

BIRD OBSERVER



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BIRD OBSERVER

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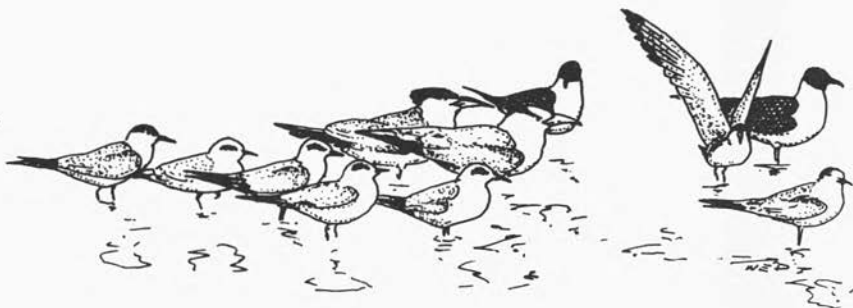
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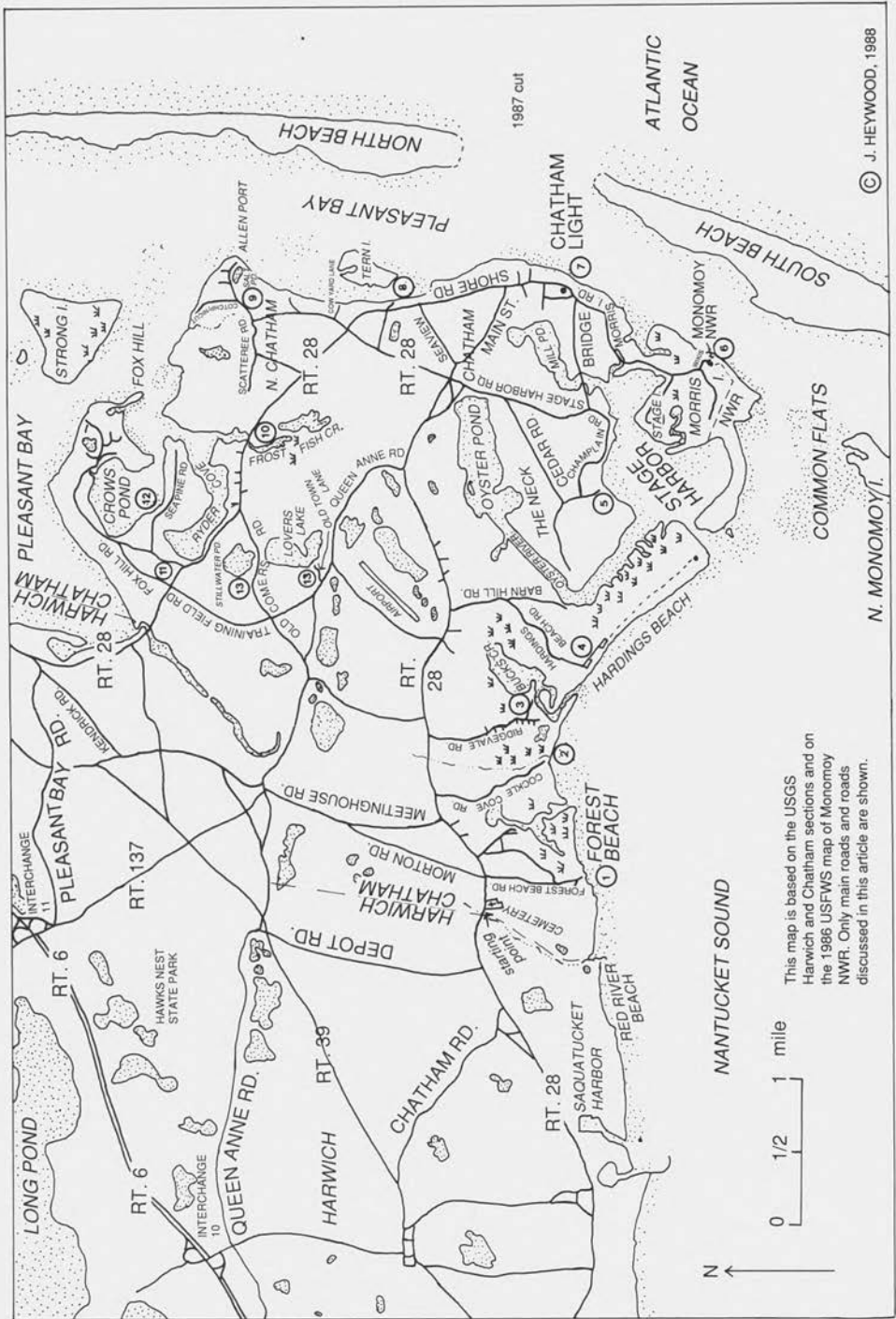
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BIRDING CHATHAM, CAPE COD

by Blair Nikula

The "elbow" of Cape Cod, Chatham, offers the charm of a rural seaside village combined with some superb birding possibilities. The initial impression upon visiting Chatham is of a watery landscape, for the town is bordered on three sides by the sea and is pocked by numerous bays, inlets, and freshwater ponds. The vast expanses of salt water and extensive shoreline attract large numbers of migrant shorebirds and wintering waterfowl. During the fall migration, southbound passerines and raptors become bottle-necked here, and when the winds are northwesterly, some impressive concentrations of birds can result. In the winter the numerous thickets and residential plantings provide berries and shelter for a variety of lingering species that are rare on the mainland of Massachusetts in this season.

Of course, it must be kept in mind that this area is a traditional and very attractive summer residence and tourist area. The Cape traffic on weekends from Memorial Day to Labor Day may make it impossible to visit or to find parking at any of the town landings or public beaches, and a car sticker is required after July 1 to park at the public beaches: for nonresidents, \$5 per day, \$20 per month, and \$45 for the season.

To explore the following areas in sequence, find your way to Route 28 and follow it along the southern side of the Cape (the Nantucket Sound side), driving east from the Harwich-Chatham town line. Chatham Cemetery is located just within the Chatham boundary; and about a quarter of a mile from this point, turn right onto Forest Beach Road, which will lead you to the shore.

Forest Beach (1) is a small barrier beach and salt marsh on Nantucket Sound. It is worth checking in the winter for sea ducks and, during the warmer months, for herons, a few shorebirds --particularly Whimbrels in late summer, and nesting Sharp-tailed Sparrows. Barrow's Goldeneyes, King Eiders, and Harlequin Ducks have all been seen here, though very infrequently. Raptors sometimes use the radio towers as perches, and for the past two years, 1987 and 1988, Ospreys have built a nest on one of the poles.

Cockle Cove (2). Continue east on Route 28 for about three-quarters of a mile, past Route 137, which enters from the left, to the next road on the right, Cockle Cove Road. This cove is another small barrier beach and salt-marsh system on Nantucket Sound. Like Forest Beach, it has wintering sea ducks and at times a few migrant shorebirds and herons.

Ridgevale or Buck's Creek (3). Slightly less than half a mile farther along Route 28 will bring you to Ridgevale Road. Follow this road to the shore, to a sight that will gladden any birdwatcher's heart. Buck's Creek is a charming little

shallow estuary that is primarily of interest in the spring when it attracts herons and shorebirds, particularly yellowlegs and Willets. The estuary is usually less productive during the summer and fall. The best time to check is at low tide (approximately three hours after Boston low tide), when the flats are exposed. On the higher tides, look for herons and roosting shorebirds in the marsh beside the road. For the best vantage point, park along the side of the road near the beginning of Ridgevale Road South, a narrow track that leads off to the left. Walk to the end of the road and out onto the small rise that extends into the marsh.

Hardings Beach (4). About a mile farther along on Route 28, turn right onto Barn Hill Road. After 0.4 mile along this road, bear right onto Hardings Beach Road and follow it to the beach parking lots. This lovely barrier beach extends for a mile and a quarter on Nantucket Sound and is backed by a narrow salt marsh that is rather productive for birding and was in the early nineteenth century an important source of salt marsh hay. During the winter, a walk down the beach will often produce Snow Buntings, Horned Larks, Northern Harriers, occasionally a Lapland Longspur or an "Ipswich" Sparrow, and, more rarely, a Barrow's Goldeneye, Common Black-headed Gull, Short-eared Owl, or Snowy Owl. During the warmer months, watch for shorebirds in the marsh and at the end of the beach as well as for herons, terns, and nesting Sharp-tailed Sparrows or, rarely, Seaside Sparrows. Piping Plovers and Willets nest here, and American Oystercatchers can often be found on the small flats at the entrance to Oyster Creek. Access is by foot from the public parking lot.

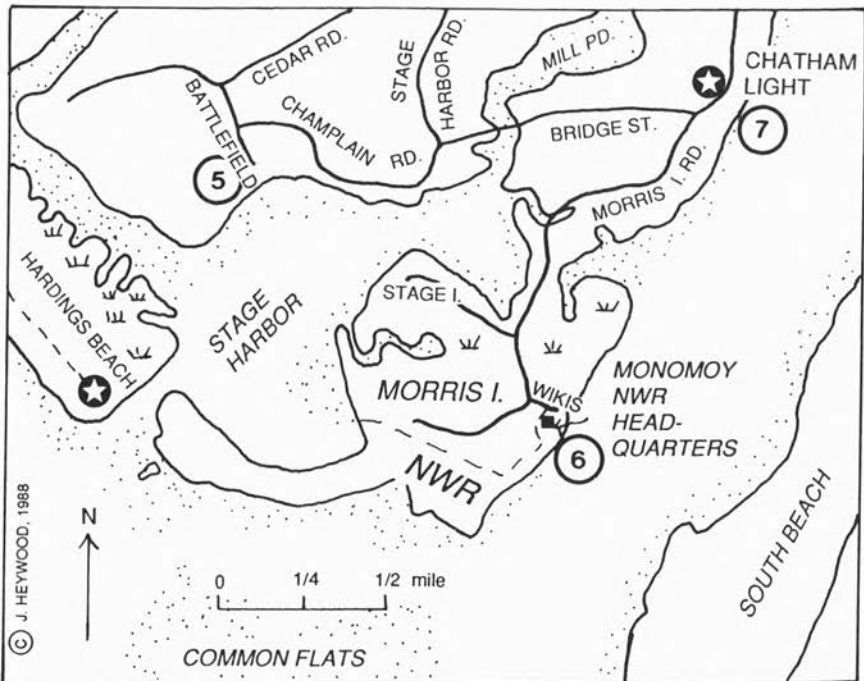
On the way back on Hardings Beach Road, you may wish to turn sharp right (0.7 mile) and follow Barn Hill Road to the town landing on Oyster River. In the 1930s this was a well-known area for oyster marketing, and there are still several old oyster shanties standing on the Oyster River Landing. From this position you can look across the river to what is called The Neck or Stage Harbor Neck. If you look toward Nantucket Sound, Stage Harbor Lighthouse can be seen in the distance, marking the end of Hardings Beach. The term stage refers to the horse-drawn Chatham Stage Coach, which in days past was a link between these areas that are separated by inlets from the sea.

Stage Harbor (5). For those willing to hike a bit, good vantage points for looking over the harbor are the end of Hardings Beach (4) or the end of the beach on Morris Island (see 6 below). Stage Harbor, particularly the outer portion, generally has a good assortment of wintering bay ducks, often including a Barrow's Goldeneye, and in late fall, terns and small gulls, among them occasionally Common Black-headed Gulls or Little Gulls.

To reach another vantage point for viewing Stage Harbor and the next stop on our Chatham birding tour, it is necessary to return to Route 28 from Hardings Beach or Oyster River Landing and proceed east about 1.4 miles. At the

stoplight, bear right onto Queen Anne Road for a short distance. Turn right onto Pond Street. Continue along the edge of Oyster Pond, and you will very quickly reach Stage Harbor Road. Turn right again and after 0.3 mile take the first right onto Cedar Street, which ends after 0.7 mile in Battlefield Road. Here, turn left. After 0.1 mile (when you pass Champlain Road on the left), Battlefield Road becomes a narrow one-lane paved track leading down to a town landing. This is a good vantage point for viewing Stage Harbor, and the light is best in the afternoon. Here you can look across the harbor to Stage Island and Morris Island; both are part of the same island mass. To the right, toward Nantucket Sound, the entrance to Stage Harbor can be seen.

When you travel back on Battlefield Road, in order to see a bit more of the area, turn right onto Champlain Road. A couple of spots along Champlain Road offer less desirable views of Stage Harbor, and it is difficult to pause long unless the road is deserted. Champlain Road ends after 0.8 mile at Stage Harbor Road. Turn right. A distance of 0.7 mile along this will bring you to Bridge Street on the right. Turn here. Within a mile, there is an intersection. Make a sharp right turn here and you will be on Morris Island Road, a turning and curving road which leads to the causeway over to Morris Island and Stage Island and to the Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge (a total distance of 1.2 miles from the Bridge Street turn).



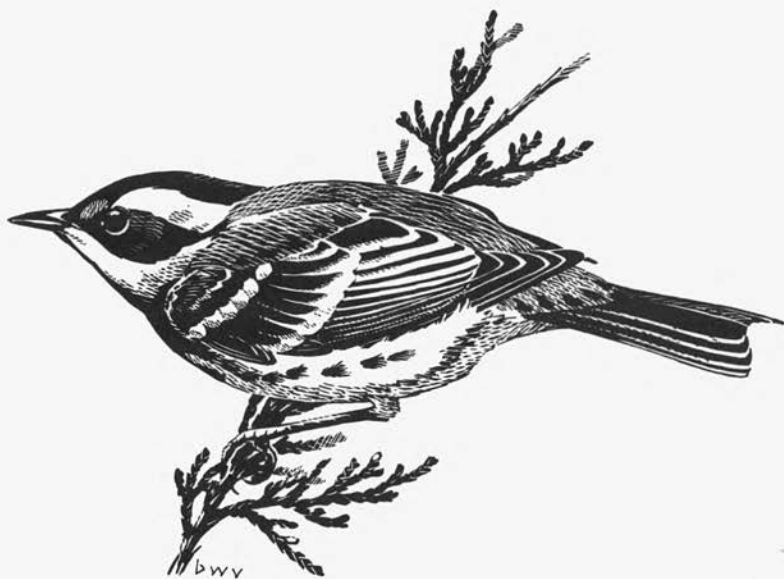
Morris Island (Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge) (6). Morris Island is a small oasis in the southernmost corner of Chatham and offers some of the finest year-round birding on Cape Cod. A large number and variety of birds are usually present in the area at any season. Although most of Morris Island and all of the adjacent Stage Island are privately owned and generally off-limits to visitors, the federal government owns approximately fifty-six acres on the east and south sides of Morris Island, part of the Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge, and public access is permitted in that portion.

When proceeding out Morris Island Road on the causeway, check both sides of the road for egrets, herons, shorebirds, Common and Least terns, and small gulls in season. Falcons, accipiters, and Northern Harriers are frequently seen here during migration and winter. On occasion, a wintering Short-eared Owl courses the marsh at dusk. In the fall, watch for sparrows in the grass and kingbirds on the wires. Small numbers of wintering bay ducks can be seen in Stage Harbor on the west side of the causeway.

At the end of the causeway, Stage Island Road leads off to the right. Formerly one of the premier migratory landbird "traps" in New England, this small island has suffered heavy residential development, and the resultant loss of habitat and increasingly restricted access have eliminated the birding prospects here -- a particularly sad example of what has happened in many portions of Cape Cod.

As you enter Morris Island from the causeway, a sign announces the "End of Town-owned Property." Continue past Stage Island Road on Morris Island Road. Do not be intimidated by several signs in the area announcing "private way," and "residents only." However, this is private property; so do pay attention to the sign that informs visitors that there is no parking on the roads on the island. Access is permitted as far as the first road on the left, Wikis Way, which ends shortly at the Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge headquarters, where limited public parking is available. The parking lot is very small and fills up early in the day during the summer. If the lot is full, return to the causeway, and park on the east side of the road. Either walk back the main road up to the headquarters or walk the sand trail that leads east from the end of the causeway to the beach. There are no public exhibits or rest-room facilities at the headquarters, but the seasonal refuge manager is generally present from April through August, and pamphlets, including a bird-list, are available.

The headquarters lawn offers a fine panorama of the Chatham mainland to the north and of South Beach Island and the Atlantic Ocean to the east. Sharp-eyed observers can scope the distant flats on South Beach where it is often possible to pick out the larger, more conspicuous shorebirds, terns, gulls, and other waterfowl, and occasional seabirds, especially Northern Gannets, over the ocean beyond. During migration, watch for hawks and swallows overhead and



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Black-throated Gray Warbler
September 1987
Morris Island, Chatham

Illustration by Barry W. Van Dusen

over the marsh to the north. Rough-winged Swallows and Belted Kingfishers often nest in the cliff face below.

From behind the headquarters take the trail leading down the stairs and follow the beach to the south end of the island. Monomoy Island beckons from across the deceptively narrow channel to the south (so near, yet so far!), and South Beach Island lies to the east. At low tide, the mud flats in this part of Morris Island often attract a good variety of shorebirds. This in turn attracts migrating Merlins, Sharp-shinned Hawks, Northern Harriers, and Peregrines. The mussel beds are particularly favored by American Oystercatchers, Willets, and Red Knots from spring through early fall, and by Common Eiders and Brant during the winter. Hudsonian and Marbled Godwits are sometimes seen here or feeding in the distance on the north end of Monomoy. From mid-May to late September, Common and Least terns often fish the channels. During the late summer, they are usually joined by a few Roseate Terns. Double-crested Cormorants are routinely sighted from early spring through the fall and are replaced by Great Cormorants during the winter.

Continuing west along the beach, watch for nesting Piping Plovers and Horned Larks in the summer and Snow Buntings and an occasional Lapland Longspur in the winter. The beach eventually ends at the mouth of Stage Harbor, where there are shorebirds and terns in the summer and fall and various small gulls during the late fall and early winter. This is also a good spot from which to check for wintering ducks in Stage Harbor.

On your return from Morris Island keep to the right when you reach Bridge Street (on the left). Travel north on Shore Road to the Chatham Coast Guard Station and park there, facing Pleasant Bay.

Chatham Light (7) is a beautiful vantage point overlooking the lower portion of Pleasant Bay and the newly formed passage that broke through the barrier beach (once known as Great Beach and variously as North Beach or Nauset Beach) in 1987. This inlet of the Atlantic Ocean now separates two long, slender spits of what are currently called North Beach and South Beach (also known as South Beach Island). This interruption of the barrier beach has had a profound effect on the shoreline of lower Pleasant Bay. The inlet is steadily widening (about a mile in width as of June 1988), and watching this process has become a major attraction for visitors and Chatham residents alike. Here one can view the ocean at work altering the coastline and can appreciate the fragile and temporary nature of a barrier beach.

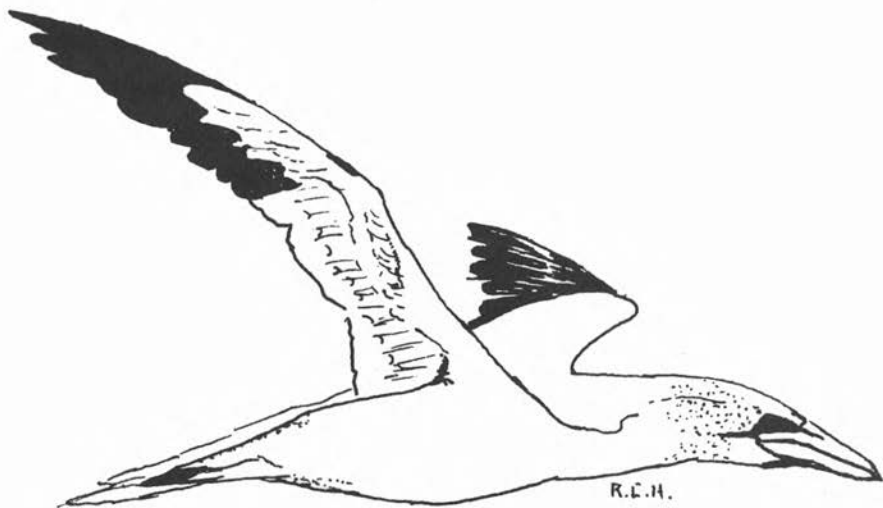
Check the bay for gulls at any season, terns during the warmer months, and waterfowl in the winter. Large flocks of Common Eiders are present here some years. During the early spring and again in the fall, gannets can often be spotted (with the help of a telescope) fishing off the outer beach. On rare occasions, a sharp-eyed observer can pick out a few shearwaters plying the distant horizon.

Chatham Fish Pier (8). From Chatham Light, travel north on Shore Road for just over a mile until you reach the pier. This is worth a quick check in the winter for waterfowl and gulls, including an occasional white-winged gull. The small island directly across from the pier is Tern Island, the former home of a large tern colony until an invasion of rats drove them out.

North Chatham (9). A quarter of a mile farther north on Shore Road, a set of lights marks the intersection with Old Harbor Road, and Shore Road becomes Route 28. There is no sign to indicate that this is Old Harbor Road. But turn right at these lights and visit a quiet neighborhood of lovely waterfront homes. The area offers several vantage points on Pleasant Bay that you can visit in succession: the Cow Yard, the end of Cotchpinicut Road, and the town landing at the end of Scatteree Road. As you travel up Old Harbor Road, watch for Cow Yard Lane (0.2 mile) on the right. Beyond this, 0.4 mile farther, Old Harbor Road ends. Again there is no sign, but this is Scatteree Road. Turn right. In 0.2 mile Cotchpinicut Road enters Scatteree Road from the left. Another 0.2 mile along, Scatteree Road turns left, and at this point there is a sign to prevent you

wandering down a private lane. Follow each road to its end. Each is worth checking during the winter for Great Cormorants, Brant, Common Eiders, goldeneyes (including Barrow's) and other waterfowl. The flats off the end of Cow Yard Lane attract a few shorebirds during migration. Also, small thickets of syringa, honeysuckle, and wild rose are scattered throughout this neighborhood. "Pishing" at any likely-looking spot will often produce a few migrant passerines in the fall or lingering "half-hardies" in the winter.

