

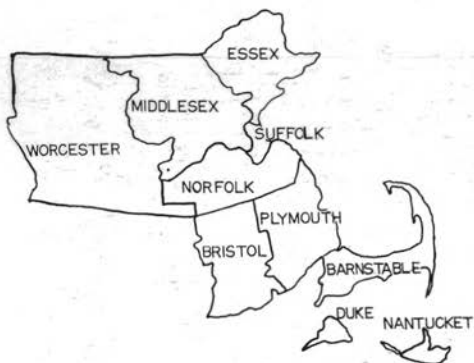
BIRD OBSERVER

OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS



VOL. 5 NO. 6
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EDITOR'S PAGE

MEMO FROM THE EDITORIAL STAFF

During the past five years Bird Observer has established itself as the principal source of ornithological records for eastern Massachusetts. To conserve space and to avoid an increase in the subscription rate, the long-established tabular format for monthly records was changed in the March-April, 1977, issue to a verbal summary (in this same issue the size of the type was increased to improve readability). This new format for the records also permits the compilers to add many comments concerning the relevance of reported sightings.

Beginning in 1978, a seasonal rather than monthly summary will be published; this format has been used successfully for decades by American Birds, the nation's leading journal of field ornithology. This latest modification of the records will further allow the compilers to assess meaningful trends in observers' reports and to avoid the inclusion of marginal sightings.

Thus, only four issues of Bird Observer each year will contain records; of course, each bi-monthly issue will continue to carry a where-to-go article. For the remaining two issues it is planned to stress particular topics of broad interest, such as breeding-bird surveys, species accounts, and other items that have been a traditional part of Bird Observer.

To reflect better the scope of Bird Observer, a new cover design has been adopted and will first grace the January-February, 1978, issue. Drawn especially for Bird Observer by a well-known professional artist, it was selected after an extensive competition in which about a dozen high-quality sketches were submitted.

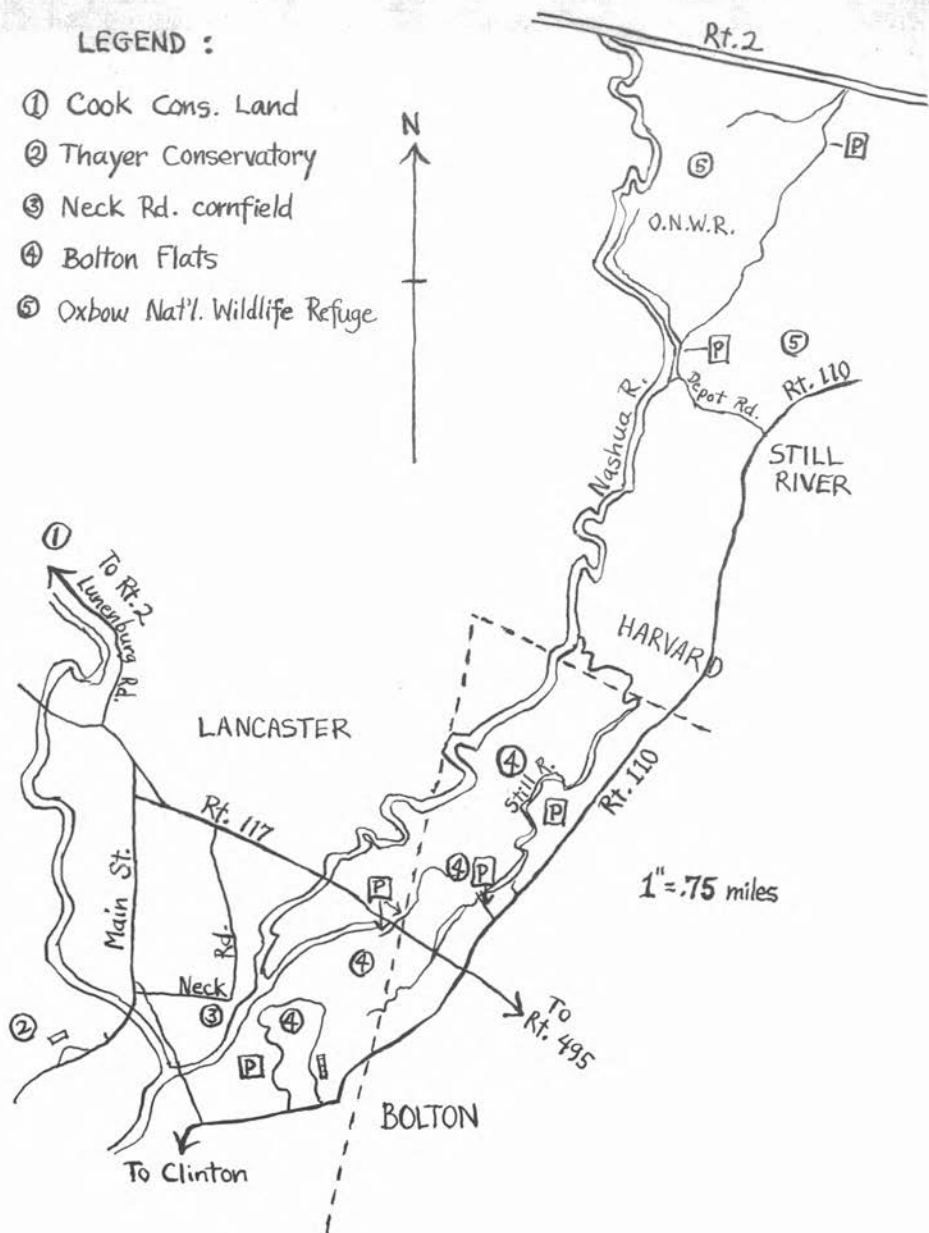
As always, Bird Observer is pleased to receive well-prepared material on topics relevant to field ornithology. Also, suggestions concerning the scope and content of the magazine are welcome. Bird Observer exists to serve the birding community of eastern Massachusetts; thus, readership participation is not only desired, it is essential.

The editorial staff hopes that in 1978 you will enjoy the new cover, the new records format, and the new content of Bird Observer. We also hope that you will tell your birding friends about the magazine and continue to give it your support. Massachusetts is one of the most heavily birded areas in the United States; it deserves a journal that reflects that exceptional interest in birds. That is our goal; we hope that it will be yours too!

WANTED: Bausch and Lomb Balscope, by enthusiastic young birders. Reasonable price. Contact: Rikki Fowler (or Rick Austin), 661-0847 after 5:30 P.M. or write 79 Harvey Street, Cambridge, Mass. 02140.

LEGEND :

- ① Cook Cons. Land
- ② Thayer Conservatory
- ③ Neck Rd. cornfield
- ④ Bolton Flats
- ⑤ Oxbow Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge



FALL AND WINTER BIRDS IN THE LANCASTER AREA

by Harold L. Merriman, Lancaster

There are many natural "hot spots" like Plum Island, Monomoy, and Mt. Auburn Cemetery that provide the birder with chances of seeing rare stragglers. But many other less frequented places can be very profitable also.

Lancaster, the oldest town in Worcester County, is situated in the valley of the slow-moving Nashua River, which during rainy weather floods the low-lying fields adjoining it. This attracts many species of water birds that do not regularly occur inland. The Lancaster region offers about the best birding in Worcester County. Personally, I have identified over 230 different species in the last five years, with other birders seeing others. There are a few birds quite common around Lancaster that are rarer near the coast--Wood Duck, Ruffed Grouse, American Woodcock, Solitary Sandpiper, Great-horned and Barred Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, and Rusty Blackbird.

Cook Conservation Land

The newly established Cook Conservation Land is located in Lancaster along Lunenburg Road, two miles from Route 2. It lies on the western side of the road near the power lines. The 400 acres should be good for Ruffed Grouse and Great-horned Owl. The northern branch of the Nashua River flows through part of the land.

Thayer Conservatory

The old Thayer mansion, now the Thayer Conservatory of Music, provides a picturesque link with the past. John E. Thayer, one of the many members of the Thayer family that grew up in the mansion, was an active ornithologist who studied the Lancaster area as well as many parts of the world. A sample of his enormous collection was housed for many years at a bird museum in Lancaster but was moved in 1973 to the Worcester Science Museum. In the town library one may find Thayer's bird notes and his rare book collection, which includes one of the few complete extant *Elephant Folios* by Audubon.

The expanses behind the Conservatory and along the Nashua River are especially good for Pileated Woodpecker. The best time to observe this bird is in the early morning or late evening. Also behind the Conservatory are cornfields belonging to Atlantic Union College. When they are flooded in the fall, shorebirds and other open-field birds may be found. One day in September, Osprey, three species of falcon, and nine species of shorebirds appeared. Before hunting season the pond attracts Wood Duck (breeders) and American Bittern. The thickets along the Nashua River should be scoured for warblers and sparrows. Lincoln's Sparrow is frequently seen. Northern Shrikes are sometimes observed perched on the trees or wire fences. The wooded swamp behind the farm is excellent for Rusty Blackbird, which infrequently will number as high as 100. (Caution--boots should be worn when the cornfields are flooded.)

In the winter this location is excellent for holdovers. A small sewer

swamp, located behind 400 Main Street just past the Conservatory, usually holds many traditional wintering birds. Species found last winter include Common Snipe, Belted Kingfisher, Winter Wren, Lincoln's Sparrow (rare), and Swamp Sparrow. Along a path over an underground steam pipe, a Chipping Sparrow spent the winter of 1976-77. This pipe runs from the corner of George Hill Road and Main Street to the Conservatory. Other birds that have been seen along the pipeline path or in the vicinity of the mansion include Hermit Thrush and Gray Catbird. Even a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker passed through in December.

Neck Road Cornfield

Between Neck Road and the Nashua River is a cornfield that is well worth investigating, I have birded there only one fall and have already seen a flock of 17 Golden Plover and a Buff-breasted Sandpiper in October. This field also harbors inland shorebirds like Common Snipe, Pectoral Sandpiper, and Dunlin. The many dead trees provide excellent perches for Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel and an occasional Merlin.

Bolton Flats

The best-known locale for birds in the Lancaster area is Bolton Flats. This is where the Purple Gallinule, which was discovered on July 4, 1976, spent a few weeks. The flats have recently been purchased by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife which has installed several parking lots, as indicated on the map. The fields are very popular during the hunting season, so caution is necessary when walking. The best time to visit is Sunday, when hunting is prohibited.

Strangely, spring is the best season, with many species of ducks and shorebirds present. (See the article on the Bolton-Lancaster flats by B. Blodgett in Bird Observer Vol. 2, No. 3.) The most popular and productive access point is along Route 117 beside the Lancaster-Bolton town line. Woodpeckers, blackbirds, and sparrows are to be found in the meadows south of Route 117.

In the fall, the cornfields and marsh should be searched thoroughly since almost any feathered creature is possible. The most recent unusual bird was a grey-phase Gyrfalcon sighted in December, 1977. Species that regularly occur in the cornfields and marsh include American Bittern, Wood Duck, Hooded Merganser, Marsh Hawk, Common Snipe, Solitary Sandpiper, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Horned Lark, Water Pipit, Rusty Blackbird, and Snow Bunting. Longspurs also occur in mixed flocks of larks and buntings.

The grassy edges bordering the cornfields are exceptional for the numbers of sparrows. Vesper Sparrows are sometimes detected near the gravel pit. The numerous dead trees at Bolton Flats furnish excellent perches for accipiters, Osprey, Peregrine Falcon and Merlin. One should be on the lookout for Short-eared Owl and Pileated Woodpecker.

Winter birding doesn't yield many species, especially if the fields are buried with snow, though occasionally Rough-legged Hawk, Snow Bunting, or Eastern Meadowlark can be discovered. Because of plentiful fields with dead trees, the entire Bolton-Lancaster area supplies choice habitat

for Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Great-horned Owl and Hairy Woodpecker.

Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge

Probably the least known birding spot is the Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge located in Fort Devens. To reach the refuge take Route 110 to the Still River Post Office (in Harvard), and proceed down Depot Road. Take a right after the railroad tracks on the dirt road and park along the river. The U.S. Army is not fighting a battle against birders, even though a few jeeps travel the dirt road. Since the refuge isn't well-known, it has been birded infrequently. The ONWR has potential and has already proved to attract many landbirds, especially Rusty Blackbirds and finches. (Unusual spring migrants include Worm-eating and Brewster's Warblers, while Yellow-throated Vireos breed.) Great-horned Owl and Wood Duck are regular along the Nashua. Connecticut Warbler has been spotted among the other species of warblers. A bicycle will come in handy while combing the many trails.

