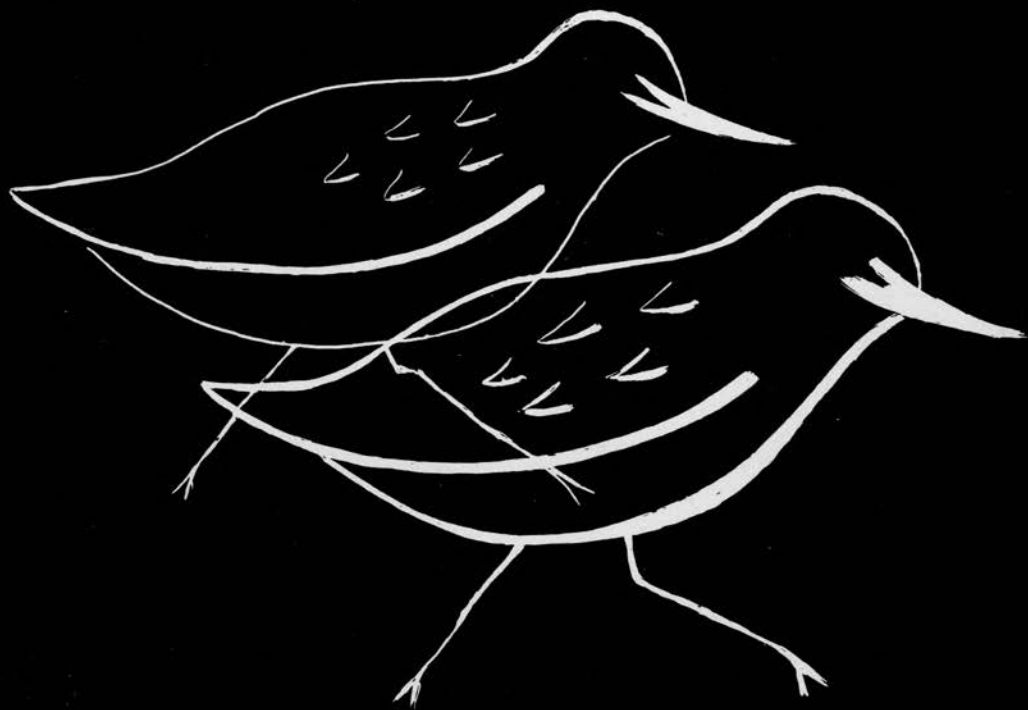


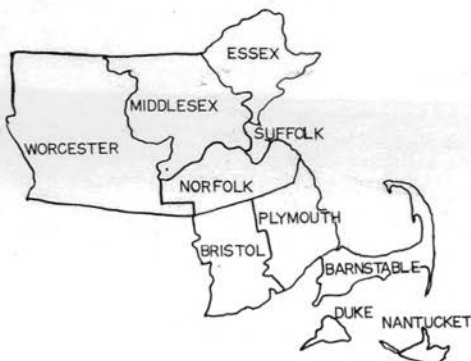
BIRD OBSERVER

OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS



VOL.3 NO.1
JAN.- FEB. 1975

MUD HEN



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EDITOR'S PAGE

The following letter was received on January 19. If anyone of our readers can shed any light on the situation, please write to the the author, Mr. Fuller.

Gentlemen:

While birding at Squantum one Sunday last December I found a Peterson hardcover, a Peterson soft cover and a Golden soft cover. There was no identification other than the following inscription:

"Grandbe,

Here is Peterson. Hope you spy a new bird to use it for.

Oakes"

If you or any of your readers could identify the owners for me, I'd be happy to see the books get back to their rightful owners.

John C. Fuller
89 South St.
Foxboro, Mass. 02035

Articles, news items, and photographs should be submitted to Mr. Joseph T. Leverich, 25 Milford Street, Boston, 02118. Articles must be typed double spaced. Photographs should have date and location noted. All material is reviewed by the Editorial Board for content and suitability for publication in BIRD OBSERVER.

Wanted: Birds of Wellesley by A. P. Morse. Leif J. Robinson, 14 Willow Road, Wellesley, Massachusetts 02181. 237-5270.

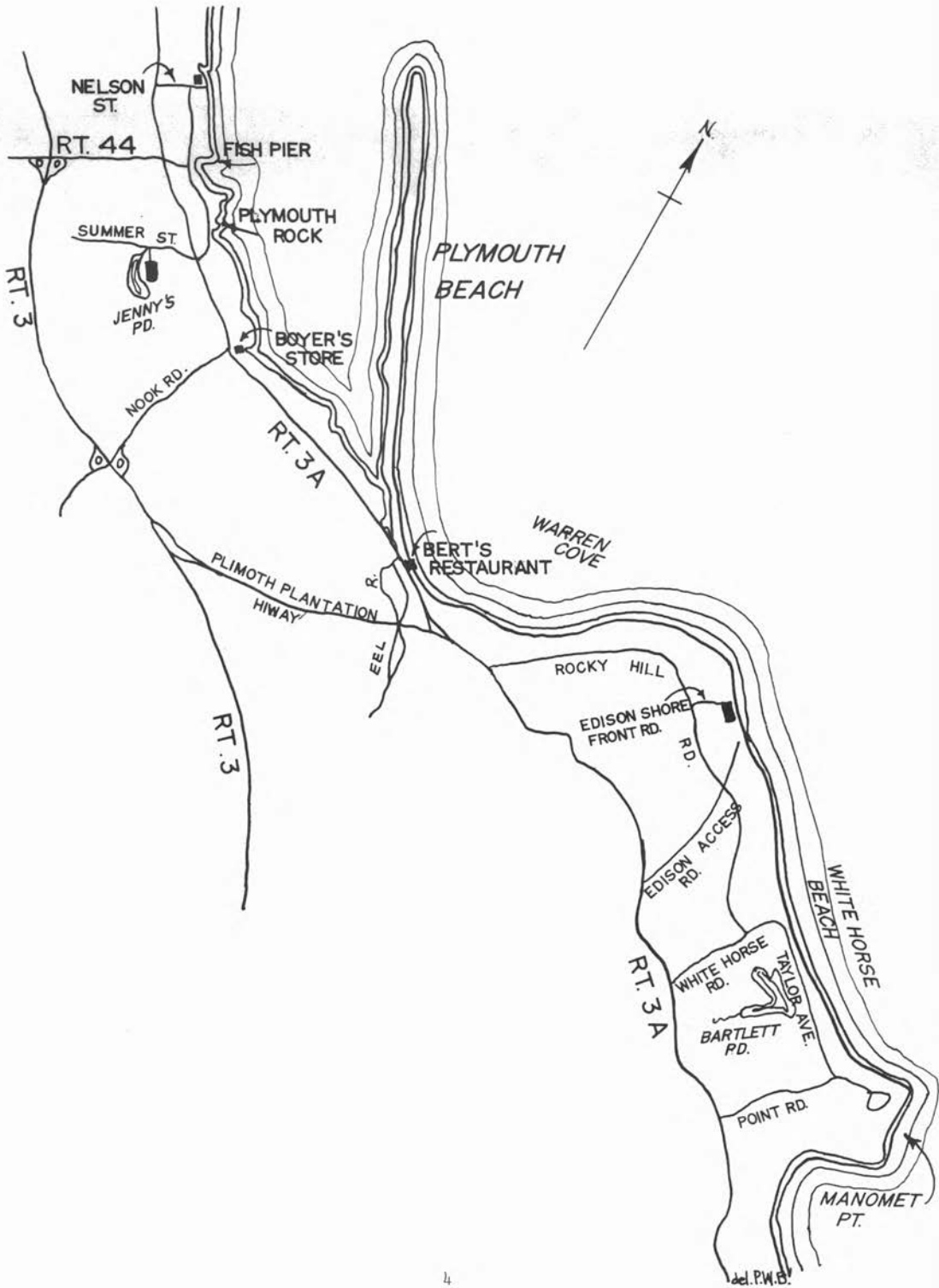
Wanted: Photos of Ross' Gull and the Newburyport "scene," preferably in color. Write to Herman Weissberg, Box 23, Manchester 01944.

NORTH AMERICAN NEST RECORD CARD PROGRAM

Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology is promoting two special projects in its North American Nest Record Card Program for 1974, in addition to regular collection of nesting data. With the support of the World Wildlife Fund, the Laboratory has set up a national register of birds-of-prey to monitor their breeding success in the wild. This register is an independent section of the existing Nest Record Card Program, but information will be collected on regular nest record cards. Details of nest locality will be kept secret and maintained in a master file, from which data will be released only with permission of both the original investigator and the Laboratory. Data will go back many years, so breeding success can be calculated over a long period and annual variation and long-term alterations can be seen. These data will pinpoint species and areas of concern that will enable action to be taken.

The second special research area deals with colonial nesting, such as in certain wading birds.

The Laboratory makes a special appeal for nesting records of raptors and colonial nesting birds; however, nesting data on all species of birds of North America will continue to be collected. This includes data from previous years, and researchers with large amounts of original data are invited to inquire about ways of putting these data into a form that will be of permanent value to science.



WINTER BIRDING IN THE PLYMOUTH-MANOMET AREA

Wayne R. Petersen, Abington, and Bruce A. Sorrie, Manomet

For the Bay State birder who has neither the time nor the inclination to drive to Cape Cod for a day of winter birding, the Plymouth-Manomet area can provide a pleasant substitute. Lying along the southern coastal plain, this region enjoys much the same mild winter climate as the Outer Cape. Add to its location on a fine saltwater bay and harbor fresh ponds, which remain open for much of the winter, and low swampy woods with numerous berry-bearing thickets, and you have an ideal spot in which to find regular winter birds as well as semi-hardy winterers and tardy migrants.

Among seabird species, Red-throated Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Brant, Oldsquaw, and Surf Scoter are all dependable, while such fancies as Barrow's Goldeneye and King Eider are far more regular in this area than in most of the state's other coastal regions. During much of October and into early November impressive diurnal migrations of loons, cormorants, and sea ducks can be witnessed from Manomet Point.

Thicket birding during the colder months will often yield Winter and Carolina Wrens, Gray Catbird, American Robin, Hermit Thrush, both kinglets, Cedar Waxwing, lingering blackbirds, House Finch, Rufous-sided Towhee, and Field Sparrow. Although Plymouth Beach peninsula is inaccessible to most winter birders, the area is attractive to roosting gulls and winter shorebirds, and the hardy dune-hiker will often be rewarded with Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow, Short-eared Owl, Brant, and Snow Bunting. (Note: see article on Plymouth Beach birding in BOEM may-June 1973.)

The following suggested route can be variously worked to suit your own interests, but don't limit yourself just to the winter season, for most of the spots are productive from October through May. If one approaches from the north, take Rte. 44 to the east off Rte. 3. This will take you toward Plymouth and to Rte. 3A. Turn left (north), proceed 1/2 mile, and turn right onto Nelson Street. Go to the parking lot beyond the end of the street. This is a fine spot from which to observe ducks and gulls in the harbor. It is best on half tides as the outer mussel beds and mud flats are becoming exposed or covered. Tremendous strings of eider totaling 4-5000+ can be seen as they enter or leave the harbor. Brant can often be picked out among the Canada Geese, Black Ducks, and eiders. The shorebird flats are usually good for wintering Dunlin, Sanderling, Killdeer, and occasionally other semi-hardy species. They are also quite productive throughout the fall shorebird migration.

Return to Nelson Street and immediately turn left onto Water Street. Continue along the coast to Plymouth Rock, and park in the semi-circle just beyond. Here is an excellent spot for Buffleheads, Common Goldeneyes, Red-breasted Mergansers, and occasionally Common Mergansers or white-winged gulls. It is the most dependable spot on the South Shore for Barrow's Goldeneye. As the tide recedes, this species favors the rocky shore, and close looks can be had; at lower tides the birds (up to 7 annually) apparently favor mussel beds over towards Plymouth Beach. Town Wharf fish piers, 1/4 mile to the north are sometimes good for unusual gulls.

Follow Water Street to Rte. 3A. Cross diagonally over 3A, past Friendly's Ice Cream shop, and go left on Summer Street at the Governor Carver Motel. Take a left at the sign to Town Brook Park. This millpond is known locally as Jenny's Pond and is where people often come to feed the swans and ducks. Among the tame exotic species will usually be a few Pintails, American Wigeons, American Coots, and Pied-billed Grebes. As other ponds freeze up, an occasional Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Wood Duck, or Redhead will appear. This is an excellent spot to note the finer points of Ring-billed and Herring Gull plumage variation. The swampy thickets bordering the southern end of the pond have yielded towhees, thrashers, Swamp Sparrows, etc. On the west side is a large white house with feeders that have been visited regularly for the past three winters by two Rose-ringed (Ring-necked) Parakeets (*Psittacula krameri*), liberated from an unknown source. One needn't trespass onto private property to see these spectacular birds, for their size, coloration, and voice are easily noted from Jenny's Pond.

Go back to Rte. 3A, and head south about .7 miles to Boyer's Paint Store on the left, and park in the small lot. If you are alone (not with your bird club caravan), ask permission to bird in the marsh and adjacent brook along the north side. Here can be found wintering snipe, rails, and blackbirds, while the thickets are good for lingering wrens, Yellowthroats, and Gray Catbirds. A check along the harbor front should reveal Belted Kingfisher, Mourning Dove, House Finch, and perhaps a Killdeer on the beach itself. The

offshore flocks of Black Ducks often contain a few wigeon or Green-winged Teal; Canada Geese are numerous. Diagonally across Rte. 3A, Nook Road follows farther up the same stream and provides nice looks at Field Sparrows, Winter Wrens, Carolina Wrens (occasionally), Cedar Waxwings, and other sparrows. Do not go into the private fish hatchery; the thickets are easily done from the road.

Continue down Rte. 3A a short distance to Bert's Restaurant, and park at the sea wall. If you haven't time to do Plymouth Beach, at least check the fresh and brackish marshes along Eel River at the base of the peninsula. Three species of rails and both salt-marsh sparrows have been found here into January. The broad cove off the sea wall usually produces two or three species of scoters, plus loons, Oldsquaw, and Horned Grebe. The cattail marsh across from Bert's supports a breeding colony of Long-billed Marsh Wrens, some of which may linger, while the open water often yields Pied-billed Grebes, Mute Swans, various ducks and Great Blue Herons. The thickets and wet pockets on the south side produce rails, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and Swamp Sparrows.

Go southward on 3A and turn left onto Rocky Hill Road opposite the golf course. After some 1.2 miles you will pass through many choice thickets and a deciduous woodland that continues for another .8 miles. Nearly all of it belongs to Boston Edison and is the site of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant. The company is rightfully concerned with trespassers, so stay on paved roads. Here are found Carolina Wren (often singing on bright days), Winter Wren, Tufted Titmouse, Hermit Thrush, sparrows and other thicket dwellers. Spring and summer bring these breeders: Carolina Wren, White-eyed Vireo (try down the shorefront road), Scarlet Tanager, and both cuckoos. A walk along Rocky Hill Road after a migrant wave can be surprisingly productive: one author had in one morning over 60 species including 17 warblers. Edison's shorefront road ends at a parking lot overlooking a rocky coastline where winter seafowl (including Red-necked Grebe) are found. To the right, massive breakwaters flank the discharge canal whose swift waters are attractive to fish, and thus in turn to larids, especially post-breeding birds including Forster's and Black Terns, Laughing, Bonaparte's and Ring-billed Gulls.

Rocky Hill Road ends at White Horse Road. Go left on it, and at the sharp corner pull off into the vacant lot. Sea ducks are usually plentiful here, and King Eiders are surprisingly regular (usually females or young males). This thickly settled area supports a sizable breeding colony of House Finches, plus Mockingbirds and Cardinals. Drive 1/4 mile to Bartlett Pond on the right. The back reaches of this pond remain open and regularly harbor wigeons, Pintails, Pied-billed Grebes, and Coots. This winter three Gadwalls are a feature there.