Frost Fish Creek (10). Make your way back to Route 28 and continue north past the North Chatham Post Office. About a mile from the lights at the Old Harbor Road intersection, a small tidal creek crosses under the road. This is often worth a quick look during the winter. The flock of domestic Mallards and half-breeds on the east side of the road sometimes attracts a wayward Northern Pintail, American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, or Wood Duck during winter freeze-up.



Northern Gannet

Illustration by Robert C. Humphrey

Chathamport (11), the next destination, has extensive waterfront on Pleasant Bay. Onward another half mile on Route 28 from Frost Fish Creek, turn right on Crows Pond Road (or if you miss it, on Fox Hill Road, which Crows Pond Road soon joins). Seapine Road will appear on the left 0.4 mile from the beginning of Crows Pond Road. A quarter of a mile along Seapine Road, there is a dirt pullover area on the left (marked private), where you can park to scan Crows Pond.

Crows Pond (12) is a good spot to look for Barrow's Goldeneye and other bay ducks during the winter. From Seapine Road return to Crows Pond Road and continue on. Just beyond the point where this road joins Fox Hill Road, there is a private golf club on the left and directly across the way is a very obscure track, easily missed, leading to a town landing, another site that overlooks Crows Pond. Continue on Fox Hill Road 0.6 mile farther until you see a sign for Strong Island Road. Turn left and follow Strong Island Road to a town landing at its end. This is an excellent spot for looking over Pleasant Bay. A good variety of bay ducks can be found here in the winter, and this is one of the most reliable places on the Cape to find Barrow's Goldeneye. Check over the islands in the bay (the largest of these is Strong Island) for hunting Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Harriers, and rarely, a Rough-legged Hawk or Bald Eagle.

Lovers Lake and Stillwater Pond (13) attract a good variety of pond ducks during the winter. Of the two localities, Lovers Lake is generally the more productive and easier to check. Canvasbacks, Ring-necked Ducks, scaup, Pied-billed Grebes, and American Coots can usually be found. Lovers Lake is best checked from Old Town Lane, whereas Stillwater Pond can be seen only from a dangerous curve on Old Comers Road. To reach these ponds from the Crows Pond area, follow Fox Hill Road south across Route 28, where it becomes Training Field Road. Stay on this for 1.2 miles and turn left into Old Town Lane (marked private), which leads through a residential area down to the lake. When you come back out this lane, turn right and in half a mile, look for Old Comers Road on the right. A right turn here will take you past Stillwater Pond and back to Route 28.

BLAIR NIKULA, who has contributed many fine articles to this publication, is a regional editor for *American Birds*, leads birding tours at home and abroad, and has been responsible for sighting or confirming many of the rare vagrants observed on Monomoy and Cape Cod. Blair wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Dorothy Arvidson and Rebecca Barber in preparing the travel instructions and checking the route. The map was prepared by Janet Lee Heywood.

NOTES ON A HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER

by Kenneth Winkler

Author's Comment. *There is food for thought in some of the events surrounding the appearance of a rare bird in my front yard: a second look that turned out to be less reliable than a first impression; a moral dilemma over the bird's fate; and an identification confirmed not by specimen or measurements, but by a videotape made with a neighbor's camera. I thought readers of Bird Observer might be interested in this. A detailed account of the bird's identification will appear in a future issue.*

Late in the day on December 19, 1987, an olive gray bird with eye ring and wing bars landed on a branch outside of my kitchen window at 35 Service Drive in Wellesley. That evening I made the following entry in my notebook.

A small bird perched on our feeder tree around 3:40 P.M. For a moment I thought it was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, but it was clearly a flycatcher. I had Janie look at it, and I proclaimed it a phoebe -- I'd seen a phoebe in our yard several weeks before -- despite the conspicuous wing bars and eye ring. I went outside to get a closer look. [The bird] was very still, perching on a small stake, chewing what looked like a piece of crab apple. White wing bars, very distinct. White eye ring, thickest in back, next most in front. White throat. Yellow wash on belly. Dark legs. Light lower mandible, dark upper. Yellow edging [on the secondaries]. It flicked its tail several times, spasmodically. Its wings were still. Its feathers were fluffed up, its head drawn in, its bill pointed slightly upwards. Suddenly it pressed its feathers [against its body], craned its neck, and took off with a Sharp-shinned Hawk in pursuit. They took several turns in the crab apples before the Sharpshin left. The bird then sat in [a] crab apple. I took a photo from eight feet or so, observing the same marks, *as well as whitish edging on the tail* -- this before I had consulted a field guide. [The bird] then flew down to the marsh and gave several soft or liquid *whits*. Back olive in bright light, gray in shadow. An *Empidonax* flycatcher certainly. But which one?

The next morning I found the bird at the edge of the marsh feeding on berries in a stand of *Euonymus*. The bird was now more active, flicking both wings and tail and dashing at berries as if they were flying insects. I began to think that the bird was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet after all. Its bill was small, its tail was not as long as it had seemed the day before, and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet in Massachusetts in winter was, I kept telling myself, far likelier than an *Empidonax*. I continued to notice the light lower mandible and the whitish

edging on the tail, as well as the absence of a dark bar on the wing, but I was now inclined to explain them all away: "Perhaps *this* kinglet has a pale bill and lacks the dark bar; perhaps the edging on the tail is really yellow, and the yellow tint on the inner feathers of the tail is hard to see." As for the unkingletlike deportment of the day before, I put it down to the hardships of the season. This wasn't the first time a bird's identity had dissolved under scrutiny.

On the evening of the nineteenth, before having these second thoughts, I had called several people and told them I was "absolutely certain" there was an *Empidonax* in my yard. I now called them back and told them that the bird was a kinglet. Brian Cassie and Mark Kasprzyk said they wanted to take a look anyway, partly because I was unwilling to retract any of the details in my description of the night before. The lower mandible was undeniably pale, at least in part. There was whitish edging on the tail, confined, it seemed, to the outermost feathers. And there was no dark bar on the wing.

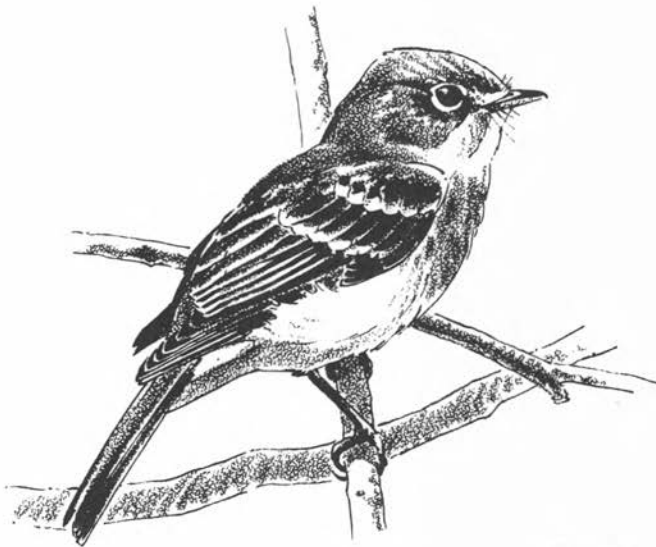
Cassie, Kasprzyk, and I observed the bird at 9:30 on the morning of December 20 and agreed that it was not a kinglet but an *Empidonax*: it was, to begin with, distinctly larger than a nearby chickadee. In order to learn more, we agreed, the bird would have to be captured. We then called Donna Munafo, who came with a butterfly net (at Cassie's request), and Elissa Landre, who arrived ninety minutes later with her mist nets. By that time the bird was ranging widely, and it was far from clear where the nets should be placed. But Landre had also brought along a pond net, and shortly after noon, while I was picking up pizza for lunch, Kasprzyk caught the bird in the net as it flew by.

Kasprzyk and Landre measured the bird in the early afternoon. On the basis of their measurements and our in-hand observations, we identified the bird as a Hammond's Flycatcher (*Empidonax hammondi*), the first for Massachusetts and New England. The identification renewed a question that had been on our minds since early morning. Should the bird be "collected" (that is, killed and preserved as a study skin), or should we set it free? The only real point of agreement was that I, as the bird's discoverer, should make the final decision.

I lost most of a night of sleep trying to make it. I had moral or aesthetic qualms about collecting the bird, but I found it difficult to spell them out. I thought there was something marvelous about the bird's appearance in my yard, and a place in a tray didn't strike me as a fit ending. My thinking had less to do with the sanctity of life than with an observation of Gilbert White: "It is, I find, in zoology as it is in botany: all nature is so full, that that district produces the greatest variety, which is the most examined." White was responding to nature's plenitude, its tendency to realize every possibility. Among the rewards of watching birds are glimpses of this tendency, glimpses in which one and the same event appears utterly amazing and at the same time understandable: ("A Hammond's Flycatcher in *Massachusetts*?" "Well, I suppose western tyrannids

do often drift east in fall.") The Hammond's Flycatcher united improbability with pattern in an especially powerful way, and collecting the bird seemed to me to threaten that.

I was also suspicious of the assumption that all of the weight of science was on the side of taking the specimen. There is often something to be gained from studying a vagrant in the field, and some of what we were later to observe -- its heavy reliance on fruit as a source of food, for example -- was very instructive. On the other hand, there was no particular reason to believe that the bird, once released, would survive to be studied, and there was a lot to be said for collecting it. Collection would do more than settle the question of identity: a specimen, a bird of verifiable identity, can play a role in research that mere "documentation," no matter how rich, cannot. I was able to think of several questions that would, I assumed, go unanswered if we released the bird. Is it a bird of the year? Is it a male or a female? Just how much fruit is in its stomach? I also knew that years later, someone might formulate a question, undreamt of by any of us, that a specimen could help to answer. And it was, I knew, a little too easy to pride myself on saving the bird from the specimen trays. I visit those trays often, and in trying to make sense of this very bird, I was happily relying on the research and the field guides that specimens make possible.



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Hammond's Flycatcher
December 1987
Wellesley, MA

Illustration by Barry W. Van Dusen

By the time we had identified the bird it had lost nearly half of a cold day's feeding. We therefore decided to keep it overnight. The following morning I decided that the bird should be released, but before we let it go, I borrowed a neighbor's videocamera and made a tape of the bird in the hand. On the following day (December 22), I videotaped the bird in the field, capturing its incessant wing-flicking (accompanied at times by flicks of the tail) as well as a series of twenty calls (the *whits* -- or, more accurately, *pits* or *peets* -- I had described three days before in my notebook). I sent copies of the videotape to Stephen F. Bailey, author of the entries on most of the western *Empidonaces* in *The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding* (Farrand 1983, vol. 2, pp. 262-269) and vice-secretary of the California Bird Records Committee; to Ned K. Johnson, professor of zoology at the University of California, Berkeley, and curator in ornithology at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology there, whose monograph on the Hammond's, Dusky, and Gray flycatchers is the most thorough study of their biology (Johnson 1963); and, at the suggestion of Bruce Sorrie, to the Library of Natural Sounds at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

Bailey was the first to respond. In a letter of March 6, 1988, he wrote that the bird

was indeed a Hammond's Flycatcher, no question. That is what I thought it was during my viewing of the hand-held portion of your videotape, and the bird's vigorous and continual wing-flicking strongly reinforced this feeling. But when I heard the calls all doubt was eliminated.

I played the videotape to several other members of the California Bird Records Committee just before our meeting on 30 January.... There was some debate and difference of opinion expressed during the in-hand part. Several thought it might be a Dusky, based on the hand-held views. As soon as they saw the wing-flicking, however, all thought it was probably a Hammond's. Of course, with the first call everyone said okay it's Hammond's for sure, just as I had.

Johnson, in a letter of March 14, 1988, was able not only to identify the bird but to age it.

I viewed the entire tape last evening. It completely confirms the identity of the bird as *Empidonax hammondii*. The tiny dark bill, the sooty gray breast, and the *notched* tail are all clearly evident. The spread primaries also clearly reveal the diagnostic wing formula of Hammond's, in which *three* feathers form the wing tip, rather than four as in *E. oberholseri*. The long wing tip, with the inner primaries being "cut out" (that is, short in relation to those forming the wing tip) was also clearly seen on the tape. Most satisfying was the clear view of the dorsal tips of the rectrices which show them to be

retained juvenile feathers. In other words, your bird was in its first year of life, and was probably in the vicinity of six months old. That vagrant birds are often juveniles or immatures is once again documented by this flycatcher.

Finally, the call notes, evident near the end of the tape, are perfectly typical of *E. hammondii*. These were alarm vocalizations and are those described as "bick" in my 1963 monograph (p. 174). They clinch the case for *hammondii*, not that there was any doubt at that point.

The Library of Natural Sounds at the Laboratory of Ornithology was unable to identify the calls, but they sent an audio recording to Kenn Kaufman, coauthor of a series of articles on the identification of *Empidonax* flycatchers (Whitney and Kaufman 1985, 1986). Kaufman wrote (in a letter of March 30, 1988 to Andrea Priori of the Library of Natural Sounds) that the calls "make a perfect match with my recordings of the callnotes of known Hammond's. This species is one of the more distinctive members of *Empidonax*: the only species in the genus with a fairly similar callnote is Alder Flycatcher, which is quite different in structure and plumage."

Acknowledgments. I want to thank Brian Cassie, Mark Kasprzyk, Elissa Landre, and Donna Munafo. I am especially grateful to Stephen F. Bailey, Ned K. Johnson, Kenn Kaufman, and Andrea Priori for their help in confirming our identification, to Pedro de Rezende for the use of his camera, and to Janie Penn.

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KENNETH WINKLER, an associate professor of philosophy at Wellesley College, has been observing birds for twelve years, and has a way with flycatchers. The porch of his home at 35 Service Drive must be the only one east of the Mississippi on which both Hammond's and Ash-throated flycatchers have perched. His article, "The Waban Arches, Wellesley," in the April 1982 issue of *Bird Observer* (10: 60-64) describes the area where these flycatchers appeared. Ken neglected to mention that throughout the sojourn of the vagrant flycatcher (December 19-29), he generously arranged for a nearly steady stream of birders

to visit his home to view the bird. His tape of the rare bird was also featured by Bruce Schwogler on the local television news.

Editor's Comment: Kudos to Winkler! Seldom has the controversial subject of "collection" of vagrants or rarities been approached with such reasoned comments as Ken presents in this article. His journal notes reveal the meticulous birder at work: Ken observed the bird, noted its fieldmarks, and photographed it -- *"this before I had consulted a field guide"* (italics mine). Furthermore, the episode with the Hammond's has demonstrated the value of the videotape technique as an aid in the identification of rarities and the confirmation of sightings and, circumstances permitting, as an acceptable substitute for a collected specimen. D.R.A.

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WEATHER AND LONG-DISTANCE VAGRANCY IN RED-BILLED TROPICBIRDS

by W. Herbert Wilson

In a recent provocative contribution, Veit (1988) speculated that long-distance vagrancy of Red-billed Tropicbirds is an adaptive trait. I wish to take issue with several of his speculations. I will proceed by first discussing salient aspects of the biology of Red-billed Tropicbirds. Second, I will discuss the nature of long-distance dispersal in birds. Third, I will challenge the assertion of Veit that long-distance vagrancy is "of fundamental importance in the life history of Red-billed Tropicbirds." Lastly, I will present an alternate hypothesis to explain extralimital occurrences of Red-billed Tropicbirds in the northwest Atlantic that I believe is more parsimonious than the hypothesis of active northerly dispersal suggested by Veit.

Red-billed Tropicbirds breed in tropical and subtropical waters of the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian oceans. The population closest to New England breeds in the Virgin Islands. A single egg is laid each year. Nesting occurs in cavities or under overhangs on cliffs that are inaccessible to predators and humans. Breeding pairs form long-term bonds, and pairs exhibit great nest-site fidelity. The oldest known individual was nearly seven years old. Food abundance and the availability of nesting sites seem to limit breeding success. On one of the Galapagos Islands, breeding pairs that cannot find a suitable nesting site wait until successful breeders have fledged their young and then use a vacated nesting cavity. For this Galapagos population, waiting for an available nesting site and breeding at a suboptimal time seem preferable to dispersing in search of new breeding sites. Red-billed Tropicbirds do forage widely in search of food, mainly fish (particularly flying fish) and squid. First-year birds tend to wander more than adults. However, these birds are nearly always associated with tropical and subtropical waters. In the western Atlantic, Red-billed Tropicbirds are regularly found in the Gulf Stream as far north as the Carolinas (Lee et al., 1981; Lee and Irvin, 1983). The occurrence of these individuals, mostly first-year birds, is not associated with storms.

Most long-distance dispersal of birds occurs in response to deteriorating conditions. Well-known examples include the Snowy Owl irruptions into the United States during winters of low lemming abundance in Canada and irruptions of Purple Finches into the southeastern U. S. during winters of low seed abundance in northeastern North America. Dispersal would also be expected from actively increasing colonies where nesting sites are all occupied or food is scarce. Veit (1988) cited Grant (1978) as an example of dispersal during times of plenty. However, this work on voles concerned dispersal on the

order of meters, hardly germane to consideration of dispersal between tropical oceans and the boreal waters of Massachusetts. Furthermore, this vole dispersal occurred in anticipation of deteriorating conditions. Finally, it is well established that young birds are more prone to long-distance vagrancy than adults.

I do not accept Veit's contention that long-distance vagrancy is "of fundamental importance in the life history of Red-billed Tropicbirds." Most life history features, such as number of eggs per clutch or age at first reproduction, can be subjected to a risk/benefit analysis. For instance, a warbler might increase her clutch size from four to five. Such an increase could have the benefit of producing an extra fledgling yet might carry the risk of overtaxing the abilities of the parents to provide food for the young, thus threatening the entire brood. The added physiological stress of finding enough food for an extra nestling might leave the adults in perilously poor condition to attempt migration to tropical wintering grounds. Thus, an investment in increased reproduction in the present year might translate into reduced reproduction during subsequent years. In the process of evolution, natural selection plays the role of arbiter among birds with different life history traits. The life history traits of those birds of a given species that produce the most offspring over their lifetimes will be selected for. If such a risk/benefit analysis is applied to northward long-distance vagrancy in Red-billed Tropicbirds, one is hard pressed to understand how this behavior could be maintained during the course of evolution. The obvious risk of such vagrancy is that migrations are physiologically taxing; there is a finite risk of never finding or returning to suitable breeding habitat.

The benefit is less obvious. Given that Red-billed Tropicbirds are not expanding their ranges northward into the temperate zone, it would seem that in virtually all cases, a northward vagrant would fail to find suitable new breeding habitat and would subsequently attempt to return to tropical waters. The time scale on which such vagrancy would reap benefits (establishment of new breeding populations) must be significantly longer than the typical generation time of these birds. Natural selections would not maintain a behavior that carries a significant risk yearly but offers a benefit only perhaps every thousand years. Because there would be a significant cost each generation (risk of dispersal away from potential nesting sites) but no benefit in the vast majority of years, genetic theory tells us that such a trait would be eliminated from the population. The cost would be particularly severe in Red-billed Tropicbirds, which produce only one young per year. Sending a lone offspring northward to explore new habitats seems highly risky given that the chance of success is vanishingly low.

Assessing the risk of long-distance dispersal is difficult. A recent study showed that Red Knots wintering in southern Argentina have significantly lower survivorship than the Red Knots from a disjunct population that winters on the

Gulf Coast of Florida (Harrington et al., 1988). The birds that winter in Argentina obviously undergo a much longer migration from their Arctic breeding grounds than the Floridian birds. These data are consistent with the hypothesis that long-distance migration carries a measurable risk.

Veit (1988) disputed the suggestion that the Red-billed Tropicbird seen on Martha's Vineyard in 1986 (Arvidson 1986) had made some navigational errors. I agree with his interpretation. However, I believe that the occurrence of the tropicbird was storm-influenced. On August 17-18, 1988, Hurricane Charlie followed the coast of the southeastern United States before veering toward Nantucket Island and rapidly dissipating. The tropicbird seen in Maine was first noted on August 31, 1986 (Jones, 1986), and the first sighting of the tropicbird at Martha's Vineyard (likely the same bird, in my opinion) was on September 16, 1986 (Arvidson, 1986). I do not regard the lack of apparent feather damage as an indication that the tropicbird(s) was not storm-carried (Jones 1986). The discovery of a dead Red-billed Tropicbird in New York followed the passing of a tropic disturbance along the Atlantic coast. A moribund specimen found in Providence, Rhode Island, in 1973, appeared after the passage of a storm as well.

The effects of storms and wind currents on vagrancy in birds are well known. McLaren (1981) showed that the relative occurrence of vagrant passerines in Nova Scotia and North Carolina was explicable solely from knowledge of wind patterns. A storm in 1937 carried a number of Fieldfares from Europe to Greenland, where subsequently these birds established a breeding population (Salomonsen 1951). Other familiar examples of long-distance dispersal impelled by weather phenomena include the invasion of Newfoundland and Labrador by storm-driven Lapwings in 1927 and 1966 and the appearance of numerous North American passerines and Monarch butterflies that were carried to the British Isles by a storm in the fall of 1968.

It is clear that long-distance vagrancy can infrequently pay large dividends for birds. There has undoubtedly been dispersal between the tropical populations of Red-billed Tropicbirds in three oceans. Such dispersal would involve easterly or westerly migration. However, northward migration, taking a tropicbird from a virtually aseasonal, tropical environment to a strongly seasonal environment, would seem to provide no adaptive advantage. I propose the most parsimonious explanation for the occurrence of tropicbirds in the northeastern United States is that such vagrancy is impelled by weather phenomena rather than by natural selection for a tendency to wander northward. I believe that any tropicbird found outside tropical and subtropical waters is, in fact, lost, due to the overriding influence of meteorological events.

