sub-adult, and adult birds have a bluish-black beak, significantly smaller than that of the Bald Eagle. In all age groups, the cere and toes are bright yellow and the iris dark brown.

Plumage. There are two conspicuously distinctive plumages in the Golden Eagle: immature and adult, with all sub-adult plumages only minor variations on a theme.

Plumage A is that of an immature (first year) bird. All feathers are white with blackish-brown tips, so the bird appears dark brown. The young bird looks much darker than the adult, except for where the white bases of the primaries and rectrices, and to a much lesser extent the secondaries, are exposed. This gives the young bird crisp, sharply defined, white wing patches, which are virtually diagnostic when seen well from below. Smaller "wrist" patches are visible on the upper wing. The white bases of the rectrices give the tail a distinct ringed effect. The basal half to two thirds of the tail appears strikingly white with a very dark, sharply defined terminal tail band. (New rectrices will have a narrow white terminal tail band, which wears away quickly.) The famous golden hackles are usually evident at this stage, although they are occasionally a whitish buff rather than golden.

As the bird matures, passing through several sub-adult plumages, the amount of white in the wing patches and tail decreases. At times wear or molt will expose small, isolated white patches on the throat or breast, or elsewhere, but the mottling is never as extensive as in the Bald Eagle.

In Plumage B, or adult plumage, the bird will be mottled various shades of brown, a lighter brown than in the immature. The wrist and tail patches are brown, but slightly paler than the tips of the remiges and rectrices, giving the



Plumage A (immature)



(sub-adult plumage)



Plumage B (adult)

Three Golden Eagle Plumages

bird a slightly two-toned effect in good light. Often some white remains at the base of the tail, and some birds have white, scapular "epaulettes."

OTHER LIKELY SOURCES OF CONFUSION

In retrospect, the most difficult "call" might be to separate an adult Golden Eagle from the Bald Eagle depicted in plumage A, especially if the bird is not seen in good light. The head/tail proportions and the shape and angle of the wing would be the critical criteria for identification. Otherwise, knowing the variability of sub-adult Bald Eagle plumages, there should be little difficulty in differentiating the species if the birds are seen well.

However, as noted earlier, other raptors are often confused with eagles.

The Turkey Vulture has the wingspan (68 to 72 inches) of a small eagle and a long, squared tail, but it has an extremely small head, which is often hard to discern at a distance. The bird is much lighter (30 to 51 ounces) than either eagle, so its flight is much more buoyant. The Turkey Vulture glides and soars with a fairly deep dihedral: the "arm" of the wing is held well above the horizontal in a shallow "V." Neither eagle has such a distinctive dihedral. The Turkey Vulture also spends most of its time soaring and gliding, often rocking to and fro in the glide. However, when the large-winged vulture does flap, its deep strokes can easily mislead someone accustomed to seeing the bird only gliding or soaring.

The long, thick wings differ from those of the eagles, and when seen well, the underwings are clearly two-toned. The wing linings are quite dark, contrasting with the silvery-grey flight feathers.

The first Golden Eagle I saw in Massachusetts was initially identified as a Turkey Vulture by the spotter. When my attention was called to the bird, I saw a very dark, uniformly dark, thick-winged bird hanging motionless above the summit of Mt. Wachusett facing into a stiff 35 mph wind. Turkey Vultures would not, could not, do that. The white wing patches and the white base to the tail confirmed young Golden Eagle; a sighting I shall never forget.

The Rough-legged Hawk has a significantly shorter wingspan (c. 48 to 56 inches) than either eagle, but in its "dark phase" plumage, it can cause consternation, especially if the bird is perched. Dark-phase Roughlegs can be totally dark chocolate brown, looking much like the Golden Eagle, especially if the tarsi are seen clearly. Both species have tarsi feathered to the toes and can also have a white base to the tail with a thick, dark terminal tail band. At close

range the Roughleg, however, can easily be differentiated from the Golden Eagle by its smaller head, noticeably smaller beak, shorter tail, and much smaller talons. Although adult Golden Eagles and some dark-phase Roughlegs can have totally dark brown tails, in all dark Roughlegs I've seen, the tail is dark dorsally only. The tail appears greyish from below, often marked with a diffuse dark terminal band. The underside of the tail can also show a series of paler, narrower bands, some of which may be incomplete.

In flight, the dark-phase Roughleg can be distinguished from the eagles by its long, but much narrower, more tapered wings, and by the dark wing linings that contrast sharply with the silvery flight feathers. The Roughleg also has a distinctive dihedral, most obvious from the body to the wrist, with the hand held flatter. The Golden Eagle's dihedral is the reverse, most obvious on the hand. Of the two birds, only the Roughleg will hover in mid-air, actively beating its wings.

Three other species might be confused with eagles, especially sub-adult Bald Eagles.

The Osprey approaches the eagles in wingspan (c. 54 to 74 inches), but the wings are narrower than those of either eagle. The primary source of confusion might be the facial markings. The sub-adult Bald Eagle can have a cream-colored head with a brown patch through the eye and extending to the back of the head, much like the patch on an Osprey. The Osprey, however, can be identified by its bright, white crown and throat and the much smaller beak. Also, the Osprey has a white breast and belly, and white wing linings with a distinctive black carpal (wrist) patch.

In flight, the Osprey's wings are usually bowed when gliding. The arm is held slightly higher than the hand, much like a gull does, and the wrist is pressed forward, creating a "broken-wing" effect. The Osprey will also regularly hover over open water; the two eagles do not hover.

The Red-tailed Hawk, especially if perched, might be confused with the sub-adult Bald Eagle with the brown bib or breast band. And, the sub-adult Bald Eagle has specifically that, a brown bib or upper breast band. The Redtails seen in Massachusetts normally have a white throat, breast, and belly, with a highly variable reddish-brown, often indistinct belly band. The Redtail, which has a much smaller wingspan, c. 46 to 58 inches, can also have extensive white mottling on the scapulars, coverts, and back, which might prompt one to think eagle. However, the Redtail's mottling is more diffuse and less extensive than on the sub-adult Bald Eagle.

The sub-adult Bald Eagle's brown bib has caused some observers to think "Swainson's Hawk." The latter is extremely rare in Massachusetts, and there is an obvious size differ-

ence between the relatively slim Swainson's (wingspan c. 47 to 57 inches) and the Bald Eagle. The Swainson's can also be identified by its distinct white throat patch, and the cream-colored wing linings that contrast sharply with the much darker flight feathers, totally unlike the wings of either eagle. Furthermore, the Swainson's tail is greyish and crossed with twelve to fourteen narrow, dark-brown bars; the thickest of which is subterminal.

The "dark-phase" Swainson's can pose problems, however. Several characteristics are helpful here. The Swainson's has only three notched primaries; in all plumages there is a light pattern on the leading edge of the wing; and seen from above, the basal half of the tail is usually whitish. The bird also has a marked dihedral, much like that of the Northern Harrier (Marsh Hawk).

THE EAGLE PROJECT

The following two-page "spread" contains outlines of eagles: both species as seen from below in flight, and perched, and the Bald Eagle as seen from above in flight. You are encouraged to make photocopies of this spread to help you record the plumages of eagles if and when you see them. As more is learned about eagle plumages, especially those of the Bald Eagle, it will then be possible for you to return to your sketches and attempt to correlate the plumages you have observed with age or note specific variations.

Second, and of more immediate importance, you will be able to help the New Hampshire Audubon Society (ASNH) conduct an important eagle research project. Funded by federal and state grants, ASNH is seeking to identify local eagle wintering areas, including perch sites, feeding areas, and night roosts, and to record behavior patterns and food habits. This data will be used to help minimize the effects of possible winter oil spills in New Hampshire and nearby waters. The information will also be used in planning energy development projects in the Merrimack Valley and along the coast, so that such projects will have minimal effect on the eagle population of the region.

ASNH asks that you inform them of any eagle sightings, providing as much detail as possible on the bird's plumage. Also, note the date, time, and exact location of the sighting, and if any colored wing tags or leg bands were seen. (Last year, two color-marked eagles wintering in Maine were identified as residents of the Tennessee Valley.) A photocopy of your "filled-in" photocopy of the silhouette spread would be an excellent reporting form. Whatever form your eagle sighting reports take, please send them to:

Eagle Project, NHESP
ASNH
P.O. Box 528-B
Concord, NH 03301

The author and artist would appreciate photocopies of "reports" of any Bald Eagles between plumages "A" and "D," and any Golden Eagles. Please mail these copies to 254 Arlington Street, Medford, MA 02155.

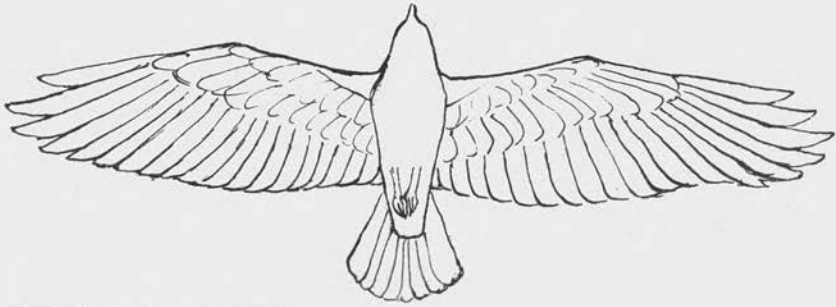
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank the Massachusetts Audubon Society and its fine staff for the use of their library resources in the preparation of this paper. I would also like to thank Lois Andelman, Richard Forster, and Leif Robinson for reading the paper at various stages. Any errors contained herein, however, are my responsibility.

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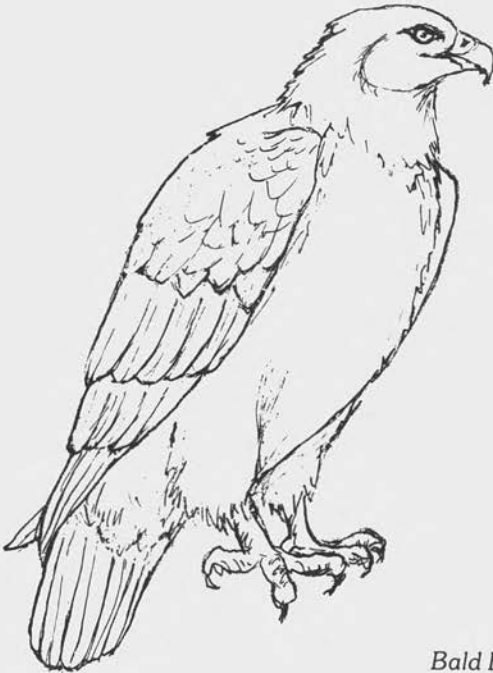
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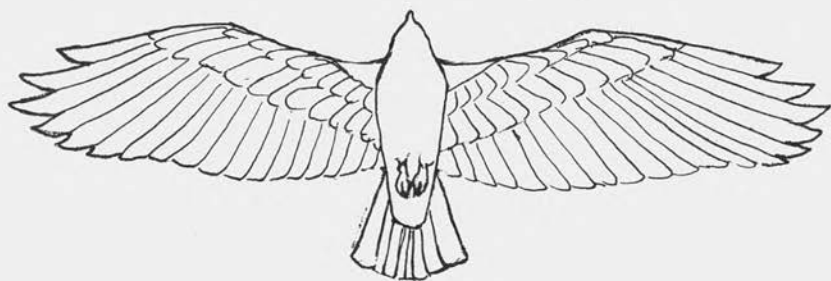
Bald Eagle (from below)



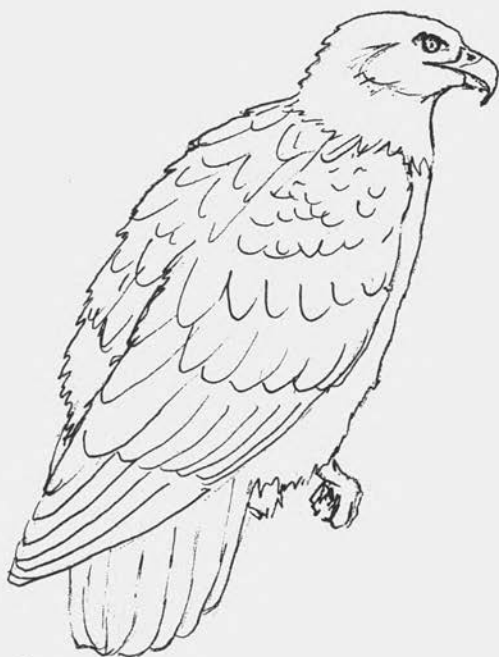
Bald Eagle (from above)



Bald Eagle (perched)



Golden Eagle (from below)



Bald Eagle (perched)



Golden Eagle (perched)

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STATUS OF THE RED-NECKED GREBE IN MASSACHUSETTS

by Richard S. Forster, Framingham

The Red-necked Grebe (Podiceps grisegena) has always been a familiar, if somewhat uncommon, visitor to Massachusetts whose numbers fluctuate widely from year to year. There is some discrepancy between the status as detailed in the most recent publications on Massachusetts birds. Griscom and Snyder (1955) listed this grebe as a common fall transient and an irregular, but never common, winter resident. They stated that the Red-necked Grebe is an irregular spring migrant with peak numbers recorded anytime from late February to early May but that these concentrations were by no means an annual occurrence. In contrast, Bailey (1955) states that Red-necked Grebe is a common winter resident along the coast and implies that Red-necked Grebes are regular, even common, spring and fall transients along the coast and occasionally appear inland. The present pattern of distribution indicates that none of these statements are correct and that the seasonal distribution is variable, irregular and subject to independent interpretation.

