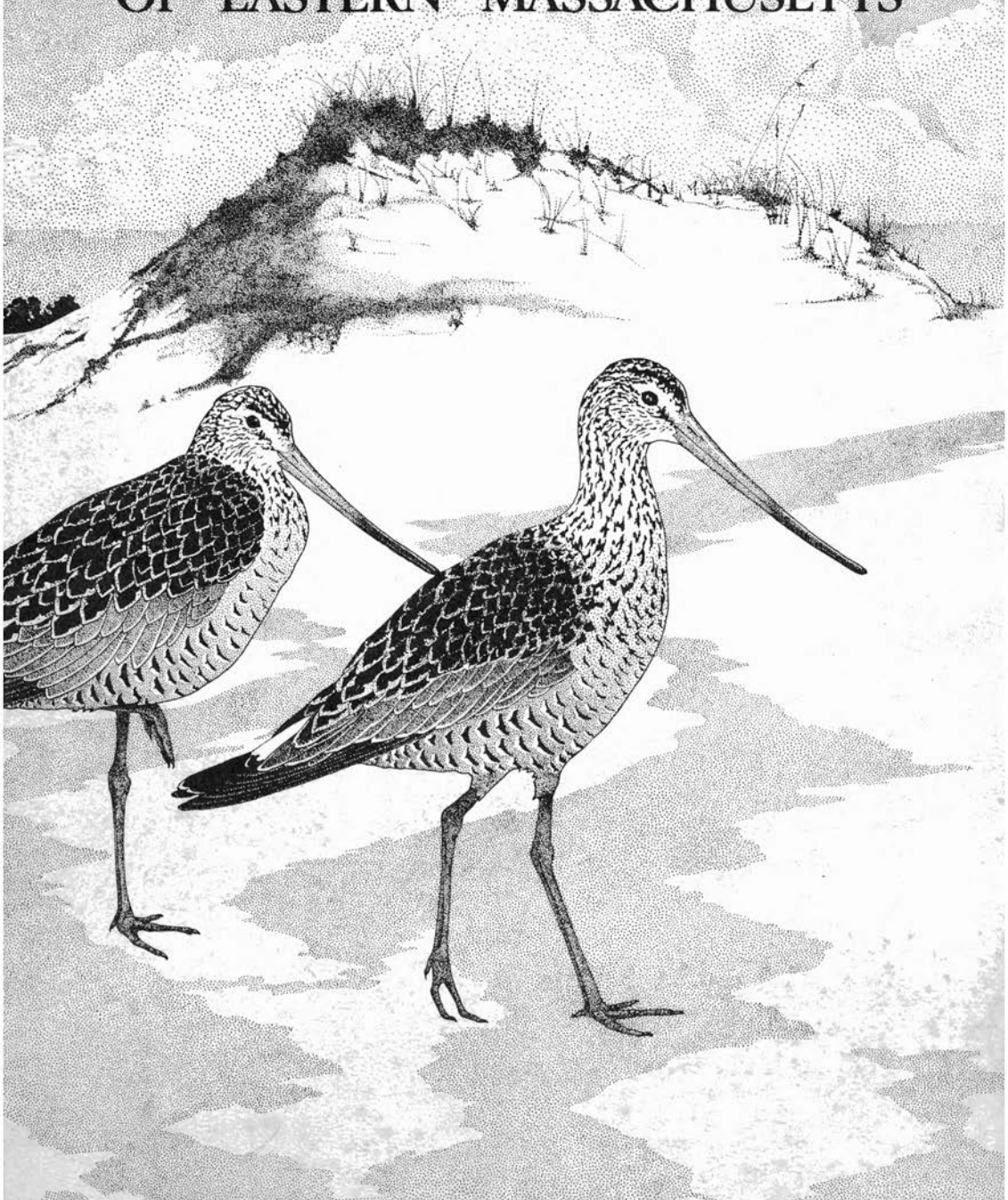
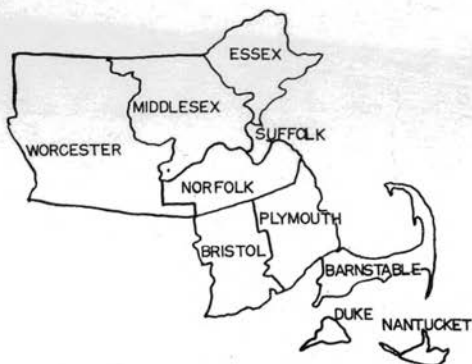


BIRD OBSERVER

OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS



VOLUME 6 NO. 1



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Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts has been declared a non-profit tax exempt organization by the Internal Revenue Service. Any gifts to Bird Observer will be greatly appreciated and will be tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

EDITOR'S PAGE

OUR NEW COVER

The Hudsonian Godwit is a representative of an intrinsic aspect of Massachusetts bird life. Reduced almost to extinction during the market gunning period, this species has been slowly regaining its former population size. Over the last 60 years Monomoy Island has served as the major United States staging area of Hudsonian Godwits. Newburyport and Plum Island are also great vantage points for this species.

Our new cover, by Margaret La Farge of Connecticut, was chosen following a competition in which a dozen high quality designs were considered. Ms. La Farge, a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design, is a great-granddaughter of the famous muralist John La Farge. She has worked extensively with watercolor, pen and ink, and engraving, and with wood, from which she creates larger-than-life herons, pelicans, and birds of prey. Her work has been exhibited in Providence, R.I., Lincoln, Mass., and Hartford and Essex Connecticut. Ms. La Farge is the illustrator of George Gaylord Simpson's Penguins: Past and Present, Here and There, and more recently, Watching Birds: An Introduction to Ornithology, by Roger F. Pasquier. Ms. La Farge has studied plumage and anatomy at the Peabody Museum of Natural History in New Haven, Connecticut. In addition to birds, she enjoys drawing wildflowers, sea life and landscapes.

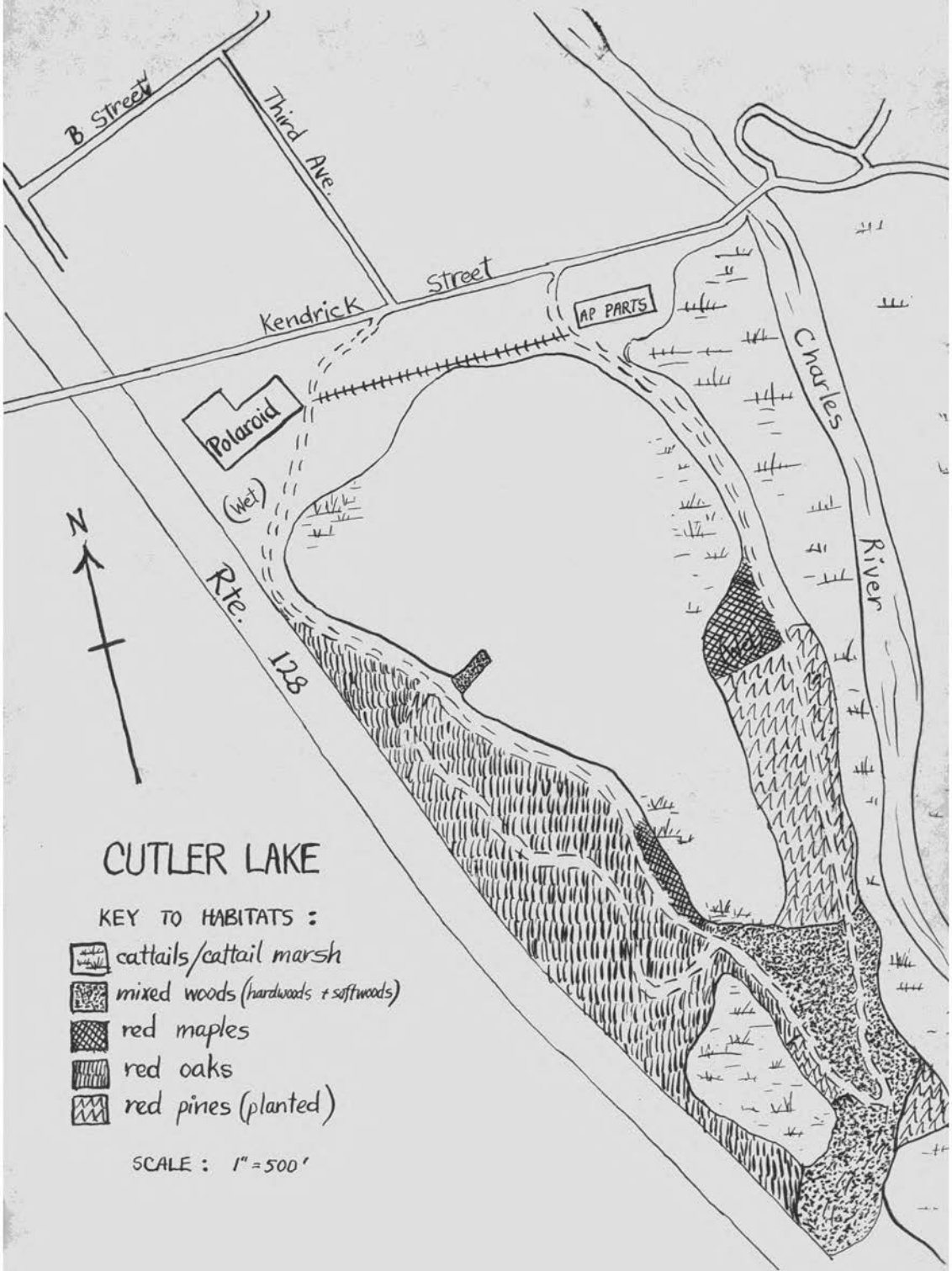
PELAGIC TRIP TO GEORGES BANK, JUNE 19-20, 1978

Most New England birders are discouraged by the inaccessibility of the really good pelagic birding areas. This June, Bird Observer will sponsor a trip to the Soviet fishing fleet on the continental slope of Georges Bank, the most productive seabird region in the Northeast. The 100' Yankee Captain, with 48 bunks on board, will leave Gloucester for Georges Bank at 10 p.m. on June 19th and will return early in the morning (c. 2 a. m.) on June 21st, giving birders an entire day on the bank. The price is \$52; please send a \$25 deposit (refundable only in the case of foul weather cancellation) by APRIL 15th to:

ROBERT STYMEIST
46 BEAVER STREET
WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS 02154






Leaders: Richard Veit and Robert Stymeist

Richard Veit spent June 1-14, 1977, in the area of Georges Bank, which we will be visiting, and observed the following: 300 Northern Fulmars, 20,000 Greater Shearwaters, 3,000 Sooty Shearwaters, Cory's Shearwaters, 50,000 Wilson's Storm Petrels, many Leach's Storm Petrels, 25 skuas (including at least 8 South Polar Skuas), 2-3 Long-tailed Jaegers and much more--virtually anything is possible.



CUTLER LAKE

KEY TO HABITATS :

-  cattails/cattail marsh
-  mixed woods (hardwoods + softwoods)
-  red maples
-  red oaks
-  red pines (planted)

SCALE : 1" = 500'

A BIRDING TOUR OF CUTLER PARK

by Neal C. Clark, Needham

Cutler Park Reservation, 850 acres of MDC-owned land in Needham, is an oasis bountiful in its varied scenery and wildlife amid the ribboney desert of industrial Route 128. During 1960-1972, the Needham Bird Club counted 137 species of birds there, the great majority of which were seen on or around Cutler Lake, with its surface area of about 55 acres. When I tallied up my own species count recently, I discovered--to my surprise--that I had recorded 100 species at Cutler Park from 1973-1977. This article covers only one section of the entire park, that which is most accessible and which contains the greatest number of different habitats.

If you were to walk leisurely around the entire lake, you would notice five or six different types of vegetation areas (or habitats) including cattail marsh, mixed woods, and aquatic (the lake). To see these habitats we shall follow the main trail which hugs Cutler Lake, an easy dirt and gravel path.

