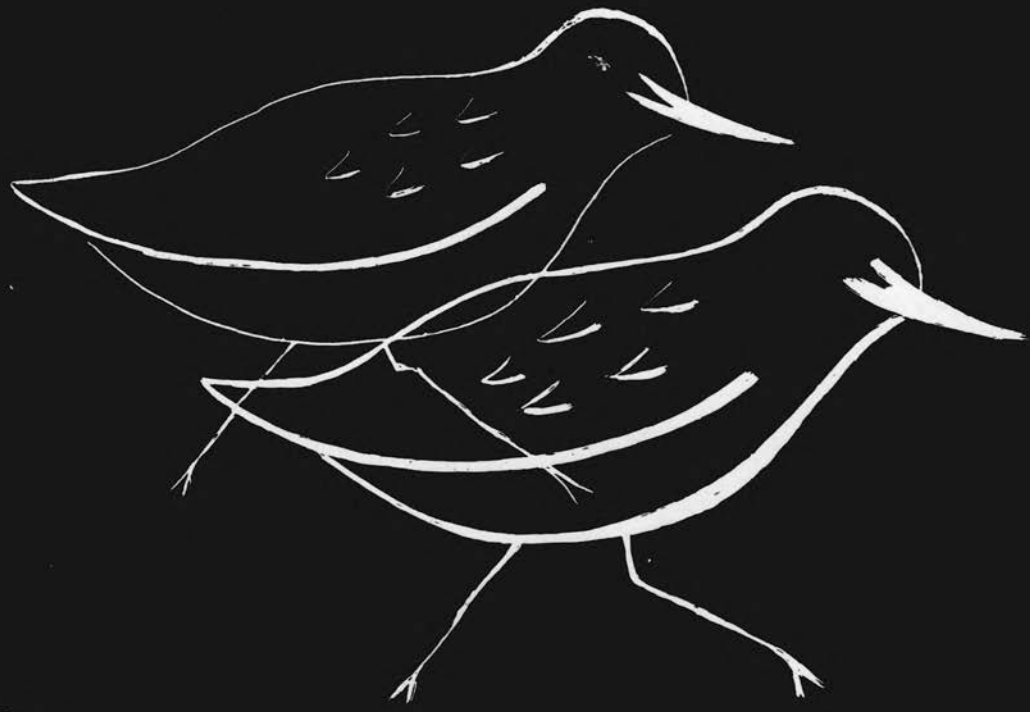


BIRD OBSERVER

OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS



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REGIONAL COMPILERS

Please send all of your reports before the 5th of the following month to any of the compilers in your area:

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EDITOR'S PAGE

OUR MOST IMPORTANT NOTICE!

About 200 birders receiving this issue have already resubscribed for 1974. But our mailing this month is to over 350 subscribers in 1973. To meet our costs during the coming year, we need all of you! As David Ives might say -- here is music to write checks by -- the song of a Hooded Warbler at Mt. Auburn.

TWO UPCOMING MEETINGS

March 2. Statewide Meeting of Birders and Bird Clubs. Sponsored by the Massachusetts Audubon Society, with the Hoffmann Bird Club as host, this year's meeting will be held in the Western Massachusetts Electric Auditorium, West St., Pittsfield. If you would like to get on the program or need more information, contact Mrs. Deborah V. Howard at MAS, Lincoln, Mass. 01773. Telephone 259-9500.

April 19-21. North American Hawk Migration Conference. The location will be the Holiday Inn north of Syracuse, New York, and the host will be the Onandaga Audubon Society. Here is an opportunity for serious hawkwatchers "to exchange observations on hawk migration, to set standards for record-keeping, and to agree on ways of sharing and collating information on a continuing basis." Contact: Dorothy W. Crumb, 3983 Gates Road North, Jamesville, N.Y. 13078.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE STAFF NOTES

The new manager of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge is George W. Gavutis, Jr., replacing Edward S. Moses, who was assigned to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Boston Regional Office. One of Mr. Gavutis' objectives is to introduce imprinted Wood Ducks from his former station at Great Swamp NWR in New Jersey, in hopes of introducing a new nesting species.

The assistant refuge manager, Linda D. Kipp, has been at Parker River since early 1972. Wildlife Biologist William R. Forward, is familiar to readers of BIRD OBSERVER for his timely article on last year's paralytic shellfish poisoning (red tide) in our premiere issue.

Another new manager, of Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, Concord, is Grady E. Hocutt. He also, among others, will direct activities at Monomoy N.W.R. and Nantucket N.W.R., which are under the administration of the Great Meadows office. Holding two master's degrees, in Zoology and Wildlife Management, and in Health and Physical Education, Mr. Hocutt has been in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service since 1970.

A Note from the Backyard

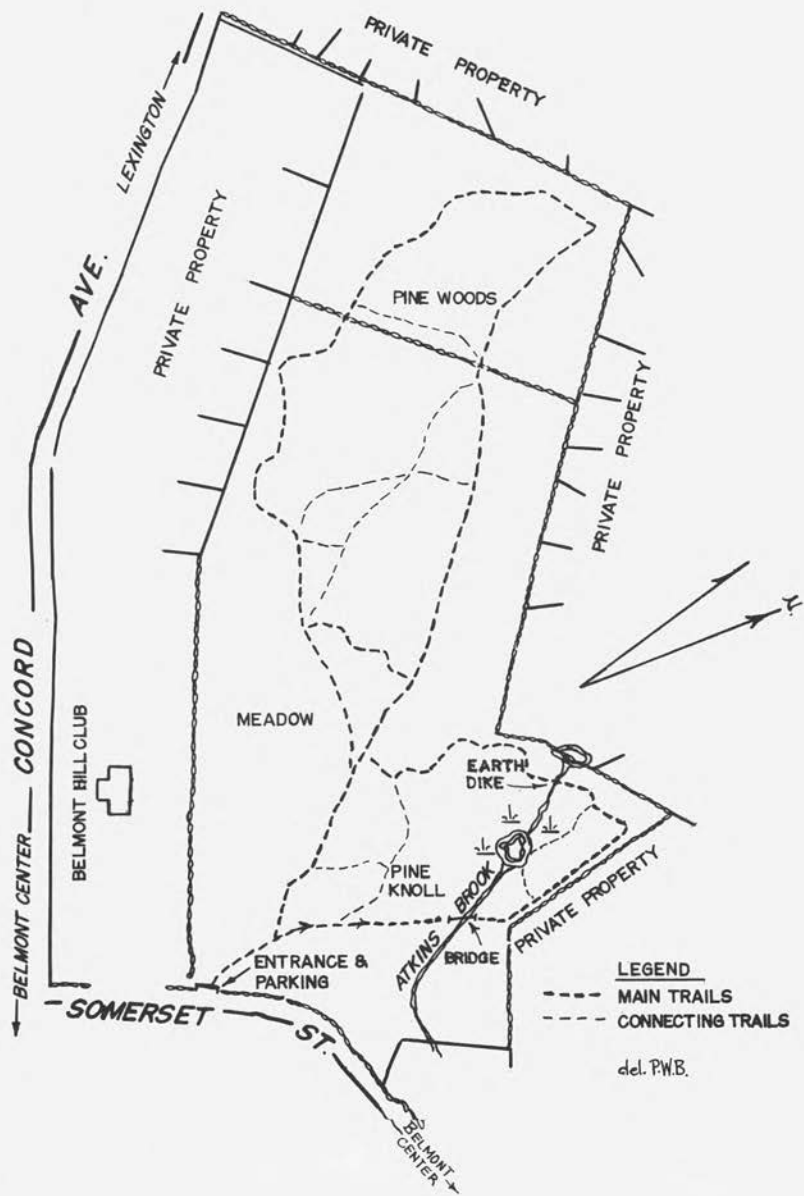
Today, while I was dictating a long letter, a flock of about 40 Starlings flew onto the lawn outside my office window. As I watched the troupe comb the newly flourishing March grass, the seemingly random motions of the individual birds melted into a group behavioral pattern that I had never noticed before.

A Starling would be probing the turf; then another bird would fly or run over to usurp the feeding grounds, virtually always with success. The displaced Starling would then either begin his foraging anew or would take over someone else's station.

In this manner, the entire flock progressed across the lawn in what was actually an orderly march. During the five minutes that I watched, no pecking order was obvious, though isolated squabbles did occur. Rather, it seemed as if any Starling felt that another's good fortune was his own.

Has anyone else observed similar bird behavior?

HIGHLAND FARM WILDLIFE SANCTUARY



URBAN BIRDING AT HIGHLAND FARM

Paula Butler, Belmont

With gas a precious commodity nowadays, birders should look toward likely spots close to home. At the right time of year, urban habitats can provide a surprising variety of birdlife, as evidenced by a local Mecca, Mt. Auburn Cemetery (BIRD OBSERVER, Vol.1, No. 2). But why is Mt. Auburn so good during spring migration? First, and most obvious, it lies along the Atlantic Flyway. Second, and more significant, it offers a diversified and predictable bit of greenery along the eastern megalopolis -- an absolute invitation to migrants after a long night's flight.

Yet, Mt. Auburn is not alone! Probably within a few blocks of your home is a woodland patch that holds more migrant warblers, thrushes, and the like than you have ever imagined. This coming spring, don't forget Mt. Auburn, but don't neglect some nearby areas that you've never birded seriously before -- you might be surprised! Highland Farm is one of my favorite alternatives, a place that I've birded for a dozen years. In this article we will look beyond its winter and spring offerings, for these 44 acres offer something all year long.

Located at the top of Belmont Hill about a half mile from Belmont Center, Highland Farm includes an abandoned meadow, deciduous woods, and pine forests. Early in the year small brooks and springs form a temporary pond that provides an added attraction for spring migrants and permanent residents. Persons interested in mycology will find a good variety of mushrooms, including Cepe (Boletus edulus), Shaggy Manes (Coprinus commatus), and Sulphur Tuft (Polyporus sulphureus). Among the wildflowers you will find: near the footbridge, Partridgeberry (Mitchella repens); in the pine woods, Indian Pipe (Monotropa uniflora) and Jewelweed (Impatiens pallida), an antidote for Poison Ivy that grows very near the offender; in the field, Yarrow (Achillea millefolium), Common St. Johnswort (Hypericum perforatum), and White Sweet Clover (Melilotus alba).