The Red-necked Grebe breeds on freshwater lakes and marshes from Alaska, western and central southern Canada south to northern United States (Washington east to Minnesota). It winters along the Pacific coast from southeastern Alaska to central California and on the Atlantic coast from Newfoundland south to Florida, although south of Massachusetts it is decidedly uncommon. In midwinter, counts of Red-necked Grebes are greatest in Nova Scotia and Maine.

In fall migration Red-necked Grebes are infrequently reported, mostly as individuals flying past coastal vantage points. Occasionally, singles and small groups are seen resting on the water. With few exceptions winter counts of Red-necked Grebes do not indicate a general presence along the coast as reflected by the Christmas Bird Counts.

Beginning usually in late February, numbers build up in favored locations like Manomet Point, the North Shore from Nahant to Cape Ann, and the bay shore of Cape Cod particularly at Corporation Beach in Dennis. These numbers build to a peak in March or early April. Because of the timing of these gatherings it is easy to consider these grebes migrants, but they are probably birds that have steadily moved down from the north as the winter progressed. The general lack of reports from regions south of Massachusetts does not provide supporting evidence for a build-up of spring migrants.

An interesting facet of these concentrations is that the birds are often observed in groups sleeping or resting with their bills tucked into the feathers on the back. This

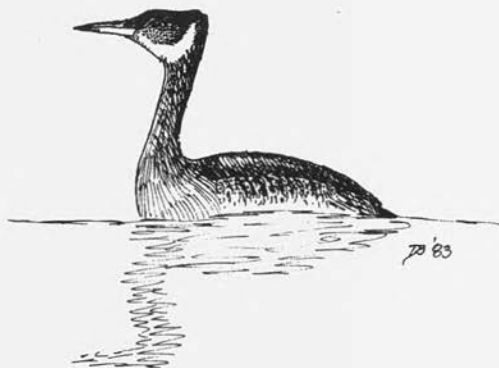
attitude presents a problem in identification because female Red-breasted Mergansers (Mergus serrator) are often present in these congregations.

During late February and March of 1977 unprecedented numbers of Red-necked Grebes were reported along the coast. An informal request for sightings was well-received and produced the following counts.

<u>February</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Count</u>
27	Gloucester	122
27	Cohasset to North Scituate	110
<u>March</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Count</u>
6	Hull to Brant Rock	306
7	Manomet	250
7	Nantucket	152

The counts listed above represent only the highest numbers. Certainly more than a thousand Red-necked Grebes were present in Massachusetts during this time span. In 1979 another exceptional concentration of Red-necked Grebes occurred at the Wellfleet shore of Cape Cod Bay. On April 4 two thousand were estimated at this location, and four days later eight hundred were still present.

The curious fact that the great majority of these birds was observed resting rather than actively feeding raises the question of when and where they feed. It is possible that Red-necked Grebes feed offshore out of sight of land-based observers. Indeed the previous high count for the species was three hundred observed April 10, 1930 off No Mans Land, a small island south of Martha's Vineyard. Griscom (1955)



Red-necked Grebe

Illustration by Denise Braunhardt

states that this was "the greatest number ever in New England." It is entirely possible that the bulk of the population in the northeast winters out of sight of land thus accounting for low totals recorded on Christmas Bird Counts. Then, prior to migration, the birds move to inshore waters to molt and rest in preparation for the northward journey.

The above explanation for the presence of Red-necked Grebes in Massachusetts is purely speculative. The author would appreciate any information that would help unravel the mysterious comings and goings of this species.

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RICHARD A. FORSTER, Assistant Director of Natural History Services at Massachusetts Audubon Society and a recognized authority on Massachusetts birds, is a former president of Nuttall Ornithological Club, co-authored the Checklist of the World's Birds (Quadrangle, 1976) with E. S. Gruson, currently shares the editorship of the Northeastern Maritime Region (Fall Season) for American Birds, and is collaborating with R. R. Veit on the new Birds of Massachusetts. He has served as tour leader and birded extensively throughout Europe, Central and South America, Australia and the South Pacific, and Vietnam.

CALL FOR BIRD FEEDER AND HOUSE DESIGNS

A new book, tentatively titled The Audubon Society Handbook for Attracting Birds, will include innovative homemade designs for bird feeders, houses and baths. The author, Stephen W. Kress, is looking for improvements to standard models of feeders and houses and original designs for any homemade bird attracting creations. Novel approaches to repelling squirrels, cats and nuisance birds are also welcome. In addition to the handbook, some of the submitted material may be selected for articles in the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's new magazine, The Living Bird Quarterly. The designers of selected plans will be acknowledged in the book and articles.

Mail detailed plans with measurements (and photographs if available) to: Dr. Stephen W. Kress, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850.

A "HORNED" SNOWY OWL

by Ken Winkler, Wellesley

Snowy Owls (Nyctea scandiaca) are supposed to be earless, but on January 27, 1981, while looking for birds in Newburyport, I found a Snowy Owl with a tiny black horn above each eye. The bird was perched on a utility pole just east of the Plum Island Bridge. The horns, which were formed by some of the feathers spotting the forehead, extended about one-half inch from the top of the head. I studied the owl for fifteen minutes with 7X binoculars and a 20X spotting scope, twenty-five feet away from the pole.

A Snowy Owl with ear tufts was first described by George Miksch Sutton and photographed by David Parmelee (George Sutton, High Arctic, Paul S. Erickson, New York, 1971). Sutton's bird was a female on the nest. He writes that "after wriggling down into a comfortable position on her eggs, her back plumage sank, her eyes slowly narrowed, and above each eye appeared ... a neat little triangular horn!" When Sutton's owl became excited the horns disappeared; as soon as she became "composed, narrow-eyed, and sleepy-looking" they returned. The horns on my bird were visible whether its eyes were narrowed, closed, or open. At one point the owl hunched over, closed its eyes, and opened its mouth wide as if to yawn. It held this pose, absolutely motionless, for three or four seconds. I was beginning to think that the yawn should be over when a large pellet appeared at the back of the bird's mouth. The pellet passed slowly out of the throat and fell to the ground. The owl passed the pellet casually, without retching, and its ears were erect both before and after. Sutton (personal communication) speculates that passing the pellet may have made the bird "dopey," accounting for the appearance of the horns.

I examined one hundred specimens of Nyctea scandiaca at the Museum of Comparative Zoology. The facial disc of a Snowy Owl is covered by dense, relatively narrow feathers, which are pure white even on the darkest birds in the MCZ collection. Above the disc are broader feathers, which are often tipped with brown. These are the feathers that formed the horns on my bird, but all the specimens in the MCZ collection are completely tuftless. Some have unkempt forehead feathers, and on others the feathers have been flattened by the pressure of the bird on the tray, but none has the striking pair of horns on my bird or Sutton's.

Allan Eckert says of the Snowy Owl that "although there are indeed rudimentary ear tufts, they are very tiny, practically buried in the head plumage, and rarely raised even a little. For all intents and purposes, insofar as external appearances go, Nyctea scandiaca may be considered as being a tuftless owl" (The Owls of North America, Doubleday, New York, 1974).

BEHAVIOR-WATCHING FIELD NOTES

by Donald and Lillian Stokes, Carlisle

Field Notes on Behavior

We want to thank readers for continuing to send us their superb observations on bird behavior. If you have sent us material and we have not yet printed it, have faith; it will appear in future issues of BOEM. If you have not yet sent us notes on interesting behavior you have seen, please do; we would love to hear from you. Our address is 52 Nowell Farm Road, Carlisle, MA 01741.

Edith Andrews had some marvelous observations of a Gray Catbird. The bird had a habit of perching on the roof of a beehive, peering at the emerging bees, and swooping down to pick them off the hive or the ground. The bird did not go after just any bee, but seemed to be selective. Edith noticed that the bees chosen were very large, suggesting that they might be the stingless drone bees. At one point she clearly distinguished both a drone and a worker on the hive edge, and the bird picked off the drone. Nantucket, 6/23-30/82.

Comment. A beehive is a ready source of food, and it is certainly not beyond the bird's ability to distinguish the two types of bees. It makes you wonder how it first learned the difference. If the bird got stung by the first bee it caught, why would it try again? The trial and error needed to learn the difference between the two bees seems to suppose a fair amount of stamina and persistence on the part of the bird.

Mark Lynch and Sheila Carroll watched a Sedge Wren (formerly Short-billed Marsh Wren) "perched in a small, bare bush. It sang constantly, affecting a rather extreme position: its head and tail were thrown so far back they touched at times." Between songs the bird rotated 30-60 degrees to the left or right. This display made its buffy undertail coverts highly visible. Nearby a Yellow-billed Cuckoo began to sing and dove down at the wren, "barely missing it." Blandford, MA, 5/30/82.

Comment. Although all wrens are pictured in field guides with their tails cocked up, this is not the normal position of the birds. It is a display usually given in response to danger or during aggression between males. Both the Marsh and Sedge Wren do an extreme version of this during territorial advertisement and during some courtship. In this display, called fluff-out, the bird raises both head and tail and fluffs breast feathers. The wings may also be quivered slightly, and the bird often rotates its body side to side. Why the Yellow-billed Cuckoo flew at the wren is

a good question. Perhaps other readers could shed light on this. Mark and Sheila also add the fine comment "... when many people see rare or unusual birds in Massachusetts, the experience of just 'seeing' the bird overrides critical observation of any behavior."

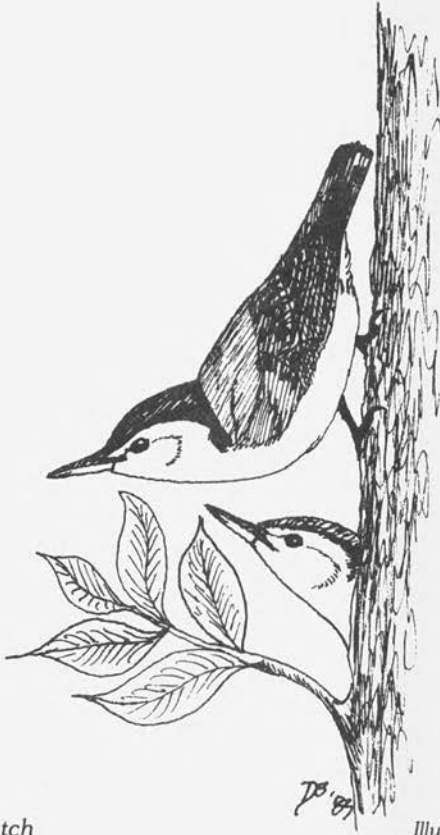
Jim Berry located and approached the nest of a pair of Solitary Vireos. It was three and a half feet above the ground in a Hazelnut bush and right beside a cabin. In it were three vireo eggs and one Cowbird egg. "When I once approached nest to check eggs, the female flew off chattering. The male's reaction was to fly over and sing rather than scold." Otisfield, Me, 5/30/82.

