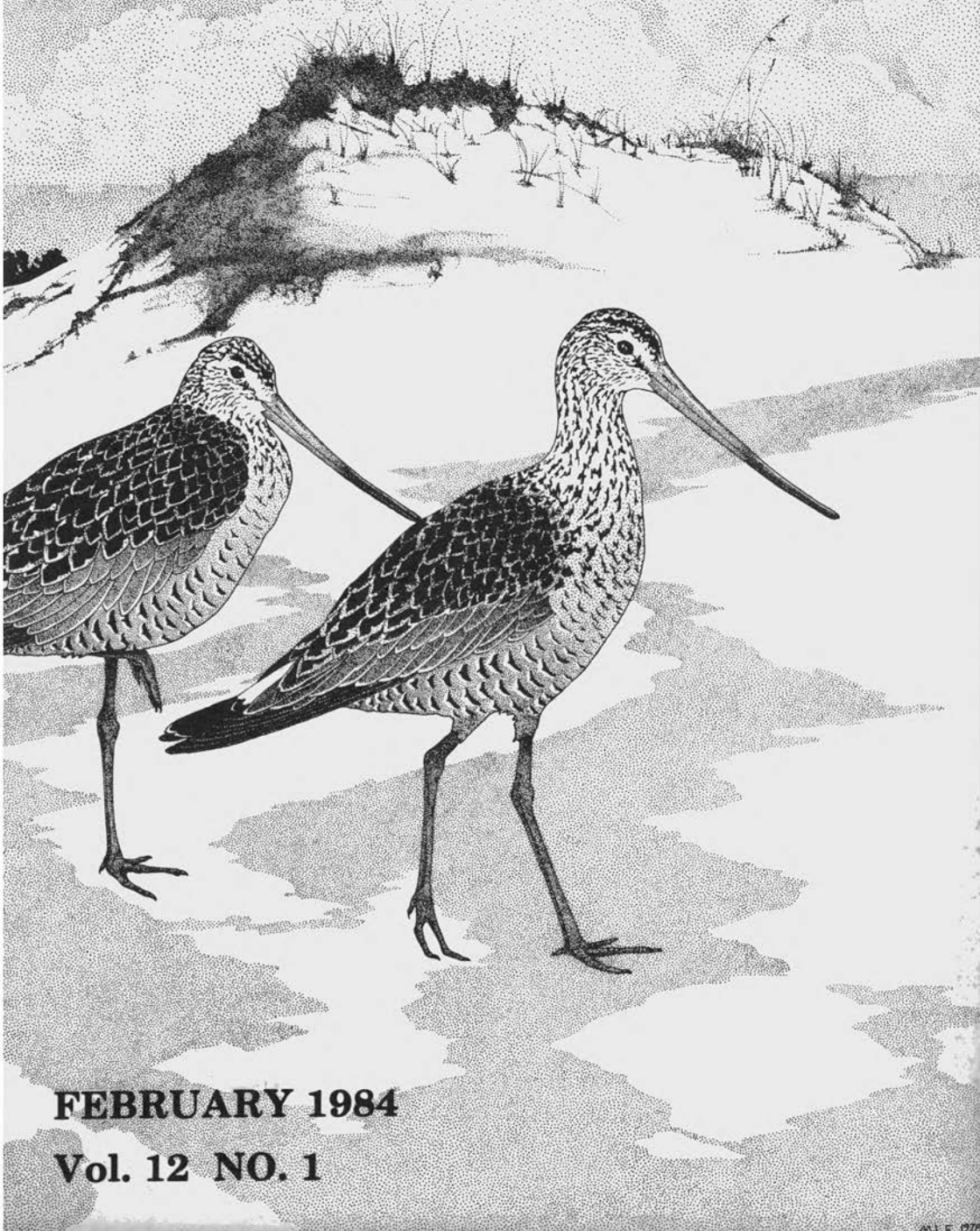


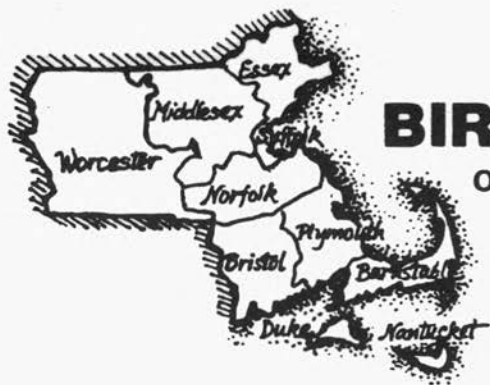
BIRD OBSERVER

OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS



FEBRUARY 1984

Vol. 12 NO. 1



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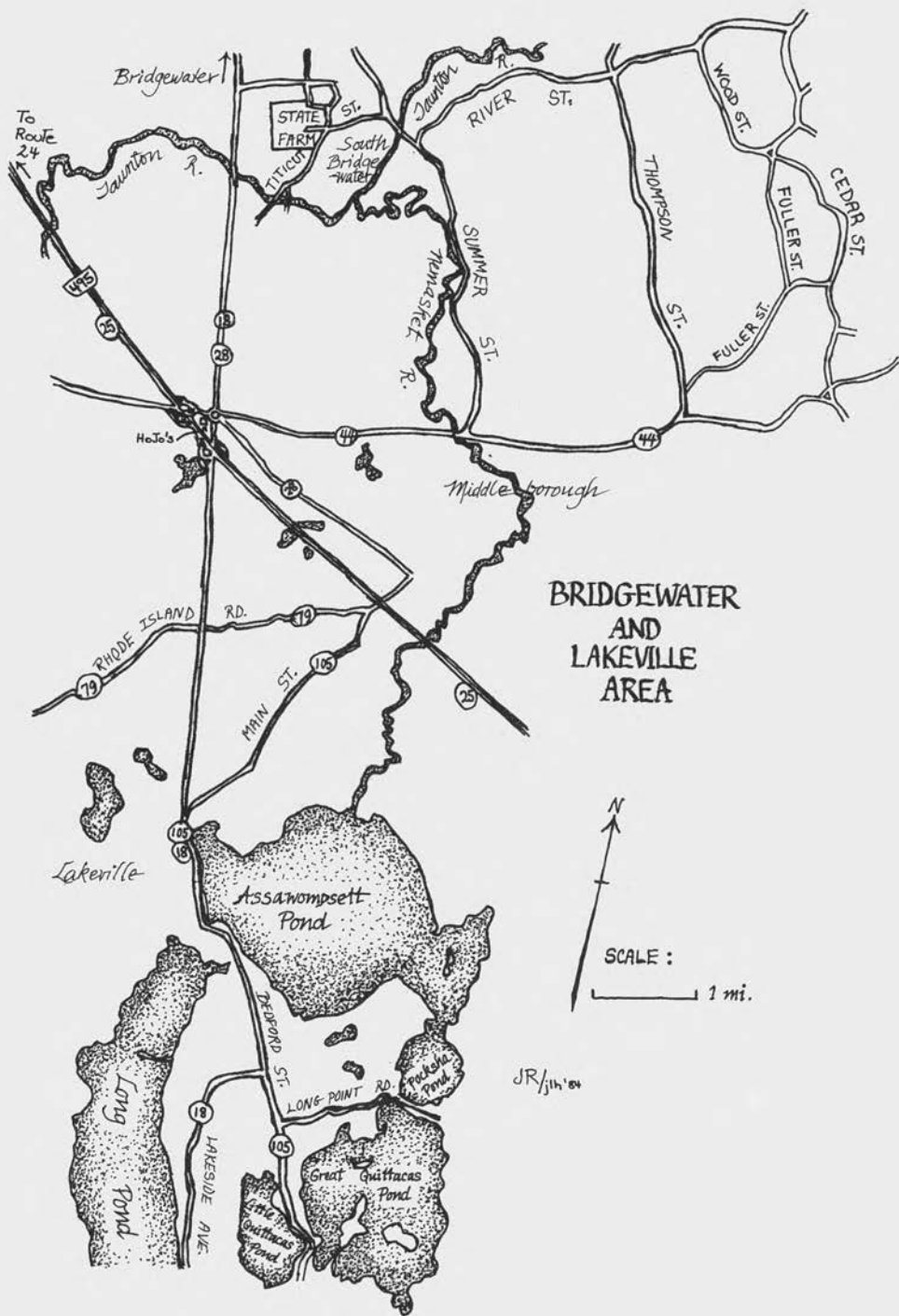
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SPRING WARBLERS - A BIRDING WORKSHOP

The ecology and identification of wood-warblers are among the most intriguing topics in North American ornithology. With nearly thirty species regularly breeding in central and northern New England, the opportunities for study and comparison are almost unparalleled elsewhere in the U.S. In this workshop, participants will be exposed to the topics of parulid evolution, migration, breeding and foraging ecology, and warbler song as a basis for field identification. A field trip to western Massachusetts or northern New England will demonstrate concepts presented at the indoor session. The workshop leader will be Wayne R. Petersen and the cost will be \$25. The final dates have not yet been set but this will be a JUNE workshop. If you are interested or need more information, call 641-2205 so that we can reserve a place for you. The number of participants will be limited.



BIRD-FINDING IN SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS -
BRIDGEWATER AND LAKEVILLE

by Wayne R. Petersen, Whitman

A look at the frontispiece map of Bird Observer shows that much of eastern Massachusetts is a region dominated by the seacoast - Essex County, the Boston Harbor basin, the South Shore, Cape Cod, the Buzzards Bay shore, and the islands of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard, all providing prime habitat for birds of great diversity and often spectacular abundance. Yet, there are many square miles of landlocked countryside in eastern Massachusetts that can provide the student of birdlife with years of birding pleasure, at the same time offering interesting distributional anomalies worthy of investigation by the serious ornithologist.

Since moving to Plymouth County in 1970, the author has become increasingly intrigued by the many fine birding opportunities that inland southeastern Massachusetts has to offer. Unlike many of the more ornithologically rich coastal localities, in inland areas many bird species are actually more common than on the coastal plain, while other birds are rare or lacking. Although not at all surprising, these contrasts make bird-finding away from the coast both exciting and challenging. In addition, the pastoral setting of some of the finest areas is a pleasant change from the binocular-studded byways of Plum Island, West Newbury, and Mount Auburn Cemetery. There are a number of such rural areas in southeastern Massachusetts, but this description will focus only on a region defined by the U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps for Bridgewater, Taunton, and Assawompsett Pond. This fine map series is too often neglected by birders entering unfamiliar territory for the first time. Towns included in this discussion are Bridgewater, West Bridgewater, Halifax, Middleborough, and Lakeville.

Obviously, an article describing the birding potential of five towns, including Middleborough, the second largest town in the Commonwealth, can hardly be inclusive. Therefore, the article will discuss the region only in general terms and will selectively describe some of the dominant features and districts within the greater region. Most of the directions provided in this essay will use either Route 24 or Route 18 as major roads of access to the birding areas with most other major roads intersecting these at one point or another.

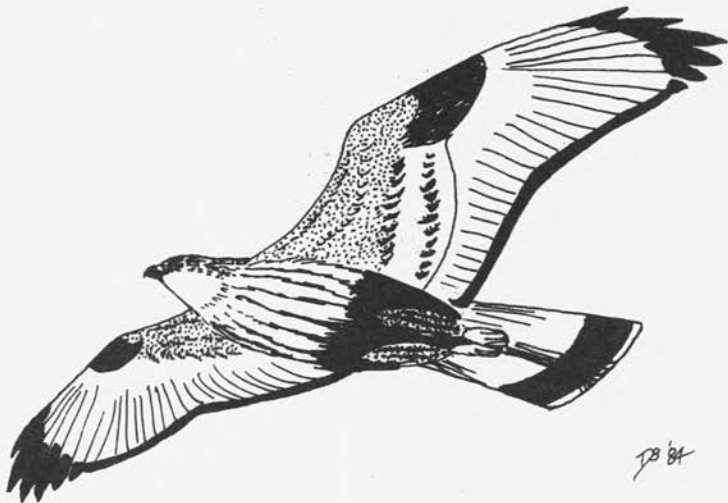
Winter is a particularly interesting season to make a first visit to the area. The rigors of winter impose a severe hardship on birds. Heavy snow covers weed seeds and stubble fields. Prolonged freezing temperatures lock up bodies of water and create extreme metabolic difficulties for those

species hardy enough to attempt wintering. While these conditions can exist near the seashore, they are greatly magnified as one moves inland; thus, the aggregate winter bird population in the interior generally tends to fall far below that of a coastal area. Raptors are among those birds best adapted to winter survival in an inland region. These large predators can generally eke out a living by preying upon field mice (*Microtus*), wood mice (*Peromyscus*), and on other small mammals or birds. With the leaves off the trees and hunger at the doorstep, they often become more conspicuous than at other seasons of the year. A leisurely and vigilant tour through open farmland and adjacent woodlots and wooded swamps often yields quite a tally of hawks in midwinter. If a special effort is made in a particular area, several species of owls may be found.

In addition to raptors, winter waterfowl provide a source of birding variety. If winter's grasp is not too severe, the larger ponds and rivers often sustain a surprising array of duck species. As these areas freeze over, the waterfowl are forced to move to either salt water or slightly more southerly localities. However, with the first thaws, leads in the ice are often found to contain the very species that only days or weeks before were frozen out. This opportunistic habitat usage by waterfowl is a phenomenon best appreciated in an inland region.

To reach the best raptor areas, drive south on Route 18 to Bridgewater Center, a small college town where several roads converge. Continue south on Routes 18 and 28 for approximately three miles to a large Massachusetts Correctional Institution sign on the left. Turn left at this sign. The road passes through a short stretch of low moist woods before coming to an extensive area of open fields. On the right the dreary gray walls and facilities of the prison will be seen. The State Farm fields are not off-limits to the discreet birder; however, the visitor may be questioned about his business in the area. Continuing straight ahead, the road leads past a small piggery on the right. From the road, the birder should look closely at the gulls on the barn roofs or at flocks resting in the nearby fields. Experience has shown that an occasional Iceland Gull can drop in, seemingly out of place from the more familiar rocky shores of Essex County.

After birding the piggery, take the dirt road on the left, a sharp curve into the fields. Working slowly along this road, observe closely the hay and corn fields on both sides, as well as the bordering trees and telephone poles. It is here that buteos, American Kestrels, and Northern Harriers can often be observed. Look for Rough-legged Hawks either soaring or perched on small bushes as they survey the area for periodically abundant field mice. Red-tailed Hawks and American Kestrels are most often sighted perched in adjacent trees or on the wires. Harriers cover a large area, but they regularly course the State Farm fields, especially late in



Rough-legged Hawk

Illustration by Denise Braunhardt

the day. Should the visitor arrive in the morning, spectacular concentrations of Common Crows can be found in the corn fields. When present in flocks of several hundred birds, these rowdy mobsters add a picturesque facet to a wintry landscape.

The evening is the hour of the owl. If time permits, a twilight visit will often be rewarded by the sight of one or more Short-eared Owls methodically hunting the grassy areas for mice. A loud squeaking on the hand from the open window of a parked car sometimes lures a hunting owl quite close. The Bridgewater State Farm is one of the few inland areas in Massachusetts where this species can be found with any regularity. After the sun has set, the resonant hooting of the Great Horned Owl is frequently heard from the adjacent pine woodlands. A careful and extensive search of neighboring pine and spruce groves by day occasionally turns up the communal winter roosts of the elusive Long-eared Owl. The gray, regurgitated pellets on the ground often indicate preferred roost trees. But remember, too much harassment may mean the abandonment of a roost!

During the warmer months, the Bridgewater State Farm holds substantial breeding populations of Bobolinks and Eastern Meadowlarks, while Savannah Sparrows sing their two-part buzzy songs from Timothy stalks in the hay fields. The lovely Upland Sandpiper is a regular migrant and occasional nesting bird in the lush farm meadows. The sandpipers are best observed in early August in fields where the hay has been freshly mowed.



Upland Sandpiper

Illustration by Denise Braunhardt

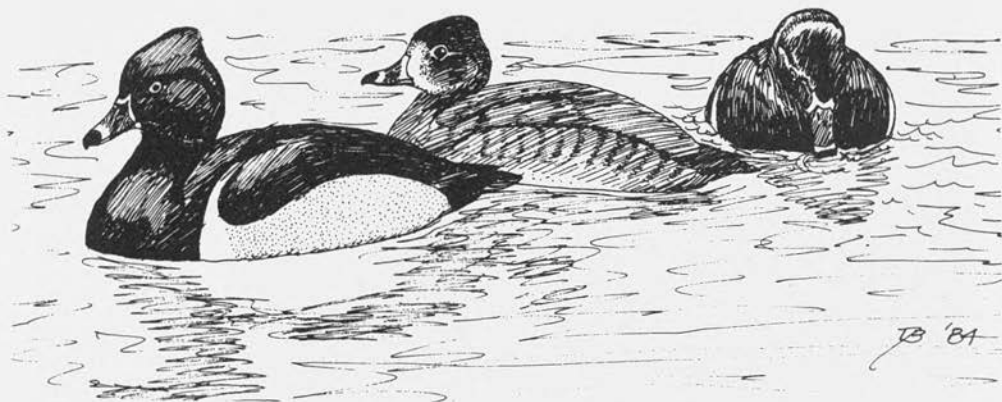
After thoroughly investigating the fields and nearby paved roads, continue a short distance beyond the farm buildings to Titicut Street. A left turn will bring one to Summer Street. A right on Summer Street will immediately lead to Woodward Bridge over the Taunton River. The wet woodlands along the river are fine habitat for the locally common Screech Owl, while many migrant songbirds routinely use the large riparian trees as a migration highway in spring. Just beyond the river crossing, turn left on River Street, and follow it for approximately two miles to Route 105 (Thompson Street) on the Halifax-Middleborough town line. River Street passes through a fine tract of woodland, some of which sadly is being logged but which still holds a pair or two of Barred Owls and where the Varying Hare's oversized tracks are easy to pick out on a winter snowshoe trek through the pine swamps.

At the junction of Route 105 and River Street, a huge corn field complex can be seen. A series of roads, including River Street, Wood Street, and Fuller Street, will take one around the perimeter of this extensive area. By regularly working these fields at all seasons, a number of remarkable sightings are possible. In the winter, the same diurnal raptors described for the Bridgewater State Farm are regular, and accipiters, especially goshawks, are by no means rare. In addition, Red-shouldered and Broad-winged hawks, and occasionally Saw-whet Owls, nest in nearby swampy woodlands.

Originally part of the Great Cedar Swamp, these corn fields were created by the Cumberland Farms food store chain as they cleared land for field corn to feed their dairy cattle

in Bridgewater. In doing so, they destroyed what was one of Massachusetts' finest Atlantic White Cedar (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*) swamps. A pitiful remnant of the original swamp is all that remains along the periphery of the fields and in some uncut acreage on the eastern side of the field complex. Despite this, pockets of the swamp still hold remnants of the original flora and small populations of the unique breeding bird fauna. The best of these pockets lies along Fuller and Cedar streets, where in spring it is still possible to record breeding Brown Creepers, Hermit Thrushes, Northern Waterthrushes, Canada Warblers, and rarely, White-throated Sparrows. The corn fields themselves are fine for waterfowl in early spring, large flocks of migrant Ring-billed Gulls in spring and fall, Horned Larks, Water Pipits, Lapland Longspurs, and Snow Buntings in fall and winter, and huge flocks of blackbirds in April and October. During their migration periods, shorebirds are particularly attracted to wet pools and to freshly spread manure, which is used as a fertilizer for the corn. Twenty-two species of shorebirds have been recorded by the author, but the most frequently occurring in numbers are Killdeer, Lesser Golden-Plover, Common Snipe, Solitary Sandpiper, both yellowlegs species, and Pectoral, Least, and Semipalmated sandpipers. In late summer and fall, tremendous swirling flocks of Tree and Barn Swallows feed over the corn fields, and later, Bobolinks, Indigo Buntings, and sparrows seek refuge in the corn and in the numerous weeds bordering the drainage ditches in the fields. To best appreciate the concentrations of birds in these fields, be prepared to do lots of walking at all seasons, taking precautions to wear appropriate rubber footwear during wet weather and in the early spring.