Part of this Massachusetts Audubon Society sanctuary has historical interest, since it was the first American center for breeding Holstein cattle; Yorkshire swine; Lincoln, Texel, and Caramen sheep; and Asiatic fleece-bearing goats. At the present parking area off Somerset Street, the retaining wall of the Highland Farm Race Track is still visible. Between 1874 and 1903 the United States trotter record for a mile was 2:14; today it stands at only 1:54.6 (fittingly by a horse named Albatross!), indicating that the Highland Farm track must have been a fast one. In 1907, when the Belmont Railroad Station was built (now the Belmont Lions Club), about 365 tons of field stone were dragged by horses from the site of the old farm. In 1965, 22 acres of the present sanctuary were given to MAS by Mr. and Mrs. William H. Claflin while an equal adjoining parcel was purchased by contributions from citizens.

In the winter, when the snow is deep, one can combine snowshoeing or cross-country skiing with birding. However, if you decide to walk, the paths are well defined and well traveled, since Highland Farm is one of the major varied open land areas in urban Boston. I usually choose the path to the right of the parking area, but if the crows and jays are calling frantically from the pine woods in back of the meadow, go there quickly for the birds are probably harassing an owl. The pine knoll, pine woods, and cedars along the paths are well known to birders as the favorite haunts of Great Horned, Long-eared, Barred, Screech, and Saw-whet Owls. William Brewster documented these owls in his classic Birds of the Cambridge Region, where there is also an exciting account of the discovery and collection of a Great Gray Owl on a nearby hill.

Though owls highlight the winter fare, many other species can be observed. If you go down the path to the right toward the pine knoll, Fox Sparrows and a wintering Towhee might be found. After crossing the wooden foot bridge and bearing left alongside the stone wall, you will come to a spot favored by Brown Creepers, Golden-crowned Kinglets, and both nuthatches. This trail turns left again, passing over an earth dike, and brings you to an area preferred by woodpeckers, Dark-eyed Juncos, and White-throated Sparrows. A few years ago, before the sanctuary became so heavily used, you might have found Ruffed Grouse. After you complete the loop back to the meadow, check for other sparrows, American Kestrels, and wintering Red-tailed Hawks. For those with limited time, this loop takes 45 minutes or less.

A spring walk should be more leisurely. While standing at the sanctuary entrance, you will probably hear House Wren, Field Sparrow, Mockingbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Rufous-sided Towhee, and maybe a cuckoo in the distance. In April, if you visit at dusk, Woodcock may be heard. (Another 6/10 of a mile westward on Concord Avenue is the Belmont Incinerator; the adjacent wetlands are especially favored by these birds.) Taking the path to the right again, Hermit Thrushes and American Robins will pace you. Though you may stop to admire the profuse blossoms on the very old cherry trees, be alert for orioles and hummingbirds. Broad-winged Hawks also frequent the sanctuary in spring.

As you approach the bridge area, known locally as "Warbler Way," you should hear Northern Parula, Black-and-White, Blackpoll, Tennessee, Magnolia, Northern Yellowthroats, and Chestnut-sided Warblers. Although you may identify their songs, to observe these birds you should cross the bridge and follow the trail to the left. About 50 feet down the path you will see a large oak tree on the right with a stone marker at its base. The plaque is in memory of George Drew, Jr., who used to lunch at this spot and take notes on the spring arrivals, whose songs he knew so well. His best count was 22 species of warblers, including a Cerulean. The temporary pond is opposite the oak and provides the best vantage for warbler watching. As the pond recedes, Spotted Sandpipers can be found and Ovenbirds seem particularly vocal.

Upon returning to the trail leading down the center of the meadow, stay alert but don't expect much more than the summer residents. When the red pines appear on your right, stop and check for Pine Warblers. Though these Red Pine woods are a delight to walk through, scientists are unable to explain why more species are not attracted to them.

Summer is not my favorite season at Highland Farm. The grass in the meadow is high, and I suspect ticks live there. The paths seem to become overgrown, and mosquitoes cloud about your head. With the end of the nesting season, the woods fall silent, except for the summer residents feeding their young or starting a new family.

I've birded Highland Farm a few times in the fall, when southward-bound warblers seem to come in pockets. Again, one of the best places is the bridge, although if it has been a dry summer, there is little there to attract birds. Other good places are the trees and brush along the right-hand side of the meadow. Fall provides a great opportunity to test your knowledge of immature plumages.

It is interesting that as many as 15 Mockingbirds have been counted in the meadow during the summer, but only one or two stay during the winter. I suspect some of the other birds go down hill to the Winn Brook area, where there are many fruit-bearing ornamental trees and shrubs.

Highland Farm is reached by MBTA most easily from Belmont Center via Harvard Square. Ride to the end of the line (Filene's) where the distance to Highland Farm gate is 8/10 of a mile, and then walk up Alexander Avenue to where you cross Pleasant Street. Somerset Street will be diagonally across the road. Though it is a steep walk, yard feeders, tangles, and brooks provide attractions along the way.



Highland Farm Wildlife Sanctuary

SIBLING SPECIES

J. T. Leverich, Cambridge

What are Sibling Species?

Two or more new bird species may sometimes evolve completely from a parental stock without developing conspicuous external physical differences. Species that are morphologically identical, or very nearly so, are called sibling species.

Surprisingly, there is no evidence to suggest that sibling species are actually any more closely related than are other non-sibling species pairs. However, siblings regularly differ in habitat preference and behavior. Nevertheless, as each pair is more intensively studied, biologists seem to be able to assemble the usual complement of minute morphological characteristics that distinguish the two species. Eventually such distinctions may be found for all pairs. A sibling would then be nothing more nor less than a bird which is relatively hard to identify in the museum tray.

As the previous paragraphs suggest, the applicability of the term "sibling species" is somewhat subjective. Moreover, the phrase has a peculiarly "human component". Ornithologists reserve this term for species pairs of which one species was originally overlooked. A catalog of avian siblings is a historical list of ornithological errors!

As I have mentioned in previous articles (BIRD OBSERVER, Vol. 1, Nos. 4 and 5,) scientists hesitate to classify geographically isolated populations that are morphologically identical as separate species. Hence, all avian siblings are either sympatric or parapatric.

The Semipalmated Sandpiper (Calidris pusillus) was first described in 1766; the Western Sandpiper (C. mauri) was not noticed until 90 years later. The Acadian Flycatcher (Empidonax virescens) was first described in 1810; the Willow Flycatcher (E. traillii) was first recognized in 1831; the Least Flycatcher (E. minimis) and the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (E. flaviventris) were not "discovered" until 1843. Both of these are cases of sympatric siblings with broadly overlapping breeding ranges. Massachusetts birders should find these two ornithological foibles quite consoling!

The last pair of sympatric siblings was "split" in 1889. Recognition of parapatric pairs is much more difficult, for the relevant evidence is harder to come by. One must first locate the much smaller zone of overlap, which all too frequently turns out to be in an area unfit for human habitation. The ornithologist must go to this inhospitable area and make a detailed study of the behavior of those few individuals (from both species) that share the overlap zone for breeding. The practical difficulties involved are suggested by the following chronology:

- 1763: the Herring Gull (Larus argentatus) was first described.
- 1915: Thayer's Gull was described and classified as a geographic subspecies of the Herring Gull (L. a. thayeri). It was originally identified by virtue of a distinctive egg-coloration pattern. The brown eye, so characteristic of this species, seems not to have been remarked upon before the late 1920's.
- 1950: Salomonsen examined a series of gulls collected in the Frozen Strait, one of the two areas of overlap of these two species. He decided that Thayer's Gull was not conspecific with the Herring Gull, but was instead a race of the Iceland Gull (Larus glaucooides).
- 1961: Smith found the area of overlap of Thayer's Gull and Kumlien's Gull (Larus glaucooides kumlieni). He proved that these two forms coexist sympatrically in Home Bay on Baffin Island without interbreeding. Thayer's Gull was thus a separate species (L. thayeri).
- 1966: Smith's monograph correctly diagnosing these siblings was published.
- 1973: the A. O. U. officially recognized Thayer's Gull as a separate species (see BIRD OBSERVER Vol. 1, No. 5, page 106, 125).

(To the average bird-watcher, who is more interested in his own ability to identify a bird correctly than the niceties of taxonomic classification, the most important dates

in the above sequence will be 1763 and 1915 -- the two dates of first description. Although Thayer's Gull is identifiable in the field, these dates show that it was totally overlooked for 152 years!

A few other parapatric pairs of local interest, together with the dates of first description, are the following:

1. Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*, 1761), and Lesser Scaup (*A. affinis*, 1838)
2. Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*, 1789), and Long-billed Dowitcher (*L. scolopaceus*, 1823)
3. Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*, 1763), and Kumlien's Gull (*L. glaucooides kumlieni*, 1883).²
4. Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*, 1758), and Western Meadowlark (*S. neglecta*, 1834)
5. Common Redpoll (*Acanthis flammea*, 1758), and Hoary Redpoll (*A. hornemanni*, 1843).

As noted in the first article of this series, three parapatric sibling pairs were newly recognized in the recent A.O.U. Check-list Supplement (my Category II). One more pair may be recognized soon: Arctic Loon vs. Pacific Loon.

How common are avian sibling species?

Ernst Mayr estimates that fewer than 5% of all bird species are siblings.⁴ In North America, the proper figure is probably closer to 1%. Among the lower animals, however, sibling species can be quite common. They occur most frequently among those animals with highly developed chemical senses (smell, taste, touch). Birds share with humans a primary reliance on visual and auditory stimuli and a general incompetency in the other senses. This explains why humans are almost as good at recognizing bird species as the birds are themselves!