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W. HERBERT WILSON, who received his doctorate in 1982 from Johns Hopkins University, was formerly a staff member of Manomet Bird Observatory and is now Assistant Professor of Zoology at the University of Washington. His major research interests are the foraging ecology of shorebirds and the effects of shorebird predation on their prey in sand-flat communities. He has spent considerable time in the Bay of Fundy studying Semipalmated Sandpipers at this important staging area.



AVIAN SORCERY OR APPLE SAUCERY

by Chuck Bernstein

In your normal Dark Ages style of birding, have you at some time, as I have, gone into the field -- certain that day you would find something really good -- and returned home with nothing but tired feet? Well, you may have been on the right frequency, tuned to the right channel, but you were obviously on the wrong wavelength. You did not utilize ESP. I understand that the way to do this is to concentrate on a bird, fixate on it hard, real hard. Then go out there, relax, possibly cross your fingers, and look for that bird. Being open to ESP (extrasensory perception) will enhance your powers of observation. Of course, if you choose a bird that has already been reported, you will increase considerably your chances of success.

Some years back a Gyrfalcon was reported from the outback of northern California around Davis. Needing the bird for my state list, I called for directions. "Go north to get on 80 toward Sacramento. Take the first exit after the Davis exit. Go south on Mace which becomes Route 104. Go south about two miles, then left on Road 36. After about 100 feet, go right on 104 again to Cross Road or 38A. After about two miles, 104 becomes a dirt road. Go one more mile to Midway Road, after which 104 is paved again. Turn left on 152 just before it ends, where there are buildings and a farmhouse. Or go west on 152 as it becomes Midway in four miles." The bird was in that kind of place.

Before leaving Los Angeles, I checked with five people who had seen the Gyr, and to the question -- "Where should I look for the bird?" -- I received a series of suggestions, all up high. "Check the transmission towers where the bird likes to sit." "It hangs around the higher branches in the clump of trees in the farmyard near the road." "I photographed it atop a telephone pole about a mile down from the farmhouse." "Check the tops of the bushes along the wash next to the dirt road about three miles northeast of the farmhouse." "It stays high in the shrubbery back of the tower on the extreme right."

I found the place, spent four hours looking for the bird, left just in time to make an appointment, and never did find the Gyr. Nancy Speer, who was there when I was and waited calmly while other birders came and went, finally saw it in late afternoon when, she reported, "It flew out of the tall grass, chased a pheasant, and essentially remained on the ground!" Hal Speer, her husband, with whom I spoke later, asserted, "She found it through ESP." I didn't hear Nancy say that. And it's my guess that it was through Essentially Sheer Patience! During my four hours of searching I had certainly willed the bird into my presence as hard as I could. Wrong wavelength, no doubt.

When I expressed surprise at Hal's conclusion, he claimed this view is not uncommon and cited a date in the Bay Area (San Francisco and Oakland)

Audubon Society's calendar of memorable bird sightings that might be attributed to such phenomena. May 9, 1981, the day Hal and Nancy went birding in the Antelope Valley with Jon Dunn, was the fifth anniversary of the sighting of a Hudsonian Godwit in California. At the marsh at Edwards Air Force Base they at first saw a Marbled Godwit, and then, perhaps twenty feet away, there was a Hudsonian Godwit -- only the third sighting of this species in the state! Hal suggests that "it could be electromagnetic waves, or who knows what, that we humans as yet do not even comprehend." Hal is obviously into ESP and other parapsychological phenomena that are far beyond me.

However, I once had an odd experience while leading a bird walk at Descanso Gardens on a Sunday in November long ago. That day I spontaneously announced to my group, "Today I will show you a Varied Thrush!" Then we all laughed. That species is unreliable -- some years in fall and winter we find a few, some years none. What made me say that? A sense of *déjà vu*? Nearing the end of our walk, we approached a cluster of live oaks. I set down my scope, looked up, and, lo and behold, there was a Varied Thrush! "You knew the bird was there all along," they chided. But, I had *not* known! I was, indeed, as astonished as the others to find it there. At the start of the walk, I must have subconsciously perceived the gray overcast, the quiet in the air, the aroma of moldering leaves, just as it was six years before when I had seen this lovely bird --on the same kind of a day, at the same time of year, and in the same live oak tree. This time I was on the right wavelength. A top birder once told me that being "bird-brained" helps one communicate with the birds. I'm working on the brain change. It would be more effective than Hal's kind of ESP, which sure didn't work for me with the Gyrfalcon!

After giving it some thought, I do believe that, instead of ESP, I would prefer instruction in another parapsychological phenomenon -- that of levitation. So that I could raise birds above high grass and suspend them in midair long enough to get a good look. But would this create another problem that some committee would have to deal with? Is the Gyr Nancy saw countable? We must keep in mind that if she truly found this bird by ESP, that would make it man-aided, not much different than if she'd caught it in a net.

CHUCK BERNSTEIN, long a California resident, is a Contributing Editor to *Bird Watcher's Digest* (he wrote the Birding Tips column for three years) and is author of *The Joy of Birding* (1986, Capra Press, Santa Barbara). Interested in birds from childhood, Chuck became a serious birdwatcher in 1945 after WW2. He recalls finding a robin's nest during the course of a battle in Germany that sparked this interest. He is a longtime member of ABA, and his ABA-area list numbers 681 birds. He is a retired court reporter and loves to write about birds.

THE BROOKLINE BIRD CLUB

by H. Lawrence Jodrey and Gerald L. Soucy

In June of 1913 a group of people interested in wild birds gathered at the Brookline Public Library. This meeting culminated in the founding of an organization whose stated purpose was to "study, observe, and protect native songbirds and to encourage their propagation" -- The Brookline Bird Club. Seventy-five years later, the BBC, as it is commonly known, is possibly the largest bird club in the United States.

A 1930 BBC Bulletin posed and answered the following question:

Why join the Brookline Bird Club? 1. Because of its walks and their opportunities for fellowship and for healthful outdoor exercise. 2. Because of the chance to get better acquainted with birds, through contact with others who are interested in birds and perhaps know more about them than you; and because of the chance to compare notes with other bird lovers and to help each other.

Bird walks have continued to be the main reason for the club's existence. In seventy-five years the club has scheduled more than ten thousand field trips in the course of which all of the species on the Massachusetts Audubon Society Checklist have been recorded plus eighty-three write-ins, making a total of three hundred and eighty-five species on the Massachusetts life-list of the club, including one species now extinct, the Heath Hen, which was added to the club's list on a trip to Martha's Vineyard on April 19, 1931.

Although some adventurous members of the club had embarked on the first of two trips to Europe by ocean liner in 1926, the first all-day automobile trip was held on May 23, 1936, and the announcement in the *Bulletin* was accompanied by an editor's note, "It will be an experiment of course. It may not be a success." Fifty years later, in 1987, two hundred and seventeen morning, afternoon, evening, and all-day trips, primarily by automobile, were scheduled during the year, as well as weekend excursions to Maine, western Massachusetts, Nantucket, and Martha's Vineyard. In recent years there have also been stimulating journeys to Alaska, Texas, Arizona, Canada, Colorado, Florida, Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia.

The Brookline Bird Club has always made a special effort to attract young people and help them develop a love of the out-of-doors and an interest in bird study. Some of these youths have become eminent in the field of ornithology: namely, Richard Pough, Maurice Broun, Roger Tory Peterson, and Peter Alden.

Although the goals of the club have remained simple, time has brought its share of changes: technological improvements in the quality, size, and weight of binoculars and telescopes; an abundance of informative field guides for the

novice and the experienced birder; improved accessibility to remote birding areas by automobile and air travel; local and national "hot lines" that provide up-to-date announcements of rare or unusual birds; more practical and casual clothing that provides all-weather protection with greater comfort and flexibility; and most recently, CB-radio transmission that provides a valuable conduit between trip leaders and their groups, keeping them together and informed about the whereabouts of birds within local receiving areas.

The Brookline Bird Club has always extended an open invitation to members and nonmembers to participate in its activities. The club invites all birders to join the celebration of the club's seventy-fifth anniversary at Bentley College in Waltham on Saturday, November 12, 1988.

**THE BROOKLINE BIRD CLUB
75th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
Field Trips Sunday, November 13, 1988**

Stellwagen Bank Pelagic Trip: all-day trip co-sponsored by the BBC, Massachusetts Audubon Society (MAS), and New England Aquarium; leaving from Boston; leaders will include Jerry Bertrand, President MAS, and Simon Perkins, Staff Ornithologist MAS.

Cape Ann/Newburyport/Salisbury: all-day trip; leader, William C. Drummond; participants supply their own transportation.

Brookline and vicinity: a morning trip; leader, Robert H. Stymeist; participants supply their own transportation.

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THE BIRDWATCHER'S BOOK OF LISTS by Dr. Lester L. Short. 1987. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. *EASTERN REGION*. 128 pages; *WESTERN REGION*. 128 pages; spiral bound \$7.95 each.

These two little volumes are profoundly awful. They each contain twenty-three birding lists, with a space beside each listed bird for notations. The lists are very strange, indeed, and include "Female Waterfowl," "Year List of Birds in Flight," and "The 24-hour Spring Field Birdwatch," which, of course, lists only birds found in fields. The list titled "Permanent Residents" in the eastern version comprises sixty-three species, including such permanent residents as Brown Pelican, Spruce Grouse, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, and Gray Jay. (Where do these birds all live together?) The illustrations, which the author states were chosen "to portray only the more common, widespread, and conspicuous birds of the region covered" include Western Tanager, Arctic Loon, American Flamingo, Steller's Jay, and California Quail (I think) for the eastern region. On top of that, they are terrible. The publisher calls these books "indispensable"; I call them the worst bird books of 1987.

THE COMPLETE BIRDER, A GUIDE TO BETTER BIRDING by Jack Connor. 1988. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co. xiii + 285 pages, illustrated; paperback \$8.70, hardcover \$18.45.

Jack Connor has written an extremely readable and useful addition to the literature of birding. Further, his work amuses as it instructs, a quality missing from the terse writing of too many field identification experts. In twelve chapters, the author covers all of the favorite subjects of today's birders: warblers, hawks, shorebirds, terns, and gulls (What! No sparrows?), providing advice on how to take your birding ability up a notch or two. Margaret LaFarge's illustrations are excellent. If you are not yet a pro, this book is for you.

AN IDENTIFICATION GUIDE TO THE DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS OF THE WORLD by Steve Madge and Hilary Burn. 1988. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co. 298 pages, 47 color plates, 155 maps; \$35.

This newest addition to Houghton Mifflin Company's outstanding series of worldwide bird guides (it follows *SEABIRDS* and *SHOREBIRDS*) is certain to be the standard in the field for years to come. The well-written and researched species accounts include sections on field identification, voice, description, bare parts, measurements, geographical variation, habits, habitat, distribution, population, and references. The color plates, depicting over 700 plumages of the world's 155 species of waterfowl, are beautifully painted and designed. My only criticism concerns the plate captions, which, while quite excellent, are often not directly across from the corresponding illustration. This is a definite distraction

and should be corrected in subsequent editions. Despite this minor problem, the book is excellent and should be in every serious birdwatcher's library.

WHERE TO WATCH BIRDS IN BRITAIN AND EUROPE by John Gooders.

1988. Lincolnwood: Passport Books. xv + 254 pages, maps, text, illustrations; paperback \$17.95.

The new edition of this well-known, bird-finding guide is expanded to include Israel, Tunisia, Cyprus, Morocco, and Asiatic Turkey. Although the author admits bias in his coverage of countries (Spain, Finland, and Greece have greater coverage than many others), all of the best-known and important birdwatching areas are adequately presented, with seasonal bird lists and details on routes and access. There is a complete locality index (but not one for birds!). All in all, a good production.

The forewords of two of the books reviewed above were written by Roger Tory Peterson. So, Happy Birthday to you, Roger (August 28)! I'll bet you've spent more time writing forewords than Larry Bird has spent covering them. *MANY HAPPY RETURNS!*

BRIAN E. CASSIE has in the past irregularly contributed this column to *Bird Observer* by mail from Millis. After a long hiatus Brian emerged from his new residence in Foxboro to post the above words to us. The mail service from Foxboro (fortunately for our publishing deadlines) is first-class.

FALL MIGRATION: A SOUTHERN SOJOURN

September 30 to October 10, 1988

Birder of intermediate skill would like to travel from New England to Gulf Coast with stops at Cape May, Brigantine, Assateague, Chincoteague, and other hot spots; needs hale and hearty companion to share modest expenses, driving, and provide an extra pair of eyes. If interested, please write

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300 SPECIES IN MASSACHUSETTS IN ONE YEAR: JULY AND AUGUST

by Herman D'Entremont and Dorothy R. Arvidson

To the innocent bystander, it seems as though spring is the big birding season, but this is not true. And happily for the birder intent on a long year-list, in the period from the Fourth of July through September, it should be possible to check off 90 percent of the 350-plus birds listed on the Massachusetts Daily Field Card. The chief problem for beginners and for those still dependent on a field guide is to recognize them. As the summer wears on, more and more birds will appear in nondescript plumage. No longer sporting their breeding finery, adult birds are molting into basic plumage, which may be slightly, but often is vastly, different. Further confusion results from the presence of numbers of immature birds. All in all, this is a good time to seek the company of experienced birders, to look beyond the pictures in your field guide, and to read the text carefully.

The first shorebird migrants arrive in the state on their southward trek from the tundra breeding grounds about the Fourth of July. Short-billed Dowitchers, Lesser Yellowlegs, and Least Sandpipers arrive in substantial flocks with smaller numbers of Hudsonian Godwits and Stilt Sandpipers. Late July will bring large flocks of Semipalmated and Black-bellied plovers, Ruddy Turnstones, Whimbrels, Greater Yellowlegs, Red Knots, Semipalmated Sandpipers and Sanderlings. These July migrants are adults, often still in bright breeding plumage, and the peak of migrating adult shorebirds, in numbers not in species, is reached in early August. Shorebirds produce precocial young that are soon independent. Hence, the early departure of the adults from the arctic removes them from competing for food with their offspring and insures an abundant food supply for the growing young. Willets, American Oystercatchers, Wilson's Phalaropes, and Upland Sandpiper nest in Massachusetts, and one may find both adults and immatures together.

By mid-August, the arriving shorebird migrants are chiefly immatures or adults in winter plumage, creating a real challenge for beginners as well as for seasoned birders. Small numbers of western arctic breeders such as Long-billed Dowitchers and Western Sandpipers always appear, along with the less common Baird's and Buff-breasted sandpipers, Marbled Godwits, and Lesser Golden-Plovers late in August. The last four are often called "grasspipers" denoting their preference for feeding in recently mowed grasses or on dry, grassy flats. Even greater rarities may appear -- American Avocet, Ruff, Little and Rufous-necked stints, Spotted Redshank.

Rarities are exciting, but the ordinary shorebirds offer memorable spectacles -- the precise wheeling flight of any group of shorebirds, the

unbelievable concentrations of Semipalmated Sandpipers at Plum Island (try estimating their numbers), the varying plumage of Sanderlings at Scituate -- apparently no two alike, and Whimbrels streaming over Chatham by the hundreds as they fly to the evening roost on Monomoy. The greatest variety of shorebird species will be seen in early September.

Any tidal flat will attract shorebirds, but estuaries with extensive mud flats are the best places for large concentrations. The greatest variety will be found at Newburyport-Plum Island, Plymouth Beach, and Monomoy Island, but also very good is the shoreline at Lynn and Revere, Squantum, Scituate, Duxbury, South Dartmouth, and on the Cape -- Barnstable, First Encounter Beach in Eastham, Nauset Beach, and Provincetown. There are a number of good inland spots -- the edges of reservoirs and the shores and flats along the Connecticut River, for example. An ideal and very accessible spot for leisurely shorebird study, especially during an early morning high tide with the sun behind you, is the shorebird pool along the main road at Plum Island, where a great variety of shorebirds gather to rest after feeding on the extensive flats exposed in Newburyport Harbor during low tide.

Hérons become increasingly abundant in coastal marshes during the warm months, along with the young that have fledged in July, and one of the most spectacular sights of summer is the great stream of herons flying into a communal roost at dusk. There are such large roosts at Plum Island, on the Boston Harbor islands, and on Monomoy. The most numerous coastal heron is the Snowy Egret, but there are occasional sightings of Glossy Ibises, Tricolored Herons, and Little Blues. The young Snowys can be easily mistaken for immature Little Blues. Great Egrets are scattered but more often observed in the Westport-Dartmouth area. The Green-backed Heron is a common summer bird, as is the Black-crowned Night-Heron. There is a traditional night-heron roost by the dam on the Charles River at Watertown Square, and the roost at Hemenway Landing below Fort Hill in Eastham regularly has a few Yellow-crowned Night-Hérons in it. (Better learn to distinguish the immatures of these two species.) Great Blue Herons have several inland nesting areas in the state and are hard to miss. Cattle Egrets always accumulate in summer at Appleton farm on Route 1A two miles south of Ipswich center.

To "wipe out" the Ciconiiformes in Massachusetts, there are only two herons that you will have to work to find. Least Bitterns are sometimes present at Great Meadows or nest in the marsh at Hellcat Swamp on Plum Island. But often long hours of waiting on the dike at either place are necessary before the bird and occasionally the youngsters show themselves. American Bitterns are also present in both places, but not often seen. The best time to find them is when a very high tide at Plum Island brings them up close to the road.

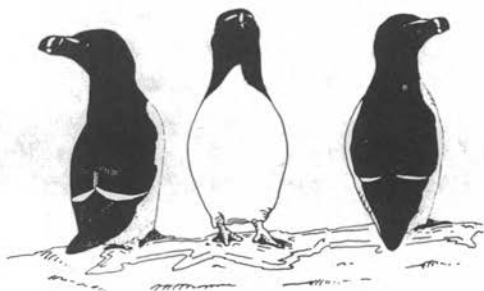
Once their young have fledged, terns move away from the offshore islands where they nested. Postbreeding concentrations of Common and Roseate Terns should be studied for occasional wanderers from more southerly breeding areas, such as Black Skimmers or Royal, Sandwich, Forster's and Black terns. If Caspian Terns are around, the Voice of Audubon or the BBC hotline will surely carry the news.

Summertime pelagic trips to Stellwagen Bank from Newburyport, Gloucester, Boston, Plymouth and Provincetown will yield a number of birds for your list as well as exciting whale-viewing. Greater and Sooty shearwaters and Wilson's Storm-Petrels are usually found on these trips, whereas less frequently seen are Manx and Cory's shearwaters, Red-necked Phalarope, Parasitic and Pomarine jaegers (rarely a Long-tailed), Black-legged Kittiwakes, and Sabine's Gulls. The immature of the kittiwake is occasionally miscalled a Sabine's by the unwary. Longer trips to Hydrographer's Canyon will sometimes produce additional rarities: Audubon's Shearwater, White-faced, Band-rumped, and Leach's Storm-Petrels, or possibly a tropicbird.

Although chiefly shorebirds occupy birders in July and August, in mid-August each passing cold front with northwesterly winds brings numbers of landbirds to the coastal thickets as well as to inland areas. A general rule is the last to arrive in spring are the first birds back in the fall. Thus, insect-eating flycatchers arrive in late August. The look-alike *Empidonaces* are very hard to identify in the absence of song. Of them, only the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher can be recognized with some confidence. But this is the time to add Olive-sided Flycatcher to your list, and every dead snag should be checked for this bird. Coastal landbird traps such as Plum Island thickets, Eastern Point in Gloucester, Nahant Thicket and Marblehead Neck, the Glades in North Scituate, and outer Cape Cod are the places to visit.

These same areas will also hold a good variety of migrating warblers. A scarce species that is regularly seen in the fall is the Philadelphia Vireo. Bay-breasted, Tennessee, and Cape May are numerous, and Magnolia, Blue-winged, Canada, and Prairie warblers are usually present as are American Redstarts, Ovenbirds, and Northern Waterthrushes. The rarer southern warblers such as Prothonotary, Hooded, Yellow-throated, and Kentucky warblers may also be found in August. The Connecticut and Orange-crowned warblers are later arrivals to be looked for in September.

Listers should be aware that several other very rare landbird species can also be encountered in late August. These include Loggerhead Shrike, Lark Sparrow, Dickcissel, and Yellow-headed Blackbird -- all well worth spending some time in the field.



FIELD RECORDS

DECEMBER 1987

by George W. Gove and Robert H. Stymeist

December was a mild and dry month. The temperature averaged 36.1 degrees, 2.4 degrees above normal. The high was 58 degrees on December 9; the low was 3 degrees on December 30. December 29-30 brought a sudden change to severe winter cold, with the mercury averaging 21 degrees below normal on December 30. Strong winds out of the northwest combined with the cold to produce severe and dangerous winter chill conditions. Rainfall totaled 2.12 inches, 2.36 inches less than average. Snowfall totaled 7.5 inches, just above average; most fell on December 29, with 6.2 inches. More snow fell south of Boston, especially on Cape Cod. The season total at the end of December was 16.5 inches, 7.5 inches more than normal.

The highlight of December is the annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC). In eastern Massachusetts there now are twenty-two CBC count areas. Rather than include the results in the December field reports that follow, the complete results of all the eastern Massachusetts CBCs, except Martha's Vineyard, are tabulated elsewhere in this issue. R.H.S.

LOONS THROUGH ALCIDS

A Pacific Loon, which was noted in November, was reportedly seen again at Rockport. Up to 60 Pied-billed Grebes were counted at the Billington Sea in Plymouth, where there were also many ducks and coots. An individual Snow Goose was noted in Millis at the beginning of the month and in Dover at the end of the month. A late Blue-winged Teal was seen in Barnstable on December 5. Six Eurasian Wigeon, including one female, were reported from four locations.

Up to 15,000 Common Eiders were estimated off Hull, with King Eiders being noted there and in Winthrop. Harlequin Ducks were present at three locations, and large numbers of Hooded Mergansers were reported at several sites throughout the month.