For birding around the lake, which should take at least two hours, I recommend starting directly behind the AP Parts Co. building. To me, the very beginning of the tour, for the first 300 yards of so, is always the highlight of the day. Several ecological communities meet around here, and because of the resultant "edge effect" (the tendency for increased variety of wildlife at community junctions, as between a field and a forest), I always count the most species in this relatively small area.

At the first curve, in front of AP Parts, you will be at an intersection of varied natural and man-made habitats: aquatic, cattail marsh, scattered trees and vines, and the long porch of the building which faces towards the water. Many species of birds may be found here at almost any time of the year. Depending on the season, you may find: Mallard and Black Ducks, Ring-necked Pheasants (with their 2 1/2 inch tracks seen in snow crisscrossing the trail), Virginia Rails, Common Snipes, Common Flickers, Gray Catbirds, Mockingbirds, and many species of warblers. In addition, there always seem to be a few Warbling Vireos present in spring and summer. Nesters in this immediate area include the Red-winged Blackbird at the lakeshore barely above the water level, as well as in the marsh. The Mourning Dove nests in the vines and in the pines, while under the back porch of AP Parts Co. you may just observe four species nesting within about thirty feet of one another! They are: the Eastern Phoebe, American Robin, House Sparrow, and the Rock Dove. All four of these species build on a rafter approximately fifteen feet up. I find it amazing that these birds nest successfully, considering all the commotion made on the porch by men moving mufflers around.

Moving on, you will soon find cattails on your right filling in along the lakeshore, as well as on your left bordering the Charles River. Alders, dogwoods, and willows (indicative of an early successional stage--new growth on its way to maturing to a forest) then unfold before you. Do linger, for this is all beautiful and choice territory

for many creatures. Pairs of Eastern Kingbirds and Northern Orioles may be found together (nesting next to or one above the other), and from early May through October, at least one pair of Long-billed Marsh Wrens may be seen. The wren is an unusual bird because the male builds a number of "dummy" nests which are unlined on the bottom, while the female constructs the final frail-looking home later. While on the lake during a snowstorm a couple of years ago, I was able to locate at least a half-dozen of their nests (mostly unlikely) in a small area. It is truly an odd nest, due to its oblong shape and a side entrance to its roofed structure. The Swamp Sparrow is in the vicinity, also, and can be viewed more easily than the shy little wren.

Next, just before you lose sight of water, notice an area of hardwoods around you (much Red Maple) where Red-eyed Vireos, Scarlet Tanagers, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks habituate, among other tree-top dwellers. Below them in the same area should be Rufous-sided Towhees, Brown Thrashers, and the ubiquitous Song Sparrows, all of which have extremely hard-to-find nests. Take a last good look and listen, for up ahead...

You are abruptly entering a long, dark, and slightly forbidding-looking plantation of Red Pines. They are at least thirty feet high, very tightly packed, and interwoven with a few misshapen White Pines. The straight trail seems to tunnel right through the ambient evergreens, with the windy movement of the old trees themselves as sometimes the one sound to be heard. Because of homogeneous vegetation, this pine stand does not yield much of a variety of birds, but both nuthatches, the Wood Thrushes, and the Veerys may be heard, if not seen. Look carefully for the little Brown Creeper, because it is there. I can only pick it up by seeing it, due to my inability to hear its high notes; perhaps others can detect it more easily. Finally, and most exciting, I and others have spotted a Great Horned Owl in this plantation. On a February afternoon in 1975, as I was passing through the heart of this pine stand, I heard Blue Jays calling out fiercely, apparently harassing someone or something. I rushed on through the mud and freezing slush, flushed with hope--of at least a glimpse of a hawk or an owl. Looking up, I got a good view of a Great Horned perched against the upper trunk of a swaying Red Pine less than fifty yards distant. I glued my binoculars on it for a couple of minutes, and as the jays fled, the owl soon floated away, too. I believe my slight unsteadiness in holding the binoculars was due to the excitement of the scene as much as the cold temperature. It was a real thrill, and I recommend to all owlers a visit to Cutler some January night, to at least hear the low, eerie hoots. These are the sounds of wildness and weirdness.

In March of 1976 I found the nest of the Red-tailed Hawk almost directly across the river from the location of the owl-sighting. After seeing Red-tails in the park area many times, I set out to locate the nest; it was not too difficult. The large and fairly deep structure was about forty feet up in a Northern Red Oak in a small grove of oaks and White Pines. I was surprised to see the nesting site so close (within 75 yards) to a large parking lot of an industrial area. The nest really stood out then, but by the time observations stopped in late May, it was totally obscured by surrounding foliage. I used a 9 to 30x zoom spotting scope in making the viewings from the Needham side of the Charles River. The eggs hatched in early May, with two chicks seen soon after. I was

delighted to see this, for it gave me an opportunity to watch them grow, all from about 100 yards away. I was able to accomplish this (apparently without being seen) by setting up, alone and very quietly, at the edge of the Red Pine stand amid grape vines overlooking the river. I only wished I had had a handy maple to climb where I could have built a small platform to support and steady my tripod. It is always a treat to be able to see a bird of prey, especially so close to civilization.

Back on the trail, and beyond the pine plantation, as you turn to the right and proceed slightly uphill, you will be on stones and gravel through some mixed woods. The Red Pines have not altogether disappeared, however. You are now headed back towards the lake, this time on the far side with the water still on your right. In less than 200 yards the lake will again be visible, and at its shore there are many Red Maples and cattails. In this location look for American Bitterns, Green Herons, and sometimes the prehistoric-looking (at least in flight) Great Blue Herons. For a good distance you will have hilly Northern Red Oak terrain beside the trail, which, incidentally, can be very wet and miry at any time of the year. This terrain, unfortunately, blocks out little of the Route 128 traffic noise which can be heard on this side of the lake most of the time. In winter, Tree Sparrows in great numbers gather around here by the shore's dense vegetation. To me they are always a joy to spot because of their limitless energy and their seemingly endless sharp, slightly musical calls, rendered on even the most frigid of days.

As the trail breaks out into a real clearing, which goes all the way to the Polaroid building, you may see a couple of Canada Geese, in season, by the shore. A very good overall view of Cutler Lake may be obtained from here, just before reaching the blacktop. It was from this area in October, 1975, I saw an Osprey up in an old dead tree, back near the narrower part of the lake, being badgered by diving Common Crows as it fed on a pan-sized fish. The crows did not seem to faze the huge hoverer much, because it continued to eat.

The blacktop beside Polaroid takes you to an old spur railroad track which leads back to our starting point at the AP Parts Co. But don't stop yet! Right around the Polaroid building and out to the street (Kendrick) is an excellent vantage point to see another raptor--the sleek and very colorful American Kestrel. Be observant, for although there are some Mourning Doves in the area on the telephone wires, not every bird spotted will turn out to be one!

Cutler offers all I have described here and more. It depends on what you seek and what you like to do. The future of the park looks bright because, as the Metropolitan District Commission has informed me, this particular reservation is to stay natural and not be developed into a playground, complete with picnic tables, swings, and boat landings. In other words, it is not destined to become an active recreation area, but will receive only minor trail maintenance and some clearing. "Develop" a park? To me these terms are incongruous together. So I was pleased, during this past summer, to see that the two access points to the park were gated so that only pedestrians and perhaps bicyclists can now get through. Motor vehicles can go almost anywhere nowadays, but they shouldn't go everywhere. I believe anyone can receive enough satisfaction

just from walking around, fishing, or perhaps canoeing without making the park into a motorized, man-made playground.

For an even longer-ranged view of the area, I see the lake itself and the life in and around it as being in just a temporary, emerging vegetation stage--that is, with certain plants such as cattails breaking the surface of the water and starting to fill in around the edges and towards the center. Then after many more years, the lake as we know it will only be wet when it rains, and even later in time it will be a forest. By then the Red Pine stand should be a climax forest of beech and maple, and also be more conducive to wildlife because of more diversity of the surrounding vegetation. Not forever will the loud "pumping" of the Bittern (or, Stake-driver) be heard echoing across the lake on an April dawn. But for now, it sounds just fine.

WATERFOWL BREEDING SUCCESS IN 1977

by Theodore H. Atkinson, Billerica

The waterfowl breeding grounds survey conducted this past spring by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Canadian Wildlife Service, and various state agencies noted a marked reduction in breeding-ground conditions throughout western Canada and bordering areas of the United States. Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, the Dakotas, Montana, and Minnesota normally produce 50 to 75 per cent of the North American duck population. This region is post-glacial, with many lakes and potholes, but it also receives a highly variable annual rainfall which results in frequent periods of drought.

The deterioration of conditions in these areas was due to a major drought that has affected most of western Canada and the United States since the summer of 1976. Last autumn and winter were mild, with record high temperatures that increased evaporation of ground water. Precipitation over the drought area was 50 per cent below normal, and some areas reported the driest conditions ever recorded. In May heavy rains provided only temporary relief.

In southern Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta the breeding duck population was down 25 to 50 per cent, and Montana and North Dakota conditions were similar. Though South Dakota's water levels were up this year, the duck population was down. In contrast, Minnesota's duck population was somewhat higher than last year, despite a decrease in water area.

Dismal as the picture was in traditional breeding areas, stable water conditions to the north attracted a large number of ducks by early May. Nevertheless, these northern areas have traditionally produced poorer breeding results.

However, the total duck breeding population appears to be less than in 1976. Traditionally the most numerous species, the Mallard, decreased 5 per cent from 1976; other breeding populations fared as follows: Gadwall +5 per cent; American Wigeon -1; Green-winged Teal +6; Blue-winged Teal -8; Northern Shoveler -11; Pintail -18; Redhead -27; Canvasback +2; and scaup +7. Overall, the breeding populations of these 10 species declined an average of 4 per cent.

BIRDS OF PREY: PAINTINGS BY LOUIS AGASSIZ FUERTES

For the past fifty years, some of the most beautiful watercolors by the noted bird painter, Louis Agassiz Fuertes, lay locked in a vault. Now, for the first time in over half a century, these paintings are being put on exhibition. The Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service is pleased to announce the national tour of BIRDS OF PREY: PAINTINGS BY LOUIS AGASSIZ FUERTES.

Regarded by many experts as one of the foremost illustrators of all time, in the tradition of Audubon, Louis Fuertes was commissioned by the company of Church & Dwight, the makers of Arm & Hammer baking soda, to do a series of bird portraits to me made into small cards which could be included in packages of baking soda. Fuertes painted a series of song birds, game birds, and a series of birds of prey. The song birds and game birds were made into cards in the 1920's. But the birds of prey were not widely seen until recently. Because the originals have remained locked away from light and subject to little handling, their colors are as bright and vibrant as when Fuertes first laid his brush strokes.

Included in this exhibition are 30 delicate watercolors of various species of birds of prey--hawks, ospreys, owls and eagles. It is an especially timely exhibition because many of these species are endangered. Accompanying label copy describes the bird's range, migration patterns, feeding habits, habitat and information regarding its survival status. An introductory text panel gives details on the life and artistic importance of Louis Agassiz Fuertes.

After skinning and stuffing each specimen himself, he would follow with sketch after sketch in which he would attempt to portray just the right attitude and characteristics of the bird. Fuertes' life's work was not only to draw birds with faithful accuracy, but to capture the personal look of each bird.

This exhibit will be at the Thomas Crane Public Library, Quincy, Massachusetts.

May 1 through May 27

Monday - Friday, 9 A.M. to 9 P.M.

Saturday, 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.