Why are there any sibling species at all?

More precisely, the question should be: Why do certain species pairs fail to develop obvious and distinguishing external markings, when such morphological differentiation is typical of the evolution of at least 95% of all bird species?

Biologists believe that certain genetic stocks enjoy an unusually strong selective premium on the maintenance of their basic morphological characteristics. As soon as one mutation takes place, producing an initial divergence from the stock, natural selection sets up a strong counter-pressure in favor of still further genetic changes. These changes will have as "side-effects" the restoration of morphological development along time-tested lines (p. 57). The biologist refers to this phenomenon as developmental homeostasis.

The concept of developmental homeostasis is a poor substitute for an explanation -- frankly unsatisfying. Although it may answer the question of how sibling groups evolve, it only begs the question of why. It does help, however, to explain a few other related facts; namely, quite frequently if a genus contains one pair of sibling species, it will contain more than one such pair. In fact, all species in the genus may be fairly tricky to identify. Not just the siblings but all Empidonax flycatchers fall in this category. Distinguishing the Lesser Scaup from the Greater Scaup is surprisingly hard; separating immature or female Ring-necked Ducks from Tufted Ducks can likewise be unpleasant.

What non-visual characteristics are used for identifying avian sibling species?

Among avian sibling species, the most important non-visual diagnostic character by far is the vocalization pattern. The territorial song is quite characteristic of song-bird species. All Empidonax flycatchers are identifiable on this basis. The Eastern Meadowlark has a well-known piercing five-note song; the Western Meadowlark's song is distinctly more melodious and more complicated, reminiscent of the Bobolink's flight song.

Many sibling species can be identified by their call-notes. The Yellow-bellied Flycatcher has a call-note which is impossible to describe but quite trivial to recognize once it has been learned. Short-billed Dowitchers utter a triple "tu-tu-tu" when alarmed; the Long-billed Dowitcher's call-note is a single, higher-pitched "keek".

MORAL: Learn to bird by ear as well as by sight, and get the vocalizations of sibling

species down pat quickly. One can save a lot of time at the Plum Island salt-pans, if one knows what a Western Sandpiper sounds like!

Behavioral characteristics occasionally are of assistance. By virtue of its longer bill, the Western Sandpiper is able to feed in deeper water than the Semipalmated Sandpiper. It usually does so. Westerns also tend to "dunk" the entire head while feeding; Semipalmateds rarely do so. In fact, most of the Westerns that I have found for myself first caught my attention through their distinctive feeding habits.⁵

What criteria are used to distinguish non-avian siblings?

Certain field-cricket may be diagnosed by their characteristic stridulation patterns (p. 45); fireflies, by their light-flash patterns (p. 51); termites, by their nest structures (p. 50). Sibling species of octopus are infested by different parasites (p. 54). Sibling black flies exhibit distinct salivary gland chromosome patterns (p. 55). To diagnose sibling slugs correctly, one should see the courtship pattern (p. 52). Various sibling moths feed exclusively on different food-grains (p. 40). "The" malaria mosquito of Europe is actually six species, only two of which are dangerous to man; they may be identified by the egg-coloration pattern (p. 35). Certain species of Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths) can be correctly identified only after inspection of the armatures of the male genitalia (p. 41). Bird-watchers have much to be grateful for!

Footnotes

1) Sympatric = sharing a common breeding range; parapatric = having breeding ranges which are contiguous, with perhaps a narrow zone of overlap; allopatric - having non-overlapping breeding ranges.

Among certain lower animals, allopatric sibling species can sometimes be detected by artificial breeding experiments in the laboratory. One need only bring together two sample populations drawn from different localities and then observe whether or not the two groups freely interbreed. Such experiments have been conducted for certain "fruit flies" and frogs, but the procedure is impractical for birds.

2) Note the same familiar pattern: (1) Kumlien's Gull was first overlooked entirely, then (2) after its "discovery" it was thought to be a subspecies of the Herring Gull, and finally (3) it was classified as a subspecies of the Iceland Gull (Larus glaucoides, 1822).

3) Mayr, Ernst and Lester L. Short (1970), Species Taxa of North American Birds (Nuttall Ornithological Club, Cambridge), pp. 28-29, 91.

4) Mayr, Ernst (1963), Animal Species and Evolution (Harvard University Press, Cambridge), p. 38. Unidentified page references in the final paragraph of this article will all refer to this book. References to the primary literature may in turn be found there.

5) The differences in feeding habits and the greater bill length of the Western Sandpiper suggest to me that, as the tide comes in at Newburyport, for example, Western Sandpipers should linger longer in the harbor than do the Semipalmateds. I do not know this to be a fact, but local birders who manage to "catch" the tide might well watch for the phenomenon. I believe that I have once observed the reverse situation, that is, Western Sandpipers arriving first as the tide goes out.

WINTER SONGS OF THE PURPLE FINCH

During nine winters from 1962 to 1972, Stewart Duncan of Boston University recorded the earliest dates on which he heard Purple Finch songs in Essex County, Massachusetts. Three types of vocalization were noted: the familiar warbling song, the uncommon vireo song (short phrases of a few notes each), and a vocalization likened to the whisper song similar in pattern to the warbling song but much softer, lasting 1 to 3 seconds, and repeated for 1 1/2 to 3 minutes).

Only twice was the vireo song heard, in February, 1971. The warbling song was noted as early as February 9th, though the author remarks that it is more frequently given later in that month and in March. The whisper song seems to be uttered earliest, beginning in mid-January. From The Auk, October, 1973.

L. J. R.

CARDINALS AND TITMICE

Leif J. Robinson, Wellesley

A report from Massachusetts Audubon Society summarizes the Cardinal-Tufted Titmouse census for all New England during 1969-73. The historical resume notes that previous to 1957 both species were uncommon or rare in the six-state area, though a gradual expansion into southern New England was evident. Then, in the fall of 1957, an invasion into the central and northern states took place, and by 1962 "it was obvious that the birds were here to stay."

The census was established in 1963 to judge the extent and magnitude of the invasion. From the information collected, the report's author, Deborah V. Howard, concludes:

"What has become evident from this census is that the Cardinal is much less limited by habitat and physiography than the Tufted Titmouse. Cardinals have now spread into central Vermont and New Hampshire in some numbers ... and have been reported almost to the Canadian border in both Vermont and New Hampshire. They have appeared on Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket as well as the islands in Narragansett Bay, and they have apparently adapted, with the help of feeders to tide them over the winter, to habitats as diverse as the oak-pine woods of Cape Cod and the northern hardwoods-conifer vegetation of north-central New England.

By contrast, the Tufted Titmouse seems firmly tied to the oak forest. Indeed, the titmouse is described by early authorities as living in the deciduous bottomlands of the South, dependent upon acorns for much of its winter food. Sunflower seeds provided at most birdfeeders have replaced acorns in part, but the titmouse is still rare or absent in northern Vermont, New Hampshire and most of Maine. In addition, this species is apparently reluctant to fly over even a small amount of water, for it has been absent from all major Massachusetts islands and very scarce on outer Cape Cod."

Of course, the number of each species reported during any census period depends not only on the actual bird abundance but also on such factors as observer participation and weather. Furthermore, Cardinals are more conspicuous than Titmice. One statistic that is independent of these random factors is the ratio of Cardinals to Titmice. Taking the data in the MAS report, which includes over 30,000 Cardinals and over 20,000 Titmice, I derived this ratio for each year and for each state. (It should be noted that Connecticut carried out the census for only three years, and the data for Maine are too few for statistical significance.) A ratio of 1 indicates an equal reporting of both species, while a ratio of 2 means that Cardinals were noted twice as often as Titmice, and so on.

	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	Av.
Connecticut	1.3	1.3	1.4	--	--	1.3
Maine	2	3	--	--	2	2
Massachusetts	2.1	1.4	1.3	1.1	2.1	1.6
New Hampshire	5.4	1.8	4.7	4.8	1.7	2.7
Rhode Island	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.6	2.5	1.9
Vermont	11	16	29	30	29	22
New England	1.8	1.5	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.5

From the last line of the table it is evident that throughout New England the ratio of Cardinals to Titmice has remained essentially constant during these five years: that is three Cardinals were seen for every two Titmice. Statewise, however, the data show some interesting variations.

For example, note that in Vermont the Cardinals outnumber the Titmice by more than 20 to 1, on the average, and this imbalance seems to be increasing. However, the scarcity of Titmice (only 144 over the five years) means that a small change in their counted numbers causes a marked change in the ratio.

In New Hampshire the ratio fluctuates much more than for other states, about 5 to 1 in 1969, 1971, and 1972, but 2 to 1 in 1970 and 1973. However, this variation may not be real, for the scarcity of both species again permits large changes in the ratio.

Statewide or regional statistics are not necessarily indicative of local populations. For example, Eliot Taylor notes that in Sherborn, Massachusetts, the 1972 census yielded 28 Cardinals and 112 Titmice, while in 1973 the numbers were 25 and 142, respectively. The

ratio, therefore, is 0.2. In other words, Titmice like Sherborn!

I would like to thank Mrs. Howard for her MAS report "Cardinals and Tufted Titmice in New England."

L.J.R.

THREE-YEAR COMPARATIVE
CENSUS RESULTS OF THE
TUFTED TITMOUSE - CARDINAL

<u>Massachusetts</u>	<u>1971</u>		<u>1972</u>		<u>1973</u>	
	C	T	C	T	C	T
Barnstable	170	24	112	71	281	142
Bristol	224	214	641	560	242	213
Dukes	32	0	32	0	67	0
Essex	267	252	326	258	210	183
Middlesex	659	1048	403	826	291	493
Nantucket	0	0	11	0	13	0
Norfolk	420	556	331	577	307	549
Plymouth	216	368	154	356	284	584
Suffolk	52	28	18	22	46	43
Worcester	181	201	191	269	84	74
Totals	<u>2221</u>	<u>2691</u>	<u>2219</u>	<u>2939</u>	<u>1825</u>	<u>2281</u>
N.E. Totals	<u>5080</u>	<u>3940</u>	<u>4807</u>	<u>4258</u>	<u>3203</u>	<u>2657</u>

NODDING OWLS

We traditionally think of owls as birds that hunt at night and sleep during the day. How much do they sleep? Perhaps a brief study by two Wisconsin ornithologists gives us a clue.