If you have no luck with King Eiders at White Horse Beach, continue along the coast to Manomet Point and look off from that commanding vantage point. Manomet Point, with its 50-foot bluffs, provides one of the best observation points anywhere along Cape Cod Bay. It is here that fabulous sea duck and loon migrations are seen in October and November. Many of these same species spend the winter in lesser numbers around the extensive, rock-strewn tidal area. The Point has historically been one of the state's most reliable spots for Red-necked Grebes and in late winter or early spring over 25 have been seen at once. During severe northeast storms, Manomet Point should be checked for alcids and pelagics, which often find food and shelter below the cliffs. In migration, anything is possible from the Point, and the writers have seen such interesting species as Cory's Shearwater, Northern Fulmar, Leach's Storm-Petrel, phalaropes, and Little Gull, in addition to the more regular Gannet, Black-legged Kittiwake, and Parasitic Jaeger.

While this is by no means a complete survey of the winter bird life, at least it gives a feeling for the relative potential of the region. We hope it will stimulate others to try what we feel to be a choice winter locality.

COMING ALL THE WAY BACK

David W. Johnson of the University of Florida has measured the amount of DDT and its metabolites in the fat deposits of 10 species of migratory songbirds. His sample included 319 individuals, primarily insectivores, that had been killed when they struck TV towers in northern Florida during autumnal migration.

For 10 species, the total DDT content declined by a factor of four between 1964 and 1973, and it is now regarded as being at a low level. In Science for November 29, 1974, he concluded: "The decline of DDT burdens appears to be more closely correlated with the recent declines of DDT usage in North America, especially the United States, where these birds breed."

SELECTIONS FROM A BIRDER'S NOTEBOOK:

ON THE GREAT HORNED OWL

Joseph F. Kenneally, Jr., Bedford

It looked like a long walk, particularly since it had to be done in hip boots. The banks and flood plain of the Town River were inundated with the run-off of melted snow and spring rain in that month of March, 1949. The Hockamock Swamp looked more like a pond or a small lake than a freshwater wetland. Route 24 was not even on the drawing board, and the power lines with their steel towers were still years from installation. Our trek was to take us along the southern perimeter of the flood plain, through stands of red maple, thick underbrush and small parcels of grassy marsh bordering swollen tributary streams.

Our aim of achieving maximum concealment and maximum silence proved to be largely unattainable. At times we seemed to move through the secondary growth with the ease and grace of a herd of cattle -- only noisier. Progress across the several tributary streams was hesitant, owing to their springtime depth and muddy bottoms. (None of us carried waterproof binoculars.) Each emergence from the trees into one of these small estuaries would invariably result in the noisy exit of Black Ducks, Pintails and Green-winged Teal from the nearby river.

Finally, Ray Seamans called a halt. Through a break in the trees we had a fair view down the river. A small peninsula (at that moment an island) jutted into the floodplain on the south side of the river. Ray pointed to a stand of white pines on the high ground about two hundred yards ahead. The nest wasn't hard to detect, for the platform of sticks could be seen with the naked eye. A binocular view revealed the cat-like "ears" or "horns" of *Bubo virginianus*, the Great Horned Owl. Even in that first spring of birding I had managed better views of life birds, but that fact did not diminish this moment.

We detoured to the left deeper into the woods and pressed on farther upstream toward the nest tree. As we closed the distance, the big bird stepped from the nest, dropped down the far side of the pine, and sailed off the island. We crossed the last stretch of flooded marsh and went ashore. This particular location must have been thought strategic by the early inhabitants of the region, for many Indian artifacts were to be found there. It was the search for these the previous week that had brought Ray here to his chance encounter with nesting Horned Owls.

A somewhat rigorous climb to the nest revealed its contents: three eggs and remnants of prey animals, such as Black Ducks, crows and jays, as well as some other unidentified edibles. The eggs had undoubtedly been laid in a staggered fashion, and, since incubation in owls begins with the laying of the first egg, they would hatch on different days, thereby assuring a size discrepancy in the young. The largest would eat first and as often as inclined, since the parent birds feed the first available and most insistent mouth. If game was abundant, and if the hunting territory was well-stocked enough to support multiple young, the parent birds would be able to provide more than enough prey to satisfy the largest owlet. With sated appetite, the senior clutch member might then hang back allowing a smaller, hungrier nestmate to get to the head of the line. If hunting was poor, the largest owlet would seldom be satisfied, and, since there is no inclination to share during hard times, the lesser young would weaken or starve, only to be themselves devoured by a larger brother or sister.

The end result is obvious. A hunting territory with abundant game can support multiple fledglings; a depleted territory cannot. The young owl most fit to survive receives every opportunity to succeed. If conditions allow, some of the less fit may also succeed.

I descended from the tree, and we prepared to leave. Suddenly our attention was directed to the west end of the island by the excited clamor of a large flock of crows. We maneuvered for a view in time to see a large Horned Owl glide up to a bare branch on the skeleton of a large tree protruding from the water over the flooded river bank. I assumed it was the female, and I well remember the piercing gaze she directed at us. The ear-like feather tufts were moved about by the light winds as she abruptly snapped her head from our party of three toward a scolding crow which was venturing too close. An adult Red-tailed Hawk with the reddest of tails sailed in and lighted above, joining in the vocal harassment of the owl. Moments later the memorable scene was terminated. The owl flew off with her entourage in tow, and we began our long retreat.

Our Hockamock association of Great Horned Owl and Red-tailed Hawk was hardly coincidental. The Horned Owl appropriates the old nests of the red-tail and other larger hawks, and it has even been known to displace them from newly constructed nests. Construction of its own nest by the Horned Owl is not known to occur. The species will use ledges on the faces of cliffs to rear its young, but in New England he who seeks the home of *Bubo* had best look to the white pines. A grove of these trees may contain a number of old hawk nests, and it becomes a matter of determining which, if any, is in current use. Egg-laying is often under way by late February, and early March is a reasonable time to begin the search.

The search itself is as much a matter of looking downward as of looking upward. An accumulation of regurgitated owl pellets under one of these nests is an indication of occupancy. The presence of feathers or down clinging to the nest rim further heightens suspicion. The pellets are castings containing the indigestible components of animal prey consumed by the owl. Such prey is swallowed whole, and during the following eight hours or so the digestive system of the owl absorbs the nutrients from the ingested animal. The disarticulated bony skeleton and the feathers or fur remain in the ventriculus, where it is compacted into pellet form. After remaining here for several hours more, a four-minute long regurgitation process begins, and the casting is expelled through the mouth. Owl pellets contain significant amounts of calcified material, such as bone. The more acidic gastric juices in the stomach of a hawk will dissolve most, if not all, ingested bone so that little or none will be found in a hawk pellet.

Since Horned Owls tend to leave the nest upon the approach of an observer, confirmation of nesting may require a climb to view the eggs, or a distant vantage point from which the returning parent bird might be seen. It was after such a confirmation of nesting had been made a few years ago by friends of mine, that a decision was made to observe and photograph Horned Owls virtually from their threshold. The discovered nest, a little more than forty feet from the ground, contained one young bird, which appeared to be about three weeks old. Our method of approach was simple -- back-breaking, but simple. Steel frames of construction staging were hauled to the nest site in a wet, somewhat swampy woodland. Twenty feet from the nest a forty-five foot tower was built on cement block footings, plumbed, levelled with jacks, and guyed with eight nylon or dacron lines. At the forty-foot level a wooden platform was fixed, and on the platform the blind, a modified pup tent, was erected and secured.

During this construction period (and on every other occasion when I have been near Horned Owl nests), the adults were very retiring and for the most part were neither seen nor heard from. Because of their lack of aggressiveness, it has been my preference to enter the blind when the adult birds were away from the nest at the daytime roost. Arrival was before sunset, and departure was delayed until dawn. Since personal in-blind experience has been with nests containing well-advanced young, the adults did not spend the days at the nest, but apparently roosted at some distance from it.

A fair amount of gear was packed and hauled up on nylon lines, not the least important of which was a sleeping bag in which to take refuge from the significant cold of the early spring night. Ten hours of confinement in a small blind in the cold pretty well demolishes this writer's ability to generate body heat. Thus, although I acknowledge the merits of the snow-mobile cover-all suit, I remain convinced that, for me, the solution is total immersion in a down sleeping bag. Even at that, bends and sharp angles in body position are to be avoided religiously; the bend or angle soon becomes disturbingly cold.

My recollection is that I have never experienced any activity at the nest for an hour or more after darkness. More often the first call by the parent does not occur until nearly midnight. The young owl would begin its hunger call usually within the first two hours of darkness. This grating call has a hissing quality, but not like the "escaping steam" I have heard from young Barn Owls. The voice of juvenal Horned Owls seems to possess a gravelly or churring overtone to it that is different from that of the Barn Owl.

Sooner or later the reply of the adult is heard. So far as I know, it has not been described in any of the literature. The short, explosive, horn-like toot of the adult replying to the young owl is utterly different from the hooting with which birders are familiar. The call resembles the tight, whistling, "seal-bark" cough of a croupy child. Under different circumstances, I would probably have identified the originator as a Long-eared Owl, for among its reported sounds are some described as "sneeze-like, a slurred 'whee-you,' snarling, the whine of a young puppy." The above call, ascribed to the adult, has been heard only in response to the hunger plea of the young. Sometimes it was given from a distance; at other times the bird was within twenty yards of the

blind.

As the adult drew near, the calls of the young owl accelerated and were accompanied by much restless body activity and movement about the nest. The gaze of the young owl was fixed upward, obviously on the parent bird. Despite the scant twenty feet from blind to nest, the paucity of light in a pine grove and the dark plumage of the adult owl provided a margin of error in determining just where the parent was with the young. To decide whether the ideal composition for a photograph is now in effect bordered on the impossible. Despite the use of battery-powered spotlights to cut the darkness, it still was pretty much a case of hitting the shutter-release and hoping for the best.

The photographs obtained were of the adult and young, or of the young owl alone when we "missed." The prey shown in my photographs is avian in all cases -- decapitated passerines. (The adults find the brains of the prey a delicacy and consume them before delivering the rest of the animal to the young.) I recall on one occasion, having triggered the strobe lights on the adult, I switched on a flashlight in time to see a towhee disappear down the gullet of the young owl in about the time it would take a human to down an aspirin tablet. The fact that the adults are not needed to tear up the food for young owls shortens their stay at the nest. Photographic opportunities are correspondingly limited.

The number of visits by adults to the nest per night is quite variable. There are nights when the young are apparently not fed at all. During the most productive full-night session personally experienced, there were five feeding visits. Feeding frequency might well increase proportionately with the size of the young, but it is also true that larger young can handle larger game. I have been told that one large rabbit delivered in the early evening can mean the rest of the night off for the parent. Needless to say, scarcity of food would also limit the nest-side appearance of the parent birds.

Our adult owls, extraordinary hunters as a species, probably ranged over a two- or three-square mile territory. They are known to perch near clearings or roadways to await victims. The strike begins with a shallow, silent dive and terminates with the impact of the owl's body against the prey. The enormously powerful talons, which tighten their grip automatically as the legs of the bird flex, dispatch most small animals quickly. Payne and Drury have demonstrated the auditory capabilities of owls in such hunting sorties. The nocturnal species especially have well-developed facial discs feathered with stiff, bristle-like filoplumes. These specialized feathers seem to function in sound-gathering and make the face of the owl something of a parabolic reflector. The ears themselves are not symmetrical bilaterally: they differ slightly in their anatomical location and structure. Whatever the particular specific discrepancy, the result is a minute lag in sound reception on one side as compared with the other. This phenomenon allows a triangulation fix on the sound source so that the hunting stoop of nocturnal owls has proven devastatingly accurate, even in the total absence of light.

Despite the commonly acknowledged prowess of owls with respect to night vision, one investigator, H. L. Stoddard, has expressed the view that Horned Owls see only slightly better at night than humans. His observations indicate much hunting activity of this species on moonlit nights, whereas on dark nights most activity occurred at dusk or dawn. In further studies at the site of T.V. tower kills of migrating passerines, Stoddard noted that light- or white-breasted birds lying on the ground with the breast upward were readily found and eaten by marauding Horned Owls. Dark birds with dark back uppermost were apparently not found by the owls.

Our observations from the blind continued into early May, with three different people using the tower as opportunity allowed. What proved to be the last night was my own. Some calling between the young owl and the adult had occurred well before midnight, but the adult had not come. In the pre-dawn hours the restless young one had left the nest and worked its way out of the nest to the tip of the nest branch. It did occur to me that the owlet had taken itself out of my camera-strobe light range, thereby shooting down my photography hopes, temporarily at least. Footing and progress seemed precarious and uncertain out there when suddenly it happened. A moment of frantic thrashing and beating of undeveloped wings preceded the awareness that the young owl had fallen through the small terminal branches and was clinging somewhere below the main branch. Just as quickly, the owlet was gone. I emerged quickly from the pup tent and shined a flashlight to the ground. The young owl was about twenty-five feet from the nest tree, moving away from the nest-site with a comically long-legged stride and a purposeful, almost slow motion gait. It was obviously uninjured.

Young Horned Owls leave the nest in the fifth or sixth week of life despite the fact that

they are not capable of flight until the ninth or tenth week. It is also known that the young of Horned Owls may leave the nest as early as the end of the fourth week. They are adept climbers, using their developing talons to good advantage; one observer has commented that a hand-reared young captive readily used its beak as well in climbing. Apparently a sloping branch or a downed limb is all that is needed for an ambulatory owlet to begin its journey to a new treetop. Hunger calls reveal its location to the parent birds who continue to provide food until the fall of the year.

The young owls seldom move more than twenty miles from their place of hatching. They do, however, leave the territory of the parent birds, moving out in all directions.

Young Great Horned Owls at nest, photo by Herman Weissberg, Manchester

Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas Project - 1974-1978

The 1974 Season

Deborah V. Howard, M.A.S.

The 1974 breeding season marked the first year of the Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas Project. This project is designed to map the breeding distribution of Massachusetts' birds during the five-year period from 1974 through 1978. It is jointly sponsored by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Game and by the Massachusetts Audubon Society. Using a grid based on U.S. Geological Survey maps ("topo" maps), we hope to place a worker in each of the 989 blocks in the state to record which species breed there.

During 1974 we were able to obtain some coverage in 437 blocks, or just under half of the total. In some of these blocks only a few breeding species were reported, but many blocks had 40-50 confirmed. The total number of different kinds of breeding birds in each block will vary, of course, with available habitat, but an average suburban or rural block will probably contain around 60-70 breeding species. Each block, 1/6 of a "topo" map, contains about 10 square miles, measuring just over three miles on each side. While this may seem like a large territory to cover, once a species is known to breed in the block no further information on it is needed for the entire five-year period. In practical terms, this means that the conspicuous birds in each block can rapidly be confirmed as breeders; remaining breeding seasons can thus be used to search out the more elusive and rarer species.

As a result of interest in the Atlas project, two new species were added to the state's list of breeding birds: the Glossy Ibis, found nesting on Clark's Island in Plymouth-Duxbury Bay, and the Cattle Egret, found in a mixed heron colony on House Island off Manchester. The only Little Blue Heron recorded as nesting in Massachusetts was also found on Clark's Island, as was one of the two confirmed Great Egrets (the other was in Westport).

A total of 166 species was confirmed for the state, despite the fact that no confirmations were reported for Yellow-crowned Night Heron, American Wigeon, Turkey Vulture, Grey-cheeked Thrush, Hooded Warbler, and several other birds known to have bred here in the past. These five species (and others) were missed undoubtedly because of inadequate coverage; we should be able to add them in future breeding seasons.

With coverage at less than the half-way mark, it is difficult to make detailed statements about the breeding distribution of most of the state's birds. However, some trends can already be discerned.

