

BIRD OBSERVER

OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS



VOL. 5 NO. 1
JAN. - FEB. 1977

MUD HEN



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Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts
January-February 1977
A Bi-monthly Publication
Volume 5, no. 1
6.50 per calendar year, January-December
All correspondence should be sent to:

Bird Observer
462 Trapelo Road
Belmont, Massachusetts 02178

Application to mail at second-class postage rates is pending at Boston, Massachusetts.

Subscription to BIRD OBSERVER is based on a calendar year, from January to December, at \$6.50 per year. Back issues to new subscribers will be supplied as available.

Advertising space is available on the following schedule: full page, \$40.00; half page, \$20.00; quarter page, \$10.00. Subscribers only may advertise one-of-a-kind birding items free of charge on a space available basis. Such announcements must be limited to 25 words. All advertising copy is subject to approval by the staff.

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

EDITOR'S PAGE



THE NEW ENGLAND HAWK WATCH

April 23 and April 24, 1977

Volunteers willing to donate a portion of either day are asked to call or write Paul A. Roberts for further information (24 Pearson Road, Somerville, Massachusetts 02144; 776-8566). Paul will also be grateful if birders who see any significant hawk movements during the spring migration would let him know what species were seen, how many, where, what direction they were flying and also the weather conditions.

PLUM ISLAND CLEAN-UP DAY

Sunday, April 24

Anyone interested in participating in the annual clean-up of the Parker River Refuge is urged to meet the Brookline Bird Club at parking lot #1 at 9:00 a.m.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BROOKLINE BIRD CLUB

Friday evening, April 29, 1977, at 7:30 at the Museum of Science. Syd Bahrt, author of "A Wilderness of Birds," will present a slide talk on "Birds of the Falkland Islands."

TIDE TABLE

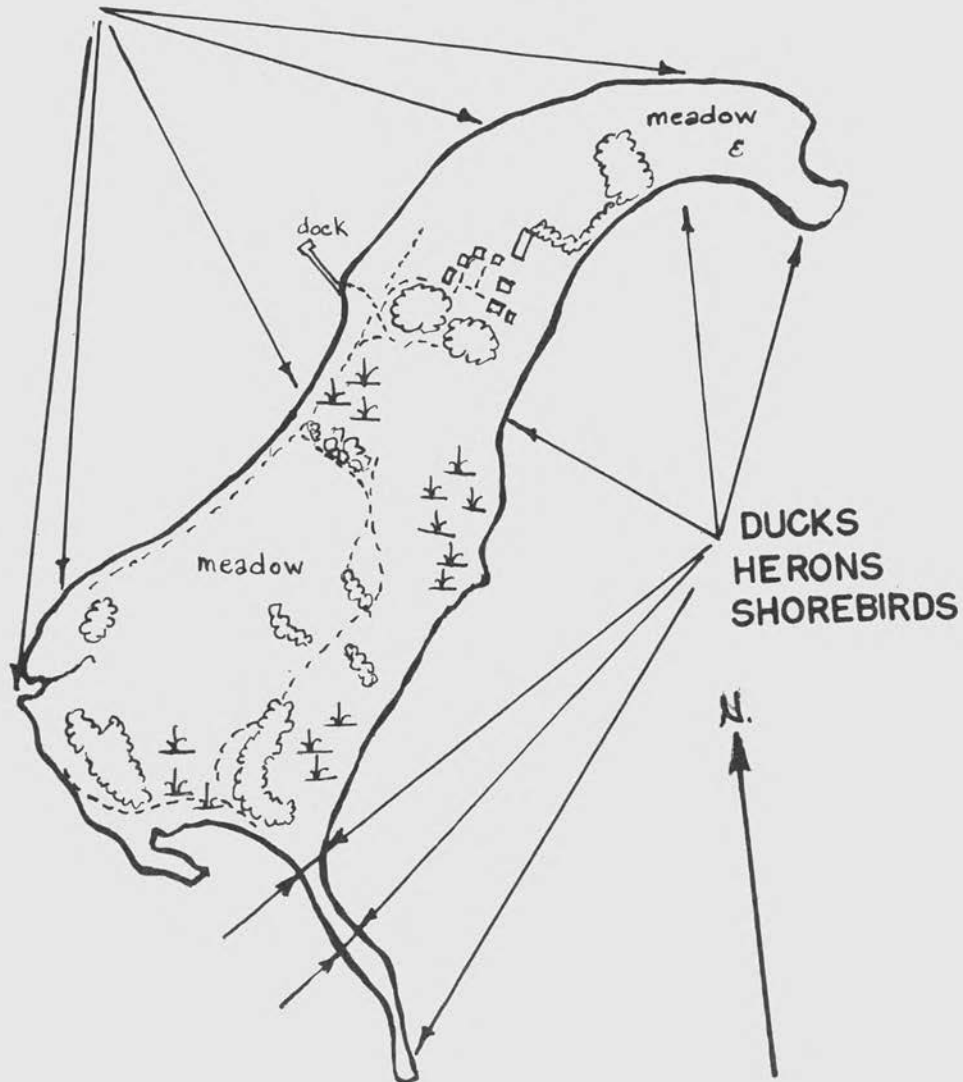
Here is the tide table for Boston and Newburyport Harbor, accurate to EASTERN STANDARD TIME. For best birding be at Newburyport Harbor approximately four hours before or after high tide.

	<u>High Tide</u>	<u>High Tide</u>
Sat. March 19	10:56 a.m.	11:18 p.m.
Sun. March 20	11:37 a.m.	11:55 p.m.
Sat. March 26	3:23 a.m.	3:53 p.m.
Sun. March 27	4:13 a.m.	4:45 p.m.
Sat. April 2	9:30 a.m.	9:55 p.m.
Sun. April 3	10:20 a.m.	10:41 p.m.
Sat. April 9	2:54 a.m.	3:33 p.m.
Sun. April 10	3:53 a.m.	4:34 p.m.
Sat. April 16	9:52 a.m.	10:12 p.m.
Sun. April 17	10:34 a.m.	10:49 p.m.

FOR SALE: Binoculars, Bushnell Custom 10x50. Excellent condition \$85 ppd. J. Wall, 76 Brambach Rd., Scarsdale, N.Y. 10583.

FOR SALE: Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States, Edward H. Forbush, Vol. I-III \$125 or best offer. Also Vol. II Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States. Best offer. Contact Herman D'Entremont, P.O. Box 507, Newton Centre, Massachusetts, 02159.

DABLERS- SEA DUCKS
BRANT - SHOREBIRD - GULLS



THOMPSON'S ISLAND -- A GOOD PLACE FOR BIRDS

By David T. Brown, Wollaston

Thompson's Island, located in the Suffolk County portion of Boston Harbor, is comprised of 157 acres of quite varied terrain -- rolling hills, meadows, pastureland, a spring-fed pond, and a tidal cove with salt marsh. The interior portion of this cove, located on the western side of the island, is choked with stands of eel-grass and partially filled with pebble bars, constantly changing and being shaped by the swift tidal currents running between the salt pond and the rocky beach on the outside. During the mid-1800's this cove was dammed up and dikes built to reduce the salinity of the water so that it could be used for irrigation. So what used to be geologically a much larger cove has filled in and become a meadow. It was at this site that David Thompson, a Scotsman, set up the first trading post in Boston Harbor in 1619. He traded with the Indians who were already either living or camping on most of the harbor islands.

Although Thompson had to return to England, he made arrangements with William Trevour and Captain Miles Standish to claim the island for him. This was done but it was given the name "Island of Trevour." As Thompson was an attorney, he came to be the Agent of the "Council for New England," and returned to America, and by 1626 claimed in person the island given him by Trevour. He changed the name to Thompson's Island and established what is believed to be the first permanent settlement by a colonist in Boston Harbor. While at the island he was involved with fishing, hunting, trading and farming. After Thompson's death the Massachusetts Bay Colony took possession and granted the island to the Town of Dorchester. In 1666, the Lynde family purchased the island and owned it for 148 years, using it solely for farming. As for the history of bird populations here, it seems evident that large numbers of sea ducks and brant must have found shelter and feed in the original very broad cove. Upon damming of the cove the area, and thus the number of ducks and gulls using it, would lessen. With the advent of farms, and the resultant clearing of land, songbird numbers doubtless lessened and open country birds, such as meadowlarks and Redwinged Blackbirds flourished.

During the American Revolution the British seized the island for a short time but the Continental Army soon captured the outpost and set the island on fire. The last private owner of the island was George W. Beale who sold it to the trustees of the "Boston Farm School" in 1834. The next year a new school building was erected and called the "Farm and Trades School." This school housed and taught orphans in the ways of practical farming and mechanical trades. Out of this emerged a private preparatory school called "Thompson's Academy" and a number of buildings and playing fields were built on the summit of the main hill. The Administration Building burned during the winter of 1971 and for a while some school activities were curtailed. Mrs. Thomas, one of the administrators and a good friend to the winter birds who maintained active feeders, moved away. Shortly thereafter, however, the school facilities took on new life with the advent of "Thompson Education Center," which currently teaches visiting students not only mechanical skills but also ecologically important fields such as land management and natural history. The author has been involved in bird surveys in winter and summer on the island and has contributed migrational data to the administrator to be used in developing the recreational potential of the island with a view to protecting the ecological value of its features.

With the expanding program of creating recreational facilities on the Harbor islands going ahead, it is very important to protect the fragile biological communities housed in such places as salt marshes. On Thompson's Island, for example, studies have shown that trampling feet and indiscriminate clearing of brush and undergrowth have caused the removal of several species of nesting birds just from the 1960's to the 1970's. Discussions with the island manager, Mr. Timothy J. White, have been encouraging in that plans are being considered to erect board walks and nature trails so that visitors may enjoy nature without disturbing it.

One would think that with several disastrous fires raging upon the island, vegetation, especially trees, would have suffered a great deal. Probably for a short time this has been so. However, in 1846 Theodore Lyman donated and planted a grove of 6,000 oak trees. "Lyman's Grove," as it is still called, protects the southwestern shore of the island and two more groves of mature deciduous trees surround the administration buildings and border the playing fields. Also, two small groves of pine trees were planted some time ago on each end of the island to serve as windbreaks.

Being an island, the low tide is effective in creating a habitat well used by shorebirds and gulls. Besides the rocky beaches, and exposed mud flats, a long sandbar that stretches nearly to Squaw Rock on Squantum becomes at low tide a resting place during migration for hundreds of sandpipers and terns. These may be easily observed by telescope from Squaw Rock, Squantum, without actually visiting the island.

Now that we have discussed the history of Thompson's Island since the settlement by white men, and the various changes that have occurred in the physical features of the island that changed the populations of the birds, perhaps you would like to peruse the following list of birds found on the island. After doing so, we should share the same conclusion--that Thompson's Island is indeed a good place for birds. In fact, you might want to visit there yourself at

various seasons to enjoy its variety. The island is open in a rather limited and formal way to the public. The island management requests that you contact them ahead of time as to the date and purpose of your visit c/o Mr. Timothy J. White, Thompson Island, Boston Harbor, Mass., 02169, or call Mr. White at 328-3900. You will also want to contact the Pilgrim IV at Kelley's Landing, South Boston, to ascertain the schedule of the public ferry. The schedule is changeable, according to season, and you may have as little as two hours or as much as six or seven hours on the island, depending on your birding needs. The management requests no firearms be carried, and you might be stopped out on the beach somewhere by one of the staff investigating whether your telescope might be a shotgun. We are happy they keep a strict watch because many hunters illegally trespass by boat.