Return to Route 105 and drive south for about four miles to Route 44. A right turn will lead to the rotary where Routes 18, 28, 44, and 25 come together. Here a Howard Johnson's restaurant provides a pleasant break from winter cold or summer heat. From the rotary continue south on Route 18, which eventually joins Route 105 in Lakeville. After approximately 4.5 miles, Assawompsett Pond will be seen on the left. This large body of water is the biggest pond in Massachusetts after the Quabbin Reservoir. Once at the pond, park on the right across from the pumping station and walk out on the short stone dike. In the summer there is an active Osprey nest on a peninsula across the water from the pumping station - the only such active nest in inland Plymouth County at this time. The large cove to the left is apt to hold various species of diving ducks from October until freeze-up. Most common are Canvasback, both scaup species (be careful with identification), Bufflehead, and American Coot. Lesser numbers of Common Loon, Horned and Pied-billed grebes, both cormorant species (Great is rare), other diving ducks including scoters, Oldsquaws, and Common Mergansers are equally regular on Assawompsett Pond. In fact, over twenty species of waterfowl have been recorded on a single day - clearly an indication of the attraction of this area.



Ring-necked Ducks

Illustration by Denise Braunhardt

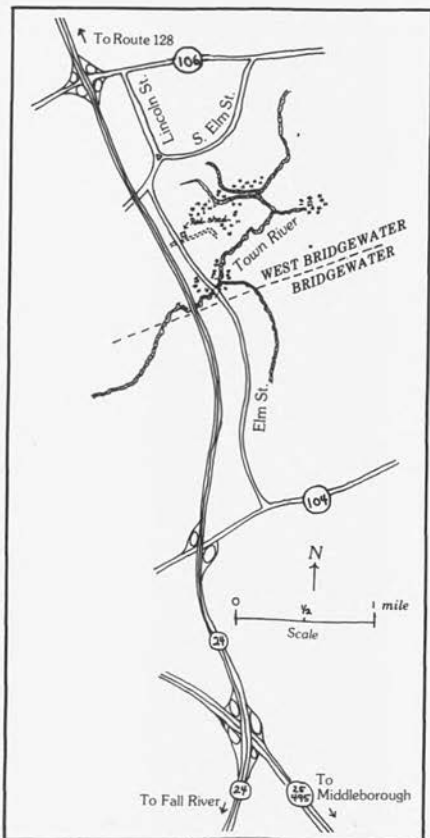
Continue south along the shore of the pond to the Tamarack Restaurant on the right. Check the dead trees at the north end of Long Pond, visible from the parking lot behind the restaurant. In recent winters these trees have been perches for Bald Eagles. Rarely, a Golden Eagle has visited the area. While eagles range over all of the Lakeville ponds, the area near the restaurant seems to be particularly attractive, since the open water often holds Mallards and coot that the eagles actively pursue when everything else is frozen. Keep an ear open in mild weather for the ringing song of the Carolina Wren, a regular inhabitant of the nearby Bittersweet tangles.

Leave the Tamarack Restaurant and continue south on Bedford Street along the pond shore, checking all suitable vantage points, since water birds can appear anywhere on the pond. Especially in late summer, scan far out over the middle of the pond for gulls and terns; Laughing Gulls, which are rare inland, and both Common and Forster's terns have been seen at that season. After traveling about 2.5 miles, look for a large spruce plantation on the left. Originally planted by the New Bedford Waterworks, this plantation has provided a nesting station for Red-breasted Nuthatches and Golden-crowned Kinglets for several years, and Yellow-rumped Warblers are suspected of breeding in the White Pines across the road where the more common Pine Warbler also nests. Boreal Chickadees have been noted in the spruces following years of fall invasions.

Shortly beyond the spruce grove, the road follows a dividing dike between Great Quittacas Pond on the left and Little Quittacas on the right. With Assawompsett Pond, these ponds are among the finest diving duck ponds on the Massachusetts mainland. They deserve careful attention at all seasons,

but especially from September through November. The Ring-necked Duck occurs here in greater numbers than anywhere in the state, and flocks in early November frequently reach one thousand birds. In some seasons, Ruddy Duck flocks numbering in the hundreds join the Ring-necks, usually in Little Quittacas; however, any species of pond duck is apt to appear in the Lakeville ponds in the autumn. Even such improbables as the Tufted Duck and the Marbled Murrelet (!) have been recorded in the area.

The coniferous woodlands around the Quittacas ponds are off-limits to pedestrians; however, all the roadways are open and provide good chances to observe the waterfowl and occasionally eagles and other raptors. A particularly good observation point is reached by returning north from the Quittacas ponds and turning right on Long Point Road, which runs along the north end of Great Quittacas Pond across a dike that divides Great Quittacas and Pocksha Pond. On clear, windy days, this can be an attractive location, reminding one of areas at the much larger Quabbin Reservoir and can also afford good looks at soaring birds of prey or goshawks as they sneak from one side of the wooded lake shore to the other.



In April or September, a profitable stop can be made when leaving the Bridgewater-Lakeville region by departing on Route 24. From the previously mentioned rotary where the Howard Johnson's Restaurant is, travel five miles northwest on Route 25 (U.S. 495 North) to the junction with Route 24. Go north on Route 24 and exit east on Route 104. Turn on to the first street on the left, Elm Street. This passes through a series of blueberry and turf farms, paralleling Route 24. A little less than one half mile after the road crosses the Town River into West Bridgewater, there is a red shed on the right overlooking the fields. A cart road leading into the fields in front of the house affords fine views of the meadows, inundated each spring by the Town River. These flooded meadows attract large numbers of waterfowl, Common Snipe, yellowlegs, and Pectoral Sandpipers. Ruffs have appeared almost annually for the past several years, sometimes

lingering for days at a time so that many visitors have been able to enjoy their striking plumages and occasional displays. The turf farms are best in September when concentrations of Killdeer and Lesser Golden-Plover may cover the grassy flats in search of earthworms. Periods following gloomy wet weather produce the best birding in both of these habitats. To depart the area, continue north to Lincoln Street, which runs into Route 106 adjacent to Route 24.

Through the description above - just a sampling of the possibilities - the author hopes that he has whetted the reader's appetite for the pleasures of birding an inland region in southeastern Massachusetts. Although the daily list may not match that of a coastal outing, the quality of the birding experience does. This experience is enhanced by the opportunity to explore a region less frequented by birders, where the visitor can make his own birding discoveries. The area awaits, like a sleeping giant, only to be awakened!

WAYNE R. PETERSEN teaches biology at Hanover Junior High School and is widely known for varied activities as a naturalist. His more recent accomplishments include the teaching of a series of birding and natural history seminars and workshops and the authorship of a number of species accounts in the recently published Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding.

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"Come In And Talk Birds"

WORDS FROM OLD LYME

"Escapes Versus Vagrants: A Comment," the article by Richard Veit published in the December issue (*BOEM* 11: 309), generated some controversy among the staff and elicited more than usual comment from the readership. Roger Tory Peterson was so kind as to send to the editor a copy of his letter to Dick Veit, and this is reprinted below.

February 28, 1984

Dear Mr. Veit:

I was very interested in your perceptive article in a recent issue of *Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts* concerning rarities that are dismissed as "escapes."

I recall that years ago, early editions of the British Handbook would make brief mention of certain North American passerines at Fair Isle or some other coastal points with the cautionary note - "probably an escaped cage bird," even though it was a warbler or a North American sparrow that would be of unlikely captive origin. Now, of course, we know that Fair Isle, Scilly Isle, etc., are logical spots for such vagrants to show up.

No one except Don Roberson on the West Coast questioned that the reef heron on Nantucket was a valid stray; they are not kept in captivity - at least in the U.S. On the other hand a jackdaw that had been around Nantucket last year was shrugged off and not even mentioned in print, so far as I can determine. Noble Proctor saw it and so did a number of others. So, when Davis Crompton wrote me about a "Cuban crow" at Nantucket, I assumed that he meant the jackdaw. Both have some gray on the hind neck, but have totally different bills. Davis, of course, should know the Cuban crow, having done some birding in Cuba at one point. When I brought up the jackdaw, he was very adamant about the Cuban crow. He said he knew about the jackdaw.

I thought no more about it until one of Noble Proctor's students reported a strange sounding crow at a reservoir near New Haven. Noble went to check on it and, believe it or not, it *was* a Cuban crow. This made the Cuban crow at Nantucket seem more valid. Noble, in my opinion, is the best field man we have in Connecticut; no one questions him. Furthermore, he saw both the Cuban crow and the jackdaw. The question in Noble's mind was whether some behaviorist was working on *Corvidae*. He investigated and could turn up no such lead.

Nantucket would be a logical place for either one of these two birds to turn up; but one is as unlikely as the other. Had they turned up at Ithaca or Albany, I would immediately suspect escaped laboratory birds. Incidentally, the jackdaw has been extending its range and is now resident in Iceland. Birds do have wings and they use them.

I agree with you that such sightings should be put on record and we should not always assume that they are escapes. If a pattern emerges we have not lost some basic data.

Roger Tory Peterson

ON RECORDS OF BIRDS¹

by Dorothy R. Arvidson, Arlington

Ruth Emery, who completes in March 1984 her fortieth year of service to Massachusetts Audubon Society (MAS) and whose name is practically synonymous with records, began this record-keeping task in 1945 when Ludlow Griscom persuaded MAS to take over this responsibility from the Boston Society of Natural History. The two organizations were neighbors on Newbury Street in Boston, and Griscom was a member of both boards of directors. At that time, the records consisted of files of letters and lists contributed by active and interested birdwatchers. From this material, a newsletter summary of bird sightings was prepared at intervals and distributed to a number of subscribers. When this substantial "pile" of material was brought to Russ Mason's office (he was then the president of MAS), it was passed from desk to desk until Ruth volunteered, "I'll take care of that." And so she did, and to this day, still does.

Ruth organized the system, still in use today, of collecting reports and filing and storing all the information on record slips, one for each sighting reported, filed under the species name in the current A.O.U. order, and organized by month. This four hundred and eighty months of bird sightings is now a mountain of information that has been carefully accumulated and meticulously maintained and represents devotion to birdwatching of the highest order. Every birder, every field ornithologist, in fact, everyone interested in Massachusetts birds is heavily in debt to this remarkable woman. She still functions at the age of eighty-five as record-keeper, writing a monthly summary for MAS published as part of the Birder's Kit, supplying material for the Voice of Audubon, and organizing the records that Bird Observer's compilers draw upon for publication.

From 1945 to 1967, information on bird records in the state was published in Records of New England Birds with the following basic aims set forth in the first volume.

1. To provide data for the study of the average activities of all species, with special attention to distribution, population, and migration, and trends within these categories.
2. To record unusual occurrences, whether of rare forms or of common ones at extreme or unprecedented dates.
3. To assemble a reference file for observers which will indicate where and when birds are to be looked for.

Bird Observer now publishes in each issue two one-month compilations of bird species identified within the ten-county

¹Part of the material presented here has been taken from an article that appeared in BOEM in 1977 [5(1): 9] and was signed "by The Staff." All modifications of the original material are the responsibility of the present editor.

area shown on the frontispiece, and this is a major function of the magazine. Obvious limitations of space prevent the publication of the complete records, and the records committee of BOEM must decide which reports are most noteworthy. Another factor is time. All reports are kept on file, but only those which are sent in to Ruth Emery promptly will be available to the compilers for inclusion in the published records. Unfortunately, the omission of certain of these records has been in the past a cause of hard feelings, and it might be helpful, therefore, to make certain points plain.

Most of our readers and reporters are amateurs for whom birding is a hobby, a sport, a source of pleasure. BOEM is directed primarily toward this audience. However, this magazine is also used as a reference for record data. To accept a misidentification and to reject a correct identification are both compiling errors, but they are not of equal seriousness. Compilers generally agree that the former is the more unfortunate error. It is inevitable therefore that what may be perfectly valid sightings will occasionally not be printed, and the observer need draw no personal inference from this. Rejection of a record usually means simply that the submitted evidence has failed to convince the compilers of the correctness of the identification.

The integrity of the reporter is assumed; his expertise is not. None of us is fully familiar with every species that may appear within our area. Moreover, atypical or freak individuals are not uncommon within the avian world, and even the professional ornithologist is necessarily inexperienced with respect to aberrations of this sort. Furthermore, even the most competent and experienced observers do make mistakes. Unusual wind conditions or lighting effects often drastically change the appearance of a bird and lead to misidentification. Experienced field ornithologists are quick to admit this possibility and we should all follow their example.

Certain minimal data are needed for all reports, and the following basic information should be included: (1) species name; (2) date and place of observation; (3) an accurate count or careful estimate; (4) sex, if determinable; (5) immature or adult plumage; (6) vocalizations, if any; and (7) observers.

Which reports are most noteworthy? The compilers are interested in reports of the following: (1) early and late dates for migratory species; (2) maximum counts for migrants; (3) unusually high or low numbers of the more common species; (4) species outside their normal ranges, especially when such records may point to breeding range extensions; (5) species not on the current MAS checklist. The very active birder may know from his own experience and records which reports are of greatest interest. The less experienced observer will need help in determining which reports to submit. What is an early date for Red-eyed Vireos? What is an unusually high count or

an unusual range for a particular species? There are several books and pamphlets detailing such information: L. Griscom and D. Snyder, The Birds of Massachusetts, 1955; W. Bailey, Birds in Massachusetts, Where and When to Find Them, 1955, and Birds of the Cape Cod National Seashore, 1968 (and its supplement, 1970); N. Hill, The Birds of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, 1965. Some of these are out of print, but the 1983 Massachusetts Bird List, Fauna of Massachusetts Series No. 1, compiled by Brad Blodgett, is available from the state for \$1.00. Also, sometime within the next fifteen months, a new volume on the birds of this state, authored by Richard Veit and Richard A. Forster, will appear. Other sources of information about records are Records of New England Birds (1945-1967), BOEM (1973-present), and the regional reports in American Birds.

Reports of "difficult" species. Some of the birds on the MAS checklist as well as a number of vagrants are difficult to distinguish. Among these are the following species:

Arctic Loon	Baird's Sandpiper
Cory's vs. Greater Shearwater	Female Ruff or reeve
Leach's vs. Wilson's Storm-Petrel	Short-billed vs. Long-billed
Cormorants out of breeding season	Dowitcher
Immatures of Little Blue Heron	Red Phalarope vs. Red-necked
vs. Snowy Egret	Phalarope (basic plumage)
Immatures of Yellow-crowned and	All jaegers
Black-crowned night-herons	Common Black-headed Gull vs.
Female and eclipse plumage Blue-	Bonaparte's Gull
winged and Green-winged teal	Lesser Black-backed Gull
Females of Eurasian vs. American	Glaucous vs. Iceland Gull
Wigeon	Royal and Caspian terns
Greater vs. Lesser Scaup	Large alcids
Females or immatures of	<u>Empidonax</u> flycatchers
King Eider	Fish Crow (except by voice)
Females of Barrow's and Common	<u>Catharus</u> thrushes
goldeneye	Northern vs. Loggerhead Shrike
Females of Common vs.	Philadelphia vs. Warbling Vireo
Red-breasted Merganser	Orange-crowned Warbler
Golden vs. Bald Eagle	Immatures of Cape May, Pine, Black-
Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's	poll, and Bay-breasted warblers
Hawk, and Merlin	Northern and Louisiana
Immatures of Broad-winged vs.	waterthrushes
Red-shouldered Hawk	<u>Oporornis</u> warblers
King Rail vs. Clapper Rail	Clay-colored vs. Chipping Sparrow
Black-bellied vs. Lesser Golden-	Sharp-tailed vs. Seaside Sparrow
Plover (basic plumage)	Lincoln's Sparrow
Western vs. Semipalmated Sandpiper	House Finch vs. Purple Finch

The birds on this list are here for various reasons: they may be true sibling-species or unrelated look-alikes. Some are secretive or skulkers allowing only brief or far from perfect viewing; some are frequently or repeatedly misidentified. Reports of these birds should include details of the diagnostic characteristics observed or heard that led to the identification. There are several papers that have appeared in BOEM as well as a number available from MAS (Field Problems 1-23)

on the field identification of many of these confusing birds.

Reports of rarities. Any report of a species not on the MAS Checklist requires documentation of a more extensive nature. The additional information submitted should include the following material.

1. The exact location and specific local habitat.
2. The time of day and the duration of the observation.
3. Weather conditions during the observation and in the preceding hours and days, especially wind direction and speed.
4. Lighting conditions.
5. Optical equipment used and the distance from the bird.
6. Visual characteristics of the bird: size, shape, posture, and plumage.
7. Songs or other vocalizations.
8. Description of movements on the ground and in the air. Did it soar? Quality of the wingbeat and the flight.
9. Feeding habits. What was it eating and how was the food obtained?
10. Social habits. What other species were present? Was there interaction? Interspecific hostility is often an excellent clue to identity.
11. Differential diagnosis. With which other species was a direct comparison made? Which other species were considered as possible identifications, and how was each eliminated? The superior field observer is often distinguished by his attention to this matter. Remember the maxim: a rare or unusual view of a common bird is more probable than a sighting of a rare or unusual bird.
12. Supporting evidence; e.g., notes or drawings made in the field at the time of the observation, tape-recordings, or photographs.
13. The names of all observers and a record of any disagreements about identification.

Written reports may not be published, but all are kept in the records file. They are thus available for serious ornithological research and for evaluation by the "Rare Bird" Records Committee. Try to keep this in mind when you write your report, and be as accurate, as conscientious, and as complete as you can. The reader in the year 2050 may need and will appreciate those details. As an example of a very fine report of a rare bird, the November Mew Gull sighting sent in by Blair Nikula and Peter J. Grant (author of Gulls: A Guide to Identification, 1982) is offered in this issue.

In the next issue, BOEM will present more discussion of bird records, in particular, how the "Rare Bird Committee" functions, the importance of bird records in Massachusetts and elsewhere, the future of record-keeping in the computer age, and the contribution that any conscientious birdwatcher can make whether experienced professional or serious amateur.

OBSERVATION OF A COMMON (MEW) GULL (Larus canus)

Date: 30 November, 1983
Observers: Peter J. Grant
Blair Nikula

Location: below the Race Pt.
Parking Lot, Provincetown, Mass.

Weather: Clear; 50 degrees; West wind at 15-30 Mph.

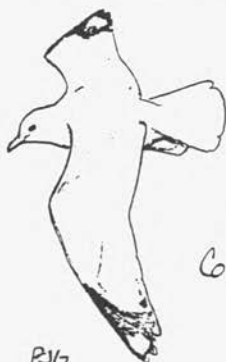
Details of observation: Grant first noted the bird as it flew in from the east, working along the edge of the beach. The bird passed directly in front of the observers at a distance of approx. 50 yards, in excellent light and continued slowly up the beach to the west until out of sight. Total viewing time was approx. 2 minutes. Optics were 20X and 30X telescopes and 8X and 10X binoculars.