The Starling topped the list as the bird confirmed in the greatest number of blocks: it was reported a confirmed breeder in 262 blocks. The next four species which, with the Starling, made up the top five, are American Robin, House Sparrow, Common Grackle, and Barn Swallow, reported from 260, 208, 206, and 186 blocks respectively. The first four doubtless breed throughout the state except in those blocks which are treeless and contain no man-made structures (such as parts of the Cape and the Islands). These results agree in general with those of the Fish and Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Survey conducted each June in Massachusetts. The ubiquity of the Barn Swallow is a bit of a surprise, but that species is easily confirmed because of its conspicuous colonial nesting behavior and its affinity for barns and garages. As it feeds solely on insects, it will probably prove to be absent from highly urbanized areas, where insects are scarce.

Four newcomers to the state showed interesting distribution patterns, reflecting the factors which have affected their colonization of Massachusetts. Even with imperfect coverage, the Cardinal and Mockingbird can be seen to be distributed more or less throughout the state, while the House Finch and Tufted Titmouse are much more restricted. House Finch confirmations are confined to Massachusetts east of Worcester County and to the southern Connecticut Valley. They have also been reported breeding in one block on Nantucket and have colonized much of the Cape. By contrast, the Tufted Titmouse, also largely confined to eastern Massachusetts and the southern Connecticut Valley, has not been confirmed anywhere on eastern Cape Cod or the Islands. This bird's diurnal migration habits and its reluctance to fly over even small bodies of water have apparently prevented its spread to the outer Cape and the Islands.

Raptor confirmations were somewhat limited because of the late start of many workers during the 1974 breeding season. Earlier field work during 1975 and subsequent seasons should result in a more accurate picture of breeding distribution. Red-tail and Broad-wing breeding reports were scattered throughout the state, except that no Broad-wing nestings were reported from the Cape or the Islands. These two buteos, along with the American Kestrel and Screech Owl, were confirmed in more blocks than any other raptors. Twelve nesting Goshawks were found in the state, an indication that these forest dwellers are again becoming established, as Massachusetts' farmland reverts to woods. Unfortunately, only one or two Cooper's and Sharpshins were confirmed. It remains to be seen whether this reflects the drastic population decline known to have occurred elsewhere for these accipiters or lack of coverage by Atlas workers.

It is obvious from the foregoing discussion that breeding bird distributions in Massachusetts are not static and are influenced by a host of factors. Habitats are changing as a result of natural processes and human manipulation. Widespread feeding during the hard winter months may have allowed some new colonists to survive, while competition from exotic birds, deteriorating habitat, and pesticide use has drastically reduced or eliminated some old-time residents. Certain species, like the Grasshopper Sparrow and the Short-billed Marsh Wren, have virtually disappeared as breeders, for reasons that are poorly understood.

The Atlas project will be the first detailed map of the breeding distribution of birds available for any state. It will provide us with an accurate picture of Massachusetts' avian breeding distribution during the mid-70s and will be available for use by scientists, preparers of environmental impact statements, and researchers interested in the factors influencing range changes and breeding habits of specific species. It will be replicable at any date in the future when we may wish to look at the distribution changes which shall have occurred.

We need additional workers now. It's not too early to become familiar with the block you'll be working, come spring. You may even be able to confirm a few birds now by finding last summer's nests. If you know the common breeding birds in your area by sight and sound and are willing to commit a few hours each week during the breeding season to the Project, contact Deborah V. Howard, Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln, Ma. 01773.

A ROSS' GULL ROUND TABLE

(An interview with the discoverers)

Perhaps the most significant chapter in the history of Massachusetts birding -- since the extinction of the Heath Hen in the 1930's -- has just been written. The discovery of a Ross' Gull in Newburyport Harbor was the first record of this intrinsically rare species in the contiguous United States, a feat magnified by the fact that the bird was in winter plumage, a dress that is inadequately or marginally described in common field guides.

This interview with the original discoverers of the gull is presented not only to document their find, but to reveal the unusual and difficult situations it created for them and for persons who screen sightings of rare birds. The participants include Philip Parsons and Herman Weissberg (the discoverers), Paula Butler and Robert Stymeist (Bird Observer staff), and Leif Robinson (editor of this interview).

Bird Observer expresses its appreciation to Caroline Robinson for transcribing 24 pages of typescript, from which this account has been abstracted due to space limitations.

Leif: What is your reaction to the publicity received by the Ross' Gull? A couple of years ago a new species of Hawaiian Honeycreeper was discovered, and it got practically no press coverage.

Phil: I didn't believe that our bird was going to blow up as big as it did -- all those people! I knew it was rare, but I didn't know it was going to create all the interest it did.

Herm: I'm amazed, amazed that there was so much response. I understood that this was a rare Massachusetts bird, but I didn't know that it was so rare throughout North America and that so many people high up in ornithology had never seen one.

Leif: On what date did you see the bird, and who saw it first? What field marks did the two of you see together?

Herm: It was January 12th, late Sunday afternoon. We had already finished the day's birding and were ready to go home. Actually, we were looking for a Black-headed Gull when we saw a flock of Bonaparte's, and we thought that there might be a Black-headed among them. We stopped by the Clam Shack and got out with our binoculars -- not our scope -- because the birds were so close. As we looked at the flock, I immediately noticed one of the birds as being smaller and said, "There's no Black-headed, but there's a Little Gull." Then Phil replied, "It's too big to be a Little Gull." I said, "Well he's too small to be a Bonaparte's -- and look how pink he is, very pink, too pink for a Little Gull."

Leif: Was the pink noticeable as the bird was sitting on the water?

Herm: Very much so, very much. The first special thing we noticed was that it was very pink. The contrast was made with the Bonaparte's; if he had been by himself, we might not have noticed the pink.

Phil then said, "Look at the head; it has a very pigeonlike head, with a short stubby neck. And look at the short bill." Phil pointed out all of these things, and I kept agreeing with him as we looked at the bird. Someone suggested that we get a field guide. If we had realized the subsequent events, one of us would have kept an eye on the bird. Unfortunately we both went to the car, and when we came back, the flock had left! One piece of advice for people who bird together: someone should always watch the bird! We searched briefly and then went home.

Phil: It was late afternoon and the sunlight was coming right over our backs toward the bird.

Herm: I commented that since it was late afternoon, the sun might make the bird look pink. Then Phil said, "Why wouldn't it make all of the birds look pink?" The Bonaparte's still looked white -- this one looked pink." On March 10th, Gerry Soucy called me to say that he had just seen the Ross' Gull in low light and that it appeared very pink. Perhaps the hue is strengthened by a low sun, such as prevails in the Arctic; and also at the time we first saw the bird! Since the bird has gone nationwide, it has usually been seen under "high-light" conditions, which might account for its pallid appearance.

Leif: What happened subsequently, on Monday?

Herm: Monday evening Phil called. He said that he had a book to show me. Sunday, on the way home, we had talked about the possibility of a Ross' Gull, but all we had was the Robbins' guide. Phil came over with Pough's book, which shows Ross' Gull in winter plumage. The picture looked just like the bird we had seen.

Phil said, "I think we ought to call Gerry Soucy and Mrs. Emery." I said, "Well, I feel kind of foolish reporting a bird like this." Phil responded, "We can say that we want people to be on the lookout for it; we're pretty sure of what we had."

Leif: At this point did you write the bird into your life list?

Both: No, no.

Phil: I have a diary; in it I noted that we had sighted a pinkish gull. The date was there to go back to, and I was glad of that.

Herm: As a matter of fact, I think that as we were going home I asked you, "Are you going to put this bird on your list?" Phil said, "No, but I'll put it in my diary, just in case something comes of it."

So I agreed that we ought to let Gerry and Mrs. Emery know; I also called Paula Butler. Everyone asked a lot of questions! I felt foolish, and they acted kind of skeptical. I can't say that I blame them -- but we did report.

Leif: This was the 13th?

Herm: Yes. On the 14th nothing happened. John Nove is a birder who lives in Manchester, and I told him about the gull then. He and I went up on the morning of the 15th. At the boat ramp Sally Ingalls drove up, and we told her about the bird. Everyone came back empty handed. But on the 16th Phil went up by himself.

Phil: I scoped a bunch of Bonaparte's from the Coal Yard and picked out one bird. I followed him as best I could, but the 30-power eyepiece made this difficult and I eventually lost him. However, I did notice the pinkish color again. It was about the same time of day as on the 12th.

Leif: How far away was the bird at this time?

Phil: I would say 60 or 70 yards. After a few minutes I picked him up again, by his color, sitting with the Bonaparte's. Of course, the minute I saw the color I looked for the other things such as the little white head with a big black eye. After a few minutes he flew off, but I was convinced then and there of what the bird was, though I still hadn't seen the wedge-shaped tail.

Herm: When you got home that night you called me. The next morning both of us and John Nove went to look together. When we arrived there wasn't a gull in sight, not even a Herring Gull. So we went to the north end of Plum Island. After a few minutes the gulls started passing the breakwater, and we checked every one. It was a constant stream. I I've never seen so many Bonaparte's in all my life. As they came by, they seemed to divide into two lanes -- one going to the Salisbury side of the harbor, the other to the Newburyport side. Around lunchtime we drove to the Coal Yard, where we sat until dusk. But we didn't spot the bird.

Leif: Phil, why don't you give an account of how you reported the gull.

Phil: Gerry knew about it from Herman's telephone call; and, of course, Larry [Judge Jodrey] would also know. As I met different birders, I'd tell them -- all the good birders -- to be on the lookout for a pink gull among the Bonaparte's. I think some of them did, but probably more of them didn't, because they didn't believe me. That was probably the reason more didn't look.

Leif: This was in mid-January?

Phil: Around mid-January. I told Mr. and Mrs. Argue and Henry Wiggin, and I gave a full description to Mrs. Argue. On another day I met Dick Forster at the Northern Three-toed Woodpecker, and I gave him a rundown. I also told Mrs. Emery -- I just don't remember the date -- and she wrote down everything.

Paula: When Herman called me, I called Nancy Claflin; from the description, she had no doubt what bird you had seen, and she went three times to check. Did you call Ruth [Emery] directly?

Herm: I'm pretty sure I did. I'm not sure of the dates, but I can get them. Mr. Stepanoff and the whole New York Club were at Hammond Castle, and I met them there -- they would know the weekend.

Bob: Ruth had your information around mid-January, probably after the second time Phil saw the bird. In doing the December records, Dick Veit and I looked at your description. Dick said that it looked good and he was going after the bird the next day. Wayne Petersen, was also informed. I went with Dick on the following Saturday. We looked for the gull but couldn't find anything. Dick subsequently spent several other days looking to no avail.

Leif: I gather that you relied basically on the field marks given in Robbins' and Paugh's guides. In retrospect, do you think that the published field marks were sufficient? What field marks would you stress that the books don't?

Phil: I would stress the short stubby neck -- no neck at all as I see it -- down on his shoulders. Then that all-white head with big black eyes. And the short bill.

Herm: Of course, we weren't looking specifically for a wedge-shaped tail, which you couldn't see when he was sitting on the water. We were more aware of the pigeonlike head and that he was bigger than the Little Gull and smaller than the Bonaparte's.

Paula: Did you see the long tail?

Herm: We saw the long tail, but not the wedge.

Leif: The only time the wedge tail was evident to me was when the bird was flying directly away; then it looked like a diamond, but otherwise the wedge was not noticeable.

Phil: On March 2nd, Gerry noticed the bird by Bullock's Needle, and he was close enough to see that when the bird opened its mouth the inside was all red.

On the second day I saw the bird, I noticed the wing linings particularly -- they were a nice pearly gray.

Leif: Darker than the mantle?

Phil: Darker!

Herm: Battleship gray I would say. On the 12th we had noticed a little black mark like the remnant of the neck ring. Has anybody else seen it?

Leif: When I saw the bird fly away from me, its neck had a dusky area which was roughly rectangular, let's say an inch long and a half inch wide. This was on the nape.

If you had this experience to relive, how would you change your reporting procedure, and how would you hope reactions to your report would change?

Herm: I would not have reported it any differently. But it has disturbed me for a long time that a lot of people will tell someone about a bird, and the immediate reaction is skepticism. Unless an individual sees the bird, he is always a doubting Thomas. So there is always that attitude in your mind, and this is one reason why I hesitated when Phil said, "Let's make it a possible instead of a definite," did I agree. He was sure and he convinced me with the illustration in Pough's book. I was still reluctant -- I guess it's your ego -- but you hate to have the word get around, "This fellow says he saw a Ross' Gull ... Ha, Ha, Ha!" And I'm sure this was the reaction of a lot of people.

Leif: What happened from the time that you reported it informally to Ruth to the time the bird was rediscovered? Do you think a stronger effort should have been made to confirm the bird by the pipeline?

Herm: I didn't know what was being done to confirm it at that time; and I'm still not sure. From what we did, you just assume that the word spreads.

Phil: I don't think I would have handled it any differently. At that time of the year,

you've got the problem of weather -- there was a lot of bad weather, and people weren't getting down to the area. I know that on two or three weekends the weather was very bad for the BBC walks. It probably would have been hard to spot the bird.

Herm: Many times I have the feeling that there's not enough of an established network, among the people who are birding all the time, as to who will call whom. Another point is that when you do report, you get the feeling that you are being judged, that the person you are talking to isn't taking it cold-turkey the way a doctor would. He is making a judgement as you are talking. Because of this, I have always wanted to be darn sure about birds -- keep it in my little circle of friends until we are absolutely positive that nobody can break down our case. Then we report it officially. Then, if they go out and happen to see it, the reaction is positive.

Bob: A report comes in -- and if it's a rare bird, you know we don't want to make fools of ourselves and report it to the world that you've got a "Labrador Duck" in Massachusetts. We have a committee of six or seven people to which I submit material.

Herm: Who writes the report?

Bob: The observer. If somebody reports a "Labrador Duck" and does not send any description, we write the person back. Sometimes they reply, sometimes they don't. We get as much information as we can, in writing or over the phone, and submit it to the panel. We want to make sure that we have everything, if it's going to be for the record. It's not just a single judgement by a compiler -- it goes through a number of experienced birders.

Phil and Herman didn't see the tail, which could have clinched the bird for them. But they did see the small head, small pigeonlike bill and so forth. No one was completely familiar with the bird, simply because of the lack of facts in the field guides. Davis Finch, who is probably one of the foremost experts on gulls, brought up the point that Little Gulls have pink in breeding plumage. With that mark alone, you could have seen a Little Gull -- with the dark under the wings and a pink wash -- but the small head and the other field marks wouldn't fit a Little Gull. The fact that this bird is so far out of range makes one want to think of something else. Few people know about Little Gulls having the pink wash.

Herm is probably right about the negative reactions some people get. Of course, compilers don't have the right to do that. Yet, most of the reports are followed up: somebody knows; somebody checks it out; or at least the word is spread around.

Leif: How is it spread around?

Bob: Ruth puts it on the "Voice." I don't think the Ross' Gull got on the "Voice." Did it?

Phil: I don't think so. No.

Herm: Phil and I, who bird for pleasure, get the feeling that the people who are professional birders give the impression that they want to be considered infallible. You get very defensive, because you feel that their reaction is going to be, "What the hell do you know about birding?" You're intimidated, but there are more people who bird for pleasure than who bird for the records. That doesn't mean that the pleasure birders aren't competent. They might not know all the subtle points of every textbook or spend much time in a library -- they have other things to do -- but birding is a pleasure, a sport, a hobby, an outdoor activity that you find stimulating. But when you meet one of these other folks, you immediately know that this person is working on a different plateau. You've got to be careful how you say things or they will pull you up fast. Maybe from their point of view they are attempting to give you an education; I'll be lenient and say maybe they are.

Leif: Isn't it wonderful when a bird shows up that none of the "experts" has ever seen before, and everyone is on the same level!