The following list of birds has been compiled from years of observations by the author and his friends, and the island staff. Two journals were also consulted: RECORDS OF NEW ENGLAND BIRDS (produced by the Massachusetts Audubon Society but no longer published) and BIRD OBSERVER OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS. Although over two hundred species have been recorded it may be noted that there are some glaring misses of relatively common species that may be found on the nearby mainland and doubtless occur. Due to the brevity and sparsity of visits these have not been located (e.g. American Bittern, Winter Wren, etc.). It would therefore be appreciated if anyone visiting the island would keep a list and submit it to Mrs. Ruth P. Emery, 225 Belmont St., Wollaston, Ma. 02170, so that it might be incorporated into the BIRD OBSERVER records reports and the species list might be kept up to date and enlarged. Thompson's Island lies within a heavily travelled migration lane and many interesting records should be produced here. Proper use of the island as a good place to find birds will provide an example that will be helpful in the future as the rest of the harbor islands are opened to the public. The list below contains an abbreviated evaluation of the current status of each species plus major areas bird-watching on Thompson's Island has changed since the 1960's. Ten years ago many migrant species were quite obvious since they could congregate and feed at low-level in and around the main grove of trees and shrubbery east of the main buildings. Now that the undergrowth has been removed and a playground and obstacle course set up for recreation right in the middle of the grove, warblers and transient sparrows are much more scattered and probably do not stay as long. Also, on the bright side, a change has taken place in the status of herons and shorebirds following a cycle of milder winters. Several heron species that used to be accidental have now become regular summer visitors, using the shallows for feeding as they are close to the outer island nesting areas. In 1976 Glossy Ibises, Snowy Egrets, Great Egrets, Little Blue Herons, and even Louisiana Herons were a daily morning and evening sight on the southwestern side of the cove. Since autumn freeze-ups have been lacking for several years, shorebirds such as Yellowlegs, Black-bellied Plovers, Red Knots and Ruddy Turnstones have remained sometimes throughout the winter, either at the spring-pool or on the outer beaches.

A complete summary of the status of Thompson's Island birds has been placed on file with the Thompson Education Center and is of such length as to preclude publication in Bird Observer. The species list is lengthy so for the purposes of this paper the following key is provided in order to understand the abbreviations used. One should use the Massachusetts Daily Field Card published by the Massachusetts Audubon Society in order to determine actual weeks and months involved in seasonal records. It should also be noted that some species are included as offshore sightings since the island provides a vantage point for viewing the harbor not available from most of the mainland areas. Since we are discussing an island and since the actual numbers of any species present limited, the abundance code (A, C, U, R) refers to a species' availability or island distribution during proper season during a field trip.

- A - Abundant (widely distributed or seasonally numerous-- can be expected on any field trip in season)
- C - Common (well distributed or sometimes in numbers during migration -- perhaps not seen on every field trip)
- U - Uncommon (of regular occurrence but seldom seen, or secretive, or of limited distribution)
- R - Rare (not seen every year but possible due to wandering or weather conditions, etc.)
- Ac - Accidental (a chance record with no expected duplication)
- PR - Permanent resident
- W - Winter
- SR - Summer resident
- WR - Winter resident
- SM - Spring migrant
- FM - Fall migrant
- M - Migrant both seasons
- V - Visitor, perhaps also out of season
- Sp, Su - Spring, Summer
- OS - Offshore
- * - confirmed breeding
- x - suspected breeding
- f - former breeder, can only occur again through proper ecological management

BIRDS FROM THOMPSON'S ISLAND, BOSTON HARBOR

Common Loon: U, M, V
 Red-throated Loon: U, M, V
 Red-necked Grebe: R.V., UWROS
 Horned Grebe: C, WROS, V
 Pied-billed Grebe: U, M, V
 Great Cormorant: AWROS, V
 Double-breasted Cormorant: ASROS, V
 Great Blue Heron: UV, M
 Green Heron: CVSu
 Little Blue Heron: UVSu
 Cattle Egret: RVSu, RSM
 Great Egret: USM, RSuV, UFM
 Snowy Egret: A, SM, SuV
 Black-crowned Night Heron: CMSuV
 Yellow-crowned Night Heron: RSp, SuV
 Glossy Ibis: CSM, SuV
 Mute Swan: RV
 Canada Goose: CM, UWV
 Brant: CM, AWV
 Mallard: UWR
 Black Duck: AWR, CPR*
 Gadwall: RM
 Pintail: UM, RWV
 Green-winged Teal: CSM, UFM, RWV
 Blue-winged Teal: CM, RSR x
 American Wigeon: CM, UWR
 Northern Shoveler: RFM
 Wood Duck: RSM
 Ring-necked Duck: RM
 Canvasback: UM, RWV
 Greater Scaup: CWV, AWOS
 Lesser Scaup: RSV
 Common Goldeneye: CWV, AWOS
 Bufflehead: AWR
 Oldsquaw: RWVOS
 Common Eider: AWVOS
 King Eider: RWVOS
 White-winged Scoter: CWVOS
 Surf Scoter: RWVOS
 Black Scoter: RFMVOS
 Ruddy Duck: RM
 Common Merganser: RWV
 Red-breasted Merganser: CWV, AWOS
 Goshawk: RWV, UM
 Sharp-shinned Hawk: UM
 Cooper's Hawk: RM
 Red-tailed Hawk: UV, UWR
 Broad-winged Hawk: UM
 Rough-legged Hawk: RWV
 Marsh Hawk: UM, UVV
 Osprey: RM
 Peregrine Falcon: RM
 Merlin: UM
 American Kestrel: CPR*
 Ruffed Grouse: RWV
 Ring-necked Pheasant: APR
 Virginia Rail: RSM x
 Sora: RSM
 American Coot: RM
 Semipalmated Plover: CM
 Piping Plover: RM
 Killdeer: UPR*, AM
 Lesser Golden Plover: RFM
 Black-bellied Plover: AM, RWV
 Ruddy Turnstone: AM, UWV
 American Woodcock: CM, USR*
 Common Snipe: CM, RWV
 Whimbrel: RM
 Spotted Sandpiper: CM, USR*
 Solitary Sandpiper: RM
 Willet: RM, AcWV
 Greater Yellowlegs: AM, RWR
 Lesser Yellowlegs: AM
 Red Knot: CM, RWV
 Pectoral Sandpiper: UM
 White-rumped Sandpiper: RM
 Least Sandpiper: AM
 Dunlin: AM, CWV
 Short-billed Dowitcher: CM
 Semipalmated Sandpiper: AM
 Western Sandpiper: RFM
 Hudsonian Godwit: RFM
 Sanderling: AM, RWV
 Glaucous Gull: RWV
 Iceland Gull: RWV
 Great Black-backed Gull: AV
 Herring Gull: AV
 Ring-billed Gull; CV
 Black-headed Gull; UWV
 Laughing Gull: RSM, CPV
 Bonaparte's Gull: AM, UWV
 Forster's Tern: RFM
 Common Tern: AM, CSuV
 Arctic Tern: RSM
 Roseate Tern: RSM, RfV
 Least Tern: RM
 Royal Tern: AcSu
 Caspian Tern: RSM
 Thick-billed Murre: AcW
 Dovekie: AcW
 Rock Dove: APR *
 Mourning Dove: CPR*CWV f
 Black-billed Cuckoo: RM* f
 Barn Owl: RWV
 Great Horned Owl: RWV
 Snowy Owl: UWV
 Barred Owl: RWV
 Common Nighthawk: CM
 Chimney Swift: CM, CSuV x
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird: RSM
 Belted Kingfisher: UM, UWV
 Common Flicker: AM, CPR*
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: UM
 Hairy Woodpecker: UV
 Downy Woodpecker: CPR*
 Eastern Kingbird: CSR*
 Great Crested Flycatcher: CSM
 Eastern Phoebe: CM, CSR*
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: UM
 Least Flycatcher: CM
 Eastern Wood Pewee: CM, fCSR
 Olive-sided Flycatcher: RSM
 Horned Lark: CWV
 Tree Swallow: AM, f*
 Bank Swallow: UM
 Rough-winged Swallow: UM
 Barn Swallow: AM, f*
 Purple Martin: fCM

Blue Jay: AM, UPRF*, AWV
Common Crow: AV, CPR*
Black-capped Chickadee: CWV, CPR* *
Tufted Titmouse: UWV
White-breasted Nuthatch: UWV x f
Red-breasted Nuthatch: UWV
Brown Creeper: UM
House Wren: f Su *
Mockingbird: CPR*
Gray Catbird: CM, USR, *
Brown Thrasher: USR*
American Robin: AM, CSR*
Wood Thrush: CM f*
Hermit Thrush: CM
Swainson's Thrush: CM
Veery: CM
Eastern Bluebird: f M. f x
Golden-crowned Kinglet: CM
Rufous-crowned Kinglet: CM
Water Pipit: UM
Cedar Waxwing: CM f x
Northern Shrike: RWV
Starling: APR*
Solitary Vireo: CM
Red-eyed Vireo: CM, f*
Black and White Warbler: CM
Tennessee Warbler: CSM
Nashville Warbler: CM
Northern Parula Warbler: CM
Yellow Warbler: AM, f *
Magnolia Warbler: CM
Cape May Warbler: USM
Black-throated Blue Warbler: USM
Yellow-rumped Warbler: AM, UWV
Black-throated Green Warbler: CM
Blackburnian Warbler: UM
Chestnut-sided Warbler: CM, f*
Bay-breasted Warbler: CSM
Blackpoll Warbler: CM

Prairie Warbler: CM
Palm Warbler: CM
Ovenbird: CM
Northern Waterthrush: CM
Yellowthroat: CM, USR*
Wilson's Warbler: UM
Canada Warbler: CM
American Redstart: AM, f*
House Sparrow: APR*
Bobolink: USM fx
Eastern Meadowlark: UV, USR f*
Yellow-headed Blackbird: AcV
Redwinged Blackbird: CSR, RWV *
Northern Oriole: f CSR*
Common Grackle: ASR*
Brown-headed Cowbird: ASR* RWV
Scarlet Tanager: CSM
Cardinal: CPR*
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: CSM
Indigo Bunting: UM
Evening Grosbeak: RWV
Purple Finch: UV
House Finch: CSR x
Common Redpoll: RWV
Pine Siskin: RWV
Common Goldfinch: CV f *
Rufous-sided Towhee: CM *
Savannah Sparrow: AM, CWV
Sharp-tailed Sparrow: USR*
Dark-eyed Junco: AWR, AM
Tree Sparrow: AWV
Chipping Sparrow: AM, CSR *
Field Sparrow: CM, UWV
White-crowned Sparrow: CFM
White-throated Sparrow: AM, UWV
Fox Sparrow: USM
Swamp Sparrow: AM, CSR* UWR
Song Sparrow: APR, CM*
Snow Bunting: RWV

A REQUEST FOR SPRING HAWK RECORDS

by Blair Nikula, Harwich

It has become evident in the last couple of years that a significant spring hawk migration takes place on Cape Cod. The presence on this "water-locked" peninsula of a rather large number of birds that are known to avoid water raises a number of intriguing questions: How did they get here? Where do they go from here? Where do they cross the water? Why do peak numbers seem to occur 10-15 days later than the corresponding peak on the mainland?

I am interested in compiling and analyzing all spring hawk records from the Cape and hopefully a summary of these records can be published in a future issue of B.O.E.M. I would very much appreciate receiving all hawk reports from any birders visiting the Cape this spring (mid-March - early June). Also of great interest would be information from Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard and southeastern Massachusetts, particularly in the vicinity of the Cape Cod Canal. In addition to the date, location and number, notes on the direction the bird(s) were travelling would be especially valuable.