The Cape Cod Bird Club's fifth annual lake and pond waterfowl survey was held on the weekend of December 5-6, 1987. Thirty-two observers censused 263 ponds on the Cape and recorded 12,669 birds of 26 species. Pied-billed Grebes, Gadwall, and Hooded Mergansers were substantially higher than in previous years. Highlights of the survey are included in the tabulation below under the designation, Cape Cod Lake and Pond Survey.

Four Cooper's Hawks were reported from as many locations. On Nantucket, an American Kestrel appeared daily in the afternoon from December 16 on. It perched in a tree for ten minutes at a time. It was finally realized that the kestrel was watching a mouse hole in the ground beneath the tree so the next day the kestrel was trapped, using live bait, and was banded.

A Marbled Godwit was found in Chatham on December 20. A White-rumped Sandpiper at Duxbury Beach on December 12 was the fourth December *BOEM* record of this species since 1973.

A Lesser Black-backed Gull was noted in Provincetown on December 10. On Nantucket, a Dovekie was found in the road and taken to Edith Andrews, who banded and released it into the waves. G.W.G.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	DECEMBER 1987
Red-throated Loon				
1, 6	Sandwich, Revere	4, 6	P. Trimble, BBC (R. Stymeist)	
Common Loon				
1, 5	Sandwich, Newburyport area	6, 10	P. Trimble, BBC (G. d'Entremont)	
5; 7, 8	Wachusett Res.; S. Carver	1; 1	D. Donovan; J. Shaw	
10, 31	P.I.	4, 9	D. F. Oliver	
Pacific Loon (from Nov.)				
12	Rockport (A.P.)	1	BBC (W. Drummond)	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	DECEMBER 1987
Pied-billed Grebe				
thr	Cambridge (F.P.)	1-2	J. Barton + v. o.	
5-20; 7	Arlington; S. Carver	2-4; 12	L. Taylor; J. Shaw	
8	Plymouth	60	D. Clapp	
Horned Grebe				
4, 7	Hull, P.I.	18, 10	P. Thayer, M. Lynch#	
6	Revere-Winthrop	18	BBC (R. Stymeist)	
14, 24	Cambridge (F.P.), Lakeville	1, 2	J. Barton, K. Holmes	
Red-necked Grebe				
13, 17	Rockport	4, 8	R. Abrams, BBC (S. Bolton)	
23, 27	Hull, N. Scituate	5, 20	P. Thayer, R. Abrams	
25, 31	Dennis, E. Orleans	5, 1	J. Aylward#, A. Williams	
Northern Gannet				
19	Stellwagen	50	J. Brown	
Great Cormorant				
13	Cape Ann, N. Attleboro	40, 2 imm	BBC (S. Bolton), B. Sorrie	
18, 28	Cambridge (F.P.), Lakeville	1, 1	J. Barton, K. Holmes	
Double-crested Cormorant				
3, 14-24	Danvers, Braintree	1, 1	J. Brown, R. Abrams + v. o.	
American Bittern				
10	P.I.	1	D. F. Oliver	
Great Blue Heron				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	6 max 12/31	LCES (J. Lyons)	
1	Salisbury, Newburyport	1, 1	D. F. Oliver	
13, 18	Ipswich, Quincy	2, 3	J. Berry, T. Aversa	
23, 25	Middleboro, Worcester	1, 2	K. Anderson, M. Lynch#	
Mute Swan				
thr	P.I.	4 max	v. o.	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	53 max 12/15	LCES (J. Lyons)	
5-6	Cape Cod Lake & Pond Survey	178	CCBC	
6, 8	Nantucket, Wareham	56, 48	E. Andrews, K. Hamilton	
Snow Goose				
2-3; 18, 28	Millis; Dover	1 imm	R. Forster	
10, 13	P.I., N. Attleboro	107, 2 imm	D. F. Oliver, B. Sorrie	
31	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	2	LCES (J. Lyons)	
Brant				
13	Winthrop	500	BBC (J. Cumming)	
Canada Goose				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	336 max 12/22	LCES (J. Lyons)	
thr	P.I.	380 max	v. o.	
13, 28	Middleboro	60, 30	K. Anderson	
Green-winged Teal				
5-6	Cape Cod Lake & Pond Survey	43	CCBC	
7, 8	P.I., S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	2, 2	M. Lynch#, LCES (J. Lyons)	
13, 21	N. Attleboro, Wellesley	1 m, 1	B. Sorrie, W. Petersen	
American Black Duck				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	820 max 12/8	LCES (J. Lyons)	
5-6	Cape Cod Lake & Pond Survey	1306	CCBC	
10	P.I.	837	D. F. Oliver	
Mallard				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	58 max 12/31	LCES (J. Lyons)	
thr	Cambridge (F.P.)	54 max 12/7	J. Barton + v. o.	
5-6	Cape Cod Lake & Pond Survey	1789	CCBC	
Northern Pintail				
5-6	Cape Cod Lake & Pond Survey	61	CCBC	
6, 10	P.I.	26, 2	BBC (J. Nove), D. F. Oliver	
8, 23	S. Dart. (Allens Pd), Stoneham	6, 3	LCES (J. Lyons), T. Aversa	
Blue-winged Teal				
5	Barnstable (C. Cod Lake & Pond Survey)	1	CCBC (J. Aylward)	
Northern Shoveler				
8-15, 25-26	S. Carver	2, 1	J. Shaw	
10	P.I.	3	D. F. Oliver	
Gadwall				
5-6	Cape Cod Lake & Pond Survey	72	CCBC	
5, 6	Holliston, Nantucket	3, 3	R. Hildreth, E. Andrews	
8; 14, 30	Plymouth; P.I.	22; 14, 4	D. Clapp; D. F. Oliver	
27	N. Scituate	3	R. Abrams	
Eurasian Wigeon				
6, 8	Nantucket, Plymouth	2 m, 1 m	E. Andrews, D. Clapp	
1, 10; 20	W. Newbury; Chatham	1 m, 1 m + 1 f; 1	D. F. Oliver, B. Nikula#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	DECEMBER 1987
American Wigeon				
1, 10; 14	W. Newbury; Waltham	5, 7; 9	D. F. Oliver	
1-22	Cambridge (F.P.)	15 max 12/18	J. Barton + v. o.	
6, 8	Nantucket, Plymouth	33, 85	E. Andrews, D. Clapp	
5, 12	Arlington	26, 43	L. Taylor	
Canvasback				
thr	Cambridge (F.P.)	541 max 12/14	J. Barton + v. o.	
5-6	Cape Cod Lake & Pond Survey	981	CCBC	
6, 14	Braintree	45, 22	R. Abrams	
Redhead				
1-28	Cambridge (F.P.)	1-3	J. Barton + v. o.	
5-6	Cape Cod Lake & Pond Survey	26	CCBC	
6, 8	Nantucket, Plymouth	19, 3 m	E. Andrews, D. Clapp	
Ring-necked Duck				
thr	Cambridge (F.P.)	52 max 12/4	J. Barton + v. o.	
3, 5	Framingham, Mashpee	12 m + 6 f, 15	K. Hamilton, P. Trimble	
6, 8	Nantucket, Plymouth	38, 80	E. Andrews, D. Clapp	
14, 17	Braintree, Stoneham	28, 21	R. Abrams, T. Aversa	
Greater Scaup				
1-28	Cambridge (F.P.)	22 max 12/2	J. Barton + v. o.	
5	N. Falmouth, Falmouth	2000, 1200	P. Trimble	
Lesser Scaup				
1-28	Cambridge (F.P.)	1-2	J. Barton + v. o.	
3, 30	Framingham, Plymouth	2 f, 3	K. Hamilton, W. Petersen#	
Common Eider				
6	Revere-Winthrop	450	BBC (R. Stymeist)	
13, 14	Cape Ann, Hull	650, 15000	BBC (S. Bolton), P. Thayer	
King Eider				
6-31	Winthrop	1 m	R. Stymeist# + v. o.	
5, 6; 19-27	Hull	1, 1; 1 f	P. Thayer; R. Abrams	
Harlequin Duck				
1-6	Wellfleet	2	S. Howell + v. o.	
6, 18	N. Scituate, Rockport	1 m, 1 m + 2 f	R. Abrams	
31	Rockport	2 m + 3 f	E. Salmela	
Oldsquaw				
10, 31	P.I.	30, 10	D. F. Oliver	
Black Scoter				
6, 14	Winthrop, Mashpee	16, 5	BBC (R. Stymeist), P. Trimble	
31	P.I.	2	D. F. Oliver	
Surf Scoter				
6, 14	Winthrop, Mashpee	22, 60	BBC (R. Stymeist), P. Trimble	
White-winged Scoter				
6, 14	Revere-Winthrop, Mashpee	550, 200	BBC (R. Stymeist), P. Trimble	
1, 31	Salisbury	32, 75	D. F. Oliver	
1, 31	P.I.	48, 42	D. F. Oliver	
Common Goldeneye				
5, 13	Wachusett Res.	86, 10	D. Donovan	
6, 13	Winthrop, Quabbin (G37)	40, 110	BBC (R. Stymeist), M. Lynch#	
Barrow's Goldeneye				
25	Quincy	1 m	J. Cameron#	
27	Cohasset, N. Scituate	1 m, 1 m	R. Abrams#	
31	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1 m	LCES (J. Lyons)	
Bufflehead				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	47 max 12/1	LCES (J. Lyons)	
1	Newburyport	54	D. F. Oliver	
5-6	Cape Cod Lake & Pond Survey	1651	CCBC	
Hooded Merganser				
thr	Nantucket	9 m + 8 f	E. Andrews	
thr	S. Carver	39 max 12/8	J. Shaw	
5-6	Cape Cod Lake & Pond Survey	383	CCBC	
3, 6	Quabbin (G40, G41)	35, 34	M. Lynch#	
8, 14	Plymouth, Braintree	68, 48	D. Clapp, R. Abrams	
12, 20	Arlington	44, 89	L. Taylor	
Common Merganser				
thr	S. Carver	101 max 12/10	J. Shaw	
1-21	Stoneham	95 max 12/10	T. Aversa	
8, 20	Plymouth, Arlington	55, 13	D. Clapp, L. Taylor	
Red-breasted Merganser				
6, 31	Winthrop, Salisbury	35, 87	BBC (R. Stymeist), D. F. Oliver	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	DECEMBER 1987
Ruddy Duck				
thr	Cambridge (F.P.)	90 max 12/7	J. Barton + v. o.	
1, 3	W. Newbury, Framingham	11, 98	D. F. Oliver, K. Hamilton	
19, 30	Boston, Plymouth	13, 60	T. Aversa, R. Abrams	
Bald Eagle				
6	Stoneham	1 imm	T. Aversa	
6, 13	Quabbin (G37)	6, 2 ad + 3 imm	M. Lynch#	
19, 27	Lakeville	1 imm, 1 imm	K. Holmes	
31	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (J. Lyons)	
Northern Harrier				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	4 max 12/8	LCES (J. Lyons)	
thr	Halifax	1	K. Anderson	
10, 31; 19	P.I.	3, 3; 1 m	D. F. Oliver; H. Wiggin	
Sharp-shinned Hawk				
5	E. Middleboro, Belmont	1, 1	K. Holmes, L. Taylor	
21-24, 27	Wellesley, Hudson	1, 2	D. F. Oliver + v.o., E. Salmela#	
28	Clinton	3	E. Salmela	
6-29	Reports of individuals from 5 locations.			
Cooper's Hawk				
6, 12	Chatham, Westwood	1 imm, 1 ad	B. Nikula#, C. Seeckts#	
19, 28	Boston Harbor, Nantucket	1, 1 ad	T. Cameron#, E. + C. Andrews	
Northern Goshawk				
5, 12	New Braintree, Yarmouth	1 ad, 1	M. Lynch#, B. Nikula#	
13, 19	Halifax, P.I.	1, 1	K. Anderson, M. Argue#	
Red-tailed Hawk				
thr	Halifax	1	K. Anderson	
1, 12	Salisbury, Holliston	2, 3	D. F. Oliver, R. Hildreth	
26	Middleboro	3	K. Anderson	
2-26	Reports of individuals from 6 locations.			
Rough-legged Hawk				
6, 26; 8	Halifax; Sandwich	1, 1; 1 lt	K. Anderson; P. Trimble	
30	P.I.	1	D. F. Oliver	
American Kestrel				
1, 31	Salisbury	2, 3	D. F. Oliver	
12, 14	P.I., Otis AFB	6, 2	BBC (W. Drummond), P. Trimble	
16-31	Nantucket	1 b	E. Andrews	
Merlin				
2, 16	Nantucket	1, 1	E. Andrews	
Peregrine Falcon				
6, 13	E. Boston	1, 1 imm	R. Stymeist#, J. Cumming	
14	Mashpee	1	P. Trimble	
Ruffed Grouse				
6, 12	Lexington, Holliston	1, 1	L. Taylor, R. Hildreth	
19	Hamilton, Mansfield	3, 5	J. Berry, T. Aversa	
12, 28	Clinton	4, 2	E. Salmela	
Virginia Rail				
12	DWWS	2	R. Abrams	
American Coot				
thr	Cambridge (F.P.)	9 max 12/2 + 4	J. Barton + v. o.	
1, 5-20	W. Newbury, Arlington	8, 26-32	D. F. Oliver, L. Taylor	
6, 8	Nantucket, Plymouth	15, 290	E. Andrews, D. Clapp	
14	Braintree	61	R. Abrams	
Killdeer				
1	W. Newbury	1	D. F. Oliver	
Greater Yellowlegs				
26	Hyannisport	5	E. Nielsen# + v. o.	
Marbled Godwit				
20	Chatham	1	V. Laux#	
Sanderling				
6	Revere	93	BBC (R. Stymeist)	
White-rumped Sandpiper				
12	Duxbury	1 (details)	W. Petersen#	
Dunlin				
6, 12	Revere, Duxbury	16, 50	BBC (R. Stymeist), W. Petersen#	
1-15	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	73 max 12/15	LCES (J. Lyons)	
17, 31	Barnstable, E. Orleans	50, 63	J. Aylward, A. Williams	
Long-billed Dowitcher				
10, 12	P.I., Duxbury	1, 1 (details)	D. F. Oliver, W. Petersen#	
dowitcher species				
26	Hyannisport	1	B. Nikula#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	DECEMBER 1987
Common Black-headed Gull				
13	Cape Ann	1	BBC (S. Bolton)	
Bonaparte's Gull				
6, 13	Revere, Cape Ann	68, 70	BBC (R. Stymeist), BBC (S. Bolton)	
Ring-billed Gull				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	111 max 12/8	LCES (J. Lyons)	
6, 23	Revere, Stoneham	350, 450	BBC (R. Stymeist), T. Aversa	
Iceland Gull				
5	Barre	3 (1W, 2W, 3W)	M. Lynch#	
13, 25	Cape Ann, N. Scituate	4, 1 (1W)	BBC (S. Bolton), R. Abrams	
31	Salisbury	1	D. F. Oliver	
Lesser Black-backed Gull				
10	Provincetown	1 ad	W. Bailey	
Glaucous Gull				
6	N. Scituate	1 (1W)	SSBC (R. Abrams)	
Dovekie				
5	Nantucket, Brewster	1 b, 1	E. Andrews, R. Comeau#	
Black Guillemot				
6, 13	N. Scituate, Rockport	1, 4	R. Abrams	

OWLS THROUGH FINCHES

At least 10 Snowy Owls were found in the Boston Harbor area, with the majority noted at Logan Airport; other locales with 4 or more reports included Duxbury Beach and the Plum Island-Salisbury area.

The highlight of the month was the discovery of a **Hammond's Flycatcher** on December 19 in Wellesley. This little empid had the good judgement to settle in the backyard of a birder and remain there for eleven days. The bird was netted and measured; measurements ruled out the eastern Empidonax species. The use of a videocamera turned out to be yet another clue to the flycatcher's identification. The constant flicking of wings and tail as well as its call notes were the key to confirming the bird's identity when members of the California Rare Birds Committee viewed the videotape. See the article about this bird elsewhere in this issue.

The second highlight of the month was the documented photograph of a **Townsend's Warbler** that was found at a feeder in Framingham on December 16. The bird remained until the December 30 cold front but was only identified when the photographs were later sent to the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

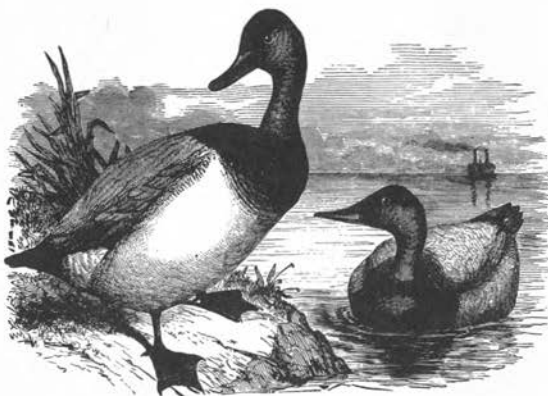
The mild weather surely was responsible for the presence of many species not normally around in December. An Eastern Phoebe in Holliston, a Western Kingbird in Marshfield, a Wilson's Warbler in Cambridge, a Swainson's Thrush that hit a window in Woods Hole, and Chipping Sparrows at several locations were among the lingerers. A Varied Thrush in Concord become another casualty of a glass window on December 26. A Dickcissel visited a feeder in Framingham, a "Spotted" Towhee was present at a feeding station in North Scituate, and a "Bullock's" Oriole was noted in Sherborn. It was a good month for spotting western birds!

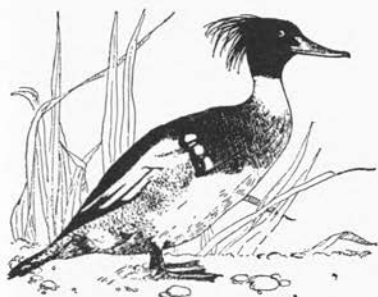
R.H.S.

Great Horned Owl				
1-19, 3	Ipswich, Westboro	1-3, 1	J. Berry, J. Heywood	
Snowy Owl				
thr	Boston Harbor area	10+	v. o.	
thr	Duxbury Beach	4 max	R. Abrams + v. o.	
thr	P.I.-Salisbury	1-4+	v. o.	
3,6	Brewster, Chatham	1, 1	G. Carpenter, R. Clem#	
13	Eastham, WBWS	2, 1	B. Nikula#, fide D. Reynolds	
13, 29	Cape Ann, Mashpee	2, 1	BBC (S. Bolton), P. Trimble	
Short-eared Owl				
13, 27	E. Middleboro, DWWS	2, 4	K. Anderson, R. Abrams#	
31	Newbypt (Carr I)	1	E. Salmela	
Red-headed Woodpecker				
thr	E. Sandwich	1 ad	Sutton + v. o.	
16	Plymouth, Marshfield	1 juv, 1	M. Kasprzyk, K. Holmes	
Red-bellied Woodpecker				
thr	S. Orleans	1	S. Thompson	
Northern Flicker				
13	Holliston	3	R. Hildreth	
Eastern Phoebe				
12	Holliston	1	R. Hildreth	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	DECEMBER 1987
Hammond's Flycatcher (Full details submitted)				
19-29	Wellesley	1 ph & videotape	K. Winkler# + v. o.	
Western Kingbird				
1-18	DWWS	1	D. Ludlow + v. o.	
Horned Lark				
1, 31	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1, 30	LCES (J. Lyons)	
1, 31	Salisbury	24, 24	D. F. Oliver	
4, 15	Andover, Beverly	19, 6	V. Yurkunas, J. Brown	
Tree Swallow				
5	P'town	5	S. Howell#	
American Crow				
thr	Natick-Framingham	3000+	E. Taylor	
6, 22	Bridgewater, S. Dart.	500, 93	W. Petersen, LCES (J. Lyons)	
Fish Crow				
thr	Natick-Framingham	75+	E. Taylor	
Red-breasted Nuthatch				
1, 10	Newbypt, P.I.	1, 1	D. F. Oliver	
3, 13	Quabbin (G40), (G37)	17, 11	M. Lynch#	
5, 28	Holliston, E. Middleboro	1, 1	R. Hildreth, K. Anderson	
Brown Creeper				
24, 27	Lakeville, Hudson	2, 5	K. Holmes, E. Salmela#	
Carolina Wren				
13, 31	E. Middleboro, Hudson	1, 1	K. Anderson, E. Salmela	
Winter Wren				
4, 22-31	Duxbury, Wellesley	1, 1	M. Kasprzyk, W. Petersen# + v. o.	
Marsh Wren				
8	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (J. Lyons)	
Golden-crowned Kinglet				
3, 6	Quabbin (G40), (G37)	11, 12	M. Lynch#	
10, 12	Stoneham, Hamilton	8, 6-8	T. Aversa, J. Berry	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				
12	Holliston	1	R. Hildreth	
Swainson's Thrush				
12	Woods Hole	1 dead	G. Martin	
Hermit Thrush				
2, 30	E. Middleboro, Mashpee	3, 3	K. Anderson, P. Trimble	
Varied Thrush				
26	Concord	1 (hit window)	fide Nancy Clayton	
Cedar Waxwing				
6, 20	Lexington	10, 29	L. Taylor	
13, 23	Hardwick, Wellesley	17, 25	M. Lynch#, O. Komar#	
Northern Shrike				
10, 19	Truro, Braintree	1, 1	W. Bailey, T. Cameron#	
31	Salisbury, P.I.	1, 1	D. F. Oliver, J. Brown	
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
1-22	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	13 max 12/15	LCES (J. Lyons)	
31	P.I.	13	D. F. Oliver	
Townsend's Warbler				
16-30	Framingham	1 ph	Mrs. H. Holmes	
Pine Warbler				
8, 16	Hanson, Plymouth	1, 1	W. Petersen, M. Kasprzyk	
Palm Warbler				
24, 25	W. Yarmouth, Quincy	1, 1	P. Trimble, J. Cameron#	
Wilson's Warbler				
12, 25	Cambridge	1	L. Taylor	
Northern Cardinal				
thr	Brookline	7	H. Wiggin#	
Dickcissel				
thr	Framingham	1	K. Hamilton	
"Spotted" Towhee				
27	N. Scituate	1	R. Abrams#	
American Tree Sparrow				
1, 31	Salisbury, P.I.	20, 14	D. F. Oliver	
12, 13	Holliston, Ipswich	32, 20	R. Hildreth, J. Berry	
Chipping Sparrow				
5-25, 23	Milton, Wellesley	1, 1	J. Cameron, O. Komar#	
30	S. Carver	1	K. Anderson	
Field Sparrow				
5	W. Newbury, Holliston	5, 8	BBC (G. d'Entremont), R. Hildreth	
7, 19	Freetown, Braintree	13, 2	B. Sorrie, D. Brown#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	DECEMBER 1987
Vesper Sparrow				
7	Sandwich	1	P. Trimble	
Savannah Sparrow				
7	Sandwich	7	P. Trimble	
"Ipswich" Sparrow				
1, 31	Salisbury	1, 1	D. F. Oliver, J. Brown	
8, 22	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1, 1	LCES (J. Lyons)	
Sharp-tailed Sparrow				
31	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (J. Lyons)	
Fox Sparrow				
5, 11	Cambridge (F.P.), W. Roxbury	2, 1	T. Aversa	
9	Milton	1	R. Abrams	
Song Sparrow				
7	Sandwich	35	P. Trimble	
Lapland Longspur				
1, 6	Salisbury, Quabbin (G37)	3, 3	D. F. Oliver, M. Lynch#	
12, 31	Duxbury, P.I.	6, 1	R. Abrams#, D. F. Oliver	
Snow Bunting				
6, 7	Quabbin (G37), P.I.	20+, 30+	M. Lynch#	
15, 31	S. Dart. (Allens Pd), P.I.	21, 56	LCES (J. Lyons), D. F. Oliver	
Eastern Meadowlark				
thr	P.I. area	1-4	v. o.	
Rusty Blackbird				
23	Wellesley	1	W. Petersen	
Northern Oriole				
14, 15	Nant. (2 locales)	1, 1	E. Andrews, B. Vigneau	
30	Newbypt	1	D. F. Oliver	
"Bullock's" Oriole				
8-27	Sherborn	1 f	A. Bolton#	
Purple Finch				
5	Newbypt, New Braintree	3, 2	BBC (G. d'Entremont), M. Lynch#	
6, 20; 27	Lexington: Topsfield	5, 7; 5	L. Taylor; J. Brown	
Red Crossbill				
3, 26	Quabbin (G40)	4, 50	M. Lynch#	
5	N. Middleboro	8	K. Holmes	
White-winged Crossbill				
5, 23	E. Middleboro, Wellesley	6, 16	K. Holmes, O. + N. Komar	
Common Redpoll				
12	Bolton Flats	25+	E. Salmela	
Pine Siskin				
1, 3	Newbypt, Quabbin (G40)	3, 26	D. F. Oliver, M. Lynch#	
12, 23	Bolton Flats, E. Middleboro	50+, 3	E. Salmela, K. Anderson	
Evening Grosbeak				
2, 18, 31	Topsfield	2, 1, 9	J. Brown	
12, 26	Ipswich, Hardwick	8-10, 90	J. Berry, M. Lynch#	