The Lancaster area affords interesting birding along with scenic countryside. If you are tired of the crowded coastal spots, you will enjoy Lancaster.

PELAGIC TRIP TO CONTINENTAL SHELF PLANNED

A pelagic birding trip is planned by the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs for Saturday, May 20. This should provide some spectacular birding. About 90 miles south of Montauk lies the continental shelf with its "canyons" leading down into the depths. The waters above the shelf have an abundant food supply attractive to a wide variety of marine mammals and birds.

The boat will be Captain Forsberg's sturdy 102-foot "Viking Star" which has a heated cabin and a large number of foam-cushioned bunks and reclining seats. The distance makes a midnight departure necessary with return in the evening. Cost of the trip will be \$26.00. The trip is limited to 70 participants.

The May 20 trip will be at the height of the spring offshore pelagic bird movement and the list may include Fulmar, Manx, Greater, Cory's and Sooty Shearwaters, Wilson's and Leach's Storm Petrels, Gannet, Red and Northern Phalarope, Skua, all three jaegers and Arctic Tern.

For further information regarding the trip write to Stephen Dempsey, 533 Chestnut Street, West Hempstead, New York 11552, or to Barbara Spencer, 154 Dayton Street, Sea Cliff, New York 11579. Or you can phone Tom Davis in evenings at (212) 847-0860.

For reservations mail your check payable to "Federation of NYS Bird Clubs, Inc." to Barbara Spencer (address as above). Be sure to indicate that it is for the May 20th trip and give the names of all persons the check is paying for. Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your check so a receipt, directions to the boat, list of accommodations at Montauk, and other information may be sent to you.

A SIGHT RECORD OF THE LARK BUNTING
AND ITS HISTORICAL OCCURRENCE IN MASSACHUSETTS

by Richard S. Heil, Peabody

On September 19, 1977, I was birding in South Peabody near Sidneys' Pond in the vicinity of an industrial dump operated by the Eastman Gelatin Company. The area is characterized by extensive grassy fields, brushy borders, and abundant growths of ragweed. It is located approximately three miles inland from Salem Harbor. Weather conditions during the period of observation were cloudy with light west to southwest winds and a temperature of about 21°C. The time was approximately 6:00 P.M.

While traversing a dirt road within the dump area, I came upon a small flock of birds feeding among the ragweed along the roadside. The flock was comprised of Savannah Sparrows (Passerculus sandwichensis), Field Sparrows (Spizella pusilla), Song Sparrows (Melospiza melodia), and several House Finches (Carpodacus mexicanus).

As I flushed groups of sparrows out of the weeds, most would land on the chain link fence bordering the road, which allowed for good observation. One bird which was flushed from the ragweed was noticeably larger than the other sparrows, and when it landed on the top of the fence about 20 feet away, I noted the following details through 8 X 40 binoculars: the size was easily larger than a House Sparrow (Passer domesticus). The bill was heavy and conical and blue-grey in color. The throat was white with a dark malar stripe. The brown cheeks were set off by a light superciliary and a noticeable thin, white eye ring. The underparts were heavily, but sharply, streaked with brown and showed a dark brown smudge in the center of the breast. The wings were dark brown with a large buffy wingpatch. The outer tail feathers were very thinly edged with white on an otherwise dark brown tail.

After viewing the bird for about two minutes, it flew into a nearby group of bushes. At that time I concluded that the bird I had just seen was a basic (winter) plumaged Lark Bunting (Calamospiza melanocorys). The bird remained until September 23, being viewed by many observers on the subsequent days.

To help update the record, the following list of fall Massachusetts Lark Bunting records since 1949, is included. Records were kindly provided by Richard Forster.

Sept. 3, 1949	Nauset	(R. Mason)
Sept. 1, 1957	Nauset	(R. Mason)
Sept. 1, 1965	Monomoy	(R. Forster, J. Rhome)
Oct. 30-31, 1965	Plum Island	(R. Eldred, W. Petersen)
Aug. 26, 1968	Monomoy	(J. Baird)
July 10, 1969	Chatham	(H. Copeland)
Sept. 1, 1969	Rockport	(L. Jodrey)
Sept. 4-5, 1970	Nauset	(W. Petersen, C. Goodrich)
Sept. 6, 1970	Monomoy	(R. A. F., R. Jenkins)
Sept. 20, 1970	Monomoy	(R. A. F., and tour)
Sept. 22, 1970	Chatham	(R. A. F.)

Sept. 28, 1974	S. Wellfleet	(R. Jenkins)
Aug. 28, 1975	Plum Island	(W. Drummond)
Sept. 19-23, 1977	S. Peabody	(R. Heil)

There are also two recent spring records, both of adult males in alternate (breeding) plumage:

May 18-21, 1969	Marshfield	(V.O.)
June 2, 1971	Newbury	(J. Kenneally)



Lark Bunting: Photographed by Richard A. Forster at Nauset, Sept., 1970

As can be observed from the records, the typical areas where stray Lark Buntings occur are at the coastal landbird traps; in particular on barrier beaches, especially on Cape Cod. They should also be expected to eventually be recorded on Nantucket or Martha's Vineyard. New England birders have long realized the importance of coastal landbird traps in consistently producing western rarities in the fall, and this point was never better summarized than by Davis Finch in the March 1977 issue of American Birds (Vol. 31 (2): 225).

The South Peabody sighting, being about three miles inland, is the only fall state record away from the immediate coast. What is more unusual is that the South Peabody bird lingered for five days in an area where there were no physical barriers, such as the ocean, to prevent it from leaving, despite a northwesterly wind during part of the time it was present. The Lark Bunting's fondness for the area was possibly due to an abundance of its favored food, grasshoppers, as well as an extensive area of suitable habitat.

The Lark Bunting breeds in short and tall grass prairies, and cultivated clover fields, from s. British Columbia, s. Saskatchewan, and s.w. Manitoba in the north; south to c. New Mexico, the Texas panhandle, and w. Oklahoma; and in the west locally from Idaho, Utah, Wyoming east to w. Minnesota, e. Nebraska, and c. Kansas. Peculiar to the Lark Bunting are its irruptive eastward range extensions which manifest themselves when the birds become common one year in an area where they were non-existent

for perhaps several previous seasons. For example, in 1964 there was an amazing increase in numbers, and an eastward range extension of the Lark Bunting in the Northern Great Plains Region. This was combined with a relative scarcity in areas further west. In 1965, however, Lark Buntings failed to return to the same areas where they had bred the year before, but were termed abundant further west, although some also appeared east of their normal range in Oklahoma (Bagg 1965).

It would seem likely that in those breeding seasons when there is an eastward range extension, that fall vagrants would be more likely to occur in fall on the east coast. However, large weather fronts sweeping eastward across the plains and eventually reaching the east coast with accompanying westerly winds may be a more important factor. At any rate, in the fall of 1969 and 1970 there were 2 and 2-3 Lark Bunting records, respectively, in Massachusetts. The previous breeding seasons did see an eastward range extension on the plains. In c. Kansas numbers were termed ten times greater than normal, and several new breeding colonies were discovered on the eastern edge of the species' range in w. Missouri.

It seems curious that since 1970 there have been only three additional records, despite an increase of observers concentrating their efforts on coastal localities. The 1974-1976 breeding seasons on the plains saw no eastward range extensions, with normal numbers being recorded in the interior of the Lark Bunting's range. This may be a factor explaining the recent absence of Lark Bunting records in Massachusetts since 1970.

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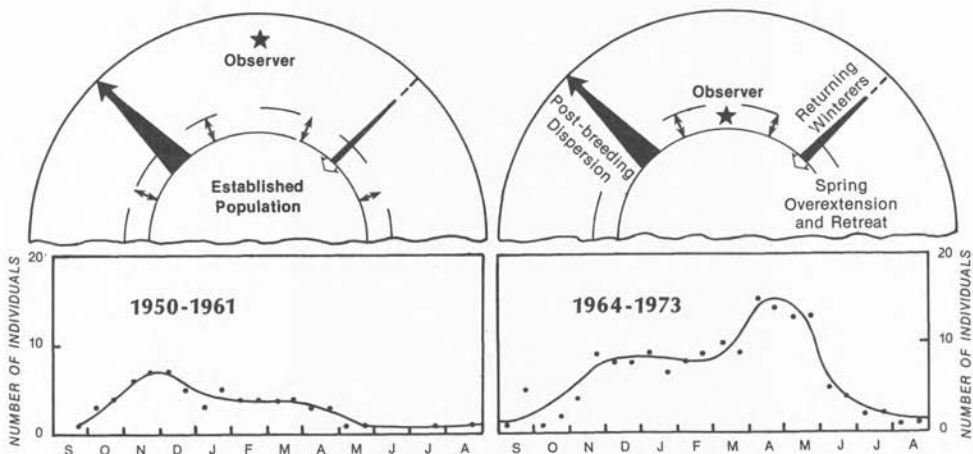
THE RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER IN MASSACHUSETTS---
A CASE HISTORY OF RANGE EXPANSION

by Leif J. Robinson, Wellesley

The first nesting of Red-bellied Woodpeckers (*Centurus carolinus*) in Massachusetts was confirmed in 1977 (Forster and Robinson, 1977), thus establishing the northeastern limit of this species' known breeding range. The legacy of bird-study in this commonwealth permits an evaluation of how the status of Red-bellied Woodpeckers changed in Massachusetts during more than a century.

RECENT HISTORY IN THE NORTHEAST: Bent (1939) reported that the Red-bellied Woodpecker "enjoys a wide distribution throughout much of the eastern half of the United States, except the most northern and northeastern States." The northeastern limit of its known breeding range was cited as southeastern Ontario, western New York state, southern Pennsylvania, and eastern Maryland.

Bull (1964) summarized the status of Red-bellied Woodpeckers in and around greater New York City: "Formerly accidental or casual; since 1955 a rare to uncommon visitant on or near the coast. Reported every month of the year--least often in summer. No proof of breeding." By 1969 breeding in southeastern New York had been confirmed, and 1971 yielded five records (Bull, 1974). Thereafter, the first nesting of Red-bellied Woodpeckers in southwestern Connecticut was observed in 1974, when a young bird was seen at Old Lyme on June 30th (Finch, 1975).



This proposed model (upper portions of diagram) by which the Red-bellied Woodpecker invaded Massachusetts is based on the observed number of individuals present in the state between 1950-61 (left below) and 1964-73 (right below). As the perimeter of the established population moved closer to the observer (that is, Massachusetts), more Red-bellied Woodpeckers were seen throughout the winter and spring months. Ultimately, breeding was confirmed.

MASSACHUSETTS DATA: The author has collected all available records of Red-bellied Woodpecker sightings in Massachusetts. Before 1955 the data are from McKechnie (1909), Bailey (1955), and Griscom and Snyder (1955); afterwards Records of New England Birds (1955-68, Smith (1962), and

unpublished records on file at Massachusetts Audubon Society through 1975.

Each record was compared with others as to date, geographical location, and sex or age of the bird (when available) to determine as accurately as possible the number of individuals being observed in the state at any given time. Except for a negligible number of cases, the identities seemed unambiguous; nevertheless, the author's judgement was necessarily subjective. Through 1973 some 73 individuals were thus catalogued (Table I); later sightings became so numerous as to preclude positive identification.

Between 1863 and the mid-1950's, only one Red-bellied Woodpecker was reported every nine years, on the average. Then the rate changed dramatically, to about four birds per year--an increase by a factor of 40! Since Bull (1964) concluded that prior to 1955 this species was no more than a vagrant as far north as greater New York City, the subsequent range expansion into New Jersey and New York state in the mid-1950's reverberated immediately northward into Massachusetts.

That the status of Red-bellied Woodpeckers changed significantly within the last decade is also evident from the lower sections of the diagram, which shows at bi-monthly intervals the number of individuals present in Massachusetts. The left curve was eye-fitted to 1950-61 data; the right to 1964-73 data. (No special criteria were used to select these intervals, merely that one represents a relatively recent period and the other a time near when the invasion began.) Note that in the autumn, September through November, both curves rise at about the same rate. But then the 1950-61 curve begins to decline, while the 1964-73 curve holds essentially steady until the beginning of spring. Then the latter curve rises to a peak in April, followed by an abrupt drop.