For those who do visit the Cape in search of raptors this spring, I would offer the following tips: Generally, the farther out the peninsula you go, the more hawks you'll see (i.e., the more concentrated they become). By far the largest numbers are recorded in the Truro - Provincetown area. Also, the higher you are, the more you will see. Some of the better vantage points are Highland Light in Truro, the Visitors Center parking lot in Provincetown (poor light here), and the high dunes in the Beech Forest. (The Pilgrim Monument has yet to be checked, but may prove to be an excellent observation point.) Finally, as at any hawk flyway, the weather is very important. While a few birds may be seen under almost any conditions, a clear sky and winds out of the southwesterly quadrant will produce by far the best results.

Please send any records to: Blair Nikula, Park Street, Harwich, MA 02645. Thank you.

ON RECORDS OF BIRDS

by the Staff

BIRD OBSERVER OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS publishes in each issue two one-month summaries of bird species identified within the ten-county area shown on the map inside the front cover. These summaries are drawn from reports submitted to the compilers by bird-watchers throughout the area. The publication of these summaries is, of course, a major function of our magazine, and we are deeply grateful to all of the dedicated birders who, month after month, take the time to write out the reports which form the primary data.

Obvious limitations of space prevent the publication of many records which are sent in to us. Less frequently a report of an unusual sighting is rejected for lack of convincing documentation. Unfortunately, the omission or rejection of certain of these records has been in the past a cause of hard feelings, and it is therefore incumbent upon you to make certain points plain:

1. The integrity of the reporter is assumed; his expertise is not. None of us is fully familiar with every species which 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.
2. 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. Professional field ornithologists are quick to admit to this possibility, and we should follow their example.
3. Most of our readers and reporters are amateurs for whom birding is a hobby, a sport, a source of pleasure. BIRD OBSERVER is directed primarily toward this audience. However, our magazine is also on occasion a source of scientific data. Hence, we are obliged as compilers to adhere to generally accepted standards with regard to the reporting of unusual sightings. In past years, such reports were never acceptable without the securing of a specimen. More recently, photographs have come to be accepted as "incontrovertible evidence."

Our policy has never been this strict, and we have from the beginning published reports of unusual sightings backed by no more than a good written description. But conservatism IS our rule. 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 serious error. We concur in this attitude, and it is therefore to be expected that perfectly valid sightings will from time to time be rejected. The observer need draw no inference from this action. Rejection of a report sometimes results from a decision by the compilers that a misidentification has occurred. More frequently no such suggestion is intended. Rather, the rejection should be taken to mean simply that the submitted evidence fails to convince the compilers beyond all reasonable doubt of the correctness of the identification.

A. Minimal data for all reports.

Whatever the report may be, please be sure to include the following data:

1. Species name.
2. Accurate count or careful estimate.
3. Immature or adult plumage (if determinable).
4. Sex (if determinable).
5. Date and place of observation.
6. Observer(s).

The estimating of large numbers of birds is clearly an art, but one which can be learned. Reporters are urged to read Robert Arbib's article, "On the art of estimating birds," from the August 1972 issue of American Birds. Reprints are available for 25¢ from: American Birds, 950 Third Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10022.

B. Which reports are most noteworthy?

The compilers are most interested in reports of the following types:

1. Early and late dates for migratory species.
2. Maximum counts for migrants or non-breeding visitors.
3. Unusually high or abnormally 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 M.A.S. yearly checklist.

The very active birder will know from his own experience and records which reports are of greatest interest. The less experienced or less vigorous observer may need help in determining which reports to submit. What is an early date for Yellow Warblers? What is an unusually high count of them?

Fortunately, in Massachusetts there are several easily obtained books and pamphlets detailing information of this type. We urge all reporters to obtain and consult the following:

1. Griscom, L. and Snyder, D.E., The Birds of Massachusetts (Salem: Peabody Museum, 1955).
2. Bailey, W., Birds in Massachusetts, Where and When to Find Them, available from Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln, Mass.
3. Hill, Norman P., The Birds of Cape Cod, Massachusetts (New York: Morrow, 1965). (Now out of print)
4. Bailey, W., Birds of the Cape Cod National Seashore, and its supplement.

C. Reports of "difficult" species.

In the opinion of the compilers, certain of the species on the current M.A.S. Checklist, although of regular occurrence, are rather difficult to identify. We would single out the following:

Cory's Shearwater
 Leach's Storm-Petrel
 Cormorants out of breeding season
 Little Blue Heron (immature) vs. Snowy Egret
 Yellow-crowned Night Heron (immature)
 European and American Wigeons (females)
 Greater Scaup vs. Lesser Scaup
 Common vs. Barrow's Goldeneye (females)
 King Eider (females)
 Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk and Merlin
 King Rail vs. Clapper Rail
 Baird's Sandpiper and Western Sandpiper
 Short-billed vs. Long-billed Dowitcher
 Reeve
 Red Phalarope (winter plumage)
 Pomarine Jaeger vs. Parasitic Jaeger
 Glaucous and Iceland Gulls
 Little Gull
 Forster's Tern
 Arctic Tern
 Royal Tern and Caspian Tern
 Razorbill
 Willow and Alder Flycatchers
 Fish Crow
 Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes
 Northern and Loggerhead Shrikes
 Philadelphia Vireo
 Worm-eating Warbler
 Orange-crowned Warbler
 Cape May, Pine, Blackpoll and Bay-breasted Warblers (immatures)
 Northern and Louisiana Waterthrushes
 Connecticut and Mourning Warblers
 House Finch
 Lincoln's Sparrow

The birds on this list are here for various reasons. In some cases (e.g., Lesser Scaup Duck, Philadelphia Vireo, Willow and Alder Flycatchers), the species are objectively difficult to identify, i.e., they are genuine sibling species. Certain of these species (e.g., Connecticut and Mourning Warblers) are as a rule uncooperative, allowing a far from perfect viewing. For some, the information in the standard field guides is, in our opinion, misleading (e.g., the "wing-length criterion" for Iceland and Glaucous Gulls).

Finally, a large group of species is included on this list for the simple reason that a "well-publicized" instance of misidentification by an observer whom we regard as essentially competent is known to us.

The compilers would hope that, in addition to the basic data listed above in paragraph A, reports of these species would contain details of the diagnostic characteristics actually observed or heard. Did you clearly see the vermiculations on the side of that Lesser Scaup? If so, enough said. Did that Alder Flycatcher sing its territorial song? In what habitat was it? At what elevation?

Massachusetts Audubon Society offers a birder's kit for \$5.15 per year, which includes mailings of occasional short papers on field identification problems. Eleven of these have appeared so far, and all are excellent. We urge you to subscribe.

D. Reports of rarities.

Any report of a species not on the M.A.S. Checklist requires documentation of a more extensive nature. The additional information submitted should usually include the following:

1. Exact location and description of the habitat in which the bird occurred.
2. Time of day and duration of observation.
3. Weather conditions (esp. wind direction and speed) both during the observation and in the preceding hours and days.
4. Lighting conditions.
5. Optical equipment in use and distance of the bird.
6. Primary Identification.
 - a. Size, shape and posture of the bird, plumage description, any other visual characters noted.
 - b. Songs or other sounds heard.
 - c. Behavior of the bird, description of its movements. (On what was the bird feeding? In flight, did it soar? What was its wingbeat velocity? Etc.)
 - d. Associates, i.e., what other species were present? Of these, with which did the bird fraternize? (Instances of interspecific hostility are often excellent clues as to the identity of a bird.)
7. Differential Diagnosis.
 - a. With which other species was a direct comparison made? What conclusions were reached as a result of these comparisons?
 - b. Which other species were considered as possible identifications, however briefly and perfunctorily? How was each of these eliminated?

The superior field observer is often distinguished most clearly by his excellence in and attention to the differential diagnosis. Remember the old maxim: a rare or unusual view of a common bird is much more probable than a sighting of a rare or unusual bird. So be sure to check through in your mind ALL realistic alternatives, however unlikely they may at first seem--and then submit your conclusions to the compilers.

8. Additional supporting evidence, e.g., drawings, tape-recordings or photographs, if available. The clearer this evidence, the less verbal description is necessary.
9. Names of all observers, and a record of any disagreements in identification. Were the observers immediately aware of the bird's potential rarity?

BIRD OBSERVER has already published two fully documented reports which may be used as models:

1. Sighting of a Black-browed Albatross, by Richard R. Veit (Vol. 1, No. 6, p. 137).
2. A Note on Brewer's Blackbird in New England, by Wayne R. Petersen (Vol. 2, No. 2, p. 55).

Obviously, not every such report need be in publishable form, but the submitted report will be kept on file and may be made available for serious ornithological research. Some of the Massachusetts reports written in 1900 are still consulted today. Try to keep this in mind as you write your own reports. Be complete. The reader in the year 2050 may need those details.

A few more words of advice are in order:

1. Take notes at the time of your sighting, preferably before consulting a reference book.

2. In describing a bird don't copy the description from a field guide. The impression given is that the bird was not very carefully scrutinized. Try to include descriptive details which you have never seen in print.
3. Try to get confirmation of the sighting. A good photograph is unbeatable as evidence.
4. Notify local birders quickly so that other observers can confirm the identification.



THE GREAT GRAY OWL

Great Gray Owl photograph courtesy of the Lawrence Eagle-Tribune.

In the early afternoon of January 6th, 1977, a teacher at the West Elementary School in Andover telephoned me that she was sure that the large owl reposing 15 feet up in a birch tree by the edge of the school's parking lot was a Great Gray. It had flown there in the morning and remained, paying no attention to the many children playing beneath. As soon as I saw it, I was convinced that the identification was correct--noting every field mark and in particular the white collar with the dark spot in the center. But to make sure, the eyes had to be seen. It took 20 minutes of jumping up and down and shouting to induce the owl to "open up" and they were yellow. I telephoned the Massachusetts Audubon Society and other interested persons. Some arrived in time to see it. But many were disappointed as he flew off towards the end of the afternoon--not to be seen again there. Several people tried unsuccessfully the next day in the big snowstorm to find it, but to no avail.

Juliet R. Kellogg

ON RECORDS OF BIRDS: PART II

by Robert H. Stymeist, Waltham

Since 1973 Bird Observer has presented its monthly summaries in compilation form: a systematic list of each noteworthy species seen within the eastern Massachusetts area during the month. With the March-April issue (1977) we will attempt a new and hopefully productive reporting format. Beginning with the January report, we will attempt to better emphasize bird population trends, which will hopefully give birders clearer and more precise understanding of the current status of Massachusetts birds. With this in mind, we hope to switch to seasonal reports rather than a summary for each month. This form would be more nearly like that followed by National Audubon's American Birds. It would feature a spring migration, breeding season, fall migration and winter season report.

Bird Observer, to keep its summaries meaningful, must have the cooperation of all birders in the state, amateur and expert, backyard and professional. Most of our subscribers live at or near the coast and we get most of our reports from these locations. In order to get the "big picture", however, we need the cooperation from everyone, everywhere in the eastern Massachusetts area to make this viable.

Birding can be far more than just seeing "write-ins" and other unusual species. Why ignore the common, everyday species and their numbers? Keeping close tabs on everyday birds is one of the best ways to detect changes in our environment and in bird populations as a whole. These changes should be documented. Bird study in one area for a period of years and the careful keeping of records of numbers, migrant arrivals, and migrant departures of common birds can be far more valuable than chasing rarities. Such close monitoring of common birds is a way for the compilers to more accurately record trends in various local bird species.

The following is a guide to some of the topics which will best help us obtain meaningful data to elucidate the current status of our state's birds.

I. Migration:

- A. Earliest arrival dates
How do these differ from previous years? Male arrival vs. female arrival.
- B. Peak movements
How many individuals of one species on the same day or days?
- C. Latest departure dates
How do these compare with previous years?

II. Population:

- A. How many individual birds as compared to last year; more or less?
- B. Breeding species; how many American Robins in your neighborhood?