Comment. The Solitary Vireo is known for being a very calm bird near the nest, in some cases allowing observers even to touch the incubating bird. Unlike many other vireos, both sexes of Solitary Vireo are believed to share in incubation. It has also been suggested that the female may occasionally sing on or near the nest. The song of the vireo male often serves to keep the female aware of his location. In Jim's observation, if we have the sexes right, the male may have given song to announce his location after hearing a warning call from the female.

Jim Berry also writes in response to our comment on Screech Owls in the June 1982 "Behavior-Watching Field Notes" (Stokes, Donald and Lillian Stokes. 1982. Behavior-Watching Field Notes. Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts 10, No. 3:139). In this comment we suggested that the monotone call of the Screech Owl is a courtship note given from February to July, that the "screech" is a contact note given from August to January. This idea came from an article by Fred Hough in a 1960 issue of The Auk (Hough, Fred. 1960. Two Significant Calling Periods of the Screech Owl. The Auk 77:227-228). Jim says that he has heard both calls all through the year. We agree with him, for we also heard both calls together this last September. We and Jim would be interested in more observations on the timing and circumstances of Screech Owl vocalizations.

Behavior-Watching in the Months Ahead

We usually think of breeding behavior as only occurring in spring and summer, but the more one looks at the behavior of birds, the more their actions contradict our stereotyped notions of their lives. The White-breasted Nuthatch is a marvelous example of a bird that gives its most exciting courtship performance on the coldest January mornings! Starting in midwinter, the male will leave his night roost hole at dawn and fly to a prominent perch. There, with the first light gleaming on his white breast, he will give his courtship song - a ringing "werwerwerwerwer" - quite unlike the usual "ip" and "ank-ank" nuthatch notes. He will accom-



White-breasted Nuthatch

Illustration by Denise Braunhardt

pany his singing with the song-bow display, in which he elongates his head and neck and bows up and down with each repetition of the song. Between songs he may sway back and forth. In less intense performances he may just raise and then lower his head. Unmated males do more intense courtship displaying than mated ones. The female will come from her roost hole, which is usually some distance away, and join her mate. They will then go off and forage, giving "ip" calls. On other occasions, when she is listening to him, she may remain motionless, as if in a trance.

Another highlight of nuthatch winter courtship is mate-feeding. The male obtains food (perhaps from a place where it has been stored, or maybe from your feeder) and flies to the female, and she takes it in her bill. Sometimes she won't take it until it is pounded up and presented again. During courtship male and female nuthatches also give a curious whistled call that sounds like "pheeoo." The male may give this and then pursue the female in chases. The female gives this prior to copulation.

All of these nuthatch activities begin in midwinter and continue into nesting time in April. The courtship singing is most sustained in winter. Although this singing indicates territorial ownership, it is mainly directed toward a mate. Nuthatches stay in a large fixed range throughout the year, and use a portion of it for a nesting territory. They retain the same mates from year to year until something happens to one of them; then the other will try to obtain a new mate.

It is interesting to wonder why birds differ so much with respect to timing of courtship. Nuthatches have intense and prolonged courtship beginning in winter. They are birds whose large permanent range (up to forty-five acres) and food storing habits provide them with a margin of energy to spend on this type of behavior. How different this is from the behavior of species such as the later-arriving migrants, whose life patterns may necessitate condensed courtship and immediate nest building.

Behavior Research Articles

Stuebe, M. M. and E. D. Ketterson. 1982. A Study of Fasting in Tree Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos. The Auk 99:299-308.

In winter, many birds develop deposits of fat on their bodies each day. These are believed to enable them to last through the long cold nights and possibly through bad storms when they cannot forage. In this study, juncos and Tree Sparrows were compared in terms of the size of their fat reserves, their ability to go without eating, and their behavior during fasting. It was found that juncos store a greater percentage of their body weight in fat than do Tree Sparrows. At temperatures a little above freezing, a junco can fast about forty-three hours or through a night, a day, and another night. Tree Sparrows can fast at the same temperature for only about thirty hours, or one night and a day, but not the whole of another night. When the fat reserves become low, the birds become hyperactive. This may serve to help them find food and possibly create body heat. With less body fat, Tree Sparrows become hyperactive sooner than juncos.

The researchers tried to discover why the two species, which have similar habitats and habits, differ in their ability to fast. It was thought that the birds might differ in some other respect, such as heat conservation at night. But the birds were again similar in that both lower their body temperature 1° - 2° C at night (not like the chickadee, which lowers its by 10° - 12° C); both roost in similar locations; and neither species huddles together during roosting.

Although the differences in the fasting ability of these two species could not be explained, one suggestion was that there may be costs to having more fat, such as decreased mobility. For the smaller Tree Sparrow, which feeds more in the open, this might mean greater vulnerability to predators.

DONALD and LILLIAN STOKES are authors, naturalists, and educators. Don has a new book coming out in March called A Guide to Observing Insect Lives, and he and Lillian have just finished a second volume to A Guide to the Behavior of Common Birds, which will be available in the fall of 1983.



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PARK WATERFOWL CENSUS

This January the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife will be conducting a "park" waterfowl census. A park duck is defined as a bird spending at least part of the day in close company of humans and with access to artificial feed (e.g., bread). The place where birds are being fed need not be an official park, just a place where ducks congregate and people feed them.

If you know of a flock of waterfowl being fed, please send the name of the pond, town, the number and kinds of ducks (by species if possible), and your name, address and phone number in case the biologists need further information.

The Division is also running an inland goose census. In this case they are not interested in whether or not the geese are being fed. They just want to know how many geese are wintering on inland ponds, lakes and golf courses. Geese that winter inland are probably home grown birds, unlike the migrants that winter on the coast. Those birds are counted each year during an aerial inventory but the numbers of geese that winter on inland areas are unknown. Because of the changing pattern of over-wintering goose populations throughout the flyway, better data is needed on these impressive birds. Please send your goose information to the same address.

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Field Headquarters
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Field Records: September 1982



by George W. Gove, Robert H. Stymeist, Lee E. Taylor

Temperatures were near normal during September, averaging 64.1°, with no very hot or cold spells. The high mark was 87° on the 10th; the low was just 50° on the 18th, a very mild low for September. Rain totaled only 1.57 inches, slightly under half the 3.16 inches normal for the month. Fog was frequent, noted on 18 days; six days recorded heavy fog. No thunderstorms were heard in the Boston area, but on the 23rd a severe thunderstorm was recorded in northeastern Massachusetts causing some locally damaging wind and hail and in Rowley a funnel cloud was observed. Winds were out of the northwest on only four days during the month; heavy hawk migration was noted on the 17th and 19th, two days with a northwesterly flow.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

Twenty-three Common Loons were observed migrating over Mount Wachusett on the 17th, the best count day for migrating Broad-winged Hawks. Pied-billed Grebes were reported from many locations with as many as six individuals reported from Great Meadows during the latter part of the month.

Certainly the highlight of the month was a White-faced Storm-Petrel, well observed on September 2 near Hydrographer's Canyon on the edge of the Continental Shelf by an organized bird-tour sponsored by Wings, Inc., led by Will Russell, Kevin Powers, and Dick Veit. The White-faced Storm-Petrel has occurred about twenty-five times during the period mid-August through early October off the east coast of North America, including a specimen collected near the Nantucket Shoals on August 18, 1953, but this was the first time that this species was recorded on an organized birding trip. The Wings trip on their two day journey also recorded the following species: 85 Cory's, 300 Sooty, 6 Manx, and 2 Audubon's shearwaters; 500+ Wilson's, and 2 Leach's Storm-Petrels.

As many as eighteen Little Blue Herons were still present at Plum Island on the 18th, and fifteen Cattle Egrets remained nearly all month at the Maplecroft Farm in Ipswich. A total of nine Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were reported. Least Bitterns disappeared and increased reports of American Bitterns were recorded from six widely scattered locations.

Fifty-two Wood Ducks were reported from Hingham on the 18th and Ring-necked Ducks were building up to sixty individuals in Lakeville. The first fall report of Redhead was a single bird from the Vineyard on the 24th. R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Common Loon:			
17,18	SRV, P.I.	1, 2	R.Walton, BBC
17,26	Mt. Wachusett	23, 1	P.Roberts#
Pied-billed Grebe:			
3,5	Harwich, Monomoy	2, 1	W.Petersen
6-26, 11-12	Wellesley, Nantucket	1-3, 4	K.Winkler, R.Stymeist#
11,24	GMNWR	4, 6	L.Robinson, G.Gove
18,19	P.I., S.Dartmouth	3, 3	BBC, T.Raymond#
Cory's Shearwater:			
2-3	off Nantucket etc.	max. 85	W.Russell, R.Viet# + v.o.
26,29	off Chatham,Barnstable (SN)	2, 1	BBC, R.Pease
Greater Shearwater:			
2-3	off Nantucket etc.	max. 300+	W.Russell, R.Viet# + v.o.
25,26	Stellwagen, off Chatham	500, 50	T.Raymond#, BBC
Sooty Shearwater:			
2-3	off Nantucket etc.	15+	W.Russell, R.Viet#, + v.o.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Sooty Shearwater (continued):			
25	Stellwagen	10	T. Raymond#
Manx Shearwater:			
2-3	off Nantucket etc.	max. 6	
25,29	Stellwagen, Barnstable (SN)	20, 2	W. Russell, R. Veit + v.o. T. Raymond#, R. Pease
Audubon's Shearwater:			
2	off Nantucket (Hydrographer Canyon)	2	R. Veit# + v.o.
Wilson's Storm-Petrel:			
2-3	off Nantucket etc.	max. 500+	
6	off Chatham	75+	W. Russell, R. Veit# + v.o. W. Harrington
White-faced Storm-Petrel:			
2	off Nantucket (Hydrographer Canyon)	1	W. Russell, R. Veit# + v.o.
Leach's Storm-Petrel:			
2	off Nantucket	2	
22,29	Barnstable (SN)	1, 4	W. Russell, R. Veit + v.o.
29	Annisquam	1	R. Pease H. Wiggin
Northern Gannet			
26	off Chatham	5	BBC
Great Cormorant:			
25	Salisbury	5	O.+N. Komar
Double-crested Cormorant:			
7,12	Canton, Scituate	237, 150	R. Titus, SSBC
18,19,25	P.I., Monomoy, P.I.	200±, 500, 850±	J. Berry, B. Nikula#, R. Stymeist#
Great Blue Heron:			
thr., 5	Saugus, P.I.	max. 6, 7	
18	Eastham	39	J. Berry, BBC M. Lynch, S. Carroll
Green Heron:			
1,4	WBWS, Scituate	6, 4	
19	S. Dartmouth	2	R. Forster, D. Clapp T. Raymond#
Little Blue Heron:			
6,12;11	Scituate; P.I.	1 ad., 2 ad.; 1	W. Petersen; BBC
11,19	M.V., P.I.	1 imm., 18	W. Manter, W. Petersen#
Cattle Egret:			
1-27,5-6	Ipswich, Marshfield	15, 1	v.o., D. Clapp
Great Egret:			
1,3	Eastham, Woburn	2, 2	
1,5	Chatham, Monomoy	8, 1	R. Forster, G. Gove
11,18	P.I., Squantum	4, 3	J. Aylward#, W. Petersen
19,26	S. Dartmouth, E. Boston	15, 2	BBC, D. Brown T. Raymond#, K. Winkler
Snowy Egret:			
1-25	P.I.	max. 187 9/5	
thr., 12	Saugus, Scituate	13, 20	G. Gove + v.o. J. Berry, SSBC
Black-crowned Night-Heron:			
5,12	P.I., Hingham	20, 10	BBC, R. Titus
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:			
1,5,6	WBWS, P.I., Nantucket	1 imm., 1 imm., 2 imm.	R. Forster, W. Smith#, K. Harte#
12,18	Nantucket, Monomoy	1 imm., 2 imm.	R. Stymeist#, MBO (BAT)
18-19,30	Squantum, P.I.	1 ad., 1 ad.	D. Brown, M. Baird
American Bittern:			
3,6	P.I., W. Newbury	1, 1	M. Lynch#, S. Carroll#
11-26,12	GMNWR, Barnstable (SN)	max. 3, 1	G. Gove# + v.o., M. Greenwalt#
12,23	Hingham, S. Peabody	1, 2	R. Titus, R. Heil
Glossy Ibis:			
thr., 7	M.V., P.I.	1, 2	A. Brown + v.o., F. Bouchard
18,19,24	Monomoy, Rowley, Hingham	6, 2, 1	T. Raymond#, W. Petersen#, L. Mallers
Snow Goose:			
19	Milton	8	E. Taylor
Northern Pintail:			
25	GMNWR	15	R. Forster
Green-winged Teal:			
18	P.I.	50±	J. Berry
Blue-winged Teal:			
3,21	Harwich, Lexington	40, 1	W. Petersen, J. Andrews
Northern Shoveler:			
5;25	Monomoy; GMNWR, P.I.	13; 4, 8	W. Petersen#; R. Forster, BBC
Wood Duck:			
18	Hingham	52	SSBC
Redhead:			
24	M.V.	1	A. Brown

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Ring-necked Duck: 18,19	Lakeville, W.Newbury	60, 1	W.Petersen
Oldsquaw: 2	Chatham (Morris I.)	1 (on beach)	M.Lynch#
Common Eider: 12	Scituate	75	SSBC
Ruddy Duck: 5	P.I.	5	BBC
Hooded Merganser: 4	P.I.	2 f.	G.Gove

RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS

A Mississippi Kite was found with a broken leg in North Eastbn on September 1. The bird was captured and taken to the Trailside Museum and is now recovering at Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary in Lincoln. This was the seventh record for Massachusetts, the most recent being observed in Littleton on May 16, 1982.