Description of bird: A medium-sized, gray-mantled gull near the size of a Ring-billed Gull (Larus delawarensis). (Although there were several Ring-billed Gulls in the general area, none was close enough to permit an accurate size comparison.)

The tail, body, neck, and head were pure white, with some gray streaking on the head and hindneck, indicating winter plumage. The mantle was medium gray, nearly identical to the Ring-billed and Herring (Larus argentatus) gulls present (although, again, the lack of a close comparison prevented a precise determination of mantle color relative to the other species present). The primaries were black, narrowly tipped with white. The outermost 2 primaries had large white spots, more extensive than those present on a typical Ring-billed Gull. The bill was completely yellow, and lacked any markings. The eye color was not discernible, nor was the leg color.

Identification was based on the clear yellow bill and primary pattern. Grant thought that the bird was of the nominate European race (L. canus canus) based on the primary pattern.

Both observers have previous experience with L. canus. Grant has extensive experience with the species in Europe and has authored papers and a book detailing the identification of the species.



Common Gull!
Race Point

PJG

MEMORY IN FOOD-HOARDING BIRDS

by Harriet E. Hoffman, Arlington

The presence of food-hoarding behavior in a number of species of birds is known to many of us. Almost everyone has observed birds fly to a feeder, take a seed, fly away, and return almost immediately for another. Common sense would suggest that the birds could not possibly be eating the seeds in the short interval between return trips to the feeder. Therefore, they must be storing the seeds for future use, be it hours, days, or months later. The extent to which memory is involved in aiding the birds to retrieve their caches is perhaps not so well-known.

How do birds find the food they have stored? Do they rely on memory? If so, they would need a capacious and long-lasting memory. In principle, birds could find their food stores without memory. They could always use the same type of site and then search by trial and error or use a cue such as odor. Behavioral psychologists are becoming increasingly aware that animals do have a capacity for memory: birds remember songs, and bees remember flowers. Birds that can remember where they stored food would make fewer errors in search and hence expend less time and energy than birds that relied on trial and error. Thus, the development of memory would have distinct survival value for food-hoarding birds. Birds that hoarded in times of plenty and that could remember the location of their caches would be able to draw on their hidden supplies in lean times. As a result, they would live to reproduce, and nonhoarders would be less successful.

Memory in birds is being tested in both field and laboratory experiments with the Marsh Tit (Parus palustris), a European relative of the Black-capped Chickadee, and Clark's Nutcracker (Nucifraga columbiana). An article by Sara Shettleworth (1983) reported on research on the memory capacity of birds conducted by John Krebs, Richard J. Cowie, David F. Sherry, Mark Avery, Allen Stevens, and Shettleworth at the University of Oxford; Diana Tomback, University of Denver; and Stephen B. Vander Wall, Utah State University. Vander Wall's (1983) field research on Clark's Nutcracker has also recently been reported in Natural History.

In England all that is needed to show the remarkable memory powers of Marsh Tits is a birdfeeder stocked with peanuts. Observation shows that Great and Blue tits will remain at the feeder and eat as fast as possible, whereas a Marsh Tit will dart in, snatch a peanut, fly off, only to return again and again until the supply is exhausted. It stores the peanuts at different sites, and then returns to eat them later. A Clark's Nutcracker will behave similarly. In the late summer it harvests the seeds of Piñon Pines, fills its sublingual

pouch, and flies several miles to bury them, often on southern slopes, where the snow is not so deep in winter. It may bury as many as 33,000 seeds in a cache and return to dig up thousands of caches throughout the winter.

In field experiments in Wytham Wood near Oxford, Krebs and his co-workers put out dispensers of sunflower seeds and trained Marsh Tits to come to the dispensers. The husks of the seeds (removed by the birds before eating) were coated with a radioactive substance, which permitted frequent checking of the tits' storage sites to determine when the hoards were used up. The investigators set up false hoards of seeds as controls, each located one meter from a hoarding site made by a bird. If Marsh Tit memory were involved in finding and depleting the caches, the birds' natural hoards (seeds with radioactive husks) should disappear faster than the control hoards, and they did. However, because predation of the stored seeds by rodents and other birds is common, the control caches set up by the experimenters lasted only a day or so longer than did the caches established by the Marsh Tits.

To eliminate the effect of this predation factor, Krebs next conducted experiments in the laboratory. First, Krebs, Sherry, and Cowie offered the tits bowls of sunflower seeds to eat and trays of moss in which to hide the seed. Second, Krebs and Shettleworth offered the birds hempseed to eat and store and tree branches with approximately 100 holes (each could hold only one seed) in which to hide the seeds. In one of the initial experiments a Marsh Tit was permitted to store twelve seeds taken from a bowl in the middle of the room. When all twelve were stored in twelve different holes, the bird and the bowl of seeds were removed from the room for two and a half hours. Then the bird was put back in the room and was allowed to search for seeds. If the bird searched at random, it would require visits to about eight holes to find one seed. The tit was actually more efficient. The average was about two mistakes per seed. At the beginning of the recovery test, a tit often was able to recover three or four seeds before encountering an empty hole.

The researchers then put the birds through a progressively more specialized series of remarkably inventive experiments designed to show that the Marsh Tits were indeed using memory to find the hidden seeds. Specific results are as follows. It was possible to eliminate "recency effect" (most recently hidden seeds would be remembered first); the possibility of odor as a cue was eliminated; the tits when storing seeds avoided sites they had already used; and they apparently processed two kinds of information: they remembered where the food was, and they remembered where they had looked.

Experiments with Clark's Nutcracker both in the field and in the laboratory have elicited further proof of spatial memory.

In a field experiment Tomback was able to record the number of successful and unsuccessful searches of nutcrackers in the snow because they leave visible beak marks and piñon seedcoats next to the holes. If the searches were random, the number of successful and unsuccessful probes should be equal. In reality, two thirds of the probes were successful. In the laboratory Vander Wall conducted experiments with four Clark's Nutcrackers, two of which were hoarders, and two nonhoarders. The hoarders retrieved food successfully in 70 percent of the probes, whereas the nonhoarders had a success rate of only 10 percent. Through a progression of experiments he showed that the hoarding birds used objects, for example, logs and rocks, as cues for remembering storage sites, and both hoarders and nonhoarders searched most often near such objects.

Do food-storing species have better memories than nonstorerers? Tests on food-storing birds using nonfood objects have not yet been done. A close relative of the type of experiment that would be needed is a delayed-response experiment. In it an animal is shown visual cues, such as flashing lights or a geometric shape. It is later given a choice between the original object and another. It is rewarded if it chooses the first. When pigeons, i.e., nonfood hoarders, were given this sort of test, with a food pellet as a reward, they did not succeed.

What birds are known to store food? The Acorn Woodpeckers of our western states may store as many as 50,000 acorns in one tree. In New England, nuthatches and titmice store insects and seeds in bark crevices, and in Europe, other Paridae, the Willow and Crested tits, store in the fall and draw on caches over the winter. In Norway, the latter stores food on the under side of branches where it is available even after heavy snowfall. The Marsh Tits of Europe store for short periods; the Blue and Great tits do not. The Clark's Nutcracker makes use of communal caches whereas the Scrub Jay caches only in its own territory. The nutcrackers of Sweden spend three months of autumn storing hazelnuts and flying as far as six kilometers to bury nuts in small heaps covered with moss and lichen, chiefly in spruce forests. They then retrieve them in winter and spring, sometimes from snow as deep as forty-five centimeters with a success rate of 86 percent. Jays of different species, including our Blue Jay, hide food in crevices and holes in the ground. The Piñon and Steller's jays are only moderate food-hoarders, and more observation and research are needed. Experiments with captive ravens (Corvus corax) demonstrate that the hungrier the bird, the more food it hoards. (Welty, 1982:128 and Shettleworth, 1983).

Shettleworth has written an understandable and stimulating article. I was impressed by the ability of food-hoarding birds to remember where they hid their caches. I was even more impressed by the scientists who devised the extraordinarily creative laboratory and field experiments to prove that some species of birds possess the capacity for spatial memory.

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HARRIET E. HOFFMAN is Assistant Editor of the Quarterly Journal of Economics at Harvard University and a member of BOEM's editorial board. Although she majored in history at Grinnell College and became an editor by profession, an early interest in birds developed from observing a Pileated Woodpecker gouging away at a tree outside the family's summer home in Connecticut. Dr. Paynter's course in ornithology at Harvard and a 1975 whale-watching trip off Baja California intensified and expanded this interest to include marine mammals and led to an enduring enthusiasm for pelagic trips.



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THE WONDER OF BIRDS: THE RECORDINGS - A REVIEW

by Michael R. Greenwald, West Roxbury

As Leif Robinson mentioned in his article in the December 1983 issue of Bird Observer ("Some Thoughts about Field Guides - Old and New," BOEM 11: 312-314), the National Geographic Society's Field Guide to the Birds of North America is but one piece in a four-part set which includes the field guide, a "coffee-table" book entitled The Wonder of Birds from which the entire package takes its name, a migration map, and a set of recordings - four nine-inch Eva-Tone soundsheets which look like a cross between a normal phonograph record and a computer floppy-disc. Each side of the soundsheets contains approximately twelve minutes of bird vocalizations introduced by an announcement of the species and, if applicable, the geographical variant. Correlation with the pagination of the Field Guide to the Birds of North America is made on the jacket.

This is a departure from the format on the soundsheets of the National Geographic Society's earlier Song and Garden Birds of North America (1964). Those were six-inch Eva-Tones bound with a book backing. They had very few birds represented and were more fully narrated. There is also no attempt to represent every species occurring in North America. Roger Tory Peterson has already done that in A Field Guide to the Bird Songs of Eastern and Central North America, Raleigh Records (Houghton-Mifflin Co.), 1959 (rev. 1971) and its western equivalent (1975). Indeed, on this entire set, only 179 species are represented. The editors have chosen rather to include those species whose vocalizations are most critical to identification, either because the birds look alike (as with Alder and Willow flycatchers or Couch's and Tropical kingbirds), are secretive and thus hard to see (as with rails, owls, and nightjars), or are so non-descript that even direct field observation does not mean that the bird can be easily identified (as is true of the Northern Beardless Tyrannulet). In the words of the editors, they have chosen vocalizations which are "not always the most beautiful sounds, nor the most often heard, but the sounds that are most helpful in finding and identifying elusive or confusing species." They have also included species such as Common Ringed-Plover, Greater Golden-Plover, and Temminck's Stint that are rarely found in North America and hence are not often included on other bird records.

The goal of the editors is not to provide the beginner with the most typical song of those birds that he or she is likely to encounter on a spring bird walk but to provide the more experienced observer with another dimension of identification. To this end, as they reduced the number of species represented, they increased the space devoted to each and, for many species, have given several different vocalizations. An entire band has been devoted to the three yellow-bellied kingbirds of the

Southwest: Cassin's, Couch's, and Tropical. There are three different vocalizations each for Virginia Rail, King Rail, and Sora (to the other extreme, however, I am not sure that it was necessary to have twenty-four seconds devoted to a Yellow Rail calling, "Click, click-click, click-click-click, click-click," etc.). Certain other areas are particularly strong. Many different tern vocalizations are given (although gulls are not included at all). Nine minutes have been devoted to night birds (owls and nightjars) and another nine to flycatchers: all of the genus Myiarchus and all of the genus Empidonax, except Buff-breasted Flycatcher, are represented. So, too, are all of the North American vireos save Yellow-throated and Black-whiskered vireos. However, there are songs of only five sparrows and six wood-warblers: three Oporornis (MacGillivray's is missing), the two water-thrushes, and for the ever-hopeful, Bachman's Warbler.

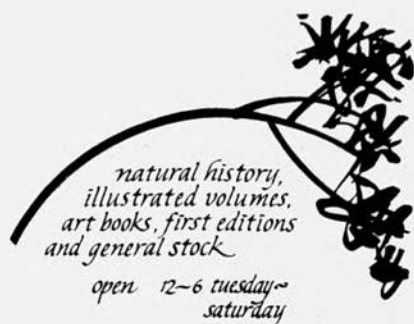
Nothing is perfect, however, and as Leif Robinson said in his review of the field guide, after some of the criticism of the fourth edition of Peterson, it is amazing that anyone would attempt a new one. For in spite of all of the strengths of this record-set, there are some detractions. Even if we were to acknowledge that wood-warblers, sparrows, and gulls are not necessary in a collection of this sort, there is some real unevenness in the selection of species for the records. On one hand, we are given Sanderling, Dunlin, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Temminck's Stint, Baird's Sandpiper, and Pectoral Sandpiper. Why is Western Sandpiper missing altogether? Both Blue-gray and Black-tailed gnatcatchers are given. Why not Black-capped? It is hardly more esoteric than Arctic Warbler. Since Red Crossbill is included, why are White-winged Crossbill and Pine Grosbeak omitted? The reasons for the selection of Wren and Mimid species are likewise unclear. Could it be that no one has ever recorded a LeConte's Thrasher? Comparisons are made between Downy and Hairy woodpeckers and Ladder-backed and Nuttall's woodpeckers. It would have been just as helpful to have a comparison between the Black-backed and Three-toed woodpeckers. The vocalizations of some of the species are themselves under-represented. The Northern Saw-whet Owl has many different notes; yet we are given only the "whetting" note which gives the bird its name. We are given three examples of the Scarlet Tanager's song, one of its "keep-back" call, but none of its early morning "burr."

Also missing are the geographical notations given on the Peterson recordings. Research has shown that for many species, only the basic structure of the song is inborn; the remainder is learned. This allows for a high degree of geographic and individual variation. Knowing these geographical variations can be very useful in the field. The recording of the White-eyed Vireo, for example, is identical to those that I have heard throughout the Florida Everglades but have rarely heard either here in New England or in the Ohio Valley.

The greatest detraction of all, however, is the Eva-Tone soundsheets themselves. To be sure, the recording quality is superb, often far better than the same species on the Peterson records. But I am concerned that the soundsheets are not very durable. My sheets from Song and Garden Birds of North America have not held up well. I have played the new ones perhaps half-a-dozen times and already one of them has developed a "popping" noise in the bass caused by a ripple on the surface.

When writing a review, it is always easier to write about the detractions and gloss over the strong points. In this instance, the latter far outweigh the former. This set is a very useful field tool and should be a welcome addition to anyone's record library. Alas, this forces me to mention but one more detraction - the records are only available as part of the entire set, which, depending on where and when one buys it, costs either \$29.95 or \$34.95.

MICHAEL GREENWALD began birding by ear in New Hampshire's White Mountains in the early 1970s. Because he did not own binoculars, it was nearly three years before he realized that birds could be seen as well as heard. While living in Ohio, he met his first birder and discovered that other people had known this for a long time. He has served as a backpacking and canoe trip leader in Maine and New Hampshire for over ten years and is currently a naturalist-in-residence in the hut system of the Appalachian Mountain Club. In his spare time, he works on his doctoral dissertation on New Testament and Christian Origins and is the rabbi of Melrose.



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BOOK REVIEW

The Wonder of Birds. Robert M. Poole, ed. 1983. National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C., 280 pages. Available as part of a set that includes the N.G.S. Field Guide to the Birds of North America (reviewed by L. Robinson, BOEM 11: 312), four Eva-Tone soundsheets of bird song (reviewed elsewhere in this issue), and a poster-sized migration map, \$35.

This "coffee-table"-type book, is the centerpiece of this set, and its goal is appreciation - appreciation both of the beauty of birds and of the struggle of their day-to-day existence over the course of a year.

The book is divided into seven chapters, each by a different naturalist-author. The first chapter is an introduction by Louis J. Halle who lays out the aesthetic tone of the entire book, wistfully lamenting the public indifference to the lyricism of the sound and of the movement of birds. Noting that the goal of this volume is one of appreciation, he defends such a goal by stating that ". . . in the observation of birds, identification is not enough (for) our kind will not conserve what it does not appreciate" (p. 15). The second chapter by Roger F. Pasquier is also introductory but features a different perspective. He presents the reader with some brief notes on the history of ornithology, avian palaeontology, avian anatomy, and ecological niches. The next four chapters trace the lives of birds through the seasons. The chapter on spring, by Paul A. Johnsgard, discusses courtship and mating rituals and the territorial and nesting habits of various species. In his vivid descriptions of the migration and mating ritual of the Sandhill Cranes, one senses Johnsgard's own experiences on the midwestern prairies. The next chapter by Anne LaBastille continues the life-cycle with stories of the trials and tribulations of raising young. The autumnal chapter by Frank Graham, Jr. concentrates on the fall migration, and the chapter by Franklin Russell traces the struggles of survival through a winter for the twenty billion birds present in the United States and Canada at summer's end. We are left with the stark reality that of the eight billion migrants who travel beyond the southern borders of our country, "one of three . . . will die before spring" (p. 192). By the end of these chapters, one almost begins to see the world through a bird's eye. We are abruptly yanked back to our own humanity, however, with George Laycock's concluding chapter on human impact, a discussion ranging from the introduction of species to the destruction and alteration of habitat with the concomitant destruction of species and human attempts to save them. A final useful feature is a four-page guide at the end of the book, "Bird Watching by State and Province."

The text flows evenly, is well-written, is informative, and is well-indexed. But the real artistry of this volume is in

the photographs. There are 198 of them, and all of them are magnificent. My favorite is that of a Wood Duck duckling that has just been coaxed out of the nest by its mother and frozen in midair by the photographer-magician. For those who might be familiar with other works by the National Geographic Society, the photos in this work are not in sections apart from the text but are interspersed within it. This might be a distraction for some, but it does help to maintain the correlation between photographs and text. Not all of these photographs are new. Many have been previously released in the monthly issues of National Geographic Magazine. But it is of no matter. In this book they have been put together in a spectacular photographic essay.

In the introductory chapter, Louis J. Halle tells us that "for the real thing . . . we have to go out into the field. The basic service that this book performs is to equip us beforehand with the knowledge we need for the appreciation of what we see" (p. 15). True. But in so saying, he sells the book short. For those who appreciate objets d'art, this book is itself a thing of beauty.

Michael R. Greenwald, West Roxbury

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DWYER FARM, MARSHFIELD

On Tuesday, January 24, 1984, the Massachusetts Audubon Society bought Dwyer Farm, one of the last significant pieces of farmland near the coast, thus ending the speculation about what would become of this valuable land. Located in the town of Marshfield, the farm consists of 388 acres at the end of Winslow Cemetery Road. The value of this land lies in its open and grassy nature, and future management will tend to maintain its present aspect. David Clapp, director of the South Shore Sanctuaries of MAS and a frequent contributor to Bird Observer, will be charged with the management of Dwyer Farm. For more information about Dwyer Farm, see Wayne Petersen's "Marshfield: A Birder's Perspective," BOEM 10(1): page 4, 1982.

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Field Records: October 1983



by Robert H. Stymeist, Lee E. Taylor

October's bright blue weather was no exception this year. In spite of an unseasonably warm first two weeks, which made for an extended display of foliage, the month averaged out just 0.4° above normal. The high mark reached 85° on the fourth, tying the record for that date. Record nighttime lows were broken on the third and again on the thirteenth, with 65° and 66° respectively. The first two weeks averaged more than 6° above normal, but the rest of the month was mostly on the cool side, with the last half of the month averaging 4.5° below normal. The monthly low was 32° on October 30; this first freeze of the season came just eight days earlier than average. Many inland suburbs had their first freeze on the twentieth, two to three weeks later than normal. Precipitation totaled 3.74 inches, less than an inch more than normal.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

Both species of loons were migrating past Sandy Hook in Barnstable on the twenty-fifth, a day with a moderate northeast wind. Pied-billed Grebes were reported in fairly good numbers and an inland record of Red-necked Grebe at Lakeville was well described. On October 24, a fairly gusty northeast wind blew birds past Sandy Neck; Bob Pease noticed a bird that "dwarfed the Gannets; with a solid black back and upperwings; a white head and body; bill color not seen; bird never flapped the entire time". Mr. Pease watched what he believed to be an albatross for three to four minutes.