Their subject was a young Barred Owl. On August 22, 1972, which was cloudy a good part of the day, the bird was watched from 5:25 a.m. to 8:04 p.m., when it was light enough to determine whether the owl was asleep (eyes closed, bird motionless), dozing (eyes partly closed), or awake. Overall, the owl was asleep 28 percent of the time, and it dozed about as often.

Frances Hamerstrom and Keith Janick conclude in The Auk for October, 1973, that, "This owl catnapped throughout much of the day -- a pattern that may well be normal in the wild."

L. J. R.



" I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME
- I CAN'T STAY AWAKE NIGHTS "

Reproduced from Conservation News, without permission, due to a happy enclosure by Ellen R. Riggs.

BOOK REVIEWS

The View from Hawk Mountain, Michael Harwood, Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 191 pages, \$6.95.

Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania, is the only place in the Northeast where for 40 years the fall hawk migration has been observed daily. This book, written by a devotee of the mountain, a freelance writer, and a birder, is a rambling, anecdotal history of the world's first sanctuary for the birds of prey. Background information on the slaughter of hawks in the early 20th century, the trials of creating a sanctuary, the movement to pass legislation protecting birds of prey, and the ecological problems threatening hawks today is interspersed with stories about the people involved.

The dedication of Maurice Broun, who spend 32 years on the mountain as the first curator, and the daily routine of Alex Nagy, who is currently in that position, are described along with the activities of the Pennsylvania Dutchmen who hate to quit shooting hawks and the birders who come from all over the world.

The flavor of hawk watching at Hawk Mountain comes through. One becomes familiar with the terrain and canny about the weather. Though the chapters are larded with tips about hawks, with references to writings by naturalists and ornithologists, there is much for those with a general interest in the conservation movement.

For the birdwatcher looking for something specifically about hawk migration, there is a new publication by Mr. Nagy and James Brett, Feathers in the Wind: The Mountain and the Migration. In it you will find photographs and maps showing why so many hawks fly past Hawk Mountain, and what weather conditions encourage good flights. You will also find charts that tell when, and in what numbers, the different species migrate. There are pages on each bird of prey to be observed, with photographs, silhouettes, and tips on identification. All this for \$2.00! Order from Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association, Route 2, Kempton, Pa. 19529.

Johanna Alderfer Harris, Belmont

Birds of Big Bend National Park and Vicinity, Roland H. Wauer, University of Texas Press, P. O. Box 7819, Austin, Texas 78712, 223 pages, \$4.95.

Having been a resident of Texas for several years and having fallen in love with the vast expanse of the Big Bend country, I eagerly anticipated the publication of Roland Wauer's new book. Mr. Wauer, a fine birder and a keen student of natural history, must have really enjoyed his opportunity to become the bird historian of the Big Bend from August, 1966, to October, 1971. As Chief Park Naturalist during that period, he spend some 3,500 hours in field research and was able to put together for the first time the complete picture of the region's avian possibilities -- from the peaks and flows of the Rio Grande-Intermountain migration flyway, to the wanderings of rare birds from the Sierras of Mexico into this borderland.

As I read through his book, I again thrilled at the memories of unspoiled desert gardens, the awesome shaded canyons, hikes through linely pine-oak woodlands high in the mountains that overlook the impenetrable thickets bordering the mighty Rio Grande river, and the brilliantly colored slopes of the Sierra del Carmen range in Mexico showing bright red in the last rays of sunset. Because of its great distance from airports and major highways, this region remains one of the least explored but most rewarding bird bonanzas in this country.

Mr. Wauer gives a brief ornithological history of the area, bringing up to to date with observations into the 1970's, including documentation of birds new to Texas (Rufous-backed Robin) or the United States (Black-vented Oriole). The text covers 385 species, 359 of which are documented by confirmation, specimen, or photograph; the remaining 26 are unconfirmed, thus hypothetical. This total makes Big Bend the birdiest National Park in the country and proves once again that nothing seems impossible for birders in Texas. As we read of recent sightings of White-tailed and Swallow-tailed Kites, Groove-billed Ani, Rose-throated Becard, Great Kiskadee, White-eared Hummingbird, Coppery-tailed Trogon, and others, it doesn't seem so incredible that Robert P. Fox of Hingham, Massachusetts, once found a Crimson-collared Grosbeak in this park.

A valuable section of this book is a discussion, (illustrated by color photographs of various habitats) of the Big Bend ecology that thoroughly traces the interrelation of the land,

vegetation, and wildlife. This is supplemented with color paintings of birds by Howard Rollin and Anne Pulich, grouped according to habitat requirements.

Of interest to life listers will be the detailed account of the rare Colima Warbler and where to find it. I can personally agree that the bird is "locally common" in several areas of the park and can be readily found from late April through June. However, I was surprised to learn that as many as 166 individuals were recently censused in one year.

The specific areas within the park that are mentioned may be found by using the book's detail map of the Big Bend area. Wauer also lightly touches on related nearby areas in southwest Texas, such as the Davis Mountains and the migratory mecca of Balmorhea Lake. In fact, this volume will be very useful to the visitor to Big Bend whether he be a birder or simply a lover of the outdoors.

The terminology used is a transition between the old and the new A. O. U. check-lists, as illustrated by the rather newly adopted "Great-tailed Grackle" and the inclusion of the now-lumped "Baltimore Oriole" and "Bullock's Oriole," as well as "Myrtle Warbler" and "Audubon's Warbler." A nice discussion based on personal experience shows the necessity of lumping Black-eared and Common Bush tits.

David T. Brown, Quincy

A Birder's Guide to Denver and Eastern Colorado, James A. Lane and Harold R. Holt, distributed by L & P Photography, Box 19401, Denver, Colorado, 80219, 136 pages, \$3.00.

Jim Lane has done it again! Birders of the 70's are certainly fortunate to have access to such "what to look for where" guides such as this book on eastern Colorado. Since this state has vast mountains and plains, the basic format of the book wisely provides many loop trips within reasonable driving time of Denver or other areas of suitable accommodation. Each loop is concisely presented and thoroughly prepared, giving the reader an accurate prediction of practically all species possible in all habitats.

While comparing my own notes of past birding trips to Colorado, I was delighted to find agreement on where to see such species as White-tailed Ptarmigan, Brown-capped Rosy Finches, Mountain Plovers, and McCown's Longspurs. However, I wish this guide had been available to lead me to Sharp-tailed Grouse, Sage Grouse, and the booming grounds of the Greater and Lesser Prairie Chickens. Also included is a list of birds with their best locations, of interest particularly to visiting listers. For birders or migration students, the chart of occurrence for the 392 species found within 50 miles of Denver will be valuable. This is followed by a listing of the frequency and habitat of mammals, amphibians, and reptiles encountered in the field.

I also find interesting some of the tips for birders, such as playing a tape recorder at low volume in order to be more attractive to birds. This book is highly recommended for library or traveler.

David T. Brown, Quincy

Autumn of the Eagle, George Laycock, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1973, 239 pages, \$6.95.

Because George Laycock's book treats such a tragic happening as the decline of the Bald Eagle, I wish that the exposition were more telling. Since the dust jacket describes Autumn of the Eagle as being "organized chronologically," it is disappointing that a solid, comprehensive picture of the eagle's plight does not emerge. The material on mass shooting and poisoning, DDT, and other persecutions is informative. Yet these chapters are admixed with others that are partly anecdotal and partly descriptive, the latter being written in a strangely old-fashioned and heavy style. For example, in describing the collapse of a tree bearing an overweight nest, the author writes, "The weight of sticks and moist decaying humus becomes a malignancy ... The old tree groans and bends ... The forest giant, shuddering and trembling, has leaned with the winds before, and stood. But on this night it dies."

Such prose distracts from the impact of Mr. Laycock's more factual account of man's appalling acts against the eagle. Moreover, this disconcerting mix affects the readability of the book for knowledgeable persons who hope that persuasive arguments for the protection of eagles will reach a larger public.

AVIS HEAD, Belmont

A Birder's Guide to the Texas Coast, James A. Lane, distributed by L & P Photography, Box 19401, Denver, Colorado, 80219, \$3.00.

This is another of Lane's popular "where to go to find ..." books; others include such favorite areas as the Rio Grande Valley (which preceded the present volume and is also reviewed in this issue), southeastern Arizona, and southern California. Birders familiar with this series will find few changes in format. The first section details a trip from one end of the area to the other -- in this case from Beaumont to Brownsville. Next come suggested side trips, and here we note a major change in style -- the accumulated mileages have been dropped. To this reviewer, these have only led to confusion. Next comes a discussion of specialities along the Texas coast (the selection is, of course, personal), a checklist of birds, and a summary of mammals, amphibians and reptiles of the region (an excellent feature of Lane's books). The list of references is very complete and useful.

Lane has also provided some identification aids that make the book worth getting even if no trip to the Texas coast is planned. Particularly informative is his analysis of the Eskimo Curlew at Galveston and his comparison of Baird's and Buff-breasted Sandpipers, Semipalmated and Western Sandpipers, Short-billed and Long-billed Dowitchers, and Connecticut and MacGillivray's Warblers. There is even an entertaining discussion on the pronunciation of Jacana.

The only real objection to this work is the feeling one gets of haste in putting it together. Parenthetical references to other sections of the book fail to include page numbers; also, there are some printing errors. Some maps, while useful, are too far from their text references. For example, the Jones State Forest map is on page 49 while its text reference is on page 54. In fact, there is a map of the Houston region in between! Yet these minor problems do not significantly detract from the worth of this book. Certainly, no birding trip to the Texas coast should be attempted without it.