DISCUSSION: The following scenario is proposed to explain how the Red-bellied Woodpecker came to Massachusetts; it is based on the differing shapes of the curves. Assume a region to the south of Massachusetts that has an established and expanding population of an essentially sedentary species. An observer far to the north of this area, as in the upper left portion of the diagram, should get the first hint of an oncoming invasion after the breeding season, when some birds move beyond the established perimeter. During the winter, this advance population declines substantially due to mortality in marginally adequate habitat and also possible southward withdrawal. By the beginning of the next breeding season, the avant-garde population has died off, retreated, or moved southward in search of mates.

Now consider an observer nearly contiguous to the area having established permanent residents, as in the upper right section of the diagram. Again, post-breeding dispersal is observed, but since the habitat is very nearly equivalent to that of the established area, little winter mortality occurs. The increase observed in spring results from two factors: the southward retreat of birds that had wintered to the north and the northward range over-extension of birds from the south. The rapid decline during the breeding season may reflect an actual retreat of birds to more suitable habitat or be merely an artifact due to the traditional lack of interest among birders toward summer residents.

This idealized scenario is supported by the fact that the actual number of individuals seen annually during the past two decades has been markedly greater than previously, a northward movement of the perimeter containing the established population. Consider, for example, the distances from Worcester (arbitrarily chosen) to the closest nesting sites for Red-bellied Woodpeckers: 1962, Princeton, New Jersey, 200 miles (Bull, 1964); 1969, southeastern New York state, 150 miles (Bull, 1974); 1974, Old Lyme, Connecticut, 70 miles (Finch, 1975). At face value, this corresponds to a breeding range expansion of about ten miles per year.

CONCLUSIONS: From data at hand it seems possible that the Red-bellied Woodpecker nested in Massachusetts as early as 1972, most likely in the Springfield area (male and female present from January through April but not reported thereafter). That this species was not confirmed until 1977 reflects, I believe, merely inattention by birders. The Massachusetts Audubon Society has done much to change that attitude as a result of its Breeding Bird Atlas Project. This interest should be sustained, for breeding birds measure critically the quality of our environment.

The Red-bellied Woodpecker represents yet another "southern species" that has expanded its breeding range northward during the past couple of decades. Other examples include: Cattle Egret, Louisiana Heron, Glossy Ibis, American Oystercatcher, Acadian Flycatcher, Fish Crow, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, and Cardinal.

Is it premature to speculate that the general warming trend underway in the Northern Hemisphere is being witnessed through the range expansion of these traditionally southern species? And has the recent reduction in hard pesticide use created the concomitant adjunct food supply necessary for such expansion?

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: I express my appreciation to James Baird for permission to search the Massachusetts Audubon Society archives and for a most enlightening critique of a draft of this article. Also, I thank Mrs. Charlotte E. Smith for her usual guidance through long-forgotten bird literature.

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TABLE I

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>No.</u>
5/13/1863	Springfield	1	11/11/1960-1/1961	Springfield	1 male
11/25/1880	Newton	2	12/4/1960	Newburyport	1
5/28/1881	Cohasset	1	10/5-12/1/1961	Andover & Lawrence & Amesbury	1 male
/1882	Hull	1 imm. male			
7/17/1896	Clinton	1	10/21/1961	Longmeadow	1
4/9/1921	Cambridge	1	11/15/1961-5/1/1962	Weston	1 female
10/2-3/1930	N. Eastham	1	1/18-?/1964	Westford	1 male
8/26/1937	Westhampton	1	9/28/1964-5/10/1965	Middleboro	1 male
2/28/1945	Swampscott	1	2/8-4/11/1965	Monson	1 male
6/22/1947	Wayland	1	9/25-26/1965	Middleboro	1
2/1/1948	Braintree	1	9/30/1965	Worcester	1
3/18/1952	S. Duxbury	1	11/17/1966-5/2/1967	Marshfield Hills	1 male
10/10-11/1953	Rockport	1	11/23/1966-4/26/1967	E. & S. Weymouth	1
3/12-4/25/1954	Westport	1	11/24-12/7/1966	W. Barnstable	1 female
7/22/1954	Edgartown	1	11/28/1966-5/19/1967	E. Longmeadow & S. Hadley	1 male
8/24/1957	N. Middleboro	1	5/26/1967	Martha's Vineyard	1
11/17/1957-5/1958	Wellesley	1 female	6/15/1967	Chatham	1
5/13/1958	Nantucket	1	1/15/1968	Andover	1
5/29/1958	Milton	1	4/19-5/7/1968	Winchester	1
12/21/1958-2/28/1959	W. Newburyport & Newburyport	1	8/-12/22/1968	Lincoln	1
2/22/1959	Martha's Vineyard	1 female	11/1968	E. Bridgewater	1
1/16-23/1960	N. Chelmsford	1	11/-12/29/1968	Wellfleet & Orleans	1
11/7-27/1960	Eastham & Brewster	1 female	3/2/1969	Rockport	1
11/7-12/12/1960	Martha's Vineyard	1 female	4/12-5/16/1969	Middlesex Fells & Cambridge	1

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>No.</u>
4/-5/12/1969	Chatham	1	7/1971	Martha's Vineyard	2
4/28-5/14/1969	Taunton & E. Middleboro	1 female	10/25/1971-4/24/1972	Springfield & Longmeadow	1 male
5/6-6/1969	Woods Hole	1 male	11/20/1971	Marblehead Neck	1
5/18/1969	Dover	1	1/1-4/24/1972	Agawam	1 female
5/24-25/1969	Pelham	1	1/7-5/26/1973	Southampton	1 male
9/28/1969	Holyoke	1	4/-5/7/1973	Plymouth	1
5/6-7/1970	Woods Hole	1	4/-5/17/1973	Newton	1
5/28/1970	Cambridge	1	4/11/1973	Middleboro	1 imm.
9/21/1970	Milton & Dedham	1	5/18/1973	N. Billerica	1 male
2/24-6/21/1971	S. Natick & Wellesley & Dover	1 female	6/24/1973	S. Amherst	1
5/30/1971	Newburyport	1	12/6/1973-1/14/1974	Holyoke	1 male
6/13/1971	Milton	1 or 2	12/25/1973	Dover	1



This photograph by Eliot W. Taylor shows the adult male Red-bellied Woodpecker (at right) feeding a juvenile bird on one of the large oaks that surrounds the Eason property. This picture was taken June 21, 1977, the day after the first sighting of two young, thus establishing the first breeding record for this species in Massachusetts.

NEW ENGLAND HAWK WATCH CONFERENCE

HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS, APRIL 8, 1978

In 1971 the first area wide hawk watching network was established in New England which was to become the inspiration and mold of the Hawk Migration Association of North America. With each ensuing year interest has grown to the extent that now New England has more hawk watching sites than any comparable area. This resultant growth has been accompanied by an insatiable quest by the hawk watchers for an understanding of the migration phenomena. To help meet this demand the New England Hawk Watch Conference will provide a forum for the mutual exchange of information.

The Conference will be held on April 8, 1978, at the Holiday Inn, Holyoke, Massachusetts, which is located at Exit 15 (Ingleside) on Route US I-91 just 1 1/4 miles north of the Massachusetts Turnpike (Exit 4). The program will start at 9:00 A.M. with the presentation of papers on various aspects of hawk migration and will conclude at 5:00 P.M. A social hour will follow with a banquet at 6:00 P.M. featuring a nationally known speaker. For those remaining overnight, a Sunday morning field trip will be made to nearby Mt. Tom to view the early Spring hawk migration.

The New England Hawk Watch Conference is sponsored by the Connecticut Audubon Council, Massachusetts Audubon Society, Audubon Society of New Hampshire, and Litchfield Hills Audubon Society. The host clubs are the Allen Bird Club and Holyoke Wildlife Club. Program and registration forms will be sent in February. For more information, please contact Seth Kellogg, Conference Chairman, 377 Loomis Street, Southwick, Massachusetts 01077. We hope you will attend the Conference and encourage other hawk-watchers to join us.



A pair of great tits, one of the 50 stunning paintings by Terence Lambert from LAMBERT'S BIRDS OF GARDEN AND WOODLAND. Published by Scribners.

BOOK REVIEW

Lambert's Birds of Garden and Woodland, paintings by Terrence Lambert, text by Alan Mitchell; Charles Scribner's Sons, New York; 1976; 128 pp.

The spreading of knowledge is a beautiful thing. We learn from the simplest of factual accounts, or the enthusiastic verbal teachings of friends in the field, or by reading someone's extensive journal of observations, or by seeing photographs showing us things we might not otherwise be able to see.

But an artist, in the recreation of a vision, draws upon all of the delicate memory, and the understanding of a bird's nature. In his final creation, he fulfills the commitment of the physical undertaking. When one learns from this visual impression, a significant cycle is completed. The observer and artist share a reward.

Terrence Lambert's paintings of some of the more commonly seen birds in Britain are both accurate and lovely. They depict a particular behavior or habitat of each bird, and its atmosphere. The delicate softness of a Woodcock brooding its chick, a Longtailed Tit removing nest feathers, a Willow Warbler taking dew or a Tawny Owl alighting with its prey is shy of anthropomorphism. Lambert designs the page total, allowing negative space and crisp contrast to enhance the impression.

The text describing the often overlooked variety of birds in or near suburbia is brightened by the foreign sentence structure, hinting of narrative with an accent. The favourite British spellings are colourful and amusing, as in the word, "manoeuvrability."

There is a thoughtfully written introduction including a section highlighting the strong advantages of learning to identify birds audially. Much of birding relies on the recollection of song and especially tone or pitch, which is (ideally) always diagnostic of species. This skill is admirable and not stressed often enough, especially to beginners. The verbal representation of calls appearing in the text may appear elementary, but it is an important, realistic method of learning. The overall impression is to be cautious, reserved and conservative in identification. Also in the introduction are vegetative descriptions of Britain's geography which conjure visions of woods and woodland edges, pastures and well-kept gardens, where most of these fifty-nine birds species are found.

This collection of British birds will appeal to those who have become familiar with them abroad, as well as to those studying all types of birds in depth. Many species relate or are similar to North American birds. Grey Heron is to Great Blue Heron as Marsh Tit is to Black-capped Chickadee; or, Goldcrest is to Golden-crowned Kinglet as Great Spotted Woodpecker is to Hairy Woodpecker. On the other hand, learning of the peculiar Wryneck, the Nightingale's evening song, the Stock Dove's occasional habit of nesting in rabbit holes, and the feather-and-moss nest of a Longtailed Tit intrigues the reader to pursue them further, and the Latin names encourage this.

This first book of Terrence Lambert's works is a visual treat, and will easily grace your coffeetable or bedside, and leave you yearning for travel.

MJL

SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER, 1977

September in Boston was cloudy and wet with seasonal temperatures. The temperature averaged 64.4° , 0.1° below normal. The month began summer-like with several very warm days; the highest temperature was 92° on the 2nd and the low was 47° on the 22nd. No records were broken.

Rain totalled 4.03", .87" over normal and more than double September of last year. The most in 24 hours was 1.55" on the 20-21st. Measurable amounts fell on 13 days, 4 over average and the most in September since 1956. Fog occurred on 13 days.

Northwest winds, those most favorable for migrating birds in the fall occurred on the 6th, 10th, 11th, 14th, 18th, and the 29th.