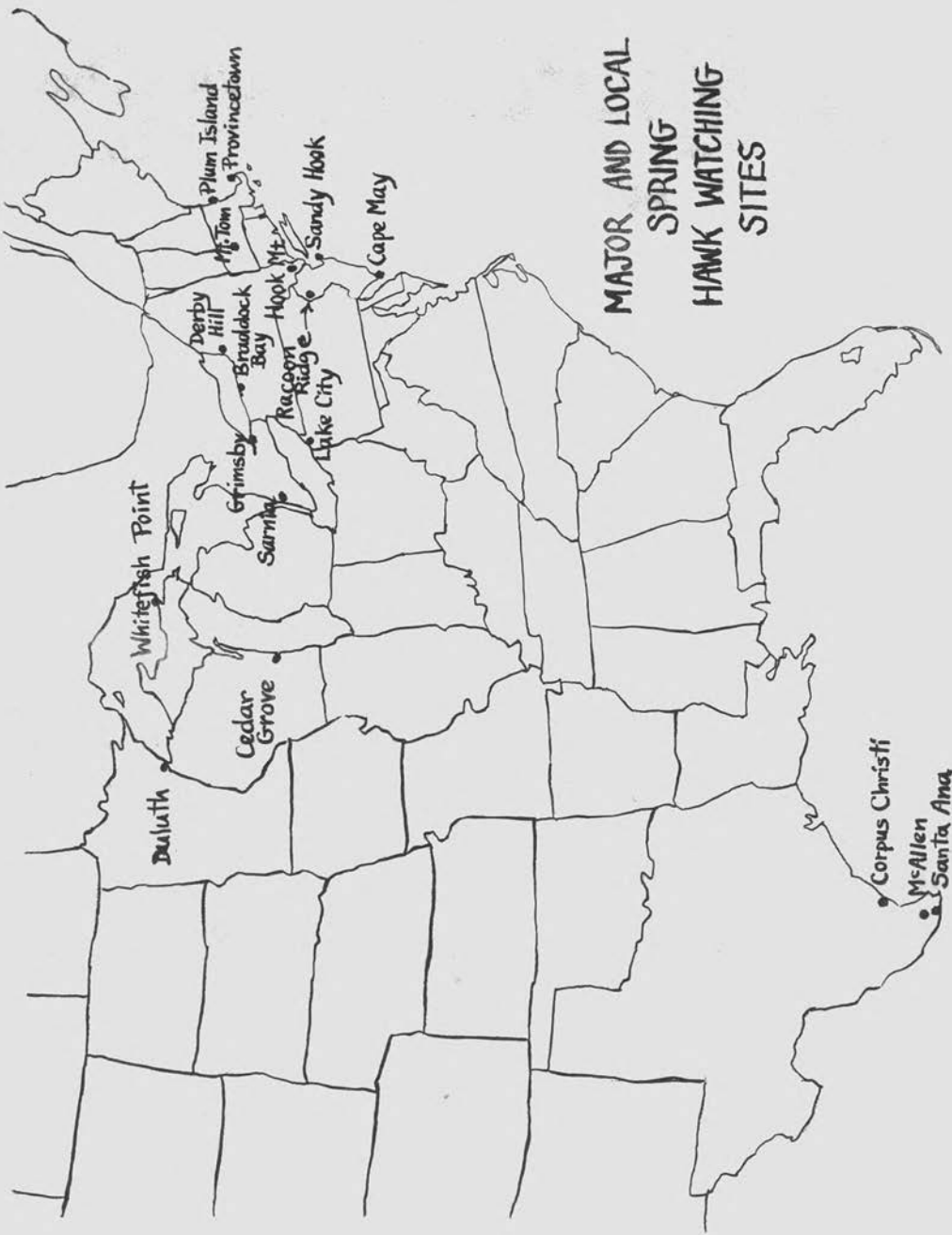
Free Admission

Sponsored by the

South Shore Natural Science Center, Inc., Jacobs Lane, Norwell, Massachusetts.

National Audubon Society reports that birdwatchers spend about a half-billion dollars annually on their hobby. Of this, \$170 million goes for bird seed, \$7 million for field guides and bird books, \$3 million for dues to conservation organizations, \$109 million for cameras and photo equipment, and \$155 million for binoculars and scopes. All this activity and expenditure is focused primarily on nongame birds.

MAJOR AND LOCAL
SPRING
HAWK WATCHING
SITES



THE SPRING HAWK MIGRATION:

TOWARD UNDERSTANDING AN ENIGMA

by Paul M. Roberts, Somerville

Remember that big hawk day last fall? Whether you had 4,000 broadwings at Mt. Tom, a kettle of 50 over your home, or three Peregrine Falcons at Plum Island, it is impossible to forget such spectacular occasions. You probably had several good hawk flights last September or October, but how many times have you seen similar flights in the spring? Most likely never. Many people do not believe there is a substantial spring hawk migration because, over years of birding, they've never seen a major spring flight. An examination of the published field records for Massachusetts would only confirm such a conclusion. Small flights are occasionally observed, usually at Mt. Tom, but there are only a few other scattered reports from around the state for the past three decades. An examination of American Birds' reports for regions south of our own would further strengthen the belief that the spring hawk migration is small and quite disparate.

However, there are substantial spring hawk flights, comparable to those of the fall, in at least two parts of the United States. Furthermore, recent field studies in New Jersey and New York prove that there are smaller but concentrated flights through those states. In general, the evidence suggests that there is a much larger, more concentrated spring hawk migration through Massachusetts than records indicate or than most birders realize.

A thorough survey of professional ornithological literature, American Birds, and the birding journals of various states reveals that substantial hawk flights occur each spring in southeast Texas and along the southern shores of the Great Lakes. Southeast Texas is the site of the largest recorded spring Broad-winged Hawk flights in the U.S. Returning from their wintering grounds in Central and South America, these buteos are apparently driven by southern and southwesterly winds until they approach the Texas Gulf Coast in the vicinity of the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge just south of McAllen. Broadwings are usually gregarious during migration, the vast majority of them moving in groups over a two to three week period. Hence, during late March and early April, as many as 200,000 have been seen passing through this corner of Texas in a single week. On March 27, 1976, more than 100,000 flew over the Santa Ana Refuge. Towns in the vicinity, from the Rio Grande to Corpus Christi and north and west to San Antonio, have reported seasonal peaks as high as 85,000. Santa Ana, however, is probably the best location from which to observe the migration, although apparently there are no topographical features that confine the hawks to a specific path over the refuge. If the winds are not just right, the majority of the birds can easily pass on either side of the refuge, since the broadwings appear to move on a rather wide front. Good flights of Swainson's Hawks can also be observed here, though in much smaller numbers.

The second major concentration of hawks occurs along the southern shores of the Great Lakes, particularly at Whitefish Point, Michigan, and at Braddock Bay and Derby Hill, New York. Whitefish Point has not been well covered for hawk counts, although major banding operations are

conducted there. Derby Hill, and to a lesser extent Braddock Bay, have been thoroughly monitored for more than a decade. The magnitude of the migration is amply revealed by the spring, 1977, migration totals for these two sites and for Grimsby, Ontario, a major fall migration site.

	<u>Braddock Bay</u>	<u>Derby Hill</u>	<u>Grimsby</u>
Turkey Vulture	858	683	460
Northern Goshawk	8	40	11
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1,923	3,919	4,412
Cooper's Hawk	59	269	114
Red-tailed Hawk	1,156	3,701	2,250
Red-shouldered Hawk	265	935	651
Broad-winged Hawk	16,919	16,107	1,551
Rough-legged Hawk	174	203	57
Golden Eagle	4	25	1
Bald Eagle	3	5	2
Northern Harrier	182	337	79
Osprey	40	130	11
Peregrine Falcon	1	3	0
Merlin	0	5	2
American Kestrel	109	283	97
Unidentified	865	196	195
Total	22,566	26,841	10,163

The seasonal peaks are also impressive. At Derby Hill, 589 Red-tailed Hawks were seen on March 29th and five species attained season peaks on April 21st. On the latter day, observers counted 982 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 8,105 Broad-winged Hawks, 44 Rough-legged Hawks, and 57 Northern Harriers (Marsh Hawks). An incredible 10 Golden Eagles passed within 1 1/2 hours that afternoon.

These concentrations are the result of the "lake effect," which works in this manner. The most numerous species seen along the lake coasts are those which tend to rely on soaring flight. In traveling long distances, these birds seek out thermals and updrafts to provide uplift to carry them in the desired direction with a minimum expenditure of their own energy. During the spring they employ winds from the south, west, and even northwest to carry them to their breeding grounds.

However, when hawks encounter the Great Lakes, they meet a barrier to soaring flight. On a sunny day, the waters are much colder than the land, and no thermals are produced over them to provide uplift for the birds. The absence of thermals is compounded by the lakes' onshore breeze, which tends to force most soaring birds slightly inland.

Thus, their flight is concentrated into paths over the hills and ridges, where there is the most thermal activity and updrafts. Most of the soaring hawks, especially the masses of broadwings, follow the southern

shores of the lakes, using the winds, updrafts, and thermals to carry them northeastward until they reach a land bridge to Canada. This "lake effect" is cumulative, producing ever greater concentrations of birds at several points along the southern coasts of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario, including Cleveland, Ohio; Lake City, Pennsylvania; Braddock Bay, east of Rochester, New York; and Derby Hill, in New York's Oswego County. To the northwest, Lake Michigan and Lake Superior combine with the predominant winds to drive the migrating buteos and Sharp-shinned Hawks eastward, to Whitefish Point on the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

But what about the rest of the country? Where do the broadwings go between southeastern Texas and the Great Lakes? The birds seemingly evaporate into thin air once they pass San Antonio, only to rematerialize on the southern shores of the Great Lakes.

The absence of topographical barriers similar to the Great Lakes would seem to indicate that there could be no comparable concentrations of hawks elsewhere in the United States. Thus people have not bothered to look for what they think does not exist--and they haven't seen what they haven't looked for.

Epistemological questions aside, in 1976 ambitious members of the recently established Hawk Migration Association of North America organized spring hawk watches in several parts of the Appalachian chain. Two watches had particular relevance for New England. Peter Dunne maintained a watch at Raccoon Ridge, New Jersey, just north of the Delaware Water Gap, from March 1st through April 30th, and various individuals staffed a site at Hook Mountain, New York, not far north of New York City. Dunne's work was particularly significant, as it was the first truly systematic spring hawk watch in the northeast, with the exception of the Great Lakes. Observers at both Raccoon Ridge and Hook Mountain, well-known fall hawk-watching sites, discovered impressive spring movements. Their season totals for the first two years of the watches are:

	<u>RACCOON RIDGE, N.J.</u>		<u>HOOK MOUNTAIN N.Y.</u>	
	1976 (61 days/451 hrs)	1977 (54 days /443 hrs)	1976 (51 days/219 hrs)	1977 (25 days/141 1/2 hrs)
TV	0	0	0	0
NG	19	18	7	9
SS	403	546	533	305
C	22	26	6	4
RT	372	416	104	26
RS	102	201	36	28
BW	1,902	2,042	1,220	961
RL	2	5	0	0
GE	3	1	1	1
BE	7	1	0	0
NH	89	91	48	22
OS	153	240	75	50
PF	2	0	1	2
M	6	2	1	3
AK	163	230	197	86
UI	35	0	69	98
TOT.	3,280	3,819	2,398	1,595

Their specific reports, not reproduced here, provide invaluable data regarding not only the magnitude of the flight, but a daily break-down of species counts, rhythm, and weather conditions. Their tentative conclusions were supported by the findings of William Clark and Steve Potts, who maintained a raptor banding station at Sandy Hook, New Jersey, from March 21 through May 5, 1977. Their totals for the first systematic coastal spring hawk watch in the U.S. were:

TV	NG	SS	C	RT	RS	BW	RL	BE	NH	OS	PF	M	AK	TOTAL
54	1	1,130	137	41	145	29	1	1	375	28	3	143	2,599	4,687

The Clark-Potts' totals are even more impressive when several factors are considered. Their banding station, for example, was established almost a month after the migration began, and it was closed almost a month before the migration ended. Secondly, based on their experience at Cape May, Clark estimated that less than two thirds of the birds passing by were seen from the banding blind. This would imply that the actual size of the migration between March 21st and May 5th would be in the vicinity of 7,000 hawks. However, it is not possible to use information from interior sites to estimate the percentage of the flight that might have passed coastal Sandy Hook between May 5th and June 15th; inland sites tend to have large buteo and minimal falcon flights. One might only guess that as many as 7,500 to 8,000 hawks passed over Sandy Hook during the 1977 spring migration. (Of course, the use of the blind might also have limited the numbers seen of certain species.)