III. Trends

- A. Is there a new bird in your neighborhood? Range, extension.
- B. Where have all the Bluebirds gone? Range, contraction.
- C. Habitat preference
Do your orioles prefer elms or willows or some other tree?

IV. Human effects:

- A. Destruction of habitat
- B. Pesticides
- C. Hunting
- D. Over-use of recreation areas or sanctuaries

V. Food supply:

- A. How has the local wild bird food supply been in your area?
Has it affected the numbers of birds in the area?

VI. Weather:

- A. Has weather had an affect on bird activities? Cite specifics or effects of storms, abnormal temperatures, droughts, long wet periods, poor nesting results due to weather.

VII. Rarities:

- A. Note location, date and numbers of individuals and sex or age if it can be determined.
- B. Is the bird rare for the season? E.g. a Blackpoll Warbler in December or an Iceland Gull in August.
- C. Is the bird rare for the area? First record for a county or area where the bird is seldom found, e.g. a Bobwhite in Rowley.

See: "On Records of Birds" Part I, reprinted from Bird Observer, Vol. II #3.

The above topics can provide the basis of information to get a fuller picture of the current status of birds in Massachusetts. If you have birded an area for a period of time and are aware of changes, we would be most anxious to hear from you. (See: 70 Years of Breeding Birds on Milton Hill, Vol. IV #5, for some examples.)

Much is still to be discovered about the birds of Massachusetts, for example the status of Chuck-wills-widow, the Cape Cod spring hawk flight, breeding range of birds such as Nashville Warbler or Red-breasted Nuthatch, the owl population, etc. Please give us your cooperation since all our subscribers can provide valuable assistance. Your ideas and suggestions are needed and strongly encouraged. Remember, this publication is the only one left that reports the status of Massachusetts birds in detail. Please support us with comprehensive reports of your sightings and encourage others to subscribe and report as well.

DOWITCHER POST-SCRIPT

On reading Mr. Zende's article on dowitcher identification, I was struck by certain of his comments that conflict with my own impressions of these species in the field. More specifically, I feel that he minimizes the various plumage distinctions while at the same time, exaggerates the differences between the two species.

Although distinguishing the juvenals of these two species in the autumn on the basis of their plumage characteristics alone is at best confusing, and at times impossible, I feel that an attempt should be made by the observer to learn the subtle plumage distinctions in order to facilitate location of the "odd" bird in a feeding flock. For a comprehensive review of the field characters of these species, the reader is referred to Wayne Petersen's field note #7, "Long-billed and Short-billed Dowitchers", published by the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

In particular, I find that the rufous-colored adult Long-bills with strong vermiculations on the flanks, from under-tail coverts to breast, and without the white belly typical of Short-billed, that appear with some regularity among the Short-bills in July - September, are readily distinguishable on the basis of these field characters alone. Later in the fall (after mid-Oct.), plumage distinctions become progressively less reliable, and one must rely upon hearing the characteristic alarm notes of the respective species for positive identification.

I feel that Mr. Zende's analogy of dowitcher identification to yellowlegs identification is misleading, especially considering the extensive range of overlap in size between the two dowitcher species. Whereas the mensural differences between Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs are virtually always diagnostic, and the differences in length and depth of the bill are very distinctive, I feel strongly that this is not the case with the two dowitchers. There is considerable overlap in bill-length, and the actual average difference in overall length is only 1/2". (Corresponding average difference in Yellowlegs overall length is 2 1/2".) In summation, although I feel virtually completely confident of identifying the two species of Yellowlegs solely on the basis of mensural characters, I would hardly attempt this in the case of the dowitchers.

R. R. V.

THREE INSTANCES OF UNUSUAL HUNTING BEHAVIOR IN OWLS

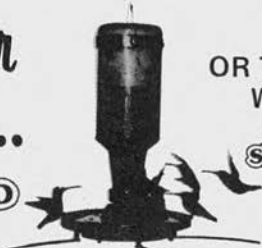
by Joseph C. Broyles, Groton

1. This was reported to the writer by Ms. Jan Delaney, at whose house the events occurred in mid-January. The family has a parakeet in a cage very close to a kitchen window. About 5 P.M. or so, a series of thumps against the window was heard and the parakeet became very agitated. Upon investigation outdoors, Ms. Delaney found a red phase Screech Owl perched in a tree by the window, and it was inferred that the owl had been trying to reach the parakeet repeatedly and collided instead with the window. The same thumping sounds and parakeet agitation occurred the next morning at about 6 A.M. and a check outdoors again revealed the owl perched in the tree.
2. On January 19, about 3:30 P.M., after cross-country skiing out of a small stand of pines and spruce by the Nashua River in Groton, the writer noticed several small feathers on the trail. A quick scan of the open area revealed a trail of feathers and a trail of drag marks with intermittent primary feather tracks in the snow. These led to a Saw-whet Owl perched on the fresh but headless remains of an American Robin about 3 meters from the ski trail. The marks in the snow reveal that the owl had traveled at least twice this distance on the snow, apparently trying to fly and possibly having difficulty in subduing the prey. Although it was in open, sunlit woods, the owl's pupils were very large, suggesting fear when confronted at such close range by three noisy, gesturing skiers. Nonetheless, the owl stood its ground while we watched for five minutes or so. We then departed, leaving the owl still clinging resolutely to its unusual and hard-won meal.
3. About February 9th at about 6 P.M. at the Groton School, Groton, Massachusetts, a bird-watching student and several others saw a Screech Owl trying to fly up into and behind some decorative wooden blocks where the school buildings' brock walls meet wood just below the roof. These blocks are simulated end-beams with several inches of space between them and also between them and the wall. House Sparrows nest behind the blocks. The owl is somewhat large for the spaces and in attempting to gain entry was forced to cling, nearly upside down, to the woodwork. The owl apparently never did get in.

It is possible that the owl was seeking shelter, but this owl, or another one just like it, has been observed on much colder days perched in much more exposed locations on and around our school buildings, quite oblivious to the comings and goings of hundreds of people all day long just 15 feet below its perch. Thus, one is tempted to believe that the owl was, on this occasion, trying to obtain some House Sparrows for supper.

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THE BIRD OBSERVER SUMMARY FOR NOVEMBER, 1976

The temperature averaged only 41.9 degrees during the month of November, 3.3 degrees below normal and the coldest November since 1967. This was the second very cold month in a row. The highest temperature was 66 degrees on the 27th, the lowest was 23 degrees just three days later on the 30th. Precipitation was only 2.64 of an inch, 3.87 under normal and the least since November, 1917. This was the second driest November in 158 years of record. Snow came early with 1 inch on the 10th, the earliest for so much since 1894. No more measurable snow fell during the month.

Shearwaters continued in unusually high numbers off Cape Cod waters - unprecedented for the month of November. Note especially 100 Cory's Shearwaters at Eastham. The high counts reflect the increased number of squid in Cape Cod Bay throughout the fall. A late Cattle Egret was noted on the 21st at Lakeville.

Waterfowl highlights included 3 European Wigeons and an outstanding count of 800 Redheads at Nantucket. Ring-necked Ducks numbered over 550 at Lakeville, where 45 Lesser Scaups and a peak count of 637 Ruddy Ducks were also noted. Off Deer Island in Boston Harbor, 5000+ Common Eiders were noted.

An immature Golden Eagle was well observed at Newburyport, and an immature Bald Eagle was present throughout the month at Lakeville. Shorebird highlights included Golden Plover, Western Sandpiper, both Marbled and Hudsonian Godwits and very late records of Solitary Sandpiper and Northern Phalarope.

An adult Lesser Black-backed Gull was photographed on Nauset Beach on the 14th, and a high count of 85 Laughing Gulls was made at Winthrop on the 7th. An immature Sabine's Gull was observed in Massachusetts Bay on the 18th, and excellent details were submitted.

A Common Murre was found at Provincetown, and 1 Atlantic Puffin was noted at First Encounter Beach, Eastham on the 6th. It was an uneventful November for alcid, with only a few Razorbills, Thick-billed Murres and Dovekies recorded. A Snowy Owl was reported from Weston on the 4th, and 3 Saw-whet Owls were noted. Eastern Point Wildlife Sanctuary in Gloucester was a mecca for woodpeckers, with the Brookline Bird Club reporting five species on the 20th including a Black-backed Three-Toed.

Land bird highlights included a Gray Jay at Dana in Quabbin Reservoir, a possible Varied Thrush in Rockport, and late departure dates for Wood Thrush, White-eyed Vireo, Black-and-white, Tennessee, Nashville and Wilson's Warblers and also Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Two Yellow-headed Blackbirds were recorded, and the Brewer's Blackbird continued at Corn Hill, Truro, where a Clay-colored Sparrow was reported on the 2nd.

R.H.S.

Common Loon:			
26,28	P.I., Marblehead	18,10	R.Forster, M.Kasprzyk
Red-throated Loon:			
6,11	Rockport, Orleans	75+, 100+	R.Veit#, R.Veit
Red-necked Grebe:			
6	Provincetown, Newburyport	2, 2+	W.Petersen, v.o.
6-30	6 localities	7 individuals	v.o.
16	E.Quabbin	1	J.Cavanaugh
Horned Grebe:			
5	Lakeville	137	W.Petersen
Northern Fulmar:			
1-4, 6	Mass. Bay, Cape Cod Bay	88, 42	T.Lloyd-Evans, W.Petersen
9-12	Georges Bank	58	C.Scharf
Cory's Shearwater:			
6	Eastham (First Encounter Bch.)	100	C.Goodrich & B.Nikula
14	Barnstable (S.N.)	4	R.Pease, H.D'Entremont
Greater Shearwater:			
1-4	Mass. Bay	981	T.Lloyd-Evans
6	Eastham-Provincetown	1600+	R.Forster#
9-12	Georges Bank	1626	C.Scharf
Sooty Shearwater:			
4, 6	Mass. Bay, Eastham	19, 15	T.Lloyd-Evans, W.Petersen & R.Forster

Manx Shearwater:			
5,6	Marshfield, Barnstable	1-2, 2	W. Petersen, R. Pease
15	Nauset	2	S. Higginbotham
Leach's Storm-Petrel:			
1,8	Eastham, Salisbury	2, 1	B. Nikula, R. Emery
Gannet:			
7, 13	Provincetown, Jeffrey's Ledge	300, 300	F. Hamlen, D. Finch & R. Veit#
Great Cormorant:			
20	Lakeville	1 imm.	W. Petersen
Cattle Egret:			
21	Lakeville	1	J. Flaherty
Black-crowned Night Heron:			
1, 27	Nantucket, P. I.	12, 12	E. Andrews, E. Pyburn#
Mute Swan:			
7	Nantucket	<u>54</u>	E. Andrews
Snow Goose:			
20, 21	Bolton, P. I.	100, 68	E. Salmela, M. McClellan
30	Chilmark (M. V.)	1 (blue morph)	fide M. Hancock
Gadwall:			
6	Ipswich, Concord	92, 20	D. Alexander#, H. Merriman
European Wigeon:			
thr.	Nantucket	3 m.	E. Andrews#
Northern Shoveler:			
21	P. I.	85	BBC (P. Roberts)
Redhead:			
19	Nantucket	<u>800</u>	E. Andrews
Ring-necked Duck:			
13, 20	Lakeville, Eastham	550+, 150	SSBC (W. Petersen), F. Hamlen
Canvasback:			
5, 21-25	Lakeville, Nantucket	526, 600+	W. Petersen, E. Andrews
27	Cambridge	193	R. Stymeist
Lesser Scaup:			
5, 14	Lakeville, Cambridge	45+, 8	W. Petersen, BBC (H. Keith)
28	Brookline	7	H. Wiggan
Harlequin Duck:			
26	Rockport	1 m., 2 f.	N. Clayton
Common Eider:			
7	Winthrop	5000+	R. Veit & R. Stymeist
11, 14	Plymouth Beach	3000, 3000	M&B Litchfield, J. McCrea
King Eider:			
25	Rockport	1 imm. m.	R. Forster
Ruddy Duck:			
5, 11	Lakeville	343+, 637	W. Petersen, S. Higginbotham
Hooded Merganser:			
5, 13	Halifax, Lincoln	29, 28	W. Petersen, R. Forster
Red-breasted Merganser:			
5	Lakeville	4	W. Petersen
Turkey Vulture:			
28	Manomet	1	T. Lloyd-Evans
Goshawk:			
6, 6-27	Lakeville, P. I.	1, 1-2	J. Flaherty, P. Butler & v.o.
7, 20, 27	Truro, Tyngsboro, E. Orleans	1, 1, 1	F. Hamlen#, J. Baird, J. Harris
Cooper's Hawk:			
6, 7-8	Framingham, Barnstable	1 ad. m., 1	K. Hamilton, R. Pease
12-20	Nantucket	1 imm.	C&A Andrews
Red-shouldered Hawk:			
2	Lancaster	1	H. Merriman
Rough-legged Hawk:			
6-21	4 localities	6+ individuals	v.o.
Golden Eagle:			
26	Newburyport	1 imm.	R. Forster
Bald Eagle:			
thr., 16-21	Lakeville, E. Quabbin	1 imm., 2 ad. & 1 imm.	D. Briggs#, T. Gagnon#
Osprey:			
3, 11-13	Concord, Lakeville	1, 1	J. Landan, W. Petersen
Peregrine Falcon:			
21	Orleans	1	C. Goodrich & B. Nikula