The New England Hawk Watch, organized by Paul Roberts, reported good numbers of raptors from Mt. Wachusett. The best day for the big Broad-winged Hawk movement was September 17, when 3,077 were recorded, closely followed by 2,477 on the 19th; both days reported northwest winds. The reports from Mt. Wachusett also included: 81 Turkey Vulture, 4 Northern Goshawks, 572 Sharp-shinned, 12 Cooper's, 35 Red-tailed, 9 Red-shouldered, and 6,964 Broad-winged hawks, 29 Northern Harriers, 133 Osprey, and 89 American Kestrels.

A Golden Eagle was seen flying over Littleton on the 19th and Peregrine reports continue to increase, with at least 16 individuals noted this September.

Clapper Rails were found in Eastham on three occasions during the month.

R.H.S.

Turkey Vulture:

1,5	P'town, S.Dartmouth	1, 1	J.Aylward, T.Raymond
5,9,11,12	Mt. Wachusett	15, 9, 11, 13	P.Roberts# + v.o.
17,19,25,26	Mt. Wachusett	9, 9, 13, 2	P.Roberts# + v.o.
19	Ipswich, S.Dartmouth	1, 1	W.Petersen, T.Raymond

Mississippi Kite:

1	N.Easton	1 imm.	N.Smith
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Northern Goshawk:

9,12,17	Mt. Wachusett	1, 1, 2	P.Roberts# + v.o.
18	P.I.	1	BBC (I.Giriunas)

Sharp-shinned Hawk:

5,9,11,12	Mt. Wachusett	2, 33, 15, 18	P.Roberts# + v.o.
17,19,24	Mt. Wachusett	63, 123, 89	P.Roberts# + v.o.
25,26	Mt. Wachusett	198, 32	P.Roberts# + v.o.
26,27,28	M.V., Littleton, Marblehead	12, 18, 6	V.Laux#, J.Baird, R.Heil

Cooper's Hawk:

17,19,25	Mt. Wachusett	5, 3, 4	P.Roberts# + v.o.
19;24	Chatham, ONWR; SRV	1, 1 ad., 1	H.Coolidge#, M.Lynch; R.Walton

Red-tailed Hawk:

5-26	Mt. Wachusett	35 (total)	P.Roberts# + v.o.
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Red-shouldered Hawk:

11,17,19,25	Mt. Wachusett	1, 3, 3, 2	P.Roberts# + v.o.
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Broad-winged Hawk:

5,6,9	Mt. Wachusett	104, 117, 105	P.Roberts# + v.o.
11,12,17	Mt. Wachusett	219, 11, 3077	P.Roberts# + v.o.
19,24,25,26	Mt. Wachusett	2477, 624, 227, 3	P.Roberts# + v.o.

Golden Eagle:

19	Littleton	1	J.Baird
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Bald Eagle:

17,26,29	Plymouth, Monomoy, MBO	1 imm., 1 imm., 1 imm.	MBO, BBC, MBO
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Northern Harrier:

5-27	Mt. Wachusett	29 (total)	P.Roberts# + v.o.
5,6	Rowley, P.I.	6, 4 imm.	D.Brown#, P.Roberts#
18	Marshfield, Bridgewater	4, 2	SSBC

Osprey:

5,6,9	Mt. Wachusett	3, 16, 3	P.Roberts# + v.o.
11,12,17,19	Mt. Wachusett	3, 1, 34, 45	P.Roberts# + v.o.
24,25,26	Mt. Wachusett	12, 14, 2	P.Roberts# + v.o.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Osprey (continued):			
17,30;19	SRV; Lexington	3, 7; 3	R.Walton; J.Andrews
	other reports of 12 individuals from 8 locations.		
Peregrine Falcon:			
4 on	P.I.	reports of 7 individuals	v.o.
5,6	Newbury, Yarmouth	1, 1 ad.	M.Lynch#, J.Aylward
12,15	Scituate, Nantucket	1, 1	SSBC, N.Waldron
17,19	Squantum, Monomoy	1, 1 ad.	D.Brown, B.Nikula#
25,26,27	GMNWR, Truro, S.N.	1 ad., 1, 1	R.Forster, R.Comeau, R.Pease
Merlin:			
6,11	Ipswich, P.I.	1-2, 1	BBC
18	P.I., Truro, S.Shore	3, 2, 4	P.Roberts#, H.Wiggin#, SSBC
23-25,25	Framingham, GMNWR	3, 1	R.Forster
25;26	P.I.; Newton, M.V.	4; 1, 1	G.Gove; O.Komar#, V.Laux#
American Kestrel:			
5,9,11,12	Mt. Wachusett	5, 3, 6, 1	P.Roberts# + v.o.
17,19,24	Mt. Wachusett	6, 12, 10	P.Roberts# + v.o.
25,26	Mt. Wachusett	28, 18	P.Roberts# + v.o.
Clapper Rail:			
2,6,12	Eastham	2, 2, 1	M.Lynch#, D.Brown#, S.Carroll#
Sora:			
6,19,23	Rowley, GMNWR, S.Peabody	4, 3, 3	M.Lynch#, G.Gove, R.Heil
Common Moorhen:			
3	P.I., Harwich	16 imm., 1	R.Heil, W.Petersen
19,25	GMNWR, P.I.	5, 3	T.Raymond#, O.+N.Komar

SHOREBIRDS

American Oystercatchers continued into the month at Monomoy and Nantucket as did Piping Plovers on Monomoy with a maximum of 22 reported. Lesser Golden-Plovers were noted at 14 locations through mid-month with high counts of 55 on M.V. and 54 in West Bridgewater. An American Woodcock was seen displaying in Ipswich. Whimbrels continued into September as did Upland Sandpipers and Willets. Solitary Sandpipers were noted from 18 locations. Red Knot numbers were still not impressive although more were counted than last year at this time. Three Purple Sandpipers were seen on the early date of 9/18 in Scituate; 13 were seen there on 9/13 last year. Bailey gave an early date of 10/1 and said that it is usually late October or early November when they first arrive. Baird's and Buff-breasted sandpipers were scarce this fall, particularly the former. The number of Stilt Sandpipers peaked on the third with 33 at P.I. Western Sandpipers were noted at nine coastal locations and five Marbled Godwits were reported with two continuing at Monomoy and one present in East Boston for most of the month. Three Ruffs in as many locations provided some late dates in mid-month. A Wilson's Phalarope continued into the month at WBWS and Red-necked Phalaropes were reported in numbers from two pelagic trips. Two adults were also present at Squantum.

G.W.G.

American Oystercatcher:			
2,18	Monomoy	4, 14	B.Cassie#, H.Wiggin#
11-12	Nantucket	5	R.Stymeist#
Semipalmated Plover:			
2,4	Monomoy, Scituate	200, 150	B.Cassie#, D.Clapp
11,30	W.Bridgewater, SRV	8, 1	W.Petersen, R.Walton
Piping Plover:			
2-15	Monomoy	max. 22	v.o.
4,18	Chatham, S.Dartmouth	9, 3	W.Petersen, T.Raymond#
Killdeer:			
10,11	W.Bridgewater, P.I.	26, 8	D.Clapp, BBC
18	Quincy to Lakeville	58	SSBC
Lesser Golden-Plover:			
3-12,5-12	P.I., Nantucket	max. 17(9/12), max. 31(9/12)	v.o.
6-12,2-18	Scituate, Monomoy	2, max. 37(9/2)	v.o.
9-11,13-26	W.Bridgewater, Boston Harbor	max. 54(9/9), max. 5(9/17)	v.o.
thr.	M.V.	max. 55(9/5)	V.Laux, A.Brown
thr.	1-5 individuals from seven locations.		
Black-bellied Plover:			
2,4	Monomoy, Chatham	500, 450	B.Cassie#, W.Petersen
4,30	Scituate, Wollaston	500+, 125	D.Clapp, H.Mallers

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Ruddy Turnstone:			
2,5,6	Monomoy, P.I., Revere	3, 10, 2	B. Cassie#, BBC, D. Gibson
12	Scituate, Marshfield	6, 60	SSBC
18	Duxbury, Plymouth	10, 12	SSBC
American Woodcock:			
18	Bridgewater, Nantucket	1, 1	W. Petersen, G. Gove#
19, 24	ONWR, Marshfield	1, 1	M. Lynch#, W. Petersen
20, 21	Ipswich	2, 1	J. Berry
Common Snipe:			
6, 22	Milton, Andover	5, 1	BBC, C. Melander
24	SRV	3	R. Walton
Whimbrel:			
1, 2	WBWS, Eastham	17, 7	R. Forster
5-25	P.I.	max. 6	v.o.
5, 6	Monomoy	max. 20	v.o.
18, 25	M.V., Squantum	25, 5	A. Brown, L. Robinson
Upland Sandpiper:			
1	Newton, WBWS	1, 1	N.+O. Komar#, R. Forster
5, 6	P.I., Monomoy	1, 1	BBC, B. Nikula#
5, 9	Chatham, Newburyport	1, 1	B. Nikula#, F. Hamlen#
18, 25	M.V., Nantucket	1, 1	W. Manter, B. Nikula#
Spotted Sandpiper:			
6, 18	Ipswich, Manchester	2, 1	BBC
30	SRV	1	R. Walton
Solitary Sandpiper:			
thr.	Chatham	max. 5	B. Nikula#
3, 4	Woburn, Marshfield	4, 3	G. Gove, W. Smith#
6, 8	Milton, Baldwinville	5, 3	BBC, J.O'Regan
11-12	Nantucket	5	R. Stymiest#
16; 18	SRV; Halifax; Hingham, Marshfield	10; 2; 2, 4	R. Walton; W. Petersen#; SSBC
21, 23	Lexington, S. Peabody	3, 7	J. Andrews, R. Heil
26	M.V. plus 5 individuals from 5 locations.	4	V. Laux#
Willet:			
2, 18	Monomoy	1, 2	J. Kricher#, H. Coolidge#
5-7, 17-18	P.I., Squantum	1, 1	v.o., v.o.
18, 19	Duxbury, Chatham	1, 8	SSBC, T. Vose#
Greater Yellowlegs:			
21, 26	E. Boston	94, 70	S. Zende, K. Winkler
Lesser Yellowlegs:			
18, 19	P.I., Newburyport	300, 200	J. Berry, W. Petersen#
Red Knot:			
2, 4	Monomoy, Scituate	150, 325	B. Cassie#, D. Clapp
12, 18	Scituate	75, 200	BBC, SSBC
Purple Sandpiper:			
18	Scituate	3	SSBC
Pectoral Sandpiper:			
9-11	P.I.	max. 4	BBC
18	Bridgewater, Hingham	20, 2	SSBC
19	Monomoy	30	B. Nikula#
White-rumped Sandpiper:			
thr.	P.I.	max. 10	v.o.
6, 12	Scituate, E. Boston	3, 30	H. Mallers, S. Zende
18	Hingham, Bridgewater	3, 1	SSBC
26	GMNWR	1	R. Walton
Baird's Sandpiper:			
4, 5	P.I.	1	v.o.
4-11	Scituate	1	v.o.
5-19	Monomoy	max. 2(9/18)	v.o.
12, 18	Gloucester, Squantum	1, 1	C.+K. Leahy, D. Brown
Least Sandpiper:			
2, 18	Monomoy, Scituate	50, 300	B. Cassie#, SSBC
Dunlin:			
18	Scituate	30	SSBC
Short-billed Dowitcher:			
9-25	P.I.	max. 120(9/18)	v.o.
6; 12, 26	Revere; E. Boston	6; 14, 18	D. Gibson; S. Zende, K. Winkler
18	Marshfield, Plymouth	8, 7	SSBC