FIELD RECORDS

JANUARY/

FEBRUARY 1988

by Glenn d'Entremont, George W. Gove, and Robert H. Stymeist

In order to decrease the time between sightings and their publication in *Bird Observer*, observations from January and February 1988 have been combined and are presented here. This consolidation of sightings allows us to present the available records from January-February in less space than if we showed each month separately. We will, however, return to the usual monthly compilations with March 1988 in the next issue.

During the first half of January, cold weather prevailed, with a record 4 degrees below zero recorded on January 14. Temperatures moderated considerably during the last half of the month, although most ponds remained frozen.

February was mild and sunny; the temperature averaged 32.2 degrees. The high was 60 degrees on February 1, but in just six days we were back in the deep freeze with 8 degrees on February 7. Precipitation totaled 3.93 inches of rain and 14.1 inches of snow. The seasonal total at the end of February stood at 47.6 inches, 14.7 inches more than normal. The snow on February 12 was especially heavy to handle, hindering traffic and cleanup efforts. R.H.S.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

Sixty-five Red-throated Loons were noted off Provincetown on January 16. This total far surpasses the maximum of 37 noted from Nantucket during January-February last year. Red-necked Grebes were especially abundant off Hull and Cohasset, where 150 were tallied on February 28. A Western Grebe was found in Salisbury, and another of the same bird was noted off Wingersheek Beach between the Salisbury sightings. A Western Grebe was also found last February in Newburyport Harbor.

Good numbers of Northern Gannets were observed off the beaches from Provincetown to Eastham, and a Northern Fulmar was also observed off Head of the Meadow Beach in Truro.

Double-crested Cormorants continue to increase as a winter resident, especially in Boston Harbor where as many as 32 were counted on a Boston Harbor Take a Second Look (TASL) census January 16. A total of 24 Double-crested Cormorants was found sitting on a pier in South Boston on January 1.

As many as 4 American Bitterns were reported, compared with none last January-February. Great Blue Herons were widespread with a total of 93 birds recorded, substantially more than last year.

A Tundra Swan was found on an island near the baffle dams at Quabbin, where it was seen off and on until it was found dead there at the end of January.

Brant numbers were down in Boston Harbor from previous years, and 7 Snow Geese were noted from six locations, 7 more than last year. A Blue-winged Teal continued through January in West Barnstable. It was initially found during the Cape Cod Lake and Pond Survey December 5-6, 1987. Other waterfowl highlights included 3 Eurasian Wigeon, 7 King Eider, 9 Harlequin Ducks, 8 Barrow's Goldeneye, and very high numbers of Hooded Mergansers. Red-breasted Merganser totals off Provincetown were consistently high during the two-month period with a maximum of over 4100 noted.

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife conducted its annual midwinter coastal waterfowl survey on January 11 and 12. A total of 136,025 waterfowl was counted. American Black Ducks totaled 19,035, down 7 percent from last year. Canada Geese totals were 18,135, the highest on record. The previous high was 16,190 in 1979. Mute Swan numbers were also at a record high; for the first time the count exceeded 1000 birds.

The Division also conducted a park waterfowl survey, in which a total of 19,365 Mallards was counted at 161 sites in 86 Massachusetts communities. American Black Ducks totaled 2226. R.H.S.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JAN.-FEB. 1988
Red-throated Loon thr 1/1	P'town Rockport, Hull	65 max 1/16 2, 4	W. Petersen + v. o. M. Lynch#, P. Thayer	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JAN.-FEB. 1988
Red-throated Loon (continued)				
2/17, 2/28	Plymouth, Winthrop	6, 2	K. Holmes#, J. Berry#	
Common Loon				
thr	Cape Ann	5 max	v. o.	
thr	Newbypt-Salisbury	20 max	v. o.	
2/6, 2/17	Marshfield, Plymouth	10, 10	T. Aversa, K. Holmes#	
Pied-billed Grebe				
1/2	Plymouth (2 places)	6, 13	W. Petersen, R. Stymeist#	
1/2, 1/15	Nantucket, Framingham	13, 1	G. d'Entremont#, K. Hamilton	
1/25	Somerville	1	J. Berry	
2/10, 2/14	Plymouth, Falmouth	2, 1	R. Abrams, M. Lynch#	
Horned Grebe				
thr	Cape Ann	7 max	v. o.	
thr	Newburyport area	46 max 1/3	BBC (R. McHale) + v. o.	
thr	Boston Harbor	74 max 1/16	TASL + v. o.	
Red-necked Grebe				
thr	Hull	150 max 2/28	P. Thayer + v. o.	
thr	Cape Ann	12 max 1/31	v. o.	
thr	Newburyport area	1-4	v. o.	
1/16	N. Scituate, Winthrop	30, 20	T. Aversa	
Western Grebe				
1/19, 1/23	Salisbury	1	D. F. Oliver, H. Coolidge#	
1/21	Gloucester (Wingaersheek B.)	1	D. Brown#	
Northern Fulmar				
2/14	Truro (Head of the Meadow B.)	1	R. Stymeist#	
Northern Gannet				
1/9, 1/31	P'town, Rockport	4, 2	T. Aversa, BBC (S. Bolton)	
2/1, 2/6	Rockport (A.P.), P'town	14, 41	R. Forster, M. Lynch#	
2/16, 2/17	Orleans, P'town	130 in 0.5 hour, 150+	P. Trimble	
Great Cormorant				
thr	Boston Harbor	55 max 1/16	TASL + v. o.	
thr	Newburyport area	55 max 2/13	BBC (A. Bennett) + v. o.	
thr	N. Scituate	190 max 2/6	T. Aversa + v. o.	
thr	Cape Ann	40 max	v. o.	
1/9, 1/17	Eastham, P'town	150, 75	B. Nikula#	
2/20, 2/28	Lakeville	3, 2	K. Holmes, W. Petersen	
Double-crested Cormorant				
thr	Boston Harbor	32 max 1/16	TASL + v. o.	
1/3, 1/11	P'town, Eastham	1, 1	B. Nikula, W. Bailey#	
2/15, 2/20	Amesbury, Newbypt	4, 8	D. Chickering	
American Bittern				
1/1	Salisbury, P.I.	1, 1	M. Lynch#	
1/8, 2/27	Chatham, Eastham (F.H.)	1, 1	W. Bailey#, J. Bryant	
Great Blue Heron				
1/2, 1/10	Bourne, Milton	16, 26	K. Griffis#, D. Brown#	
1/1-31	36 individuals were reported from 17 locations.			
2/1-29	15 individuals were reported from 6 locations.			
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
1/3, 1/16	Nantucket, Worcester	26, 1	G. d'Entremont#, M. Lynch#	
1/11, 1/16	Eastham	14, 10	W. Bailey#, W. Petersen#	
Tundra Swan				
1/24, 1/28	Quabbin (G43)	1	S. Surner# + v. o.	
Mute Swan				
thr	Plymouth (Billington Sea)	78 max 1/2	v. o.	
thr	Gloucester	10 max	v. o.	
thr	Falmouth area	86 max 2/14	v. o.	
1/31	S. Boston (Carson B.)	7	M. Hall	
Snow Goose				
1/1	Gloucester, Yarmouthport	1, 1	M. Lynch#, K. Hamilton	
1/2, 1/5-12	Salisbury, S. Dartmouth	1, 2	E. Taylor, LCES (J. Lyons)	
2/20, 2/29	DWWS, Topsfield	1, 1	T. Aversa, J. Berry	
Brant				
thr	Boston H. (Winthrop-Squantum)		600 max 1/2 T. Aversa + v. o.	
1/16	P'town	250	SSBC (W. Petersen)	
1/30	Westport	24	SSBC (R. Abrams)	
2/15, 2/19	Nantucket, W. Yarmouth	34, 35	E. + C. Andrews, P. Trimble	
Canada Goose				
thr	Newburyport area	785 max 1/3	v. o.	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	403 max 1/5	LCES (J. Lyons)	
1/3, 1/4	Southboro, Wenham	800, 600	E. Taylor, J. Brown	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JAN.-FEB. 1988
Canada Goose (continued)				
1/29	Chatham (Pleasant Bay)	5000	R. Humphrey#	
2/6, 2/20	Uxbridge, Belmont	450, 56	J. Bryant, L. Taylor	
Wood Duck				
1/3, 1/20, 2/10	Danvers	1 m, 2, 1 f	J. Brown	
1/30, 1/31	W. Brookfield, Brockton	1 f, 1 f	R. Jenkins, R. Abrams#	
1/31	W. Barnstable	2	P. Trimble	
Green-winged Teal				
1/1	P.I., Waltham	1, 1	D. F. Oliver	
1/18, 1/31	Scituate, W. Barnstable	1, 9	R. Forster, P. Trimble	
2/13	Newburyport	1 f	J. Brown	
American Black Duck				
thr	Newburyport area	1000+ max 1/3	v. o.	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	691 max 1/12	LCES (J. Lyons)	
thr	Boston Harbor	1589 max 1/16	TASL + v. o.	
1/1, 1/3	Gloucester, Plymouth	125+, 500+	M. Lynch#	
1/16	Wollaston, Worcester	425, 75	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
1/30, 1/31	Westport, W. Barnstable	1200, 50	SSBC (R. Abrams), P. Trimble	
2/11, 2/15	Quincy Bay, Newton (City Hall)	469, 80	R. Abrams, O. Komar#	
Mallard				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	137 max 1/12	LCES (J. Lyons)	
1/1	Gloucester, S. Carver	60+, 66	M. Lynch#, J. Shaw	
1/3, 1/8	Plymouth, Ipswich	200+, 250+	M. Lynch#, J. MacDougall	
1/16	Boston Harbor, Worcester	282, 225	TASL, M. Lynch#	
1/19, 1/24	Stoneham, Arlington	650, 119	T. Aversa, L. Taylor	
Northern Pintail				
1/3	Plymouth, Danvers	1 f, 1 m	M. Lynch#, J. Brown	
1/7, 1/16	Scituate, Hingham	1 f, 1	D. F. Oliver, TASL	
1/19-2/21, 1/30	Stoneham, Lynn	2, 2	T. Aversa, J. Cumming	
2/1-29	Yarmouthport	40 max	J. Aylward#	
2/19, 2/28	W. Yarmouth, Halifax	2, 4	P. Trimble, W. Petersen	
Blue-winged Teal (from 12/5/87)				
1/31	W. Barnstable	1	P. Trimble	
Northern Shoveler				
thr	Hull	1	P. Thayer	
Gadwall				
1/1-2/17	Plymouth (Billington Sea)	20 max 1/2	v. o.	
1/1-24, 1/1	Gloucester, P.I.	2, 17	D. Chickering + v. o., M. Lynch#	
1/16-31, 1/16-21	Scituate, Worcester	1, 1	v. o., M. Lynch# + v. o.	
1/31, 2/19	W. Barnstable, W. Yarmouth	7, 2	P. Trimble	
Eurasian Wigeon				
thr	Plymouth (Billington Sea)	1 m	v. o.	
1/1-31, 2/14-22	Chatham, Nantucket	1, 1	v. o., E. Andrews	
American Wigeon				
thr	Plymouth (Billington Sea)	150+ max 1/3	v. o.	
thr	Belmont (Clay Pit Pond)	68 max 1/1	v. o.	
1/31	Manomet	35	V. Yurkunas	
2/14, 2/27	Falmouth, Eastham	10, 21	M. Lynch#, J. Bryant	
Canvasback				
thr	Nantucket	67 max 2/17	E. Andrews + v. o.	
thr	Falmouth	80 max 1/2	G. Gove + v. o.	
1/1-2/6	Dennis	420 max 1/1	K. Hamilton + v. o.	
1/16, 1/22	Quincy, Natick	6, 1	TASL, K. Ryan	
2/17	Milton, S. Dartmouth	8, 8	R. Abrams, LCES (J. Lyons)	
Redhead				
thr	Plymouth (Billington Sea)	7 max 1/31	v. o.	
thr	Nantucket	65 max 2/14	E. Andrews + v. o.	
thr	Falmouth	4 max 1/10	H. Wiggin + v. o.	
1/30, 2/6	Dennis	5, 8	R. Forster, M. Lynch#	
Ring-necked Duck				
thr	Plymouth (Billington Sea)	150 max 1/13	v. o.	
thr	Lakeville	6 max 2/15	K. Holmes + v. o.	
1/19, 1/31-2/29	Framingham, Newton	5, 1 f	R. Forster, M. Murphy# + v. o.	
2/10, 2/27	Plymouth, Eastham	140, 17	R. Abrams, J. Bryant	
Greater Scaup				
thr	Falmouth	440 max 2/14	M. Lynch# + v. o.	
thr	Boston Harbor	760 max 1/16	TASL + v. o.	
1/2, 1/30	Bourne, Westport	350, 100	R. Stymeist#, SSBC (R. Abrams)	
2/28	Lakeville	15	W. Petersen#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JAN.-FEB. 1988
Lesser Scaup 1/10, 1/21	Newbypt, Falmouth	1, 2	J. Berry, D. F. Oliver	
Common Eider thr	Boston Harbor	13353 max 1/16	TASL + v. o.	
thr	Plymouth	1000 max 1/3	M. Lynch# + v. o.	
thr	Cape Ann	300+ max 1/2	J. Brown + v. o.	
2/6	Salisbury	185	BBC (J. Center)	
2/28	Marblehead-Winthrop	2300+	J. Berry#	
King Eider thr	Winthrop	1 m	v. o.	
1/1-3, 1/1	Hull, Rockport	1 f, 1 m	R. Abrams#, M. Lynch#	
1/3, 1/10	Nahant, Quincy	1 m, 1 m	C. Floyd#, D. Brown#	
1/13, 2/27	Salisbury, Eastham	1 f, 1 f	R. Forster#, J. Bryant	
Harlequin Duck thr	N. Scituate	1 or 2	v. o.	
thr	Cape Ann	3 or 4	v. o.	
1/1-30, 2/19	Winthrop, Manomet	1, 2	J. Cumming + v. o., K. Holmes	
Oldsquaw thr	Nantucket	thousands	E. Andrews + v. o.	
thr	Newburyport	100+ max 2/13	v. o.	
1/24-2/24	Boston Harbor	50 max 1/27	P. Thayer	
Black Scoter 1/30	Westport	30	SSBC (R. Abrams)	
2/6, 2/26	Wellfleet, Barnstable	19, 10	M. Lynch#, P. Trimble	
Surf Scoter 1/1, 1/16	Rockport, Nahant	9, 6	M. Lynch#, TASL	
2/10, 2/18	Hull, Beverly	12, 5	R. Abrams, J. Brown	
2/26, 2/28	Barnstable, Marblehead Neck	60, 27	P. Trimble, J. Berry#	
White-winged Scoter thr	Boston Harbor	224 max 1/16	TASL + v. o.	
Common Goldeneye thr	Boston Harbor	1095 max 1/16	TASL + v. o.	
thr	Newbypt-Salisbury	1000+ max 1/30	v. o.	
thr	Cape Ann	150 max	v. o.	
2/20, 2/29	Arlington, Mashpee	1, 120	L. Taylor, P. Trimble	
Barrow's Goldeneye thr	Newburyport	4 max 2/14	G. Gove + v. o.	
thr	Hull	1 or 2	v. o.	
1/1, 1/3	Winthrop, N. Scituate	1, 1	C. Floyd#, R. Stymeist	
Bufflehead thr	Boston Harbor	1315 max 1/16	TASL + v. o.	
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	57 max	LCES (J. Lyons)	
2/14	Falmouth	438	M. Lynch#	
Hooded Merganser thr	Falmouth	100 max 2/14	M. Lynch# + v. o.	
thr	Plymouth (Billington Sea)	20+ max 1/3	v. o.	
thr	Watertown-Waltham	13 max 1/29	D. F. Oliver + v. o.	
thr	Lakeville	2	v. o.	
thr	Orleans (Town Cove)	42 max 1/6	K. Hamilton + v. o.	
1/2, 1/5	Plymouth, S. Dartmouth	36, 5	R. Stymeist#, LCES (J. Lyons)	
1/25, 1/31-2/2	Medford, Newton	2, 3	T. Aversa, M. Murphy#	
2/6, 2/9-29	Eastham, Nantucket	33, 16 max	M. Lynch#, E. Andrews#	
2/15, 2/20	Arlington, Belmont	12, 5	L. Taylor	
Common Merganser thr	Plymouth, Waltham	40 max, 27 max	v. o., D. F. Oliver	
thr	Eastham, Newbypt	60 max, 70 max	v. o.	
thr	Nantucket, Lakeville	47 max, 20 max	v. o.	
1/10, 1/19	Quabbin (G43), Framingham	160, 14	R. Jenkins, R. Forster	
2/6, 2/27	Uxbridge, Eastham	20, 25	J. Bryant	
Red-breasted Merganser thr	P'town, Newbypt	4100+ max, 150 max	v. o.	
1/10, 1/16	Truro, Boston Harbor	3000, 1278	B. Nikula, TASL	
Ruddy Duck 1/3, 2/10	Plymouth (Billington Sea)	2, 7	M. Lynch#, R. Abrams	

RAPTORS

Three Turkey Vultures were noted, compared with one during the same period last year. As many as 6 Bald Eagles were found along the Merrimack River which is more than the maximum of 3 in January-