Merlin:				
1,2	P.I., Truro	1,1	G. Gove, N. Claflin	
5,10	Duxbury, Salisbury	1,1	W. Petersen, M. McClellan	
Virginia Rail:				
7	Nahant, Eastham	2+, 4	BBC (S. Zende), SSBC (R. Fox)	
11, 13-26	S. Peabody, Nantucket	1,1	R. Heil, C&A Andrews	
American Coot:				
5, 21	Lakeville, Pembroke	400+, 200	W. Petersen	
Semipalmated Plover:				
7, 12	Revere	4, 2	R. Stymeist, S. Zende	
Golden Plover:				
4-6, 7	P.I., Bridgewater	4, 1	D. Alexander#, J. Flaherty	
20, 26-29	Salisbury, P.I.	1, 1	W. Scott, H. Ferris#	
Black-bellied Plover:				
7	Winthrop	282	R. Stymeist, R. Veit#	
Ruddy Turnstone:				
7, 27	Winthrop	20	R. Veit, T. Lawrence#	
American Woodcock:				
2-27	10 localities	singles	v.o.	
<u>Solitary Sandpiper:</u>				
6	Wellfleet	1	C. Goodrich, B. Nikula	
Greater Yellowlegs:				
6, 7	Chatham, E. Boston	5, 13	CCBC (J. Bryant), R. Stymeist	
27	P.I.	5	BBC (E. Pyburn)	
Red Knot:				
9	Duxbury	42	M. Moore	
Pectoral Sandpiper:				
21, 28	Duxbury, Wellfleet	1, 1-2	W. Petersen, B. Nikula#	
White-rumped Sandpiper:				
20-21, 20	Duxbury, Rockport	2, 1	W. Petersen, R. Heil	
27	P.I.	2	P. Miliotis	
Dunlin:				
thr.	Duxbury	3500+	M. Moore	
7, 26	Winthrop, Newburyport	2500, 1200	R. Stymeist, R. Forster	
Long-billed Dowitcher:				
5, 11	Duxbury	1, 2	W. Petersen, S. Higginbotham	
11, 27	Newburyport, Duxbury	1-2, 2	R. Forster, W. Petersen	
Ereunetes: (sp.?)				
7, 11; 20-21	Revere; Duxbury	20; 7, 5	R. Veit#; W. Petersen#	
Western Sandpiper:				
5-11&20-21	Duxbury	2&1	W. Petersen	
Marbled Godwit:				
23, 26	N. Plymouth, Duxbury	1, 1	fide M. Moore, B. Harrington	
Hudsonian Godwit:				
11, 21	P.I., Nauset	3, 1	R. Forster, v.o.	
<u>Northern Phalarope:</u>				
8	Salisbury	1	R. Emery#	
Parasitic Jaeger:				
6, 15	Eastham, Barnstable	12+, 2	B. Nikula#, R. Pease#	
Jaeger: (sp.?)				
6	Eastham	7	R. Forster, W. Petersen	
Great Skua:				
12	Georges Bank	1	C. Scharf	
Glaucous Gull:				
1, 15	Mass. Bay, Eastham	1, 1	T. Lloyd-Evans, S. Higginbotham	
29	Manomet, Barnstable	1, 1	M. B. O. Staff, O. Kromer#	
29	Gloucester	1	G&H Champaux	
Iceland Gull:				
6-27	7 localities	9 individuals	v.o.	
27	E. Quabbin	1 imm.	F. Hamlen	
Gull: (sp.?)				
17	Wellfleet-Orleans	40,000+	W. Bailey#	
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull:</u>				
14	Wellfleet	1 ad.	B. Nikula, V. Saunders	
Black-headed Gull:				
7-27, 15	E. Boston, Eastham	4 ads., 1	R. Veit#, S. Higginbotham	
27-29	Newburyport	1 ad.	v.o.	
Laughing Gull:				
7, 27	Winthrop, Revere	85, 1	R. Stymeist#	

Little Gull:				
6,14	Eastham, Barnstable	1 ad., 1		W. Petersen#, R. Pease
25,29	Newburyport, Manomet	2 ad. & 2 imm., 1		R. Heil, T. Lloyd-Evans
<u>Sabine's Gull:</u> (excellent details received)				
18	Mass. Bay	1 imm.		T. Lloyd-Evans
Black-legged Kittiwake:				
6	Outer Cape	900+		W. Petersen & R. Forster
Common Tern:				
6,14	Provincetown	2,1		CCBC(J. Bryant), BBC(J. Bryant)
Razorbill:				
7,20	Rockport, Cape Ann	1,1		H. D'Entremont, L. Taylor#
21,26	Gloucester, P.I.	1,1		H. Ferris#, R. Forster
Common Murre:				
26	Provincetown	1		W. Bailey
Thick-billed Murre:				
6,11	Eastham, Provincetown & Nauset	2,1&1		W. Petersen, R. Veit
14-29	4 localities	8 individuals		v.o.
Dovekie:				
6;26	Eastham, Nantucket; Rockport	6,1;40-50		W. Petersen, C. Andrews; H. Weissberg
<u>Atlantic Puffin:</u>				
6	Eastham	1		W. Petersen
Barn Owl:				
26	Boston (Long Island)	1		R. Heil, M. Kasprzyk
Snowy Owl:				
4	Weston	1		Dr. Elliston
Long-eared Owl:				
thr.	So. Wellfleet (WBWS)	2		W. Bailey
Short-eared Owl:				
20	Salisbury	1		W. Scott#
Saw-whet Owl:				
14,17	Baldwinville, Boston	1,1		J. O'Regan, fide B. Litchfield
20-29	P.I.	1		v.o.
Red-bellied Woodpecker:				
14-30	Gloucester (E.P.)	1		FBC (R. Jenkins)
Red-headed Woodpecker:				
265	Quabbin Res.	1 m.		W. Byrne
14-20	Gloucester	1		S. Garrett & E. Pyburn & v.o.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:				
27	So. Wellfleet (WBWS)	1		W. Bailey
28	Vineyard Haven (M.V.)	1		fide M. Hancock
Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker:				
20	Gloucester	1		J. Nove#
Eastern Phoebe:				
7,16	Truro, Chilmark (M.V.)	1,1		F. Hamlen#, M. Hancock
Empidonax: (sp.?)				
7	Orleans	1		C. Goodrich & B. Nikula#
Horned Lark:				
21,28	Salisbury, Ipswich	160,200		BBC (P. Roberts), F. Marsh#
Tree Swallow:				
5,11,27	Lakeville, P.I., Bourne	2,2,1		W. Petersen, R. Forster, J. Flaherty
Barn Swallow:				
7	Orleans (North Beach)	2		B. Nikula#
Gray Jay:				
14-20	Dana	2		G&H Champoux & v.o.
Fish Crow:				
20	Brookline	3		A. Agush
House Wren:				
1-16,21	Lancaster, Melrose	1,1		H. Merriman, C. Jackson
28,29	W. Bridgewater, Falmouth	1,3		J. Flaherty, A. Clarke
Winter Wren:				
11&23,18	S. Peabody, Manomet	3&1,1 b.		R. Heil, M. B. O. Staff
26,28	Squantum, Vineyard Haven (M.V.)	1,1		M. Kasprzyk, M. Hancock
Long-billed Marsh Wren:				
12	Barnstable (S.N.)	1		B. Harrington#
Gray Catbird:				
15,21	Orleans, Braintree	1,1		S. Higginbotham, G. Wilson
Brown Thrasher:				
1,14-24	Falmouth, Chatham	1,1		A. Clarke, E. Fuller
15,25	Orleans, Gloucester	1,1		S. Higginbotham, H. Ferris

American Robin:			
7,11	Cambridge(Mt.A.),Peabody	80,150+	BBC(C.Marks),M.Kasprzyk
Varied Thrush:	(no details)		
11	Rockport	1	M.Arey
Wood Thrush:			
15	Orleans	1	S.Higginbotham
Hermit Thrush:			
thr.	23 localities	78 individuals	v.o.
Swainson's Thrush:			
	many reported - no details		
Eastern Bluebird:			
3,7	Nantucket,Sterling	2,8	E.Andrews,H.Merriman
13,15	Bridgewater,Fitchburg	3,2	W.Petersen#,J.O'Regan#
Ruby-crowned Kinglet:			
28	Marblehead,Waltham	1,1	M.Kasprzyk,R.Stymeist
Water Pipit:			
4,13	Manchester,Bridgewater	100,60	P.Parsons#,W.Petersen#
Northern Shrike:			
thr.	Outer Cape	7-8	v.o.
6,9	Truro,Sudbury	1,1	J.Bryant,K.Hamilton
12,29	Rockport,Concord(GMNWR)	1 b.,1	O.Norris,B.Terkanian
White-eyed Vireo:			
3	Wellfleet	1	B.Nikula
Black-and-white Warbler:			
25	Bridgewater	1	J.Flaherty
Tennessee Warbler:			
1	Sandwich	1	R.Pease
Orange-crowned Warbler:			
5,15	Sandwich,Orleans	1,1	R.Pease,S.Higginbotham
19,27-29	Barnstable,P.I.	1,2-1	J.Loughlin#,P.Miliotis#
Nashville Warbler:	(excellent details on Newton bird)		
15,30	Barnstable,Newton	1,1	R.Pease,F.Hamlen
Yellow-rumped Warbler:			
26	P.I.	100+	R.Forster
Blackpoll Warbler:			
1-15	8 localities	12 individuals	v.o.
25	Rochester,Barnstable	1,1	G.Mock,R.Pease
Pine Warbler:			
11	S.Peabody	4	R.Heil
Palm Warbler:			
20,21	Truro,Duxbury	1,1	F.Hamlen#,W.Petersen
Common Yellowthroat:			
23,28	S.Peabody,W.Bridgewater	1,1	K.Heil,J.Flaherty
Yellow-breasted Chat:			
4,20	Manomet,Barnstable	1 b.,1	M.B.O.Staff,R.Pease
Wilson's Warbler:			
14-21	Millis	1	S.Paine,J.Marshall
Eastern Meadowlark:			
7,8&20	Rowley,Framingham	32(together),15	R.Emery#,K.Hamilton
28	Ipswich	25	K.Marsh#
Yellow-headed Blackbird:			
20,22&23	Framingham,Nantucket	1 imm.,1	K.Hamilton,H.McHugh#
Red-winged Blackbird:			
25	Norwell	50+	M&B Litchfield
Northern Oriole:			
7 on	Middleboro	1-2	D.Briggs,C&W Corwin
12	Essex,Sudbury,P.I.	1,1,1	K.Tousey,R.Forster,J.Grugan
Rusty Blackbird:			
14,22	Truro,Nantucket	1,5	J.Bryant,G.Bachman
Brewer's Blackbird:			
14	Truro	1(from Oct.)	T.Lloyd-Evans
Common Grackle:			
6	W.Newbury	5000	M&A Argue
Rose-breasted Grosbeak:			
9-16,28	Scituate,N.Andover	1,1(injured)	L.Burbank,C.Kelleher
Dickcissel:			
thr.,5 on	Nantucket,Middleboro	1,1	E.Andrews,C&W Corwin
14-20,25&26	Abington,Beverly	1,1	E.Pearson,G.Soucy