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Long-billed Dowitcher:			
thr.	P.I.	max. 60(9/3)	v.o.
5-18	Monomoy	1-2	v.o.
Stilt Sandpiper:			
1-25	P.I.	max. 33(9/3)	v.o.
17-19,19	Squantum, Wenham	2, 2	D.Brown, W.Petersen
Semipalmated Sandpiper:			
2,9	Monomoy, P.I.	100, 60	B.Cassie#, F.Hamlen#
30	Wollaston	37	H.Mallers
Western Sandpiper:			
thr.	P.I. + Newburyport	max. 6(9/3)(1 ad. + 5 juv.)	v.o.
1,2	WBWS, Monomoy	1, 5	R.Forster, B.Cassie#
4-12	Scituate	max. 5(9/12)	v.o.
6,12	Revere, E.Boston	2, 15	D.Gibson, S.Zendeh
18	W.Falmouth;Hingham,Duxbury	1; 1, 1	P.Hallowell; SSBC
Buff-breasted Sandpiper:			
4-11	P.I.	max. 7(9/11)	v.o.
2,12	Monomoy, M.V.	1, 4	P.O'Neil#, V.Laux
11-12	Nantucket	5	R.Stymeist#
Marbled Godwit:			
5,11-12	Monomoy South,Nantucket	2, 1	W.Petersen#, L.Jodrey#
12-30,26	E.Boston, M.V.	1, 1	S.Zendeh+v.o., V.Laux#
Hudsonian Godwit:			
thr.	P.I.-Newburyport	max. 8(9/6)	v.o.
2,18	Monomoy	8, 1	B.Cassie#, T.Raymond#
21-26	E.Boston	2	v.o.
Ruff:			
14,15,18	Plymouth,Scituate,Squantum	1, 1, 1 f.	M.Forman#,S.Kellog,D.Brown
Sanderling:			
2,12	Monomoy, Scituate	400, 25	B.Cassie#, SSBC
Wilson's Phalarope:			
1-2	WBWS	1	R.Forster
7-18	P.I.	max. 4(9/11)	v.o.
Red-necked Phalarope:			
5,6	P.I.,Chatham (8 mi. E.)	1, 31	BBC (P.Arrigo), W.Harrington#
5,18	M.V., Squantum	1, 2 ad.	W.Manter, D.Brown
25,26	Stellwagen, Chatham	450+, 1	T.Raymond#, BBC

JAEGERS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A pelagic trip to the Continental Shelf produced a number of rarities, as noted here and elsewhere in the records, including a Long-tailed Jaeger, a South Polar Skua and four late Arctic Terns. Eleven Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported from six locations, including one from an inland site, and details on one of the birds were submitted. Submission of details on rare, uncommon or extralimital birds is always a good idea, particularly with the seemingly increasing numbers of such reports. These reports should include weather, observation conditions and methods, habitat, size relative to other birds present and as many details on structure, markings and color as possible. If a camera is available, photos would be useful.

Other larids reported included 220 Laughing Gulls sitting on the roof of the Jordan Marsh building in Squantum and a Sabine's Gull on Plymouth Beach. Most records of Sabine's Gulls frequently occur in late August and early September. Groups of Common Terns totalling 1175 individuals were noted flying south past Chatham on the 2nd. An Arctic Tern, identified by voice and observation, was reported on the late date of the 18th from Monomoy. Two Sandwich Terns were reported with details being provided on the Barnstable observation. Royal and Caspian Terns are represented and eleven Black Terns were seen at Nantucket.

The Marbled Murrelet reported captured and killed by a cat is bizarre and extraordinary; see the account of this record elsewhere in this issue.

Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos were still reported through the third week of the month but late dates extend into the 2nd week of October. The South Shore Bird Club found 13 individuals of three species of owls and, in Rutland State Park, six Barred Owls and a Saw-whet were found; obviously a good spot for these two species.

The Common Nighthawk migration continued between the 1st and 10th with 305 seen in Brookline between those dates after the 2395 counted there last month. The late date

was 9/25. Many reports of migrating Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were received this month compared to only three last year. Many were seen on the Mt. Wachusett Hawk Watch with a maximum of 13 on the 5th and 9 and 10 were seen at Marblehead Neck on the 2nd and 9th; how many slipped through between those dates is open to conjecture. Bailey in Birds of Massachusetts said "a top of 35 was recorded at Worcester on 9/13/49..."; this month's reports total over 60 but not on one date at one location; the highest total was 26 at Mt. Wachusett. The South Shore Bird Club counted 34 Belted Kingfishers on the 18th along with 97 Northern Flickers. Pileated Woodpeckers were represented in this month's records as were Red-headed Woodpeckers and sapsuckers.

G.W.G.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
<u>Pomarine Jaeger:</u>			
2;18	Hydrographers Canyon;Plymouth	2; 1	W.Russell,R.Veit#;SSEC
25,26	Stellwagen, E. of Chatham	3, 2	T.Raymond#, BBC
<u>Parasitic Jaeger:</u>			
2	Hydrographers Canyon	4	W.Russell, R.Veit#
7,29	Plymouth, Barnstable	3, 7	MBO Staff, R.Pease
25,26	Stellwagen, E. of Chatham	5, 1	T.Raymond#, BBC
<u>Long-tailed Jaeger:</u>			
2	Hydrographers Canyon	1	W.Russell, R.Veit#
<u>South Polar Skua:</u>			
2	Hydrographers Canyon	1	W.Russell, R.Veit#
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull:</u>			
2,11,18	Monomoy 1(3-4W,details), 2(3-4W), 1(3W)		K.Winkler#,R.Heil#,T.Lloyd-Evans
6,7	Scituate, Nantucket Sd.	1 ad.(ph.), 1(3W)	W.Petersen, K.Harte
19,30	Plymouth	1, 1	T.Lloyd-Evans,D.Evared#
26	E. of Chatham	2	BBC
29	Clinton	1	D.Crompton#
<u>Laughing Gull:</u>			
4,18	Scituate, Squantum	12, 220	W.Smith, D.Brown
<u>Bonaparte's Gull:</u>			
18	Newburyport	200	BBC
<u>Little Gull:</u>			
thr.	Newburyport	1 ad.	v.o.
<u>Sabine's Gull:</u>			
7	Plymouth	1	D.Evared, M.Forman
<u>Black-legged Kittiwake:</u>			
18,26	Monomoy, E. of Chatham	1, 3	MBO Staff, BBC
<u>Forster's Tern:</u>			
4,19	Chatham, Hyannis	6, 2	W.Petersen, J.Heywood#
2,11,18	Monomoy	7, 25, 3	B.Cassie#,R.Heil,T.Raymond#
6,11	S.Dartmouth, Nauset	1, 30	T.Raymond, R.Heil
16,18;26	Plymouth; E.of Chatham	2, 1; 3	D.Evared#,SSEC;BBC
<u>Common Tern:</u>			
2	Chatham	1175	M.Lynch + S.Carroll
4,18	P.I., Newburyport	40, 76	BBC
11-18	Nantucket	1200+	R.Stymeist#
<u>Arctic Tern:</u>			
2	Hydrographer's Canyon	4	W.Russell, R.Veit#
18	Monomoy	1 calling & seen	H.Wiggin + H.Coolidge
<u>Roseate Tern:</u>			
2,11-12	Hydrographer's Canyon,Nantucket	20, 50	W.Russell,R.Veit#,R.Stymeist#
8,11;12	Nauset,Monomoy;Barnstable	500, 300+; 100	B.Nikula#; N.Komar#
18	Plymouth, Scituate	4, 1	SSBC
<u>Least Tern:</u>			
4,5;18	P.I.; Scituate	6, 1; 1	BBC; SSBC
<u>Royal Tern:</u>			
3,12	Chatham, Nantucket	1, 1	R.Forster#, G.Gove#
<u>Sandwich Tern:</u>			
12,16	Barnstable, Plymouth	1, 1	O.+N.Komar#, D.Evared#
<u>Caspian Tern:</u>			
5,29	Nantucket Sd., Squantum	1, 2	K.Harte,R.Emery+G.Wilson
27,30	Newburyport, P.I.	2, 1	H.D'Entremont#, M.Baird#
<u>Black Tern:</u>			
5;12	P.I.;Nantucket,Barnstable	1; 11, 1	BBC;E.Andrews#,O.Komar#
18,25	N.Weymouth,Stellwagen	5, 1	D.Brown, T.Raymond#
<u>Marbled Murrelet:</u>			
17	Middleboro	1	Harrison - fide K.Anderson
	(See details in this issue)		

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS
Yellow-billed Cuckoo:			
2,19	Annisquam, ONWR	1, 1	H.Wiggin, M.Lynch#
Black-billed Cuckoo:			
5,6	Chatham, Milton	1, 1	D.Brown#, W.Petersen#
12;18	Truro;Marshfield,Plymouth	1; 1, 1	S.Carroll#; SSBC
19,20,26	ONWR,Rockport,Lexington	1, 1, 1	M.Lynch#,V.Albee#,J.Andrews
Eastern Screech-Owl:			
8,18	Annisquam;Hingham,Bridgewater	1; 4, 2	B.Reilly; SSBC
18	Mrashfield, Plymouth	1, 1	SSBC
Great Horned Owl:			
18	Hingham, Marshfield	2, 2	SSBC
18,19	Chatham, W.Yarmouth	1, 1	S.Carroll#, H.Coolidge#
Barred Owl:			
17,18	Rutland, Middleboro	6, 1	M.Lynch#, W.Petersen
Long-eared Owl:			
18	Middleboro	1	SSBC
Short-eared Owl:			
5,18	Monomoy	1, 3	W.Petersen#, T.Raymond#
Northern Saw-whet Owl:			
17	Rutland	2	S.Carroll#
Whip-poor-will:			
8,13	E.Middleboro	1 calling	K.Anderson
Common Nighthawk:			
1	E.Orleans, Newton	3, 100	D.Williams, O.Komar#
2,3,7	Brookline	127, 108, 70	R.Stymeist + J.Heywood
3;6	Woburn;Wellesley,Lexington	80; 7, 6	G.Gove;K.Winkler,J.Andrews
6,10	Yarmouthport, SRV	7, 14	J.Aylward, R.Walton
11,14	Sandwich, Newton	3, 8	R.Pease, N.Komar#
23,24	Framingham, Brookline	2, 2	R.Forster, R.Stymeist
25	Wayland, Framingham	1, 1	R.Forster
Chimney Swift:			
3,12	Annisquam,Mt.Wachusett	6, 3	H.Wiggin, BBC
18	Scituate, Hingham	1, 1	W.Petersen, SSBC
Ruby-throated Hummingbird:			
5-19	Mt.Wachusett	max. 13(9/5)	P.Roberts#
2,9	MNWS	9, 10	R.Heil
4,6,8	Wellesley,Milton,Lexington	1, 1, 1	K.Winkler,D.Brown#,J.Carter
13	Easton	1	K.Ryan
18	Duxbury, Truro	2, 5	SSBC, M.Lynch#
26	Brookline	1	N.Hubbard
Belted Kingfisher:			
thr.	Beverly to Revere on RR	max. 4	J.Berry
18	7 locations on South Shore	34 total	SSBC
Northern Flicker:			
3,8	Annisquam, SRV	5, 8	H.Wiggin, R.Walton
18	P.I., 7 locales on South Shore	9, 97* total	J.Berry, SSBC
Pileated Woodpecker:			
4;19	Wellesley;Sturbridge,Framingham	2;1,1	K.Winkler;F.Bouchard,R.Forster
Red-headed Woodpecker:			
5;11	P.I., M.V.;Nantucket	1, 1imm;1	NWR Staff,V.Laux#;G.Soucy#
12,19	Truro, Wellfleet	1 ad, 1	M.Lynch#, T.Lloyd-Evans
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:			
11,18	Scusset, P.I.	1, 1	M.Argue, BBC
21,24	Framingham, Milton	1, 1	R.Forster, R.Campbell#
25,27	P.I., Littleton	1 imm., 1	BBC, J.Baird

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SHRIKES

The September phase of fall passerine migration produced few noteworthy events. All Winter Wren reports were concentrated in a two day period, beginning on the 18th. This constitutes a surprisingly time-peaked migratory pulse. Towards the end of September, Blue Jays were conspicuously migrating. In past years, such jay movements have been correlated with poor wild food crop situations, particularly acorn crop failures. During the last weekend of the month, numbers of catbirds, thrashers, and Golden-crowned Kinglets on Plum Island indicated a major migratory movement.