Several aspects of Clark's extensive report on the Sandy Hook operation deserve special comment. The very high count of American Kestrels, with sharpies a distant second, supports the conventional theory about the tendency of those two species to concentrate along the coast during their spring migration. The ratio of Cooper's Hawks to Sharp-shinneds was quite high, more than 1:10. Banding ratios were 1 Cooper's per every 4 Sharp-shinneds. Red-shouldered Hawk numbers were impressive, especially during April. Northern Harrier counts were high and surprisingly consistent throughout the seven week period, while Osprey counts were disappointing. (Unusual local conditions might have been responsible for this.) Peregrine counts were also discouraging, but Merlins were in very good numbers, especially during the last two weeks of April and early May (25 on May 2nd alone!). Undoubtedly, the total count would have been even more impressive if the watch had continued through May.

The Raccoon Ridge, Sandy Hook, and Hook Mountain reports clearly prove that there is a substantial spring hawk migration in the northeast. However, their spring counts represent only 10-15% of the fall totals at the same sites (comparing Sandy Hook with Cape May).

If we arbitrarily assume a 50% fall and winter mortality rate for the migrants, 35-40% of the total numbers reported in the fall are still not seen at the same sites in the spring. We can only speculate as to the reasons for this. The birds might return to their breeding grounds by different routes. This could be on an individual basis, in small flocks on a broad front, or in major concentrations along unknown flight paths. (Burns, in 1911, speculated that spring broadwing flights followed the major river basins north.) Finally, the hawks might actually

pass the fall migration sites, but with the powerful spring thermals lifting them out of the field of human vision. Of course, the mortality rate might be higher, but even postulating a 66% mortality rate, as much as 24% of the fall totals would still not be seen at the same observation sites in the spring. (Statistics for the following autumns would indicate that there was not such a high mortality rate.) No meaningful conclusions can be drawn without years of field work by many individuals across the country.

The New Jersey and New York results also compel us to ask another question. Even assuming that a substantial fraction of their birds migrate through eastern New York or nest in Connecticut and Rhode Island, why haven't comparable flights been reported in Massachusetts?

Certainly, apart from the limited effect of the Atlantic Ocean, we don't have any topographical features that would create concentrations of hawks comparable to those achieved by the Great Lakes, but the simplest and probably most accurate explanation as to why hawks have not been seen in good numbers in Massachusetts in the spring is that people haven't been looking for them.

There are several reasons for this. Initially, when the migration begins in late February or early March, people aren't willing to brave inhospitable weather and snow-covered peaks to observe a migration that isn't an established fact; consequently, this annual flight would go undetected. Birders tend to remain home in exceptionally cold or inclement weather, or they confine their activity to the warmer coastal areas. When warm winds, shorebirds, and passerines arrive in April and May, the birders focus their attention on the salt pans, shrubs, and trees--not on the sky. Most spring hawk reports in eastern Massachusetts are of individual birds, and the vast majority of sightings appear to be accidental, such as when a birder works out the kinks from a bad case of "warbler neck," or when a flock of shorebirds suddenly takes to wing.

The one exception to this pattern is Mt. Tom, which has been covered sporadically on weekends in April and May, occasionally with more extensive coverage during the anticipated peak of the broadwing flight. The New England Hawk Watch has held coordinated spring watches throughout the region for the past six years, but their activity is confined to one weekend. Inclement weather often plagues this two-day watch which, even in the best of circumstances, is insufficient to provide significant data regarding the size and nature of the migration through the region.

Certainly, there is ample evidence to indicate that a substantial spring hawk flight enters Massachusetts and data from New York, New Jersey, Mt. Tom, Plum Island, and Cape Cod indicates that there are occasional if not regular concentrations of migrating raptors in the state. If people start looking for them, they should be seen in increasing numbers. Provincetown is a case in point. For decades there were no published reports of any substantial broadwing flights through eastern Massachusetts. Suddenly, on May 5, 1973, an astute observer saw 65 broadwings over Provincetown. This triggered an awareness of possible broadwing flights on the Cape, yielding reports of 60 on May 1, 1976, and 70 on June 9th. Last year 40 were seen on April 30th and 50 on May 12th. It

is improbable that some sudden change in the environment, or in the habits of the broadwing, began to drive these birds out onto the Cape. It seems much more likely that the important change was that birders were now looking for broadwing flights there. It is hoped that a similar awareness of spring hawk flights can be developed throughout the state. To this end, the following "loose" timetable of hawk migration has been prepared. Dates are based on limited published Massachusetts records and extrapolation from New York and New Jersey reports. When possible, peak migration times, seasonal peak counts, and locations are provided. (Totals given are edited to indicate maximum numbers reported at several sites.)

CATHARTIDAE

TURKEY VULTURES (Cathartes aura), reported in increasing numbers during the past several decades, are usually seen migrating from early March into early May. Flights are usually tallied in April, with good numbers frequently seen on the Cape.

10 (4-10-66)	Dana	5 (3-27-76)	Provincetown
6 (4-18-65)	Mt. Tom	5 (4-22-77)	Provincetown

ACCIPITRINAE

These are among the most difficult birds to observe during the spring, with the notable exception of the Sharp-shinned Hawk. Relatively few NORTHERN GOSHAWKS (Accipiter gentilis) migrate, except during eruption years, and those that do move tend to move individually and without much dependence on updrafts and thermals. Furthermore, most return to their breeding grounds during February and March, when there are few observers in the field to note their passage.

5 (4-18-75)	Granville	2 (3-6-76)	Plum Island
3 (3-20-76)	Mt. Tom		

The SHARP-SHINNED HAWK (Accipiter striatus) is by far the most numerous and easily observed accipiter. Its inclination to soar with other hawks enhances its visibility, as does its relatively late migration, which occurs in the month of April when more birders are in the field. Good numbers can be seen both in the interior and on the coast. Derby Hill, New York, has had 5,138 sharpies in a single season, with a peak of 2,787 Sharp-shinneds on April 21, 1966. Massachusetts counts are, regrettably, not comparable, but good numbers have been seen between April 6th and May 5th. Mount Tom produced most reports until recently, when observers began to notice good flights along the coast of Barnstable and Essex Counties. Probably there are much larger sharpie flights along our coast than any single report indicates. Seeing the spring sharpie flight is particularly exciting because these feisty birds often come zooming in quite close to the observers' eye level.

70 (4-15-76)	Mt. Tom	35 (4-13-76)	Plum Island
54 (4-19-76)	Mt. Tom	33 (4-4-56)	Mt. Tom
52 (4-30-77)	Plum Island	30 (4-18-75)	Mt. Tom
40 (5-6-76)	Truro	20 (5-12-77)	Truro
38 (4-17-73)	Mt. Tom		

COOPER'S HAWKS (Accipiter cooperii) are not seen in great numbers. Their migration tends to be early, mid-March to mid-April, and they prove to be an identification problem for many observers. Their seasonal peaks in Massachusetts usually occur in April. Cooper's may be seen both inland and on the coast.

11 (4-30-56) Mt. Tom	8 (4-6-56) Mt. Tom
10 (4-15-76) Granville	5 (4-15-60) Plum Island
9 (4-21-56) Mt. Tom	3 (4-24-76) Long Island, Boston

BUTEONINAE

The buteos are the easiest hawks to observe due to their heavy though by no means total dependence on thermals and updrafts. Most buteo flights are seen inland, where air circulation off hills, ridges and mountains provides uplift for soaring.

RED-TAILED HAWKS (Buteo jamaicensis) tend to move early, beginning the first week in March and extending through April. The flight is apparently quite disparate; only systematic observation at various sites will give us any indication of the magnitude of their migration through the state. Many observers have reported seeing good numbers of redtails during the spring, but they rarely note whether the birds were local wintering birds, breeders, or migrants.

14 (3-20-76) Mt. Tom
11 (4-5-56) Mt. Tom
11 (4-26-64) Mt. Tom

RED-SHOULDERED HAWKS (Buteo lineatus) are also early migrants, often moving in numbers in late February, early March, though the peak period is between mid-March and mid-April. More systematic observation at Mt. Tom has produced record peak counts in recent years despite what is considered to be a substantially reduced breeding population in Massachusetts and points north. There are several indications that the red shouldered might be making a recovery. Due in part to identification problems, the Red-shouldered Hawk is often better seen in spring than in the fall.

54 (3-20-76) Mt. Tom
41 (3-25-75) Mt. Tom
21 (3-15-56) Sudbury Valley
10 (3-27-76) Provincetown

The largest observed migration through Massachusetts is that of the BROAD-WINGED HAWK (Buteo platypterus), which can usually be seen from late March on. The bulk of the birds move through during the last two weeks of April and the first week of May. Peak counts reported from Mt. Tom (Bray Tower) are:

712 (4-25-64)	178 (4-22-67)
305 (4-26-66)	173 (4-24-64)
300 (4-29-66)	168 (4-23-64)
361 (4-20-56)	142 (4-23-67)

Until quite recently, few broadwings have been reported migrating through eastern Massachusetts, but this is almost certainly due to the lack of observers looking for them at the appropriate times and places. Theoretically, the best broadwing counts near the coast should be produced the day of and a day after fairly strong southwest or westerly winds.

70 (6-9-76)	Provincetown	49 (4-26-64)	Wellesley
65 (5-5-73)	Provincetown	40 (4-30-77)	Provincetown
60 (5-1-76)	Provincetown	19 (5-1-76)	Mt. Auburn,
50 (5-12-77)	Truro		Cambridge

The ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK (Buteo lagopus) migration is undoubtedly small and variable. Migrants are seen in March, April, May, and even June. Field reports again fail to distinguish between wintering and clearly migrating roughlegs. The peak report of positive migrants is:

4 (4-20-68) Mt. Tom

AQUILINAE and HALIAETINAE

With the important exception of Quabbin Reservoir, relatively few eagles are seen in Massachusetts. Migrating GOLDEN EAGLES (Aquila chrysaetos) have been seen in March, April and May with most Mt. Tom reports occurring in mid-April.

2 (4-19-56)	Mt. Tom	1 (4-12-73)	Templeton
1 (4-16-59)	Mt. Tom	1 (5-1-73)	Holden
1 (3-16-68)	Newburyport	1 (5-9-75)	Natick
1 (3-21-73)	Westport	1 (6-13-75)	Martha's Vineyard

BALD EAGLES (Haliaeetus leucocephalus) are reported throughout the year due to the different migration patterns of the northern and southern breeding birds and immatures. Most spring movement occurs between the first week of March and the first week of May. Sightings are usually of solitary eagles, but they are often found soaring in kettles with buteos.

4 (5-19-64)	West Harwich	1 (5-12-73)	Plum Island
3 (4-30-56)	Mt. Tom	1 (3-13-76)	Concord
2 (3-15-77)	Littleton	1 (3-26-77)	Hingham
1 (3-22-65)	Needham	1 (5-28-77)	Monomoy

CIRCINAE

NORTHERN HARRIERS (Circus cyaneus), migrate from mid-March well into May. Field reports from Massachusetts are woefully slim and fail to differentiate between wintering, breeding, or migrating birds. New Jersey reports indicate that we should expect most harrier movement during the second and third weeks of April.

8 (5-12-77)	North Scituate
3 (3-27-68)	Mt. Tom
3 (4-25-64)	Mt. Tom

PANDIONIDAE

The OSPREY (Pandion haliaetus) migration is much more compact than that of the Northern Harrier. A few individuals are reported in late March but the bulk of the flights appears during the last two weeks of April and the first week of May, essentially the same as the broadwing. Spring flights are often more concentrated than those of the fall.