Evening Grosbeak:			
5,16	Dover, Scituate	2,3	J. Marshall, L. Burbank
27,30	Byfield, Middleboro	26,50	T. Joyce, D. Briggs
House Finch:			
thr., 8	Middleboro, Framingham	30+, 25	D. Briggs, K. Hamilton
Pine Grosbeak:			
11,18	Wellfleet (WBWS), Manomet	2,1	W. Bailey, M. B. O. Staff
Pine Siskin:			
11,17	Nantucket	27,1 b.	E. Andrews
Red Crossbill:			
7,13	Eastham, P.I.	20,2	F. Hamlen#, BBC (P. Miliotis)
White-winged Crossbill:			
29	Rockport	4	R. Stone#
Rufous-sided Towhee:			
20-30	6 localities	7 individuals	v.o.
Savannah Sparrow:			
28	W. Bridgewater	75+	J. Flaherty
Grasshopper Sparrow:			
12,26	Sandwich, Newburyport	1,1	R. Pease, R. Forster
Seaside Sparrow:			
5	Barnstable	2	R. Pease
Vesper Sparrow:			
28	Clinton	1	H. Merriman
Dark-eyed Junco:			
2	Truro	750	N. Claflin#
Tree Sparrow:			
13	Concord (GMNWR)	35	BBC (D. Weaver)
Chipping Sparrow:			
15,25	Littleton, Rochester	1,3	J. Baird, G. Mock
<u>Clay-colored Sparrow:</u>			
2,7	Truro, P.I.	1,1	N. Claflin#, R. Emery#
White-crowned Sparrow:			
thr.	Groton	1	J. Broyles
White-throated Sparrow:			
thr.	Manomet	68 b.	M. B. O. Staff
Fox Sparrow:			
thr.	good flight		
Lincoln's Sparrow:			
20,27	Truro, Wellfleet	1,1	F. Hamlen#, C. Goodrich#
Swamp Sparrow:			
7,8	Everett, Framingham	40+, 120+	R. Stymeist#, K. Hamilton
Song Sparrow:			
8	Framingham	120+	K. Hamilton
Lapland Longspur:			
21	Salisbury	40	BBC (P. Roberts)
Snow Bunting:			
7,21	Truro, Nantucket	300, 100+	W. Petersen, B. Smith

Abbreviations

ad.	adult	FBC	Forbush Bird Club
b.	banded	SSBC	South Shore Bird Club
f.	female	GMNWR	Great Meadows Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge
imm.	immature	MBO	Manomet Bird Observatory
m.	male	WBWS	Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary
max.	maximum	A. Pt.	Andrews Point, Rockport
pr.	pair	E. P.	Eastern Point, Gloucester
thr.	throughout	M. V.	Martha's Vineyard
v.o.	various observers	Mt. A.	Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge
#	additional observers	P. I.	Plum Island
BBC	Brookline Bird Club	S. N.	Sandy Neck, Barnstable
CCBC	Cape Cod Bird Club		

BIRD OBSERVER SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER, 1976

This December was very cold, dry and sunny, with an average temperature of 29°, 4° below normal, making this the 4th consecutive month of comparatively severe weather. Although no temperature records were broken, the range was from 59° on the 7th to 6° on the 14th. The temperatures were low enough during the latter half of the month to freeze most bodies of fresh water by the time of the Christmas Count Period, Dec. 18th - Jan. 2nd. Rainfall totalled 3.35", .89" below normal, with the heaviest fall of 1.14" on the 7th. Snow accumulation totalled 17.2", over double the overall 7.9" average for December, but still 2" short of the 1975 total. The heaviest snowfall occurred on the 29th, when 11.3" fell, the heaviest accumulation for any 24 hour period since the 11.9" that fell Jan. 11th - 12th, 1976.

December 1976 was particularly characterized by a continuation of pelagic species abundance in coastal waters, a surprisingly high number of lingering species in light of the severe nature of the autumn's weather, a reduction in overall freshwater waterfowl concentrations, and a virtual absence of winter finches. Although all of the Christmas Counts were generally adversely affected by the low temperatures and heavy snow accumulations, Cape Cod, Nantucket and Greater Boston nevertheless managed to break individual records for species totals, with counts of 142, 116, and 109, respectively.

Following the renewed abundance of Cory's Shearwaters in local waters this fall, individuals of this species remained in Cape Cod Bay until mid-month, and a record on the 16th is the latest for local waters that the author is aware of. Double-crested Cormorants totalled 9 for the month, which is high compared to the totals for the last three years of 2, 2 and 1.

Topping the list of lingering species was a Green Heron recorded in Orleans on the Cape Cod CBC. The other most noteworthy lingerers were, in taxonomic order, Lesser Yellowlegs, White-rumped Sandpiper, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Eastern Phoebe, Wood Thrush, House Wren and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Waterfowl were generally present in lower than normal concentrations due to the lack of open fresh water in the interior, while on salt water, in addition to near-normal counts of the more common species, four Harlequin Ducks and four King Eiders were reported. Six Cooper's and five Goshawks were noted during the month; it is difficult indeed to draw any conclusions from these data regarding any trends in the two species' comparative abundance locally. Of two Gyrfalcons seen in December, one frequenting the Plum Island marshes was in the white phase, the predominant breeding form of Greenland. The second bird, recorded at Orleans, was in the more regular dark phase.

Clapper Rails occurred in close to normal numbers despite much freezing over of the coastal spartina marshes, and numerous shorebird species remained late into the month, including two Lesser Yellowlegs, a White-rumped Sandpiper, a probable Semipalmated Sandpiper [in records as *Calidris* (sp?), due to the vast difficulties in separating this from the Western Sandpiper, and to the relative unlikelihood of occurrence of the former species as compared to the latter], and 26 Red Phalaropes, all on the Outer Cape. Killdeer, a species normally quite susceptible to harsh weather, numbered 19 this December, (cf. 24, 42, 115+ for the last three years). Glaucous Gulls were slightly more numerous than usual, with 14 individuals reported, mostly south of their traditional center of abundance at Cape Ann. As Iceland Gulls typically do not arrive in numbers on the North Shore until the third week of January, a count of 20+ at Nantucket on the 31st is significant. Startling was the appearance for the second year running of an Ivory Gull in Massachusetts; on the 10th an immature was found at Annisquam, where it remained throughout the month. Plumage distinctions ruled out the possibility of the reappearance of last year's bird at Salisbury.

The greatest influx of Thick-billed Murres to ever reach Massachusetts began on the 16th - 18th, when 2300+ birds were counted in Rockport and 3000+ were counted in Cape Cod Bay. During the following weeks, Thick-billed Murres were reported from literally everywhere along the Massachusetts coast, from Plum Island to Nantucket, including at least 15 inland reports of disabled (though not oiled) birds from such inland localities as Concord and Billerica. Although a flight of this magnitude is unprecedented for Massachusetts waters, an analogous situation occurred in December, 1973, when an estimated 20,000 Thick-billed Murres were noted passing Brier Island, Nova Scotia, on the eastern shore of the Bay of Fundy. The species is particularly prone to irruptions, assumedly due to such density-dependent causes as localized failure in food supply. The grounding of a large oil tanker 25 miles southeast of Nantucket, and the consequential spillage of approximately 8 million

gallons of oil into the surrounding waters was directly responsible for, among other atrocities, the beaching of roughly 40 Common Murres on Nantucket. This suggests a distinctly pelagic winter distribution of Common Murre, considering that less than 1/3 this number of other species of alcids were recovered oiled in December. In contrast to the above, Dovekies were virtually absent throughout the fall.⁸ A report of 2 immature and 3 adult Puffins at Rockport on the 9th was bizarre.

This is clearly an "off" year for Snowy Owls, as only 2 individuals were found during the month. The Red-bellied Woodpecker in Gloucester continued throughout the month, and Red-headed Woodpeckers were found in North Billerica and Orleans.

From December's CBC totals of passerines, I have compiled comparative totals for Cardinal, Tufted Titmouse and Mockingbird and have found that, from this source of data, it seems that their population levels have reached a saturation point within Massachusetts, although Cardinal has shown a continuing slight increase with totals of 167, 178, 237, and 261 since 1973. Complete data were only available from the Cape Cod, Greater Boston and Quincy Counts.

A House Wren was recorded on the Greater Boston CBC, and Carolina Wrens totalled 18 on the Buzzards Bay Count, a high for the area. This may be the winter that finally halts their continued increase through the past years of mild winters. Cedar Waxwings hit an almost all-time low this winter; it will suffice to state that totals for the Buzzards Bay, Plymouth, Cape Cod and Quincy Counts were 1, 1, 13 and 20 respectively. An average flight of Northern Shrikes occurred, with 6 reported (cf. 4, 13, 5 totals since 1973). Numbers of lingering warbler species were below those of past years, which, again, can be directly attributed to the nature of the season's weather. However, Ovenbirds, which have now occurred annually in December since 1974, were recorded on two counts this year.

"Winter finches" were virtually absent this month, with the exception of scattered flocks of Evening Grosbeaks and four individual Red Crossbills. House Finches continue to increase, at the apparent expense of the Purple Finch population, as can be seen from the following table:

	1973	1974	1975	1976
Purple Finch	213	56	78	74
House Finch	669	473	823	716

(Data obtained from Quincy, Greater Boston and Cape Cod CBC's)

A Green-tailed Towhee frequented a feeder in Wenham for the duration of the month, where it was identifiably photographed for the record. Rufous-sided Towhees were particularly numerous during the month, and, although much data is lacking at the time of this writing, the totals from the Cape Cod and Plymouth Counts are indicative of the situation throughout our area. For the Cape, the totals for 1973-1976 are 3, 8, 3, 16 and for the Plymouth Count, 1975-1976, are 0, 36. Three Grasshopper Sparrows were reported, one as far north as Rockport, augmenting our suspicion that the species is a more regular bird in December in New England than previously believed. Abnormally low numbers of Tree Sparrows occurred on most counts, in contrast to the high numbers of Field Sparrows observed. Numerous observers commented upon the high ratio of Field:Tree Sparrows in feeding flocks, particularly on the coastal plain. Most significant was the very high numbers of White-throated Sparrows noted on CBCs north to Newburyport. Totals for this species for the Quincy, Greater Boston and Cape Cod Counts for 1972-1975 are 359, 314, 390 and 355, respectively. This year, in the same count circles, 1123 individual White-throated Sparrows were found, almost three times higher than the average for the area.

R.R.V.