Charles R. Bender, San Antonio, Texas

JAEGERS ARE ROUGH CUSTOMERS

To Massachusetts birders, a Long-tailed Jaeger is rare and very special -- "was it actually a Parasitic with unmutated tail feathers that I saw?" Yet, these birds do occur off our coast during migration, so here are a few glimpses into their lifestyles, gleaned from an article by Larry W. Price, Portland (Oregon) State University, in Arc-tic, September, 1973.

In 1967 and 1968, while studying the geomorphology of the Ruby Range in Yukon Territory, he discovered a pair of Long-tailed Jaegers nesting approximately 600 miles south of its previously known range.

The presence of these birds profoundly affected the ecology of the locality. For example, by chasing away any predatory species (avian or mammalian) that came near their slopes, the Long-tailed Jaegers stimulated uninhibited behavior and greater populations of many "hunted" species.

Mr. Price writes, "One of the attributes of the jaeger is its marvellous eyesight. They can see for great distances and very little happens within the surrounding area without their knowing about it. For example, any eagle that came closer than 2 or 3 km. to the southeast slope was promptly chased away. Occasionally we would hear the jaegers begin their high shrill calls and look in the direction they were flying to see an eagle -- just a speck in the sky. The same treatment was allotted other predators such as wolf, fox, bear, and wolverine. The jaegers' diving and screaming was enough to drive any self-respecting animal to distraction as we had ourselves experienced on several occasions while looking for their nest. The virtual elimination of predators from the slope during the summer was somewhat counterbalanced by the jaegers themselves, however, since they harvested many small rodents on the slope, i.e., shrews, lemmings, voles, and mice of various kinds. But for the larger burrowing mammals, such as ground squirrels, pika, marmot, as well as the ptarmigan, it provided a rather trouble-free existence."

So ... the next time you see one of these runts of family skua ... think of the impact a 3/4-pound bird can have on creatures more than a thousand times its size!

L. J. R.

THE BIRD OBSERVER SUMMARY FOR NOVEMBER

The month of November began cold, windy and dry, but ended unusually warm and experienced very marked variations in between. The first freeze was on the 12th when the temperature in Boston fell to 30°. Two days later, a record high of 71° was reported at 11:00 p.m. No snow fell anywhere in eastern Massachusetts during the month.

Very few loons or grebes were reported during the month, especially in early November when numbers should be at their highest. Certainly, the most impressive count of Gannets was recorded at Monomoy on the 20th. The count of 15,000 far and away succeeds the previous record of 2,000 at Eastham on November 8, 1968.

The particularly warm weather in November, as well as the preceding October, tempted many migrants to linger beyond their anticipated departure date. The following species were recorded in November beyond their usual date: Green Heron, a well observed Least Bittern, 3 Glossy Ibis, a Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Chimney Swift, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 3 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Solitary Vireo, Black-and-white, Northern Parula, Black-throated Blue, Blackpoll and Wilson's Warblers, a Bobolink and a Lincoln's Sparrow.

Another exceptional aspect of this month was the number of lingering shorebirds: Semi-palmated Plover, Golden Plover, Spotted Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, 35 Long-billed Dowitchers, a Marbled Godwit and 5 Hudsonian Godwits. Most exceptional, however, was the first state record of a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper seen and documented at Newburyport on the 3rd through the morning of the 5th. More on this will follow in Bird Observer. Another remarkable find was an Eurasian Whimbrel at Duxbury. The white tail and rump were plainly noted and the bird was photographed.*

Waterfowl highlights included 9 Whistling Swans, over 200 Gadwalls at Ipswich, 2 European Wigeons, 52 Northern Shovelers, Barrow's Goldeneye and 2 King Eiders.

Raptor numbers were down in all species. Exceptional reports were: 3 Turkey Vultures, 7 Goshawks, a Bald Eagle, 2 Peregrine Falcons, and a gray phase Gyr Falcon was seen through the 24th at Monomoy and North Beach, Chatham.

Three Ruffed Grouse were found in urban Boston, and the Purple Gallinule continued through the 11th in Falmouth. An amazing late count of 300+ Laughing Gulls was made in Boston Harbor.

The alcid flight was poor with only 8 Dovekies reported; the Barn Owl continued at Long Island in Boston Harbor and a Snowy Owl was found in Concord.

One hundred twenty Fish Crows were at the West Roxbury dump, and a Boreal Chickadee stayed at Plum Island from mid-month on. The numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches were very low, while 7 Winter Wrens and 6 Carolina Wrens were reported.

A Yellow-throated Warbler was picked up dead on Naushon Island, and a late Connecticut Warbler was recorded. One Brewer's Blackbird was found at Truro and 4 Dickcissels were reported.

Winter finches were scarce with the exception of the crossbills, which were reported in large numbers especially south of Boston. A Green-tailed Towhee was discovered in Scituate immediately after the feeder was put up for the very first time. Finally, the "LeConte's Sparrow" reported from Westport turned out to be a Grasshopper Sparrow when the photograph was developed.*

R.H.S.

*When a bird is photographed, especially a rare or unusual species, this is really not documented proof unless a copy of this photo is on file with the official report for further study. A case in point is the report of the strange sparrow at Westport.

Red-throated Loon:			
4	P.I., Braintree (Great Pond)	20+, 2	R. Veit, R. Forster
Red-necked Grebe:			
11, 18	Squantum, Westport	2, 5	E. Morrier, BBC (P. Regan)
Horned Grebe:			
9, 24	Lincoln, Wollaston	2, 6	W. Petersen#, G. Wilson#
18	South Boston, City Point	10	J. Pickup
		15	

Pied-billed Grebe:			
10	Lakeville, Carver	7,5	SSBC (Anderson)
<u>Gannet:</u>			
20	off Monomoy	<u>15,000</u>	R. Veit, D. Brown
Great Cormorant:			
18,24	Westport, P.I.	24,10	BBC (P. Regan), BBC (S. Garrett)
Double-crested Cormorant:			
2	Sandwich	3	R. Pease
Great Blue Heron:			
11,18	Eastham (F.H.), Westport	31,34	BBC (P. Aiken), BBC (P. Regan)
Green Heron:			
2	Centerville	1	V. Laux
Cattle Egret:			
9,10	Essex	1-2	P. Parsons
Great Egret:			
3&10;7	P.I.; Barnstable	1&1;1	W. Petersen#, M. Argue#; R. Pease
Snowy Egret:			
7	Barnstable	1	R. Pease
<u>Least Bittern:</u>			
3	P.I.	1 (well seen)	W. Petersen, R. Forster
American Bittern:			
10,11	P.I., Barnstable	4,2	R. Emery#, R. Pease
Glossy Ibis:			
19	Chatham	3	R. Forster
Mute Swan:			
13	Westport area	47	P. Butler#
<u>Whistling Swan:</u>			
8,19-21	Chatham, Wareham	7,1-2	P. Donahue#, R. Maxim
Canada Goose:			
17,18	P.I., Westport-Dartmouth	1000+, 1000+	BBC (N. King), BBC (P. Regan)
Brant:			
4;24	P.I., Sandwich; Monomoy	1,5;50	R. Veit, R. Pease; L. Robinson#
Snow Goose:			
4-15,13	P.I., Concord (GMNWR)	1-35,1	v.o., S. Hamblen
20	Monomoy	1	R. Veit, D. Brown
Black Duck:			
24	Monomoy	700+	R. Stymeist, P. Martin#
Gadwall:			
15-29	Ipswich (Clark Pond)	<u>150-200</u>	P. Donahue#, D. Alexander#
Pintail:			
10,23	Concord (GMNWR), P.I.	25,100	BBC (D. Weaver), J. Berry
Green-winged Teal:			
thr., 10	P.I., Concord (GMNWR)	max. 142,200	J. Berry & v.o., BBC (D. Weaver)
Blue-winged Teal:			
3	P.I.	2	W. Petersen, R. Forster
<u>European Wigeon:</u>			
3,29	P.I., Ipswich	1 f., 1 m.	W. Petersen#, D. Alexander
American Wigeon:			
10	Concord (GMNWR)	200	BBC (D. Weaver)
Northern Shoveler:			
10	P.I., Ipswich, Concord (GMNWR)	23,9,1	W. Petersen#, J. Berry, BBC (D. Weaver)
20,22	Monomoy, W. Roxbury	<u>52,1</u>	R. Veit#, F. Atwood
Wood Duck:			
4,14	Monomoy, Haverhill	1,6	P. Donahue, W. Drummond
Redhead:			
10,14-30	Falmouth, Woburn (Horn Pond)	5,1 f.	R. Pease, S. Raabe# & v.o.
18	Acoaxet	1	BBC (P. Regan)
Ring-necked Duck:			
3,4	Cambridge, Braintree	21,31	R. Veit, R. Forster
17	Littleton (Lake Nagog)	60	J. Baird
Canvasback:			
4,14	Braintree, Acoaxet	27,125	R. Forster, N. Powell#
Greater Scaup:			
11,18	Long Island, Newburyport	<u>2600, 1200</u>	L. Robinson, J. Baird#
Lesser Scaup:			
3	Cambridge (Fresh Pond)	1	R. Veit
Common Goldeneye:			
22	Boston Harbor	50	E. Morrier