LOONS THROUGH TUBENOSES

Numbers of migrant Common Loons were noted by the third week of September, when 100 were counted passing Sandy Neck, Barnstable Sept. 21 (RAF#) and inland, 225 were observed flying south over Mt. Wachusett Sept. 18 (PMR). The first migrant Red-throated Loons likewise arrived this month; one was at P.I. Sept. 14 (DTB) and two were noted in flight at S.N. with Commons Sept. 21 (RRV#). The productive waters north and east of Provincetown continue in their capacity to support vast numbers of pelagic species of diverse origins, in some cases in unprecedented abundance for New England. When such species as Northern Fulmars, Greater, Sooty and Manx Shearwaters, jaegers, Gannets and Black-legged Kittiwakes all congregate together in a limited region in extraordinary abundance, one must infer that a peculiar characteristic of that geographical locality and the habitat contained therein, rather than the coincidental displacement of each species simultaneously, is responsible for the observed phenomena. Of course weather patterns have a profound influence upon the distribution of seabirds in the southern Gulf of Maine, as is so obvious to Massachusetts birders, and as was again supported by this month's observations. All maximum counts of seabirds were made following (or during) the passage of northward moving low pressure systems, bringing strong NE-SE winds to Cape Cod, yet it would be stretching the imagination to assume that such weather systems were, in themselves, entirely responsible for the simultaneous unprecedented abundance of Northern Fulmars, Greater and Manx Shearwaters and jaegers, species emanating from distinctly different geographical distributions. Without the storms, these numbers may not have been visible from shore, however, it may be proposed that these birds were already present in New England waters prior to the arrival of the low pressure systems. Some peculiar characteristic of the waters off Provincetown, then, in conjunction with its geographical location, provided for the spectacle observed there throughout the course of the fall. On Sept. 25, while the winds were from the SE at 30 kn., the following species were noted moving NW-SE past Race Pt., Provincetown, frequently feeding in the vicinity of the surfacing porquas so characteristic of that area in the fall: 250+ Northern Fulmars, 40,000+ Greater Shearwaters, 800+ Sooty Shearwaters, 50+ Manx Shearwaters and 8 Leach's Storm-Petrels (RRV, MJL, SAP, PDV, BN, CAG#).

Most surprising in these totals was the abundance of Northern Fulmars. The indication, from recent New England experience as well as data compiled by MBO on Georges Bank and the Gulf of Maine, is that fulmars rarely arrive anywhere in local waters in any numbers before late October at the earliest. Counts of the magnitude of 250 have only been made from shore in Massachusetts on one other occasion (Jan. 1977), later in the winter when the species has reached maximum abundance on the offshore fishing banks. It is a well known fact that the Northern Fulmar has been steadily increasing as a winter resident in the Gulf of Maine in recent years, however the observed abundance in late September seems disproportionate to the observed increase elsewhere. Furthermore, the vast majority of this September's birds were in the "double-light" phase, contrary to the predominance of dark individuals usually observed early in the fall off New England. Whereas 40,000 is, by a wide margin, the largest number of Greater Shearwaters to ever be observed from shore in New England, the species' superabundance in the North Atlantic in the summer, along with its known autumn migratory route, would lead one to expect the eventual observation of such numbers from shore under extremely favorable conditions. Indeed, the numbers of Greater Shearwaters that were actually present off New England at that time can only be surmised. The total of 50+ Manx Shearwaters observed on 9/25, in addition to counts of 20 at Provincetown and 10 at Eastham on 9/21 (BN), is indicative of that species' continued increase in local waters, and it is interesting to note that a number of Manx Shearwaters were noted visiting nesting burrows on an island off southeastern Newfoundland this past summer. Sixty-five Northern Fulmars were observed from Rockport Sept. 22 (SAP) and 20 were seen from Manomet Pt. Sept. 25 (KH) and a single was seen at Nantucket, where rare, Sept. 24 (WRP). Over 1000 Cory's Shearwaters were counted from Nantucket Sept. 23 (EFA#), while Cory's north of Nantucket included 35 in Buzzard's Bay Sept. 18 (PH), one at S.N. and 2 at Provincetown Sept. 25 (SH,RRV#). The only Manx Shearwaters north of Cape Cod were two at Rockport Sept. 25 (RAF), and 25 Leach's Storm-Petrels at S.N. Sept. 25 was the largest number reported (SH). It is remarkable how abruptly Wilson's Storm-Petrels depart New England waters sometime in early August; 2 were at S.N. and 7 were at Rockport Sept. 25 (HTW,RSH), and another was seen at Rockport the next day (HLJ).

GANNET THROUGH HERONS

Higher counts of Gannets were 110 at Rockport and 2000+ at Provincetown, both Sept. 25 (v.o.). The first migrant Great Cormorants were noted during the second week of the month; 4 at Rockport Sept. 11 (RSH) and 3 at N. Scituate Sept. 17 (RRV,MJL), all of which were typically immatures. Inland migratory Double-crested Cormorants included 225 counted over Mt. Wachusett Sept. 18 (PMR) and 135 over Weston Sept. 25 (LJR). The dusk flights of herons at P.I. were closely monitored this month; on Sept. 3, 30 Little Blue Herons (26 adults), 570 Snowy Egrets and 7 Louisiana Herons were present (SAP,PDV). Of 72 Cattle Egrets reported (cf. 7,24,12,37 Sept. totals since 1973), 38 at Marshfield Sept. 11 (WRP) and 15 at Ipswich Sept. 26 (JWB) were noteworthy. In addition to the heron totals listed above, 6 Great Egrets were noted at Duxbury Sept. 2 (WRP), 65 Snowies were at Monomoy Sept. 4 (RRV,WRP#)

and 75 Snowies were at N. Scituate the same day (RPE#). Four to five juvenal Yellow-crowned Night Herons, of somewhat obscure origin, were reported, including one at Monomoy Sept. 4 (WRP), 1-2 at Eastham Sept. 5-18 (WRP#), one at P.I. Sept. 10-23 (v.o.) and one at Scituate Sept. 18 (SH).

WATERFOWL

The first suggestions of arriving Brant were 33 in the Scituate area Sept. 28 (MFL,BAL), and the summering bird at Monomoy was seen Sept. 4 (WWH,WRP#). Fourteen Snow Geese at S.N. were somewhat early Sept. 14 (DC) and were unique for the month. Arrivals of the routine dabbling ducks were noted throughout the month without any surprises, Four male Redheads were at Fresh Pond, Cambridge Sept. 15 (LJR) and 4 Ring-necked Ducks appeared at Nantucket Sept. 25 (WRP). A single Oldsquaw observed in Nantucket Sound Sept. 25 (HD'E#) may have been an early migrant, or possibly a summering individual. Although White-winged Scoters were generally scarce, with a total of 33 reported, 800+ Surf Scoters were counted at Monomoy Sept. 24 (HTW) and 560 Black Scoters were seen passing Rockport Sept. 25 (RPE). Thirty Ruddy Ducks were at Westborough Sept. 29 (BB). Single Hooded Mergansers occurred at Weston Sept. 11 (LJR) and Bolton Sept. 21 (HWM), and the first Red-breasted Mergansers arrived, including one at Monomoy Sept. 4 (CAG#) and one at P.I. Sept. 21 (MJL).

RAPTORS

The most well defined waves of migrant raptors occurred on Sept. 11, 18 and 22, following the passage of cold fronts from the northwest, when the migratory movement was most apparent along the inland ridges and vantage points, such as Mt. Wachusett. The following table depicts the distribution of occurrence of the three commoner species observed in September at Mt. Wachusett; we are grateful to Paul Roberts for supplying these data.

	9/11	9/18	9/22
Sharp-shinned Hawk	17	42	88
Broad-winged Hawk	205	345	1556
Osprey	3	12	13

From this table, it is apparent that the bulk of the birds were migrating on the 22nd, and the counts of Ospreys were particularly encouraging. Migrating hawks were also noted from less ideally situated vantage points on the above three dates. For instance, on Sept. 11, RAF noted 16 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 114 Broad-wingeds, a Marsh Hawk and 6 Ospreys over Framingham, and coastally, 22 Sharp-shinneds and a Cooper's Hawk were noted at Marblehead Neck Sept. 22 (CB), both instances suggesting the extent of the migratory movements on the respective days. It was an encouraging month for both Cooper's Hawks and Ospreys; 9 of the former (cf. 2,5,4,6 Sept. totals since 1973) and 69 of the latter (cf. 0.19,26,48+ Sept. totals since 1973) were reported, inclusive of the aforementioned migrants. Only two Red-shouldered Hawks were reported, one at Winchester Sept. 12 (GWG) and one at Mt. Wachusett Sept. 15 (PMR), we will have to await the October records to determine

any change in status for this species. An immature Bald Eagle was seen at W. Tisbury Sept. 25 (AAC) and another was at Mt. Wachusett Sept. 27 (PRB). Two reports of inland migrant Marsh Hawks were 4 at GMNWR Sept. 7 (PMR) and 3 at Mt. Wachusett Sept. 18 (PMR). Peregrine Falcons totalled 11 for September (cf. 4,5,8-9,9+ Sept. totals since 1973), while 31 Merlins were reported from 17 coastal localities (cf. 19,12,35,49 Sept. totals since 1973). The gradual increase in Peregrines is just perceptible over the last four years, whereas numbers of Merlins seem to be somewhat below 1975 and 1976. The gradual increase in the comprehensiveness of this reporting procedure must, of course, always be taken into consideration whenever comparative statements regarding abundance are to be made. Forty-five American Kestrels were reported from 12+ localities during the course of the month (v.o.).

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Six Soras were reported from 5 localities (v.o.) and groups of Common Gallinules included 7 at P.I. Sept. 3 (WVanC) and 15 at GMNWR Sept. 11 (RC).

While the increasing breeding success of American Oystercatchers on the Cape and Islands is well documented and no surprise to most observers, a count of 32 at Nantucket Sept. 7 (EFA,GF#) is the highest for recent years in the state. The total had dwindled to 7 there by Sept. 23 (WRP), and 9 were at Monomoy Sept. 4 (RRV#). The higher September concentrations of Semipalmated Plovers were 200+ at Revere Sept. 2 (RRV,SAP), 325+ at Monomoy Sept. 4 (WWH#) and 200+ at Newburyport Sept. 11 (RRV#). Piping Plovers seemed somewhat scarce this fall compared to recent years, although this is difficult to quantify. The only reports were of 4 at Monomoy Sept. 4 (MJL#) and 15 at S.N. Sept. 18 (WRP). Sixty-nine Golden Plovers from 16 localities, including 17 inland at Lancaster Sept. 21 (HWM), represented a near-average total for the month. Totals of Black-bellied Plovers at Newburyport Sept. 3 and 5 were 730 and 520, respectively (RSH,RRV). Fifty-two Whimbrels were recorded from 10 coastal localities in September; eight to ten Solitary Sandpipers at S. Peabody Sept. 19 (RSH) represented the maximum for that species in September, and one was seen on the sandflats at Monomoy Sept. 4, where unusual (RRV#). Lesser Yellowlegs at Newburyport numbered 125 Sept. 5 and 75 Sept. 11 (RRV#), and 30 were noted at Duxbury Sept. 11 (WRP), the species being somewhat more uncommon on the South Shore than in other portions of the state. The larger collections of Red Knots were 500 at Scituate Sept. 10 (MFL#), 150 at Duxbury Sept. 10 (RF#) and 250+, including one pure albino, at S.N. Sept. 18 (WRP). A White-rumped Sandpiper at Westboro Sept. 28 was noteworthy in that inland records are few for the species (BB).

Baird's Sandpipers numbered between 4 and 8 at P.I. during the period Sept. 10-27 (GWG,SAP), and four additional singles occurred at Plymouth, S.N. and Monomoy at various dates throughout the month. A count of 350 Dunlin in the Newburyport-P.I. region Sept. 10 was high for that date (BBC-SPG), yet was not reflected elsewhere in the state. The familiar problem of distinguishing the species of dowitchers during the "borderline" period in late September was quite apparent at P.I.

this year; in any case, 150 dowitchers, mostly juvenals, present there Sept. 28 were thought to be predominately Short-billed (SAP#) while 14 and 20 adult Long-billeds were identified there Sept. 3 and 11, respectively (RSH,RRV#). A total of 10 Stilt Sandpipers occurred, including one at Scituate, where decidedly uncommon, Sept. 11 (WRP). Thirty-seven Western Sandpipers were identified on dates distributed evenly throughout the month; of those noted after the 15th, the vast majority were juvenals. At P.I., 4-6 Buff-breasted Sandpipers were present Sept. 10-15 (v.o.), a particularly early migrant was noted at Duxbury Sept. 2 (RW), and one was at Scituate Sept. 11 (WRP). Marbled Godwits included one at Monomoy Sept. 4 (RRV#), 2 at P.I. Sept. 3-10 (WVanC), and singles at Ipswich Sept. 17 (WRP) and Katama Sept. 25 (AAC). September Hudsonian Godwits totalled 33. A count of 1200 Sanderlings was made at Revere Beach Sept. 23 (SZ). Only sporadically reported so far inland, a Red Phalarope reported from GMNWR Sept. 22 was remarkable (HWF). The six Wilson's Phalaropes at P.I. Sept. 3 had diminished to two there Sept. 17 (v.o.). Non-storm-blown Northern Phalaropes included 4 at P.I. Sept. 3 (RPE) and one at Monomoy Sept. 4 (RRV#); others were 40 at Manomet Sept. 20 (WRP) and 50 there Sept. 26 (MBO staff).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS

A particularly heavy flight of migrating jaegers was noted from selected vantage points along the shores of Cape Cod Bay, and at Provincetown, following easterly storms Sept. 20, 21 and 25, and an unusual predominance of light phase adults was noted by all observers. This increased ratio is most applicable to the Parasitic Jaeger, by far the most abundant species occurring in our littoral regions, and likewise the most numerous species observed this month. The results are tabulated below:

Pomarine Jaeger:

21,23	1st Encounter, Nantucket	30,2	BN, EFA#
21,25	Manomet, Nantucket Sound	2,6	MBO staff, HD'E#

Parasitic Jaeger:

20,21	Manomet, S.N.	80 (2 dark adults), 80	WRP, BAH; RRV, RAF#
21,25	1st Encounter, P'town	170, 85-100	BN#; RRV, PDV#
25	Nantucket Sound	40	HD'E#

All observers mentioning ages and color phases of Parasitic Jaegers indicated that 90% or more of the birds seen were light phase adults. On Sept. 20, an adult Long-tailed Jaeger was carefully studied as it flew by Manomet Pt. (WRP, BAH), for one of the very few recent inshore sightings of this otherwise highly pelagic migrant.