Common Loon:			
19	Cape Cod	29	CBC
Red-throated Loon:			
19	Cape Cod	15	CBC
Horned Grebe:			
12,23	Barnstable,Plymouth	500+,273	R.Pease,CBC
Red-necked Grebe:			
16,23	Rockport,Plymouth	37,29	R.Veit#,CBC

Pied-billed Grebe:			
19	Eastham, Brewster	12, 26	Cape Cod CBC
Northern Fulmar:			
15, 18, 22	Nantucket Shoals	2, 1, 2	J. Loughlin
<u>Cory's Shearwater:</u>			
4, 15	Barnstable (S.N.)	6, 1	W. Petersen, R. Pease
16	Barnstable (S.N.)	1	R. Pease
Gannet:			
15, 19	Nantucket Shoals, Cape Cod	37, 53	J. Loughlin, CBC
28	Boston (2 mi. from ocean)	1	D. Horn
Great Cormorant:			
18	Quincy	156	CBC
Double-crested Cormorant:			
thr., 1-5	Provincetown, Lakeville	1-2, 1	v.o., J. Flaherty#
18, 19	Buzzards Bay, Boston	1, 2	CBC, CBC
19	Chatham, Orleans	1, 1	V. Laux, C. Goodrich
16, 21	Rockport, Sandwich	1, 1	R. Veit, R. Pease
Great Blue Heron:			
19	Cape Cod	106	CBC
<u>Green Heron:</u>			
19	East Orleans	1	C. Goodrich, J. Harris, W.W. Harrington
Little Blue Heron:			
1	Barnstable	1	R. Pease
Snowy Egret:			
18	Buzzards Bay, N. Falmouth	1, 3	W. Petersen#, R. Veit#
Black-crowned Night Heron:			
8, 19	Nahant, Cape Cod	30, 34	N. Karl, CBC
American Bittern:			
5, 19	E. Boston, Cape Cod	1, 5	R. Stymeist, CBC
Canada Goose:			
15, 19	Lincoln, Cape Cod	1000-1500, 3552	P. Cochis, CBC
American Brant:			
18, 19	Wollaston, Cape Cod	273, 7487	CBC, CBC
Snow Goose:			
8, 11	Hyannisport, Clinton	1, 1	S. Swaabe, H. Merriman
17, 19	Lancaster, Orleans	1, 1	H. Merriman, CBC
Mallard:			
19	Greater Boston	1191	CBC
Black Duck:			
19	Boston, Cape Cod	1837, 4276	CBC, CBC
26	Newburyport	3700	CBC
Gadwall:			
19	Chatham, Orleans	1, 2	CBC
Pintail:			
11, 18	Newburyport, Quincy	1, 1	BBC (P. Alden), CBC
19	Barnstable, Greater Boston	26, 3	R. Pease, CBC
Green-winged Teal:			
19	Cape Cod	42	CBC
Blue-winged Teal:			
16, 19	Bridgewater, Sandwich	5, 1	J. Flaherty, R. Pease#
European Wigeon:			
thr., 26	Nantucket, Assonet	3, 2	E. Andrews#, CBC
American Wigeon:			
11, 19	Scituate, Orleans	12, 65	R. Veit, M. Litchfield; CBC
26	Belmont	12	BBC (R. C'ayton)
Northern Shoveler:			
31	Framingham	1	R. Forster
Wood Duck:			
19, 24	Brookline, Bridgewater	3, 6	CBC, J. Flaherty
Redhead:			
thr., 26	Eastham, Assonet	24, 300	v.o., CBC
Ring-necked Duck:			
19	Eastham	190	CBC
Canvasback:			
3, 19	Braintree, Cape Cod	50, 633	G. Wilson, CBC
26	Assonet	1200	CBC

Greater Scaup:			
18,19	Quincy, Revere-S. Boston	4570, 3304	CBC, CBC
Lesser Scaup:			
19	Chatham	58	CBC
Common Goldeneye:			
18,19	Quincy, Cape Cod	401, 1062	CBC, CBC
19	Greater Boston	694	CBC
Barrow's Goldeneye:			
6-14, 11	Chatham, Rockport	2, 1	B. Nikula#, P. Roberts#
19, 23	Chatham, Plymouth	4, 2	CBC, CBC
Bufflehead:			
18, 19	Quincy, Boston	478, 714	CBC, CBC
19	Cape Cod	1871	CBC
Oldsquaw:			
19	Cape Cod	125	CBC
Harlequin Duck:			
5, 26-30	No. Scituate, Magnolia	1 m.; 1 m., 3 f.	S. Higginbotham#, D. Butler#
Common Eider:			
18, 19	Quincy, Boston	4355, 3346	CBC, CBC
19	Cape Cod, Sandwich-Barnstable	3289, 2731	CBC, R. Pease#
King Eider:			
9-27, 18	Rockport, Quincy	1 f., 2	v.o., CBC
25	Marblehead	1 m.	R. Heil
White-winged Scoter:			
31	Nantucket Sound	4000+	R. Veit, M. Litchfield, A. Salzman
Surf Scoter:			
31	Nantucket Sound	500+	R. Veit, M. Litchfield
Black Scoter:			
31	Nantucket Sound	1500	R. Veit, M. Litchfield, A. Salzman
Ruddy Duck:			
19	Cape Cod	102	CBC
Hooded Merganser:			
1-5, 18	Lakeville, Quincy	7-8, 8	D. Briggs, J. Flaherty; CBC
19	Cape Cod	47	CBC
Common Merganser:			
19, 31	Cape Cod, Somerset	971, 226	CBC, W. Petersen#
Red-breasted Merganser:			
19	Cape Cod, Sandwich-Barnstable	2134, 406	CBC, R. Pease#
27	Kingston	300	I. Campbell
Goshawk:			
5, 18	Gloucester, Hingham	1, 1	G. Gove, CBC
19	Nauset, Charlestown	1 im., 1	CBC, R. Stymeist#
26	Athol	1	CBC
Sharp-shinned Hawk:			
4	Manchester, Middleboro	1, 1	H. Ferris, J. Flaherty#
18, 19	Quincy, Cape Cod	3, 11	CBC, CBC
19, 21	Boston, Norwell	1, 1	D. Brown, B. Litchfield
Cooper's Hawk:			
11, 17	Brookline, Sandwich	1, 1	M. Dickey#, R. Pease
18, 19	Nauset, Lancaster	1, 1	CBC, H. Merriman
Red-tailed Hawk:			
18, 19	Quincy, Boston	11, 20	CBC, CBC
Red-shouldered Hawk:			
12, 25-29	Easton, Bridgewater	1, 1 ad.	D. Clapp, J. Flaherty
Rough-legged Hawk:			
25, 28	Bridgewater, Newburyport	2, 3	L. Resmini, R. Veit
Marsh Hawk:			
19	Cape Cod, Sandwich	8, 21	CBC, R. Pease#
<u>Gyr Falcon:</u>			
15 on, 19	P. I., Orleans Beach	1 (white), 1 (dark)	R. Brophy#, CBC (C. Goodrich)
Merlin:			
19	Orleans Beach, Eastham	1, 1	CBC, CBC
19, 26	Barnstable, Cambridge	1, 1	R. Pease, T. Lawrence
American Kestrel:			
19	Cape Cod, Boston	32, 25	CBC, CBC

Ruffed Grouse:			
18	Quincy	4	CBC
Ring-necked Pheasant:			
19	Boston	121	CBC
Clapper Rail:			
18,19	Cohasset, Cape Cod	1,2	CBC, CBC
23	Plymouth	1	CBC(W.Petersen)
Virginia Rail:			
19,30	Sandwich-Barnstable, S. Peabody	4,7	R. Pease, R. Heil
Sora:			
1-19	Barnstable	1	R. Pease
American Coot:			
5,19	Lakeville, Eastham	210,250	BBC(Athearn), CBC
Killdeer:			
5-19	19 localities	19 individuals	v.o.
Black-bellied Plover:			
5,19	Winthrop, S. Boston	10,2	BBC(R. Stryeist), CBC
19	Orleans Beach	20	CBC
Ruddy Turnstone:			
5,11	Winthrop, N. Scituate	12,60	BBC(R. Stryeist), R. Veit#
American Woodcock:			
4-24	12 localities	13 individuals	v.o.
Common Snipe:			
4,19	S. Peabody, Boston	4,4	R. Heil, CBC
19	Chatham, Brewster	7,4	CBC
Greater Yellowlegs:			
19	Nauset	2	CBC
Lesser Yellowlegs:			
25-31	Eastham	2	D. MacNair#
Red Knot:			
19	Orleans, Revere	12,17	CBC, R. Veit#
Purple Sandpiper:			
11,18	No. Scituate, Quincy	800+, 235	W. Petersen#, CBC
19,24	Winthrop, Cape Ann	134, 200+	CBC, CBC
White-rumped Sandpiper:			
4	Nauset	1	B. Nikula, C. Goodrich
Dunlin:			
5,18	Revere, Quincy	550,573	BBC(R. Stryeist), CBC
19	Cape Cod	885	CBC
Calidris (sp?):			
19	Eastham	1	CBC(C. Goodrich#)
Sanderling:			
19	Revere, Cape Cod	575,1153	CBC, CBC
Red Phalarope:			
19	Eastham	26	CBC(W. Bailey, R. Emery)
Skua (sp?):			
15	Nantucket Shoals	2	J. Loughlin
Glaucous Gull:			
11,12	Cohasset, Eastham	1 im., 1	R. Veit#, W. Bailey
14,16	Manomet, Rockport	1,1	MBO staff, R. Veit
18	Natick, Squantum	2,1	E. Taylor, CBC
19,23	Cape Cod, Plymouth	3,1	CBC, CBC
30	Cape Ann	3	W. Petersen
Iceland Gull:			
31	Nantucket	20	R. Veit, M. Litchfield#
4-28	8 localities	24 individuals	v.o.
Great Black-backed Gull:			
18,19	Quincy, Cape Cod	1611,4669	CBC, CBC
Herring Gull:			
18,19	Quincy, Cape Cod	14450,18465	CBC, CBC
Ring-billed Gull:			
18,19	Quincy, Cape Cod	378,693	CBC, CBC
19	Boston	215	CBC

Black-headed Gull:			
thr.,12	E. Boston, Provincetown	1-5,1	v.o., W. Bailey
18,19	Quincy, Nauset	8,1	CBC, CBC
19,28	Cape Ann, Newburyport	1,1	CBC, R. Veit#
31	Nantucket	1 ad.	R. Veit#
Laughing Gull:			
19	Chatham	1	CBC
Bonaparte's Gull:			
10	Nantucket, Scituate	2500+, 400	E. Andrews#, R. Veit
18,19	Quincy, Cape Cod	190,103	CBC, CBC
Little Gull:			
10,31	Nantucket	1 ad., 2 im.	E. Andrews; R. Veit, M. Litchfield
Ivory Gull:			
10 on	Rockport	1 im.	J. Grugan, L. Crofoot, R. Veit, M. Litchfield#
Black-legged Kittiwake:			
19,27	Cape Cod, Eastham	2382, 60	CBC, W. Bailey
Razorbill:			
16,23	Rockport, Plymouth	185+, 21	R. Veit, CBC
Common Murre:			
6-17	Provincetown	3-4	W. Bailey#
18,23	Eastham, S. Wellfleet	1,2 oiled	W. Bailey
Thick-billed Murre:			
16,17	Rockport	450+, 2300+	R. Veit; R. Veit, M. Litchfield
18	Eastham, Quincy	3000+, 51	C. Goodrich#, CBC
19	Boston, Cape Cod	108, 900+	CBC, CBC
23	Plymouth	160	CBC
Dovekie:			
18,19	Quincy, Boston	2,5	CBC, CBC
24	Rockport	140	R. Heil
Black Guillemot:			
thr.	Rockport	10	R. Veit, M. Kasprzyk#
27	Barnstable	1	R. Pease
Common Puffin:			
9,11	Rockport	5,2	H. Weissberg, P. Roberts
Rose-ringed Parakeet (escape):			
23	Plymouth	2	CBC
Mourning Dove:			
18,19	Quincy, Cape Cod	171,574	CBC, CBC
Barn Owl:			
12,18	Boston (Long Is.), Milton	1,1	F. Morrissey#, CBC
Screech Owl:			
19	Boston, Cape Cod	10,1	CBC, CBC
Great Horned Owl:			
4,18	Concord, Quincy	3,2	M. Litchfield#, CBC
19	Boston, Cape Cod	7,10	CBC, CBC
Snowy Owl:			
18,19	Squantum	1	D. Brown#
30	Lexington	1	R. Cowdrey
Barred Owl:			
3-27,5	Cambridge, Groton	1,1	J. Orlen#, J. Broyles
Long-eared Owl:			
4,19	S. Peabody, Sandwich	1,1	R. Heil, R. Pease
25,29	Middleboro, Eastham	1,1	D. Briggs, D. MacNair
Short-eared Owl:			
18,19	Squantum	2	CBC
Saw-whet Owl:			
23,29	Eastham, Wellfleet	1,1	D. McNair, W. Bailey#
Belted Kingfisher:			
18,19	Quincy, Cape Cod	5,34	CBC, CBC
Common Flicker:			
18,19	Quincy, Cape Cod	14,118	CBC, CBC
Red-bellied Woodpecker:			
thr.,22	Gloucester, Hingham	1,1	v.o., M. Hall
Red-headed Woodpecker:			
8,15	N. Billerica, Orleans	1,1	M. Albert, C. Goodrich