Herm: That is what has been very gratifying about the Ross' Gull. I knew nothing about it before January 12th, then Phil did the research, and I began to understand that it had never been seen in Massachusetts.

Leif: What feeling did you get about the importance of the discovery? This was the first sighting of Ross' Gull in the contiguous United States. When you saw the bird, you knew it was rare, but did you know how rare?

Herm: I did not.

Phil: I didn't at the time, but as each day went by, I began to realize it fast!

Herm: In the past week, I've met only one man who said it wasn't a life bird.

Leif: What kind of local impact did the Ross' Gull have?

Herm: In a copy of the Newburyport newspaper there was an editorial entitled "Rare Bird Exposes Need." The subject was that Newburyport has no motel facilities, and people were looking for places to spend the night. The editor was trying to build up some interest.

Phil: A young girl came through the crowd with a big armful of pamphlets advertising all the restaurants in the town. After that a coffee truck showed up; then a truck with free hot chocolate (and a small advertisement on top).

Leif: A diagnostic photograph is now acceptable evidence for a record. Do you feel that you should have had a camera?

Phil: I have two cameras, but I don't have a long enough lens. I know that I couldn't have picked up that bird with the lenses I have.

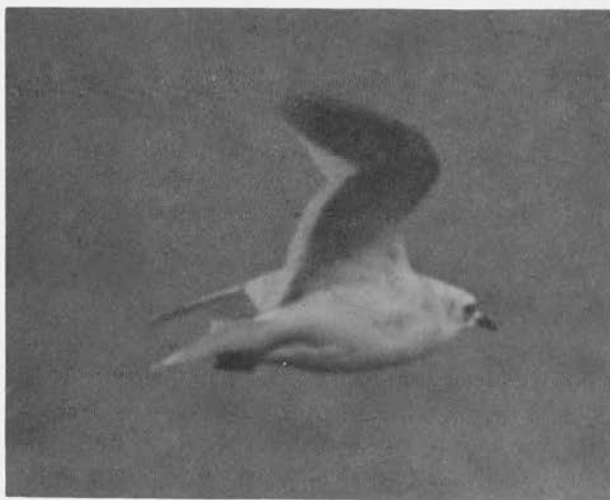
Herm: And the light was poor. You have to be prepared with a camera at all times and very few people are.

Leif: When did you first hear that the Ross' Gull had been independently recovered?

Herm: This happened last Sunday, March 2nd. Phil, John Nove, and I went to the Salisbury parking lot, and Paul Miliotis was standing there. We asked him about the Tufted Duck, and the first thing Paul said was, "There's been a sighting of a Ross' Gull -- some people from Vermont had it. And I confirmed it." The Vermonters, of course, were Walter Ellison and his father.

Then people started saying, "Wasn't that terrible -- wasn't that terrible!" What was terrible? "Well, you weren't even mentioned in the press." Then I went back and read the story, and I was annoyed.

Phil: My feelings are probably about the same. All this week I've been up one day and down the next. You know, this sort of thing goes wild with your emotions.



Above: Ross' Gull, photo by Richard Forster,
Massachusetts Audubon Society.

Upper right: Herman Weissberg, Manchester

Lower right: Philip Parsons, Manchester

HAIRY WOODPECKERS IN WESTON

Leif J. Robinson, Wellesley

The December, 1974, issue of American Birds contains the "Blue List" for 1975. This compilation calls attention to species "declining in numbers whether in restricted areas or throughout (ornithological North America). The Hairy Woodpecker was "Provisionally added to the list on the basis of opinions of three reporters in Florida and the Central Southern Region. No mention elsewhere. To be watched."

Since last April I have kept records of all birds seen during field trips throughout Weston, Massachusetts. These data can yield the number of woodpeckers encountered per hour, providing a basis for future comparison. During 28 trips from April 7, 1974, to February 16, 1975, a total of 9 Hairy Woodpeckers and 87 Downy Woodpeckers was recorded.

Since no Hairy Woodpeckers were found between June 22nd and September 18th, only autumn, winter and spring data were considered initially. On the average, 2.35 Downy Woodpeckers were sighted per hour and only 0.33 Hairy, a ratio of 7.1 to 1. Averaged throughout the year, Downy Woodpecker sightings remain virtually constant at 2.46 per hour, but the Hairy sightings fall to 0.14, a ratio of 17.6 to 1. Interestingly, though as many as 12 Downy Woodpeckers were recorded on a single trip, I never found more than 1 Hairy.

Therefore, my recent experience indicates that few, if any, Hairy Woodpeckers remain as breeding birds in Weston. This finding is at variance with Charlotte E. Smith's An Annotated List of the Birds of Weston, Massachusetts (1952), where the Hairy Woodpecker is described as a "Regular permanent resident." However, my result is consistent with the historical status of this species in eastern Massachusetts:

1895 H. D. Minot, The Land-Birds and Game-Birds of New England. "(Hairy Woodpeckers) rarely breed in eastern Massachusetts, and are not even common in winter. The constant decrease of woodland in this part of the State has caused them in a great measure to desert it."

1901 R. H. Howe and G. M. Allen, The Birds of Massachusetts. "Cambridge: Uncommon winter visitant." "Dedham: 'Rare.'" "Wellesley: 'A regular and usually scarce fall and winter visitant, rarely a summer resident.'"

1906 W. Brewster, The Birds of the Cambridge Region of Massachusetts. "The Hairy Woodpecker may be found in the Cambridge Region from October to April ... it is never really common." Brewster cites the nesting dates as April 22 to May 5.

1929 E. H. Forbush, Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States. "As winter approaches many Hairy Woodpeckers leave their forested breeding grounds and appear in orchards and villages and in parts of southeastern Massachusetts where they are almost unknown in summer." Egg dates: April 22 to May 30.

1949 L. Griscom, The Birds of Concord. "Formerly a common resident, steadily declining with the wrecking of the woodlands. Now rare and local, unmated birds often seen wandering about in the breeding season."

1955 L. Griscom and D. E. Snyder, The Birds of Massachusetts. "Common resident in the richer and more extensive woods of the interior, rare to uncommon eastward ... sometimes found in towns and cities (has nested in Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, for decades)."

1955 W. Bailey, Birds in Massachusetts. "An uncommon permanent resident in most regions of the state. It is essentially a bird of the heavily wooded areas and is decidedly uncommon, often rare, along the coastal plain. During the coldest months it often moves nearer to suburban areas."

In conclusion, it appears that the status of the Hairy Woodpecker in Weston has not undergone any dramatic change during the past 80 years.

POSTSCRIPT: In preparing this article, I checked Bird Observer for records of Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers. There were none! To me this situation appears to reflect a general apathy among birders toward "common" species. One should not anticipate today which records will be of interest tomorrow.

L. J. R.

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THE BIRD OBSERVER SUMMARY FOR NOVEMBER 1974

Unseasonably high temperatures characterized the first week of November, and, in general, the temperature averaged 3-4° above normal throughout the month, with the only periods of cold weather occurring on the 21st-22nd and during the last five days of the month. Precipitation, in the form of rain only, fell on the 4th, during a northeasterly storm on the 7th-9th, and during the week of the 11th. The total rainfall for the month was very close to normal.

Large numbers of northern oceanic species were swept into Cape Cod Bay following a north-easterly rainstorm during a four-day period starting on the 7th. Observers at traditional lookouts such as Sandy Neck, Barnstable and First Encounter Beach, Eastham witnessed, among other species, 17 Leach's Storm-Petrels, 1 Northern Fulmar, 3 Manx Shearwaters and 1800+ Gannets.

Three Little Blue Herons lingered into November, one bird until the 24th at Martha's Vineyard, while a Cattle Egret was reported from Bridgewater on the 23rd. A flock of 9 Whistling Swans flew by Manomet Point on the 19th, constituting the only record for this species in our area in the fall, and the single Snow Goose present on Plum Island was unique for the month. Typical wintering populations of waterfowl built up during November, as is illustrated by 30 Redhead and 60 Canvasback at Falmouth, 493 Bufflehead off Revere Beach, European Wigeons at Cohasset and E. Orleans, and 700 American Wigeon at Concord (although a greater portion of these may represent migrants). Several surprisingly high counts of sea ducks were received; noteworthy being 4000+ Common Eider at Eastham (perhaps blown into the bay by the storm of the previous two days), a staggering 15,000+ White-winged Scoters apparently feeding on the shoals south-southwest of Monomoy on November 28th, and 1800+ Red-breasted Mergansers in Duxbury Bay on the 17th.

Rough-legged Hawk has recovered from its virtual absence last year with at least 8 birds reported, and a roughly "normal" total of 14 Red-tails was reported. Totals for Goshawk, Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawk were 1, 4 and 3, respectively. At least 3 Bald Eagles, all immatures, were reported, and the Gyrfalcon remained on Monomoy until at least the 14th.

Shorebird counts of note included a total of 17 Semipalmated Plovers, the last one seen on the 17th, 600 Purple Sandpipers at Scituate on the 2nd, Marbled Godwits at Plum Island and Chatham, and a Spotted Sandpiper in Cambridge on the 2nd. Although several Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported early in the month, not one report of Western Sandpiper was received for November. Sanderling at Revere Beach this month totaled only 400, somewhat less than half the number of birds that wintered there last year.

In addition to the oceanic species previously mentioned, the following birds were also carried close to the shore by the storm of the 7th-9th: 50+ Red Phalaropes, 3 Pomarine and 20+ unidentified Jaegers (mostly immatures), an absolute minimum of 1000+ Dovekies, 20 Razorbills, 3 Black Guillemots (a rare bird south of the rocky shores of Cape Ann), and at least 400 Kittiwakes. One species which has been particularly numerous this fall is the Common Puffin. The 6 individuals reported this month, 2-3 during the aforementioned storm, bring to a total of 9 the birds recorded this fall on the coast of Massachusetts alone. Normally, 1-3 birds during a fall would represent a maximum count.

The populations of Black-headed Gull at Boston Harbor and Newburyport built up to 24 and 10, respectively, and 6 additional birds were reported from the Cape. A count of 6 Laughing Gulls at Nauset probably consisted of lingering breeding birds from Monomoy. Snowy Owls numbered 8+ in the state by the end of the month, with the maximum, as usual, in the Newburyport-Salisbury area.

A late Ruby-throated Hummingbird was seen in Waban on the 12th. Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported from Newton and Dover, and a total of 5 Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were found, possibly indicating a failure of northern food supply.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of the month's birdlife was the retarded departure of many passerines. It seems senseless to list all of these birds, but 3 Great-crested Flycatchers were certainly one of the highlights. In addition, 20 species of warbler lingered into the month, a White-eyed Vireo was banded at Manomet, and 65 Chipping, 2-3 Clay-colored and 1 Lark Sparrow remained on the Cape. Undoubtedly, the presence of these birds in November can be directly attributed to the prevailing high temperatures, particularly during the first two weeks of the month. Note that there were very few, if any,

reports of late lingering warblers, especially after the cold snap in the third week of the month.

Following the reports of last fall, 2 Brewer's Blackbirds were again reported, one at Truro and one on Monomoy, on the 1st and 14th respectively. It would seem that this species is indeed a regular fall vagrant to the Northeast and should be looked for carefully in future years.

The only "winter finches" reported, except for Evening Grosbeak, were scattered individuals, although a large flock of 1000 Snow Buntings spent the first week of the month at Salisbury, after which the flock dwindled to 200 and moved to Plum Island.

R.R.V.

Common Loon:			
8	Barnstable (S.N.)	48	W.Petersen
Red-throated Loon:			
8,23	Barnstable(S.N.),Chatham	331,200+	W.Petersen,B.Nikula#
Red-necked Grebe:			
9	Eastham(First Encounter)	10	C.Goodrich#
17	Rockport	3	R.Veit & R.Stymeist
Horned Grebe:			
1,16;23	Wollaston Beach;Westport	56,60;16	W.Cornwell;BBC(R.O'Hara)
Pied-billed Grebe:			
thr.,30	Cambridge(F.P.),Harwich	5-6,21	R.Stymeist#,CCBC(Baines)
<u>Northern Fulmar:</u>			
10	Eastham(First Encounter)	1	V.Laux,J.Harris,C.Goodrich,B.Nikula
Greater Shearwater:			
8	Eastham(First Encounter)	1	W.Bailey#
<u>Manx Shearwater:</u>			
9	Barnstable(S.N.)	3	R.Pease#
Leach's Storm-Petrel:			
8,9	Barnstable(S.N.)	<u>17</u> ,10	V.Laux#,W.Petersen#
Gannet:			
8,9	Rockport,Cape Cod Bay	200/hr.,1800+	R.Emery#,R.Veit#
Great Cormorant:			
2,10	Scituate,N.Scituate	100,45	SSBC(J.Nichols),W.Cornwell
Double-crested Cormorant:			
3,4	Newburyport,Manomet	3,3	J.Berry,B.Sorrie
29	East Boston	1	R.Stymeist,J.Quigley
Great Blue Heron:			
19,30	Oak Bluffs(M.V.),Chatham	19,6	M.Hancock,CCBC(Baines)
Little Blue Heron:			
12,17	Rowley,Wellfleet(WBWS)	1 imm.,1 imm.	D.C.Alexander,W.Bailey#
24	Martha's Vineyard	1	K.Anderson
Cattle Egret:			
23	Bridgewater	1	F.Reed,A.Bouchard,D.Wood
Snowy Egret:			
4&5,4-16	Squantum,P.I.	1,1-2	W.Cornwell,BBC(N.King)#
Black-crowned Night Heron:			
2,10	Ipswich	4,1 imm.	J.Berry
10,11	P.I.,Squantum	1 ad.,5	B.Sorrie,E.Morrier
American Bittern:			
9,30	Eastham,W.Gloucester	1,1	BBC(A.Tait),W.Petersen#
11-23	P.I.	1	v.o.
Whistling Swan:			
19	Manomet	9	S.Parsons & S.Wachman
Canada Goose:			
thr.	Ipswich	300+	J.Berry
9,29	Concord(GMNWR),Duxbury	350,750+	BBC(E.Taylor),W.Petersen
Brant:			
1,9,24	Cohasset,Eastham,Manomet	50,40+,23	G.Wilson,R.Veit#,J.Loughlin
Snow Goose:			
4-25	P.I.	1 ad.	R.Emery#
Mallard:			
16	W.Boylston	62	B.Blodget
Black Duck:			
2,17	P.I.,Revere	2000,780+	BBC(V.Albee),R.Stymeist#