Shearwaters were present at Stellwagon at the end of the month, but not anywhere near the numbers of previous Octobers. A total of 75 Greater Shearwaters, as compared with over fifteen hundred last year, were counted on the BBC trip out of Plymouth. Twenty Manx Shearwaters, on the other hand, were reported as compared with just eight on last year's trip.

Interesting is the report of a possible Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*) seen off Andrews Point in Rockport on October 25, 1983. This sighting should be considered hypothetical, for the species has not yet been proven to occur in Massachusetts by either a specimen or a photograph. Richard Heil of Peabody submitted the following description in the hope that with future possible or confirmed sightings, a clearer picture of the status and distribution of Band-rumped Storm-Petrel in the western North Atlantic can be formed:

A storm-petrel observed Oct. 25, 1983, 150-200 yds. off Andrews Pt., Rockport for ca. 3-4 minutes at approx. 1100 hrs. did not fit the description of either of the two common storm-petrels in our area: the Wilson's and Leach's.

This was the second day of a northeast storm with winds out of the NE at 10-15 MPH, overcast, but with no precipitation at the time of the sighting. Visibility was fairly good, probably 3 miles.

Appearance and behavior was strikingly intermediate between Wilson's and Leach's. Size intermediate or closer to Leach's; wings distinctly pointed like Leach's, but not as long or as crooked at the bend like that species, but quite unlike the broad rounded wings of a Wilson's. The upperparts including the wings were more blackish than the usually grayish-brown Leach's, approximating Wilson's in this regard. Each upper wing possessed a dull whitish band similar to that of Leach's, but darker than Wilson's. The rump was gleaming white, with no observable darker band of feathering through the center typical of Leach's. The precise shape of the rump patch, despite all efforts, just could not be discerned at the distance involved. I have never seen a Leach's with a rump patch anywhere near this white and obvious. The dark tail was not visibly forked. The flight

behavior was unlike Leach's bounding, gliding and sharply veering manner, but seemed to approximate that of a Wilson's swallow-like flight, with fairly rapid and shallow wingbeats. It was observed foraging, picking food items from the surface, at times maintaining its position over a spot as it did so. Thus flight appeared to consist of rapid, shallow wingbeats, interspersed with an occasional short glide.

I am very familiar with both Wilson's and Leach's storm-petrels, having observed both from headlands during storms, on numerous pelagic trips and while participating in seabird research for the Manomet Bird Observatory, for which I have logged 56 days at sea. I have also banded several of each species during MBO cruises. My experience with Leach's Storm-Petrels includes sightings of 50+ per day in the Gulf of Maine during Sept. 1979, and 350+ observed from First Encounter Beach, Eastham on Aug. 13, 1979. On May 30, 1982, off Hatteras, N.C., two birds identified as Band-rumped Storm-Petrels by Bob Ake and Paul Dumont (American Birds 36: 840) were pointed out to myself and others on board the boat. I saw them clearly and made note of their appearance and behavior but did not feel confident enough to call them anything but probable in my own mind. In retrospect, those birds gave an identical jizz to the Rockport storm-petrel.

Other reports of storm-driven birds at coastal locations were four Leach's Storm-Petrels at Barnstable, and over 12,000 Gannets at First Encounter Beach in Eastham.

Double-crested Cormorants were migrating during the first half of the month in large numbers whereas only five Great Cormorants were reported, all at inland locations.

Thirteen American Bitterns were noted from five locations, a bit better than the six individuals from two locations of last October. As usual in October, good numbers of Great Blue Herons were reported, 100 in Wellfleet being the best count. The last Green-backed Heron was noted on the eighth and the last Cattle Egret was reported from Rowley on the fifteenth. The roost of Black-crowned Night-Herons at Eastham totaled 85 at mid-month, an immature Yellow-crowned Heron among them. R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/OCTOBER</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Red-throated Loon:			
8-10,10	P.I., Eastham	6, 6	J.Grugan, D.Brown#
24,25	P.I., Barnstable (SN)	24, 125	J.Grugan, J.Aylward#
Common Loon:			
1,25	P.I., Barnstable (SN)	3, 75	J.Grugan, J.Aylward#
Pied-billed Grebe:			
7,9	GMNWR, Nantucket	1, 4	A.Williams, BBC(D.Davis)
10,11	Westport, Peabody	5, 1	BBC(A.Blaisdell), D.Hill
20,27	Cambridge (F.Pond),Lakeville	4, 7	F.Bouchard, W.Petersen
Horned Grebe:			
25,26	Wollaston, Lynn	50, 4	S.+R.Higginbotham,C.Blaszczak
Red-necked Grebe:			
22,23-26	P'town, Lakeville	1, 1	B.Nikula, D.Clapp#
albatross, sp.:			
24	Barnstable (SN)	1	R.Pease
Northern Fulmar:			
23,30	Stellwagen	5, 5-6	W.Smith, BBC
Cory's Shearwater:			
1	Nantucket	2	F.Bouchard
Greater Shearwater:			
1,9	Nantucket	14-16, 7	F.Bouchard, BBC
15,23,30	Stellwagen	2, 75, 75	D.Clapp,W.Smith,BBC
Sooty Shearwater:			
9,10;23	Nantucket;Stellwagen	3, 1; 1	BBC; W.Smith
Manx Shearwater:			
15,23,30	Stellwagen	2, 3, 20	D. Clapp, W.Smith, BBC
storm-petrel, sp.:			
25	Rockport (AP)	1	R.Heil
Leach's Storm-Petrel:			
24,25	Barnstable (SN)	2, 2	R.Pease#
Northern Gannet:			
8,9,10	P.I.,outer Cape Cod,Nantucket	4, 20+, 3	J.Grugan, BBC, BBC
15,23	Stellwagen	750+(all imm), 50	D.Clapp, W.Smith
24,25	P.I., Eastham	414, 12,000+ (in 2 hrs)	J.Grugan, B.Nikula

<u>SPECIES/OCTOBER</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Great Cormorant:			
9	Newton, Concord	1, 1	O.Komar, R.Walton
27	Lakeville	3 imm.	W.Petersen
Double-crested Cormorant:			
1,2	P.I.	2500+, 700+	R.McHale, J.Grugan
7,8	Topsfield, P.I.	150, 450	T.Walsh, R.Prybis#
9	Newton, Concord	350+, 67	O.Komar#, R.Walton
9	outer Cape Cod, Ipswich	150, 300	BBC, J.Berry
10,16	Norfolk, Newbypt-Salisbury	800, 500	BBC, L.Pivocek#
American Bittern:			
1,2,7,23	P.I.	1, 2, 2, 2	v.o.
2,9	Eastham, Salisbury	1, 1	L.Taylor#, M.Lynch#
17,18,31	GMNWR	1+	G.Gove
23,30	Salisbury, E.Boston	2, 1	SSBC, S.Zendeh#
Great Blue Heron:			
2,4,8,16	Eastham	55,63,72,53	L.Taylor#, D.Brown, H.Mallers#, G.Gove#
1,7,22,24	P.I.	21, 24, 17, 4	v.o.
10,18	Westport area, Wellfleet	35, 100	BBC, J.Baird
19	Salisbury, Ipswich	75, 56 migrating	E.Pyburn#, R.Heil
Great Egret:			
1,9,23;10	P.I.; Westport	4, 4, 1; 30	v.o.; BBC
Snowy Egret:			
3	N.Scituate	65 flying to roost	H.Mallers
6,16,22	P.I.	83, 6, 2	G.Gove, J.Grugan, L.Pivocek#
9,10	Ipswich, Westport	5, 6	J.Berry, BBC
12,22	Squantum, E.Boston	1, 3	R.Abrams, S.Zendeh
Little Blue Heron:			
6	P.I.	1 ad; 1 calico, 1 basic	G.Gove; M.Lynch#
7,8-11	Scituate	1, 2(1 calico)	H.Mallers
11	Nantucket, Westport	1, 1	BBC(Davis), BBC(Blaisdell)
Cattle Egret:			
3,15	Ipswich, Rowley	3, 1	J.Berry, H.Weissberg
Green-backed Heron:			
2,8	E.Boston, GMNWR	3, 1	S.Zendeh#, M.Lynch#
Black-crowned Night-Heron:			
2,9	E.Boston, Salisbury	3, 7	S.Zendeh#, S.Carroll#
17	Eastham (Hemenway)	85	B.Nikula
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:			
1-17	Eastham	1 imm.	v.o.
8,14	Dorchester, Yarmouthport	1 imm., 1 ad.	J.Murphy, J.Aylward

WATERFOWL

Over ninety Wood Ducks were seen flying to a night roost in Wayland, and two Eurasian Wigeon were noted from Ipswich. The Tufted Duck continued on South Monomoy; it was first noted there last winter and was seen periodically throughout the summer. Wollaston Bay played host to 1200 Red-breasted Mergansers by the end of the month. R.H.S.

Mute Swan:			
10	Westport	267	BBC (A.Blaisdell)
Snow Goose:			
6-31	P.I.	max. 30 10/8	H.Weissberg# + v.o.
8,16	Concord, Marshfield	1, 20	R.Walton, SSBC
16	E.Boston, Chatham(3 flocks)	2, 75	S.Zendeh#, B.Nikula#
20;23,26	Plymouth; Monomoy	12; 1	D.Davis; W.Bailey#
"Blue Goose":			
23-24	P.I.	1	v.o.
Brant:			
23,25	E.Orleans, Quincy	50+, 25	A.Williams, K.Ryan
31	Eastham, Newburyport	74, 14	SSBC, F.Bouchard
Canada Goose:			
22,30	P.I., Lakeville	1000+, 1000+	BBC, K.Holmes
Wood Duck:			
22	Wayland (Heard's pond)	90+(flying to night roost)	R.Forster
Green-winged Teal:			
16	P.I.	200	BBC
Northern Pintail:			
20,23	Yarmouthport, P.I.	36, 65	J.Aylward, BBC(Nove)
Blue-winged Teal:			
7	GMNWR	50+	A.Williams

<u>SPECIES/OCTOBER</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Northern Shoveler: 6,23	GMNWR, P.I.	14, 18	G.Gove, BBC(Nove)
Eurasian Wigeon: 19	Ipswich	2	R.Heil
American Wigeon: 2,9	P.I., Nantucket	22, 55	J.Grugan, BBC
10,16	Westport, Wayland	29, 3	BBC, R.Forster#
19	Ipswich, Lincoln	220, 9	R.Heil, R.Forster
Canvasback: 27,29	Lakeville, Cambridge	30, 98	W.Petersen, T.Walsh
Redhead: 1-19,29	GMNWR, Cambridge	1, 3	G.Gove#, T.Walsh
Ring-necked Duck: 6,14	GMNWR	3, 2	G.Gove
11,12;29	Cambridge	9,16;50	F.Bouchard;T.Walsh
15,24	W.Newbury	160, 760	G.Gove#, I.Giriunas#
31	Lakeville	1000	W.Petersen
Tufted Duck: 23	Monomoy	1 m.	W.Bailey#
Greater Scaup: 10	Newburyport	4	J.Grugan
Lesser Scaup: 9	P.I.	1	W.Smith
Common Eider: 16,24	Rockport, P.I.	175, 359	J.Berry, J.Grugan
Black Scoter: 16	Millis	1	B.Cassie
16,26	Rockport, Lynn	6, 22	J.Berry, C.Blaszczak
Surf Scoter: 16,26	Rockport, Monomoy	440(1 hr), 500	J.Berry, B.Nikula#
White-winged Scoter: 24,26	P.I., Lynn	60, 350	J.Grugan, C.Blaszczak
Bufflehead: 19,27	Newburyport, Lakeville	5, 5	G.Gove, W.Petersen
Hooded Merganser: 23, 28	Braintree, Lincoln	5, 12	S.Higginbotham#, R.Forster
Common Merganser: 30	P.I.	15	J.Grugan
Red-breasted Merganser: 23,25	Wollaston Bay, Waltham (Camb.Res.)	1200, 4	S.Higginbotham, R.Forster
Ruddy Duck: 10,27	Westport, Lakeville	24, 85	BBC, W.Petersen
31	Lakeville (Little Quittcas)	150+	D.Briggs

RAPTORS

There was a good and steady flight of Ospreys this October, with thirty-two reported through the last day of the month; last year only half as many were reported. Four immature Bald Eagles were noted, with the bird seen in Lynn and a day later in East Boston, possibly the same individual. Twenty-four sightings of Peregrine Falcons were reported, thirteen of which came from the Plum Island-Salisbury area. R.H.S.

Turkey Vulture: 3,7	Wayland, Concord (GMNWR)	1, 1	T.Walsh, A.Williams
10,15	Hardwick, Sturbridge	3, 2	M.Lynch#, Langer
Osprey: 1,7,8	P.I.	1, 2, 1	BBC, P.Roberts#, BBC
2,3,4	P'town, Everett, Cambridge	2, 1, 1	L.Taylor#, J.Berry, F.Bouchard
3,23;4	Wayland; Squantum	1, 1; 1	T.Walsh, E.Morrier; K.Ryan
6,7,18	Concord (GMNWR)	1, 2, 1	G.Gove, A.Williams, G.Gove
6,7,17	Woburn (Horn Pond)	1	C.Gove
10;15	Westport; W.Newbury, Lincoln	6; 1, 3	BBC; H.Wiggin#, R.Forster
17;22	Saugus; E.Boston, Concord	1; 1, 1	J.Berry; S.Zendeh, F.Bouchard
22,29,31	Lincoln, Lakeville, Newburyport	1,1,1	J.Hines, W.Petersen, F.Bouchard
Bald Eagle: thr.	Monomoy	1 imm.	v.o.
21,22	Lynn, E.Boston	1 imm., 1 imm.	R.Heil, S.Zendeh
30	Mt.Wachusett	1 imm.	P.Roberts
Northern Harrier: thr.	P.I.	5-12(10/7) each visit	v.o.
8-10	Nantucket	14	BBC

<u>SPECIES/OCTOBER</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Sharp-shinned Hawk:			
7,8,9,15	P.I.	1, 1, 1, 1	P.Roberts,BBC,J.Grugan,BBC
10	Westport, Eastham	6, 1	BBC, D.Brown#
16,26	Marshfield, Lakeville	1, 1	SSBC, K.Ryan
Cooper's Hawk:			
6	P.I.,Concord(GMNWR)	1 imm., 1	G.Gove#,C.Floyd
10,11	Eastham, E.Orleans	1, 1	D.Brown,D.+E.Williams
16,27,30	Ipswich,Newton,Mt.Wachusets	1, 1, 1	J.Berry,O.Komar,P.Roberts
Northern Goshawk:			
6,7	Concord(GMNWR),Hingham	1 imm., 1 ad.	G.Gove, R.Campbell
16	E.Middleboro, Weston	1,1 ad.	K.Anderson, J.Heywood#
20-30,19	Chatham,Topsfield(IRWS)	1 imm., 1 ad.	W.Bailey, J.Bradley
30	Framingham,Mt.Wachusett	1, 1	K.Hamilton, P.Roberts
Red-shouldered Hawk:			
2-3	E.Middleboro	1	K.Anderson
22,24	Brookline,Milton (FM)	1 ad., 1	R.Stymeist#, R.Abrams
Rough-legged Hawk:			
22,24	Ipswich, P.I.	1, 1	T.Walsh, BBC(I.Giriunas)
American Kestrel:			
15,23	E.Boston, P.I.-Salisbury	4, 6	S.Zendeh, SSBC
Merlin:			
1+16;1,2,6	Belmont; P.I.	1;1,1 ad.,2	L.Taylor#;BBC,P.Roberts,G.Gove
2;4	Eastham,P'town;Squantum	1, 1; 1	L.Taylor#,G.Gove;K.Ryan
8	Concord(GMNWR),Lynn	1, 3	S.Carroll#, R.Heil
9	Newburyport,Nantucket	1, 2	E.Morrier, BBC(D.Davis)
Peregrine Falcon:			
2-19	P.I.-Salisbury	13 sightings	v.o.
4,8	Eastham, Lynn	1, 3 migrating	D.Brown#, R.Heil#
6	Wayland, Middleboro	1,1 imm.	D.Gould, C.Silvia#
7,15	Littleton E.Orleans	1,1 imm.	J.Baird, B.Nikula
9-23,16	Monomoy	1 ad., 1 imm.	v.o. H. Stabins#
16,29	Eastham,Framingham	1, 1	R.Heil, R.Forster

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Though the bulk of shorebird migration occurs in September, good numbers were recorded during October. Lesser Golden-Plover totaled forty-one individuals as compared with just twenty-two last October. Oystercatchers continued at their traditional locations most of the month. Late shorebirds included Spotted Sandpipers at Woburn on October 27 and two at Lakeville on the thirtieth, Solitary Sandpiper in Lexington and Mansfield, Short-billed Dowitchers at East Boston and Newburyport, and Stilt Sandpipers in Ipswich and Braintree. A Marbled Godwit continued all month in Newburyport Harbor accompanied by as many as eight Hudsonian Godwits. R.H.S.