February 1987. Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen at many feeders throughout the period, with eyewitness reports of sharpies dining on European Starlings, House Sparrows, and Dark-eyed Juncos. Red-shouldered Hawks were noted at six locations, and a Golden Eagle was found in East Quabbin. Peregrine Falcons were noted near the Custom House in downtown Boston, at Fort Hill in Eastham, and from three other locations.
H.S.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JAN.-FEB. 1988
Turkey Vulture				
1/1	Southboro	1	E. Taylor	
2/5, 2/26	Uxbridge, Warren	1, 1	J. Bryant, K. Ryan	
Bald Eagle				
thr	Merrimack River	6 max (2 ad, 4 imm)	2/21	v. o.
thr	Lakeville	2 max (1 ad, 1 imm)	2/27	K. Holmes + v. o.
thr	East Quabbin	6 max (3 ad, 3 imm)		v. o.
2/3	Yarmouthport	1 imm		R. Scott
2/9, 2/28	Cambridge, Halifax	1 ad, 1 imm		J. Porcher, W. Petersen
Northern Harrier				
thr	Newbypt-Salisbury	8 max 1/3		v. o.
thr	Halifax-Middleboro	4+ max		v. o.
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	3+ max		LCES (J. Lyons)
Nine birds reported from 6 locations.				
Sharp-shinned Hawk				
1/1-31	Single birds reported from 18 locations.			
2/1-29	Single birds reported from 10 locations.			
Cooper's Hawk				
1/9, 1/21	Templeton, Eastham	1 ad, 1 ad		M. Lynch#, D. F. Oliver
1/22, 1/26	Newton, Chatham	1 ad, 1		O. Komar, W. Bailey
1/29, 2/8	E. Middleboro	1		K. Anderson
2/6, 2/8	Newbypt, S. Carver	1, 1		BBC (J. Center), J. Shaw
2/8, 2/19	Chatham, Harwich	1 imm, 1		B. Nikula
2/22	West Chatham	1 imm		B. Nikula
Northern Goshawk				
1/6, 1/13	Petersham, Westboro	1 ad, 1		D. F. Oliver, K. Ryan
1/16, 1/17	Eastham, Hardwick	1, 1 imm		W. Bailey, M. Lynch#
1/31	Bridgewater	1 ad		W. Petersen#
2/4, 2/14	S. Carver	1 ad		J. Shaw
2/15	E. Middleboro	1		K. Anderson
2/21, 2/29	Quabbin (G43), Haverhill	1 ad, 1		M. Lynch#, D. Donovan#
Red-shouldered Hawk				
1/3, 1/8	Lakeville	1 ad		K. Holmes
1/11, 1/23-31	Orleans, Hanson	1, 1 ad		W. Bailey, W. Petersen#
2/10, 2/18-29	Gloucester, E. Middleboro	1, 1 or 2		D. Clapp#, K. Anderson
2/23, 2/28	Essex, Lakeville	1, 1		J. MacDougall, W. Petersen#
Red-tailed Hawk				
thr	Newburyport area	10+		v. o.
1/30	Westport	10		SSBC (R. Abrams)
2/27	Bridgewater-Middleboro	10		SSBC (K. Holmes)
Many reports of 1-4 individuals from various locations.				
Rough-legged Hawk				
thr	Newburyport-Salisbury	1-4+		v. o.
thr	Halifax-Middleboro	2-4+		v. o.
thr	DWWS	3 or 4+		v. o.
Individual birds reported from seven locations.				
Golden Eagle				
1/17	Quabbin (G43)	1 ad		M. Lynch#
American Kestrel				
thr	P.I.-Salisbury	5+		v. o.
thr	Middleboro area	5+		v. o.
Other reports of 1 or 2 individuals from many locations.				
Merlin				
1/2, 1/19	Nantucket (2 locations)	1, 1		E. Andrews
1/23, 1/30	Winchester, Newbypt	1, 1		F. Porter, BBC (S. Moore)
2/9, 2/23, 2/24	Nantucket (3 locations)	1, 1, 1		E. Andrews
Peregrine Falcon				
1/3	Boston, Eastham	2, 1		R. Stymeist#, B. Nikula
1/12	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1		LCES (J. Lyons)
1/24	Muskeget	1		E. Andrews
1/31, 2/29	W. Barnstable, Cambridge	1, 1		P. Trimble, F. Bouchard

GALLIFORMES THROUGH WRENS

Flocks of Wild Turkeys were seen at three Central Massachusetts locations in January, but none were reported in February. A Yellow Rail reportedly flew in front of an observer in Chatham on January 28. Its small size and amber color were noted. A Common Moorhen spent the period at a feeder on Nantucket in the company of a female Northern Pintail, among other common feeder birds. The large flock of American Coot continued at the Billington Sea in Plymouth with a little attrition. A Black-bellied Plover spent most of the period near Raccoon Island in Quincy, where the Mew, or Common, Gull was also noted for the fourth consecutive year. In Westport, where the snow cover was about ten inches and the temperature was thirty degrees, an American Woodcock flew to a tree and perched. It then flew from tree to tree with a flock of White-breasted Nuthatches (which may have been mobbing it) and then landed within forty feet of the observers on a section of bare pavement and began to probe the surface -- unusual behavior, to say the least.

Up to 12 Common Black-headed Gulls were present in Winthrop, where they could be seen roosting at high tide. A Thayer's Gull was described from Gloucester. Alcids, including Dovekies, Common and Thick-billed Murres, Black Guillemots, Atlantic Puffins, and Razorbills, were all present during the period, and up to 3000 Razorbills were counted feeding offshore along outer Cape Cod from Provincetown to Wellfleet.

An Eastern Screech-Owl was rescued from a bedroom in Sherborn; no further details concerning this feat were provided, however. Short-eared Owls were seen at seven locations including up to 6 that spent the period in Halifax and 9 on Nantucket. A Pileated Woodpecker responded to a screech-Owl whistle in Weston and then interacted with a Sharp-shinned Hawk. Large roosts of American Crows were reported from Framingham and from Reading. Wren reports included Carolina Wren (all from southeastern Massachusetts and Cape Cod), Winter Wren from five locations, and a Marsh Wren in Hyannis.

G.W.G.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JAN.-FEB. 1988
Ruffed Grouse				
1/1, 1/12	Stoughton, Mansfield	6, 4	T. Aversa	
1/15	Hamilton	2	T. Aversa	
1/2, 1/15	Hardwick	6, 3	M. Lynch#, R. Jenkins	
2/7, 2/20	Hardwick, Hamilton	9 budding, 1 gray	M. Lynch#, J. Berry	
Wild Turkey				
1/23, 1/24	Barre, Quabbin (G43)	22, 10	D. Donovan#, M. Lynch#	
1/24, 1/31	Petersham	26	W. Petersen#	
Virginia Rail				
1/10	Ipswich, N. Truro	1, 2	J. Berry, B. Nikula	
Common Moorhen				
1/10-2/29	Nantucket	1 at feeder	E. Andrews	
American Coot				
thr	Walpole	1	O. Komar	
1/1-2/10	Plymouth	268 max 1/2	v. o.	
1/1, 1/3	Arlington, Lynn	20, 28	R. Stymeist#	
1/3, 1/15	Natick	15, 30	R. Forster, K. Ryan	
1/24-27	Medford	7 max 1/24	L. Taylor	
2/9, 2/14	Lynn, Falmouth	9, 12	J. Brown, M. Lynch#	
Black-bellied Plover				
1/6-2/7	Quincy	1	v. o.	
1/24	Scituate	1	R. Abrams	
Killdeer				
1/3-16	Orleans	1-3	v. o.	
1/21	Scituate	1	R. Abrams	
Ruddy Turnstone				
1/1, 1/3	Hull	12, 3	P. Thayer, C. Floyd#	
1/7, 2/6, 2/20	N. Scituate	14, 2, 50	v.o	
Red Knot				
1/7, 1/10, 1/18	N. Scituate	25, 20, 18	v. o.	
1/10	Cohasset	12	R. Abrams#	
2/20	N. Scituate	5	v. o.	
Sanderling				
thr	Hull	60 max 1/29	P. Thayer	
1/1-31	Newburyport	13 max	v. o.	
1/1, 1/22	Revere, Nahant	90, 120	R. Stymeist#, J. Brown	
Purple Sandpiper				
thr	N. Scituate	150-300	v. o.	
1/17, 1/18	Cohasset	450, 75	W. Petersen, R. Forster	
1/2, 1/17	Cape Ann	25, 38	J. Brown	
1/30, 2/28	Westport, Marblehead	80, 55	SSBC (R. Abrams), J. Berry#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JAN.-FEB. 1988
Dunlin				
thr	S. Dartmouth-Westport	64 max 1/12	v. o.	
1/6, 1/9	Eastham	350, 500	K. Hamilton, B. Nikula#	
2/6	Eastham	78	M.Lynch#	
Common Snipe				
1/1, 1/3	Newburyport	1, 4	v. o.	
1/2	Mansfield	1	T. Aversa	
1/10	Ipswich	1	J. Berry	
American Woodcock				
1/9, 1/10	Rockport, Westport	1, 1	R. Norris, R. Marshall	
2/25, 2/28	Middleboro area, Bridgewater	5, 5	BBC (D. Davis), K. Holmes	
Common Black-headed Gull				
1/1-31	Newburyport	1	v.o	
1/17-24	Gloucester	2 or 3	v. o.	
1/1, 1/12	Winthrop, Quincy	12, 1	C. Floyd#, K. Ryan	
2/7-17	Quincy	2 ad + 1 imm max	v. o.	
2/18	Beverly	1	J. Brown	
Bonaparte's Gull				
1/1-31	Newburyport	15 max	v. o.	
1/2, 1/7	Gloucester, N. Scituate	6, 6	J. Brown, D. F. Oliver	
1/18, 2/21	Winthrop, Newburyport	15, 1	TASL, J. Berry	
Common Gull				
1/4-2/16	Quincy	1 ad	R. Abrams	
Ring-billed Gull				
thr	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	7-78	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
1/1-31	Newburyport	300 max 1/3	v. o.	
1/24, 1/30	Arlington, Westport	51, 125	L. Taylor, SSBC (R. Abrams)	
2/1-29	Belmont, Arlington	60, 55-75	L. Taylor	
2/1	Stoneham	135	T. Aversa	
Thayer's Gull (details)				
1/18-21	Gloucester	1 ad	J. Quigley + v. o.	
Iceland Gull				
thr	Cape Ann	7 max	v. o.	
thr	Newburyport-Salisbury	25 max	v. o.	
1/16	Provincetown	4	v. o.	
2/11-17	Quincy	1-2	R. Abrams	
Glaucous Gull				
1/1-31	Gloucester	1	v. o.	
1/10, 1/16	Cohasset, Eastham	1, 1	R. Abrams, W. Petersen#	
1/17, 1/25	Provincetown, S. Carver	1, 1	B. Nikula#, J. Shaw	
2/23	GMNWR	1	C. Floyd	
Black-legged Kittiwake				
1/1-31	Rockport	65 max 1/16	v. o.	
2/6	Wellfleet	2	M. Lynch#	
Dovekie				
2/6, 2/15	Provincetown	3, 6	M. Lynch#, G. Gove#	
Common Murre				
1/24	Provincetown	1 (oiled)	C. Floyd	
Thick-billed Murre				
1/11-31	Rockport	1-2	v. o.	
1/3	Nantucket Sound	1	D. Brown	
2/6	Wellfleet	1	M. Lynch#	
Razorbill				
thr	Wellfleet to Provincetown	3000 max	v. o.	
Black Guillemot				
thr	Provincetown, Rockport	20 max, 15 max	v. o.	
Atlantic Puffin				
2/6	Provincetown	2	M. Lynch#	
Common Barn-Owl				
2/9	Nantucket	1 dead	fide M. Litchfield	
Eastern Screech-Owl				
thr	Topsfield, Easton	1, 1 red	J. Brown, K. Ryan	
2/25-28	Bridgewater-Middleboro	3-5	v. o.	
Reports of individuals from 6 locations.				
Great Horned Owl				
thr	Ipswich	2-4	J. Berry	
thr	Bridgewater-Middleboro	2-4	v. o.	
1/31, 2/26	Barnstable, E. Sandwich	4, 2	P. Trimble	
2/4-7	Waltham	1-2	L. Taylor	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JAN.-FEB. 1988
Snowy Owl				
thr	Nantucket	1-4	fide E. Andrews	
thr	Newburyport area, Quincy	1-3, 1-2	v. o.	
1/15-17	Lakeville	1	K. Holmes	
1/20-2/26	W. Yarmouth	1	P. Trimble	
2/9	Duxbury	3	R. Abrams	
Barred Owl				
1/20, 1/30	Rutland	1, 1	R. Jenkins	
1/24	Quabbin (G43)	1	S. Selesky	
2/25-28	Bridgewater-Middleboro	1-2	v. o.	
2/24	E. Middleboro	2 dueting	K. Anderson	
Long-eared Owl				
2/27	Mashpee	1	P. Trimble	
Short-eared Owl				
thr	Halifax, Nantucket	6 max, 9 max	v. o.	
1/3	Middleboro	4	W. Petersen#	
1/1-2/9	DWWS	2 max	D. Ludlow + v. o.	
1/30-31, 2/29	Salisbury	1, 1	E. Taylor, D. Donovan	
2/1, 2/3	Mashpee, S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1, 1	G. Martin, LCES (D. Christiansen)	
Northern Saw-whet Owl				
1/2, 1/17	Oakham, Quabbin (G40)	1, 1	M. Lynch#, D. Donovan#	
1/25, 2/21	Nantucket, P.I.	1, 1	fide M. Litchfield, J. Berry	
Belted Kingfisher				
1/1, 1/2	Cambridge, Falmouth	1, 5	R. Stymeist#	
1/3, 2/6	Cohasset, Eastham	2, 2	R. Abrams, M. Lynch#	
2/1-29	Watertown	1	M. Hall	
Reports of individuals from 9 locations.				
Red-headed Woodpecker				
1/1	Holden	1 (from Dec.)	R. Jenkins	
1/6-31	Nantucket	1 imm	E. Andrews	
Hairy Woodpecker				
1/1-31, 2/18	Templeton, Quabbin (G43)	4, 5	R. Jenkins, P. Trimble	
Northern Flicker				
1/3, 1/8	Middleboro, Lakeville	7, 3	W. Petersen#, K. Holmes	
2/6	Boxford	3	D. F. Oliver	
1/1-31	Reports of individuals from 12 locations.			
2/1-29	Reports of individuals from 7 locations.			
Pileated Woodpecker				
1/1, 1/10	Weston, Royalston	1, 1	R. Stymeist#, M. Lynch#	
1/8, 1/24	Athol, IRWS	1, 1	J. Bradley, J. Brown	
1/24-30	Hardwick	1-2	v. o.	
2/18, 2/21	Quabbin (G43), Worcester	4, 1	P. Trimble, M. Lynch#	
Horned Lark				
thr	Salisbury	47 max 2/6	v. o.	
thr	Middleboro	150 max 1/2	W. Petersen	
1/1-31	New Braintree, Newbypt area	12-65, 41 max	R. Jenkins, v. o.	
1/9, 2/28	Eastham, Halifax	50, 50	T. Aversa, BBC (K. Holmes)	
Blue Jay				
1/17, 2/15	Petersham, Hardwick	83, 41	K. Griffis, M. Lynch#	
American Crow				
1/1-31, 1/30	Framingham, Reading	3000, 1600	E. Taylor	
1/1-31	S. Dartmouth, Worcester	98 max 1/12, 250	LCES (J. Lyons), M. Lynch#	
1/6, 1/16	Woburn, Milton	200, 200	T. Aversa, G. Gove#	
2/14, 2/25	Woods Hole, Middleboro	200, 259	P. Trimble, BBC (D. Davis)	
Fish Crow				
1/1-31, 1/30	Framingham, Worcester	50, 1	E. Taylor, M. Lynch#	
2/27	Waltham	1	L. Taylor#	
Common Raven				
thr	Quabbin (G40, 43)	1-5	v. o.	
Red-breasted Nuthatch				
thr	Quabbin (G40, 43)	8-32	v. o.	
1/1, 1/24	Topsfield, Wayland	4, 4	J. MacDougall, R. Forster	
Brown Creeper				
thr	Quabbin (G40, 43)	3-7	v. o.	
1/12, 1/28	Stoneham, Andover	2, 3	T. Aversa, V. Yurkunas	
2/16	Easton	2	K. Ryan	
Carolina Wren				
1/1-31	Lakeville	1	W. Petersen	
1/2, 1/3	Bourne-N. Falmouth, Nahant	9, 1	R. Stymeist#, C. Floyd#	
1/3, 1/4	Plymouth, Middleboro	2, 2	M. Lynch#, K. Holmes	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JAN.-FEB. 1988
Carolina Wren (continued)				
1/24, 1/30	Hyannis, Westport	2, 2	P. Trimble, SSBC (R. Abrams)	
2/14	Falmouth	9	M. Lynch#	
2/17, 2/27	Orleans, Mashpee	1, 1	P. Trimble	
Winter Wren				
1/1	Newton, Wellesley	1, 1	P. Martin, K. Winkler	
1/9, 2/19	Waltham, W. Yarmouth	1, 1	L. Taylor, P. Trimble	
2/11-23	Stoneham	1-2	T. Aversa	
Marsh Wren				
1/24	Hyannis	1	P. Trimble	

KINGLETS THROUGH FINCHES

Worcester County has been a stronghold for wintering Eastern Bluebirds in recent years; a maximum of 12 individuals were found in Hardwick during January, and another 5 were counted in nearby Barre. Hermit Thrushes were noted from just a few areas, but the total number reported, 12, was 12 more than the number from the two-month period last year. At the Eagle Hill School in Hardwick, as many as 5 Bohemian Waxwings were seen throughout the period, though not on a regular basis. It was a good winter for seeing Northern Shrikes, especially on the Outer Cape, where at least 6 individuals were tallied. An Ovenbird was photographed at a feeder in Dennis, where it remained for nine days.

The Western stray trend continued during January and February. In mid-December 1987, a Hammond's Flycatcher spent ten days in Wellesley, and a Townsend's Warbler was at a Framingham feeder for nearly two weeks. In January, an "Audubon's" Warbler, the western race of our "Myrtle" Warbler, was seen on Nantucket; 2 "Spotted" Towhees were spotted at feeders, one in Acton and one in North Scituate. Two "Oregon" Juncos (the western race of our "Slate-colored") showed up at a feeder in Stow, and one was seen at a feeder on Nantucket. A Fox Sparrow of the western race, distinguished from our eastern race by its larger size and much grayer plumage, was observed in North Falmouth. Three Dickcissels visited feeders in Framingham, Lincoln, and Nantucket.

Other notable birds included a Seaside Sparrow in Rowley. This species is now becoming regular in winter in Essex County (7 were counted on the Newburyport CBC in 1985). Two adult White-crowned Sparrows were found on Nantucket, and a total of 80 Eastern Meadowlarks were counted in one field in Middleboro. This count is almost twice the number 45 seen in January 1985.

With the exception of Pine Siskins, winter finches were not easily found. Only 2 Pine Grosbeaks were noted, and just 2 Common Redpolls were recorded. There was a flock of Red Crossbills seen reliably at Dana Commons in East Quabbin, where a few White-winged Crossbills were also noted. Evening Grosbeaks were observed in small flocks throughout the area, but only East Quabbin was a consistently good place for finding them.

Southwest winds on February 22 and 23 brought a general arrival of blackbirds; 900 Red-winged Blackbirds at Middleboro represented the largest concentration reported. G.d'E., R.H.S.