An adult Black-headed Gull present throughout the month with 300 Bonaparte's Gulls at Revere Beach was most likely the same individual that summered (SZ, RSH). Post-breeding assemblages of Laughing Gulls included 62 at Revere Sept. 5 (RSH) and 124 at Quincy Sept. 29 (SSBC). An adult Franklin's Gull in winter plumage was found Sept. 4 at E. Orleans (BN), the third Franklin's Gull to occur in the first two weeks of September since 1975. (It should be noted that the 1975 individual, listed in B.O.E.M. as occurring in the last week of Septem-

ber, actually occurred in the first week.) Two adult Little Gulls were present at Newburyport harbor Sept. 18 (DTB) and three were at Revere Beach Sept. 26 (SAP). The easterly storms in late September brought 150+ Black-legged Kittiwakes to Manomet Sept. 20 (WRP#) and 500+ to Provincetown Sept. 25 (RRV,SAP). Most surprising was the almost unbelievably high total of 9 Sabine's Gulls seen this month, which warrant individual listing: one immature at S.N. Sept. 18 (WRP,RFP), three adults, two with dark hoods, at Manomet Pt. Sept. 20 (WRP,BAH), 3 at 1st Encounter Beach Sept. 21 (BN), and single immatures off Provincetown Sept. 21 (FJG) and at Nantucket Sept. 21 (WRP). A near-average total of 9 Forster's Terns occurred during September, and the typical post breeding flock of Common Terns at Nantucket numbered 2000+ Sept. 25 (WRP). The latest Roseate Terns were 4 at Ipswich Sept. 5 (JWB), one at P.I. Sept. 10 (RAF) and one at S.N. Sept. 21 (RAF). Six Least Terns lingered until Sept. 25 at S.N. (SH), and one was at Provincetown the same day (SAP). A Caspian Tern noted at Katama Sept. 25 (AAC) may have originated in the south, considering the origin of that storm, and 15 Black Terns at Monomoy Sept. 4 was the only sizeable group noted in September (RRV,WWH#). The number of Black Skimmers in eastern Massachusetts was outstanding: 19 immatures were at Monomoy Sept. 4 (WWH#), 9 immatures were at S.N. Sept. 4 (RB#), an adult was as far north as Newburyport Sept. 11 (RHS) and 9 were at Plymouth Beach Sept. 29 (GLS#). These totals are perhaps indicative of increased breeding success to the south of us.

ALCIDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Single unidentified large alcids were seen from Rockport Sept. 20 and 25 (SAP,RAF) and early Dovekies were at Manomet Pt. Sept. 25 (KH) and one at Rockport Sept. 26 (GLS). A Black Guillemot was found at Gloucester Sept. 10 (RAF,KSH).

Ten Yellow-billed Cuckoos were noted from 8 different localities throughout the month (v.o.), while Black-billeds numbered 12 from 6 localities. A Barn Owl was found at Hingham Sept. 10 (SSBC), and a Saw-whet Owl was heard calling in Framingham Sept. 3 (RAF,KSH). Fourteen Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were noted from 12 different localities (v.o.). A vagrant immature Red-headed Woodpecker was found at Sudbury Sept. 15 (RW), and an adult was at Chatham Sept. 30 (HWM). Twelve migrant Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were noted from coastal localities during the period Sept. 20-28 (v.o.).

RRV

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH MIMIDS

Western Kingbirds were reported from only two locations during the month, one was noted at Plum Island from the 8th-10th (S.Henderson & v.o.), and from 1-2 were located on Nantucket between the 12th-24th (EFA,GLS,WRP). In the previous four years, 4,3,4 and 7 were noted during the month of September. A single Great-crested Flycatcher was noted on Plum Island on the 14th (RPE#), and as many as 15 Eastern Phoebes were found on Long Island, Boston on the 29th (J.Grugan#). Single Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were noted from MNWS on the 1st

(RSH), from Weston and Lancaster on the 3rd (LJR,HWM), from Stoneham on the 4th (M.Martinek), two from Monomoy on the 4th (RRV#) and one was found singing and chasing warblers on Crane's Beach, Ipswich on the 18th (JWB). Two were banded during the month at MBO. Ten empidonax flycatchers were present at MNWS on the 1st (RSH), and another was found on Nantucket on the 25th (WRP). One - two Eastern Wood Peewees were noted on Morris Island, Chatham on the 30th (RJ,HWM). Olive-sided Flycatchers were found in Stoneham on the 4th (M.Martinek), and another was present in Marshfield on the 10th during the SSBC Round-up.

Tree Swallows continued to build up at Plum Island, where a maximum of 10,000 were found on the 17th (BBC-NBK), a maximum of 12,000 were noted at Duxbury on the 10th (SSBC), and 10,000 were present in Falmouth on the 12th (EPG). Other high counts included 3000 in Marshfield on the 17th (SSBC-BAL), and 5400 were counted at White Horse Beach, Plymouth on the 26th (MBO staff). A single Bank Swallow was noted at Plum Island on the 3rd (RPE#), and as many as 10 Barn Swallows were observed there on the 29th (BBC-SPG). Two Purple Martins were still present on Plum Island on the 3rd (BBC-WVC), and a single martin was noted on the 18th in Scituate (R&SH).

Blue Jays were migrating with over 85 noted in South Peabody on the 23rd (RSH). Red-breasted Nuthatches were found in exceptional numbers throughout eastern Massachusetts, with 25 noted on the BBC weekend on Nantucket (Sept 2-5), and 48 in Weston on the 18th (LJR). A single Brown Creeper was noted on Nantucket on the 25th (WRP). A single Winter Wren was found in Annisquam on the 16th (HTW), as many as 5 Carolina Wrens were found in Marion on the 5th (GWG), and singles were noted in Sandwich on the 18th (WRP#), and Marshfield on the 28th (BAL#). Forty-two Long-billed Marsh Wrens were counted along the South River, Marshfield on the 17th (WRP). At Manomet 56 Gray Catbirds were banded and over 125 were noted on Nantucket during the weekend of the 2-5th (BBC-WCD).

THRUSHES THROUGH VIREOS

Over 350 American Robins were found in Salem on the 7th (CB). Two Swainson's Thrushes were found at Nahant on the 22nd (SAP#), and a Veery was found there on the 15th (SAP#). Gray-cheeked Thrushes were found at MNWS on the 6th (RSH) and 12th (MK). A Wheatear was found at the north end of Monomoy on the 29th (Bill & Bev Klunk). Last year 3 Wheatears were found during September, as well as 1 on Nantucket in Sept. 1975. Single Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were found on Monomoy on the 4th (WRP#), and at MNWS on the 8th (MK,CB). At the Glades in North Scituate one was noted on the 13th (EB#), 28th (BAL) and 2 on the 17th (MFL). Two Gnatcatchers were banded on the 19th at Manomet. An early migrant Golden-crowned Kinglet was found in Annisquam on the 4th (HTW). Ruby-crowned Kinglets were arriving in small numbers generally after the 16th. As many as 45 Water Pipits were present in Lancaster during the month (HWM), other reports included 6 on the 18th in Scituate (R&SH), 1 in South Peabody on the 20th (RSH) and 17 in Framingham on the 29th (RAF). During the first weekend of the month over 300 Cedar Waxwings were found on Nantucket (BBC-WCD), and 125+

from Nantucket (BBC-WCD) and from P.I. on the 11th (RHS). A single Hooded Warbler was noted at P.I. on the 9th (RPE,JG). On the 18th 2 Wilson's Warblers were noted in Truro (SAP#) while 3 were observed in Nahant (LC). Two Canada Warblers were found on the 18th at Nahant (J.Nove). Twenty-two American Redstarts were banded on the 11th at Manomet, and 30 were noted in Stoneham on the 4th (M.Martinek).

Bobolinks were reported in high counts during the 1st week of the month with 250+ on Nantucket (BBC-WCD), 250+ in Concord on the 4th (RAF) and 150 in Sudbury on the 5th (RAF). Other counts included 65 in Framingham on the 11th (RAF), and 12 in South Peabody on the 19th (RSH). One or two Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found on Nantucket on the 5th (BBC-WCD) and on the 22nd (GLS#), (CF. 1,3,5,3 for the last four Septembers). As many as 28 Rusty Blackbirds were observed in Haverhill on the 28th (WCD) and 4 were noted in Woburn on the 30th (GWG). A Summer Tanager was found on the 18th in Sandwich (RFP). The only other recent fall report was by CAG at Orleans 9-10-75. Two reports of Black-headed Grosbeaks were received during the month, on the 18th at Wachusett Meadows, Princeton (WC, R&DH), and one at Peabody on the 22nd (JJC). No details were submitted with these reports, and with the bulk of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks migrating (21) at Princeton on the 17th (RHS), these records are open for question. At least 5 Blue Grosbeaks were noted during the month with singles reported from Corn Hill, Truro on the 3rd (RRV#), and 18th (HHD'E), from South Peabody on the 22nd (RSH), from Chatham on the 24th (HC,HTW) and from Nantucket on the 28-30th (B&BK,EFA). High counts of Indigo Buntings were reported from many localities as the bulk flight passed through (7 in Weston on the 18th (LJR), 12 in Lancaster on the 21st (HWM)). Two Dickcissels were reported, one at Annisquam on the 9th (HTW) and another at Scituate on the 11th (WRP). This represents a record low number of Dickcissel reports over the past years (CF. 14,7,4,12). Evening Grosbeaks were moving through after the 21st of the month with scattered reports from several locations; the only reports prior to the 21st were of a flock of 20 in Baldwinville on the 1st (JDO'R), and also on that day a single bird was noted from Whitman (WRP). A high count of 24 Purple Finches was made from Framingham on the 29th (RAF). A Pine Siskin was heard calling at South Peabody on the 23rd (RSH).

A Lark Bunting, thought to be an immature male, was found in South Peabody on the 19th, where it remained until the 23rd (RSH,v.o.). A full report of this discovery and the history of Lark Bunting in Massachusetts appears elsewhere in this issue.

Savannah Sparrows were reported in good numbers with over 350 counted on Nantucket Sept. 2-5 (BBC-WCD), over 70 at South Peabody between the 19-24th (RSH), and 150 in Framingham on the 21st (RAF). During the week of the 25th, a Grasshopper Sparrow was banded in Waltham (K.Harte) and another was banded at MBO on the 25th (staff). Three Seaside Sparrows were found at Fort Hill, Eastham on the 18th (SAP#). A maximum count of 20 Vesper Sparrows was made at the Marconi Station area in South Wellfleet on the 18th (RRV#), with only 1 reported from P.I., on the 3rd (WVC).

were counted in Fitchburg on the 25th (P.Sorenson). A Loggerhead Shrike was identified in Wollaston on the 12th (DTB), (cf. 3,7,8,3 for the last four years during September).