Clapper Rail:			
4,10	Eastham, Yarmouth	1, 1	D.Brown#, B.Sorrie
18	Wellfleet (WEWS)	1	J.Baird
Virginia Rail:			
7,22	Concord(GMNWR),Ipswich	1, 1	A.Williams, fide L.Pivocek
Sora:			
2,8,9	Newton,GMNWR,Nantucket	1, 6, 1	B.Hallet,M.Lynch#,BBC
Common Moorhen:			
8	GMNWR	1	S.Carroll, M.Lynch
American Coot:			
30	Braintree, Lakeville	40, 30	R.Abrams, S.Peck
Black-bellied Plover:			
1,12	P.I., Squantum	300, 300	J.Grugan, R.Abrams
16,23	Monomoy, Scituate	2200, 350	B.Nikula#, D.Clapp
28,31	Bridgewater,Newburyport	3, 120	K.Ryan, F.Bouchard
Lesser Golden-Plover:			
1,2	P.I., P'town	11, 1	R.Stymeist#, G.Gove#
8,8-10	Concord, Nantucket	6, 15	R.Walton, BBC
15,16-17	Newburyport, Concord	2 imm., 4 imm.	C.Floyd#, R.Forster
18,25	Marshfield, Quincy	1, 1	B.Sorrie, K.Ryan
Semipalmated Plover:			
12,22	Squantum, Scituate	6, 30	R.Abrams, W.Petersen
Killdeer:			
18,23	Concord, Sudbury	28, 14	R.Forster, E.Morrier
22,28	Scituate, Braintree	12, 16	W.Petersen, R.Emery#

<u>SPECIES/OCTOBER</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
American Oystercatcher:			
1-13,1-23	Nantucket, Monomoy	13, max 31 10/4	F. Bouchard, v.o.
Greater Yellowlegs:			
thr.	E. Boston (Belle Isle)	90 on 10/15, 71 on 10/30	S. ZendeH
23, 26	P.I., Boston (UMass)	140, 35+	SSBC, J. Carter
Lesser Yellowlegs:			
14-28	Lexington (Camb. Res.)	4-1	R. Forster + v.o.
15, 22	P.I., E. Boston	32, 3	J. Grugan, S. ZendeH
Solitary Sandpiper:			
22, 24	Lexington (Camb. Res.), Mansfield	1, 1	J. Hines, B. Sorrie
Willet:			
19	Ipswich (Great Neck)	1	R. Heil
Spotted Sandpiper:			
27, 30	Woburn, Lakeville	1, 2	G. Gove, S. Peak#
Whimbrel:			
1, 2	P.I., P'town	6, 7	BBC, G. Gove#
10, 16	Newburyport, Eastham	9, 1	E. Morrier, C. Floyd#
Hudsonian Godwit:			
1-29	P.I. - Newburyport	max. 8	v.o.
16, 23	Monomoy	1	B. Nikula#, v.o.
Marbled Godwit:			
thr.	Newburyport	1	L. Jodrey# + v.o.
16	Monomoy	1	B. Nikula# + v.o.
Ruddy Turnstone:			
23	P.I.	30	SSBC
Red Knot:			
4, 23, 22	P.I.; Scituate	11, 2; 2	G. Gove, SSBC; W. Petersen
Semipalmated Sandpiper:			
22, 23	Scituate, P.I.	2, 6	W. Petersen, BBC (L. Pivocek)
Western Sandpiper:			
11, 15	E. Orleans, P.I.	1, 1	A. Williams, D. Resnick
Least Sandpiper:			
16	E. Boston	1	S. ZendeH
White-rumped Sandpiper:			
22, 23	Scituate, Monomoy	3, 30	W. Petersen, B. Nikula#
27	Wollaston	1	S. Higginbotham
Baird's Sandpiper:			
1-15, 4	Squantum, P.I.	1, 1	R. Abrams + v.o., G. Gove
Pectoral Sandpiper:			
3, 6, 7, 17	GMNWR	14, 14, 8, 4	G. Gove# + v.o.
14, 23, 28	Lexington (Camb. Res.)	11, 9, 8	R. Forster + v.o.
16	Newburyport	14	G. Gove#
23, 28	Braintree, Bridgewater	5, 6	R. + S. Higginbotham, K. Ryan
Purple Sandpiper:			
24	P.I.	13	BBC
Dunlin:			
19, 23	P.I.	570, 1000+	G. Gove, SSBC
22	Scituate, E. Boston	250, 52	W. Petersen, S. ZendeH
Stilt Sandpiper:			
19	Ipswich (Clarks Pond)	7	R. Heil
23	Braintree (Great Pond)	5	S. + R. Higginbotham
Short-billed Dowitcher:			
2, 7	E. Boston, Newburyport	5, 3	S. ZendeH, R. Heil
Long-billed Dowitcher:			
2-30	E. Boston (Belle Isle)	total 9	S. ZendeH
10, 19	Newburyport, P.I.	15+, 21	J. Berry, G. Gove
28, 31	Lexington (Camb. Res.)	1	R. Forster
Common Snipe:			
thr.	Six locations	6 individuals	v.o.
American Woodcock:			
10	Nantucket	1	BBC (D. Davis)
Red Phalarope:			
30	Stellwagen	6	BBC (H. D'Entremont)

JAEGERS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Unlike last year when many jaegers were reported, only a small number were noted this year, and most of these were offshore at Stellwagen Bank. On October 25, a Great Skua was observed as close as 150 yards and in good light at First Encounter Beach in Eastham. The bird had "uniformly brown body and head, lacking any rustiness or golden

hackles, suggesting an immature Great Skua."

Among the gull highlights were reports of a total of three Sabine's Gulls - two seen together on the BBC pelagic trip on October 30 and another, an adult bird in alternate plumage, observed at First Encounter Beach on October 25. A fairly large concentration of Forster's Terns was noted from New Island in Eastham, and two late Black Terns were reported from Chatham on October 30. A handful of reports of alcids came in; the most exciting observation was two Atlantic Puffins seen off Andrews Point in Rockport.

Late reports included a Common Nighthawk on October 4, a Whip-poor-will on October 1, and a Chimney Swift on October 7.

R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/OCTOBER</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Pomarine Jaeger: 15,23,30	Stellwagen	1, 4, 3	D.Clapp,W.Smith,BBC
Parasitic Jaeger: 15,23,30	Stellwagen	12, 6, 4	D.Clapp, W.Smith,BBC
<u>Great Skua</u> : 25	Eastham (F.E.)	1	B.Nikula
Laughing Gull: 21,30	E.Boston (Belle Isle)	38, 140	G.Gove, S.Zendeh#
Little Gull: 1,25	Newbypt,Eastham	3(1 ad,1 1st yr,1 imm), 1 ad	BBC, B.Nikula
Common Black-headed Gull: thr.	E.Boston (Belle Isle)	1-2	S.Zendeh# + v.o.
Bonaparte's Gull: 15,17	Newbypt, Lynn	200, 430	J.Grugan, C.Blaszczak
Iceland Gull: 23	Wayland (Heard's Pond)	1 ad.	E.Morrier
29,31	Newbypt, P'town	1, 1	E.Nielsen#, SSBC (Fox)
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 24	Scituate	1 ad.	D.Clapp
Glaucous Gull: 23	Waltham (Camb. Res.)	1 (2W)	G.Gove#
Black-legged Kittiwake: 15,23	Stellwagen	1000+, 2000	D.Clapp, W.Smith
<u>Sabine's Gull</u> : 25	Eastham (F.E.)	1 ad. (br.pl.)	B.Nikula#
30	Stellwagen	2	BBC
Caspian Tern: 3	Manomet	1	MBO staff
Roseate Tern: 2,4	P'town, Chatham	4-6, 4	G.Gove#, D.Brown#
Common Tern: 2,16	P'town	2100, 1000+	G.Gove#, R.Heil
1,23	Newbypt, P.I.	20+, 3	BBC
10,27	Eastham, Barnstable	650, 100	D.Brown#, J.Aylward
Forster's Tern: 2	Eastham, P'town	55, 1	G.Gove#
5,23	Eastham (New Island)	125+, 40+	B.Nikula#
16,19	Chatham, Ipswich	50+, 6	R.Heil#, R.Heil
23,31	Salisbury, P'town	8, 5	SSBC
Black Tern: 30	Chatham	2	W.Bailey#
Dovekie: 25,30	Eastham, Stellwagen	2, 2	B.Nikula, BBC
Razorbill: 20,30	P.I.,Stellwagen	1, 2	N.Clayton, BBC
Black Guillemot: 31	P'town	1	SSBC (Fox)
Atlantic Puffin: 25	Rockport (A.P.)	2	R.Heil
Mourning Dove: 19	Ipswich	<u>550</u>	R.Heil
Black-billed Cuckoo: 3,5	Newton, Manomet	1, 1 b.	B.Cassie,MBO staff
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 6,7	P.I., Woburn	9, 1	M.Lynch#,G.Gove
11,15	Peabody, Marshfield	1, 3	D.Hill,D.Clapp
18,23	Truro, Monomoy	2, 1 dead	J.Baird,H.Stabins#

<u>SPECIES/OCTOBER</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Northern Saw-whet 4,27;8	Owl: Manomet; P.I.	2 b., 1 b.; 1	MBO Staff; BBC
Common Nighthawk: 4	Chatham	1 in flight	D.Brown, J.Murphy
Whip-poor-will: 1	Squantum (Squaw Rock)	1	D.Brown
Chimney Swift: 7	Woburn (Horn Pond)	2	G.Gove
Red-headed Woodpecker: 14,16;15	Nantucket; Eastham	1 ad.; 1	R.Bower,G.Frost;W.Petersen#
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 4,16	S.Peabody,Nantucket	1, 1	R.Heil, E.Andrews
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1	P.I., Newton	4, 2	BBC, O.Komar
4-8,7	Peabody, Salem	3-2, 2	R.Heil, C.Blaszczak

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

October is an unpredictable month for migration of many of the species in this group. Some of the birds which we think of as residents may or may not move out in large numbers, depending on food supply available in a given year. Also, most of the flycatchers and warblers which we see are stragglers, coming through on the late side compared to their congeners.

This year Blue Jays were conspicuously moving, particularly at coastal locations, during the first half of October. This was somewhat surprising in light of a good acorn crop in some areas, for the first year in several. American Robins followed just the opposite course as the jays, making their expected move primarily at inland sites, and during the latter half of the month. The banding station at Manomet caught a good flight of Black-capped Chickadees, with the total for the whole month of over 1800 individuals. These were joined at the end of the month by two Boreal Chickadees, a never-common species even less so on the South Shore.

Individuals comprising a total of 21 warbler species were seen in October, with few really remarkable records. The report of three Yellow-breasted Chats in one day from Plum Island is quite good, especially when achieved without the aid of nets! Several warbler species were reported in rather small numbers, though this doesn't necessarily imply small actual numbers migrating. In this category are Magnolia Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Blackpoll, and American Redstart. Counts for the last two species are so low compared to most previous years that they are probably significant. Another species reported in comparatively low numbers was Ruby-crowned Kinglet, with one good count inland at Mt. Wachusett.

The last week of the month produced several very late flycatcher reports, including two Empidonax and an Eastern Kingbird. Other individuals over a month late compared to norms were a Cliff Swallow at Salisbury and a Golden-winged Warbler banded at Nantucket.

In the "fancy bird" department for this month was first and foremost the Sedge Wren. This very well-described bird was seen in the garden plots near Newton South High School, during the course of coverage for the BOEM Field Studies Committee sparrow migration project. Other interesting reports included the Common Ravens at three sites and the Loggerhead Shrike at Eastham. L.E.T.

Empidonax, sp.:			
15-30,16	Lincoln, Sudbury	1, 1	R.Forster
30	Belmont	1	F.Bouchard
Eastern Phoebe:			
1-23,15	P.I., Waltham	2 max.(10/19), 3	v.o., L.Taylor
27,31	Woburn	1, 1	G.Gove
Ash-throated Flycatcher:			
4	Chatham	1 (no details)	D.Brown
Western Kingbird:			
16	Naushon Island	1	J.Hatch
Eastern Kingbird:			
10,31	Nantucket, Truro	1, 1	BBC, SSBC
Tree Swallow:			
1,6	Cape Cod, Halifax	560, 1000	SSBC, K.Anderson
14,27	Middleboro, Squantum	1000+, 10	S.MacDonald,G.Wilson

<u>SPECIES/OCTOBER</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Cliff Swallow: 7	Salisbury	1	R.Heil
Blue Jay: 1,2 10	P.I., P'town Pocasset	200+, 220 250+	BBC, L.Taylor# P.Hallowell
American Crow: 16,23 28	Ipswich, Waltham Bridgewater	200+, 100+ 250	J.Berry, K.Durham# K.Ryan
Fish' Crow: 5	Whitman	1	W.Petersen
Common Raven: 3,7 25	Mt.Wachusett, Littleton Westborough	2, 1 1	K.Durham#, J.Baird B.Cassie
Black-capped Chickadee: thr.	Manomet	1815 b.	MBO Staff
<u>Boreal Chickadee:</u> 26,31	Manomet	1 b., 1 b.	MBO Staff
Red-breasted Nuthatch: 1,3 8-10,16 23	P.I., E.Middleboro Nantucket, Andover Lexington	1, 1 10, 5 5	BBC, K.Anderson BBC, K.Durham# L.Taylor#
Brown Creeper: 8-10,16	Nantucket, Weston	8, 11	BBC, J.Heywood#
Carolina Wren: 3-4,4-22 30	E.Middleboro, Weymouth Lakeville	1, 1 1	K.Anderson, E.Richards K.Holmes
House Wren: 15,20	Newton, Cambridge	1, 1	O.Komar, F.Bouchard
Winter Wren: 4,9 16,20 22 30	Manomet, Nantucket Chatham, P.I. Newburyport, Mt.Wachusett Chatham	1 b., 2 1, 1 2, 1 1	K.Anderson, BBC B.Nikula, N.Clayton# BBC, P.Roberts B.Nikula
<u>Sedge Wren:</u> 5	Newton	1 (good details)	O.Komar
Marsh Wren: 26	Lakeville	1	K.Ryan
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 1-10,8-10 23,30	P.I., Nantucket Lakeville, Mt.Wachusett	30 max., 12 30+, 10	v.o., BBC D.Clapp, P.Roberts
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 8,17 30,31	Nantucket, E.Middleboro Mt.Wachusett, Woburn	2, 1 24, 1	BBC, K.Anderson P.Roberts, G.Gove
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 15-16	P.I.	1	D.Newton#
Eastern Bluebird: thr.,21 22	Middleboro, Millis Truro	pair, 1 2	R.Harju, B.Cassie B.Nikula
Veery: 21	Millis	1	B.Cassie
Swainson's Thrush: 21,22 28	Lincoln, P.I. Cambridge (F.P.)	1, 3 2	R.Forster, BBC F.Bouchard
Hermit Thrush: 10,16 18,23	Hardwich, Weston Princeton, Waltham	14, 4 2, 1	M.Lynch#, R.Stymeist# G.Gove, L.Taylor#
Wood Thrush: 21	Millis	1	B.Cassie
American Robin: 18,21 22,27	Norfolk, Millis Weston, Wayland	800, 300 175, 100	B.Cassie R.Stymeist#, T.Walsh
Gray Catbird: 9,22	Bolton, P.I.	4, 5	A.Williams, BBC
Water Pipit: 2,18 22,23 26	P'town, Concord Sudbury, Harvard (Oxbow) Monomoy	50, 20 32, 56 40+	W.Smith#, R.Forster R.Walton, M.Lynch B.Nikula
Cedar Waxwing: 1,2 9-10	P.I., Brighton Nantucket	60, 18 17	BBC, J.Paputseanos BBC

<u>SPECIES/OCTOBER</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
<u>Loggerhead Shrike:</u>			
4	Eastham	1	D.Brown#
<u>White-eyed Vireo:</u>			
4,6	P.I., S.Peabody	1, 1 ad.	G.Gove, J.Smith#
<u>Solitary Vireo:</u>			
15,20	Belmont, Manomet	1, 1 b.	L.Taylor, MBO Staff
<u>Philadelphia Vireo:</u>			
1	P.I.	1	J.Grugan#
<u>Golden-winged Warbler:</u>			
8	Nantucket	1 b.	E.Andrews#
<u>Tennessee Warbler:</u>			
2,18	Newton, Manomet	2, 1 b.	O.Komar, MBO Staff
22-23	P.I.	1	v.o.
<u>Orange-crowned Warbler:</u>			
4,10	Eastham, Hardwick	1, 1	D.Brown#, M.Lynch#
12,23	Manomet, P.I.	1 b., 1	MBO Staff, v.o.
<u>Nashville Warbler:</u>			
2,5	Newton, Worcester	2, 1	O.Komar, S.Carroll#
7,22	Manomet, P.I.	1 b., 2	MBO Staff, BBC
<u>Northern Parula:</u>			
13-27,23	Nantucket, Concord	11 b., 1	E.Andrews#, R.Forster#
<u>Yellow Warbler:</u>			
19	Newton	1	O.Komar
<u>Magnolia Warbler:</u>			
1-10	P.I.	1 max.	v.o.
<u>Cape May Warbler:</u>			
1-16,5	P.I., Newton	3 max. (10/1), 2	v.o., O.Komar
9,15	Nantucket, Eastham	2, 2	BBC, R.Stymeist#
<u>Black-throated Blue Warbler:</u>			
1,9	P.I., Nantucket	4, 2	BBC
15,27	Waltham, Manomet	1, 2 b.	L.Taylor, MBO Staff
<u>Yellow-rumped Warbler:</u>			
1-22,7	P.I., Woburn	500 max. (10/18),	150 v.o., G.Gove
10,16	Pocasset, Weston	300, 55	P.Hallowell, J.Heywood#
<u>Black-throated Green Warbler:</u>			
8,15	Nantucket, P.I.	2, 1	BBC, J.Grugan
31	P'town	1	R.Fox#
<u>Blackburnian Warbler:</u>			
8	Truro	1	H.Mallers, R.Titus
<u>Pine Warbler:</u>			
2,20	Wellfleet, Newton	7, 1	K.Griffis#, O.Komar
<u>Palm Warbler:</u>			
7,8-9	Sudbury, Nantucket	6, 34	R.Walton, BBC
15,16	S.Wellfleet, Belmont	15, 4	W.Petersen#, K.Durham#
19,30	Newton, Malden	10, 1	O.Komar, D.Gibson
<u>Bay-breasted Warbler:</u>			
2,8	P.I., Nantucket	2, 1	J.Grugan, BBC
<u>Blackpoll:</u>			
1-16,2	P.I., Wellfleet	4 total, 6	v.o., L.Taylor#
22,26	Cambridge, Framingham	2, 4	J.Heywood#, R.Forster
<u>Black-and-white Warbler:</u>			
8,10	Nantucket, Hardwick	2, 1	BBC, M.Lynch#
<u>American Redstart:</u>			
8,10	Nantucket, Westport	2, 1	BBC
<u>Connecticut Warbler:</u>			
7	Natick	1	G.Dysart
<u>Mourning Warbler:</u>			
4,10	Eastham, P.I.	1, 1	J.Murphy#, J.Grugan
<u>Common Yellowthroat:</u>			
19-20,22	Newton, Belmont	2, 1	O.Komar, L.Taylor
<u>Yellow-breasted Chat:</u>			
1,7	P.I., Salisbury	3, 1	T.Walsh, R.Heil
16,22	Marshfield, Nahant	1, 1	SSBC, L.Pivacek

TANAGER THROUGH SPARROW

October is appreciated by those of us who like subtleties in shades of brown because it is sparrow migration time! This year 20 sparrow species were reported throughout the region with those of highest interest including a Harris's and a Le Conte's Sparrow. The former individual carried over at the chicken farm in Truro from

September. The LeConte's Sparrow was well seen at Plum Island by an observer familiar with the species and was very well described. Of somewhat less interest but nice just the same were one individual each of Grasshopper and Lark sparrows and two Clay-colored Sparrows. The Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Newton on the fifth was described as appearing closest to the Acadian race.

Observers at Plum on October 1 were treated to an Island inundated with White-throated Sparrows, with an estimated 500 individuals in attendance. American Tree Sparrows arrived in small numbers towards the end of the month, right on time. L.E.T.