51 (4-19-75) Mt. Tom	23 (4-9-60) Merrimack Valley
31 (4-30-56) Mt. Tom	
27 (4-24-64) Mt. Tom	22 (4-8-59) Plum Island
25 (4-25-64) Mt. Tom	20 (4-18-64) Mt. Tom
	15 (4-19-56) Sudbury Valley

FALCONINAE

The PEREGRINE FALCON (Falco peregrinus) is perhaps our most sought-after regular migrant. Few are reported, primarily in April with declining numbers in May. Sightings are usually of individuals along the coast. With such species, it is particularly important that the observer does not overcount, that is, add a bird each time a single individual makes a pass over a flock of shorebirds. Quite often a single Peregrine, hunting in the area, will be seen many times throughout the day.

9 (4-25-69) Scituate	3 (4-1-67) Newburyport
6 (4-15-60) Plum Island	2 (4-20-68) Mt. Tom
3 (4-9-60) Plum Island	2 (4-27-56) Mt. Tom

The MERLIN (Falco columbarius) migration is usually light during the first two weeks of April with most individuals passing through during the last two weeks of that month and the first week of May. Very few are reported inland, but Clark's reports from New Jersey indicate that there is probably a much larger migration along the eastern Massachusetts coast than any field reports indicate. Systematic observation from one of several coastal sites should provide a much better picture of the Merlin migration.

20 (4-25-70) Plum Island	6 (4-22-60) Plum Island
11 (4-7-73) Plum Island	3 (4-3-76) Plum Island

The AMERICAN KESTREL (Falco sparverius) is probably our most underevaluated migrant. This wholly subjective judgement is based on the apparent tendency of many birders to ignore substantial flights of these fast, colorful, and usually highly visible falcons. Many kestrel reports appear to be drawn from brief sporadic observation while birders seek relief from warbler searches. Clark's work indicates there probably is a substantial, consistent movement of kestrels along our coast from late March well into May. Most kestrels are usually seen on the coast, with Mt. Tom numbers quite low.

100 (4-20-75) Outer Cape	30 (4-27-66) Plum Island
89 (4-8-59) Plum Island	30 (3-30-68) Plum Island
65+ (4-11-76) Plum Island	30 (4-10-68) Plum Island
60 (4-13-76) Plum Island	28 (4-30-77) Plum Island
40 (4-19-76) Truro	17 (4-11-65) Wellesley
39 (4-16-76) Truro	

VAGRANTS

Many spring migrations produce unusual raptors. Familiarizing oneself with the vagrants most often seen in Massachusetts could prove quite rewarding, as we have had some spectacular visitors in recent years.

BLACK VULTURES (Coragyps atratus) occasionally work their way into the state. At least four have been seen in the western half of Massachusetts within the last 12 years. Two were seen at Montague on March 20, 1965; one at Springfield on April 18, 1965; and one at Dana on May 5, 1968. Two have been reported from the eastern portion of the state over the past five years, one in Needham on April 17, 1973, and one in Truro from May 5-12, 1976.

At least two MISSISSIPPI KITES (Ictinia mississippiensis) have been observed in eastern Massachusetts within the past ten years. One was seen in Norwell from May 12 through May 19, 1969. Another was seen in Eastham on May 23, 1976, probably the same bird reported from Truro and Provincetown on June 8-11.

AMERICAN SWALLOW-TAILED KITES (Elanoides forficatus) are much more frequent. The first sighting since 1940 occurred in Provincetown on May 21, 1972. There were two reported the following year, at South Westport on May 6th and at Plymouth Center on May 30th. One was seen on April 14, 1974, at Braintree and another sighted at North Beach and Orleans on May 30, 1975.

The most unusual buteo vagrant is the SWAINSON'S HAWK (Buteo swainsoni) which presents some field identification problems. Extremely thorough field notes should be taken when calling this bird, as Swainson's have been reported with surprising regularity every couple of years. Spring reports include birds at Ipswich, February 21, 1960; Plum Island, May 16, 1960; Lynnfield, April 12, 1967; Mt. Tom, April 21, 1967; Newbury, March 4, 1975; Byfield, March 16, 1975; and Mt. Tom, April 22, 1975.

One of our most spectacular and sought-after rarities is the GYRFALCON (Falco rusticolus). Wintering gyrs are notoriously random in their movements, so individuals might be seen at any time of the winter or spring. A white gyr was seen in South Dartmouth on April 25, 1966, and a dark bird at Plum Island on April 8, 1972. An interesting pattern of observations has developed over the past three years. A white gyr was seen in Essex from March 12-18, 1976. The following year another white gyr was seen in Boston from March 6-19, and in 1978, a gray bird was seen by many at Newburyport on March 12th.

In summary, the accipiter and especially the buteo migrations are best observed inland, from hills, ridges and mountains. Turkey Vultures, goshawks, Cooper's, redtails, red-shoulders, and roughlegs dominate the migration during March. The biggest buteo flights (primarily broadwings) should occur during the last two weeks of April, when almost any elevated spot permitting a clear view to the south and west could prove rewarding. Most of the falcon flights and good sharp-shin counts are made along the coast where the biggest numbers are likely to be seen during the last two weeks of April.

Contemporary wisdom has it that southwest winds produce the best spring flights, particularly of buteos, but this is not always the case. Hook Mountain had its best activity on northwest winds. Racoon Ridge had moderate to good flights on all winds from the south and west, including northwest. During the last two weeks of April, if your inland observation site does not have much activity on a day when the winds are from the southwest, don't give up hope. Check the site on westerly and north-westerly winds as well.

hawk movement along the coast is known to occur even in apparently adverse winds. Kestrels and sharpies use natural features such as dunes and woodlots to break the force of the wind. Also, anticipate the effect of a spring sea breeze. Even when you have a strong predominant southwest wind, a local sea breeze might be sufficient to drive most of the migrating hawks slightly inland. For example, when an ocean breeze hits Plum Island, the hawk activity often shifts westward to Route 1 and the Common Pastures.

Finally, when you go hawk watching, either in the spring or the fall, keep as thorough and accurate field records as conditions permit. Our knowledge of both migrations is so limited that every bit of data is valuable. If possible, record the times each bird or flocks of hawks were seen. Note on an hourly or half-hourly basis the speed and direction of predominant and local winds, and the approximate air temperature. Also, estimate the percent of cloud cover or precipitation, if any. Such data are critical to developing an understanding of why and how these raptors migrate. If unusual species are observed, such as peregrines, gyrs, or eagles, record your impressions as to size, sex and age. Please report your observations to the Massachusetts Audubon Society or to the author (care of the Bird Observer) so that your data can be made available to all and expand our common knowledge of hawk migration.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

The New England Hawk Watch will take place on April 22nd and 23rd. Volunteers willing to donate a portion of either day are asked to call Paul M. Roberts, 24 Pearson Road, Somerville, Massachusetts 02144 (776-8566) for further details. Paul will also be grateful if birders who have seen any significant hawk movements on those days, or any other day, would drop him a note describing what was seen, where, when, and what the weather conditions were.

Pelagic trip, Sunday, June 4, 1978. The Brookline Bird Club is sponsoring a trip to Pollock Rip from Harwichport. For reservations, send a non-refundable deposit of \$7.00 to Mr. Herman D'Entremont, Box 207, Newton Center, Massachusetts 02159 (969-8146).

Manomet Bird Observatory is a scientific research station where individuals and groups are welcomed with an advance reservations. On May 6, MBO has invited the Brookline Bird Club to come find out "What you always wanted to know about birds but were afraid to ask." Bird banding demonstrations will be given, and if the group is not too large, there will be a guided walk around the property. For more information, call Ellie Soja after April 27, at 734-1289.

FOR SALE: Felt-lined rubber boots, boys size 5, almost new, \$20. Call 969-8146 after 6 p.m.

CHRISTMAS COUNTS IN THE COURTS

by Phil Martin, Olympia, Washington

Just in time for the 77th annual Christmas Bird Count, the U.S. Supreme Court has made a decision which has effectively ended a five-year legal battle stemming from a controversy over the interpretation of Count data. The high court let stand the judgment of a lower court that National Audubon Society vice-president Roland Clement and the New York Times were not liable for damages because the Times had printed an article quoting Clement's accusation of three men of distorting Christmas Count data.

The controversy arose primarily from a strongly worded statement by editor Robert S. Arbib, Jr., in the April, 1972, issue of American Birds which criticized the pesticide industry and various un-named scientific spokesmen for using the ever-increasing totals of birds recorded on Christmas Counts as "proof" that the use of DDT and other chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides was not having a deleterious effect on North American bird populations.

Arbib contended that there was clear evidence of DDT reducing some bird species populations and wrote further:

The apparent increases in numbers of species and individuals on the Christmas Bird Counts have, in most cases, nothing to do with real population dynamics. They are a result of ever-increasing numbers of birders in the field, better access to Count areas, better knowledge of where to find birds within each area, and increasing sophistication in identification.

With increased local coverage by the press of Christmas Bird Count activities it is important that Count spokesmen reiterate the simple and truthful fact that what we are seeing is resultant of not more birds, but more birders. Any time you hear a "scientist" say the opposite, you are in the presence of someone who is being paid to lie, or is parroting something he knows little about.

Contacted later by the New York Times, Audubon's Roland Clement was willing to name Dr. J. Gordon Edwards of San Jose State University in California, Dr. Thomas Jukes of the University of California at Berkeley, and Dr. Robert H. White-Stevens of Rutgers University as people who had regularly misused Count data. After the New York Times published an article on the controversy, the three sued both Mr. Clement and the Times for libel. A Federal District Court ruled against the defendants and awarded the professors damages totalling \$61,000. However, the U.S. Court of Appeals reversed the decision, ruling that the Audubon Society letter which named the three men was not libelous and that the Times was entitled to print impartial and accurate accounts of such an accusation from a "responsible, prominent organization like the National Audubon Society."

With the Supreme Court's decision not to review the case, the case is evidently closed. Buried in this legal entanglement over who has the right to say what about whom are the more important underlying questions over the use of pesticides, scientific ethics, population trends of North American

birds, and about the use and usefulness of the masses of data we all cheerfully collect each year on Christmas Bird Counts.

A SUPERB 1977-78 INVASION OF RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH

by Leif J. Robinson, Wellesley

It is well known that southward autumn migrations of the Red-breasted Nuthatch are quite unpredictable, though they are probably induced by failures of the northern cone crop (C. E. Bock and L. W. Lepthien, American Birds, 26, 3, 558).

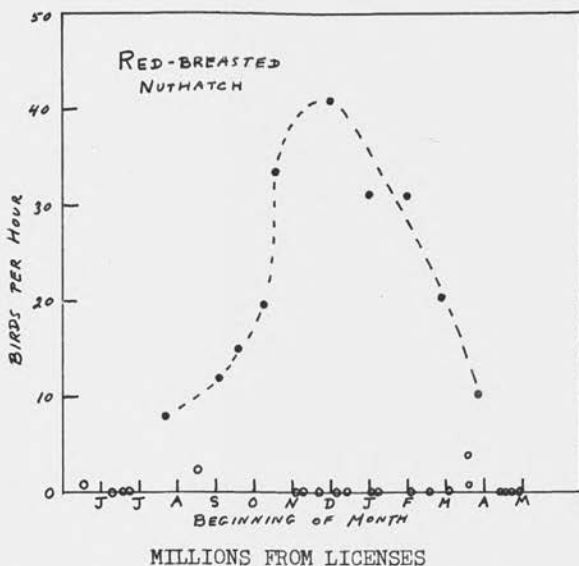
As observed in Weston, the 1977-78 autumn invasion and subsequent wintering was unprecedented and may reflect the greatest influx of this species ever recorded in Massachusetts. For example, Bailey's Birds in Massachusetts (1955) gives this characterization: "During years when definite fall flights have materialized, 6 to 20 birds have been reported per day." Yet, during about four hours on December 26th, I and three companions saw approximately 200 Red-breasted Nuthatches!