Gadwall:				
9,16&17	Concord(GMNWR),Ipswich	25,150+		BBC(E.Taylor),J.Berry
Pintail:				
9,23	Concord(GMNWR),P.I.	20,100		BBC(E.Taylor),R.Emery#
Green-winged Teal:				
9,24&25	Concord(GMNWR),P.T.	100+,350		BBC(E.Taylor),v.o.
Blue-winged Teal:				
2,9	P.I.,Concord(GMNWR)	3,2		BBC(V.Albee),BBC(E.Taylor)
European Wigeon:				
17,10-30	Cohasset,E.Orleans	1,1		E.Morrier,v.o.
American Wigeon:				
9;3-10,22	Concord;Ipswich	700;50+,147		BBC(E.Taylor);J.Berry,D.Alexander
16	Belmont	39		R.Stymeist
Northern Shoveler:				
23	P.I.	46		R.Emery#
Wood Duck:				
9,16	Concord(GMNWR),Boylston	4,1 m.		BBC(E.Taylor),B.Blodget
Redhead:				
10,17	Falmouth	13,30		P.Garrey,B.Nikula
Ring-necked Duck:				
thr.,10	Cambridge(F.P.),Braintree	10-34,21		R.Stymeist & v.o.,W.Petersen
Canvasback:				
2-31,10	Cambridge(F.P.),Falmouth	1-30,60		R.Stymeist,P.Garrey
16,23	Braintree,Westport	40,40		E.Morrier,R.O'Hara
Greater Scaup:				
2	Cambridge(F.P.),Newburyport	73,6		R.Stymeist,BBC(V.Albee)
Lesser Scaup:				
16,29	Winthrop,Cambridge(F.P.)	2,4		R.Veit#,R.Stymeist
Common Goldeneye:				
13,16	Cambridge(F.P.),Sterling	1 imm.,18		S.Raabe,B.Blodget
23	Medford	1		BBC(D.Weaver)
Bufflehead:				
3,19	Newburyport,Revere-Winthrop	140+,493		J.Berry,BBC(R.Stymeist)
Oldsquaw:				
10,21	Rockport,Nantucket Sound	52,250+		M&A Argue,R.Veit
Common Eider:				
9	Eastham	4000+		R.Veit,T.Lawrence,S.Perkins
19	Winthrop	950		BBC(R.Stymeist)
King Eider:				
4 on,19	Manomet,Rockport	1 m.,3 f.		G.Soucy,M.Gardler
17 on	Winthrop	3 m.,2 f.		R.Veit & R.Stymeist#
White-winged Scoter:				
28	Nantucket Sound	<u>15,000+</u>		R.Veit
Surf Scoter:				
28	Nantucket	75+		R.Veit
Black Scoter:				
17,28	Winthrop,Nantucket Sound	10,750+		BBC(R.Stymeist),R.Veit
Ruddy Duck:				
2,16	P.I.	25,20		BBC(V.Albee,N.King)
3,23	Eastham,Braintree	26,66		W.Petersen
Hooded Merganser:				
thr.	9 localities	98 individuals		v.o.
Common Merganser:				
9-23,23	Stoneham,Braintree	7,12		J.Andrews,W.Petersen
16	Sterling & Worcester,Dana	16&17,20		B.Blodget,J.Clancy
Red-breasted Merganser:				
17	Duxbury Bay	1800+		W.Petersen
Goshawk:				
16	P.I.	1		B.Sorrie
Sharp-shinned Hawk:				
7,8	Manomet,Martha's Vineyard	1 b.,1		M.B.O.Staff,G.Ben David
15,13-24	Dover,Manomet	1,1		F.Hamlen,F.Gardner
Cooper's Hawk:				
2,3,9	P.I.,Eastham,Concord(GMNWR)	1,1,1		J.Kellogg#,R.Forster,BBC(E.Taylor)
Red-tailed Hawk:				
thr.	7 localities	14 individuals		v.o.
Rough-legged Hawk:				
3-28,28	5 localities,Tuckernuck Is.	singles,3 21		v.o.,R.Veit

Bald Eagle:			
4	Chappaquiddick Is. (M.V.)	2	E. Phelan
7,10	Middleboro, Newburyport	1 imm., 1 imm.	D. Briggs, R. Forster#
23	Duxbury	1 imm.	W. Petersen
Eagle (species ?):			
24	Truro	1	B. Nikula
Marsh Hawk:			
thr.	5 localities	12 individuals	v.o.
Osprey:			
8,10	N. Tisbury (M.V.), Braintree	1,1	G. Ben David, W. Petersen
<u>Gyr Falcon:</u>			
14	Monomoy	1	W. Bailey#
Merlin:			
thr.	7 localities	8 individuals	v.o.
American Kestrel:			
11,23	Squantum, P.I.	5,3	E. Morrier, D. Alexander
Bobwhite:			
thr.; 16	S. Dennis, Manomet; E. Milton	23, 22 b.; 12	Holdridges, M.B.O. Staff; D. Brown
Virginia Rail:			
2	W. Harwich	5 calling	S. Higginbotham
Common Gallinule:			
10,30	P.I., Chatham	1,1	BBC (C. Simmons), CCBC (Baines)
American Coot:			
9,16-17	Concord (GMNWR), Ipswich	100, 50+	BBC (E. Taylor), J. Berry
23	Woburn (Horn Pond)	50	BBC (D. Weaver)
Semipalmated Plover:			
2	Duxbury, Scituate	3, 10	W. Petersen, SSBC (J. Nichols)
3,10	P.I., Provincetown	1, 2	R. Emery#, R. Bailey
17	Gay Head (M.V.)	1	M. Hancock
Killdeer:			
thr.	6 localities	18 individuals	v.o.
Black-bellied Plover:			
2	Scituate, P.I.	50, 20	SSBC (J. Nichols), BBC (V. Albee)
3,30	P.I., Winthrop	50, 26	Argues, R. Stymeist
Ruddy Turnstone:			
8,17,27	Dennis, Winthrop, Centreville	2, 18, 14	B. Nikula, BBC (R. Stymeist), V. Laux
American Woodcock:			
1,3	Boston, Felix Neck (M.V.)	1,1	R. Stymeist, G. Ben David
10;16	West Newbury, Ipswich	1;1	L. Robinson, R. Stymeist; J. Berry
Common Snipe:			
2-24	5 localities	8 individuals	v.o.
Spotted Sandpiper:			
2	Cambridge (F.P.)	1	R. Stymeist
Willet:			
3 on	Eastham (Nauset Beach)	1	R. Forster, W. Petersen#
Greater Yellowlegs:			
2	P.I., Scituate	10, 10	BBC (V. Albee), SSBC (J. Nichols)
17	E. Boston	2	N. Claflin
Lesser Yellowlegs:			
3,12	P.I., W. Harwich	20+, 1	J. Berry, B. Nikula
Red Knot:			
17,25	Winthrop, P.I.	71, 4	BBC (R. Stymeist), M. McClellan
Purple Sandpiper:			
2,22	Scituate, Gloucester	600, 50+	SSBC (J. Nichols), D. Alexander#
Pectoral Sandpiper:			
9,10	Concord (GMNWR), Truro	1,1	BBC (E. Taylor), J. Clancy
White-rumped Sandpiper:			
3	Eastham (Nauset), P.I.	1, 2	W. Petersen#, J. Berry
4,5	P.I.	4, 7	S&J Harrison
Dunlin:			
2,17	Duxbury	1800+, 2000+	W. Petersen
3,23	P.I., Newburyport	2000+, 200	M&A Argue#, D. Alexander
Long-billed Dowitcher:			
3	P.I.	2	M. Argue#
Semipalmated Sandpiper:			
2	Duxbury	10	W. Petersen
2	P.I., Scituate	10, 10	BBC (V. Albee), SSBC (J. Nichols)

<u>Marbled Godwit:</u>			
3,23	P.I., Chatham(North Beach)	1,1	G.Wilson, C.Goodrich#
<u>Hudsonian Godwit:</u>			
4,10	P.I.	9,1	M.McClellan, R.Forster
<u>Sanderling:</u>			
8,17	Dennis, Revere	300+, 400	Holdridges, R.Stymeist
<u>Red Phalarope:</u>			
8	Barnstable(S.N.)	6	W.Petersen
9	Eastham(First Encounter)	50	C.Goodrich & W.Bailey
<u>Pomarine Jaeger:</u>			
9;12	Eastham; Wellfleet	1;2+	W.Bailey, C.Goodrich; J.Harris#
8	Eastham(First Encounter)	20+	R.Veit, B.Nikula, C.Goodrich#
<u>Glaucous Gull:</u>			
9	Barnstable(S.N.), Provincetown	1,1	W.Petersen#, H.D'Entremont#
22	Gloucester(E.P.Niles Pond)	1,1	D.Alexander & R.Emery
<u>Iceland Gull:</u>			
8,14	Barnstable(S.N.), Gloucester	1,3	J.Murphy#, M.McClellan
<u>Ring-billed Gull:</u>			
2,17	Worcester, Revere	1,150	B.Blodget, R.Veit#
<u>Black-headed Gull:</u>			
thr.	Newburyport	2-10	v.o.
thr.	Winthrop-East Boston	3-5	R.Veit, R.Stymeist
10,23-31	Wellfleet, Nauset	4,2	J.Clancy, B.Nikula#
24	Boston Harbor	24	D.Brown
<u>Bonaparte's Gull:</u>			
8,16	Barnstable, Newburyport	78,70+	W.Petersen#, BBC(N.King)
17,30	Lynn, Hull	225+, 24	R.Stymeist#, R.Fox
<u>Laughing Gull:</u>			
5&6,17	Manomet, Nauset	1 ad., 6	B.Sorrie, C.Goodrich
23	Bourne(Scusset Beach)	1	W.Petersen
<u>Little Gull:</u>			
2;12	Duxbury; Barnstable	1 ad.; 1 imm., 1 ad.	W.Petersen; R.Veit, R.Pease
17,30	Nauset, Ipswich	3,1 ad.	fide B.Nikula, W.Petersen#
<u>Black-legged Kittiwake:</u>			
8	Barnstable, Rockport	50,25(1 hr.)	R.Forster#, H.D'Entremont#
9,29	Eastham, Duxbury	400,5	W.Bailey, W.Petersen
<u>Common Tern:</u>			
3,9;30	Truro; Nantasket	60,25;1	W.Petersen#, H.D'Entremont#; R.Fox
<u>Razor-billed Auk:</u>			
3;3,9	Truro; Eastham	3;1,20	W.Petersen#; W.Petersen#, v.o.
8	Barnstable	1	R.Forster#
<u>Dovekie:</u>			
8,12	Barnstable(S.N.), Rockport	500,60-70	H.D'Entremont, N.Claflin# & v.o.
9	Eastham(First Encounter)	1000(500 in 1 hr.)	W.Bailey
14,12	Monomoy, Lowell	500,1	W.Bailey, E.Delger
17,29	Winthrop, Duxbury	1,1	R.Veit, W.Petersen#
<u>Black Guillemot:</u>			
9	Barnstable, Eastham, Wellfleet	1,1,1	V.Laux#, P.Donahue#, H.D'Entremont#
10;14	N.Scituate; Monomoy, Rockport	2;1,1	D.Brown#; W.Bailey#, M.McClellan#
<u>Common Puffin:</u>			
9-10	Eastham(First Encounter)	2-3	J.Harris, C.Goodrich & v.o.
11,12	Sandwich, Rockport	1,1	R.Pease, N.Claflin & P.Butler#
14	Monomoy	1	W.Bailey#
<u>Orange-fronted Parakeet:</u>			
1-25	Newburyport	1	G.Soucy and v.o.
<u>Barn Owl:</u>			
thr.	Boston(Long Island)	1	W.Cornwell
<u>Screech Owl:</u>			
17	Rockport	1	J.Murphy#
<u>Great Horned Owl:</u>			
10;16	P.I.; Belmont, E.Milton	1;1,2	S.Raabe#; N.Harris, D.Brown#
<u>Snowy Owl:</u>			
2-30	Salisbury, P.I.	2-3,2-5	G.Soucy# & v.o., J.Kellogg# & v.o.
19,22,28	Worcester, Nahant, Bridgewater	1,1,1	B.Blodget, N.Karl#, L.Resmini & v.o.
<u>Barred Owl:</u>			
5,30	Sandwich, Boxford	1,1	R.Pease, W.Petersen#

Short-eared Owl:				
thr;2-30	Plymouth,P.I.	1,1		M.B.O.Staff,BBC(V.Albee) & v.o.
13,24	Buzzards Bay, Rowley	1,1		B.Sorrie#,R.Emery#
Saw-whet Owl:				
7,20	Manomet, Bedford	1 b.,1		M.B.O.Staff,P.Wade
23-24	P.I.	1		R&D Hale# & v.o.
<u>Ruby-throated Hummingbird:</u>				
12	Waban	1		D.Wells
Belted Kingfisher:				
17-30	5 localities	singles		v.o.
Common Flicker:				
3-21	6 localities	8 individuals		v.o.
<u>Red-bellied Woodpecker:</u>				
19	Beverly	1		Mrs.N.Soucy
Red-headed Woodpecker:				
17,18	Newton,Dover	1,1		D.Christiello,F.Hamlen
<u>Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:</u>				
2	P.I.	1		BBC(V.Albee)
<u>Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker:</u>				
3,5	Chatham,Brewster	1,1		H.Rich & v.o.,fide R.Forster
15,16,17	N.Andover,Stoneham,Newton	1,1,1		fide J.Kellogg,J.Andrews.D.Howard
Western Kingbird:				
10,24	Wellfleet,Manomet	1,1		V.Laux#&v.o.,B.Sorrie#
29-30	Nantucket	1		Craig Jackson
<u>Great-crested Flycatcher:</u>				
9-17,16	S.Wellfleet,P.I.	1,1		W.Bailey# & v.o.,BBC(N.King)
23	Martha's Vineyard	1		P.Rabinowitz
Eastern Phoebe:				
2	Worcester	1		C.Quinlan
Horned Lark:				
2-30,10	Salisbury,Provincetown	12-75+,200		J.Berry & v.o.,R.Bailey
Tree Swallow:				
3,7	W.Tisbury(M.V.),Newburyport	100,1		S.Whiting,E.Taylor
14	Plymouth	6		T.Lloyd-Evans
21(latest)	Squantum	1		G.Wilson
Barn Swallow:				
14,16	Manomet,Chatham	8,2		F.Gardner#,V.Laux# & v.o.
17(late)	Gloucester	1		H.D'Entremont#
Tufted Titmouse:				
thr.	Cambridge(F.P.)	9-10		L.Robinson# & v.o.
White-breasted Nuthatch:				
16	Weston	8		L.Robinson
Red-breasted Nuthatch:				
16,17	Cambridge(Mt.A.),Ipswich	3,1		R.Stymeist,J.Berry
30	Newburyport	1		BBC(I.Giriunas)
Brown Creeper:				
8	Boston(Long Island)	6		W.Cornwell
Winter Wren:				
2	Marshfield,Needham,Worcester	1,1,1		J.Nichols#,E.Cushman#,C.Quinlan
9,19,28	Duxbury,Manomet,Melrose	2,4,1		W.Petersen#,B.Sorrie,J.Andrews
Carolina Wren:				
thr.,2	Manomet,Worcester	2,1		B.Sorrie,C.Quinlan
23,25	Westport,Waltham	4,1		R.O'Hara,B.Lassie
Long-billed Marsh Wren:				
thr.	Marshfield(North River marshes)	3		T.Lloyd-Evans#
Gray Catbird:				
2;25	Ipswich,Needham;Manomet	1,1;1		J.Berry,BBC(E.Cushman);B.Sorrie
3,23	Belmont,Westport	1,2		BBC(L.DeGiacomo),BBC(R.O'Hara)
Brown Thrasher:				
3,12	Cambridge(Mt.A.),Manomet	1,1 b.		BBC(C.Marks),M.B.O.Staff
American Robin:				
3	Cambridge(Mt.A.)	100+		BBC(C.Marks) & v.o.
Wood Thrush:				
27	Middlesex Fells	1		H.Payson
Hermit Thrush:				
28	Marion,Ipswich	1,1		G.Mock,J.Berry