Barrow's Goldeneye:				
16	Boston Harbor	1 m.		E. Morrier
Bufflehead:				
8,24	Squantum, Newburyport	560,200		E. Morrier, BBC(S. Garrett)
Oldsquaw:				
20	Monomoy	65		R. Veit#
Common Eider:				
20,24	Monomoy, North Beach(Chat.)	5000+, 5500+		R. Veit#, W. Petersen#
King Eider:				
24	E. Orleans	2		W. Petersen#
Black Scoter:				
3,9	P. I., Lincoln(Cambridge Res.)	300,2		W. Petersen#, R. Forster#
17	Scituate, Littleton	75,1		SSBC(Nichols), J. Baird
Ruddy Duck:				
10,14	Falmouth, Acoaxet	8,10		R. Pease, N. Powell#
Hooded Merganser:				
20,29	Monomoy, Ipswich	45,60		D. Brown#, D. Alexander
Common Merganser:				
4,17	Monomoy, Littleton	15,30		P. Donahue#, J. Baird
<u>Turkey Vulture:</u>				
4	E. Orleans, Duxbury, Rehoboth	1,1,1		V. Laux#, J. Kellogg, D&R Emerson
Goshawk:				
6,17,18	P. I.	singles		M. Baird, N. King#, J. Baird
10	S. Wellfleet, Chatham	1 imm., 1 ad.		W. Bailey, H. Rich
24,25	Orleans, Ipswich	1 imm., 1 imm.		W. Petersen#, J. Berry
Sharp-shinned Hawk:				
thr.	7 localities	singles		v.o.
Cooper's Hawk:				
7;24	P. I.; Squantum, P. I.	singles		D. Brown; R. Emery#, S. Garrett#
Red-tailed Hawk:				
thr.	9 localities	20 individuals		v.o.
Red-shouldered Hawk:				
10	Dartmouth	1		P. Regan
Rough-legged Hawk:				
thr.	6 localities	singles		v.o.
<u>Bald Eagle:</u>				
7	Barnstable	1 imm.		R. Pease
Marsh Hawk:				
26	Sandwich	5		R. Pease
Osprey:				
3	P. I.	1		W. Petersen, R. Forster
<u>Gyr Falcon:</u>				
11-24	Monomoy-North Beach(Chat.)	1 gray phase		W. Bailey#, R. Veit#, R. Stymeist#
<u>Peregrine Falcon:</u>				
17,24	Westport, S. Dartmouth	1,1		H. Willoughby, R. O'Hara#
Merlin:				
25	Ipswich	1		M. Ladd
Ruffed Grouse:				
21	West Roxbury(Gethsemane)	3		J. Pickup
King Rail:				
25	Plymouth	1		B. Sorrie
Clapper Rail:				
25	Plymouth	1		B. Sorrie
Virginia Rail:				
7,11,25	Barnstable, Truro, Squantum	1,1,1		R. Pease, R. Veit, D. Brown
Sora:				
5,28	Harwich, S. Boston	1,2		R. Pease, I. Mendelson
<u>Purple Gallinule:</u>				
1-11	Falmouth	1(from Oct.20)		C. Heffron & v.o.
Common Gallinule:				
5&10;24	Harwich; P. I.	1;1		B. Nikula, R. Pease; S. Garrett#
American Coot:				
5,17	Harwich, Woburn	75,69		R. Pease, R. Stymeist#
Semipalmated Plover:				
3,20	Newburyport, Monomoy	1,2		W. Petersen#, R. Veit#
Killdeer:				
25	Dartmouth-Westport area	40		PBC(P. Regan)

Golden Plover:			
10,25	P.I.,Dartmouth	1,1	H.Wiggin#,PBC(P.Regan)
Black-bellied Plover:			
10	Newburyport	200	BBC(C.Simmons)
Ruddy Turnstone:			
17	Scituate	3	SSBC(Nichols)
American Woodcock:			
2,10	Sandwich,P.I.	1,1(from ocean)	R.Pease,R.Forster#
17	W.Newbury,Winchester	2,1	W.Drummond,R.Stymeist#
20	Haverhill	2	W.Drummond
Common Snipe:			
14,16	Truro,Haverhill	2,3	H.D'Entremont#,W.Drummond
23	W.Roxbury	3	F.Atwood
<u>Eurasian Whimbrel:</u>			
11;12	Duxbury	1 (photographed)	W.Petersen,R.Forster;E.Phinney, D.Abbott,J.Lane
Spotted Sandpiper:			
24	Braintree(Great Pond)	1(late)	R.Langley
Greater Yellowlegs:			
24	Monomoy,P.I.	6,1	R.Stymeist#,BBC(S.Garrett)
Red Knot:			
25	Plymouth	1	B.Sorrie
Purple Sandpiper:			
17	Scituate	150	SSBC(Nichols)
<u>Sharp-tailed Sandpiper:</u>			
3-5	Newburyport	1	W.Petersen,R.Forster,R.Emery, M&A Argue,R.Veit,F.Hamlin, J.Baird,R.Baird,D.Alexander, D.Abbott
Pectoral Sandpiper:			
5,10	Harwich,Newburyport	2,1	R.Pease,W.Petersen#
White-rumped Sandpiper:			
15	P.I.	4	P.Donahue#
Dunlin:			
4&24;2	Newburyport;Duxbury	500+&320;2500	J.Berry,BBC(S.Garrett);B.Sorrie#
Long-billed Dowitcher:			
4,10	Newburyport	35,1	R.Veit#,W.Petersen#
Semipalmated Sandpiper:			
3,5	W.Harwich,Harwich	3,1	B.Nikula,R.Pease
<u>Marbled Godwit:</u>			
11	Chatham(Morris Island)	1	S.Maloney,R.Veit#
Hudsonian Godwit:			
3	Newburyport	5	W.Petersen,R.Forster
Red Phalarope:			
10	P.I.	1	R.Veit
Northern Phalarope:			
4	Monomoy	1	P.Donahue
Black-headed Gull:			
15,24	Ipswich,Chatham	1,1	P.Donahue,P.Martin#
Bonaparte's Gull:			
10,11	Westport,Cohasset	127,70	P.Regan,C.Clark
Laughing Gull:			
11	Boston Harbor	<u>300</u>	D.Brown
Little Gull:			
3,18	Long Island,Newburyport	1,1	L.Robinson,J.Baird#
24	Westport	1	R.O'Hara,A.Agush
Forster's Tern:			
4,8	Eastham(F.H.),Dennis	3,1	R.Forster,P.Donahue
Common Tern:			
9,10	Sandwich,P.I.	70+,1	R.Pease,W.Petersen#
Razorbill:			
24	Sandwich	1	R.Pease
Thick-billed Murre:			
4,24	Eastham,P.I.	2,1	R.Forster,BBC(S.Garrett)
23,24	Wollaston,Salisbury	1,1 shot	W.Cornwell,fide H.D'Entremont
Dovekie:			
3,9	Sandwich,Manomet	1,6	R.Pease,K.Anderson#
24	Westport	1	R.O'Hara,A.Agush

Yellow-billed Cuckoo:			
4	Orleans(Pochet)	1(late)	V.Laux#
<u>Barn Owl:</u>			
16	Long Island,Boston Harbor	1	E.Morrier
Screech Owl:			
30	Rockport	1(back again!)	D.Hale
Snowy Owl:			
8	Concord	1	B.Wentmore
Long-eared Owl:			
18	E.Orleans	1	P.Donahue#
Short-eared Owl:			
7,24	Plymouth,Monomoy	1,3	H.D'Entremont,R.Stymeist#
Saw-whet Owl:			
3-17	P.I.	1	v.o.
<u>Chimney Swift:</u>			
5	Harwich	1(late)	B.Nikula
Pileated Woodpecker:			
4,21	Wellesley,Acton	1,1	R.Forster,R.Thomson
<u>Red-headed Woodpecker:</u>			
5-30	Woburn(Horn Pond)	1 ad.	P.Donahue & v.o.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:			
18	Chatham	1(late)	P.Donahue
Eastern Phoebe:			
10,15	Falmouth,Sandwich	1,1	R.Pease
Horned Lark:			
20	Monomoy	200	R.Veit#
Tree Swallow:			
20	Needham	3(late)	J.Pickup
Barn Swallow:			
17,18	Chatham	4,2	B.Nikula,P.Donahue
Fish Crow:			
22	W.Roxbury	<u>120</u>	F.Atwood
<u>Boreal Chickadee:</u>			
10-30	P.I.	1	J.Weston & v.o.
<u>Red-breasted Nuthatch:</u>			
15	Needham(Cutler Park)	5	J.Pickup
House Wren:			
24	E.Orleans(Pochet)	1(late)	W.Petersen,R.Forster
Winter Wren:			
10,12	Falmouth,Harwich	1,1	B.Nikula
18,22	Sandwich,Woburn	2,1	B.Nikula,R.Stymeist
22,25	Norwell,Haverhill	1,1	B.Litchfield,W.Drummond
Carolina Wren:			
1;15	Scituate,Norwell;Sandwich	2,1;1	E.Sabin,B.Litchfield;R.Pease
24	Westport	2	R.O'Hara
Long-billed Marsh Wren:			
thr.,5	W.Harwich,Harwich	1-2,7	B.Nikula,R.Pease
Gray Catbird:			
8,27	Orleans,Dartmouth	1,1	R.Pease,P.Regan
Brown Thrasher:			
10,24	Falmouth,P.I.	1,1	R.Pease,BBC(S.Garrett)
American Robin:			
thr.	Cambridge(Mt.A)	100+	v.o.
Hermit Thrush:			
8,10	Orleans,P.I.	3,1	R.Pease,BBC(C.Simmonds)
20	Monomoy,Haverhill	7,4	R.Veit#,W.Drummond
Eastern Bluebird:			
thr.	Sherborn	9	J.Willison,E.Taylor
<u>Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:</u>			
2,5;24	Manomet,Plymouth;Falmouth	1,1;1	M.B.O.,B.Sorrie#;V.Laux,B.Nikula
Golden-crowned Kinglet:			
4	Belmont(Highland Farm)	8	BBC(L.DeGiacomo)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet:			
17,24,29	Wellesley,Westport,Sandwich	1,1,5	BBC(E.Cushman),R.O'Hara#,R.Pease
Water Pipit:			
3,4,8	P.I.,Eastham(F.H.),Truro	12,4,8	BBC(V.Albee),R.Forster,P.Donahue
11,24	Plymouth,Dartmouth	4,2	W.Petersen#,R.O'Hara#