The accompanying graph shows my birds-per-hour counts at Weston Reservoir, an area especially favored by this species. Open circles represent data from June, 1974, through June, 1977--an interval without pronounced autumn migration--dots from July, 1977, through March, 1978. From these observations, I conclude that the 1977-78 invasion probably began in late August (the June dot pertains to fledging success of local breeding birds). Though this timing is in substantial agreement with Bailey, the 1977-78 flight continued until December, in marked disagreement with his statement that autumn migration ceases by mid October. After reaching a peak, the numbers declined about as rapidly as they built up. I attribute this fall-off to the exhaustion of food supplies; during February, when the decline was most rapid, my back yard population increased substantially.

In another paper (American Birds, 25, 6, 945), Bock and R. Smith found that invasions of Red-breasted Nuthatch were correlated with those of Red Crossbill. Observations in Weston during the winter of 1977-78 support that conclusion; it was an excellent year for all "winter finches."

In summary, the birds-per-hour data revealed that the autumn migration of Red-breasted Nuthatch (at least during this flight year) persisted $1\frac{1}{2}$ months or so longer than the limit cited by Bailey. It seems impossible to determine whether this extension was due to the magnitude of the invasion, an anomalous local concentration of birds, or deficiencies in the data Bailey assessed. Banding records might substantially illuminate the interpretation of the remarkable 1977-78 flight of this topsy-turvy bird.

FOR SALE: The Land-Birds and Game-Birds of New England, 1895, by H.D. Minot. For information contact Mrs. Lyman S. Hayes, 19 Gypsy Trail, Weston, MA 02193. Telephone 894-1470.



A record 60 million Americans spent close to \$318 million on state hunting and fishing licenses in 1976. Both figures are record highs and show that one of five Americans enjoy the outdoors in these ways. The revenues derived from these license sales enable states to conduct their fish and wildlife conservation and management programs. Additional funds come from Federal Aid in Fish and Wildlife Restoration programs under which states are reimbursed up to 75 per cent of the cost of approved projects.

T.H.A.

SNOW GEESE FUTURES

The Atlantic Snow Goose population has been increasing since 1971, reaching approximately 155,000 birds by May of 1977. This number is considered to be the maximum that the available habitat can support. Hunting regulations in 1976 were designed to control the breeding population; unfortunately they did not succeed. Thus, crop depredations and salt marsh eat outs become the limiting factors. The hunting season for Snow Geese was doubled in 1977 (to 60 days) in hopes of curtailing the population before it becomes detrimental to itself and to the environment.

T.H.A.

MEXICAN DUCK STATUS REVIEW

Most of the Mexican Ducks in the United States, which are officially classified as "endangered", may be Mexican Duck and Mallard hybrids. A recent study reported almost 90 per cent of museum specimens of Mexican-like ducks taken in the United States were actually hybrids. A status review by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will determine whether any populations of the Mexicanlike ducks should be proposed for reclassification from endangered to threatened or removed from the list altogether.

T.H.A.

OCTOBER 1, 1977: NAUSET BEACH, EASTHAM

by Nan Turner Waldron, Sharon

On September nights a mild, moist south wind brings the small birds in off the ocean to the shelter of the coastal lands. In the isolation of the Outer Beach and Nauset Marsh, I have been snapped awake by the clear call of a hermit thrush piercing the dark corners of the night. The Outermost House is like that--full of extravagant surprises. Whenever I begin to think that I have enjoyed just about every possible change of scene, something happens.

It was a quiet, gray morning, and we were debating whether to light the wood stove when my husband pointed to the south window. "What have we got on the post out here? It isn't quite right for a phoebe." I grabbed my glasses and focused through the sand-blasted window as best I could. "If I didn't know better, I'd say it is a Say's Phoebe."

Being ignorant about rarities but feeling that a picture at least establishes the sighting, I eased out the door with my "big lens" in hand. My policy of snap first, approach afterwards, became frustrating. The bird was obviously delighted to be feeding. A Red-breasted Nuthatch carefully dismantled a moth directly in front of me, and neither seemed to care how closely I approached. Since I had no 135-mm. lens in my pocket, I backed up to take more pictures!

I can now say, "It was a Say's!" However, I talk softly of such experiences and let other establish records. My report will not be on the Voice; no one will search madly for the bird; and three weeks later the picture will be of historical interest only. The real rarity is the opportunity to share quietly an early morning moment completely at ease with another creature.

Say's Phoebe, photograph by Nan T. Waldron, Nauset Beach, October 1, 1977



THE NOVEMBER FLYCATCHER

The report reached birding circles up and down the East Coast, a "Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher" (Myiodynastes luteiventris) had been spotted at Biddeford Pool, Maine. Amazing! From near and far we went to look at a bird that most of us had never seen or had little familiarity with. The reports continued; more of us went and came back with a new check mark.

The flycatcher was last seen on November 11, 1977. The photographs were still in the cameras of those lucky enough to get a picture. On the last days of the bird's visit at Biddeford, dissention began to surface--was this actually a Sulphur-bellied? Davis W. Finch, the former North-eastern Maritime Region editor for American Birds, first decided that the bird was not a Sulphur-bellied but probably a Variegated Flycatcher (Empidonomus varius). It should also be noted that the bird was also thought to be a Streaked Flycatcher (Myiodynastes maculatus).

Finch had a direct comparison of the bird and a Western Kingbird (Tyrannus verticalis) and noted immediately its smaller-appearing size. Both the Sulphur-bellied and Streaked Flycatchers are about the same size as the Western Kingbird. The Variegated Flycatcher is much smaller, however, and its bill is considerably thinner than the heavy broad bill of the Sulphur-bellied and Streaked Flycatchers.

Furthermore, the Variegated Flycatcher ranges from Columbia, south to Paraguay and Argentina, and its southern race migrates north during the winter, which, perhaps, could explain its wandering as far north as Biddeford Pool. Other species of South America have similar migratory habits, such as the Fork-tailed Flycatcher (Muscivora tyrannus), which has been recorded several times in the northeast, including Biddeford Pool.

In retrospect, the bird should have been captured for positive identification--or even collected if necessary. Unfortunately, birders should probably erase their check mark for this enigma. Yet, the November flycatcher has reaffirmed an important precept--even local experts can be baffled and unsure about a rare vagrant.

RHS

Patricia Ledlie -bookseller

Box 46 Buckfield, Maine 04220

(207) 336-2969



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SUMMARY FOR NOVEMBER, 1977

November was very mild with frequent but light precipitation. The temperature averaged 48.1°, 2.9° above normal opposed to 3.3° below normal in November, 1976. This was the seventh warmest November in 107 years. The highest was 67° on the 11th and 16th. The lowest temperature was 29° on the 28th.

Precipitation was 2.54 inches, 1.97 under normal. The rain was frequent; only 9 days had no precipitation. The most rain in 24 hours was 1.45 inches on the 8-9th. The first snowflakes were seen on the 13th, 6 days later than average. The first measurable snow was on the 28th, a day earlier than average, but only 0.7 inch fell. Fog was frequent for the fourth month in a row, seen on 13 days. Thunderstorms occurred on 3 days, a new November record. The previous mark was 2 in 1900.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

Both Common and Red-throated Loons were migrating in larger numbers during the first weeks of the month, with 240 Commons (96 in one hour) and 520 Red-throated (208 in one hour) observed from Andrews Point, Rockport, on the 8th (RSH). A heavy migration of Red-throated Loons was also noted at Sandy Neck, Barnstable, on the 6th where over 250 were noted (WRP, RFP). Furthermore, many reports of 1-2 birds were seen flying over inland localities between the 6th-13th (v.o.). A Red-necked Grebe was observed in Boylston on the 25th (HLM), and 1-2 birds were seen throughout the month off Rockport (v.o.). As many as 24 Horned Grebes were seen in Ipswich on the 6th (BBE-JN) and 15 were reported from Lakeville on the 20th (SAP).

Twenty Northern Fulmars, 9 dark phased birds included, were seen at Northeast Peak on the 12th (MBO staff). A November count of 55 Cory's Shearwaters, 5 miles south of Martha's Vineyard, is unusual; however, 100 were seen on Nov..6, 1976, at First Encounter, Eastham (CAG, BN). These are the only recent high counts for November and perhaps show a trend to remain within our waters for a longer period of time. Amazing count of 200,000[±] Greater Shearwaters was estimated at Georges Bank 41°00'N, 67°00'W, by Joe VanOs (MBO staff) on November 11. A complete report of this account will be published in a future issue of American Birds. At First Encounter, Eastham, singles of Greater and Sooty Shearwaters were noted on the 27th, unusually late, especially for a Sooty (CAG, BN). A single Manx Shearwater was observed in south Nantucket shoals on the 2nd (MBO staff). On the 3rd in South Great South Channel, 4 small shearwaters were noted by the MBO staff, possibly Audubon's Shearwaters. The birds were in Gulf Stream waters, and their small size, rapid wingbeats and white patch on the side of neck were clearly visible by the observers. It should also be noted that there was a big southerly air flow at the time of observation. Gannets were reported in large numbers with over 370, approximately 80% adults, at Andrews Point, Rockport, on the 8th (RSH), and over 1000 were observed 10 miles east of Cape Cod on the 16th, 90% of which were adults (MBO staff). Single Double-crested Cormorants were noted in Wachusett between the 13-19th (BB), in West Newbury on the 25th (RSH) and from Rockport on the 26th (RAF).

Great Blue Herons were seen throughout the month in Saugus, where a maximum of 7 were noted (JWB), and a maximum of 15 were reported from

P.I. (PMR# & v.o.). Late Green Herons were noted in Marshfield on the 20th (RRV#) and in Gloucester on the 26th (DB#). No doubt the big southerly air flow early in the month "blew back" a number of herons that had not been lingering in the area. Cattle Egrets among them, include single birds at P.I. on the 6th (JWB#), Provincetown on the 12th (BN#) and Bridgewater on the 13th (SSBC-WRP, KSA). Ten Snowy Egrets were noted at P.I. on the 6th (JWB#), and a single bird was seen at Nantucket on the 24th (CA). A Louisiana Heron was observed at P.I. during an extremely high tide on the 12th (RHS# & v.o.). Also, on the same high tide, 16 American Bitterns were noted at P.I. (PM, RHS, RRV# & v.o.).