White-eyed Vireos were found at MNWS from the 1-6th (RSH#), Eastern Point, Gloucester on the 5th (RRV#), and at Crane's Beach, Ipswich on the 18th (JWB). Yellow-throated Vireos were reported from Plum Island on the 3rd (GWG), MNWS on the 18th (LC), and from the Glades, North Scituate on the 28th (BAL,MFL). Maximum numbers of migrant Red-eyed Vireos occurred during the first week of the month with 25 counted on the 2nd at Nahant (RRV#) and 20 on the 3rd at Plum Island (RPE#). A high count of 15 Red-eyed Vireos was reported on the 30th at Chatham (RJ,HWM). Thirty-one Philadelphia Vireos were reported during the month; following is the complete report:

Philadelphia Vireo:

3,5,10,22	MNWS	2,2,1,1	RAF#,CB,RAF#,SAP#
3,4,10	P.I.	1,1,2	BBC(WVC),MK,BBC(SPG)
2,9,11,15	Nahant	3,3,4,1	RRV#,SAP#,RRV#,MJL#
3,10	Gloucester (E.Pt.)	4,2	RAF#,KH#
4,30	Chatham	1,2	WRP#,HWM#
17	Princeton	1	RHS

WARBLERS THROUGH LONGSPURS

A Prothonotary Warbler was discovered on the 10th in Marshfield during the South Shore Bird Club Round-up (HWH). Two Golden-winged Warblers were banded at Manomet on the 11th and 13th. Blue-winged Warblers were still moving though our area up to the 12th, with as many as 7 reported from Marblehead Neck (v.o.). Twenty Tennessee Warblers were reported from Lancaster on the 21st (HWM). Only two reports of Orange-crowned Warblers were recorded; one on the 13th at MNWS (JJC), and one at Truro on the 18th (HHD'E). Over 40 Cape May Warblers were found on Nantucket between the 2-5th (BBC-WCD). Yellow-rumped Warblers arrived in good numbers after the 18th, with only one reported before that date on the 4th from Monomoy (BN,CAG). A Blackburnian Warbler was found in the Glades, North Scituate on the 28th, where a single Chestnut-sided Warbler was also noted on the 28th (MFL,BAL). Eleven Palm Warblers were observed in South Peabody on the 19th (RSH). Six Connecticut Warblers were reported during the month as follows:

Connecticut Warbler:

3	MNWS	2,1	RAF
11	Framingham, Manomet (MBO)	1,b.	K.Hamilton,staff
13 on,23	P.I.(Kettle Hole), Harvard (ONWR)	1,1	v.o.,HWM

Three Mourning Warblers were observed; in Framingham one was noted on the 5th and another on the 18th (RAF,KH), and one was seen on the 11th in Nahant (SAP#). As many as 60 Common Yellowthroats were found on Nantucket on the 2-5th (BBC-WCD). Twenty-six Yellow-breasted Chats were banded during the month at Manomet Bird Observatory (20 were banded there in Sept. 1973, 24 in Sept. '74, no report in '75, and 14 in Sept. '76). Other reports of chats came from MNWS on the 1st (CB),

Lark Sparrows were in evidence from the 5-25th at Marconi, So. Wellfleet where one bird was present (WRP#). Other Lark Sparrows were reported from Truro on the 18th, when 2 were noted (HHD'E). Also on the 18th a single was found on P.I. (DTB#). On the 10th, a Lark Sparrow was recorded from Norwell (MFL,BAL), and yet another from West Tisbury on the 25th (J.Bryant#). Dark-eyed Juncos started returning after the 18th when small flocks were reported from many localities. Chipping Sparrows were reported in good numbers from South Wellfleet on the 4th, when 25 were reported (MJL#), 15 in Weston on the 5th (LJR) and 20 in Lancaster on the 22nd (HWM). A single Clay-colored Sparrow was noted at Corn Hill, Truro on the 30th (RJ,HWM). Only a single White-crowned Sparrow was noted during the month at Plum Island on the 28th (GLS#), while White-throated Sparrows first arrived after the 10th, with larger flocks of 25-50 individuals toward month's end. Lincoln's Sparrows began returning on the 10th with reports from Gloucester (RAF#), 2 in Bolton (HWM) and 1 in Quincy (SSBC). Lincoln's Sparrows were present from the 11th on in Framingham with a maximum count of 5 on the 21st. Eight Lincoln's were found at Corn Hill, Truro on the 18th (RRV#), and 1-2 birds were also found in So. Peabody (RSH), Nahant (SAP), No. Scituate (BAL), MBO 1 banded, and from Long Island (J.Grugan). As many as 50 Song Sparrows were present from the 19th on in South Peabody (RSH). The first Lapland Longspur was a single bird found on Plum Island on the 18th (SLD,SD).

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SUMMARY FOR OCTOBER, 1977

October was cloudy and wet throughout eastern Massachusetts. The temperature averaged 55.3°, 3° warmer than October 1976. The high mark was 77° on the 2nd, the low 37° on the 24th.

Rain totalled 4.63", 1.61" over normal and the most in October since the 8.68" that fell in 1962. Much to the dismay of most birders, measurable rain fell on 7 weekends in a row, ending with that of Oct. 15-16th. Larger stretches of wet weekends in a row have been noted in the winter and spring seasons, but rain frequency is typically at the annual minimum in September and October.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

Loons began migrating and maximum counts of Commons along the coast included 150 at Rockport on the 15th (RSH) and 115+ from Manomet to Sandy Neck, Barnstable on the 16th (WRP#). There were also a good number reported from inland localities, where 2 were recorded from Weston on the 8th, the first Weston record since 1964 (LJR). At Wachusett Reservoir, 27 Common Loons were noted on the 15th (BB), and 2 were seen in Framingham on the 16th (RAF). As many as 60 Red-throated Loons were observed at P.I. on the 29th (GWG) and, also on that date, 50 were noted at Sandy Neck, Barnstable (SH,RH). There were many inland reports of Horned Grebes. Among them, 1 was in Boylston on the 15th (BB), 1 was in Woburn from the 24-26 (GWG) and 3 were in Lakeville on the 29th (WRP). Red-necked Grebes were reported from only 3 localities: 2 in Salisbury on the 8th (RWS), 1 from Wachusett on the 15th (BB) and a single from Manomet on the 16th (WRP). Pied-billed Grebes totalled 9 in Harwich on the 2nd (CH,BH) and 16 in Lakeville on the 4th (WRP).

Northern Fulmar reports totalled 48 throughout the month, with as many as 28+ at Jeffrey's Ledge, (3 of which were dark phase) on the 2nd (ASNH). At Provincetown 2 light phase fulmars were noted on the 1st and as many as 10, with one dark phase, reported from there on the 9th (RRV#). A single fulmar was noted off Rockport on the 9th (MK). Other reports included 2 on Georges Bank on the 12th and 2 on the Northeast Peak on the 15th (MBO). One to 2 N. Fulmars were also noted off 1st Encounter Beach, Eastham on the 21st (CAG,BN). Surprisingly, last year during October many more dark phase birds were reported.

Cory's Shearwaters were observed off of Sandy Neck on the 14th when 4+ were noted (BN,RFP), but on the 28th over 73 were counted there (RFP). Other Cory's reports came from Great South Channel where 15 were observed on the 26th (MBO). An amazing concentration of Greater Shearwaters were feeding off Provincetown throughout the month with a minimum count of 1500+ on the 23rd to a maximum of 2500+ on the 15th (RRV,v.o.). Among these Greaters were several Sooty Shearwaters with 10 there on the 1st, 5 on the 15th and 8 on the 22nd (RRV#,v.o.). There were over 38 observations of Manx Shearwaters during the month, all from the outer cape.

Leach's Storm-Petrels were noted off Sandy Neck on the 14th when 27 were observed (RFP,DTB#) and 8 were seen at Provincetown on the 15th (RRV#). During the same period, 11 other individuals were noted along the outer cape (v.o.). Two Leach's Storm-Petrels were also noted from Rockport on the 15th (GLS). A non-Leach's Storm-Petrel was noted at Sandy Neck on the 14th (DTB,RPE). Originally reported as a Wilson's Storm-Petrel, fog and a NE wind precluded positive identification. Thousands of Gannets were feeding at Provincetown with 2000+ noted on the 15th and over 1500 on the 23rd (RRV#,v.o.). Over 900 were observed from Sandy Neck on the 8th (RFP) and 800 were there on the 18th (PAB).

The first Great Cormorants arrived with the thousands of migrating Double-crested Cormorants during the early weeks of the month, building up at month's end. The flight of Double-crested Cormorants on the 8th was spectacular, with over 5000 individuals reported throughout the day over P.I. and the Newburyport-Salisbury area (RHS#,IG,v.o.). That same mass movement was also noted in many inland locations with over 400 in Weston (LJR) and 89 over Mt. Auburn, Cambridge (PM#) on the same day. On the 10th, 2380 were observed over P.I. and 450 were noted at Sandy Neck on the 15th (RFP).

A total of 25 Great Blue Herons were recorded from P.I. on the 16th (GWG). Eleven Little Blue Herons were noted there on the 2nd (SAP#), while an immature Little Blue remained from the 16th on in Boylston (BB). Two to four Cattle Egrets remained in Ipswich from the 1st-6th (GLS), and single birds were reported from Concord on the 2nd (IG), from Truro (22nd-24th) (MJL#), from Barnstable on the 29th (RFP) and from P.I. on the same day (GWG). A maximum of 12 Great Egrets were noted at P.I. on the 2nd (RRV#), where over 150 Snowy Egrets were counted on the same day. As many as 3 adult and 1 immature Louisiana Herons remained at P.I. throughout the month (v.o.). Yellow-crowned Night Herons were reported from P.I. on the 1st (DH,RSH), and an immature from Sandwich on the 18th (PAB).

WATERFOWL

A count of 168 Mute Swans was noted at their stronghold at Acoaxet on the 9th (BBC-SPG). Only 1 Brant was reported during the month: at Manomet on the 16th (WRP). Snow Geese were reported from Concord with 1 on the 12th (Mrs. Busk), 4 in Eastham on the 15th (v.o.), 4-6 in Wayland from the 18th-25th (Mrs. Spaulding) and 45 at Provincetown on the 23rd (MJL,RRV). High counts of dabbling ducks include 30 Gadwalls in Ipswich on the 6th (GLS), 150 Pintails at P.I. on the 11th (RSH), 1200 Green-winged Teal at P.I. on the 11th (RSH), 3 European Wigeons at Nantucket on the 7th (EFA#), 275 American Wigeons at GMNWR, Concord (RKW), 50 Northern Shovelers at P.I. on the 29th (GWG), while 3 N. Shovelers were noted at Fresh Pond, Cambridge (Rev. J.Holman). Over 60 Wood Ducks were noted at GMNWR on the 16th (PMR).

Twenty Redheads were counted at Nantucket on the 8th (CJ) and 7 were noted in Eastham on the 15th (RHS,RPE). A maximum of 50 Ring-necked Ducks were found at Fresh Pond, Cambridge throughout the month (J.Barton), while 130 were observed in Lakeville on the 4th (WRP). Forty Canvasbacks were reported from Fresh Pond, Cambridge between the 23rd-

31st (SZ#). Over 660 Lesser Scaups were counted in Falmouth on the 29th (AAC). Common Goldeneyes arrived in small numbers at mid-month, but did not increase substantially. Over 1500 Common Eiders were off North Scituate on the 22nd (SH) and over 8000 were seen off Monomoy on the 24th (WWB). A single King Eider was noted off Rockport on the 23rd (R.Stone#). From Manomet on the 8th the following scoter counts were made: 300-400 White-winged; 400-500 Surf; and 200 Black Scoters (JG,LC). At North Scituate over 1500 Surf and 500 Black Scoters were counted on the 22nd (SH). A Black Scoter was also noted in Wayland on the 20th (RAF). High counts of Ruddy Ducks were noted from Framingham, with 24 on the 27th (RAF), 45 at P.I. on the 23rd (JRK) and over 70 at Lakeville on the 29th (WRP). Eight Hooded Mergansers were found at P.I. on the 1st (DH,RCH), and 8 were noted from Ipswich on the 24th (JWB). Common Mergansers arrived in small numbers at mid-month.