The South Shore Bird Club's fall Roundup on September 18 produced high counts for quite a number of species, particularly jays, chickadees and catbirds. Eastern Blue-bird reports were generally scarce for the month, providing continuing evidence of the

disastrous effects of this year's April snowstorm. Common Raven is apparently becoming more so in the eastern part of the state. Of particular note is the sighting on Plum Island, the only known recent record from a lowland coastal Massachusetts location.

Rarities were dominated by the well-described occurrence of a Fork-tailed Flycatcher on Nantucket. This nearly unmistakable South/Central American vagrant was in good plumage, with a full-length tail. A single Sedge Wren report has become a September tradition, but occurrence of this species is always noteworthy. This year's individual was discovered because of its distinctive chip note. It was subsequently well observed, along a small Framingham stream flanked by grasses and sedge. A Loggerhead Shrike, never common in this region, turned up at Marshfield on September 4, an average date based on previous late summer and fall records. L.E.T.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Eastern Kingbird:			
1,6	Eastham, Ipswich	11, 10+	R.Forster, BBC
11,18	Belmont, Hingham	11, 1	L.Taylor, SSBC
19,20	P.I., Littleton	1, 1	W.Petersen#, J.Baird
Great Crested Flycatcher:			
4,5,11	P.I., Monomoy, MNWS	6, 1, 1	BBC, W.Petersen#, BBC
Fork-tailed Flycatcher:			
16 & 18	Nantucket	1	Holt (fide E.Andrews)
Eastern Phoebe:			
18,28	S.Shore (6 locations), Framingham	13, 7	SSBC, R.Forster
Empidonax species:			
2,6	MNWS, Milton	15, 4	R.Heil, D.Brown#
12,18	Scituate, P.I.	1, 1	SSBC, BBC
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:			
2,4	MNWS, Chatham	4, 1	R.Heil, W.Petersen
5,7	Lexington, Milton	1 imm., 1	J.Andrews, R.Titus
8,12	MNWS, Nantucket	3, 1	R.Heil, R.Stymeist#
Least Flycatcher:			
2	MNWS	1 calling	R.Heil
Eastern Wood-Pewee:			
11,19	P.I., Mt.Watatic	1, 4	BBC, L.Taylor
Olive-sided Flycatcher:			
1,8,11	MNWS	2, 1, 1	R.Heil
4,5	Wellesley, Chatham	2, 1	K.Winkler, B.Nikula#
7-12	3 locations	4 individuals	v.o.
12,18	Nantucket	1, 1	R.Stymeist#
Tree Swallow:			
1,4-18	GMNWR, P.I.	100+, 600 max.	L.Taylor, v.o.
18,23	S.Shore, Sandwich	426, 3000+	SSBC, J.Aylward
26	Monomoy	30	BBC
Bank Swallow:			
1,5	GMNWR, P.I.	30, 10	L.Taylor, BBC
18	Plymouth	1	SSBC
Barn Swallow:			
1,18	GMNWR, S.Shore (4 locations)	40, 21	L.Taylor, SSBC
Cliff Swallow:			
1,2	GMNWR, Monomoy	8, 1	L.Taylor, B.Cassie#
Purple Martin:			
4,5,11	P.I.	60, 10, 2	BBC
18	Milton, P.I.	1, 1	SSBC, MBO
Blue Jay:			
18	Wellesley, S.Shore (8 locations)	30 migrants, 690	K.Winkler, SSBC
21,24	Cambridge, SRV	35, 85	F.Bouchard, R.Walton
24,28	Chatham, Belmont	250, 21	B.Nikula, L.Robinson
Common Raven:			
4-6,5-26	P.I., Mt. Wachusett	1, 3 max.	R.Stymeist#+v.o., P.Roberts#
19	Mt. Watatic	1	L.Taylor
American Crow:			
18,30	S.Shore (7 locations), SRV	399, 161	SSBC, R.Walton
Fish Crow:			
1,14	Whitman, Newton	1, 5	W.Petersen, O.Komar
18	Halifax	1	W.Petersen#
Black-capped Chickadee:			
18	S.Shore (8 locations)	587	SSBC

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Tufted Titmouse:			
18	S.Shore (7 locations)	78	SSBC
Red-breasted Nuthatch:			
3	Cambridge, Annisquam	1, 1	F.Bouchard, H.Wiggin
18	Bridgewater, Quincy	7, 1	SSBC
Brown Creeper:			
8,11	MBO, Wellesley	1 b., 1	MBO Staff, K.Winkler
18,25	S.Shore (3 locations), P.I.	7, 5	SSBC, BBC
House Wren:			
3-19	8 locations	9 individuals	v.o.
Winter Wren:			
18	S.Shore(3 locations), Waltham	3,1	SSBC,L.Taylor
18,19	WBWS, Nantucket	1, 2 b.	D.Reynolds, E.Andrews#
Carolina Wren:			
18	Marshfield	1	SSBC
Marsh Wren:			
18,24	Marshfield, GMNWR	15, 18	SSBC, G.Gove
<u>Sedge Wren:</u>			
25	Framingham	1	R.Forster
Northern Mockingbird:			
18	S.Shore (8 locations)	85	SSBC
Gray Catbird:			
1,7	Eastham, P.I.	26, 25	R.Forster, F.Bouchard
18,25	S.Shore (8 locations), P.I.	165, 63	SSBC, R.Stymeist#
Brown Thrasher:			
18,25	S.Shore(3 locations), P.I.	11, 10	SSBC, P.Roberts#
Wood Thrush:			
18,19	Marshfield, ONWR	2, 1	SSBC, M.Lynch#
19	Whitman	3	W.Petersen
Hermit Thrush:			
2	MNWS	1	R.Heil
Swainson's Thrush:			
5,6	Wellesley, Milton	1, 1	K.Winkler, D.Brown#
8-26	6 locations	8 individuals	v.o.
19	ONWR, MNWS	4, 5	S.Carroll#,W.Petersen#
Gray-cheeked Thrush:			
11,13	Nantucket, MBO	1, 1 b.	E. Fisk, MBO Staff
Veery:			
1,2;19	MNWS	10, 5; 3	R.Heil; W.Petersen#
4,18	Wellesley, S.Shore	2, 3	K.Winkler, SSBC
Eastern Bluebird:			
20	Middleboro	pair	J.McDonald#
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:			
2,4	MNWS, Chatham	3, 2	R.Heil, W.Petersen
6	Annisquam	1	H.Wiggin
Golden-crowned Kinglet:			
11,25	P.I.	1, 35+	BBC, v.o.
12,24	Nantucket, Annisquam	2, 1	R.Stymeist, H.Wiggin
28,30	MNWS, MBO	4, 1 b.	R.Heil, MBO Staff
Ruby-crowned Kinglet:			
6,18	Ipswich, S.Shore (5 locations)	1, 10	BBC, SSBC
11-25	3 locations	7 individuals	v.o.
Water Pipit:			
9-25,18	P.I., S.Shore (2 locations)	13 max., 2	v.o., SSBC
21,25	SRV, Salisbury	12, 13	R.Walton, BBC
Cedar Waxwing:			
2,5	Annisquam, Marshfield	220, 75	H.Wiggin, D.Clapp
8,18	SRV, Belmont	12, 40+	R.Walton, L.Taylor
Loggerhead Shrike:			
4	Marshfield	1	D.Clapp#

VIREOS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS

The expected six species of vireo passed through in September in typical numbers and with approximately normal timing. A Golden-winged Warbler which was banded at Manomet had lingered almost a month beyond regular departure dates. Yellow-throated Warblers occur regionally at an average rate of one per fall season, usually at southeastern coastal locations. This year's individual was at Marblehead Neck.

Bobolink counts of over 500 have been uncommon, at least in recent years. The 800+ Newton count was the result of intensive (all-day) efforts by the observers. Yellow-headed Blackbirds have been occurring frequently enough during fall migrations lately

to have attained "expected" status. The 1982 count of five individuals is about typical, as are the extreme southeastern Massachusetts locations. L.E.T.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
White-eyed Vireo:			
5,6	MNWS, S.Dartmouth	1, 3	W.Smith#, T. Raymond
11,25	P.I.	1, 1	R.Emery#, M.Lynch#
26	Nantucket	1 b.	E.Fisk
Yellow-throated Vireo:			
5,6	MNWS	1, 2	v.o.
6-19	11 locations	12 individuals	v.o.
20,24	Sandwich, MBO	1, 1 b.	R.Pease, MBO Staff
Solitary Vireo:			
12,13	Chatham, MBO	2, 1 b.	S.Carroll#, MBO Staff
18-25	5 locations	7 individuals	v.o.
27,30	Littleton, SRV	3, 1	J.Baird, R.Walton
Red-eyed Vireo:			
2,8;19	MNWS	30, 50+; 25	R.Heil; W.Petersen
6,18	Milton, Duxbury	5, 23	BBC, SSBC
Philadelphia Vireo:			
2,6,19,28	MNWS	2, 5, 3, 3	R.Heil#
3-27	11 locations	17 individuals	v.o.
7,30	MBO	1 b., 1 b.	MBO Staff
18	Duxbury	4	SSBC
Warbling Vireo:			
2,4,5	MNWS	2, 3, 2	R.Heil#
4-21	14 locations	25 individuals (several singing)	v.o.
23,29	S.Peabody, Sandwich	2, 1	R.Heil, R.Pease
Black-and-white Warbler:			
2,4-19	MNWS, Nantucket	21, 12 b.	R.Heil, E.Andrews
4-18	3 locations	6 individuals	v.o.
18,25	Duxbury, Milton	6, 2	SSBC, R.Campbell#
Worm-eating Warbler:			
5	M.V.	1	V.Laux#
Golden-winged Warbler:			
4,6	MNWS, MBO	1 ad. m., 1 b.	J.Berry, MBO Staff
18,30	Plymouth Beach, MBO	1, 1 b.	MBO Staff
Blue-winged Warbler:			
2,3-6	MNWS, 3 locations	1, 3	R.Heil, v.o.
14,18	Nantucket, Nahant	1 b., 1	E.Andrews#, W.Petersen#
Tennessee Warbler:			
4,5-18	Chatham, Nantucket	6, 11 b.	W.Petersen, E.Andrews
6-18,16	4 locations, MBO	5, 5 b.	v.o., MBO Staff
25	Wellesley	3	K.Winkler
Orange-crowned Warbler:			
11,16-19	Hingham, 4 locations	1, 4	R.Titus, v.o.
24,25	Milton (F.M.), Lexington	1, 1	G.D'Entremont#, J.Andrews
Nashville Warbler:			
4-18	5 locations	7 individuals	v.o.
Northern Parula:			
5,8-25	Wellesley, 5 locations	2, 9	K.Winkler, v.o.
11,18	SRV, S.Shore (3 locations)	5, 11	R.Walton, SSBC
Yellow Warbler:			
1,4-11	GMNWR, P.I.	1, 2 max.	L.Taylor, v.o.
5,11	Monomoy, Belmont	2, 1	W.Petersen#, L.Robinson
Magnolia Warbler:			
1-15,6-25	Nantucket, 4 locations	5 b., 8	E.Andrews, v.o.
Cape May Warbler:			
1-19,4-24	Nantucket, 7 locations	13 b., 15	E.Andrews, v.o.
Black-throated Blue Warbler:			
1-25,6	6 locations, Mt.Wachusett	7, 12	v.o., T.Lipsky
Yellow-rumped Warbler:			
4,25	P.I.	6, 15	BBC, N.+O.Komar
25,28	Wellesley, Belmont	60, 11	K.Winkler, L.Robinson
Black-throated Green Warbler:			
3-18	4 locations	7	v.o.
Blackburnian Warbler:			
5,18;11-19	P.I.; Nantucket	1, 1; 5 b.	BBC; E.Andrews
18	Chatham, Marshfield	1, 1	M.Lynch#, SSBC