WATERFOWL

Six Mute Swans were reported from Ipswich on the 6th (BBC-JN). A count of 579 Canada Geese was made at GMNWR, Concord, on the 9th (RKW), where 2 Snow Geese were present through the 9th (RKW#). Snow Geese were seen migrating over Worcester on the 5th when 70 were counted (HLM), 20 were observed over Scituate on the 6th (E.Sabin#) and 28 were found at Acoaxet on the 13th (BBC-SPG). Approximately 5200 Black Ducks were estimated on P.I. on the 25th (RSH), and over 1200 were counted on Breeds Pond, Lynn, on the 27th (RSH). Great Meadows has always been a good staging area for dabbling ducks and maximum counts during the month were made as following: Gadwall, 30; Pintail, 24; Green-winged Teal, 100⁺; American Wigeon, 200⁺; Northern Shoveler, 13; and Wood Duck, 3; (RKW & v.o.). Likewise P.I. count maximums were: Gadwall, 112 (RCH, DH); Pintail, 165 (RRV#); Green-winged Teal, 400 (RSH); Blue-winged Teal, 1 (RSH on 25th); Northern Shoveler, 60 (PMR). A single European Wigeon was reported from Nantucket on the 13th (CJ). A maximum count of 184 Redheads was noted from Nantucket on the 26th (CJ). Ring-necked Ducks peaked at the beginning of the month, with considerably fewer reported by month's end. At Lakeville 130 Ring-necked Ducks were noted on the 4th (WRP), where 175 Canvasbacks were counted on the 20th (SAP#). Lesser Scaup were noted from Framingham where 2 were observed on the 5th (RAF), 1 was found at GMNWR on the 25th (RKW) and on the 27th, 1 was found in Randolph (Gd'E), and 5 were seen in Brookline (HTW). Oldsquaw were migrating with 18,273 seen in 40 minutes off Nantucket on the 23rd (EFA#) and 18-20,000 noted there on the 24th (CJ). At Rockport 820⁺ were noted on the 8th (RSH), and 800⁺ on the 26th (RAF). As many as 3 Harlequin Ducks were present from the 12th on in Magnolia (v.o.), and a male was found in Scituate on the 27th (BT). During the past few years larger rafts of Common Eider have been increasing in both Plymouth and Duxbury bays with "thousands" reported. Over 5000 were seen on the steamship from Woods Hole to Nantucket on the 27th (CJ). A King Eider was present at Rockport on the 5th (RAF) and on the 8th (DTB). Scoters were migrating in good numbers at Rockport on the 8th when 510 White-winged, 1300⁺ Surf, and 160 Black Scoters were counted (RSH). Inland reports include 38 White-winged Scoter in Boylston on the 5th (HLM), and 1 Black Scoter was present in Wachusett Reservoir from the 13-19th (BB). Fifty Ruddy Ducks were reported from Lincoln on the 30th (EPG). Hooded Mergansers were reported in good numbers, with 85 in Ipswich on the 6th (BBC-JN), 30 in Acoaxet on the 13th (BBC-SPG). At the Cambridge Reservoir, Lincoln, as many as 250 Common Mergansers were noted on the 20th (SR, HB). A raft of Red-breasted Mergansers was carefully estimated at 8000 near the mouth of Pamet Harbor, Truro, on the 6th. This was by far the largest concentration ever recorded in New England waters, approaching some of the spectacular rafts

of the late 30's and early 40's off Montauk, Long Island. While beach level observation and the rafted condition of the flock made estimation extremely difficult, the observers feel the count is well within the actual number present (WRP#). Ten Fulvous Whistling Ducks were found on P.I. on the 6th (David Oliver & v.o.). For the most part only one bird remained there until the 25th, seen frequently at the feeding blind at Hell Cat Swamp. The last recent November record was of a bird shot out of a flock of 7 in Marshfield (fide MBO) in 1975 and 4 in Eastham Nov. 18, 1975 (R.V. Clem).

RAPTORS

Goshawks were noted on the 13th in Melrose (CJ), and in Weston on the 27th (LJR). Nineteen Sharp-shinned Hawks were reported during the month, yet only 1 Cooper's Hawk was carefully identified on the 25th in Eastham (WRP,RAF). A total of 26 Red-tailed Hawks were noted during the month, with Red-shouldered Hawks noted in Duxbury on the 11th (ECP) and another in Lynn from the 19-27th (RSH). A Rough-legged Hawk was observed over Everett on the 17th (JWB). An immature Bald Eagle was noted at P.I. on the 20th (JRK, PMR). As many as 16 Marsh Hawks were reported during the month from 8 localities (v.o.), and 9 Osprey were noted from 6 locations between the 1st-13th (v.o.). Two Peregrine Falcons were observed with 1 each at P.I. on the 5th (RPE) and another on Nantucket on the 22nd (BS). Merlins were noted on P.I. on the 9th (RRV#) and 20th (PMR#); also from Sandwich on the 5th (RFP#) and in Chatham on the 25th (WRP, RAF).

GROUSE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A single Ruffed Grouse was found in Melrose on the 13th (CJ), apparently thought not to be there in previous years. Two Virginia Rails were noted in S. Peabody on the 15th (RSH). Common Gallinule were reported from Nantucket, where 2 were noted on the 25th (CJ) and 1 was found at Horn Pond, Woburn, on the 26th (BBC-JHT). A maximum count of 51 American Coot was reported from GMNWR, Concord (RKW).

Semipalmated Plover were noted at Salisbury where 4 were counted on the 5th (BBC-RCH), and on the same day 4 were present at Sandy Neck (WRP,RFP); a late report of a single bird was found at First Encounter on the 25th (WRP, RAF). Forty Killdeer were counted at Nine Acre Corner, Concord, on the 6th, and 15 were still present there on the 20th (RAF). In Clinton, 2 Golden Plover were found on the 5th (HLM), and 6 were noted from Rowley on the 10th (GLS#). A count of 300± Black-bellied Plover in Rowley on the 9th is the highest number for November in recent years (RRV#). Ruddy Turnstones were present in North Scituate between the 12-20th with a maximum report of 82 (WRP & v.o.). Single Woodcocks were noted in Pembroke on the 19th (WRP) and in E. Lexington on the 20th (RHS); only 3 Common Snipe were reported, 2 from E. Lexington on the 20th (DCA#) and 1 from P.I. on the 20th (BBC-PMR). A late Whimbrel was noted at Rockport on the 8th (EAS#), and a Willet was observed on South Beach, E. Orleans on the 25th (WRP, RAF). Twenty-five Greater Yellowlegs were counted in Truro on the 6th (SSBC-RPF), and 35 were noted on P.I. on the 9th (RRV#), single Lesser Yellowlegs were identified in S. Peabody on the 5th (RSH), and in N. Scituate on the 12th (WRP). A maximum count of Purple Sandpiper was estimated at 600± in N. Scituate on the 12th (WRP & v.o.), and over 200 were noted from Rockport on the 19th (DCA). Two Pectoral Sandpipers were seen in Rowley among the Black-bellied Plovers on the 9th

(RRV), and 3 White-rumped Sandpipers were found in the salt pans on P.I. on the 12th (PM, RHS). The Dunlins numbered 2500[±] in Newburyport harbor on the 12th (RRV#), and on the same day 4200[±] were noted from Orleans (JJC). Twelve Long-billed Dowitchers were present in Newburyport harbor on the 12th (RHS, PM), and 5 were still there on the 25th (RSH). Single Semipalmated Sandpipers were carefully identified in Truro on the 6th (WRP, RPE), and another was seen in direct comparison with a Western Sandpiper in E. Orleans on the late date of Nov. 25 (RAF, WRP); as many as 7 Western Sandpipers were noted earlier on the 19th in E. Orleans (BN). A Marbled Godwit was observed in Newburyport on the 12th (RRV#) (cf. 1,2,5,2, for the last four years during November). An amazing count of 17 Sanderlings in Clinton on the 5th (HLM) was extremely unusual, with only 1-3 birds seen at a time in Worcester County previously. On S. Nantucket shoals 26 Northern Phalaropes were noted on the 2nd (MBO staff).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS

At Nantucket 3 Pomarine and 1-4 Parasitic Jaegers were noted between the 2-4th (EFA, CA, JA). On a ship 25 miles east of Cape Cod over 30 Pominaries and 3 Parasitic Jaegers were observed on the 6th (MBO staff); a single Parasitic Jaeger was noted off Rockport also on the 6th (RSH). An adult Long-tailed Jaeger was observed at 70 yards in North Georges Bank on the 10th (MBO staff), thus establishing the latest record for this species off our waters. In the Great South Channel and Northeast Peak areas of Georges Bank as many as 10 Skuas were noted (MBO staff).

Very few Glaucous Gulls were noted during the month, and inland reports of Iceland Gulls were noted from Newton (RR) and in Natick (EWT). A possible Thayer's Gull, described as a 2nd-year bird, was present on Niles Pond, Gloucester, on the 6th (CWL fide RAF). Over 600 Ring-billed Gulls were present throughout the month in Middleboro (DB), and Black-headed Gulls were noted from Ipswich (JWB) and from Provincetown on the 6th (SSBC-RPF). Three Laughing Gulls were still present in Wollaston on the 22nd (GAW#), and 40 were seen in Sandwich on the 25th (WRP#). Only one Little Gull was reported during the month from Nahant on the 17th (DCA#), while 300 Black-legged Kittiwakes were noted 25 miles off Cape Cod on the 6th (MBO staff).

A Forster's Tern was found in Salisbury on the late date of the 28th (DWF), and Common Terns were noted from Salisbury on the 5th when 3 were seen (BBC-RCH, DH), and a single bird was at Scusset on the 19th (WRP). Five Caspian Terns were noted off the south end of P.I. on the 5th (SG# & v.o.), establishing a late date for this species.

ALCIDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

The flight of alcids was hardly spectacular; at Rockport, the traditional alcid vantage point, a single Razorbill was noted on the 5th (RAF) and 32 were seen on the 26th (RAF). Thick-billed Murres were noted there on the 6th and 8th when 5 and 7 were seen respectively (RSH). Only 2 Dovekies were noted there on the 8th (RSH), the only birds reported throughout the month. The maximum count of 6 Black Guillemots were noted there on the 26th (RAF & v.o.), and finally 8 Puffins were observed off Andrews Point on the 26th (RAF). A Black Guillemot was also observed at Scusset, where it is very rare, on the 19th (WRP, SH).

A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was still present in E. Lexington through the 5th (JWA); the only other recent record was Nov. 16, 1975, in Sandwich (RFP).

On the night of the 20th, 2 Screech Owls flew in front of a car, and the next day one was found dead on the ski racks on top of the car (fide HTW). Barred owls were noted from GMNWR on the 1st (RKW) and from Fresh Pond, Cambridge, on the 12th (HP,PP). A Long-eared Owl was seen on the 25th in Orleans (WRP, RAF), and 1-2 birds were present off and on throughout the month in E. Lexington (fide JWA). Two Short-eared Owls were noted on P.I. on the 12th (PMR#), and 1-2 Saw-whet Owls were found in the New Pines, P.I., through the 12th (MK# & v.o.); another Saw-whet was found in Salem on the 19th (HW#).

A Chimney Swift was seen over P.I. on the 11th (GLS#), obviously a blow-back from the big southerly air flow, as was a hummingbird (sp.) seen in Beverly on the 13th (J.Gardner). Five Pileated Woodpeckers were noted from 5 localities, and the Red-bellied Woodpecker continued in Natick (EWT); also in Natick a Red-headed Woodpecker was noted on the 6th (PM), and another was seen in Needham on the 1st (FA). Late Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were noted from Salem on the 5th (RAF) and from Newton on the 6th (EBC).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SHRIKES

Western Kingbirds continued from October on Nantucket (EFA) and in Truro (fide HHDE); and one was present on Tuckernuck from the 25-28th (RRV, MJL). An empidonax flycatcher was picked up dead on Tuckernuck on the 27th; the specimen was sent to the American Museum of Natural History, where an identification has yet to be made. In Lancaster over 70 Horned Larks were noted on the 6th (HLM). The big southwesterly flow returned some swallows back to our area with 1 Tree Swallow noted on P.I. on the 11th (GLS#); 5 Barn Swallows were reported from 2 places in Rockport on the 12th (ABC-WN); on the same day single Barn Swallows were reported from Chatham (RAF) and P.I. (BBC-HWF). Two were observed in Acoaxet on the 13th (BBC-SPG), and a single was seen at GMNWR on the same day (RKW).