RAPTORS

With better organization, the Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch produced many more sightings this month than any previous October. Below is a chart of species seen from Mt. Wachusett, Mt. Watatic and other observation points during the hawk watch dates which follow in parentheses. These figures have been compiled by Paul M. Roberts, hawk watch coordinator.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Wachusett</u>	<u>Watatic</u>	<u>others</u>
Turkey Vulture	2 (1)	3 (29)	1 (1)
Goshawk	1 (29)	10 (2)	2 (29,30)
Sharp-shinned Hawk	9 (3)	10 (2)	14 (8)
Cooper's Hawk	1 (2), 1 (15)	-	2 (8)
Red-tailed Hawk	-	13 (29)	35 (30)
Red-shouldered Hawk	3 (29)	4 (29)	
Osprey	3 (3)	-	
Peregrine Falcon	-	1 (29)	
American Kestrel	-	5 (8)	

Other reports of Cooper's Hawk came from Cape Cod with singles from Barnstable on the 3rd (RFP), Provincetown on the 21st (CAG), Eastham on the 21st (WWB) and Truro on the 29th (VL#). A late flight of Broad-winged Hawks included 69 in Shrewsbury on the 2nd (fide N.Clayton) and a single bird in Framingham on the 7th (RAF). Single Rough-legged Hawks were reported from P.I. on the 7th (LC), Nantucket on the 13th (EFA#) and Wachusett on the 30th (J.Lipke). Immature Bald Eagles were reported from Princeton on the 1st (PMR), Dracut on the 7th (P.Arrigo), Boylston on the 15-16th (BB), also on the 15-16th from Provincetown (LC#), at WBWS on the 24-25th (WWB#) and one adult was seen over Boston on the 19th (HTW). Six Marsh Hawks were found at P.I. on the 10th (PMR, JR) and 21 other individuals were reported throughout the month. Ospreys were noted from 23 locations with 34 individuals reported. As many as 17 Peregrine Falcons were noted throughout the month from 10 locations, 7 of these were identified as immatures or sub-adults. Twenty-one Merlins were reported during the month, mostly from coastal locations.

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A Clapper Rail was found at Fort Hill Eastham on the 10th (RMB) and again on the 15th (RRV#). Soras were found in Truro on the 7th (MJL#), Marshfield, where 5 were observed on the 15th (WRP#), and in Framingham on the 16th (RAF). A Common Gallinule was picked up dead in Raynham on the 21st (S.Verhoorn) and another was present in Woburn from the 15-27th (GWC).

Sixty Semipalmated Plovers were counted at Sandy Neck on the 16th (WRP#) and 26 were noted at First Encounter Beach, Eastham on the 22nd (WRP#). Over 12 Piping Plovers were noted in Truro on the 15th (AAC). At Fresh Pond, Cambridge 40 Killdeers were noted on the 16th (SZ). A total of 27 Golden Plovers were recorded during the month, fewer than in the two previous Octobers. Flocks of 30 Ruddy Turnstones were noted from Winthrop on the 21st (SZ) and from North Scituate on the 22nd (SH). Only three American Woodcocks were reported during the month, singles in Stoneham (M.Martinek), Mt. Auburn Cemetery (RHS), and in Framingham (MAD). Twenty-five Common Snipes were noted at Corn Hill, Truro on the 15th (RRV#). Five Whimbrels were present on P.I. on the 1st (DH,RCH), where a single bird was still present on the 8th (IG#). Other Whimbrels were found in Winthrop on the 1st (SZ), Gloucester on the 2nd (JN) and in Eastham on the 8th (WRP#). A Spotted Sandpiper was found in South Peabody on the 22nd and 27th (RSH#), and a Solitary Sandpiper was found in Barnstable on the 18th (PAB). At Eastham 2-1 Willets were found from the 22-24th (WRP#). As many as 50 Greater Yellowlegs were found throughout the month in East Boston (SZ), and 140 were found in Eastham on the 1st (RSH#). A Lesser Yellowlegs was found on the 29th in Scituate (WRP). Over 80 Red Knots were counted in Plymouth on the 8th (WRP). Seventeen Pectoral Sandpipers were found in Bridgewater on the 4th, where a Least Sandpiper was found among them (DTB). A Baird's Sandpiper was identified in Gloucester on the 17th (CWL), a White-rumped Sandpiper was found on Long Island on the 23rd (RCV,AHV), and 2 were reported from Scituate on the 29th (WRP). Dunlin counts included 1100+ at Newburyport on the 1st (RSH), 4000+ at Barnstable on the 24th (RFP) and 3000+ at No. Scituate on the 29th (WRP). Short-billed Dowitchers were carefully identified in Eastham where 3 were observed on the 15th (WRP#). Singles were also noted in Newburyport on the 11th and a juvenile bird was in Scituate on the 29th (RAF#). A maximum of 45 Long-billed Dowitchers was present in Newburyport on the 2nd (RRV#) with 29 still there on the 29th (WRP#). A Stilt Sandpiper was found on P.I. on the 11th (RSH). A Semipalmated Sandpiper was observed at Scituate on the 29th (WRP); 3 Western Sandpipers were noted at Sandy Neck on the 16th (WRP#). Two Marbled Godwits were in Newburyport Harbor on the 8th (RHS#), and continued through the 15th with only 1 being observed (v.o.). The last Hudsonian Godwits were 4 found on the 2nd at Newburyport (RRV,SAP#). Forty Red Phalaropes were noted at 1st Encounter on the 21st (BN,CAG). Wilson's Phalaropes were found at P.I. on the 2nd (RMB#) and on Penikese Island on the 8th (VL). Over 200 Northern Phalaropes were seen in Great South Channel on the 26th (MBO) and one was found at GMNWR, Concord on the 9-10th (E.Morrier,J.Andrews).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS

On the 22nd, 2 full adult, 5 sub-adult, and 1 dark sub-adult Pomarine Jaegers were noted off First Encounter Beach (WRP,RAF). On the 15th when the wind shifted following a NE storm and increased from SW to NW 30 Parasitic Jaegers were noted off First Encounter (CAG); while on the same day, over 40 were seen off Provincetown, 80% of which were adults and 95% light phase (RRV#); while in Rockport 18 were seen offshore, mostly immatures (RSH#). The MBO staff recorded 5 sightings of skuas, sp? in the Georges Bank area between the 15th-22nd.

A Glaucous Gull was reported from Rockport on the 13th (CWL), and Iceland Gulls were noted from Nahant on the 14th (SZ) and at Stellwagen Bank on the 30th (BBC-HD'E). An adult Lesser Black-backed Gull was noted at East Orleans on the 9th (SAP,RRV,MJL), and a second bird was found at Sandy Neck on the 16th (SH,WRP,AWN). From 1-2 adult Black-headed Gulls were present throughout the month in E. Boston (SZ). A total of 15 Laughing Gulls were found in Winthrop on the 21st (SZ), and 14 were noted at Squantum on the 25th (RPE#). An adult Franklin's Gull in winter plumage was carefully studied from aboard a ship just north of West Chop, Martha's Vineyard Oct. 10 (AWN), the second Franklin's Gull to occur in Massachusetts this fall. One to two Bonaparte's Gulls were found in Boylston between the 11th-23rd (HWM). One adult and one immature Little Gull were found in Newburyport Harbor on the 11th (RSH). Black-legged Kittiwakes were feeding off Provincetown all month with over 600 on the 15th, 400+ on the 22nd and over 1000 on the 23rd (SAP,RRV,MJL).

Forster's Terns were noted in Newburyport Harbor Oct. 8-11 (RSH#), and at Sandy Neck where 3 were noted on the 10th (WRP#). Over 400 Common Terns were still at Sandy Neck on the 24th (RFP); also at Sandy Neck, over 5*Roseate Terns were noted on the 10th (WRP), 2 Caspian Terns were reported from there on the 14th (BN), and an immature Black Skimmer was seen there on the 10th (WRP). Six Caspian Terns were seen off Salisbury on the 6th (GLS#) and a high count of 10 was reported off P.I. on the 24th (GLS#). As many as 8 Black Skimmers were found in Chatham on the 2nd (RJ,HWM) and 2 were noted on Plymouth Beach on the 3rd (HC,DC).

Twenty Razorbills (RSH), and one Common Puffin (GLS) were noted off Rockport on the 15th during a NE storm. A Thick-billed Murre was seen off Sandy Neck on the 28th (RFP) and the only Dovekie reported was one there on the 14th (RFP). Another Common Puffin was noted on the BBC boat trip to Stellwagen Bank on the 30th (WRP).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Over 400 Mourning Doves were seen migrating over Provincetown on the 1st (RRV,RHS). Fourteen Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported throughout the month, while only 4 Black-billed Cuckoos were noted. A Barn Owl was found on Monomoy on the 24th (CAG,BN). Long-eared Owls were noted from P.I. (HHD'E), Salem (JJC), Orleans (CAG), Lexington (JA) and Truro (VL#). Manomet banded 7 Saw-whet Owls during the month, 5 of them between the 22nd-26th.

A Common Nighthawk picked up dead in Needham on the 4th (J.Pickup), was the only report outside of Cape Cod for the month. The occurrence of Common Nighthawks on the Cape is unusual. However, this year they were noted in Sandwich on the 18th (RFP), from Truro on the 21st (CAG,BN), at Chatham on the 22nd (WRP,RAF), and at Eastham on the 25th (P.Olmstead). All of these dated represent the latest recorded for Massachusetts, the previous late date being Oct. 16, 1952 in Lanesville and Oct. 16, 1954 at Chatham. There was also a late flight of Chimney Swifts reported as follows: on the 18th single birds in Barnstable (RFP), Watertown (RHS) and GMNWR (RKW), 3 at Nantucket on the 20th (EFA#), 4 at Wellfleet on the 21st (CAG,BN) and 1 at Manomet on the 22nd (MBO staff). A hummingbird, sp? was observed in Beverly on the 13th (Mrs. Soucy). Single Pileated Woodpeckers were found in Framingham (RAF), Topsfield (J.Grugan#), Weston (T.Capello), Needham (F.Alwon) and Lancaster (HWM). The only Red-bellied Woodpecker was reported from Orleans on the 22nd (CAG). A Red-headed Woodpecker was seen flying over Race Point on the 1st (RHS#) and another on the 16th (SAP#); others were found in Dorchester on the 2nd (JM), in Needham between the 11th-24th (HD'E#) and in Weston from the 20th on (Robert Cronin#).

KINGBIRDS THROUGH SHRIKES

An Eastern Kingbird was found on P.I. on the 6th where 2 were occasionally seen up to the late date of October 16 (GLS#,v.o.). It was a good year for Western Kingbird, 8 reports (as compared with 0,1,1,2 for the last four Octobers).

Western Kingbird:

1,16,21	Provincetown	1,1,1	RRV#,J.Grugan#,BN#
1-2,9	Eastham (FH),No Mans Land	1,1	PM#,VL
8-23,15-29	P.I.,Truro	1,1	RSH#,RRV#
31	Nantucket	1	EFA

Great Crested Flycatchers were found at Monomoy on the 8th (B.Morrissey) and in Woburn on the 28th (GWG). Eastern Phoebes were reported from Framingham on the 16th (RAF) and Provincetown on the 29th (FRH).

Say's Phoebes had a small irruption in the state, with four separate birds reported. The only other recent October record was of one found at Marconi Station Oct. 4-7, 1974 (WWB#).

Say's Phoebe:

Sept. 30,1	off Martha's Vineyard, Nauset	1,1	RAF#,N.Waldron
1-8,23-25	Nantucket,S.Wellfleet	1,1	HLJ#,WWB

A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was noted on Monomoy on the 8th (B.Morrissey) and a "Traill's" flycatcher was picked up dead at the Prudential Building in Boston on the 4th (HTW). An Eastern Wood Pewee was carefully identified at Chatham on the late date of Oct. 22nd (RAF,WRP).

Tree Swallows totalled over 7000 on the 2nd at Sandy Neck, (HWM,RJ). At Bridgewater on the 4th, over 500 were counted (DTB#) and on the

16th, over 800 were reported at Manomet (WRP). The last report was a single bird at No. Scituate on the 22nd (SH). Single Barn Swallows were reported from Bridgewater on the 4th (DTB#), P.I. on the 16th (RMB) and Provincetown on the 4th (PRB#) and 2 immatures were noted there on the 15th (RRV#).