<u>Eastern Bluebird:</u>			
3,4	Sherborn,W.Tisbury(M.V.)	10,4	E.Taylor,S.Whiting
23	Chilmark(M.V.)	4	S.Whiting
<u>Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:</u>			
1,6	Manomet	1 b.,2	M.B.O.Staff
<u>Golden-crowned Kinglet:</u>			
16	Weston	27	L.Robinson
<u>Ruby-crowned Kinglet:</u>			
10	N.Scituate,P.I.	1,1	W.Cornwell#,R.Forster
<u>Water Pipit:</u>			
2,3	P.I.,W.Tisbury(M.V.)	5,50	BBC(V.Albee),S.Whiting
<u>Cedar Waxwing:</u>			
24,29	Weston,Brookline	7,5	L.Robinson,S.Maloney
<u>Northern Shrike:</u>			
9,13	Wellfleet,Manomet	1,1 b.	W.Bailey#,M.B.O.Staff
18,23	Andover,Woburn	1,1	fide J.Kellogg,BBC(D.Weaver)
30	P.I.	1	G.Soucy# & v.o.
<u>Loggerhead Shrike:</u>			
17	Ipswich-Essex	1(no details rec'd.)	G.Soucy#
<u>White-eyed Vireo:</u>			
25	Manomet	1 b.	M.B.O.Staff
<u>Red-eyed Vireo:</u>			
3,10,18	Orleans,Mattpoisett,Manomet	1,1,1 b.	C.Goodrich#,G.Mock,M.B.O.Staff
<u>Black-and-white Warbler:</u>			
10	Wellfleet	1	V.Laux & v.o.
<u>Tennessee Warbler:</u>			
3,4,28	Truro,Cambridge,Wellesley	1,1,1	W.Petersen#,S.Raabe,L.Robinson
<u>Orange-crowned Warbler:</u>			
2;3	Duxbury,Orleans;Eastham	1,1;1	W.Petersen#,C.Goodrich;R.Forster
7,17	Manomet,Falmouth	1 b.,1	M.B.O.Staff,B.Nikula
<u>Nashville Warbler:</u>			
2	Manomet	1 b.	M.B.O.Staff
3	Truro (well seen & excellent details)	1	W.Petersen
<u>Parula Warbler:</u>			
1	W.Tisbury(M.V.)	1	S.Whiting
<u>Yellow Warbler:</u>			
8	Vineyard Haven(M.V.)	1	E.Rogers
<u>Magnolia Warbler:</u>			
3	P.I.	1	S&J Harrison
<u>Cape May Warbler:</u>			
11	Manomet	1 b.	M.B.O.Staff
<u>Yellow-rumped Warbler:</u>			
2	Ipswich,Scituate	24,50	J.Berry,J.Nichols#
10,30	Cambridge,P.I.	2,50	S.Raabe,BBC(I.Giriunas)
<u>Black-throated Green Warbler:</u>			
2	Duxbury	1	W.Petersen
<u>Chestnut-sided Warbler:</u>			
2,4	Truro,Cambridge	1,1	B.Nikula#,S.Raabe#
<u>Bay-breasted Warbler:</u>			
17	Braintree	1	D.Brown
<u>Blackpoll Warbler:</u>			
4,10	Cambridge,N.Plymouth	2,1	S.Raabe,B.Sorrie
<u>Pine Warbler:</u>			
3	Chatham	1	W.Petersen
<u>Palm Warbler:</u>			
3-11,10-16	Salisbury,Rockport	1,1	M&A Argue#&v.o.,R.Emery#&v.o.
17,25	Chilmark(M.V.),P.I.	1,1	M.Hancock,D.Alexander#
<u>Northern Waterthrush:</u>			
23	Nahant	1	N.Karl
<u>Common Yellowthroat:</u>			
2,10	Worcester,N.Plymouth	2,1	C.Quinlan,B.Sorrie
11	Squantum,Salisbury	1,1	E.Morrier,M.McClellan
<u>Yellow-breasted Chat:</u>			
thr.,1&5	Methuen,Manomet	1,2 b.	D.Kelleher,M.B.O.Staff
2,28	Orleans,W.Acton	1,1	C.Goodrich,D.Verger
<u>Wilson's Warbler:</u>			
27	Middlesex Fells	1	H.Payson

American Redstart:			
6&7	Manomet	2 b.	M.B.O.Staff
Eastern Meadowlark:			
3,11	W.Tisbury(M.V.),Salisbury	10,2	S.Whiting,M.McClellan
17	Lynn	2	BBC(R.Stymeist)
Redwinged Blackbird:			
10	S.Dennis	1	B.Holdridge
<u>Northern Oriole:</u>			
1,30	Reading,Burlington	1,1	C.Smith,N.Connors
Rusty Blackbird:			
2,10	Needham,Ipswich	11,3	BBC(E.Cushman),J.Berry
<u>Brewer's Blackbird:</u>			
1,14	Truro,Monomoy	1 f.,1	W.Bailey#,W.Bailey#
<u>Western Tanager:</u>			
21 on	Annisquam	1	I.Donnan & v.o.
<u>Rose-breasted Grosbeak:</u>			
9	Wellfleet(WBWS)	1	BBC(A.Tait)
<u>Black-headed Grosbeak:</u>			
2 on	Worcester	1 ad.	C.Quinlan,B.Blodget & v.o.
Indigo Bunting:			
3	Truro	1	W.Petersen#
Dickcissel:			
9&10,13&16	Truro,Rutland	1,1	R.Veit# & v.o.,Klunk
Evening Grosbeak:			
2,3	P.I.,Boston(Pru.)	3,1	BBC(V.Albee),S&J Harrison
3 on,3	Byfield,N.Tisbury(M.V.)	12-75,15	T.Joyce# & v.o.,A.Woodruff
Purple Finch:			
3	Belmont,Cambridge	4,1	BBC(L.DeGiacomo),BBC(C.Marks)
30	Newburyport	1	BBC(I.Giriunas)
House Finch:			
thr.,6,17	Cambridge,Dennis,Rockport	16,55,10	R.Stymeist,R.Pease,J.Murphy
<u>Pine Grosbeak:</u>			
9	Rockport	1 f.	R&D Hale
<u>Common Redpoll:</u>			
10	N.Scituate	1	D.Brown
Pine Siskin:			
3,17	Truro,Orleans	1,2	W.Petersen#,CCBC(Baines)
<u>White-winged Crossbill:</u>			
10	Cambridge	3	S.Raabe
Rufous-sided Towhee:			
2&3	Scituate,Princeton	2,1	SSBC(J.Nichols),B.Blodget#
12,15	Waban,Manomet	1,1 b.	D.Wells,M.B.O.Staff
Savannah Sparrow:			
2	P.I.,Scituate	2,10	BBC(V.Albee),SSBC(J.Nichols)
25,29	P.I.,Duxbury(both Ipswich type)	2,2	M.McClellan,W.Petersen
<u>Grasshopper Sparrow:</u>			
1,14	Truro,Manomet	1,1 b.	W.Bailey#,M.B.O.Staff
Vesper Sparrow:			
3	W.Tisbury(M.V.)	1	S.Whiting
<u>Lark Sparrow:</u>			
2	Chatham(North Beach)	1	C.Goodrich,B.Nikula
Dark-eyed Junco:			
2	P.I.	50	BBC(V.Albee)
Tree Sparrow:			
1,2	Squantum,Truro	1,15-20	W.Cornwell,J.Clancy
Chipping Sparrow:			
9,16	Truro,P.I.	65+,1	R.Veit#,BBC(N.King)
<u>Clay-colored Sparrow:</u>			
1&3,17	Truro,Falmouth	1&1,1	W.Bailey & R.Forster,B.Nikula
Field Sparrow:			
10,28	N.Plymouth,Wellesley	26,1	B.Sorrie,L.Robinson
White-crowned Sparrow:			
2&16;17	P.I.;Rockport	2&1;1	BBC(V.Albee,N.King);R.Stymeist#
Fox Sparrow:			
4-30	6 localities	8 individuals	v.o.
Swamp Sparrow:			
2	Worcester	10	B.Blodget#

Lapland Longspur:			
2,3	Duxbury, P.I.	150,26	SSBC(J.Nichols),R.Forster#
Snow Bunting:			
thr.,2	Sandwich,Salisbury	250+,1000	R.Pease,BBC(V.Albee)
5,11,16	Holden,Squantum,P.I.	14,7,200	B.Blodget,E.Morrier,D.Brown

BIRDS OF AUSTRALIA, by Michael Morcombe, Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1974, \$7.95.

This colorful book which has been out in Australia for several years is now available in the United States. It has superb color photographs of about 80 species, many taken by electronic flash as fast as 1/7000 of a second.

With so many birds illustrated with their wings in all sorts of contortions, it is hard to visualize what some of them really look like. The selection of species emphasizes colorful birds to the exclusion of thornbills, grass-wrens, sandpipers and the like. In a book aimed at beginners, non-birders, and tourists, this is to be expected.

Michael Morcombe and the publishers should be congratulated on producing one of the first books of bird photographs free from glaring misidentifications. The text is minimal, perhaps too short. Readers contemplating a trip to Australia will find this book whetting their appetite even more.

Those of you who already own Wild Australia, by Michael Morcombe, (Taplinger Press, New York, 1972, \$7.95) will be most disturbed to find that many of the plates are exactly the same in both books and that you are paying twice for more of the same.

Peter Alden

"Weather or Not"

Nancy Claflin wrote to Don Kent early in January to find out why our sunsets had been so intense. He said that the clear air was a result of strong winds at high levels and an absence of stable air masses over the United States for six weeks. Upper winds had been blowing at twice the normal speed at all levels. Our high-pressure areas have been coming at us from the west and southwest and not from the northwest as is usual. The highs and lows have been racing past so that we seem to get rain or rain and snow every other day with sun in between.

Could this strong west-east pattern of winds explain some of the specialties seen in January: Varied Thrush, Northern Three-toed Woodpecker; Black Backed Three-toed Woodpecker and Black Headed Grosbeak in New England and the Mountain Bluebird in New York?

P. B.



NORTHERN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER

Photo by Bruce A. Sorrie, February 1, 1975 - Harvard, Massachusetts

THE BIRD OBSERVER SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER 1974

December was a mild month with temperatures near or above normal. A northeasterly storm on December 2-3 blew in 3000 Black-legged Kittiwake at Andrew's Point, Rockport, and on the 3rd at First Encounter Beach, Eastham, 3 Northern Fulmar, a very late Sooty Shearwater, 2 Pomarine and 18 Parasitic Jaeger as well as 2 Common Puffin were observed. The only snow fell on Christmas Day.

A total of 196 species plus 2 additional subspecies (Oregon Junco, Ipswich Sparrow) were observed during the month. Most of the records come from the Seventy-fifth Christmas Bird Count (CBC). A number of interesting records were compiled during the three-week period; among them Blue-winged Teal, Merlin, Least Sandpiper, Common Murre, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Loggerhead Shrike, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Black-headed Grosbeak, 2 Grasshopper Sparrow and Vesper Sparrow.

Other highlights were the return of the White Pelican at Harwich on the 21st, where it remained through the end of the month. A Black Vulture was well-documented at Manomet on the 18th. Also of note were Little Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Harlequin Duck, 13 King Eider, Gyr Falcon, Common Gallinule, Willet, Long-billed Dowitcher, Western Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Varied Thrush, Water Pipit, Bohemian Waxwing and a Western Tanager.

Christmas Count totals reflect a substantial increase in Tufted Titmouse, Mockingbird and Cardinal. See chart.

	Tufted Titmouse		Mockingbird		Cardinal	
	1973	1974	1973	1974	1973	1974
Greater Boston	65	180	38	104	56	77
Buzzards Bay	25	570	62	62	81	97
Concord	251	409	64	77	140	127
Cape Ann	100	134	15	28	99	94

Following is a list of the counts submitted to us this year and the compiler of the count.

December 14	Buzzards Bay	Richard Harlow
December 15	Concord	Peter Alden
	Greater Boston	Robert Stymeist
December 21	Plymouth	Bruce Sorrie
	Quincy	Ruth and Sibley Higginbotham
December 22	Cape Ann	Sarah Ingalls
	Newburyport	Donald Alexander
December 28	Marshfield	Rosella Ames
	New Bedford	Josephine Fernandez
	Martha's Vineyard	Elizabeth Goodale
December 29	Cape Cod	Wallace Bailey
	Nantucket	Clinton and Edith Andrews

We extend our thanks to all who contributed to Bird Observer records in 1974 and look forward to your continued support in 1975.

R.H.S.

Common Loon:

21	Quincy, Boylston	18,1	CBC, F. McMenemy
22,29	Cape Ann, Cape Cod	40,51	CBC

Red-throated Loon:

15,29	Greater Boston, Cape Cod	5,19	CBC
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Red-necked Grebe:

9;21	Gloucester; Quincy, Manomet	2;1,11	M. McClellan; CBC
22-25,28	Boylston, N. Scituate	3-1,1	B. Blodget# & v.o., CBC

Horned Grebe:

14,15	Buzzards Bay, Greater Boston	174,25	CBC
21	Quincy, Plymouth	73,32	CBC
22	Cape Ann, Newburyport	57,9(low)	CBC
28	New Bedford	83	CBC

<u>Pied-billed Grebe:</u>			
14,15	Buzzards Bay, Greater Boston	43,17	CBC
21,29	Plymouth, Cape Cod	13,90	CBC
<u>Northern Fulmar:</u>			
3	Eastham (First Encounter)	3	C. Goodrich
<u>Sooty Shearwater:</u>			
3	Eastham (First Encounter)	1	C. Goodrich, W. Bailey
<u>White Pelican:</u>			
21-31	W. Harwich	1	H. Smith# & v.o.
<u>Gannet:</u>			
2,28	Rockport, P.I.	5,1	M&A Argue, BBC (G. Soucy)
<u>Great Cormorant:</u>			
14,15	Buzzards Bay, Greater Boston	59,104	CBC
21,22	Quincy, Cape Ann	458,163	CBC
28	New Bedford	24	CBC
<u>Double-crested Cormorant:</u>			
21,29	Hingham, Orleans	1,1	CBC
<u>Great Blue Heron:</u>			
14	Buzzards Bay	57	CBC
15	Greater Boston, Concord	3,2	CBC
19,21	Lancaster, Plymouth	1,17	R. Kongorski, CBC
28,29	New Bedford, Cape Cod	3,48	CBC
<u>Little Blue Heron:</u>			
thr.	Eastham, S. Wellfleet	1 imm.	W. Petersen, R. Forster, W. Bailey#
<u>Snowy Egret:</u>			
thr.	Eastham	1	W. Petersen# & v.o.
<u>Black-crowned Night Heron:</u>			
7,21	Ipswich, Quincy	1,52	J. Berry, CBC
28,29	Marshfield, Cape Cod	8,8	CBC
<u>American Bittern:</u>			
1,28	Squantum, Duxbury	1,1	BBC (L. Robinson), CBC
22,29	P.I., Eastham	1,4	CBC
<u>Mute Swan:</u>			
14,28	Buzzards Bay, New Bedford	54,10	CBC
<u>Canada Goose:</u>			
14	Buzzards Bay	808	CBC
22,29	Newburyport, Cape Cod	2224,4579	CBC
<u>Brant:</u>			
21	Plymouth, Quincy	100,48	CBC
28,29	Marshfield, Cape Cod	600,1329	CBC
<u>Snow Goose:</u>			
8,14	P.I., Buzzards Bay	2,1	C. Jackson, CBC
15	Greater Boston	1	CBC (Quigley)
<u>Mallard:</u>			
15	Greater Boston, Concord	1580,349	CBC
21,29	Quincy, Cape Cod	415,358	CBC
<u>Black Duck:</u>			
14;15	Buzzards Bay; Boston, Concord	1009;3134,269	CBC
21	Quincy, Plymouth	4381,1333	CBC
22	Cape Ann, Newburyport	3607,5654	CBC
28,29	Duxbury, Cape Cod	1386,3607	CBC
<u>Gadwall:</u>			
6,12	Worcester, P.I.	2,25	B. Blodget, D. Alexander
15	Concord, Ipswich	40,12	CBC, G. Soucy#
<u>Pintail:</u>			
15,21,22	Concord, Plymouth, P.I.	4,3,200	CBC
<u>Green-winged Teal:</u>			
15	Greater Boston, Concord	11,4	CBC
22,29	P.I., Cape Cod	80,42	CBC
<u>Blue-winged Teal:</u>			
15	Concord	1	CBC
<u>European Wigeon:</u>			
thr.	Cohasset, Orleans	1,1	v.o.
<u>American Wigeon:</u>			
15	Greater Boston, Concord	67,12	CBC
21	Plymouth	21	CBC