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
<u>Yellow-throated Warbler:</u>			
28	MNWS	1	R.Heil
<u>Chestnut-sided Warbler:</u>			
1,4	Newton, Annisquam	1, 1	O.Komar#, H.Wiggin
6-18,26	4 locations, Wellesley	7, 1	v.o., K.Winkler
<u>Bay-breasted Warbler:</u>			
1-19,1-30	Nantucket, MBO	10 b., 6 b.	E.Andrews, MBO Staff
2,1-24	MNWS, 5 locations	35+, 5	R.Heil, v.o.
<u>Blackpoll Warbler:</u>			
4-12,11-19	4 locations, Nantucket	21, 15 b.	v.o., E.Andrews
18,23	S.Shore (7 locations), S.Peabody	69, 75	SSBC, R.Heil
<u>Pine Warbler:</u>			
1,4-19	Newton, E.Middleboro	1, 2	O.Komar#, K.Anderson
11,12	MNWS, Barnstable	2, 1	BBC, O.Komar#
<u>Prairie Warbler:</u>			
25	P.I.	1	N.Komar
<u>Palm Warbler:</u>			
5,18;18	P.I.; S.Shore (2 locations)	1, 1; 4	v.o.; SSBC
13,20	Newton	2, 3	N.+O.Komar
<u>Ovenbird:</u>			
4,17-19	Wellesley, Nantucket	1, 4 b.	K.Winkler, E.Andrews
25	Salisbury	1	N.Komar#
<u>Northern Waterthrush:</u>			
2,4-14	MNWS, 3 locations	10, 3	R.Heil, v.o.
16-19,18	Nantucket, S.Shore (3 locations)	8 b., 4	E.Andrews, SSBC
<u>Connecticut Warbler:</u>			
4,5	Annisquam, MNWS	1, 1	H.Wiggin, R.Heil
5	M.V., S.Dartmouth	1, 1	V.Laux, T.Raymond
6-25,24	6 locations, MBO	8, 1 b.	v.o., MBO Staff
10,11	Nantucket	1 b., 1 b.	E.Fisk, E.Andrews
<u>Mourning Warbler:</u>			
2,6;5	MNWS; Chatham	1, 1; 1	R.Heil; J.Aylward
4,18,24	Nantucket	1 b., 1 b., 1 b.	E.Andrews
6,18	Milton (F.M.), Truro	1, 1	D.Brown#, D.Reynolds#
<u>Common Yellowthroat:</u>			
1-19,4	Nantucket, Wellesley	51 b., 4	E.Andrews, K.Winkler
<u>Yellow-breasted Chat:</u>			
1,5;12	MNWS; Truro	1, 1; 1	R.Heil; S.Carroll#
4,19;24	Nantucket; M.V.	1 b., 1 b.; 1	E.Andrews; V.Laux
25,27	Nahant, Lexington	1, 1	L.Pivacek, A.Williams
<u>Wilson's Warbler:</u>			
5-18,12	3 locations, Scituate	4, 4	v.o., SSBC
18,25	S.Shore (3 locations), P.I.	4, 1	SSBC, N.Komar#
<u>Canada Warbler:</u>			
2,4	MNWS, Wellesley	9, 2	R.Heil, K.Winkler
4-19	5 locations	5	v.o.
<u>American Redstart:</u>			
1-19,2	Nantucket, MNWS	17 b., 65	E.Andrews, R.Heil
11-15,11	Nantucket, MNWS	15 b., 10	E.Fisk, BBC
<u>Bobolink:</u>			
1,4,13;1	Newton; MNWS	320, 829, 120; 100	N.+O.Komar#; R.Heil
5,6;8	Lincoln; SRV	200, 600; 216	I.C.T.Nisbet; R.Walton
10-18,25	W.Bridgewater, Nantucket	150 max., 80+	v.o., B.Nikula#
<u>Yellow-headed Blackbird:</u>			
5	Monomoy Pt., M.V.	2 imm. m., 2	B.Nikula#, V.Laux
11	Nantucket	1 ad. m.	N.Claflin fide R.Stymeist
<u>Northern Oriole:</u>			
12,13	Truro, Newton	6, 1	M.Lynch, N.Komar
<u>Rusty Blackbird:</u>			
6,18	Milton (F.M.), Wellesley	3, 1 m.	D.Brown#, K.Winkler
<u>Common Grackle:</u>			
18,21	Marshfield, Cambridge	4000, 60	SSBC, F.Bouchard
<u>Brown-headed Cowbird:</u>			
18	Bridgewater	100	SSBC
<u>Scarlet Tanager:</u>			
6-25	4 locations	7	v.o.

GROSBEAKS THROUGH SPARROWS

Blue Grosbeaks were reported from the traditional locations on the Vineyard, Nantucket and Corn Hill, Truro. A pair of American Goldfinches were observed feeding five young at a nest found at Fresh Pond in Cambridge. Nesting time of goldfinches normally is correlated with maturing thistles, with seeds used for food and thistle down for nest building. The latest date on record is September 25 nationwide. C.W. Townsend (Birds of Essex County, Massachusetts, 1920, pg. 140-supplement) said that once in early October he found young goldfinches only a few days old.

A sparrow, thought to resemble a Le Conte's was observed at Plum Island on September 12. Although details were submitted by the observers, the possibility of the Acadian race of the Sharp-tailed Sparrow should not be overlooked. The clear buffy-yellow or straw colored throat of the Le Conte's Sparrow was not mentioned; in fact the observers noted a complete lack of yellowish color. The time period is within the height of the Sharp-tailed Sparrow migration; note the report of 45 in the Plum Island area on the 18th. Lark Sparrows were noted from the Vineyard, Nantucket and Salisbury. A Clay-colored Sparrow was found on Plum Island and well described. The first white-throats were reported on the 11th and Lincoln's Sparrow was well represented. R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Rose-breasted Grosbeak:			
2,6-24	MNWS, Annisquam	6, total of 8	R.Heil, H.Wiggin
12,18	Sharon, W.Newbury	6, 2	H.Mallers, BBC
Blue Grosbeak:			
11,18,26	Nantucket	1, 1, 2	G.Soucy, R.Stymeist#, B.Nikula#
24,26	Gay Head, Truro	1, 3	V.Laux, R.Comeau
Indigo Bunting:			
11,14	Nantucket, Lincoln	4, 2	R.Stymeist#, L.Taylor
16,18	SRV, Halifax	5, 7	R.Walton, W.Petersen#
20,26	Concord, Belmont	15, 3	R.Walton, L.Taylor
Purple Finch:			
5,6	P.I., Ipswich	10, 3	BBC
American Goldfinch:			
3	Cambridge (Fresh Pond)	2 ad. feeding 5 yg at nest	F.Bouchard
6,18	Milton, Nantucket	20, 110+	D.Brown#, R.Stymeist#
Rufous-sided Towhee:			
6,8	Milton, SRV	8, 5	D.Brown#, R.Walton
25	Stellwagen	1	T.Raymond#
Savannah Sparrow:			
10,12	W.Bridgewater, Scituate	6, 4	D.Clapp, SSBC
18	Marshfield, Duxbury, Bridgewater	10, 12, 6	SSBC
20	Concord	65	R.Walton
Grasshopper Sparrow:			
11,26	Nantucket	1, 1	G.Soucy#, B.Nikula#
Sharp-tailed Sparrow:			
12,18	Barnstable(SN), P.I. (Including Plum Bush)	12, 45+	M.Greenwald#, J.Berry
18,25	Scituate, Salisbury	6, 10	SSBC, BBC
Seaside Sparrow:			
18	Squantum, Scituate	1, 2	D.Brown, W.Petersen#
18,25	Eastham, Newburyport	1, 1	M.Lynch#, BBC (Gove)
Vesper Sparrow:			
12,18	Wellfleet, Truro	1, 1	M.Lynch, S.Carroll
Lark Sparrow:			
1,5	Squibnocket (M.V.)	1, 1	W.Manter, V.Laux
19,26	Salisbury, Nantucket	1, 1	W.Petersen#, B.Nikula#
Dark-eyed Junco:			
11,23	SRV, Framingham	1, 1	R.Walton, R.Forster
26,29	Marshfield, Cambridge	8, 11	D.Clapp, F.Bouchard
Chipping Sparrow:			
5,6	P.I., Milton (F.M.)	10, 30	BBC, D.Brown#
<u>Clay-colored Sparrow: (details on file)</u>			
19	P.I.	1	W.Petersen#
White-crowned Sparrow:			
18	Lexington	3 ad.	J.Andrews
Field Sparrow:			
3,8;5	Annisquam; Milton	1, 3; 5	H.Wiggin; D.Brown#
White-throated Sparrow:			
11;18	Wellesley; P.I., SRV	1; 2, 7	K.Winkler; BBC, R.Walton

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS
Lincoln's Sparrow:			
6,14	Milton, Newton	2, 1	D.Brown#, O.Komar#
18	Truro,Duxbury,N.Weymouth	1, 1, 1	M.Lynch#,SSBC,D.Brown
18	Wellesley, Framingham	1, 2	K.Winkler, R.Forster
19,20	Lexington, Concord	4, 3	J.Andrews, R.Walton
20,21,26,30	Newton	2, 4, 3, 4	N.+O.Komar
23	S.Peabody, Framingham	7, 4	R.Heil, R.Forster
25,26	P.I., Wellesley	1, 1	R.Stymeist, K.Winkler
Song Sparrow:			
6	Milton (F.M.)	40	D.Brown
18	S.Shore (8 locations)	139	SSBC
20,30	Cambridge, SRV	20, 18	F.Bouchard, R.Walton

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ad.	adult	F.M.	Fowl Meadow, Milton
alt.	alternate (plumage)	gr.	greater as in Gr.Boston area
b.	banded	I.	Island
br.	breeding	M.V.	Martha's Vineyard
dk.	dark (phase)	Mt.A.	Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge
f.	female	Nant.	Nantucket
fl.	fledge	Newbypt	Newburyport
imm.	immature	ONWR	Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge
ind.	individuals	P.I.	Plum Island
loc.	locations	P'town	Provincetown
lt.	light (phase)	R.P.	Race Point, Provincetown
m.	male	S.N.	Sandy Neck, Barnstable
max.	maximum	Stellw.	Stellwagen (Bank)
migr.	migrating	ABC	Allen Bird Club
ph.	photographed	BBC	Brookline Bird Club
pl.	plumage	BOEM	Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts
pr.	pair	CBC	Christmas Bird Count
thr.	throughout	DFWS	Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary
v.o.	various observers	FBC	Forbush Bird Club
W	winter (2W = second winter)	GBBEC	Greater Boston Breeding Bird Census
w/	with	GMNWR	Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge
yg.	young	IRWS	Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary
#	additional observers	MAS	Massachusetts Audubon Society
A.A.	Arnold Arboretum	MBO	Manomet Bird Observatory
A.P.	Andrews Point, Rockport	MNWS	Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary
Buzz.	Buzzards (Bay)	NBBC	Newburyport Breeding Bird Census
C.Cod	Cape Cod	SSBC	South Shore Bird Club
E.P.	Eastern Point, Gloucester	TASL	Take a Second Look (BOEM project)
F.E.	First Encounter Beach, Eastham	WBWS	Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary
F.H.	Fort Hill, Eastham	WMWS	Wachusett Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary

THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

The American Ornithologists' Union, oldest and largest of the ornithological societies in North America, is celebrating the hundredth anniversary of its founding in 1983. Its quarterly journal, THE AUK, now includes about 1000 pages a year of papers on a wide variety of ornithological topics. The long-awaited sixth edition of the AOU Checklist of North American Birds will be published in time for the centennial meeting. If interested in knowing more about the AOU please write to Membership Chairman Dr. Gustav A. Swanson, Department of Fishery and Wildlife Biology, Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, CO 80523.