Golden-crowned Kinglet				
1/21-2/20	Wenham	9 max	J. Brown	
1/12, 1/17	Stoneham, E. Quabbin	5, 17	T. Aversa, BBC (M. Lynch)	
2/6, 2/27	Newbury, Mashpee	4, 3	D. Chickering, P. Trimble	
Eastern Bluebird				
1/1-31, 1/30	Hardwick, Barre	12 max 1/5, 5	v. o., R. Jenkins	
Hermit Thrush				
1/11-2/29	Newton	1	O. Komar	
1/1, 1/2	Weston, Falmouth area	2, 7	G. Gove#, R. Stymeist#	
2/14, 2/27	Falmouth, Mashpee	1, 1	M. Lynch#, P. Trimble	
American Robin				
1/1, 1/13	Cambridge, Chatham	40, 60+	R. Stymeist#, B. Nikula#	
1/14, 1/15	Harwich, Woods Hole	20+, 150	B. Nikula#, G. Martin	
1/23	W. Boylston, Boxford	21, 30	M. Lynch#, D. F. Oliver	
2/5, 2/9	Wellesley, Rochester	25, 65	R. Forster, K. Ryan	
2/6, 2/14	Boxford, Nantucket	50, 55	D. F. Oliver, B. Hallett	
2/19, 2/28	Yarmouthport, Lexington	50+, 4	J. Aylward, L. Taylor	
Gray Catbird				
1/2, 1/30	Boston (A.A.), Westport	1, 1	T. Aversa, SSBC (R. Abrams)	
2/14	Falmouth	2	M. Lynch#	
Brown Thrasher				
1/24	Hyannis	1	P. Trimble	
Bohemian Waxwing thr				
	Hardwick	5 max 1/5	v. o.	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JAN.-FEB. 1988
Cedar Waxwing				
thr	Hardwick	150+ max 1/5	v. o.	
1/8, 2/6	Middleboro, Boxford	4, 50	K. Holmes, D. F. Oliver	
2/4-25, 2/28	Easton, Chatham	20, 30	K. Ryan, B. Nikula	
Northern Shrike				
thr, 1/1	P.I. area, E. Boston	1 or 2, 1	v. o., J. Cumming	
1/17, 1/19	Squantum, Outer Cape	1, 6	v. o., W. Bailey	
2/6-17, 2/19	P'town, Bolton	1, 1	v. o., D. Donovan	
2/28	Sudbury	1	R. Forster	
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
1/2, 1/9	Lakeville, P'town	2, 25	K. Holmes, T. Aversa	
1/29	Chatham (Pleasant Bay)	50	R. Humphrey#	
1/30, 1/31	Westport, P.I.	11, 4	SSBC (R. Abrams), M. Lynch#	
2/9-2/24	S. Dartmouth	34 max	LCES (D. Christiansen)	
"Audubon's" Warbler (details submitted)				
1/2	Nantucket	1	D. Brown# + G. d'Entremont	
Ovenbird				
1/1-9	Dennis	1 at feeder ph	R. + E. Fisher	
Northern Cardinal				
thr	Brookline	8 at feeder	H. Wiggin	
1/4, 1/1-31	Lancaster, Sherborn	16, 10	D. Donovan, E. Taylor	
Dickcissel				
1/1-2	Framingham	1 imm m	K. Hamilton	
1/1-31, 1/12	Lincoln, Nantucket	1, 1	M. Perkins + v. o., E. Andrews	
Rufous-sided Towhee				
1/2	Bourne-N. Falmouth	5	R. Stymeist#	
1/8, 1/9	Nahant, Hardwick	1, 1	T. Aversa, M. Lynch#	
1/16, 1/17	N. Scituate, Middleboro	1, 2	v. o., K. Holmes	
2/13, 2/14	W. Bridgewater, Falmouth	1, 1	K. Holmes, M. Lynch#	
"Spotted" Towhee				
Jan.	Acton, N. Scituate	1, 1	fide S. Perkins	
American Tree Sparrow				
thr, 1/1	Lancaster, Uxbridge	60 max 1/31, 51	D. Donovan, R. Hildreth	
1/3, 1/4	Middleboro, Andover	60+, 30+	W. Petersen#, V. Yurkunas	
1/15, 1/16	Bridgewater, Hardwick	100+, 25	K. Holmes, G. d'Entremont	
1/30, 2/10	Westport, IRWS	10, 30	SSBC (R. Abrams), J. Brown	
Field Sparrow				
1/2, 1/4	Belmont, Middleboro	1, 8	BBC (R. Clayton), K. Holmes	
1/4, 1/30	Lancaster, Westport	5, 4	D. Donovan, SSBC (R. Abrams)	
2/9, 2/12-14	Norton, Ipswich	6, 1	K. Ryan, J. Berry	
Savannah Sparrow				
1/3, 1/9	Middleboro, Eastham	30+, 5	W. Petersen#, T. Aversa	
2/28	Middleboro	1	W. Petersen	
"Ipswich" Sparrow				
1/19-2/20	Salisbury	1	v. o.	
Seaside Sparrow (details submitted)				
1/10	Rowley	1	J. Berry	
Fox Sparrow				
1/1-31	Marlboro	1 (from 12/20)	B. Parker	
1/2	N. Falmouth	1 (western race)	R. Stymeist#	
2/16, 2/17	Easton, Milton	1, 1	K. Ryan, R. Abrams	
Song Sparrow				
1/2, 2/14	Bridgewater, Falmouth	25+, 26	K. Holmes, M. Lynch#	
Swamp Sparrow				
1/3	Middleboro, Plymouth	8, 2	W. Petersen, M. Lynch#	
1/18, 1/24	Belmont, Hyannis	3, 1	L. Taylor, P. Trimble	
2/14, 2/27	Ipswich, Mashpee	1, 3	J. Berry, P. Trimble	
White-throated Sparrow				
thr	Ipswich, Brookline	6 max, 8 max	J. Berry, H. Wiggin	
1/4, 1/16	Middleboro, Lincoln	3, 15+	K. Holmes, M. Lynch#	
1/21, 2/14	MNWS, Falmouth	8, 21	J. Brown, M. Lynch#	
White-crowned Sparrow				
late Jan.	Nantucket	2 ad	fide M. Litchfield	
Dark-eyed Junco				
1/3, 1/10	Plymouth, Templeton	20, 30	M. Lynch#, R. Jenkins	
1/16, 1/17	Lincoln, E. Quabbin	30+, 68	M. Lynch#, v. o.	
2/1-29, 2/13	Ipswich, Nantucket	22 max, 23	J. Berry, v. o.	
"Oregon" Junco				
Jan.	Stow	2	fide S. Perkins	
2/13	Nantucket	1	fide E. Andrews	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JAN.-FEB. 1988
Lapland Longspur				
1/13-2/15	Salisbury	7 max	v. o.	
1/3, 2/26	Middleboro, Nantucket	6, 1 m	W. Petersen#, E. Andrews	
Snow Bunting				
thr, 1/1	Quincy, S. Boston	30 max, 30	v. o., M. Hall	
1/1, 1/10	Nantucket, Halifax	100+, 100	v. o., R. Abrams#	
1/10, 1/31	Middleboro, Salisbury	80, 110	W. Petersen, M. Lynch#	
2/13, 2/21	Salisbury, Bolton	49, 120+	J. Brown, D. Donovan	
Red-winged Blackbird				
1/1, 1/7	E. Middleboro, DWWS	12, 26	K. Anderson, D. F. Oliver	
1/20, 2/15	Gardner, Falmouth	1, 2	R. Jenkins, D. Donovan#	
2/28	Middleboro	900	W. Petersen#	
Eastern Meadowlark				
1/2-3, 1/3	DWWS, Middleboro	6 max, 80	v. o., K. Anderson#	
1/5, 1/24	New Braintree, Mashpee	1, 3	R. Jenkins, P. Trimble	
Rusty Blackbird				
1/2, 1/5-20	Middleboro, New Braintree	10, 4 max	K. Holmes, R. Jenkins	
Common Grackle				
1/7, 1/15	Salisbury, Framingham	7, 1	V. Yurkunas, K. Hamilton	
Brown-headed Cowbird				
1/3, 1/30	Middleboro, Westport	90, 20	W. Petersen#, SSBC (R. Abrams)	
Pine Grosbeak				
1/23, 2/7	Quabbin (G42), Hardwick	1, 1	D. Donovan#, M. Lynch#	
Purple Finch				
thr	Hardwick	15+ max 1/9	v. o.	
1/23-31, 1/21	Boxford, Worcester	9 max 1/23, 15	v. o., R. Jenkins	
2/18, 2/28	Quabbin (G43), Lexington	6, 3	P. Trimble, L. Taylor	
Red Crossbill				
thr	Quabbin (G40)	65 max	v. o.	
2/18-21	Quabbin (G43)	3 max	v. o.	
White-winged Crossbill				
1/12-20	Oakham	12 max	R. Jenkins	
1/24-30, 2/15	Quabbin (G43), Quabbin (G41)	1, 2	v. o., M. Lynch#	
Common Redpoll				
1/24, 2/18-24	Quabbin (G40), Nantucket	1, 1	W. Petersen, B. Vigneau	
Pine Siskin				
thr	East Quabbin	150 max 1/8	v. o.	
1/1-31	Framingham, Marlboro	23 max, 22 max	K. Hamilton, B. Parker	
2/7-29, 2/9	Hopkinton, E. Middleboro	24 max, 8 max	J. Gordon, K. Anderson	
American Goldfinch				
1/17	Petersham, Hardwick	20, 50	K. Griffis#	
1/23	Milford	35	R. Hildreth	
2/6-28	Newbury	60 max	D. Chickering	
Evening Grosbeak				
1/1-2/7	Hardwick	150+ max 1/9	v. o.	
1/1, 1/10	Millis, Ipswich	13, 7	R. Forster, J. Berry	
2/6	Topsfield, Norton	11, 20	J. Brown, K. Anderson	

CORRIGENDUM TO OCTOBER 1987 FIELD RECORDS (VOL. 16, NO. 2)

Red-headed Woodpecker (page 97)				
3, 10	Truro, Rowley	1 imm, 1	R. Stymeist#, D. F. Oliver	
should read				
3, 9-10	Truro, Rowley	1 imm, 1 imm	R. Stymeist#, H. Weissberg#	

BIRD OBSERVER FIELD RECORDS

Bird Observer monthly field records represent observations from the ten counties of eastern Massachusetts (Essex, Middlesex, Worcester, Suffolk, Norfolk, Plymouth, Bristol, Barnstable, Duke, and Nantucket). Although space does not permit the inclusion of all sightings submitted, the compilers attempt to present sufficient data to document early and late dates for migratory species, maximum counts for migrants, and high or low numbers for the more common species and to note species outside of their normal ranges.

Please send eastern Massachusetts field records of any given month, no later than the 8th of the subsequent month, to Robert H. Stymeist, 98 Boylston Street, Watertown, MA 02172. The basic information that should be submitted is species name, date and place of observation, an accurate count or careful estimate, sex (if determinable), immature or adult plumage, vocalizations (if any), and observers. Species should be arranged in the current A.O.U. (American Ornithologists' Union) checklist order. Reports of species that can be difficult to identify should include details of the diagnostic characteristics observed or heard that led to the identification.

All field records received by *Bird Observer* are archived at the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ad	adult	F.P.	Fresh Pond, Cambridge
b	banded	G37 or 40	Gate 37 or 40, Quabbin
br	breeding	H.	Harbor
dk	dark (phase)	H.P.	Halibut Point, Rockport
f	female	I.	Island
imm	immature	M.V.	Martha's Vineyard
ind	individuals	Mt.A.	Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge
juv	juvenile	Nant.	Nantucket
loc	location	Newbypt	Newburyport
lt	light (phase)	Noanet WR	Noanet Woodland Reservation
m	male	P.I.	Plum Island
max	maximum	Pd	Pond
mi	mile	P'town	Provincetown
migr	migrating	Quab.	Quabbin
n	nesting	Res.	Reservation
ph	photographed	R.P.	Race Point, Provincetown
pl	plumage	S. Dart.	South Dartmouth
pr	pair	S.N.	Sandy Neck, Barnstable
S	summer (1S = first summer)	Stellw.	Stellwagen (Bank)
thr	throughout	BBC	Brookline Bird Club
v.o.	various observers	BOEM	Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts
W	winter (2W = second winter)	CBC	Christmas Bird Count
w/	with	CCBC	Cape Cod Bird Club
yg	young	DFWS	Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary
#	additional observers	DWWS	Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary
A.A.	Arnold Arboretum	EMHW	Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch
A.P.	Andrews Point, Rockport	FCBC	Felix Cutler Bird Club
B.	Beach	GMNWR	Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge
B.I.	Belle Isle, E. Boston	IRWS	Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary
B.R.	Bass Rocks, Gloucester	LCES	Lloyd Center for Environmental Studies
Buzz.	Buzzards Bay	MAS	Massachusetts Audubon Society
C.	cape as in Cape Cod	MBO	Manomet Bird Observatory
Cambr.	Cambridge	MNWS	Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary
Corp. B.	Corporation Beach, Dennis	NEHW	New England Hawk Watch
C.P.	Crooked Pond, Boxford	ONWR	Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge
E.P.	Eastern Point, Gloucester	PRNWR	Parker River National Wildlife Refuge
F.E.	First Encounter Beach, Eastham	SRV	Sudbury River Valley
F.H.	Fort Hill, Eastham	SSBC	South Shore Bird Club
F.M.	Fowl Meadow	WBWS	Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, 12/17/87-1/3/88

by Robert H. Stymeist

Data processing by Janet L. Heywood

The Eighty-eighth Annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) sponsored by the National Audubon Society was held from December 17, 1987 to January 3, 1988. In eastern Massachusetts and a portion of Rhode Island, there are 22 count areas (see map). This summary includes the results of all these count circles with the exception of Martha's Vineyard, from which no results were received. The Stellwagen Bank count was added this year; this circle includes the southern section of Stellwagen Bank and Provincetown. A total of 177 species, plus "Common" Teal, "Aubudon's" Warbler, "Ipswich" Sparrow, and "Oregon" Junco, were recorded in this area during the three-weekend period.

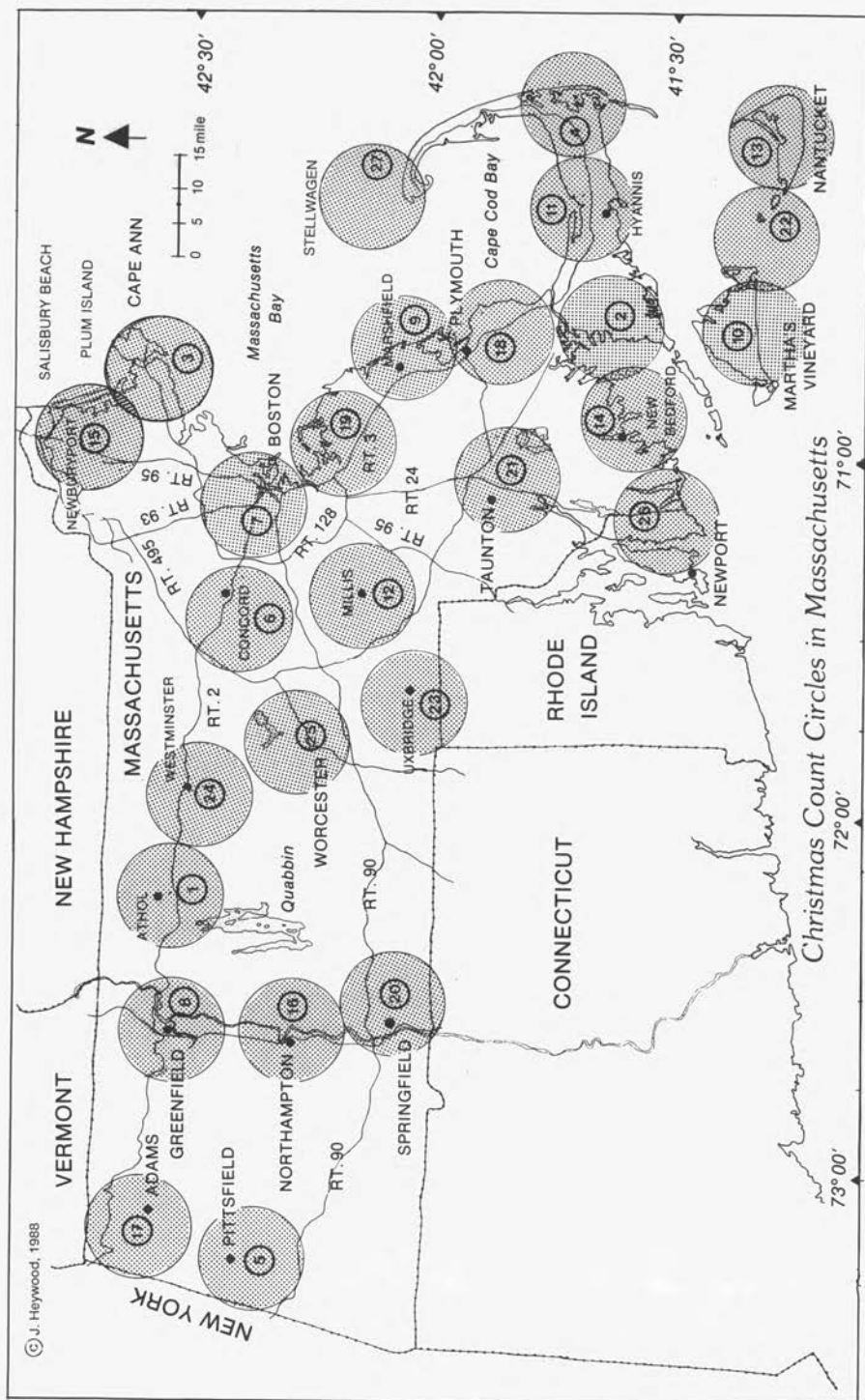
The Nantucket CBC led these counts with 123 species. The Newport, Rhode Island-Westport, Massachusetts count, the leader last year, came in second with 122 species.

The rarities seen this year included Pacific Loon (Cape Ann), Western Grebe (Newburyport), American Bittern (Greater Boston, Newburyport, and Mid Cape Cod), Marbled Godwit (Cape Cod), Common Murre (Stellwagen), Red-headed Woodpecker (Mid Cape Cod and Nantucket), Western Kingbird (Cape Cod), Bohemian Waxwing (Buzzards Bay and Westminister), Yellow-throated Warbler (Buzzards Bay), Vesper Sparrow (Buzzards Bay), Grasshopper Sparrow (Cape Cod, Concord, and Westport/Newport), and Lincoln Sparrow (Marshfield).

The warm weather preceding the counts encouraged a variety of species to linger, and some species were recorded in above average numbers (Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, Gray Catbird, American Robin, Rufous-sided Towhee, and Field Sparrow). However, the weather for the first Sunday of the counting period, December 20, was about the worst possible. Rain, sleet, heavy fog, and a northwest wind made birding difficult and miserable; birders at Cape Ann, Cape Cod, and Greater Boston deserved at least ten extra species for going out! By contrast, the weather on the next Sunday, December 27, was described as "delightful, 24-40 degrees, mostly sunny, light northeast winds."

The count of 4363 Razorbills at Cape Cod becomes the all-time national high count for that species, surpassing the 2920 recorded on the Cape in 1983. Another national record was broken with the all-time high count of 178,958 Oldsquaw at Nantucket, far exceeding the record count of 96,900 at Tuckernuck last year.

Several compilers commented on high numbers for their local areas of Hooded Mergansers, Ring-billed Gulls, Tufted Titmice, Golden-crowned Kinglets, and House Finches. On the minus side, Northern Bobwhites on Cape



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Cod were at their lowest level since 1950! Blue Jays totals were down dramatically. In fact, for the twenty counts in eastern Massachusetts for which we have numbers for both 1986-87 and 1987-88, Bluejays totaled only 4660 in 1987-88, compared to a total of 9435 in 1986-87.

Great Horned Owls were reported on eighteen of the twenty-one counts and represented 134 individuals. Snowy Owls appeared on ten counts, with a total of 37 noted. Barred Owls were seen on nine counts, totaling 22 birds. The winter finch flight was a disappointment to birders. Common Redpolls were hard to find; only 23 individuals were seen in our area. Last season, over a thousand redpolls were spread over sixteen counts. Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks were seen in lower numbers and fewer areas than in 1986-87, and no crossbills were tallied on the counts tabulated here.

We wish to thank all of the compilers who contributed their expertise to prepare the results for this summary. They are as follows: **Robert Coyle**, Athol (December 19); **Richard Harlow**, Buzzards Bay (December 19); **John Nove**, Cape Ann (December 20); **Blair Nikula**, Cape Cod (December 20); **Richard Walton**, Concord (December 27); **Robert Stymeist**, Greater Boston (December 20); **Warren Harrington**, Marshfield (December 27); **Janet Aylward**, Mid Cape Cod (December 26); **Brian Cassie**, Millis (December 19); **Edith Andrews**, Nantucket (January 2); **Gil Fernandez**, New Bedford (December 28); **James Berry**, Newburyport (December 27); **Trevor Lloyd-Evans**, Plymouth (December 30); **Sibley Higginbotham**, Quincy (December 19); **Simon Perkins**, Stellwagen (December 19); **John Kricher**, Taunton-Middleboro (December 26); **Marcia Litchfield**, Tuckernuck (January 3); **Richard Hildreth**, Uxbridge (January 2); **John Williams**, Westminster (December 26); **Dave Emerson**, Westport MA-Newport RI (December 19); **Fran McMenemy**, Worcester (December 19).

Map on facing page: Each Christmas Count Circle was located by the latitude and longitude (in degrees and minutes) of its center. Athol (1), Buzzards Bay (2), Cape Ann (3), Cape Cod (4), Central Berkshire (5), Concord (6), Greater Boston (7), Greenfield (8), Marshfield (9), Martha's Vineyard (10), Mid Cape Cod (11), Millis (12), Nantucket (13), New Bedford (14), Newburyport (15), Northampton (16), Northern Berkshire (17), Plymouth (18), Quincy (19), Springfield (20), Taunton-Middleboro (21), Tuckernuck Island (22), Uxbridge (23), Westminster (24), Worcester (25), Westport, MA/Newport, RI (26), and Stellwagen Bank (27).

The tabulation which follows is stored as an IBM-compatible Microsoft Word file. If you are interested in working with these data and would like to discuss obtaining an electronic copy (either as a Word file or as an ASCII file), please contact Janet Heywood, c/o BIRD OBSERVER, 478 Trapelo Road, Belmont, Massachusetts 02178.

88th CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, 12/17/87-1/3/88

species	Athol	B. B.	C. Ann	C. Cod	Conc.	Gr. Bos.	Marsh.	Mid C.	Millis	Nant.
Red-throated Loon	0	4	5	6	0	5	8	4	0	111
Pacific Loon	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common Loon	2	19	28	23	1	2	22	26	0	292
Pied-billed Grebe	0	17	0	35	0	7	0	25	0	33
Horned Grebe	0	117	10	6	0	10	8	43	0	26
Red-necked Grebe	0	1	6	8	0	0	6	0	0	39
Western Grebe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Gannet	0	0	53	1600	0	0	4	12	0	1577
Great Cormorant	0	47	194	87	0	154	4	43	0	78
Double-crested Cormorant	0	4	0	3	0	25	1	3	0	16
cormorant species	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0
American Bittern	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Least Bittern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Great Blue Heron	1	49	4	63	8	23	11	35	7	36
Black-crowned Night-Heron	0	1	0	5	0	3	0	0	0	25
Mute Swan	0	110	11	4	0	1	3	21	1	56
Snow Goose	0	0	19	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Brant	0	540	0	656	0	214	96	87	0	26
Canada Goose	0	1734	721	955	3579	923	919	1860	1874	803
Wood Duck	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0
"Common" Teal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Green-winged Teal	0	0	2	13	4	13	0	90	0	30
American Black Duck	28	1644	664	1462	250	1114	1058	3324	76	659
Mallard	2	781	915	265	1197	1736	184	831	1184	618
Northern Pintail	0	2	0	6	1	7	2	59	0	3
Northern Shoveler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Gadwall	0	0	23	0	3	0	0	46	2	22
Eurasian Wigeon	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
American Wigeon	0	12	3	43	0	25	4	20	1	50
Canvasback	0	146	0	133	0	402	0	486	0	166
Redhead	0	41	0	0	0	2	0	5	0	140
Ring-necked Duck	0	14	0	96	28	23	124	84	35	89
Greater Scaup	0	3602	1	45	0	415	16	450	2	2143
Lesser Scaup	0	0	1	5	0	4	0	5	10	6
scaup species	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	46	0	12
Common Eider	0	473	1068	7048	0	431	12380	5716	0	5059
King Eider	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harlequin Duck	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	13
Oldsquaw	0	150	59	74	0	3	27	50	0	178958
Black Scoter	0	21	43	266	0	0	3	8	1	169
Surf Scoter	0	468	54	11	0	0	4	48	0	160
White-winged Scoter	0	560	246	309	0	135	195	146	0	967
Common Goldeneye	40	751	354	363	7	395	284	627	0	2932
Barrow's Goldeneye	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	6
Bufflehead	0	2265	321	1291	4	481	242	1485	10	1989
Hooded Merganser	67	244	0	82	7	142	0	88	25	39
Common Merganser	94	25	2	156	14	181	10	168	4	41
Red-breasted Merganser	0	766	150	3309	0	329	245	487	0	3488
Ruddy Duck	0	3	0	22	2	95	0	0	1	1