Northern Shoveler:			
15	Greater Boston, Concord	3,1	CBC
22	Newburyport	12	CBC
Wood Duck:			
1,14	Orleans, Buzzards Bay	5,1	W. Petersen#, CBC
21,28	Plymouth, Martha's Vineyard	1,20	CBC
29	Cape Cod	1	CBC
Redhead:			
1-18,14	Cambridge, Buzzards Bay	2,54	R. Stymeist# & v.o., CBC
21-29,21	Boylston, Plymouth	1-2,1	D.C. Crompton#, CBC
28,29	Martha's Vineyard, Cape Cod	5,6	CBC
Ring-necked Duck:			
14,15	Buzzards Bay, Cambridge	154,34	CBC
Canvasback:			
1,8	Eastham, Brewster	14,200	W. Petersen, B. Nikula
14,15	Buzzards Bay, Boston	493,44	CBC
Greater Scaup:			
14,15	Buzzards Bay, Greater Boston	1083,3724	CBC
21,22	Quincy, Newburyport	9558,850	CBC
Lesser Scaup:			
7,14	Lakeville, Buzzards Bay	3,20	BBC (E. Athearn), CBC
15,22	Greater Boston, Sterling	4,10	CBC, B. Blodget
Common Goldeneye:			
14,15	Buzzards Bay, Greater Boston	715,226	CBC
22	Newburyport, Cape Ann	706,562	CBC
28,29	New Bedford, Cape Cod	420,717	CBC
Barrow's Goldeneye:			
thr.,14	Orleans, Winthrop	1-3,2	W. Petersen# & v.o., D. Brown#
15	Newburyport, W. Newbury	1,2	S&J Harrison, M&A Argue
21,22	Plymouth, Newburyport	2,4	CBC
Bufflehead:			
14	Squantum, Buzzards Bay	500,1219	BBC (L. Robinson), CBC
22	Cape Ann, Newburyport	324,655	CBC
28,29	New Bedford, Cape Cod	412,953	CBC
Oldsquaw:			
14,15	Buzzards Bay, Winthrop	147,5	CBC
22	Newburyport	77	CBC
<u>Harlequin Duck:</u>			
9	Magnolia	1	J. McLean#
Common Eider:			
1,14	Squantum, Buzzards Bay	5000,109	L. Robinson, CBC
21	Quincy; Duxbury Bay	7410;20,000	CBC; W. Petersen#
22,29	Cape Ann, Cape Cod	460,878	CBC
King Eider:			
thr.	Winthrop	1-5	R. Stymeist# & v.o.
14,21	Buzzards Bay, Hull	1,1	CBC
22,27	P.I.	4,2	CBC, A. Horn#
White-winged Scoter:			
14,21	Buzzards Bay, Quincy	273,705	CBC
28	New Bedford	988	CBC
Surf Scoter:			
14,28	Buzzards Bay, New Bedford	67,479	CBC
Black Scoter:			
14,15	Buzzards Bay, Greater Boston	3,18	CBC
21,28	Cohasset, New Bedford	3,165	CBC
Ruddy Duck:			
14,15	Buzzards Bay, Greater Boston	18,21	CBC
Hooded Merganser:			
14,15	Buzzards Bay, Greater Boston	15,10	CBC
15,21	Concord, Plymouth	27,30	CBC
Common Merganser:			
3,6	Worcester, Holden	6,7	B. Blodget, Klunks
8,14	Gloucester, Buzzards Bay	10,69	BBC (E. Fyburn), CBC
15	Auburn, Concord	30,68	L. Jenkins#, CBC
21,22	Plymouth, Newburyport	220,40	CBC
29	Cape Cod	<u>1083</u>	CBC

Red-breasted Merganser:			
14,21	Buzzards Bay, Quincy	1959,1005	CBC
22,28	Cape Ann, New Bedford	289,72	CBC
28	Martha's Vineyard	1316	CBC
Black Vulture:			
18	Manomet	1	B.Harrington, N.Houghton
	(description accepted fide B.A.Sorrie)		
Goshawk:			
thr.,1	Edgartown(M.V.), Lincoln	1,1	G.Ben David, M.Montgomery
12,15	Bourne, Newburyport	1 imm.,1	B.Sorrie, P.Parsons
28	Martha's Vineyard	2	CBC
Sharp-shinned Hawk:			
4,12-21	Edgartown(M.V.), Bourne	1,1	fide S.Whiting, B.Sorrie
22	Ipswich, Sterling	1,1	CBC, B.Blodget
28,29	New Bedford, Cape Cod	1,1	CBC
Cooper's Hawk:			
22,25	Newburyport, Marshfield	1,1	CBC, B.Cassie
28,29	New Bedford, Cape Cod	1,2	CBC
Red-tailed Hawk:			
15	Greater Boston, Concord	13,34	CBC
22	Newburyport	13	CBC
28	Marshfield, Martha's Vineyard	3,19	CBC
Red-shouldered Hawk:			
15,29	Topsfield, Nantucket	1,1	G.Soucy, S.Perkins
Rough-legged Hawk:			
thr.	Newburyport area	2-3	v.o.
7,21	Middleboro, Scusset	1,1	BBC(E.Athearn), CBC
28	Martha's Vineyard	8	CBC
Bald Eagle:			
1-20,11	Wellfleet, Cape Pogue(M.V.)	1 imm.,1 imm.	v.o., F.Silva
28	Chilmark(M.V.)	1 imm.	CBC
Marsh Hawk:			
15-21,17	Squantum, Newburyport-P.I.	1-2,7	v.o., N.Claflin#
28,29	Marshfield, Cape Cod	3,10	CBC
28	Martha's Vineyard	24	CBC
Osprey:			
23	Edgartown(M.V.)	1	S.Beach & v.o.
Gyrfalcon:			
thr.	Monomoy	1	v.o.
Peregrine Falcon:			
15,16	P.I., Boston(Charles River, Museum of Science)	1,1	H.Weissberg & P.Parsons, P.Stone
Merlin:			
15	Cambridge(Mt.A.)	1	CBC(R.Stymeist, E.Pearson#)
28	Martha's Vineyard(details rec'd)	1	CBC(E.Goodale)
American Kestrel:			
14;15	Buzzards Bay; Boston, Concord	24;29,12	CBC
21	Quincy, Plymouth	22,15	CBC
22	Cape Ann, Newburyport	9,18	CBC
28	Marshfield, New Bedford	96,33	CBC
28,29	Martha's Vineyard, Cape Cod	20,35	CBC
Ruffed Grouse:			
14;15	Buzzards Bay; Boston, Concord	5;1,17	CBC
21	Quincy, Plymouth	3,16	CBC
22	Newburyport, Cape Ann	6,3	CBC
Bobwhite:			
14,21	Buzzards Bay, Quincy	106,30	CBC
28	Martha's Vineyard	76	CBC
28,29	Marshfield, Cape Cod	30,126	CBC
Clapper Rail:			
14,21	Wareham, Cohasset	1,1	CBC
29	Eastham	1	CBC
Virginia Rail:			
14,15	Buzzards Bay, Concord	3,5	CBC
21	Quincy	2	CBC
28	Marshfield, Martha's Vineyard	12,3	CBC
Sora:			
28,29	Marshfield, Eastham	2,1	CBC

<u>Common Gallinule:</u>			
1-26	Chatham(from Nov.)	1	L.Mayo & v.o.
<u>Common Coot:</u>			
14	Buzzards Bay	42	CBC
15	Greater Boston,Concord	104,43	CBC
22,29	Sterling,Cape Cod	22,181	B.Blodget,CBC
<u>Killdeer:</u>			
11;15	Milton;Boston,Concord	4;3,4	M.Stakinger;CBC
22	Newburyport	9	CBC
28	New Bedford,Martha's Vineyard	14,8	CBC
<u>Black-bellied Plover:</u>			
12	Chappaquiddick Is.(M.V.)	7	T.Baird#
15	Greater Boston	27	CBC
28,29	Marshfield,Cape Cod	9,30	CBC
<u>Ruddy Turnstone:</u>			
1,8	Rockport,N.Scituate	4,3	G.Soucy#,SSBC(B.Smyth)
15,21	Greater Boston, Quincy	39,5	CBC
28	New Bedford	7	CBC
<u>American Woodcock:</u>			
10,21,22	Manomet,Brookline,Cape Ann	1,1,8	B.Sorrie,C.Hammond,CBC
<u>Common Snipe:</u>			
14,15	Buzzards Bay,Concord	13,6	CBC
21,22	Plymouth,Newburyport	11,3	CBC
<u>Willet:</u>			
1-7	Nauset	1	v.o.
<u>Greater Yellowlegs:</u>			
14,28	Buzzards Bay,Marshfield	1,4	CBC
29-31	Orleans	1	v.o.
<u>Red Knot:</u>			
15	Winthrop	9	CBC(D.Finch#)
<u>Purple Sandpiper:</u>			
8,14	N.Scituate,Buzzards Bay	100,3	SSBC(B.Smyth),CBC
15,21	Greater Boston,Quincy	520,157	CBC
22	Newburyport,Cape Ann	15,90	CBC
<u>Least Sandpiper:</u>			
14	W.Falmouth(Buzzards Bay) (full details received)	1	CBC(P.Donahue,R.Stymeist,R.Veit)
<u>Dunlin:</u>			
8,15	Cohasset,Greater Boston	280,166	SSBC(B.Smyth),CBC
21,28	Quincy,New Bedford	925,202	CBC
29	Cape Cod	1256	CBC
<u>Long-billed Dowitcher:</u>			
1-7	Nauset	1	v.o.
<u>Semipalmated Sandpiper:</u>			
7,21,24	Chatham,W.Harwich,Barnstable	2,6,1	B.Nikula#
<u>Western Sandpiper:</u>			
1-7	Nauset	1	v.o.,fide B.Nikula
<u>Marbled Godwit:</u>			
7	North Beach,Chatham	1	C.Goodrich,B.Nikula
<u>Sanderling:</u>			
14,15	Buzzards Bay,Greater Boston	32,322	CBC
21;29	Quincy,Plymouth;Cape Cod	60,85;263	CBC
<u>Pomarine Jaeger:</u>			
3	Eastham(First Encounter)	2	C.Goodrich#
<u>Parasitic Jaeger:</u>			
3	Eastham(First Encounter)	18	C.Goodrich
<u>Glaucous Gull:</u>			
22	Newburyport,Cape Ann	1,3	CBC
27,28	Gloucester,Marshfield	3,1	A.Horn#,CBC
<u>Iceland Gull:</u>			
thr.,1,29	Gloucester,Eastham,Orleans	1-17,1,1	v.o.,R.Forster#,CBC
<u>Great Black-backed Gull:</u>			
1,22	Tuckernuck Is.,Cape Ann	8000+,1979	R.Veit,CBC
29	Cape Cod	504(1206 in 1973)	CBC
<u>Herring Gull:</u>			
1;22	Tuckernuck Is.;Cape Ann	12,000+;9035	R.Veit;CBC
29	Cape Cod	4837(9338 in 1973)	CBC

Ring-billed Gull:			
15,21	Greater Boston, Quincy	208,295	CBC
29	Cape Cod	339	CBC
Black-headed Gull:			
15,21	Greater Boston, Quincy	4,10	CBC
22,29	Newburyport, Cape Cod	7,3	CBC
<u>Laughing Gull:</u>			
3,15	Manomet, Winthrop	1 ad., 1 ad.	B. Sorrie, CBC (D. Finch#)
Bonaparte's Gull:			
7,9	Ipswich, Manomet	40,52	J. Berry, B. Sorrie
15,21	Greater Boston, Quincy	126,351	CBC
22	Newburyport	180	CBC
28	New Bedford, Martha's Vineyard	171,145	CBC
Little Gull:			
1	Truro	5(4 ad., 1 imm.)	B. Nikula
Black-legged Kittiwake:			
2,29	Rockport, Cape Cod	3000+, 27	M&A Argue, CBC
Razorbill:			
2,21	Rockport, Plymouth	4,1	M&A Argue, CBC
22;29	Cape Ann; Cape Cod, Nantucket	1;7,37	CBC
<u>Common Murre:</u>			
29	Orleans Beach	1	W. Harrington, C. Goodrich
Thick-billed Murre:			
2,26	Rockport, Salisbury	4,1	M&A Argue, B. Cassie
Dovekie:			
2	Rockport, Worcester	275,1	M&A Argue, B. Blodget
22,29	Gloucester, Cape Cod	1,5	CBC
Black Guillemot:			
thr., 12	Rockport, Gloucester	1,2	v.o., D. Alexander
<u>Common Puffin:</u>			
1,3	Sandwich, Eastham	2,2	R. Forster#, C. Goodrich
29	Nauset, Chatham	2,1	M. Gardler, W. Petersen
Ring-necked Parakeet:			
thr., 20	Plymouth, Worcester	2,2	v.o., D. Crompton
Mourning Dove:			
14,15	Buzzards Bay, Concord	329,788	CBC
28,29	Marshfield, Cape Cod	382,475	CBC
Barn Owl:			
thr., 7	Boston, Martha's Vineyard	1,1	v.o., T. Baird
27,28	Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard	1,5	S. Perkins, CBC
Screech Owl:			
thr., 14	Lancaster, Carlisle	1,1	H. Merriman, K. Harte
14;15	Buzzards Bay; Boston, Concord	2;7,3	CBC
21,22	Plymouth, Cape Ann	5,5	CBC
Great Horned Owl:			
thr.	9 localities	20 individuals	v.o.
29	Cape Cod	12	CBC
Snowy Owl:			
thr.	P.I., Squantum	1-7, 1-2	v.o.
thr.	Martha's Vineyard	1-6	v.o.
2,9,11	Nauset, Revere, Rockport	1,1,1	C. Goodrich, D. Johnson, R. Noyes
Barred Owl:			
15	Concord	1	CBC
Long-eared Owl:			
6,15-31	State Forest (M.V.), Newbury	2,1	T. Baird, H. Weissberg# & v.o.
26	State Forest (Nantucket)	1	S. Perkins
29	E. Orleans	3	CBC
Short-eared Owl:			
thr.	Plymouth, Squantum, Bridgewater	1,2-3,3	v.o.
12	Chappaquiddick Is. (M.V.)	2	S. Whiting#
15,28;31	Concord, Marshfield; P.I.	1,2;1	CBC; A. Horn#
Saw-whet Owl:			
29	Nantucket	1	S. Perkins
Belted Kingfisher:			
14,29	Buzzards Bay, Cape Cod	27,33	CBC
Common Flicker:			
14,21	Buzzards Bay, Plymouth	19,13	CBC
22,28	Newburyport, New Bedford	9,11	CBC
29	Cape Cod	62	CBC