MARBLED MURRELET: A FIRST MASSACHUSETTS RECORD

by Kathleen S. Anderson, Manomet Bird Observatory

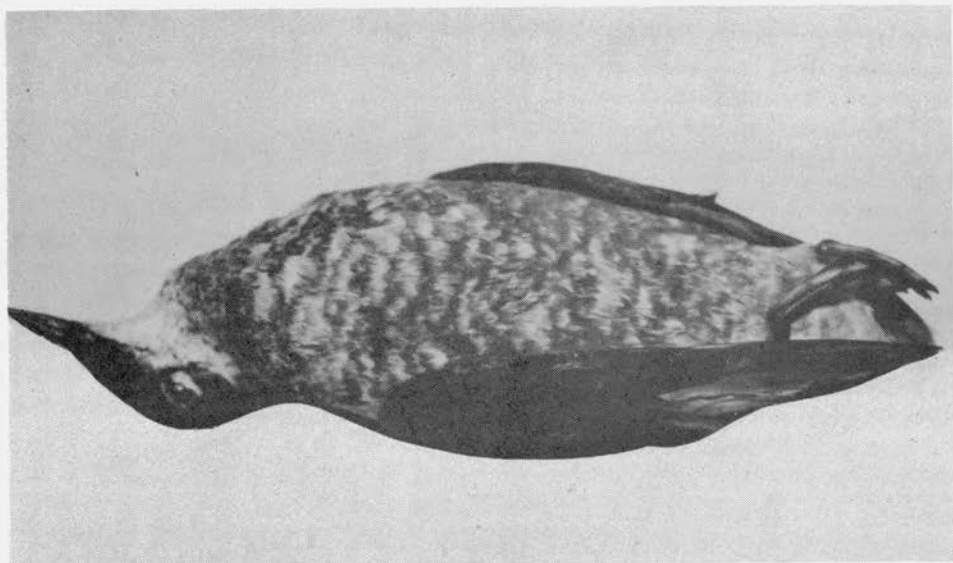
Massachusetts has come through again with another unexpected bird species. On September 17, 1982, a Marbled Murrelet of the Asiatic race (Brachyramphus marmoratus perdix) was discovered, freshly dead, in a garage 0.83 kilometer east of Great Quitticus, one of the Lakeville ponds. The circumstances of this first state record and other occurrences of this species away from the west coast of North America are quite inexplicable, but the details of such observations, as we know them, merit documentation.

At about 5 P.M. on September 17, Mrs. John Harrison returned to her home on Marion Road in Middleborough, 0.5 kilometer from Black Brook, a tributary to Great Quitticus Pond. The Harrisons have four cats, proven hunters, who habitually deposit their trophies inside the garage beside the steps to the house. On this evening she found no trophies; but twenty minutes later John Harrison reached home and discovered a bird beside the steps. He has no doubt that it was brought in by one of the cats although there was no human witness to the event.

With the aid of the Singer illustrations in A Guide to Field Identification: Birds of North America, Mr. Harrison first thought it was a murrelet of some kind, but when he saw the ranges depicted on the maps decided that was impossible and passed the bird on to Mrs. Sherry MacDonald for her help in identification. Eventually the specimen was brought to me by Mrs. MacDonald. My initial identification of the bird as a Marbled Murrelet was subsequently confirmed by Kevin D. Powers and Brian A. Harrington, both of whom had seen live specimens on the west coast.

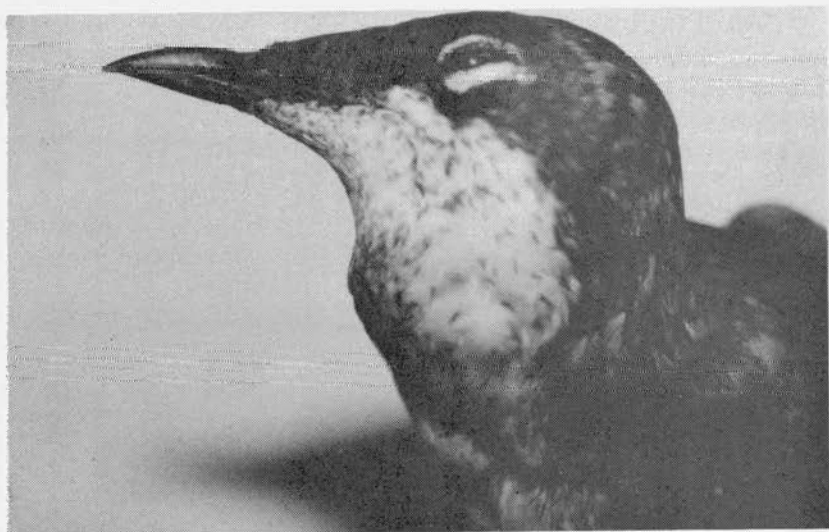
The bird was recently dead although rigor mortis had set in. Its plumage was intact except for a laceration at the neck. It was about eight inches in length and about the thickness of a large Mourning Dove, sans tail. The bird was large enough so that a cat would have had to carry it by the neck. It was in alternate plumage. The upper parts were dark brown and appeared almost black. The under parts were deep brown with a mottled appearance due to pale feather edges. It had a broken but thick white eye ring, and the cheek and throat appeared to be quite pale. Photographs of the bird appear on the following page.

The bird closely resembled the Asiatic specimen shown by Jehl and Jehl (1981) in American Birds, and its measurements conform to those of the Asiatic race of Marbled Murrelet (B. m. perdix). Careful examination also disclosed that the bird was in active primary molt out to the eighth primary. The two outermost primaries were old and heavily worn. It would seem the bird was flightless at the time of its death,



Marbled Murrelet

Photo by Wayne Petersen



Marbled Murrelet

Photo by Wayne Petersen

perhaps having come up on shore. We have to speculate that days or weeks earlier it had been flying over the Lakeville ponds and, for whatever reason - weather or physical condition, set down on one of the ponds, presumably Great Quitticus. The bird was thin and, at this writing, is still in a frozen state. It will be interesting to learn what, if anything, is found in the stomach. The bird is being sent to Dr. George Watson at the Smithsonian Institution for confirmation, at which time the skin will be made into a partial museum skin and skeleton, sex determined, and stomach contents identified.

The nominate (North American) race of the Marbled Murrelet (Brachyramphus marmoratus marmoratus) breeds on the northeastern Pacific coast from northern California to the central Aleutian Islands, nesting on evergreen limbs, but perhaps also ground-nesting in the treeless portions of its still little known Alaskan range. The Asiatic race, B. m. perdix, is found from the Kamchatka Peninsula to southern Japan. There have been no published records of perdix from either coast of North America. The most northern record of the Asiatic race is from the Bering Sea off the eastern coast of Kamchatka, but the closest Asian locality where the Asiatic race has been collected is the Commander Islands. Thus, the known breeding ranges of the two subspecies of the Marbled Murrelet appear to be geographically separated only by the Bering Sea, a distance of approximately 500 kilometers (Sowls, et al. 1978). The North American race winters south along the west coast of North America to southern California, and there are no records away from the immediate coastal region.

Spencer Sealy summarizes North American occurrences of the Asiatic Marbled Murrelet in the October 1982 issue of The Auk as follows:

- 1) Specimen in a Quebec museum, presumably collected April 13, 1913 at Montreal.
- 2) Specimen shot November 11, 1979 by a hunter in Quebec.
- 3) Specimen found dead ashore at Mono Lake, California, August 9, 1981.
- 4) Specimen shot on Lake Lemon, Indiana, December 1, 1981.

Sealy also mentions two additional specimens in museums labeled "from the Bering Sea" which may have been taken within North American waters. Incredibly, yet another Asiatic Murrelet reached North America this fall. A bird, now in the Denver Museum of Natural History, appeared on a pond in Colorado in early October where a non-birder photographed it at point-blank range. The picture appeared in a local paper where it was "discovered" by someone who recognized it as other than a puddle duck (Chandler S. Robbins, personal communication). Why it should be the Asiatic race which has been found in the interior and east coast of North America is still an unsolved problem.

Suffice to say, it may be just as well that this first state record for the Marbled Murrelet was in the form of a specimen. Had I seen a small, dark, short-necked bird paddling about on a Lakeville pond and then had the temerity to call it a Marbled Murrelet, would anyone have believed me?

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KATHLEEN S. ANDERSON is the executive director of the Manomet Bird Observatory.

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Still available is Roger Burrows' *Birdwatcher's Guide To Atlantic Canada, Vol 1*: covers all islands and ferry routes in Canada's great Northeast (Newfoundland, Maritimes, Bluenose, Labrador, Coasts). *Volume 2* concentrates on Nova Scotia, Cape Breton, Bay of Fundy and is due out February 1. \$7 each postpaid, \$13 for two, \$20 for three. Fred Bouchard, 9 Walnut St., Belmont 02179 MA. The book is a thorough, insightful companion for birdseekers, well-indexed and illustrated by the ornithologist/author, Vol 1 has 175pp; Vol 2 may exceed 200pp.

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The 1980 Peterson field guide properly places the Northern Shoveler on the same page with the Blue-winged and Cinnamon teals, adjacent to the former. The recent "Thirty-fourth Supplement to the A.O.U. Check-List of North American Birds" lists these ducks in consecutive order within the genus *Anas*, thus acknowledging the close phylogenetic relationship. The Herbert H. Dill photo in the last issue of *Bird Observer* was offered because it emphasizes the similarities here. If your eye foundered on the large, "spoon-shaped" bill of the right-hand bird in the photo, you may have hesitated somewhat in your identification, for, alas, there is no conspicuously marked, breeding-plumaged male to guide you. So, *cherchez la femme* in the field guides.

A sharp-eyed birdwatching friend and I experienced this same uncertainty one day at Great Meadows Wildlife Refuge when a flight of smallish ducks, brightly displaying blue wing patches, settled into the water near us and were promptly "called" Blue-winged Teal. When we checked them through our telescopes, field guides in hand, we hesitated, questioned, debated, wavered, and finally were unable to reach whole-hearted agreement as to which of two species we were observing. Although a difference (slight) in bill color is apparent in the plates, the text of the field guides makes no mention of this, and we failed to consider this or to make field notes. According to Richard Forster, the bill of the Northern Shoveler is light-colored. Our perplexity can perhaps be better appreciated if the reader consults photographs 141, 142, and 143 in The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds: Eastern Region (Knopf, 1977). Now, look again carefully at the picture in October's issue. If you leapt to the conclusion, without qualm or query, that these ducks are Blue-winged Teal, you are . . . absolutely correct! But if you did so without accounting for the shoveler-type bill, "I wot that through ignorance ye did it" (Acts 3:17).

D.R.A.



Blue-winged Teal

Photo by H.H. Dill
Courtesy of M.A.S.

At a Glance . . .

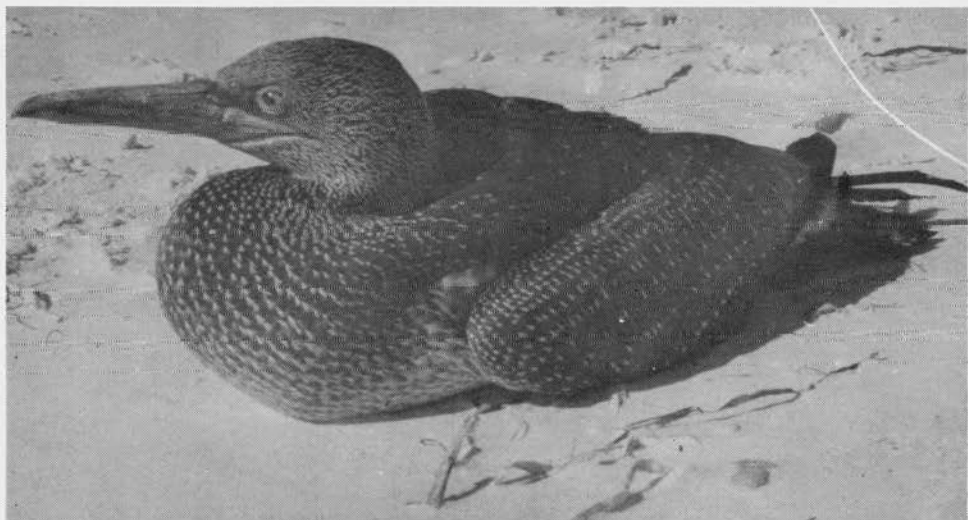


Photo by J.M. Brewer

Courtesy of Massachusetts Audubon Society

Can you identify this bird?

Identification will be discussed in next issue's *At a Glance*.

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