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:			
15,19	Lancaster, Orleans	1,1	H. Merriman, CBC
Hairy Woodpecker:			
18,19	Quincy, Boston	10,17	CBC, CBC
Downy Woodpecker:			
18,19	Quincy, Boston	51,153	CBC, CBC
Eastern Phoebe:			
4-28	Wellfleet	2-1	fide B. Nikula
18	Natick	1	CBC
Horned Lark:			
19	Greater Boston, Cape Cod	84,412	CBC, CBC
26	Ipswich	180	CBC
Gray Jay:			
23-24	Byfield	1	fide R. Stymeist
Blue Jay:			
18,19	Quincy; Boston, Cape Cod	202; 475,468	CBC, CBC, CBC
23,26	Plymouth; Athol, Newburyport	996; 450,354	CBC, CBC, CBC
Common Crow:			
18,19	Quincy, Boston	423,536	CBC, CBC
Fish Crow:			
18,19	Natick, Boston	50,3	E. Taylor, CBC
Black-capped Chickadee:			
18,19	Quincy; Boston, Cape Cod	319; 755,912	CBC, CBC, CBC
26	Athol, Newburyport	329,199	CBC, CBC
Tufted Titmouse:			
18,19	Quincy; Boston, Cape Cod	108; 121,10	CBC, CBC, CBC
White-breasted Nuthatch:			
18,19	Quincy, Boston	27,103	CBC, CBC
Red-breasted Nuthatch:			
18,19	Quincy; Boston, Cape Cod	2; 23,8	CBC, CBC, CBC
26	Athol, Newburyport	5,5	CBC, CBC
Brown Creeper:			
19	Boston	22	CBC
House Wren:			
19	Winthrop	1	CBC (R. Veit#)
Winter Wren:			
4,10-31	S. Peabody, Lancaster	1,2+	R. Heil, H. Merriman
14	Norwell, Acton	1,1	B. Litchfield, J. Putnam
19	Boston, Cape Cod	3,1	CBC, CBC
Carolina Wren:			
18	Buzzards Bay	18	CBC
Long-billed Marsh Wren:			
19,23	Barnstable, Plymouth	5,1	R. Pease, W. Petersen
Mockingbird:			
18,19	Quincy; Boston, Cape Cod	44; 89,142	CBC, CBC, CBC
Gray Catbird:			
3-17,15	Lancaster, Cape Ann	1,1	H. Merriman, P. Butler#
19,30	Cape Cod, Peabody	9,1	CBC, M. Kasprzyk
Brown Thrasher:			
19	Boston, Cape Cod	2,3	CBC, CBC
American Robin:			
19	Boston, Quincy	355,960	CBC, CBC
Wood Thrush:			
3	Milton	1 dead	S. Wachman
Hermit Thrush:			
19	Boston, Cape Cod	10,18	CBC, CBC
27	Boston, Sherborn	1,1	I. Giriuinas, T. Warren
Eastern Bluebird:			
19,23	Sandwich, Plymouth	3,2	R. Pease, CBC
Golden-crowned Kinglet:			
26	Athol, Newburyport	34,20	CBC, CBC
Ruby-crowned Kinglet:			
19	Boston, Cape Cod	1,1	CBC, CBC
Water Pipit:			
5,10	Lancaster, Scituate	1,6	H. Merriman, J. Flaherty
19	Boston, Cape Cod	6,9	CBC, CBC

Cedar Waxwing:			
18,19	Quincy,Cape Cod	20,13	CBC,CBC
Northern Shrike:			
5	Carlisle,Gloucester	1,1	K.Harte,H.Wiggin#
16,19	Bridgewater,Sandwich	1,1	J.Flaherty,R.Pease
26,28	Athol,P.I.	1,1	CBC,R.Veit#
Starling:			
19	Boston	85000	CBC
Orange-crowned Warbler:			
19	Cape Cod	2	CBC
Yellow-rumped Warbler:			
12,19	Scusset Beach,Cape Cod	250+,920	W.Petersen,CBC
Pine Warbler:			
19,23	Cape Cod,Plymouth	1,1	CBC,CBC
Palm Warbler:			
19	Sandwich,Cape Cod	1,3	J.Clancy,CBC
Ovenbird:			
18,19	Worcester,Cape Cod	1,1	CBC,CBC
Common Yellowthroat:			
19	Boston,Cape Cod	1,4	CBC,CBC
Yellow-breasted Chat:			
18,19	Buzzard's Bay,Cape Cod	2,3	CBC,CBC
26	W.Newbury	1	CBC
18,19	Worcester,Cape Cod	1,1	CBC,CBC
Common Yellowthroat:			
19	Boston,Cape Cod	1,4	CBC,CBC
Yellow-breasted Chat:			
18,19	Buzzard's Bay,Cape Cod	2,3	CBC,CBC
26	W.Newbury	1	CBC
Eastern Meadowlark:			
19	Sandwich,Cape Cod	14,208	R.Pease,CBC
Redwinged Blackbird:			
thr.	Middleboro	150+	D.Briggs
Northern Oriole:			
19,24	Cape Cod,Framingham	2,1	CBC,A.Follin
Rusty Blackbird:			
thr.,4	Middleboro,S.Peabody	1,1	D.Elkin,R.Heil
16	Orleans	20	C.Goodrich
Common Grackle:			
thr.,19	Orleans,Sandwich	1000,150+	fide B.Nikula,R.Pease
Brown-headed Cowbird:			
thr.,18	Middleboro,Quincy	130+,33	D.Briggs#,CBC
26	Athol,Newburyport	70,261	CBC,CBC
Cardinal:			
18,19	Quincy;Boston,Cape Cod	51;108,126	CBC,CBC,CBC
26	Athol,Newburyport	35,48	CBC,CBC
Rose-breasted Grosbeak:			
19 on	Hudson	1 f.	S.Ford
Dickcissel:			
thr.,5-13	Middleboro,Scituate	1,1	C.Corwin,L.Burbank
11,15	Marshfield,Rockport	1,1	W.Harrington,O.Norris
Evening Grosbeak:			
thr.	Middleboro,Lakeville	60+,50-60	D.Briggs#
26	Athol,Newburyport	1387,158	CBC,CBC
Purple Finch:			
18,19	Quincy;Boston,Cape Cod	15;16,27	CBC,CBC,CBC
26	Athol,Newburyport	4,22	CBC,CBC
House Finch:			
18,19	Quincy;Boston,Cape Cod	127;226,540	CBC,CBC,CBC
31	Lancaster(first record)	?	H.Merriman
Pine Siskin:			
10,19	S.Wellfleet,Melrose	3,4	W.Bailey,CBC
20 on	Middleboro	6-12	D.Briggs
American Goldfinch:			
19	Boston,Cape Cod	420,290	CBC,CBC
26	Athol,Newburyport	236,322	CBC,CBC

Red Crossbill:			
4,11	Rockport, Brookline	1,1	H. Ferris, M. Dickey
19	Eastham	3	CBC
Green-tailed Towhee:			
26	Wenham	1	CBC (Mrs. Whipple#)
Rufous-sided Towhee:			
19,23	Cape Cod, Plymouth	16,36	CBC, CBC
28	Millis	5	J. Marshall
Savannah Sparrow:			
19	Cape Cod	37	CBC
Grasshopper Sparrow:			
24,25-29	Rockport, Wellfleet	1,2	R. Heil, M. Kasprzyk; D. McNair
Sharp-tailed Sparrow:			
19	Nauset, Eastham	3,1	CBC, CBC
19	Sandwich-Barnstable	1	R. Pease#
Seaside Sparrow:			
19	Nauset	10	CBC
Dark-eyed Junco:			
18,19	Quincy, Boston	388,799	CBC, CBC
26	Athol	627	CBC
Tree Sparrow:			
18,19	Quincy, Boston	120,242	CBC, CBC
19,26	Cape Cod, Newburyport	6 (low), 207	CBC, CBC
Chipping Sparrow:			
17,19	Lancaster, Sandwich	1,2	H. Merriman, R. Pease#
19,26	Orleans Beach, Littleton	2,1 im.	CBC, J. Baird
26	W. Newbury	1	CBC (R. Stymeist#)
Field Sparrow:			
18,19	Quincy, Boston	14,31	CBC, CBC
19,23	Cape Cod, Lancaster	21,20	CBC, H. Merriman
White-crowned Sparrow:			
14-21,19	Groton, Waltham	3,1	K. Janes, J. Broyle; J. Hines
19	Chatham, Manchester	3,1	CBC, BBC (G. Hotz)
23,26	Plymouth, Wayland	1,1	CBC, H. Parker
26	Athol	1	CBC
White-throated Sparrow:			
18,19	Quincy, Boston	166,472	CBC, CBC
19,26	Cape Cod, Athol	485,118	CBC, CBC
Fox Sparrow:			
18,19	Quincy, Boston	7,28	CBC, CBC
19	Cape Cod	12	CBC
Swamp Sparrow:			
18,19	Quincy, Boston	18,55	CBC, CBC
19	Cape Cod	56	CBC
Song Sparrow:			
19	Boston, Cape Cod	345,268	CBC, CBC
Snow Bunting:			
5,18	Concord, Hanover	300,70	H. Ferris, CBC



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Corrigenda

August, 1976 records

Alder Flycatcher:
26 Bolton 3+ H.Merriman

should read:

Willow Flycatcher:
26 Bolton 3+ H.Merriman

September, 1976 records

Say's Phoebe:
6 Monomoy 1 W.Bailey

should read:

Say's Phoebe:
6 Monomoy 1 W.Bailey

October, 1976 records

Ruddy Duck:
17,23 Cambridge,Wakefield 49,200+ BBC(Barton),W.Petersen

should read:

Ruddy Duck:
17 23 Cambridge,Lakeville 49,200+ BBC(Barton),W.Petersen

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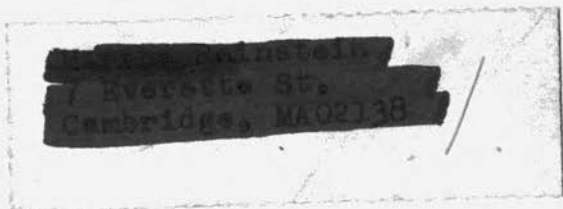
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