<u>SPECIES/OCTOBER</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Scarlet Tanager:			
10	Nantucket	1	BBC
Rose-breasted Grosbeak:			
1,9	P.I., Nantucket	1, 1	J.Grugan#, BBC
Blue Grosbeak:			
6,8,9	S.Peabody,Truro,Belmont	1, 2, 1	R.Heil,R.Titus#,L.Taylor
Dickcissel:			
4,7	Truro, Newton	1, 2	J.Murphy#, O.Komar
8,9	S.Peabody, Salisbury	1, 1	R.Heil, S.Carroll#
9,23	Belmont, Concord	1, 1	L.Taylor, R.Walton
American Tree Sparrow:			
10,23	Nantucket, Belmont	1, 1	BBC, L.Taylor#
23,30	P.I., Concord	1, 1	BBC, R.Walton
Chipping Sparrow:			
1-23,2-9	P.I., Wellfleet	15 max.(10/23),30+	v.o.
10,29	Truro, Newton	6, 1	J.Murphy#, O.Komar
Clay-colored Sparrow:			
1,2	P.I., Newton	1, 1	BBC, B.Hallett#
Field Sparrow:			
1,10-22	Wellfleet, P.I.	5, 5 max.	D.Brown#, v.o.
10,15	Truro, Framingham	10, 10	J.Murphy#, R.Forster
22,29	Sudbury, Newton	5, 5	R.Walton, O.Komar
Vesper Sparrow:			
1-4,2-15	Wellfleet, Newton	6 max., 1 max.	v.o., O.Komar
9,12-23	Nantucket,Belmont	1, 1	BBC, v.o.
19	Cambridge	1	F.Bouchard
Lark Sparrow:			
4	Chatham	1	D.Brown#
Savannah Sparrow:			
1-15,3	P.I., Newton	100 max.(10/1), 37	v.o., O.Komar
2,8-10	E.Boston, Nantucket	40, 36	S.Zendeh#, BBC
13,22	Belmont, Sudbury	30+, 82	F.Bouchard, R.Walton
"Ipswich" Sparrow:			
19,22	Salisbury, Scituate	5, 5	E.Pyburn#, W.Petersen
26-30,30	P.I., E.Boston	1 max., 1	v.o., S.Zendeh#
Grasshopper Sparrow:			
16	Truro	1	R.Heil#
LeConte's Sparrow:			
21	P.I.	1 (details)	R.Ferren#
Sharp-tailed Sparrow:			
1-21,5	P.I., Newton	70 max.(10/10), 1	L.Robinson#, O.Komar
Seaside Sparrow:			
2	Eastham, E.Boston	2, 1	K.Griffis#, S.Zendeh#
Fox Sparrow:			
30	Concord	1	R.Walton
Song Sparrow:			
1-16,2	P.I., Newton	30+, 41	v.o., O.Komar
Lincoln's Sparrow:			
4,5-11	Truro, Newton	1, 6 max.(10/7)	D.Brown#, O.Komar
7,29	Woburn, Newton	2, 1	G.Gove, O.Komar
Swamp Sparrow:			
1-29,7	Newton, Woburn	10 max.(10/19),20	O.Komar, G.Gove
9	Ipswich	8	J.Berry
White-throated Sparrow:			
1,19	P.I., Newton	500+, 20	v.o., O.Komar
White-crowned Sparrow:			
1-16,6	P.I., Belmont	4 max.(10/1), 2	v.o., L.Taylor
9,9-19	Nantucket, Newton	2, 2 max.	BBC, O.Komar
10,30	Truro, Concord	4, 2	J.Murphy#, R.Walton
Harris' Sparrow:			
1-10, from Sept.	Truro	1	J.Murphy#

JUNCO THROUGH EVENING GROSBEEK

Of the more interesting inbound winter residents among this group, both Snow Bunting and Pine Siskin arrived in typical numbers and in the usual time frame. On the out-bound side, the small group of Bobolinks at West Newbury at month's end constituted lingerers by close to a month. A clear total of three Yellow-headed Blackbirds was observed during a one-week period at two sites on Nantucket. These were the only records for this species, a fairly regular coastal fall visitor to the region. L.E.T.

<u>SPECIES/OCTOBER</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Dark-eyed Junco: 1,22	P.I., Sudbury	20+, 60	BBC, R.Walton
Lapland Longspur: 4,22	Salisbury, Scituate	2, 5	M.Lynch#, W.Petersen
Snow Bunting: 20,22	Princeton, Scituate	4, 50	K.Durham, W.Petersen
31	Salisbury, P'town	85, 125	F.Bouchard, SSBC
Bobolink: 16,19	Truro, Newton	2, 2	R.Heil, O.Komar
20,31	Belmont, W.Newbury	1, 4	L.Robinson, F.Bouchard
Red-winged Blackbird: 9,31	Ipswich, Salisbury	1000+, 175	J.Berry, F.Bouchard
Eastern Meadowlark: 9,22	Bolton, Newburyport	9, 3	A.Williams, BBC
Yellow-headed Blackbird: 16-24,21	Nantucket(town),Nantucket(Quaise)	1 m.+1 f., 1 m.	E.Andrews#
Rusty Blackbird: 3,9	GMNWR, Bolton	8, 12	L.Taylor#, A.Williams
11,31	Peabody, Truro	6, 2	D.Hill, R.Fox#
Common Grackle: 10,22	Nantucket, Concord	400, 200	BBC, F.Bouchard
26,28	Halifax, Middleboro	5000+, 5000+	K.Anderson, K.Holmes
Brown-headed Cowbird: 9,15	Ipswich, Framingham	175, 1500	J.Berry, R.Forster
Northern Oriole: 1,5	P.I., Whitman	1, 1	J.Grugan, W.Petersen
Purple Finch: 19,22	Newton, Littleton	20, 50	O.Komar, V.Sprong
House Finch: 19,22	Newton, Littleton	70, 30	O.Komar, V.Sprong
Pine Siskin: 8,15-29	S.Peabody, P.I.	2, 5 max.	R.Heil, v.o.
16,18	Sudbury, Wellfleet	15, 12	R.Forster#, J.Baird
21,23	Lynn, Newton	25, 6	R.Heil, O.Komar
Evening Grosbeak: 21,30	Lincoln, Princeton	2, 12	R.Forster, L.Taylor#

CORRIGENDA: September 1983

In the section, NIGHTHAWKS THROUGH VIREOS, the records of Common Nighthawk through Barn Swallow on page 334 should be inserted ahead of Common Raven on page 333.

Osprey:			
thr	Mt. Wachusett	total 332 max 70 (9/13)	EMHW(fide P.Roberts)
		<u>should read</u>	
thr	Mt. Wachusett	total 341 max 200 (9/13)	EMHW(fide P.Roberts)
Lesser Black-backed Gull:			
5,11	Monomoy	1 ad	W.Petersen#,W.Harrington#
		<u>should read</u>	
5,11	Monomoy	1 ad, 2 ad	W.Petersen#,W.Harrington#
Common Tern:			
3,15	Monomoy	15000, 8000	B.Nikula#(roosting at dusk)
17	PI	250	BBC
		<u>should read</u>	
Common Tern/Roseate Tern:			
3,15	Monomoy	15000, 8000	B.Nikula#
	About 1/3 of the mass of roosting terns were Roseates.		
		<u>and</u>	
Common Tern:			
17	PI	250	BBC

Field Records

November 1983



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

November 1983 was a bit warmer than normal and unusually wet. The temperature averaged 46.1°, 0.9° above normal. The high mark was 69° on the ninth and a 63° reading came as late as November 25. The lowest temperature was 28° on November 14. Rainfall totaled 8.89 inches, 4.68 inches more than normal, and the most for November since 8.94 inches in 1878, 105 years ago. This was the wettest month since June 1982. Snow on the other hand was just a trace with the first flakes of the season on November 14.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

A good flight of loons was noted off Rockport on November 5 when the wind was out of the northeast and gusting. In just a short time as many as 224 Red-throated and 340 Common loons were counted. Also during this storm at least 2400 Greater Shearwaters, over 1000 Northern Gannets and a Leach's Storm-Petrel were noted passing Andrews Point. Horned Grebes outnumbered Pied-billed Grebes at the Lakeville ponds, where a Red-necked Grebe was reported, unusual for inland locations. Another Red-necked Grebe was carefully identified in the Cambridge Reservoir in Waltham. Other highlights included a Cory's Shearwater during a northwest wind at First Encounter Beach, Eastham, on the last day of the month. Late heron reports included a Little Blue Heron on November 27 at Plum Island and a Cattle Egret on the last day of the month at Nantucket. This same bird was found dead during the first week of December 1983. R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/NOVEMBER</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Red-throated Loon:			
5,11	Rockport	224, 55	R.Heil,G.Gove#
19	Plymouth,Boston Harbor	40, 118	W.Smith#,TASL
Arctic Loon:			
5	Quincy (Hough's Neck)	1 (no details)	D.Brown
Common Loon:			
5,11	Rockport	340, 45	R.Heil,F.Bouchard
19,20	Plymouth,PI	70, 40	W.Smith,BBC
Pied-billed Grebe:			
thr	Lakeville	max 19 (11/5)	W.Petersen#+v.o.
12,17	Cambridge,Wayland	4, 3	F.Bouchard,R.Forster
Horned Grebe:			
thr	Lakeville	max 32 (11/5)	W.Petersen#+v.o.
7,13	Jam.Plain,S.Quabbin	1, 5	R.Stymeist#,M.Lynch#
19	Boston Harbor,Cape Ann	403, 12	TASL,R.Heil#
19,25	Plymouth,Quincy	25, 350	W.Smith,R.Abrams
Red-necked Grebe:			
5,5-6	Lakeville,Waltham	1, 1	W.Petersen#,J.Hines
11,13	Rockport,S.Quabbin	3, 1	F.Bouchard,M.Lynch
19	Boston Harbor	16	TASL
Northern Fulmar:			
16	Rockport	2	R.Forster,R.Heil
Cory's Shearwater:			
30	Eastham(F.E.)	1	B.Nikula,P.Grant
Greater Shearwater:			
5,13,16	Rockport	2400, 1, 200	R.Heil,T.Walsh,R.Heil
13,14	Nantucket Sound,P'town	2, 50+	H.D'Entremont#
Manx Shearwater:			
5,30	Rockport,P'town	1, 1	R.Heil,B.Nikula

<u>SPECIES/NOVEMBER</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Leach's Storm-Petrel:			
5	Rockport	1	R.Heil
Northern Gannet:			
5,11,19	Rockport	1000, 18, 2	R.Heil,F.Bouchard,R.Heil
12	PI, Chatham	6, 30+	BBC,D.Briggs#
26	Eastham,Barnstable,Manomet	50, 25, 200	R.Abrams
Great Cormorant:			
5-12	Lakeville	1 imm	W.Petersen#+v.o.
19	Boston Harbor	233	TASL
Double-crested Cormorant:			
3;5	E.Boston;Ipswich,Lakeville	105; 11, 12	S.Zendeh;BBC,SSBC
19,27	Boston Harbor,Gloucester	70, 3	TASL,BBC
American Bittern:			
5-10,6	GMNWR,PI	1, 1	R.Walton#+v.o.,P.Roberts
13,26	E.Boston, PI	1, 1	S.Zendeh,C.Ewer
Great Blue Heron:			
1-17	Saugus	max 8 (11/10)	J.Berry
5,9	GMNWR	5, 4	R.Walton
13,27	Westport,Weymouth	15, 11	R.Stymeist#,G.d'Entremont
Snowy Egret:			
14	PI	1	J.Grugan
Little Blue Heron:			
12-27	PI	2 imm	v.o.
Cattle Egret:			
30	Nantucket	1	S.Joyce
	(Note: This bird was found dead during the first week of December.)		
Black-crowned Night-Heron:			
19,27	Boston Harbor,Weymouth	6, 1	TASL, G.d'Entremont

WATERFOWL

Tundra Swans were seen at three locations, and a Greater White-fronted Goose remained all month in a cornfield in Rochester. This bird with its very dark dorsal color, its extensive belly markings, and its pinkish-orange bill was a typical example of the Greenland race *flavirostris*. As usual a large flock of Brant was found in Boston Harbor, with the high count of 1755 noted on the TASL census of November 19. Other interesting totals of that count included 912 Greater Scaup, 9129 Common Eider, 1122 White-winged Scoter, 2776 Bufflehead, 2 Barrow's Goldeneye, and 2851 Red-breasted Merganser.

Other interesting waterfowl reports included Eurasian Wigeon at Nantucket and Ipswich, Harlequin Ducks at four locations, and 6000 Oldsquaw and 8500 Red-breasted Mergansers from Andrews Point, Rockport, during a nor'easter. A very high concentration of Red-breasted Mergansers was noted off Provincetown most of the month. R.H.S.

Tundra Swan:			
27	Nant.,Nauset,Gloucester	6-16, 2, 4	S.Perkins,H.Whitlock,W.Russell
Mute Swan:			
12,13	Plymouth,Westport	63, 65	SSBC,R.Stymeist#
<u>Greater White-fronted Goose:</u>			
thr	Rochester	1 ad	D.Cosman+v.o.
Snow Goose:			
thr	PI	max 22	v.o.
7,19	Brookline,Braintree	1 imm (injured), 1 imm	R.Stymeist#,R.Abrams
"Blue Goose":			
thr	PI	1 ad	v.o.
Brant:			
12,13	Chatham,Westport	50+, 180	D.Briggs#,G.Gove#
19	Boston Harbor,Plymouth	1755, 400	TASL,W.Smith
Canada Goose:			
9,13	GMNWR,Ipswich	600, 1000+	A.Williams,BBC
27	Rochester	375-400	D.Cosman
Wood Duck:			
5	Lakeville,GMNWR	5, 17	W.Petersen#,R.Walton
Green-winged Teal:			
5,6	Wakefield,GMNWR	48, 74	D.Williams#,R.Walton
Northern Pintail:			
thr	Yarmouthport	max 60	J.Aylward
6	Nantucket,GMNWR	2, 18	E.+ C.Andrews,R.Walton
12	PI	200	BBC(R.Prybis)

<u>SPECIES/NOVEMBER</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Northern Shoveler:			
6,26	GMNWR, Concord	16, 4	R. Walton
12,27	PI	12, 22	BBC
Gadwall:			
6,13	Plymouth, Ipswich	8, 10	W. Petersen, BBC
19,26	Gloucester, Concord	12, 31	BBC, R. Walton
Eurasian Wigeon:			
5-13,8	Nantucket, Ipswich	1 m, 1 f	E.+ C. Andrews#, D. Taylor
American Wigeon:			
5	Nantucket (Madaket)	126	E. Andrews#
5,6	Ipswich, GMNWR	46, 15	BBC
13	Westport, Ipswich	48, 150	R. Stymeist#, BBC
Canvasback:			
thr	Cambridge (F. Pond)	max 194 (11/20)	D. Flood#+v.o.
6,9	Nantucket (Madaket), Lakeville	52, 65	E. Andrews#, P. Hallowell
13,26	Westport, Braintree	117, 35	G. Gove#, R. Abrams
Redhead:			
5,13,27	Nantucket, Westport, Cambridge	71, 2, 3	E. Andrews#, G. Gove#, J. Barton
Ring-necked Duck:			
5,6	Lakeville, Acton	1075, 200+	SSBC, H. Harvey
12,27	Cambridge, Braintree	42, 40	F. Bouchard, G. Wilson
Greater Scaup:			
19,27	Boston Harbor, Cambridge	912, 12	TASL, J. Barton
Lesser Scaup:			
5,14	Lakeville, PI	100+, 4	W. Petersen#, J. Grugan
27	Gloucester, Cambridge	5, 5	BBC, J. Barton
Common Eider:			
10	Plymouth-Manomet	1600	SSBC
19	Boston Harbor	9129	TASL
19	Plymouth Beach	25,000±	W. Smith
King Eider:			
19,20	Rockport, S. Dartmouth	2, 1	R. Heil, SSBC
Harlequin Duck:			
19, 19-30	Hull, E. Orleans	1, 5	W. Petersen#, v.o.
19	Gloucester, Rockport	2, 1	R. Heil
Oldsquaw:			
5	Lakeville, Rockport	2, 6000	W. Petersen#, R. Heil
13	Nantucket Sound	2000	H. D'Entremont#
Black Scoter:			
5,9	Lakeville, Eastham	1, 120	W. Petersen, G. Gove
19	Cape Ann, Plymouth Beach	70, 75	BBC, W. Smith
Surf Scoter:			
5	Rockport	12,000	R. Heil
White-winged Scoter:			
19	Boston Harbor	1122	TASL
19,20	Plymouth, Westport	750, 250	W. Smith, SSBC
Common Goldeneye:			
5	Lakeville	7	W. Petersen
19	Boston Harbor	354	TASL
Barrow's Goldeneye:			
19	Boston Harbor	2 m	TASL
Bufflehead:			
1,5	Newburyport, Lakeville	40, 56	G. Gove, SSBC
13	Westport River	200+	J. Heywood#
19	Boston Harbor	2776	TASL
Hooded Merganser:			
4,5	Ipswich, Lakeville	5, 7	J. Nove, W. Petersen#
5,6;20	Waltham (Camb. Res.)	33; 27	J. Hines; R. Forster
26,27	Braintree, Weymouth	16, 7	R. Abrams, G. d'Entremont
	Other reports of 1-4 individuals from a wide area.		
Common Merganser:			
5,6;20	Waltham (Camb. Res.)	51; 75	J. Hines; R. Forster
13;19,26	Braintree	16; 60, 119	J. Paputseanos; R. Abrams
20,27	Wayland, Weymouth	4, 20	R. Forster, G. d'Entremont
Red-breasted Merganser:			
4,5	Barnstable Harbor, Ipswich	1000, 720	J. Aylward, BBC
5	Rockport (AP)	8500	R. Heil
14,20	P'town	2000±, 6000±	H. D'Entremont#, B. Nikula#
19	Boston Harbor	2851	TASL

<u>SPECIES/NOVEMBER</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Ruddy Duck:			
1,5	Lakeville	150+, 70	D.Briggs,W.Petersen#
5+6;20	Waltham(Camb. Res.)	26; 31	J.Hines;R.Forster
6	Melrose,Monomoy	34, 275+	R.Parks,W.Harrington#
20,26	Cambridge,Braintree	20, 50	D.Flood,R.Abrams

TURKEY VULTURE THROUGH RUFFED GROUSE

November is late for reports of Ospreys; nevertheless there were at least five individuals sighted this month with the latest being on the twenty-seventh. A Turkey Vulture was seen feeding on a rabbit carcass in Scituate. A total of four immature Bald Eagles was reported from Monomoy, which would indicate young birds moving south--a good sign. All of the accipiters are represented with a total of four Cooper's and six Goshawks. A dark phase Gyrfalcon was seen at Plymouth Beach on November 27, perhaps a forerunner of the bird or birds seen at Plum Island later. G.W.G.

Turkey Vulture:			
24	Scituate	1	E.Burbank#
	Feeding on dead rabbit.		
Osprey:			
3,4;3	Woburn;GMNWR	1, 1; 1	G.Gove
11,14	Petersham,Nantucket	1, 1	G.Gove,P.Gardner
27	Concord	1	R.Walton
Bald Eagle:			
6,19	Monomoy	1 imm, 3 imm	W.Harrington#,R.Prescott#
13	Quabbin	2 imm + 1 ad	M.Lynch#
Northern Harrier:			
5,14	Bridgewater,PI	2-3, 6	SSBC,J.Grugan
19,27	Boston Harbor,Salisbury	8, 3	TASL,BBC
Sharp-shinned Hawk:			
chr	Middleboro	1	D.Briggs
5,6	Lakeville,Marshfield	1, 1	W.Petersen,G.d'Entremont
13,27	Nantucket,E.Middleboro	3, 1 ad	H.d'Entremont,K.Anderson
Cooper's Hawk:			
10,11	Middleboro	1, 1	K.Anderson,D.Briggs
14,27	PI,Brookline	1 ad, 1 ad	J.Grugan,H.Wiggin
Northern Goshawk:			
3,5	GMNWR,Halifax	1 ad, 2 ad	G.Gove,W.Petersen
11-13,13	E.Middleboro,Rochester	1 imm, 1	K.Anderson,G.d'Entremont#
13	E.Orleans	1 imm	B.Nikula
Red-shouldered Hawk:			
6	E.Middleboro	1	K.Anderson
Red-tailed Hawk:			
5	Bridgewater,Halifax	4, 2	SSBC,K.Anderson
13,19	Ipswich,Boston Harbor	4, 4	BBC,TASL
27,30	Salisbury,Sudbury	2, 6	BBC,R.Forster
	9 individuals at other locations.		
Rough-legged Hawk:			
1,14	PI	4, 6	P.Hallowell,J.Grugan
13	Ipswich+PI	6	BBC
27	Salisbury	3	BBC
American Kestrel:			
3,19	E.Boston,Boston Harbor	2, 4	S.Zendeh,TASL
20	PI-Newburyport-Salisbury	7	BBC
Merlin:			
2,9	Newton,Lakeville	1, 1	O.Komar,P.Hallowell
14,20	Woods Hole,PI	1, 1	R.Forster#,P.Trull
Peregrine Falcon:			
2,19,20	Monomoy,Nauset,P'town	2, 1, 1 imm	B.Nikula#
6,27	PI,Nantucket	1, 1	J.Grugan,E.Andrews#
<u>Gyrfalcon:</u>			
27	Plymouth Beach	1 dk phase	J.Bryant
Ruffed Grouse:			
13	Quabbin,E.Middleboro	8, 3	M.Lynch#,K.Anderson

RAILS THROUGH PHALAROPES

American Coot numbers seem to be very low for the fall prompting one observer to wonder if something is happening to this species. Others have noted the same trend. Perhaps

it's a cyclical phenomenon or perhaps these birds have changed their migration patterns. The BOEM records could be examined for the past eleven years to determine if this is a reality.