Cedar Waxwing:			
4;26	Belmont, Barnstable; Needham	7, 21; 17	L. DeGiacomo, R. Pease; J. Pickup
Northern Shrike:			
10; 19	P. I., Westport; Carver, Plymouth	singles	H. Wiggin, P. Regan; R. Maxim
24	Monomoy, Orleans, Topsfield	2, 1, 1	P. Martin#, W. Petersen#, N. Johnson
Loggerhead Shrike:			
1, 24	Rowley, Westport	1, 1	D. Alexander, R. O'Hara#
Starling:			
10	W. Roxbury	7500	J. Pickup
<u>Solitary Vireo:</u>			
4	Lakeville	1	S. Higginbotham
Black-and-white Warbler:			
18&29	Sandwich	1(late)	B. Nikula, R. Pease
Orange-crowned Warbler:			
13, 29	Cambridge, Sandwich	1, 1	S. Raabe, R. Pease
Northern Parula Warbler:			
3	Ipswich	1(late)	J. Berry
<u>Black-throated Blue Warbler:</u>			
3	Belmont (Highland Farm)	1 m.	S. Raabe#
Yellow-rumped Warbler:			
11, 24	Long Island, Monomoy	24, 90+	L. Robinson, R. Stymeist#
<u>Yellow-throated Warbler:</u>			
13	Naushon Island	1(dead)	fide W. Bailey
Blackpoll:			
13	Cambridge	1(late)	S. Raabe#
Palm Warbler:			
2, 11	Sandwich, Scituate	1, 1	R. Pease, R. Langley
<u>Connecticut Warbler:</u>			
16	Acoaxet	1	R. O'Hara
Common Yellowthroat:			
18, 22	Chatham, Winchester	2, 1	P. Donahue#, P. Martin#
24, 28	Chatham, Gloucester	3, 1	W. Petersen#, A. Robinson
Yellow-breasted Chat:			
1-6, 10	Manomet, Woods Hole	8(b.), 1	M. B. O., V. Laux#
24, 27&28	Sandwich, Gloucester	1, 1	V. Laux, A. Robinson
Wilson's Warbler:			
28	Fall River	1(late)	E. Athearn
American Redstart:			
4, 17, 28	E. Orleans, Littleton, Sandwich	1, 1, 1(late)	B. Nikula#, J. Baird, R. Pease
<u>Bobolink:</u>			
11	Truro	1(late)	R. Veit
Eastern Meadowlark:			
thr.	Middleboro	10-23	D. Briggs
Redwinged Blackbird:			
10	Concord (GMNWR)	1000+	BBC (D. Weaver)
Northern Oriole:			
8; 24	Truro; Chatham, E. Orleans	1; 1, 1	R. Pease; W. Petersen, R. Forster
Rusty Blackbird:			
17, 24	Woburn, W. Roxbury	4, 2	W. Drummond, J. Pickup
Brewer's Blackbird:			
4	Truro (Corn Hill)	1	C. Goodrich, B. Nikula, V. Laux
Common Grackle:			
17	S. Dartmouth	1000	P. Regan
Brown-headed Cowbird:			
22	Wakefield	350	R. Stymeist, P. Martin
Indigo Bunting:			
10	Falmouth	1	R. Pease
Dickcissel:			
thr., 9, 24	Ipswich, Fall River, Chatham	2, 1, 1	M. Ladd, R. O'Hara, R. Forster
Evening Grosbeak:			
3, 5, 9	P. I., Mansfield, Byfield	11, 22, 20	W. Petersen#, A. Richardson, T. Joyce
Purple Finch:			
4	Belmont (Highland Farm)	6	BBC (L. DeGiacomo)
House Finch:			
17, 18	Belmont, Jamaica Plain (A.A.)	35, 26	R. Stymeist#, J. Pickup
Pine Grosbeak:			
9	Byfield	8	T. Joyce

Pine Siskin:			
3,10	P.I.	75,100+	W.Petersen,R.Forster
21,24	Rockport,Monomoy	50,29	L.Jodrey,P.Martin#
American Goldfinch:			
22,27	W.Roxbury,Dartmouth	60,50+	F.Atwood,P.Regan
Red Crossbill:			
10,17	Falmouth,P.I.	60+,100+	R.Pease,BBC(N.King)
24	Monomoy,Chatham-Orleans	95,100+	P.Martin#,W.Petersen#
White-winged Crossbill:			
thr.,24	P.I.,Chatham-Orleans	2-35,50	v.o.,W.Petersen#
Green-tailed Towhee:			
25-30	Scituate	1	Kennedy,S.Swaebe & v.o.
Rufous-sided Towhee:			
22	Long Island,Winchester	1,1	E.Morrier,R.Stymeist#
24,29	Westport,Sandwich	1,4	R.O'Hara,R.Pease
Savannah Sparrow: (Ipswich race)			
9,10	Squantum,P.I.	1,3	R.Veit,M&A Argue#
20,27	Monomoy,Duxbury	3,5	D.Brown#,J.Loughlin
Grasshopper Sparrow:			
9-16,18	Wellesley,Westport	1,1(photographed)	Ewers,BBC(P.Regan&R.O'Hara)
Sharp-tailed Sparrow:			
11,20	Plymouth,Monomoy	1,3	W.Petersen#,D.Brown#
Seaside Sparrow:			
25	Plymouth	2	B.Sorrie#
Vesper Sparrow:			
23	Dighton	2	D&R Emerson
Dark-eyed Junco:			
20,22	E.Milton,W.Roxbury	1(Oregon),51	W.Cornwell,F.Atwood
Tree Sparrow:			
22,23	W.Roxbury	138,175	F.Atwood
Chipping Sparrow:			
1	Sandwich	1	R.Pease
Field Sparrow:			
3,18	Barnstable,Scituate	4,1	R.Pease,J.Nichols#
White-crowned Sparrow:			
8	N.Middleboro,Truro	1,5	C&W Corwin,P.Donahue#
14,24	Truro,Chatham	1,1	D.Brown,W.Petersen#
Fox Sparrow:			
15;18	Nahant,Rochester;Gloucester	8,5;4	D.Alexander,J.Stairs;W.Drummond
22	Saugus,W.Roxbury	8,16	R.Stymesit#,F.Atwood
Lapland Longspur:			
10,17	Newburyport-P.I.,Duxbury	80+,150	W.Petersen#,J.Nichols
Snow Bunting:			
3,4	Ipswich,Salisbury	300+,600	J.Berry,J.Baird
11,20	Barnstable,Monomoy	700+,150	R.Pease,R.Veit#

Abbreviations

ad.	adult	SSEC	South Shore Bird Club
b.	banded	GMNWR	Great Meadows Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge
f.	female	IRWS	Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary
imm.	immature	MBO	Manomet Bird Observatory Staff
m.	male	MNWS	Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary
max.	maximum	WBWS	Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary
thr.	throughout	A.A.	Arnold Arboretum
unc.	uncommon	A.P.	Andrews Point
v.o.	various observers	E.P.	Eastern Point
yg.	young	F.H.	Fort Hill, Eastham
#	additional observers	F.M.	Fowl Meadow, Milton
CBC	Christmas Bird Count	Mt.A.	Mt. Auburn Cemetery
BBC	Brookline Bird Club	M.V.	Martha's Vineyard
CCBC	Cape Cod Bird Club	P.I.	Plum Island
PBC	Paskamansett Bird Club	S.N.	Sandy Neck, Barnstable



One of the most popular visitors to eastern Massachusetts during the fall of 1973 was this neatly plumaged male Red-headed Woodpecker at Horn Pond, Woburn. He was caught lardering an acorn by Leif J. Robinson, using a hand-held 400-mm. lens at f/11; 1/500-second exposure on Tri-X film through a yellow filter.



Immature Purple Gallinule captured on the lawn of the new Y.M.C.A. building in downtown New Bedford, photographed by Bob O'Hara of Fall River.

THE BIRD OBSERVER SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER

December, a big month for birders, was relatively warm with temperatures averaging nine degrees above normal. A large high off the north Atlantic coast circulated warm Caribbean air over the eastern part of the country most of the first week. Temperatures in Massachusetts were in the high 50's to mid 60's, with many records broken. At mid-month, an intense low pressure storm system off the Carolina coast brought heavy precipitation to the northeast. Its counter-clockwise circulation, however, brought moist air driven by gale force winds to eastern Massachusetts. Thus, the precipitation fell as rain, as much as two to four inches of it, causing some flash flooding along the coast. After a brief cold period, the last week of the month was again warmer than usual.

During the month, 197 species were observed in eastern Massachusetts, plus three subspecies - a Blue Goose on Nantucket, two Ipswich Sparrows and three Oregon Juncos. An additional four species of birds were found in western Massachusetts - a Golden Eagle, Turkey, Pileated Woodpecker and an Ovenbird. The annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) provided us with most of our records this month. In cases of unusual birds where the observer was unknown, the compiler of the count is listed.

The lingering warm weather, undoubtedly, kept many of the migrants here, notably Great-crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, and many warblers including Black-and-white, Nashville, Northern Parula, Prairie, Northern Waterthrush and Wilson's Warbler.

Shorebirds also lingered, with Piping Plover, many Black-bellied Plover, 6 Greater Yellowlegs, 7 Semipalmated Sandpipers and a Marbled Godwit being reported. The concentration of Sanderlings at Revere Beach was amazing; over 800 were found there on the Boston count.

Other highlights were a Northern Fulmar, picked up alive on Nantucket, a Cattle Egret, 2 Bald Eagles, 2 Peregrine Falcons and the Gyr Falcon continued at Monomoy. A Purple Gallinule, captured and photographed in New Bedford, is spending the rest of the winter in Capron Park, Attleboro. A Northern Skua, found at Andrews Point, Rockport, was being harassed by gulls. An amazing count of 152 Razorbills was observed on the Nantucket CBC. It tied the all-time record high count made on the Bay of Fundy CBC in 1968. I bet if they knew that, they would have found at least one more! Two Common Puffins were noted; Dovekies were scarce. A banded Common Raven landed on the Emerson Inn at Rockport. Western Tanagers were found at Chatham, Rockport and Wellesley, and the Green-tailed Towhee continued at Scituate until mid-month. A Lark Sparrow and a Clay-colored Sparrow were observed on the 29th (Cape Cod CBC).