Pileated Woodpecker:			
6,15,29	Carlisle, Concord, Lincoln	1,2,3	Mrs. Soforenko, CBC, S. Pelick
<u>Red-bellied Woodpecker:</u>			
30	Nantucket	1	fide E. Andrews
Hairy Woodpecker:			
1	Outer Cape	9	W. Petersen
15	Greater Boston, Concord	39,120	CBC
22,29	Cape Ann, Cape Cod	30,19	CBC
Downy Woodpecker:			
14	Buzzards Bay	36	CBC
15	Greater Boston, Concord	130,293	CBC
21,22	Plymouth, Quincy, Cape Ann	58,84,70	CBC
28	Newburyport, New Bedford	69,43	CBC
<u>Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker:</u>			
16-31,15	Orleans, Concord	1,2	v.o., CBC
Western Kingbird:			
5,7-10	Orleans, Martha's Vineyard	1,1	E. Lund, Cummings
Eastern Phoebe:			
8-15,14	Princeton, Onset	1,1	B. Blodget, CBC (W. Petersen#)
22	Manchester	1	CBC (P. Parsons)
Horned Lark:			
15;29	Boston, Concord; Cape Cod	42,44;114	CBC
Tree Swallow:			
3,24	Chilmark (M.V.), Marshfield	8,1	S. Whiting, B. Cassie
Blue Jay:			
15	Boston, Concord	838,1443	CBC
21	Quincy, Plymouth	338,472	CBC
22	Cape Ann, Newburyport	327,573	CBC
28	New Bedford, Marshfield	222,280	CBC
29	Cape Cod	288	CBC
Common Crow:			
15	Greater Boston, Concord	777,997	CBC
22,29	Cape Ann, Cape Cod	443,409	CBC
Fish Crow:			
8	Brookline	62	R. Stymeist & S. Perkins
29	Jamaica Plain	50	BBC (E. Taylor)
Black-capped Chickadee:			
15	Greater Boston, Concord	845,1994	CBC
21,22	Plymouth, Cape Ann	588,688	CBC
22,28	Newburyport, Martha's Vine.	724,388	CBC
Tufted Titmouse:			
14,15	Buzzards Bay, Concord	570,409	CBC
15,22	Greater Boston, Cape Ann	160,134	CBC
White-breasted Nuthatch:			
15	Greater Boston, Concord	221,382	CBC
12,22	New Bedford, Newburyport	39,76	CBC
Red-breasted Nuthatch:			
15,21	Concord, Plymouth	13,30	CBC
22	Cape Ann, Newburyport	19,4	CBC
28	Marshfield	4	CBC
Brown Creeper:			
15	Greater Boston, Concord	42,48	CBC
22	Cape Ann, Newburyport	12,24	CBC
29	Cape Cod	11	CBC
Winter Wren:			
7-21,14	Worcester, Buzzards Bay	2,6	B. Blodget, CBC
15,21	Melrose, Plymouth	2,15	CBC (H. Keith & V. Albee), CBC
28,29	Marshfield, Chatham	2,1	CBC
Carolina Wren:			
12 on	Attleboro	1 at feeder	D&E Keil
12-31,15	Worcester, Concord	2,3	B. Blodget, CBC
20,21	Waltham, Plymouth	1,5	B. Cassie, CBC
22	Newburyport	1	CBC (P. Martin#)
28,29	New Bedford, Eastham	15,2	CBC
Long-billed Marsh Wren:			
28,29	W. Harwich, Cape Cod	1,2	F. Atwood, CBC

Mockingbird:			
15	Greater Boston, Concord	104,77	CBC
28,29	Marshfield, Cape Cod	54,87	CBC
Gray Catbird:			
thr.,1	Manomet, Outer Cape	2,4	M.B.O. Staff, W. Petersen
14	Buzzards Bay	5	CBC
28,29	New Bedford, Cape Cod	2,3	CBC
Brown Thrasher:			
14,15	Buzzards Bay, Concord	1,1	CBC
28	Marshfield, New Bedford	2,2	CBC
29	Cape Cod	2	CBC
American Robin:			
15	Greater Boston, Concord	52,46	CBC
21,28	Plymouth, New Bedford	37,27	CBC
29	Cape Cod	163	CBC
<u>Varied Thrush:</u>			
12,16 on	Methuen, Athol	1,1	D. Kelleher, S. MacLean# & v.o.
Hermit Thrush:			
14,21	Buzzards Bay, Plymouth	3,6	CBC
28,29	Martha's Vineyard, Orleans	1,2	CBC
Eastern Bluebird:			
15,23	Edgartown, Great Pond (M.V.)	12,3	Darlington, S. Beach
Golden-crowned Kinglet:			
14,21	Buzzards Bay, Plymouth	225,92	CBC
15,29	Concord, Cape Cod	64,136	CBC
Ruby-crowned Kinglet:			
14,29	Buzzards Bay, Cape Cod	7,9	CBC
<u>Water Pipit:</u>			
28	P.I.	1	P. Donahue#
<u>Bohemian Waxwing:</u>			
31	Manomet	1	B. Sorrie#
Cedar Waxwing:			
21,22;28	Plymouth, Newburyport; Orleans	114,52;31	CBC; CCBC (J. Bryant)
Northern Shrike:			
thr.,29	6 localities, Cape Cod	singles,7	v.o., CBC
Loggerhead Shrike:			
29	Brewster (no details rec'd.)	1	CBC (N. Hill)
Starling:			
15;21	Greater Boston; Quincy	83,000;100,000	CBC
Orange-crowned Warbler:			
14	Buzzards Bay	1	CBC
Yellow-rumped Warbler:			
21	Plymouth	400	CBC
22	Cape Ann, Newburyport	148,111	CBC
28,29	Marshfield, Cape Cod	116,1436	CBC
Pine Warbler:			
14,21	Buzzards Bay, W. Plymouth	1,1	CBC
Prairie Warbler:			
28	Martha's Vineyard (no details rec'd.)	1	CBC
Palm Warbler:			
14	Buzzards Bay	2	CBC
28,29	Martha's Vineyard, Eastham	16,9	CBC
Common Yellowthroat:			
6-21,15	Worcester, Saugus	1,1	C. Quinlan, J. Quigley
15,21	Concord, Plymouth	2,1	CBC
28,29	Marshfield, Cape Cod	1,10	CBC
Yellow-breasted Chat:			
thr.	6 localities	16 individuals	v.o.
Eastern Meadowlark:			
28,29	New Bedford, Cape Cod	48,53	CBC
Redwinged Blackbird:			
15,21	Concord, Boston, Plymouth	33,11,22	CBC
14,28	Buzzards Bay, New Bedford	23,40	CBC
Northern Oriole:			
thr.	9 localities	10 individuals	v.o.
Rusty Blackbird:			
1,6	Eastham, Winchester	1,1	W. Petersen, M. McClellan
15,28	Concord, Scituate	5,1	CBC, M&B Litchfield

<u>Common Grackle:</u>			
14	Buzzards Bay	21	CBC
15	Concord, Greater Boston	11,36	CBC
22,28	Cape Ann, New Bedford	13,79	CBC
<u>Brown-headed Cowbird:</u>			
8,15	Ipswich, Concord	150+,86	J. Berry, CBC
22,28	Cape Ann, Marshfield	44,41	CBC
<u>Western Tanager:</u>			
1	Annisquam	1 (from Nov.)	G. Soucy & v.o.
<u>Cardinal:</u>			
15	Boston, Concord	77,127	CBC
21	Quincy, Plymouth	79,44	CBC
14,22	Buzzards Bay, Newburyport	97,54	CBC
28,29	New Bedford, Cape Cod	72,81	CBC
<u>Rose-breasted Grosbeak:</u>			
15	Concord (full details rec'd.)	1	CBC (P. Alden)
<u>Black-headed Grosbeak:</u>			
thr.,15	Worcester, Concord	1,1	C. Quinlan#, CBC
<u>Dickcissel:</u>			
thr.,22	Orleans, Ipswich	1,2	E. Lund#, CBC
<u>Evening Grosbeak:</u>			
1,15	Byfield, Concord	200,269	T. Joyce, CBC
21,22	Plymouth, Newburyport	264,33	CBC
28,29	New Bedford, Cape Cod	207,864	CBC
<u>Purple Finch:</u>			
15	Greater Boston, Concord	39,41	CBC
22,28	Cape Ann, New Bedford	36,75	CBC
<u>House Finch:</u>			
15	Greater Boston, Concord	64,3	CBC
14	Buzzards Bay	123	CBC
21	Plymouth, Quincy	107,138	CBC
28	New Bedford, Martha's Vineyard	100,48	CBC
<u>Common Redpoll:</u>			
1	Martha's Vineyard	1	M. Hancock
22,28	Cape Ann, New Bedford	26,8	CBC
<u>Pine Siskin:</u>			
15,22,28	Concord, Beverly, Brewster	4,1,3	CBC
28	Marshfield, Martha's Vineyard	2,9	CBC
<u>American Goldfinch:</u>			
15	Greater Boston, Concord	388,825	CBC
22	Cape Ann, Newburyport	383,436	CBC
28,29	New Bedford, Cape Cod	165,276	CBC
<u>Red Crossbill:</u>			
15,21	Brookline, Eastham	10,1	CBC (S. Perkins#), C. Goodrich
28	Martha's Vineyard	35	CBC
29	Chatham (North Beach)	8	CBC (C. Goodrich#)
<u>White-winged Crossbill:</u>			
22	P.I.	1	CBC (W. Harrington#)
<u>Rufous-sided Towhee:</u>			
thr.	9 localities	27 individuals	v.o.
<u>Savannah Sparrow (Ipswich):</u>			
21,29	S. Manomet, Cape Cod	15,4	CBC
<u>Savannah Sparrow:</u>			
21,29	Plymouth, Cape Cod	15,47	CBC
<u>Grasshopper Sparrow: (full details on both birds)</u>			
15,21	Winthrop, Cohasset	1,1	CBC (D. Abbott), CBC (S. Higginbotham)
<u>Sharp-tailed Sparrow:</u>			
21,28	Plymouth, Eastham	1,2	CBC, CCBC (J. Bryant)
29	Nauset (Eastham)	1	CBC
<u>Seaside Sparrow:</u>			
1-28,21	Eastham, Plymouth	1-3,3	W. Petersen#, CBC
<u>Vesper Sparrow:</u>			
14	Falmouth	1	CBC (R. Veit#)
<u>Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon):</u>			
14	W. Falmouth	1	CBC (R. Veit#)
<u>Dark-eyed Junco:</u>			
14	Buzzards Bay	243	CBC
15	Concord, Greater Boston	565,585	CBC
21,22	Plymouth, Cape Ann	188,295	CBC

Tree Sparrow:			
15	Greater Boston, Concord	494,527	CBC
21,22	Quincy, Plymouth, Cape Ann	266,212,252	CBC
22	Newburyport	427	CBC
<u>Chipping Sparrow:</u>			
14,15	Buzzards Bay, Cambridge	5,1	CBC, CBC (R. Stymeist#)
28	New Bedford, Marshfield	4,3	CBC
29	Chatham	1	CBC
Field Sparrow:			
14	Buzzards Bay	103	CBC
15	Greater Boston, Concord	48,13	CBC
21,28	Plymouth, New Bedford	33,31	CBC
<u>White-crowned Sparrow:</u>			
28,29	New Bedford, Eastham	7,1	CBC
<u>White-throated Sparrow:</u>			
14	Buzzards Bay	292	CBC
15	Greater Boston, Concord	112,117	CBC
21,29	Plymouth, Cape Cod	308,208	CBC
Fox Sparrow:			
thr.	11 localities	31 individuals	v.o.
Swamp Sparrow:			
14,15	Buzzards Bay, Concord	39,36	CBC
21,28,29	Plymouth, Marshfield, Cape Cod	44,17,24	CBC
Song Sparrow:			
14	Buzzards Bay	252	CBC
15	Greater Boston, Concord	209,128	CBC
21,29	Plymouth, Cape Cod	169,253	CBC
Lapland Longspur:			
15,22	S. Boston, Newburyport	34,39	CBC (D. Brown), CBC
29	Orleans	54	CBC
Snow Bunting:			
7,14	Ipswich, Buzzards Bay	54,34	J. Berry, CBC
21	Plymouth	36	CBC

Abbreviations

ad.	adult	FNWS	Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary, Edgartown, M.V.
b.	banded	GMNWR	Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge
f.	female	M.B.O.	Manomet Bird Observatory
imm.	immature	MNWS	Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary
m.	male	WBWS	Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary
max.	maximum	WMWS	Wachusett Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary
thr.	throughout	A.A.	Arnold Arboretum
unc.	uncommon	E.P.	Eastern Point, Gloucester
v.o.	various observers	F.M.	Fowl Meadow, Milton
yg.	young	Mt.A.	Mt. Auburn Cemetery
#	additional observers	M.V.	Martha's Vineyard
BBC	Brookline Bird Club	P.I.	Plum Island
CBC	Christmas Bird Count	Pru.	Prudential
CCBC	Cape Cod Bird Club	S.N.	Sandy Neck, Barnstable
SSBC	South Shore Bird Club	F.P.	Fresh Pond, Cambridge

Corrigenda

Volume 2, Number 6: Summary for October, 1974

Lapland Longspur			
28	Westport, Salisbury	100;85+	R.O'Hara, R.Veit
		<u>should be</u>	
28	Salisbury	85+	R.Veit
Snow Bunting:			
28	Salisbury	1,000	v.o.
		<u>should be</u>	
28	Salisbury, Westport	1,000;100	v.o., R.O'Hara

THE CONCORD CHRISTMAS COUNT

by Wayne Hanley, M.A.S.

It's hard to believe that fifteen years of suburban growth would not reduce the bird population in an area. Yet a fifteen-year study of trends in the Christmas Counts within the Concord, Mass., district---which includes all or parts of other towns, such as Acton, Stow, Harvard, Littleton, Carlisle, Framingham and Bolton---indicates only minor fluctuations over the years. There have been, of course, bountiful years and poor years on such birds as Evening Grosbeaks and other erratics. But the stay-at-home birds of New England winters apparently have been finding the space to remain.

Peter Alden, who is a staff ornithologist with the Massachusetts Audubon Society, did the analysis. There were ups and downs in the totals. On snowy days there are fewer birds reported, the weather probably affecting the bird counters more than the birds. Also the number of persons counting birds has a correlation with the numbers of birds counted. In the year that 17 observers were afield, the total count was 5160 birds. The year that 64 observers participated, the total count was 38,721 birds.

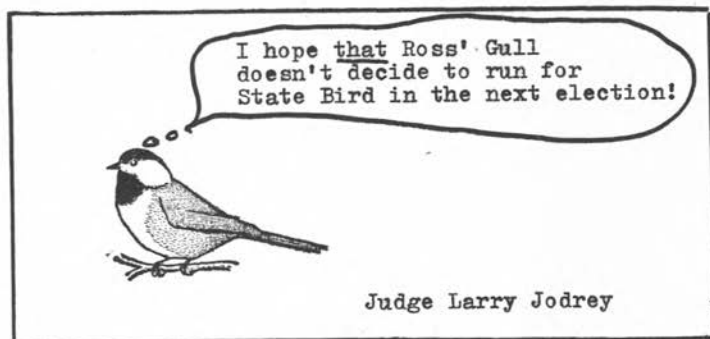
There have been some shifts in the prevalence of certain species. Strangely, the declines seem to be among birds which one might suppose would benefit most from having human neighbors, because these species largely are birds that will visit feeders. "The Blue Jays' overpopulation in 1971 and sudden decline in 1972 are evident in the figures," Alden says. "In fact, several species, such as Blue Jays, Evening Grosbeaks, Purple Finches, Mourning Doves and American Goldfinches may have started a decline from highs in the 1968-1971 period. Only by continued help with censusing can we determine if the decline is temporary.

"The group of birds most poorly represented on counts are woodland owls. Only a minute fraction of those present are ever recorded, and statistics depend more on the whim of people than owls."

Meanwhile, a few unusual birds have appeared in the fifteen-year period within this inland birding area. As Alden asks:

"Do you think Thoreau, Brewster and Griscom in all their years of birding in the Concord area could imagine any of the following birds being present here in winter: Great Cormorant, Mute Swan, Snow Goose, Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, Peregrine Falcon, Sora, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Boreal Chickadee, Wood Thrush, Bohemian Waxwing, Northern Waterthrush, Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Black-headed Grosbeak, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow and Clay-colored Sparrow?"

The Concord count area has had an unusual number of national high counts for a few species---which means that there are more birds of a particular species within a fifteen-mile radius of Concord center than in any other similar circle in America. The species in which national highs have occurred are Goshawks, Blue Jays, Black-capped Chickadees, Hairy Woodpeckers, White-breasted Nuthatches and American Goldfinches.



Judge Larry Jodrey

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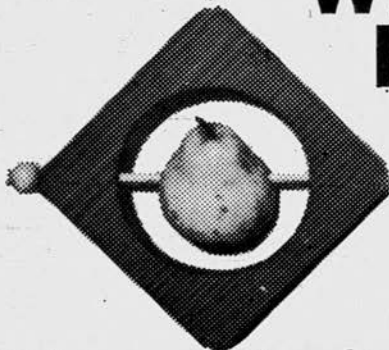
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