The total American Oystercatchers reported this month exceed the total for the past ten years, but wait until you see next month's records. Two reports of Spotted Sandpiper this month are extraordinary with only three previous November records and one December/January report in 1975. The Whimbrel in Orleans is only the second November record in BOEM also. Godwits of the proper species are commonplace in November. Two or three Marbled Godwits spent the month; one at Newburyport until midmonth and two at Chatham from the third week. Red Knot numbers are low for this month.

The report, with details, of the Least Sandpiper is unprecedented in the BOEM records for November. This was a bird with only one leg, which was observed at close range. The Baird's Sandpiper from Monomoy constitutes the only November record also.

The November 19 TASL Boston Harbor census recorded many birds among which were a high count for this month of 287 Laughing Gulls. G.W.G.

Virginia Rail:			
12,20	Middleboro	1, 4	K.Holmes
American Coot:			
5,6	Lakeville,GMNWR	50, 43	W.Petersen#,R.Walton
13	Westport;Braintree	29; 35	G.Gove#;J.Paputseanos
20,26	Acoaxet,Braintree	35, 48	SSBC,R.Abrams
Black-bellied Plover:			
5,10	Ipswich, Wollaston	92, 200	BBC,K.Ryan
19	Plymouth;Boston Harbor	100;309	W.Smith;TASL
26	Eastham	12	R.Abrams
Lesser Golden-Plover:			
3,13	Nantucket	3, 1	E.Andrews,H.D'Entremont
Semipalmated Plover:			
6,13,19	Scituate,PI,Boston Harbor	8, 1, 2	W.Petersen,BBC,TASL
Killdeer:			
6,9	Lakeville,Boston	15, 9	BBC,J.Carter
12,19	Newburyport,Cape Ann	7, 6	J.Berry,BBC
American Oystercatcher:			
6,19	Chatham,Nantucket	2, 3	B.Nikula#,H.D'Entremont
Greater Yellowlegs:			
3,19	E.Boston	77, 6	S.Zendeh#
5,12	Ipswich,PI	1, 3	BBC
Lesser Yellowlegs:			
5,6	Halifax,Lakeville	1, 2	SSBC,BBC
Spotted Sandpiper:			
14-18	Nantucket	1	E.+ C.Andrews
19	Woburn	1	C. Gove
Whimbrel:			
27	Orleans	1	B.Nikula+H.Stabins
Hudsonian Godwit:			
1,27	Newburyport	8, 1	G.Gove,J.Grugan
Marbled Godwit:			
1-13	Newburyport	1 (from Oct.)	v.o.
19-23	Chatham	2	W.Bailey#
Ruddy Turnstone:			
19	Boston Harbor	1	TASL
Red Knot:			
12	PI	1	W.Smith
Sanderling:			
19	Plymouth	100	W.Smith
Semipalmated Sandpiper:			
2	Monomoy	40	B.Nikula
5,19	Bridgewater,Plymouth	1, 2	W.Petersen,W.Smith
Western Sandpiper:			
5,19	Orleans	10,2	B.Nikula
Least Sandpiper:			
5	Halifax	1 (details)	W.Petersen
White-rumped Sandpiper:			
2,6	North Monomoy, South Monomoy	15, 15	B.Nikula#,W.Harrington
6,19	Scituate,Orleans	12, 7	W.Petersen,B.Nikula
Baird's Sandpiper:			
6	Monomoy	1	W.Harrington

<u>SPECIES/NOVEMBER</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Pectoral Sandpiper:			
3,5	Nantucket,Wakefield	2, 4	E.Andrews,S.Zendeh#
5,6	Ipswich,GMNWR	18, 7	BBC
6	Bridgewater,Middleboro	5, 5	BBC
Purple Sandpiper:			
5,13	Salisbury,Rockport	20, 100	D.Alexander#,T.Walsh
13,19	Scituate, Rockport	100, 120	D.Clapp,BBC
Dunlin:			
2;7,12	Monomoy,PI	1500; 950, 3000	B.Nikula;G.Gove,W.Smith
10,13	Wollaston,Scituate-Duxbury	250, 700	K.Ryan,D.Clapp
19,20	Boston Harbor,Westport	656, 500	TASL,SSBC
27	Eastham,PI	600, 250	B.Nikula#,BBC
Long-billed Dowitcher:			
1,3	Newburyport,E.Boston	40, 1	G.Gove,S.Zendeh#
Common Snipe:			
5	Bridgewater, Halifax	6, 4	W.Petersen
13,20	Westport,Bourne	1, 10	J.Heywood#,D.Briggs#
27	Braintree	1	G.d'Entremont
American Woodcock:			
2-5,14	E.Middleboro,MV	1, 1	K.Anderson,R.Stymeist
Red Phalarope			
5	Rockport	17	R.Heil

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS

A Mew Gull (*L. canus*) at Provincetown on November 30 was well-described. For a description of this sighting, see the article, "On Records of Birds," elsewhere in this issue. Lesser Black-backed Gulls are certainly becoming more common in the state with at least five adults reported this month. This makes one wonder how many juveniles have been missed. Common and Forster's terns in November are not unusual but Black Terns are.

Alcids were seen just offshore in the gales and northeasters which hit the coast this month. Also blown in on these winds were Pomarine and Parasitic jaegers. Any good coastal location was the place to be to see good numbers of pelagic birds carried in toward shore by these November northeasters. G.W.G.

<u>SPECIES/NOVEMBER</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Pomarine Jaeger:			
5,6	Rockport	4, 4	R.Heil,T.Walsh
26	Eastham	8+	B.Nikula
Parasitic Jaeger:			
5	Rockport	3	R.Heil
jaeger sp:			
6;26,30	Eastham	1; 6+, 2	M.Lynch#;B.Nikula
Laughing Gull:			
3,10	E.Boston,Wollaston	18, 80	S.Zendeh#,K.Ryan
13,19	Westport,Boston Harbor	18, 287	G.Gove#,TASL
Little Gull:			
26,30	Newburyport,Eastham	9, 1(2W)	W.Russell,P.Grant#
Common Black-headed Gull:			
3,19	E.Boston	1, 1	S.Zendeh#
20,26,27	Newburyport,Annisquam,Wellfleet	1, 1(ad), 1(1W)	BBC,S.Carroll#,W.Petersen
Bonaparte's Gull:			
6,12	Lakeville	1 (1W), 7	BBC,W.Petersen
12,19	Ipswich,Boston Harbor	90, 763	J.Berry,TASL
20,26	Westport,Cape Ann	125, 50	SSBC,BBC
Mew Gull (Good details submitted):			
30	P'town	1 ad.	P.Grant+B.Nikula
Ring-billed Gull:			
2	Halifax (following plows in cornfields)	200	K.Anderson
6	Bridgewater	1000	BBC
21	E.Middleboro	100+	K.Anderson
Iceland Gull:			
6,25	Needham,Quincy	1, 2	O.Komar,R.Abrams
19	Gloucester	1	BBC
Lesser Black-backed Gull:			
13	Westport,Nantucket	1 ad, 1 ad	R.Stymeist#,H.D'Entremont#
16,25	Gloucester	1, 1 ad	R.Heil#,G.Gove
19,27	Monomoy,Hingham	1 ad, 1 ad	R.Prescott#,R.Fox

<u>SPECIES/NOVEMBER</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Glaucous Gull:			
19	Hull	1 ad	TASL
Black-legged Kittiwake:			
5,11,16	Rockport	3000, 180, 3000	R.Heil,F.Bouchard,R.Heil
26	Eastham (F.E.)	2000	B.Nikula
Common Tern:			
12,13	Ipswich	1	J.Berry,BBC
12,13	Eastham, Nantucket	2, 1	D.Briggs#,H.D'Entremont
Forster's Tern:			
5,6	Rockport,Chatham	11, 45+	R.Heil,W.Harrington#
13	Nantucket	1	H.D'Entremont
Black Tern:			
6,19	Chatham	2, 1	B.Nikula#
Dovekie:			
5;6,13	Rockport	61; 61, 1	R.Heil;T.Walsh
6,26	Marshfield,Barnstable	1, 1	D.Clapp,R.Abrams
Common Murre:			
16	Rockport	1	R.Heil#
Thick-billed Murre:			
19	Quincy	1	TASL
Razorbill:			
16,20	Rockport,P'town	30, 30+	R.Heil,B.Nikula
17,26,30	Eastham	23, 100, 100	B.Nikula
Black Guillemot:			
13;16,19	Rockport	1; 6, 1	T.Walsh;R.Heil#
Large unidentified alcids:			
17,30	Eastham	61, 200	B.Nikula#
20	P'town	25+	B.Nikula#

MOURNING DOVE THROUGH WOODPECKERS

The amazing story here is that of the Boreal Owl, which spent about a week roosting in some lindens at 55 St. Germain Street in the Back Bay area of Boston. The bird at first was thought to be a Saw-whet Owl, but subsequent examination of photos of the bird proved it to be a Boreal Owl. The last Boreal Owl to be seen in Massachusetts was on December 31, 1978 at Salisbury State Park. That was the same year that Great Gray Owls invaded New England. The most recent records prior to 1978 were two in 1942.

Another unusual November bird was a Chimney Swift seen November 5 and 6 at Cumberland Farms in Bridgewater, scene of the famous McCown's Longspur sighting. The note from Wayne Petersen, who first saw the swift, said "incredible record of a probable reverse migrant" and went on to describe the bird. The description pointed to Chimney Swift "despite hopes for a Vaux's." The bird was actively hawking and feeding, flying low over the pasture and manure pile behind the barn. G.W.G.

<u>SPECIES/NOVEMBER</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Mourning Dove:			
3,8	Rowley,Sudbury	100, 300 (in one field)	D.Alexander,R.Forster
Eastern Screech-Owl:			
13	Westport,Randolph	1, 1	J.Heywood#,G.d'Entremont
19,20	Quincy,Westport	1, 1	TASL,SSBC
Great Horned Owl:			
1	Belmont	1	F.Bouchard
12,19	Middleboro	1, 1	K.Holmes,D.Briggs
Snowy Owl:			
14,26	Salisbury,P'town	1, 1	J.Grugan,R.Prescott#
26	Rockport,Gloucester	1, 1	BBC
Barred Owl:			
13	E.Middleboro	1	K.Anderson
<u>Boreal Owl:</u>			
2,8	Boston(Back Bay)	1 ph	P.Thayer,fide R.Forster
Northern Saw-whet Owl:			
2,19	MBO,Magnolia	1 banded, 1 (road kill)	T.Lloyd-Evans,R.Heil
Chimney Swift:			
5,6	Bridgewater	1, 1	W.Petersen,BBC
Belted Kingfisher:			
3,27	Rowley,Cambridge	1, 1 f	D.Alexander#,D.Flood

<u>SPECIES/NOVEMBER</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Red-headed Woodpecker:			
4	Middleboro	1 ad	D.Briggs#
Red-bellied Woodpecker:			
2	Worcester	1	M.Lynch#
Hairy Woodpecker:			
4,22	E.Middleboro	1, 1	K.Anderson
Northern Flicker:			
19	Framingham	2	R.Forster
Pileated Woodpecker:			
12	Weston	1	R.Stymeist#

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

As the fall passerine migration winds down, those of us who enjoy the unusual can look forward to discovering stragglers. November produced quite a few records in this category. Among the flycatchers, virtually none of which may be expected this month, both an Empidonax and a Great-crested lingered into the first week, in Lincoln and Marblehead, respectively. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, normally September migrants, were seen early in November in Belmont (site of November records in previous years), and even later at Woods Hole. Warblers of four species, Nashville, Prairie, Black-and-White, and Wilson's, came through more than a month beyond the normal time schedule, with the Prairie on Martha's Vineyard probably winning any prize for tardiness.

This year's fall chickadee migration, as detected with the banding nets at Manomet, totaled some 2800 individuals, the largest count since 1971. Along with the multitude of Black-capped individuals, two Boreal Chickadees were banded there. The movement ended abruptly, following big days on November 1 and 2. Later on in the month, four other individual Boreal Chickadees were encountered, at three coastal sites.

A remarkable group totaling at least five Bohemian Waxwings was seen in Provincetown at mid month. These birds are more typically encountered as singles or pairs in our region. By far the most unusual record for the month was of a flycatcher of the genus Myiodynastes seen for two days only on Martha's Vineyard. This genus includes Sulphur-bellied and Streaked flycatchers. The Vineyard individual had been tentatively identified as the latter, although final determination awaits inspection of the photographs by recognized authorities. Fork-tailed Flycatchers, the Variegated Flycatcher of Maine, and possibly the Brown-chested Martin constitute a similar situation of South American species that migrate north in the austral winter from southern to northern South America and overshoot. The possibility exists that the Myiodynastes is such a South American vagrant if it proves to be a Streaked Flycatcher. In that case, it would constitute a first United States record.

L.E.T.

<u>SPECIES/NOVEMBER</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
<u>Empidonax</u> sp.:			
from Oct-2	Lincoln	1	R.Forster
Great Crested Flycatcher:			
2	MNWS	1	J.Smith
<u>Myiodynastes</u> sp.:			
12,13	MV	1 ph	W.Manter#
Western Kingbird:			
6-12,6	Rockport,PI	1, 1	v.o.,S.Zendeh#
12,19	Nantucket,Middleboro	2, 1	E.Andrews#,D.Briggs
20,24	Dartmouth,Orleans	1, 1	SSBC,R.Everett
Horned Lark:			
12,13	PI,Ipswich	27, 50	BBC
Tree Swallow:			
13,14	S.Dartmouth,MV	2, 125+	R.Stymeist#,B.Nikula#
Barn Swallow:			
10	Everett	1	O.Komar
American Crow:			
2,13	E.Middleboro,Ipswich	100, 300	K.Anderson,BBC
Black-capped Chickadee:			
1,2	MBO	359 b, 275 b	Staff
Boreal Chickadee:			
2,3	MBO	1 b, 1 b	Staff
10,13-23	Rockport,Newburyport	1 b, 2	R.Norris,v.o.
13	E.Orleans	1	B.Nikula#
Red-breasted Nuthatch:			
1-20,5	PI,Lakeville	8 max, 6	v.o.,BBC

<u>SPECIES/NOVEMBER</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Brown Creeper: 16,8-27	Duxbury,6 locations	3, 7 singles	D.Clapp,v.o.
Carolina Wren: 13,14	Westport, Woods Hole	7, 5	R.Stymeist#, R.Forster
House Wren: 12	Plymouth	1	SSBC
Winter Wren: 9,14	E.Middleboro,Truro	1, 1	K.Anderson,H.D'Entremont
14,19	Woods Hole,Cape Ann	3, 1	R.Forster,BBC
Marsh Wren: 6	Marshfield,GMNWR	1, 2	G.d'Entremont,BBC
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 6,13	Cambridge,PI	8, 3	F.Bouchard,BBC
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1-4,14	Woburn,Woods Hole	1, 1	G.Gove,R.Forster
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 3,14	Belmont,Woods Hole	1, 1	L.Robinson,R.Forster
Hermit Thrush: 13	PI,Westport	3, 4	BBC,R.Stymeist#
26	PI	1	G.d'Entremont
American Robin: 6,20	GMNWR,Westport	15, 45	BBC,SSBC
Gray Catbird: 13,14	Westport,MV	4, 6	J.Heywood#,R.Stymeist
Brown Thrasher: 4	Rockport	1	D.Alexander#
Water Pipit: 3	PI,E.Boston	5, 1	D.Alexander#,S.Zendeh#
5	Bridgewater,Halifax	40, 25	SSBC
11,30	Millis,E.Middleboro	16, 12	B.Cassie,K.Anderson
<u>Bohemian Waxwing:</u> 18	Provincetown	5+	K.Shea#
Cedar Waxwing: 5,25	GMNWR,Middleboro	46, 2	R.Walton,D.Briggs
Northern Shrike: 13,14-30	IRWS,Provincetown	1, 2 max	v.o.,D.Reynolds#
20	Truro,PI	1, 1	B.Nikula#,P.Trull
22,29	Littleton,Nantucket	1, 1	J.Baird,F.Reed
Red-eyed Vireo: 2	Belmont	1	L.Robinson
Tennessee Warbler: 6	PI	1	J.Bertrand
Orange-crowned Warbler: 11,13	Yarmouthport,MV	1, 1	J.Aylward,fide V.Laux
13,28	Westport,Nantucket	1, 1	J.Heywood#,E.Andrews
Nashville Warbler: 17-30,22	Stoneham,Belmont	1, 1	M.Martinek,L.Robinson
Cape May Warbler: 6,12	PI,Yarmouthport	1, 1	J.Grugan,J.Aylward
Pine Warbler: 29	Wellesley	1	C.Ewer
Prairie Warbler: 14	MV	1	W.Drummond
Palm Warbler: 1,27	PI,Weymouth	2, 2	G.Gove,G.d'Entremont
Blackpoll Warbler: 4,5	Lincoln,Rockport	1, 1	R.Forster,R.Emery#
1,13	Quincy,Nantucket	1, 2	M.Lynch#,E.Andrews
Black-and-white Warbler: 11	Brookline	1	J.Paputseanos
Ovenbird: 9	MNWS	1	J.Smith
Common Yellowthroat: 6,13-26	PI,7 locations	1, 7 singles	J.Grugan,v.o.
27	Braintree,Weymouth	1, 1	G.d'Entremont
Wilson's Warbler: 1,13	PI,S.Dartmouth	1, 1m	B.Nickerson#,J.Heywood#
Yellow-breasted Chat: 26	PI	1	C.Ewer

SCARLET Tanager THROUGH EVENING GROSBEEK

One individual each of the never-common Grasshopper and Henslow's sparrows was seen during November, both at coastal sites. Fox Sparrows moved through our region for the first three weeks of the month in small numbers at all sites except the Dunback Meadow conservation land in Lexington. There, remarkably large Fox Sparrow counts were made on widely separated dates, by two parties.

Northern Orioles lingered in good numbers on Nantucket at least until the third week of November. Winter finch species including Pine Grosbeak, Common Redpoll, and Pine Siskin appeared in relatively small numbers, and surprisingly, mostly on the South Shore. No crossbills were reported, continuing the scarcity for the last few years. L.E.T.