Fish Crows numbered around 100 at the Natick dump (EWT). There were 110⁺ Black-capped Chickadees noted in the Lynn woods on the 27th (RSH), and decent numbers of Boreal Chickadees were noted as follows:

Boreal Chickadee:

4,5	Annisquam, Clinton	1, 2	HTW, HLM
12, 13	N. Scituate, W. Boylston	2-3, 4	WRP, BB
19, 20	Oakdale, E. Quabbin	2,4	BB, GC#

The Red-breasted Nuthatch flight continued with over 220 being reported; some individual high counts include 39 in Weston (LJR), 25⁺ on P.I. (RHS#) and 20 in Fitchburg (RAF). There were 8 reports of Brown Creeper, yet only 2 Winter Wrens were noted, singles in Carlisle on the 6th (JWA) and in E. Lexington on the 13th (RHS#). Between 4-6 Gray Catbirds were present on Tuckernuck between the 26-28th (RLV, MJL), and Brown Thrashers were reported from Rockport on the 19th (BBC-RSH) and from N. Scituate on the 20th (SAP#). Hermit Thrushes were single birds noted in E. Lexington on the 25th (RHS), Tuckernuck on the 27th (RRV#) and S. Peabody on the 27th (RSH). A Gray-cheeked Thrush was banded on the incredibly late date of Nov. 10 (MBO staff). Water Pipits reached a maximum 55 in

Concord on the 12th (RKW & v.o.), and the last date was a single bird in Westboro on the 30th (BB).

It was a fantastic flight year for Northern Shrikes with 26⁺ reports after the 5th of the month; of these 13 were noted to be immatures and 5 were reported as adults. A Loggerhead Shrike was identified in Essex on the 24th, where it remained for a few days (PP & v.o.).

WARBLERS

There were many lingering warblers reported well beyond their normal departure dates, among them a Black-and-white in Rockport on the 6th (RSH) and a Nashville which landed on a ship in the vicinity of Northeast Peak on the 12th (MBO staff). Single Cape Mays were noted on the 6th in Wayland (HP) and in Annisquam (HTW). A Black-throated Blue was reported from Marblehead Neck on the 6th (PH), a Yellow-rumped in inland Framingham on the 20th (RAF), a Prairie in Newton on the 4th (PM), a Wilson's in Lancaster on the 12th (HLM), a Blackpoll in Salem on the 23rd (CC, WRP), and an American Redstart in Annisquam on the 4th (HTW).

There were 3 Orange-crowned Warblers noted, one each from Scituate on the 19th (SSBC-J.Nichols), Nantucket on the 21st, and E. Lexington on the 24th (RHS,WWH). Single Pine Warblers were noted from 4 localities, with 1 in Clinton on the 25th being the latest Worcester County record by 1½ months (HLM). A Yellow-breasted Chat was noted from Waltham on the 25th where it remained through the end of the month (PM). The Black-throated Gray Warbler remained in Salem where it was last seen on the 23rd (RSH & v.o.). The bird could not be located on the 27th when thoroughly checked for; it had been in the area since October 18.

The biggest find of the month was a MacGillivray's Warbler in E. Lexington on the 13th, where it remained through the 29th (RHS, PM). The identity was confirmed when the bird was netted, banded, and photographed on the 15th (JB#). The bird eluded many, staying close to the ground and moving infrequently. With patience and determination, many birders did get to see the bird, although there were several days in between the discovery and last date of observation that the bird could not be located. More on this record will appear in a future issue of Bird Observer.

MEADOWLARK THROUGH SNOW BUNTING

Over 25 Eastern Meadowlarks were noted from Newburyport on the 25th (RSH), and 20 were seen in Bridgewater on the 13th (SSBC-KSA). A Northern Oriole found on the 12th in Ipswich remained through the end of the month (JN). A flock of 40 Rusty Blackbirds were present in Nahant on the 6th (BBC-SZ), and over 20 were noted in Salem on the 13th (JWB). A roost of 800 Common Grackles was observed in S. Peabody on the 11th (RSH). A Western Tanager was observed at Manomet on the 13th (staff); the only other recent November record was Nov. 26, 1974, in Annisquam. A late Indigo Bunting was observed on P.I. on the 5th (GLS#). Dickcissels were noted from Hudson on the 1st (Bill & Bev Klunk) and Truro on the 25th (BAL,MFL).

Sixty-two Pine Grosbeaks were noted from 14 localities, mostly 1-3 birds in each place, with a maximum of 8 in W. Newbury and 6 in Little-

ton. Only 2 Common Redpolls were reported, both from Middleboro on the 25th (DD). Pine Siskins continued in unusually high numbers with over 100 on P.I. on the 20th (FMR, JR). A maximum count of 40 Red Crossbills and 32 White-winged Crossbills were present at Flat Rock, Fitchburg, on the 19th (PMR, JR). Other high counts of White-winged include 35 in Rockport on the 12th (ABC) and 50 in Cambridge on the 20th (HB,SR). Three Rufous-sided Towhees were found in S. Peabody on the 14th (RSH).

"Ipswich" Sparrows were noted from Sandy Neck where 3 were recorded on the 5th (WRP,RFP), 4 were observed on P.I. on the 12th (RRV#), and 2 were seen on North Beach on the 25th (WRP,RAF). In Bridgewater on the 20th, 40 Savannah, 3 Vesper, and 1 Chipping Sparrow were noted (SAP). Grasshopper Sparrows were noted from Manomet on the 13th (staff) and in Framingham on the 24th (RAF). Tree Sparrows began arriving toward the end of the 1st week and built up to several hundred by month's end. Fox Sparrows were also noted in small flocks of 1-8 birds, with the only exception of 26 in the Lynn Woods on the 19th (RSH). A late Lincoln's Sparrow was found in E. Lexington on the 25th (JH, RHS). Over 80 Lapland Longspurs were found in Chatham (North Beach) on the 25th (WRP,RAF). At Sandy Neck 650[±] Snow Buntings were counted on the 5th (WRP,RFP). On the 6th, 30 were noted from GMNWR (AC,NC), 200 from Provincetown (SSBC-RPF), and 60[±] from Westwood (RCV,AHV).

RHS

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

Virginia Albee, Donald C. Alexander, Floyd Alwon, Kathleen S. Anderson, Clinton Andrews, Edith F. Andrews, Eleanor Athearn, Rick Austin, Janet Aylward, W. Wallace Bailey, James Baird, Mary Baird, Helen Barr, James W. Berry, Ann Blaisdell, Bradford Blodgett, Robert Brenon, Dorothy Briggs, David T. Brown, Edward Burgess, Colin Campbell, Stephen Carey, George Champoux, Nancy Claflin, John J. Clancy, Ursula A. Clancy, David Clapp, Alden and Nancy Clayton, Elizabeth B. Cushman, Eric Cutler, Glenn d'Entremont, Herman H. D'Entremont, Dorothy Davis, R. Paul Deveau, Michael A. Duffy, Ruth P. Emery, Harold W. Ferris, Davis W. Finch, Richard A. Forster, Robert P. Fox, John Gardner, Stella Garrett, Elizabeth P. Garrey, Carl A. Goodrich, George W. Gove, Stephen P. Grinley, Jack Grugan, Dora Hale, Richard C. Hale, Winthrop W. Harrington, Richard S. Heil, Sibley Higginbotham, John Hines, Peter Huyck, Craig Jackson, H. Lawrence Jodrey, Thomas Joyce, Mark Kasprzyk, Juliet R. Kellogg, Natalie B. King, Beverly & William Klunk, John Kricher, John S. Kromer, Christopher W. Leahy, Beverly A. Litchfield, Marcia J. Litchfield, Myron F. Litchfield, Trevor Lloyd-Evans, Clifford C. Marks, Philip Martin, John McNeil, Harold Merriman, Bernard Morrissey, Joshua Murphy, William Natti, Jean Nichols, Blair Nikula, John Nove, David Oliver, Jane D. O'Regan, Henry Parker, Philip Parsons, Ethel C. Pearson, Robert F. Pease, Simon A. Perkins, Wayne R. Petersen, Herbert & Patricia Pratt, Sally Raabe, Ruth Rabinow, Theodore Raymond, Julie Roberts, Paul M. Roberts, Leif J. Robinson, Barbara Smith, Elaine Smith, Elinor Soja, Gerald L. Soucy, Robert H. Stymeist, Lois Tarlow, Eliot W. Taylor, John H. Tomphrode, Barbara Treat, Richard R. Veit, Arroyln H. Veron, Robert C. Veron, Richard K. Walton, Herman Weissberg, Henry T. Wiggln, George A. Wilson, Soheil Zende, Allen Bird Club, Manomet Bird Observatory, South Shore Bird Club, Brookline Bird Club, v.o.--various observers

CORREGENDA

July 1977

Gannet:	7/3	Stellwagen Bank	1	RSH
Sooty Shearwater:	7/3	Stellwagen Bank	15	RSH, MK
Manx Shearwater:	7/20	Jeffries' Ledge	1	RSH, MK

-- These above records should be deleted. --

August 1977

Common Loon:	8/29	Gloucester-Georges Bank	<u>225</u>	RSH, MK
		should read		
Common Tern:	8/29	Gloucester-Georges Bank	225	RSH, MK

September 1977

In the records, pages 209 and 210 were reversed when sent to press.

Parasitic Jaeger:	9/21	First Encounter	170	EN#
		should read		
	9/21	First Encounter	100+	EN#
Pomarine Jaeger:	9/21	First Encounter	30	EN#
		should read		
	9/21	First Encounter	50+	EN#
Franklin's Gull:	9/4	Nauset	1	EN#
		should read		
	9/2	Nauset	1	EN#

ADDENDA

July 1977

Black-crowned Night Heron:	7/28	GMNWR	150+	RMB#
Yellow-crowned Night Heron:	7/3	PI	1 adult	RMB#
House Wren:	7/3	PI	1	RMB#

September 1977

Gannet:	9/21	Sandy Neck	120+	RMB
Fulmar:	9/23	Southeast part of Cape Cod Bay	200+	RFP
Cory's Shearwater:	9/21	First Encounter	10+	CAG, EN
Wilson's Storm-Petrel:	9/21	First Encounter	2	EN, CAG
Marsh Hawk:	9/30	Monomoy	25	CAG
Buff-breasted Sandpiper:	9/8, 9/21	Monomoy; Provincetown	4;1	WWB, CAG#
Northern Phalarope:	9/21	First Encounter	100	EN, CAG
Parasitic Jaeger:	9/10	Provincetown	20	EN, CAG
Pomarine Jaeger:	9/25	First Encounter	2+	EN
Royal Tern:	9/21	Sandy Neck	2	RMB
Caspian Tern:	9/12	Monomoy	2	CAG, EN
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:	9/30	Chatham	15	EN
Yellow-throated Vireo:	9/16, 9/17	Barnstable, Sandwich	1,1	RFP
Golden-winged Warbler:	9/11	Wellfleet	1	CAG
Mourning Warbler:	9/4, 12, 15	Chatham	1,1,1	CAG, EN, EN
Yellow-headed Blackbird:	9/8, 18	Monomoy, Nauset	1, 1 imm.	WWB, EN, CAG

10 CAG, EN

ie 3: for late March read mid-April.

20, 15 RFP, EN#

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:	10/9	No Man's Land (Is.)	25	VL
Common Flicker:	10/9	No Man's Land (Is.)	300	VL
Eastern Bluebird:	10/2	Princeton	10	J.L. Johnson
Yellow-breasted Chat:	10/1, 5	Truro, Orleans	1,1	CAG, CAG
Grasshopper Sparrow:	10/2, 21	Truro	1,3	EN, CAG

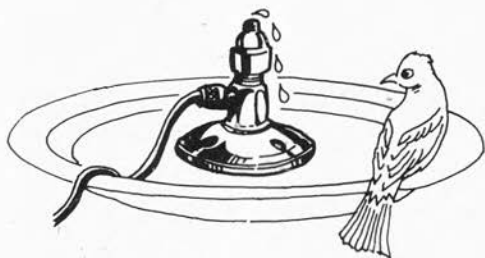
November 1977

Red-throated Loon:	11/7	Sandy Neck	<u>1,600</u>	RFP
Greater Shearwater:	11/11	First Encounter	100	WWB
Cory's Shearwater:	11/5,7,8; 11	Sandy Neck	1; 1+	RFP; WWB
Manx Shearwater:	11/8, 11	Sandy Neck, First Encounter	2, 1-2	RFP, WWB
Leach's Storm-Petrel:	11/7	Sandy Neck	1	RFP

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