Blue Jays were migrating on the 1st, with 758 flying over Race Point, Provincetown in 3 1/2 hours (RHS#). A Boreal Chickadee was found in Framingham on the 23rd (RAF). Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported in exceptional numbers during the month with the highest count coming from Weston with 59 there on the 16th (LJR). (LJR had not recorded this species in Weston during October since 1973.) Single House Wrens were reported in Marshfield on the 2nd (ES), from Long Island on the 3rd (J.Grugan#) and from Lancaster on the 12th (HWM). A good flight of Winter Wrens was noted during the month with most being reported within the first two weeks; at least six different birds were found on P.I. on the 8th (RHS#). A Long-billed Marsh Wren was still around GMNWR on the 28th (JA).

Over 320 American Robins were noted from Lincoln on the 17th (RAF). A Wood Thrush was found in a garage in Ipswich on the 13th (JWB) and another was noted from the Prudential, Boston on the 13th (HTW). Swainson's Thrushes were reported from both Framingham (RAF) and Lancaster (HWM) on the 18th. A Gray-cheeked Thrush was found at the Prudential, Boston on the 11th (HTW) and another was observed in No. Scituate on the 23rd (SH). A Veery on the 6th in Framingham was the only one reported during the month (RAF). Reports of Eastern Bluebird came from Provincetown with 3 (IG), Carlisle with 6 (S.LaCerva), Shrewsbury with 6 (MI) and 3 from Woburn (GWG). Three Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were found at Race Point, Provincetown on the 1st (PM#), others were seen in Quincy on the 2nd (DTB#), 2 in Marshfield also on the 2nd (SSBC-ES), one was netted at Manomet on the 13th (MBO) and another was found in Ellisville on the 16th (SSBC-WRP). Very few Golden-crowned Kinglets were reported during the month, a period when there should be many more migrants. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were well reported with a maximum 80-90 birds found in the Salem-Lynn area on the 19th (RMB#). Water Pipits were reported in good numbers with maximum counts of 150 at Provincetown on the 9th (MJL#), 40 at P.I. on the 24th (GLS#) and 65 in Sudbury on the 28th (RAF). A Bohemian Waxwing was found in a flock of Cedars on P.I. on the 8th (RWS#,v.o.), where it remained through the 11th.

From the 20th on Northern Shrikes were reported in good numbers, with 5 from the outer cape (fide BN), 2+ in the P.I.-Salisbury area (RCH#), and singles from other localities. Three Loggerhead Shrikes were noted with one each in Truro on the 1st (CAG), South Wellfleet on the 9th (RRV#) and from Chatham on the 21st (CAG).

Certainly the most interesting report of the month was of a Phainopepla, apparently an immature male, seen feeding on berries at Tuckernuck Island Oct. 7 (MLF). This bird was carefully studied at close range over an extended period of time, leaving little doubt as to its identity. Recent east coast reports of Phainopeplas included one female on

Block Island, R.I. in September 1976, and an adult male at Nantucket in February of 1972. The Nantucket bird was not reported at the time on the reasonable assumption that it was an escaped cage bird. The occurrence of a juvenal on the outer coast in October strongly indicates that we are dealing with authentic vagrants.

VIREOS THROUGH SNOW BUNTING

A White-eyed Vireo was found in Provincetown on the 16th, where a Solitary Vireo was noted on the 22nd (RRV,SAP,MJL). A single Yellow-throated Vireo was noted in Sandwich on the 1st for the only report of the month (RFP). A Red-eyed Vireo was found in Lincoln on the 29th (CB) and single Philadelphia Vireos were noted from Provincetown on the 16th (RRV#) and in North Scituate on the 22nd (SH). Warbling Vireos were banded at Manomet on the 4th and 5th (MBO staff) and another was found in Provincetown on the 9th (MJL#).

Black-and-white Warblers were noted on the 22nd from both Salem (HWF) and from North Scituate (SH). Most interesting is the report of a Worm-eating Warbler that was seen at WBWS on the 18th (PB). The only recent October record is a bird banded at Manomet on 10/5/75. Late Warbler migrants include a Tennessee at Salem on the 22nd (RSH); Nashville at Both Truro (VL) and Lancaster (HWM) on the 29th; Magnolia at both Salem (HWF) and North Scituate (SH) on the 22nd; Cape May at both Salem (RPF), and P.I. (GWG) on the 23rd; a Black-throated Blue at North Scituate on the 22nd (SH); a Blackburnian in Norfolk on the 9th (RMB); a Chestnut-sided at Fort Hill, Eastham on the 23rd (R.Austin#); a Prairie at WBWS on the 25th (PO); an Ovenbird in Ipswich on the 10th (JWB); a Connecticut in Woburn on the 7th (GWG); a Mourning in Truro on the 8th (WRP#); and an American Redstart in Lancaster on the 26th (HWM). A good many Orange-crowned Warblers were reported with 7 banded at Manomet and 15 other individuals reported mostly during the first two weeks of the month. The Yellow-rumped Warbler flight was overwhelming as usual with a conservative 500 at Provincetown on the 1st (RHS,RRV#), 1000+ on P.I. on the 8th (RHS#) and 250+ at Salisbury on the 8th (RHS#). The high counts were not only concentrated along the coast with 72 reported from Fresh Pond, Cambridge on the 16th (J.Barton), 73 were noted in Weston on the 8th (LJR), and 250 from South Peabody on the 19th (RSH). Two Yellow-breasted Chats were noted, one at P.I. on the 15th (S.Garrett#), and one was banded at Manomet on the 25th (MBO staff). The highlight of the month was the Black-throated Gray Warbler found at Camp Lion, at the Salem and Lynn town lines on the 18th, where it remained through the 31st (RSH,v.o.). The only recent record for eastern Massachusetts was of a bird 10/11-12/70 in Winchester (PKD). The bird remained in a small group of pines and was photographed (RSH) and seen by many observers during its stay.

Late Bobolinks were reported from Framingham, where one was observed on the 16th (RAF), and Truro on the 23rd (RRV#). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported from Eastham on the 2nd (RJ,HWM), at a feeder in E. Orleans on the 4th (AF), and a feeder in Wellfleet on the 18th and possibly later (fide WWB). Flocks of Redwinged Blackbirds were estimated at over 1000 in Topsfield on the 2nd (GLS) and 6000+ in Framingham

on the 23rd (RAF). As many as 12 Rusty Blackbirds were noted in Lancaster on the 12th (HWM), over 25 in Truro on the 15th (AAC) and 25 in South Peabody on the 19th (RSH). Brewer's Blackbirds totalled at least 3 or more at Corn Hill, Truro with 2-3 females and 1-2 adult males Oct. 21 (BN,CAG,WVB,v.o.). Other Brewer's Blackbirds were noted from Bridgewater where an immature was carefully studied on the 4th (WRP), and 2 were found on Nantucket on the 8-10th (KJH). Four Blue Grosbeaks were noted with 2 from Nantucket, 1 on the 1st and a different bird on the 7th (EFA); single birds were also noted on the 1st from Truro (RSH#) and Eastham (RRV#). Indigo Buntings continued in good numbers during the 1st week of the month. A total of 9 Dickcissels were recorded during the month with 5 of them from inland localities.

Winter finches were appearing to be having a good flight year from the many reports received; by mid-month multitudes of Pine Siskins were recorded with over 1000 on the outer cape on the 23rd (RRV#) and most reports were well in excess of 50 individuals at each locality. Pine Grosbeaks began arriving after the 15th with a maximum of 13 on the 23rd at P.I. (RSH#,v.o.). A single Common Redpoll was seen at sea in the vicinity of Jeffries Ledge on the 24th (MBO staff). Both crossbills were noted but not in any substantial numbers. Over 100 American Goldfinches were found in Mt. Auburn Cemetery during the first two weeks of the month feeding on sunflower heads (RHS).

High counts of Savannah Sparrows were made in Framingham with 150 there on the 16th (RAF); 80+ were counted at Bridgewater on the 4th (WRP) and 80+ were noted from Salisbury on the 8th (RHS#). Grasshopper Sparrows were reported from Truro on the 23rd (RRV#) and from Provincetown on the 29th (RRV#). Twelve Seaside Sparrows were noted from Provincetown on the 4th (RRV#) and 8 were found at Fort Hill on the 12th (WRP#). Vesper Sparrows were well represented throughout eastern Massachusetts with a maximum of 20+ at Marconi Station, Wellfleet on the 16th (RRV#,v.o.).

Lark Sparrows were reported from Nantucket on the 5-7th (HLJ,v.o.), from Wellfleet on the 8th (RAF), and from WBWS on the 23rd-24th (WWB). Tree Sparrows arrived during the third week of the month and over 85 were noted in Provincetown on the 23rd (SAP#) and 125+ were seen in Framingham on the 30th (RAF). The last big flocks of Chipping Sparrows were noted during the first week with 25+ at Wellfleet (MK), and 33 on P.I. (RHS#). A single bird was found in Clinton on the 23rd (HWM). A maximum of 3 Clay-colored Sparrows was found at Truro on the 1st (MK,RHS,RRV#,v.o.) where 1-2 birds were found there off and on during the month. Other Clay-colored Sparrows were noted from Nantucket on the 8th (KJH) and in No. Scituate on the 22nd (SH). Over 35 Field Sparrows were noted in South Peabody on the 19th (RSH). White-crowned Sparrows were reported in small numbers in only a few localities. Lincoln's Sparrows were well reported with over 40 individuals noted. An overwhelming 200 Swamp Sparrows were counted in East Boston on the 7th (SZ). The first Lapland Longspurs were seen at Provincetown on the 1st (RRV) with many more by month's end; unusual was a flock of 10+ in Bolton on the 23rd (HWM). Snow Buntings were reported from many inland areas as well as along the coast with a maximum of 500 at Salisbury on the 29th (RAF).

RHS

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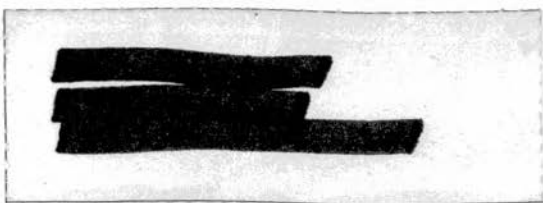


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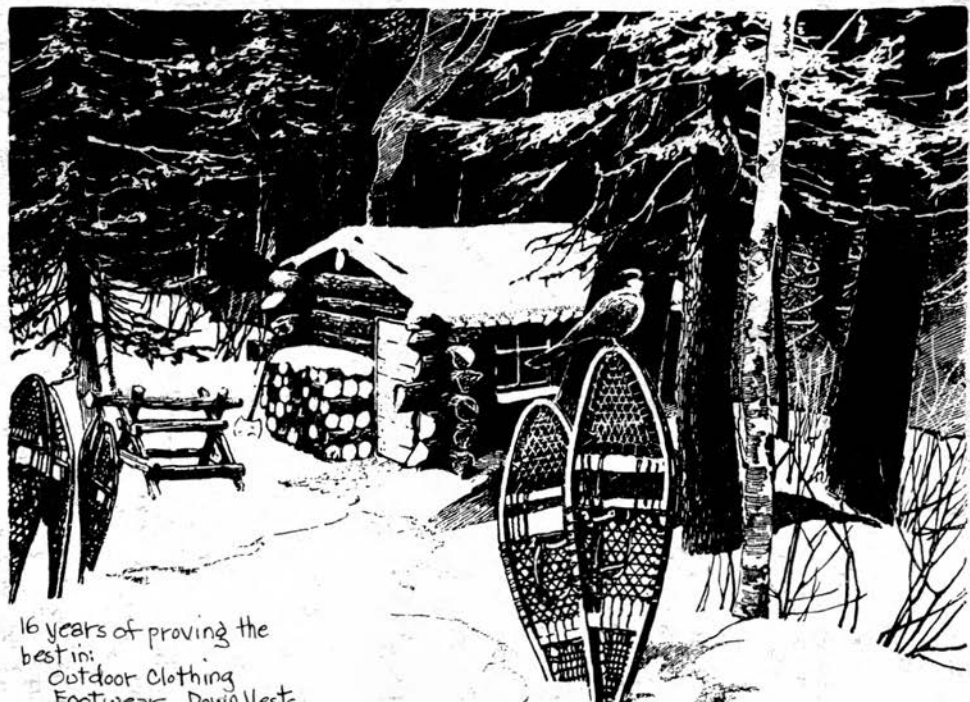
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