<u>SPECIES/NOVEMBER</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Scarlet Tanager:			
8	Rockport	1	D.Taylor
Northern Cardinal:			
6	Monomoy	1 m	W.Harrington#
Rufous-sided Towhee:			
13,14	Westport,Woods Hole	15, 4	R.Stymeist#,R.Forster
25-27	E.Orleans	1	E.Williams
American Tree Sparrow:			
1,20	Sudbury,PI	4, 30	R.Forster,BBC
Chipping Sparrow:			
8	Sudbury	1	R.Forster
Field Sparrow:			
1,30	PI,Halifax	3, 10	A.Williams,K.Anderson
Vesper Sparrow:			
6	Middleboro	2	BBC
"Ipswich" Sparrow:			
20	Westport	2	SSBC
Grasshopper Sparrow:			
13	E.Orleans	1	B.Nikula
Henslow's Sparrow:			
1	PI	1	J.Barton#
Sharp-tailed Sparrow:			
3	E.Boston	1	S.Zendeh#
Fox Sparrow:			
12,22	Lexington	28, 13	R.Stymeist#,A.Williams
1-21	8 locations	15 total	v.o.
Lincoln's Sparrow:			
19	Boston	1	TASL
Swamp Sparrow:			
6,13	Concord,Randolph	5, 5	BBC,G.d'Entremont
22	Belmont	1	L.Robinson
Dark-eyed Junco:			
1,12	Belmont,PI	55, 50	F.Bouchard,BBC
Lapland Longspur:			
2,6	Monomoy,PI	25+, 6	B.Nikula,J.Grugan
Snow Bunting:			
3-27,6	PI,Newton	100 max, 65	v.o.,O.Komar
20,26	Provincetown,Halifax	300, 50	B.Nikula#,W.Petersen
Red-winged Blackbird:			
6,19	GMNWR,Woburn	400, 13	BBC
Eastern Meadowlark:			
13,30	Ipswich,E.Middleboro	20, 10	BBC,K.Anderson
Rusty Blackbird:			
8,11	Framingham,Gloucester	2, 3	R.Forster,C.Gove#
Common Grackle:			
19	Woburn	1	BBC
Brown-headed Cowbird:			
12,13	Bridgewater,Ipswich	500+, 72	W.Petersen,BBC
21	E.Middleboro	200± (all m)	K.Anderson
Northern Oriole:			
19-30;19,20	Marblehead;Nantucket	1; 5, 3	J.Smith;E.Andrews#
Pine Grosbeak:			
13	Hardwick	2	v.o.
Purple Finch:			
12	Lakeville	24±	K.Holmes

SPECIES/NOVEMBER	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS
House Finch: thr,7	Middleboro,Marshfield	35±, 30+	D.Briggs,D.Clapp
Common Redpoll: 13	Scituate	1	D.Clapp
Pine Siskin: 6,11	Lakeville,Hingham	90, 8	K.Ryan,W.Petersen
24-30	Middleboro	36±	D.Briggs
Evening Grosbeak: 15-31,20	Middleboro,Salisbury	35±, 50	D.Briggs,G.d'Entremont

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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

NEW STATE CHECKLIST AVAILABLE. The 1983 Massachusetts Bird List (third edition), Fauna of Massachusetts Series No. 1, by Brad Blodget has just become available. This is a 24-page booklet listing the birds of Massachusetts, fully annotated with space to check your finds and appendices on Problematics and Infrequent Vagrants. Bearing the Western Reef Heron on the cover, this up-to-date publication is available for one dollar (postage included) from the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Field Headquarters Westboro, MA 01581. Send a \$1.00 check (not cash) made out to the above state division and mark the envelope: Attention Non-Game Division.

COLOR-MARKED HAWKS

Information is sought on Red-tailed Hawks that have been marked with yellow patagial markers. If you seen marked birds, please report the age class, marker number, and which wing is marked to Bird Banding Office, Laurel, MD 30708; and to David Jennings, University of Georgia, Institute of Ecology, Athens, GA 30602.

A DECADE OF WINTERING BRANT IN BOSTON HARBOR

by Leif J. Robinson, Wellesley

Boston Harbor typically supports some two percent of the total wintering population of Atlantic Brant, as determined by R. E. Kirby and H. H. Obrecht, III (Journal of Field Ornithology 53:333, 1982). The accompanying table summarizes maximum harbor counts of this species from November to March during the winters 1972-73 to 1982-83. Prior to 1979-80 the counts were taken by individuals at a few locations - harbor-wide, the actual number of birds present almost certainly must have been greater. Thereafter, the counts were obtained in single-day whole-harbor TASL censuses coordinated by Craig Jackson and Soheil Zendehe - these values may well be accurate to within a few percent.

The observed number of Brant over this decade indicates that Boston Harbor (defined here as encompassing the area westward of a line from the north tip of Nantasket Beach to the eastern tip of Nahant) is an important wintering area for this species. At times, as the table shows, the harbor may contain two or three thousand birds. They are generally concentrated, depending on the state of the tide, in small areas: the Fore River, along Wollaston Beach, and in Squantum. Unfortunately, all of these locations are very vulnerable to ecological disruption. Oil tankers are common in the harbor, raw sewage flows from the Nut Island "treatment" plant, and the Squantum peninsula continues (especially now!) to be threatened by development and adjunct population pressures.

Boston Harbor Maximum Brant Counts 1972-83.

Date/ Reference	Number of Brant	Percent of Kirby-Obrecht Totals for Same Period
March 1973		
<u>BOEM</u> 1:58, 1973	200	0.5
March 1974		
<u>BOEM</u> 2:80, 1974	1200	1.4
March 1975		
<u>BOEM</u> 3:100, 1975	2-3000	2.3-3.4
March 1976		
<u>BOEM</u> 4:80, 1976	1000	0.8
March 1977		
<u>BOEM</u> 5:89, 1977	1000	1.4
December 1977		
<u>BOEM</u> 6:63, 1978	1031	2.4
December 1978		
<u>BOEM</u> 7:70, 1979	2500	5.7
March 1980 (TASL)	1309	1.9
March 1981 (TASL)	2247	
November 1981 (TASL)	1697	
January 1983 (TASL)	933 (incomplete)	

AN INVENTORY OF THE BREEDING BIRDS OF MONOMOY
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, CHATHAM, MASSACHUSETTS, 1983

by Denver W. Holt, Waltham,
and John P. Lortie, Portland, Maine

As part of a cooperative ecological research project between the Massachusetts Audubon Society (MAS) Environmental Science Department and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, we inventoried the breeding birds of the Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge (Monomoy NWR), situated 41°38'N, 69°58'W. An earlier breeding bird survey was conducted in 1974 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, but many changes have occurred on Monomoy NWR since then. The following paragraphs describe the methods used and the results obtained in 1983.

Due to time, logistical and weather constraints, no formal census methods for evaluating populations were possible. We recorded evidence of nesting (e.g., paired birds, mating calls, nests, eggs, chicks, and fledglings) and tallied nests where possible. Species were given a status of abundant, common, or uncommon based upon sighting frequencies, and numbers of breeding bird pairs or potential breeding pairs were ascertained for some species. Species for which nesting evidence was apparent but no nests were found were designated as probable nesters.

The refuge was divided into three major geographical areas.

1. Morris Island: approximately fifty acres (twenty hectares) of sand dunes, vegetated primarily with Beach Grass (Ammophila breviligulata); salt marsh, primarily cord grasses (Spartina patens and S. alterniflora); and mixed Scrub Oak (Quercus illicifolia) and Pitch Pine (Pinus rigida).

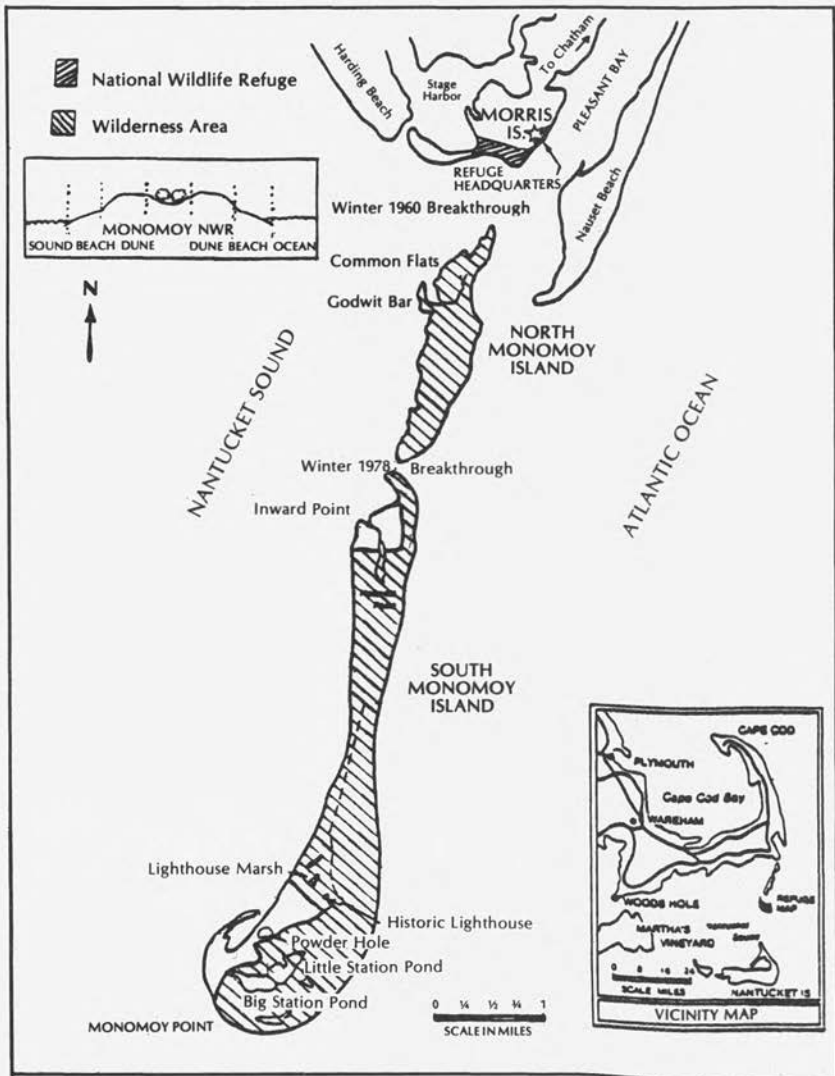
2. North Monomoy Island: approximately 550 acres (220 hectares) of salt marsh characterized by Cord Grass, Black Rush (Juncus gerardi), Salt Grass (Distichlis spicata), and sand dunes, primarily Beach Grass.

3. South Monomoy Island: Approximately 2100 acres (840 hectares), two-thirds of which are sand dunes dominated by Beach Grass and one-third (at the southern end) of which is a mixture of freshwater wetlands dominated by Narrow-leaved Cattails (Typha angustifolia), rushes (Juncus spp.), and Sedges (Carex spp.). Extensive thickets of Bayberry (Myrica pennsylvanica) and, to a lesser extent, Pussy Willow (Salix discolor), Beach Plum (Prunus maritima), and Poison Ivy (Rhus radicans) surround the ponds. Salt Spray Rose (Rosa rugosa) is also widely distributed over the island.

The latter two islands include approximately 2650 acres (1060 hectares) of barrier beach, which is the most significant type of habitat conserved by Monomoy NWR. As encroachment into surrounding areas continues and habitat is lost to development on Cape Cod and the islands, Monomoy NWR and other

isolated areas may be the only places of retreat for many breeding bird species. Annual inventories or censuses are an important way of documenting increases or decreases in bird populations on such areas. The following inventory constitutes what will be the first of many annual sampling efforts on Monomoy NWR and adjacent areas.

Acknowledgments. We wish to thank Wallace Bailey, former director of the Wellfleet Sanctuary of MAS for assistance with the inventory, Blair Nikula for the many hours he volunteered in the field and for review of the final script, John Fitch and Dick Forster for review of the final draft, and Wayne Petersen for "kidick, kidick, and kerwee."



	<i>Morris Island</i>	<i>North Monomoy</i>	<i>South Monomoy</i>	<i># Nests</i>		<i>Young Observed</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Probable Breeding</i>	<i>Comments</i>
				<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>				
Pied-billed Grebe <u>Podilymbus podiceps</u>			X			X	U		one pair
Snowy Egret <u>Egretta thula</u>			X		82	X	A		
Black-crowned Night-Heron <u>Nycticorax nycticorax</u>			X		40	X	A		
Canada Goose <u>Branta canadensis</u>		X	X	7	5	X	C		
Green-winged Teal <u>Anas crecca</u>			X		14	X	A		
American Black Duck <u>Anas rubripes</u>		X	X	2	7	X	A		most abundant waterfowl
Mallard <u>Anas platyrhynchos</u>		X	X	1	5		U		
Northern Pintail <u>Anas acuta</u>			X		2	X	U		
Blue-winged Teal <u>Anas discors</u>			X			X	U		four to five pairs
Northern Shoveler <u>Anas clypeata</u>			X			X	U		three pairs
Gadwall <u>Anas strepera</u>			X		2		C		
American Wigeon <u>Anas americana</u>			X				U	X	
Red-breasted Merganser <u>Merqus serrator</u>			X			X	U		one pair with young
Ruddy Duck <u>Oxyura jamaicensis</u>			X			X	C		at least ten males all summer
Northern Harrier * <u>Circus cyaneus</u>			X				U	?	fledglings seen but no nest or evidence of nesting could be found
Northern Bobwhite <u>Colinus virginianus</u>	X						C	X	
Virginia Rail <u>Rallus limicola</u>			X				U	X	calling during breeding season
Sora <u>Porzana carolina</u>			X				U	X	at least two calling during breeding season
Piping Plover * <u>Charadrius melodus</u>		X	X	1	1	X	U		three other territories but no nests found
American Oystercatcher <u>Haematopus palliatus</u>		X	X	7	2	X	A		numbers probably conservative; at least seven fledglings on N. Island
Willet <u>Catoptrophorus semipalmatus</u>		X		13		X	A		each nest contained four eggs

	Morris Island	North Monomoy	South Monomoy	# Nests		Young Observed	Status	Probable Breeding	Comments
				North	South				
Spotted Sandpiper <u>Actitis macularia</u>	X	X					U	X	
Laughing Gull <u>Larus atricilla</u>		X		905		X	A		up 300 pairs from 1982
Herring Gull <u>Larus argentatus</u>		X	X	1072		X			not censused on S. Island
Great Black-backed Gull <u>Larus marinus</u>		X	X	129		X			not censused on S. Island
Common Tern <u>Sterna hirundo</u>		X		1284		X	A		down 200 pairs from 1982
Arctic Tern <u>Sterna paradisaea</u>		X		2			U		both nests washed out
Mourning Dove <u>Zenaida macroura</u>	X						C	X	
Short-eared Owl * <u>Asio flammeus</u>		X	X		1	X	C		total of four territories for both islands with young
Belted Kingfisher <u>Ceryle alcyon</u>	X						U	X	two nest sites occupied by adults
Eastern Kingbird <u>Tyrannus tyrannus</u>	X		X				C	X	
Horned Lark <u>Eremophila alpestris</u>	X	X	X		1	X	A		
Tree Swallow <u>Tachycineta bicolor</u>			X				U	X	
N. Rough-winged Swallow <u>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</u>	X						U	X	
Barn Swallow <u>Hirundo rustica</u>			X		17	X	C		all nests and chicks destroyed by vandals
Blue Jay <u>Cyanocitta cristata</u>	X						C	X	
Black-capped Chickadee <u>Parus atricapillus</u>	X						A	X	
Tufted Titmouse <u>Parus bicolor</u>	X						C	X	
American Robin <u>Turdus migratorius</u>	X		X			X	A		
Gray Catbird <u>Dumetella carolinensis</u>	X		X				C	X	
Northern Mockingbird <u>Mimus polyglottos</u>	X						C	X	
Brown Thrasher <u>Toxostoma rufum</u>	X						U	X	
European Starling <u>Sturnus vulgaris</u>	X		X			X	U		

	Morris Island	North Monomoy	South Monomoy	# Nests		Young Observed	Status	Probable Breeding	Comments
				North	South				
Yellow Warbler <u>Dendroica petechia</u>	X		X				C	X	
Common Yellowthroat <u>Geothlypis trichas</u>	X		X				A	X	
Northern Cardinal <u>Cardinalis cardinalis</u>	X						C	X	
Rufous-sided Towhee <u>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</u>	X						C	X	
Savannah Sparrow <u>Passerculus sandwichensis</u>	X	X	X			X	A		
Sharp-tailed Sparrow <u>Ammodramus caudacutus</u>		X		1		X	C		
Song Sparrow <u>Melospiza melodia</u>	X		X				C	X	
Red-winged Blackbird <u>Agelaius phoeniceus</u>	X	X	X	1			A	X	
Common Grackle <u>Quiscalus quiscula</u>	X		X			X	C		
Brown-headed Cowbird <u>Molothrus ater</u>	X					X	U		
House Finch <u>Carpodacus mexicanus</u>	X						C	X	
American Goldfinch <u>Carduelis tristis</u>	X						C	X	
House Sparrow <u>Passer domesticus</u>	X						C	X	
* Denotes species "Blue Listed" in 1982. (<u>American Birds</u> , 1982 35:3-10)									
Under the heading STATUS, A = Abundant; C = Common; U = Uncommon.									

DENVER HOLT, a student working toward a graduate degree in Wildlife Biology, did the research reported in this paper while serving as an intern on the Massachusetts Audubon Society's Tern Project. He will return to Monomoy in April to continue studying the food habits and nesting ecology of the Short-eared Owl, another investigation begun under the same auspices, and to collaborate with Blair Nikula on an April-May shorebird population inventory. Denver has also done research on raptors in the West, e.g., studies of the Northern Pygmy-Owl at the University of Montana.

JOHN P. LORTIE, an alumnus of the University of Maine working toward a graduate degree in Wildlife Biology, is Assistant Refuge Manager of the Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge.

Some of the clues for the December "At a Glance" bird are helpfully obvious: it is a breeding adult, and it does not nest on the ground. The latter clue helps to eliminate the Lark Sparrow whose similar but more strongly accentuated face pattern led us to consider it briefly. The head pattern of our bird shows a white or very light median stripe on the dark crown. White eyebrows and malar stripes frame cheek patches that are outlined above and below with black. There is also a black whisker mark. The unstreaked nape and sides of the neck are obviously lighter than the head or dark-streaked back. The white or whitish underparts appear unstreaked. The tail is somewhat obscured by foliage but does not appear to show any white.

We have seen this bird only once in breeding plumage on a trip to the Dakotas ten years ago, but a trip through available field guides convinced us that we had a Clay-colored Sparrow.

Pat Fox and Mary Baird, Lexington

Photo by L. H. Walkinshaw



Clay-colored Sparrow

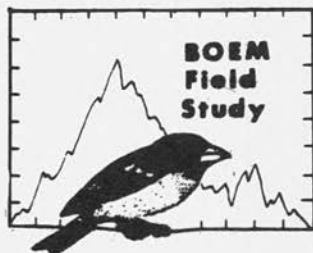
CONGRATULATIONS!

The winner of the At a Glance contest and the recipient of the PRIZE, a new National Geographic Society field guide, is

OLIVER KOMAR.

..1984 SPRING MIGRATION WATCH..1984 SPRING MIGRATION WATCH..

For the fifth consecutive year, Bird Observer will sponsor a Spring Migration Watch in which volunteer observers across eastern Massachusetts will pool data from their favorite birding sites. Observers are needed who can visit a site at least once every four days during late April and May. Anyone interested in participating this year should contact Lee Taylor, 92 Brooks Avenue, Arlington, MA 02174, for instructions and data forms.



At a Glance . . .

Photo by Wayne R. Petersen



Can you identify this bird? Identification will be discussed in next issue's *At a Glance*. Bird Observer will again award a PRIZE to the reader who submits the most correct answers in 1984. Please send your entry on a postcard to Bird Observer, 462 Trapelo Road, Belmont, MA 02178 before the answer is published in the next issue.



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