88th CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, 12/17/87-1/3/88

species	N. B.	Newbpt.	Ply.	Quin.	Stell.	Tau-Mb.	Tuck.	Uxbr.	Westm.	Westp.	Worc.
RTLO	0	10	0	5	2	0	239	0	0	23	0
PALO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
COLO	4	74	23	11	10	0	42	0	0	49	1
PBGR	2	0	13	4	0	7	0	0	0	4	2
HOGR	47	60	14	116	0	1	3	0	0	132	6
RNGR	0	7	0	45	2	0	2	0	0	9	1
WEGR	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NOGA	0	2	1	1	148	0	0	0	0	17	0
GRCO	1	31	22	525	9	0	6	0	0	1222	0
DCCO	26	0	0	4	0	0	11	0	0	0	0
cor. sp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AMBI	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LEBI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
GBHE	21	12	5	56	0	5	4	3	0	46	6
BCNH	0	0	0	3	0	0	5	0	0	0	0
MUSW	135	4	189	5	0	14	2	0	0	259	0
SNGO	0	96	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
BRAN	133	0	50	2655	11	0	20	0	0	59	0
CAGO	1848	2714	560	788	34	1250	59	176	18	4970	779
WODU	0	3	0	0	0	5	0	4	0	1	0
"COTE"	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GWTE	0	3	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	14	1
ABDU	586	2405	829	1565	430	176	356	88	73	2364	193
MALL	493	565	486	668	7	392	1	173	72	492	392
NOPI	1	23	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	55	0
NOSH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
GADW	0	39	20	3	0	0	2	0	0	12	1
EUWI	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
AMWI	0	0	46	37	0	0	19	0	0	26	1
CANV	0	0	1	44	0	214	4	0	0	102	0
REDH	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0
RNDU	0	0	79	16	0	3	0	0	0	1	1
GRSC	1679	6	2	342	0	20	0	0	0	3417	20
LESC	569	0	3	0	0	98	0	0	0	156	0
scaup sp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
COEI	22	253	4369	1593	911	0	1587	0	0	62	0
KIEI	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	6	0
HADU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33	0
OLDS	24	199	47	108	13	0	141450	0	0	11	0
BLSC	6	16	40	14	2	0	8	0	0	104	0
SUSC	132	6	15	8	2	0	10	0	0	131	0
WWSC	65	501	133	524	22	0	787	0	0	868	1
COGO	440	468	115	590	202	162	430	0	0	1150	67
BAGO	2	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BUFF	973	155	104	1096	74	54	15	0	0	514	0
HOME	7	1	47	59	0	19	7	0	0	10	29
COME	0	116	277	144	30	123	0	111	0	403	12
RBME	198	230	219	976	2565	13	1150	0	0	532	0
RUDU	6	0	64	6	0	0	0	0	0	404	0

88th CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, 12/17/87-1/3/88

species	Athol	B. B.	C. Ann	C. Cod	Conc.	Gr. Bos.	Marsh.	Mid C.	Millis	Nant.
Bald Eagle	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Harrier	0	5	0	6	0	2	12	7	1	32
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	6	1	6	8	1	3	4	6	5
Cooper's Hawk	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Northern Goshawk	1	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	1	0
Red-shouldered Hawk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red-tailed Hawk	0	7	7	5	84	25	20	4	38	20
Rough-legged Hawk	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	3
American Kestrel	0	6	2	9	11	5	13	6	27	7
Merlin	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	6
Peregrine Falcon	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0
Ring-necked Pheasant	0	4	16	3	39	81	2	1	26	59
Ruffed Grouse	4	6	7	0	27	1	3	1	15	0
Wild Turkey	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Bobwhite	0	10	0	15	0	0	0	1	2	0
Virginia Rail	0	1	0	4	0	0	7	4	0	13
Sora	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
rail sp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
American Coot	0	4	0	29	0	42	2	5	0	56
Black-bellied Plover	0	1	0	6	0	0	3	2	0	10
Killdeer	0	9	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Greater Yellowlegs	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	5	0	0
Marbled Godwit	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Turnstone	0	0	8	0	0	4	0	0	0	54
Sanderling	0	1	23	85	0	36	13	70	0	151
Purple Sandpiper	0	0	49	0	0	13	140	0	0	11
Dunlin	0	0	19	1046	0	0	170	71	0	2
peep species	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Long-billed Dowitcher	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
dowitcher species	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Common Snipe	0	4	4	5	0	2	1	1	0	8
American Woodcock	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1
Laughing Gull	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common Black-headed Gull	0	1	2	0	0	12	0	0	0	0
Bonaparte's Gull	0	200	91	4	0	411	15	0	0	389
Ring-billed Gull	50	467	278	480	40	2632	460	406	530	62
Herring Gull	407	4344	16270	11270	2872	4900	9404	4458	3024	5070
Iceland Gull	2	1	9	3	0	2	0	1	0	21
Lesser Black-backed Gull	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
Glaucous Gull	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Great Black-backed Gull	37	553	6656	3935	477	310	887	1264	258	845
Black-legged Kittiwake	0	0	250	1106	0	0	20	0	0	441
gull species	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5000
Dovekie	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common Murre	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thick-billed Murre	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Razorbill	0	0	0	4363	0	0	0	0	0	125
Black Guillemot	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
alcid species	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36
Rock Dove	429	277	365	113	1205	1630	637	483	763	138
Mourning Dove	340	189	209	221	1401	128	150	118	851	301

88th CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, 12/17/87-1/3/88

species	N. B.	Newbpt.	Ply.	Quin.	Stell.	Tau-Mb.	Tuck.	Uxbr.	Westm.	Westp.	Worc.
BAEA	0	1 imm	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
NOHA	10	10	0	1	1	2	10	0	0	20	0
SSHA	5	4	2	2	0	4	0	2	1	9	3
COHA	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
NOGO	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
RSHA	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0
RTHA	10	43	5	16	0	32	4	36	4	25	10
RLHA	1	3	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	3	0
AMKE	4	17	3	8	1	15	2	10	0	34	2
MERL	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
PEFA	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 ad	0	0	0	0
RNPH	0	22	0	11	0	1	1	1	2	8	1
RUGR	0	8	0	5	0	5	0	13	2	2	1
WITU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
NOBO	0	0	1	0	0	18	0	0	0	5	0
VIRA	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
SORA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
rail sp.	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AMCO	0	2	15	65	0	0	0	0	0	59	1
BBPL	1	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
KILL	11	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
GRYE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MAGO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RUTU	46	0	0	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SAND	0	62	6	68	29	0	10	0	0	139	0
PUSA	20	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	88	0
DUNL	30	81	12	52	9	0	0	0	0	409	0
peep sp.	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LBDO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
dow sp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
COSN	0	6	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	43	0
AMWO	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
LAGU	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CBHG	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BOGU	7	89	11	422	13	0	190	0	0	367	0
RBGU	2195	336	408	1051	15	609	37	17	26	1602	373
HEGU	2407	7585	5128	5920	4780	2344	560	542	1085	3095	3467
ICGU	1	3	3	1	6	0	0	0	1	0	1
LBBG	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
GLGU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GBBG	362	548	948	316	1215	407	280	108	239	310	502
BLKI	0	3	3	13	553	0	240	0	0	1	0
gull sp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	0	0	0
DOVE	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
COMU	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
TBMU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RAZO	0	0	0	0	137	0	29	0	0	1	0
BLGU	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
alcid sp.	0	0	0	0	22	0	0	0	0	0	0
RODO	415	441	538	590	55	459	0	714	223	650	569
MODO	216	472	247	48	6	357	0	392	304	607	418

88th CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, 12/17/87-1/3/88

species	Athol	B. B.	C. Ann	C. Cod	Conc.	Gr. Bos.	Marsh.	Mid C.	Millis	Nant.
Common Barn-Owl	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Eastern Screech-Owl	0	5	33	1	27	30	30	3	44	0
Great Horned Owl	1	3	4	7	15	5	8	11	28	0
Snowy Owl	0	0	3	1	0	12	3	0	0	3
Barred Owl	5	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	3	0
Long-eared Owl	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Short-eared Owl	0	0	0	1	0	1	5	0	1	5
Northern Saw-whet Owl	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Belted Kingfisher	0	14	2	20	8	6	10	17	8	4
Red-headed Woodpecker	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Downy Woodpecker	59	48	30	27	398	82	33	29	268	21
Hairy Woodpecker	32	3	5	4	103	19	5	2	49	3
Northern Flicker	1	33	5	43	9	11	18	54	15	144
Pileated Woodpecker	5	0	1	0	8	0	0	0	0	0
Western Kingbird	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Horned Lark	0	16	24	23	7	7	85	8	0	44
Blue Jay	456	133	71	124	927	237	64	51	565	201
American Crow	188	770	450	371	3094	881	389	429	2340	499
Fish Crow	0	0	0	0	85	0	1	0	53	0
Common Raven	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black-capped Chickadee	859	1185	635	483	2681	776	349	404	2688	278
Tufted Titmouse	84	151	109	49	962	134	109	55	869	0
Red-breasted Nuthatch	34	20	4	2	51	1	3	1	69	44
White-breasted Nuthatch	126	57	62	25	393	62	29	19	156	5
Brown Creeper	12	8	9	2	63	23	8	5	61	4
Carolina Wren	0	74	0	11	1	0	9	9	1	0
House Wren	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Winter Wren	0	6	0	4	1	5	1	2	1	1
Marsh Wren	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	1	0	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	45	208	94	93	141	152	39	74	116	25
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	3	0
Eastern Bluebird	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hermit Thrush	0	14	1	3	0	3	1	2	0	11
American Robin	0	331	17	88	14	233	28	140	2	359
Gray Catbird	0	9	0	2	1	1	2	0	1	7
Northern Mockingbird	7	110	35	44	222	95	52	64	114	86
Brown Thrasher	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water Pipit	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Bohemian Waxwing	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cedar Waxwing	0	159	15	59	85	43	96	56	7	47
Northern Shrike	1	0	2	0	3	0	1	0	1	4
Loggerhead Shrike	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
European Starling	835	1497	3552	2851	2850	173665	3163	5995	4570	2558
Orange-crowned Warbler	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
Yellow-rumped Warbler	0	122	18	335	2	133	60	91	3	2925
"Audubon's" Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Pine Warbler	0	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	4
Palm Warbler	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	8	0	1
Yellow-throated Warbler	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

88th CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, 12/17/87-1/3/88

species	N. B.	Newbpt.	Ply.	Quin.	Stell.	Tau-Mb.	Tuck.	Uxbr.	Westm.	Westp.	Worc.
COBO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
EASO	2	21	0	4	0	14	0	10	1	16	1
GHOW	2	16	0	5	1	7	0	10	1	8	2
SNOW	0	5	2	6	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
BAOW	0	1	0	2	0	4	0	2	1	0	0
LEOW	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
SEOW	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0
NSWO	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
BEKI	9	6	7	5	0	1	0	5	2	10	3
RHWO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RBWO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
YBSA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
DOWO	44	79	12	53	0	53	3	93	83	39	65
HAWO	9	13	0	5	0	6	0	30	17	7	19
NOFL	17	9	6	30	4	20	36	12	0	59	4
PIWO	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WEKI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HOLA	14	301	9	10	0	0	0	75	1	185	0
BLJA	236	125	66	121	7	121	12	224	234	285	407
AMCR	363	576	215	460	17	573	19	547	189	430	424
FICR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CORA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BCCH	250	802	312	291	38	455	41	1167	1507	437	789
TUTI	89	114	61	83	0	151	0	261	56	38	168
RBNU	1	21	3	9	0	2	0	25	10	7	20
WBNU	39	106	23	32	0	46	0	156	130	21	107
BRCR	4	19	4	14	0	4	0	30	15	2	22
CAWR	30	0	2	4	0	14	1	1	0	84	0
HOWR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
WIWR	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	0
MAWR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
GCKI	9	222	73	76	6	47	0	84	23	25	37
RCKI	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
EABL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	2
HETH	2	1	3	4	0	1	0	0	0	7	1
AMRO	339	78	41	110	8	5	11	35	4	555	9
GRCA	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	10	0
NOMO	50	81	35	50	4	47	2	59	9	128	33
BRTH	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
WAPI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0
BOWA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
CEWA	22	0	66	28	0	36	18	0	9	149	2
NOSH	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
LOSH	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
STAR	3024	6630	455	5000+	160	7496	45	1641	1176	7226	2946
OCWA	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
YRWA	51	26	133	149	285	171	221	10	0	257	0
"AUWA"	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PIWA	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PAWA	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	0
YTWA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

88th CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, 12/17/87-1/3/88

species	Athol	B. B.	C. Ann	C. Cod	Conc.	Gr. Bos.	Marsh.	Mid C.	Millis	Nant.
Common Yellowthroat	0	3	0	2	0	3	0	1	0	0
Yellow-breasted Chat	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	2	0	0
Northern Cardinal	47	241	113	141	366	124	34	104	238	113
Dickcissel	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
Rufous-sided Towhee	1	10	0	2	2	2	1	1	0	2
American Tree Sparrow	186	18	131	18	806	313	63	44	314	7
Chipping Sparrow	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Field Sparrow	0	42	0	27	25	16	16	22	17	2
Vesper Sparrow	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Savannah Sparrow	0	15	4	13	12	2	0	9	0	21
"Ipswich" Sparrow	0	0	0	9	0	0	2	3	0	1
Grasshopper Sparrow	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	0	0	0	14	0	0	16	2	0	1
Seaside Sparrow	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fox Sparrow	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	5	0
Song Sparrow	5	231	60	189	180	335	79	107	68	311
Lincoln Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Swamp Sparrow	0	17	2	34	14	10	19	31	12	17
White-throated Sparrow	8	313	28	89	185	99	37	83	34	230
White-crowned Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Dark-eyed Junco	242	153	256	10	1104	755	66	29	1121	55
"Oregon" Junco	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lapland Longspur	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Snow Bunting	7	1	104	19	0	21	11	32	0	194
Red-winged Blackbird	0	0	0	15	6	18	50	0	16	65
Eastern Meadowlark	0	0	0	38	0	1	46	18	0	21
Rusty Blackbird	0	0	0	0	1	0	41	0	0	0
Common Grackle	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	2	77
Brown-headed Cowbird	0	0	0	0	40	0	0	0	1	5
Northern Oriole	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
Pine Grosbeak	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Purple Finch	2	0	5	1	98	15	0	0	55	4
House Finch	325	646	272	489	1077	176	218	179	835	386
Common Redpoll	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Pine Siskin	124	2	16	4	149	51	3	0	27	54
American Goldfinch	186	165	217	228	929	288	107	108	493	148
Evening Grosbeak	818	29	4	0	99	0	1	0	29	2
House Sparrow	458	1137	768	357	1362	901	160	192	1021	572
number of species	50	108	92	118+	81	103	101	103+	73	123+
total birds	6679	28731	36397	47568	29902	197299	33405	31852	25100	223346
	Athol	B. B.	C. Ann	C. Cod	Conc.	Gr. Bos.	Marsh.	Mid C.	Millis	Nant.

88th CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, 12/17/87-1/3/88

species	N. B.	Newbpt.	Ply.	Quin.	Stell.	Tau-Mb.	Tuck.	Uxbr.	Westm.	Westp.	Worc.
COYE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
YBCH	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NOCA	100	84	66	51	7	63	2	122	52	153	63
DICK	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
RSTO	3	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	18	0
ATSP	17	355	42	127	8	101	0	350	134	41	269
CHSP	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
FISP	4	6	27	20	0	95	0	90	0	43	12
VESP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SASP	0	1	1	3	0	4	4	0	0	35	0
"IPSP"	0	0	1	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0
GRSP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
STSP	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
SESP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FOSP	1	0	2	3	0	0	1	1	0	2	0
SOSP	45	91	95	144	9	87	37	107	9	213	44
LISP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SWSP	0	4	14	14	1	4	3	13	1	61	6
WTSP	106	16	0	36	1	81	6	22	2	378	40
WCSP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	1
DEJU	83	237	152	282	5	277	0	602	193	190	391
"ORJU"	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LALO	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SNBU	1	137	30	8	28	0	24	0	1	78	0
RWBL	0	1	3	2	0	0	0	110	1	50	0
EAME	2	0	0	0	1	2	47	0	0	36	0
RUBL	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
COGR	5	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	151	0
BHCO	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	5	40	0
NOOR	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PIGR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
PUFI	11	9	0	7	0	10	0	61	17	3	7
HOFI	308	231	95	144	12	144	0	342	546	446	447
CORE	0	7	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PISI	3	15	3	36	0	39	0	224	42	9	7
AMGO	94	312	21	100	24	147	0	316	46	107	207
EVGR	15	77	1	1	8	112	0	64	1025	0	85
HOSP	196	954	363	295	25	288	0	606	508	570	660
# of species	87	103	88+	109	60	74	66+	60	51	122	66
total birds	18800	29556	17568	28506	11986	17552	148142	9987	8104	37806	14164
	N. B.	Newbpt.	Ply.	Quin.	Stell.	Tau-Mb.	Tuck.	Uxbr.	Westm.	Westp.	Worc.

ABOUT THE COVER: Marsh Wren

The Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*) has a plain dark brown crown, a bold white eye line, and a black triangle on the upper back that is streaked with white. The flanks are buffy, and the undertail coverts may be white or buffy. Rarely, however, does one have the opportunity to linger over a Marsh Wren's field marks, for the bird is secretive and may only present itself while singing or to investigate a good "pish" or "squeak."

In New England, Marsh Wrens are locally common summer residents in the reeds and cattails of either freshwater or brackish marshes. When the males arrive on territory, usually before mid-May, they exhibit an interesting behavior. They build as many as six or more extra or dummy nests before and after the arrival of the females. These nests are often abandoned before they reach completion, and there is little evidence that they are ever used as brood nests, sleeping places, or territorial markers. The brood nest is built almost entirely by the female. According to the account in A. C. Bent's life history series, the reason for these extra nests is not clear, but a plausible interpretation seems to be that the construction gives the birds an outlet for their superabundant energy during the period of sexual activity. The nest-building almost always ceases soon after the females arrive and mating takes place.

Melodically, the Marsh Wren's song does not rank high. It is a vigorous cacophony of sound that bubbles, gurgles, rattles, and trills, impossible to ignore. This lively noise emanates from the marsh both day and night during the breeding season and has produced descriptions that run the gamut from tuning a violin to the noise of a wind-up mechanical toy.

J. B. Hallett, Jr.

MEET OUR COVER ARTIST

GORDON MORRISON, who generously permitted *Bird Observer* to use his painting *Bobwhite Quail* on the February 1988 cover, has allowed us to print another of his works, *Oven Nester*, on the cover of this issue, a painting that is available for sale. Gordon's work is to be found in art galleries and collections in a number of states. He accepts commissioned work at his home studio at 52 Bulfinch Street, North Attleboro, MA 02760.

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ADDENDUM to "Courtship Display and Territorial Defense by Yellow-breasted Chat" by William E. Davis, Jr. in *Bird Observer* (December 1987) 15: 289-290.

After this article was in press, the author discovered a reference by Val Nolan, Jr. (*The Ecology and Behavior of the Prairie Warbler Dendroica discolor*, A.O.U. Monograph no. 26, Lawrence, Kansas: Allen Press, 1978) that was relevant. In a section titled "Aerial Displays and Acts," Nolan describes the use of undulating flight, i.e., butterfly and moth flights, by Prairie Warbler "agonistically (sometimes sexually) motivated males." The butterfly flight was described as "butterfly like wing beats somewhat resembling the stiff beats seen in the display flight of the Yellow-breasted Chat." The Prairie Warbler uses the butterfly flight in both territorial defense and courtship, just as the Yellow-breasted Chat apparently uses variations of its display flight for both.

April's At a Glance bird is a toughy! While perhaps obvious to real shorebird aficionados, the writer hazards the opinion that for most readers this photograph may be among the more challenging to appear in *Bird Observer* in many months. Two factors create complexity in this picture. First, the reader is deprived of a full view of the normally distinctive bill shape and the bird's frontal pattern. And second, the characteristic feeding behavior of the species is frozen, but not captured, by the camera.

Nonetheless, a critical examination of the photograph reveals several features that are helpful in making a correct identification. First, the mystery shorebird shows a distinctive, if not unique, pale (white) nape, as well as a dark stripe running down the neck and possibly extending forward through the eye although the photo fails to provide a full view. Additionally, the bird's underparts appear unstreaked and otherwise unpatterned, features not shared by many other North American shorebird species. Although the bill is partially under water, its fineness and length readily remove any of the plover species as identification candidates. The dark leg color further removes several sandpiper species from consideration. And finally, a close look at the back shows the suggestion of a dark stripe contrasting with a lighter background color.

The combination of features described can only apply to one species of North American shorebird -- Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*). The small-headed aspect and full-bodied appearance are also typical of this species. The feathers of the sides are fluffed in such a way that the broader of two dark back stripes is obscured, and the position of the bird in the photograph makes the chestnut wash on the breast impossible to see. The dark legs, absence of broad pale margins on the dorsal feathers, and the dark neck stripe and white nape indicate that the individual is an adult. The high contrast between neck stripe and white nape mark the bird as a female -- the more colorful of the two sexes in this sexually dimorphic species.

Behaviorally, the pictured bird is shown in a typical feeding posture, but this offers little to help with identification. Had the bird been swimming and dabbing with its bill, the identification would have been considerably simplified. The Wilson's Phalarope pictured was photographed by Oliver Komar at Plum Island on May 13, 1984.



AT A GLANCE

Photo by Wayne R. Petersen



Can you identify this bird?

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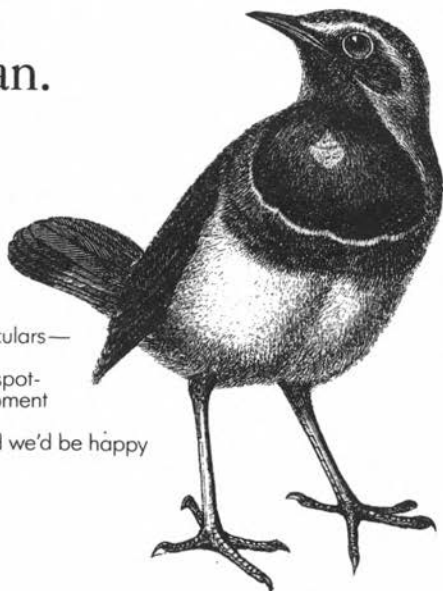
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