Christmas counts reflected a substantial increase in Blue Jays over last year, and a decrease in Red-breasted Nuthatches. The warm weather resulted in many lingering species, the Rufous-sided Towhee being a good example. The following is a two-year comparison of these species. The figures following the count are the total number of species seen.

R.H.S.

	BLUE JAY		RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH		RUFUS-SIDED TOWHEE	
	1973	1972	1973	1972	1973	1972
Athol (29)	143	815	0	12	0	0
Buzzard's Bay (117)	519	252	0	5	12	5
Cape Ann (105)	581	226	30	13	13	0
Cape Cod (143)	393	302	3	61	8	3
Concord (81)	2082	773	32	10	6	1
Greater Boston (96)	610	221	6	38	6	0
Marshfield (89)	241	91	2	4	4	2
New Bedford (95)	525	885	0	2	26	17
Newburyport (96)	646	240	15	3	2	0
Quincy (94)	281	118	7	15	9	1
Taunton (86)	887	449	7	12	2	0
Totals:	6908	4372	102	175	88	29

We extend our thanks to all who contributed to Bird Observer records in 1973 and look forward to your continued support in 1974.

Common Loon:			
23	Newburyport area	51	D.Alexander, compiler CBC
Red-throated Loon:			
16	Revere-Winthrop	16	D.Finch, D.Abbott# CBC
Red-necked Grebe:			
3,22	Gloucester, Hull	1,1	M.McClellan#, S.Higginbotham CBC
23,28	Dennis, Manomet	7,2	B.Nikula#, W.Petersen
Horned Grebe:			
1,2	Braintree, S.Boston	1,18	W.Petersen, J.Pickup
Pied-billed Grebe:			
16	Woburn (Horn Pond)	11	R.Clayton CBC
<u>Northern Fulmar:</u>			
30	Nantucket	1 (picked up alive)	R.Veit CBC
Gannet:			
9,15,30	Rockport, Falmouth, Nantucket	120,2,100	G.Soucy#, R.Harlow CBC, R.Veit CBC
Great Cormorant:			
2	Cohasset	12	L.DeGiacomo#
<u>Double-crested Cormorant:</u>			
29,30	N.Chatham, New Bedford	1,1	W.Bailey CBC, G&J Fernandez CBC
Great Blue Heron:			
6,15	Bourne, Wareham	12,47	M.B.O., W.Petersen# CBC
29	Marshfield count	55	R.Ames, compiler CBC
<u>Cattle Egret:</u>			
7-15	Middleboro (Leona Farm)	1	C.Corwin, D.Briggs #
Black-crowned Night Heron:			
30,31	Nantucket, Hingham	63,6	R.Veit CBC, G.Wilson
American Bittern:			
1&15;29	P.I.; Cape Cod area	1;3	W.Cornwell, G.Soucy#; W.Bailey CBC
Mute Swan:			
23	Westport	120	A.Agush#
<u>Whistling Swan:</u>			
6-31	Gloucester (Niles Pond)	1	R.Forster & v.o.
23	P.I.	1	W.Harrington# CBC
Brant:			
1,2	Wollaston, Chatham	7,80	H.D'Entremont#, BBC (R.Pease)
16	Boston Harbor	9	D.Finch#, L.Robinson# CBC
29	Marshfield count	418	R.Ames CBC
Snow Goose:			
1,15	P.I., Wareham	9,1	M.Argue#, W.Petersen# CBC
15	Nantucket	1 (Blue Morph)	S.Perkins
Gadwall:			
1,8	Ipswich, Woburn	200,1	M&A Argue#, D&A Bades
16	S.Boston, Concord count	1,65	D.Brown# CBC, P.Alden CBC
Pintail:			
1,23	P.I., Yarmouth	10,15	BBC (I.Giriunas), B.Nikula
Green-winged Teal:			
1,16	P.I., Woburn	15,1	BBC (I.Giriunas), R.Clayton CBC
<u>Blue-winged Teal:</u>			
16,23	Wakefield, Manchester	3,1	W.Van Cor CBC, H.Weissberg CBC
15	Pocasset	1	R.Harlow, compiler CBC
<u>European Wigeon:</u>			
1-12,29	Cohasset, Orleans	1,1	R.Veit# & v.o., W.Petersen# CBC
American Wigeon:			
8,20	Woburn, Manomet	24,21	D&A Bades, M.B.O.
Northern Shoveler:			
8,13	Woburn, Barnstable	1,1	D&A Bades, R.Pease
16-30,23	Winthrop, P.I.	1,20	D.Finch# CBC, W.Harrington# CBC
Wood Duck:			
1,8,30	Ipswich, Woburn, New Bedford	1,1,3	J.Berry#, D&A Bades, P.Regan
Redhead:			
2-8,15	Woburn, Marion count	1,39	R.Stymeist & v.o., R.Harlow CBC
Ring-necked Duck:			
15	N.Falmouth	86	R.Stymeist# CBC
Canvasback:			
2,23,29	Falmouth, Westport, Brewster	250,25,26	R.Veit#, A.Agush#, J.Kenneally CBC
Greater Scaup:			
16	Boston Harbor	5148	D.Finch, D.Abbott, R.Veit CBC

Scaup: (species?)			
2	Falmouth	700	J.Loughlin
Common Goldeneye:			
9	Middleboro	60	BBC(T.Athearn)
Barrow's Goldeneye:			
7,15-31	Falmouth,Magnolia	1,2-1	R.Pease,H.Wiggin# & v.o.
16,22	Winthrop,Cohasset	4,1	D.Finch# CBC,S.Higginbotham CBC
23,30	Newburyport,Nantucket	3,3	P.Alden# CBC, R.Veit# CBC
Bufflehead:			
2,16	Wollaston,Boston count	400,574	L.DeGiacomo#,R.Stymeist CBC
Oldsquaw:			
22	Braintree	1	W.Petersen#
Harlequin Duck:			
15-29,29	Magnolia,Gloucester(E.P.)	1-6,2	fide H.Wiggin & v.o.,L.Webster#
Common Eider:			
1,2	Winthrop,Cohasset	2300+,1000+	R.Stymeist#,R.Veit#
29	Brewster	20,000	J.Kenneally CBC
King Eider:			
3;17&28	Rockport;Manomet	2;1	M.McClellan#;W.Petersen#
15	Magnolia	1	H.Wiggin#
White-winged Scoter:			
16	Revere-Winthrop	1114	D.Finch,D.Abbott,R.Veit, CBC
29	Brewster	3600	J.Kenneally CBC
Surf Scoter:			
22,29	Cohasset,Duxbury	5,6	S.Higginbotham CBC,R.Ames CBC
Black Scoter:			
29	Scituate	14	R.Ames, compiler CBC
Ruddy Duck:			
1,22	Braintree(Great Pond)	32,1	W.Petersen
thr.	Cambridge(Fresh Pond)	1-5	L.Robinson & v.o.
Hooded Merganser:			
1,15	Ipswich,Taunton	10,11	J.Berry#,T.Athearn,compiler CBC
23,29	Fall River,Scituate	3,1	R.O'Hara,R.Ames,compiler CBC
Common Merganser:			
15	Taunton,N.Falmouth	2,6	T.Athearn CBC,R.Stymeist# CBC
22,23	Braintree,Newburyport	30,29	S.Higginbotham CBC,D.AlexanderCBC
Red-breasted Merganser:			
15	Wareham	2625	W.Petersen# CBC
Goshawk:			
1,8	P.I.,Provincetown	1,1	BBC(I.Giriunas),B.Nikula
15,23	Sagamore,Gloucester	1,1	R.Stymeist#,W.Petersen# CBC
Sharp-shinned Hawk:			
15	Taunton,N.Falmouth	1,1	D.Emerson CBC,R.Stymeist CBC
Cooper's Hawk:			
15	Taunton,Wareham	1,1	T.Athearn CBC,W.Petersen CBC
Red-tailed Hawk:			
2	Quincy	14(flying & soaring together)	D.Brown
Red-shouldered Hawk:			
29	Gardner	1	J.O'Regan#
Rough-legged Hawk:			
thr.	6 localities	7 individuals	v.o.
<u>Bald Eagle:</u>			
15,29	Taunton,Orleans	1 ad.,1 imm.	N.Hill,W.Petersen & R.Fox
Marsh Hawk:			
thr.	8 localities	13 individuals	v.o.
Osprey:			
15	Sterling	1	Ms.R.Hopfmann
<u>Gyrfalcon:</u>			
1	Monomoy	1	B.Sorrie#
<u>Peregrine Falcon:</u>			
30	Dennis,New Bedford	1,1	J.Clancy,G&J Fernandez
Merlin:			
thr.	4 localities	4 individuals	v.o.
American Kestrel:			
15	Taunton area	26	T.Athearn, compiler CBC
Ruffed Grouse:			
12	Manomet	5	M.B.O.

Bobwhite:				
thr., 15	Lexington, Taunton count	1,90		M. Baird#, T. Athearn CBC
Clapper Rail:				
29	Eastham	2		W. Bailey CBC
Virginia Rail:				
thr., 29	Harwich, Marshfield	max. 14, 12		B. Nikula & v.o., R. Ames CBC
Sora:				
thr., 23	Harwich, Concord (GMNWR)	max. 19, 1		B. Nikula, B&M Witthoft
<u>Purple Gallinule:</u>				
29	New Bedford	1 (captured & photographed)		J. Fernandez & v.o.
American Coot:				
15, 30	P.I., Woburn (Horn Pond)	100+, 115		J. Berry, R. Stymeist#
<u>Piping Plover:</u>				
15	Wareham	2		W. Petersen & D. Casoni
Killdeer:				
thr.	12 localities	24 individuals		v.o.
<u>Black-bellied Plover:</u>				
16	Winthrop, S. Boston	1, 1		D. Finch#, D. Brown CBC's
23	Newburyport, Westport	2, 1		D. Alexander CBC, A. Agush#
29, 30	Cape Cod count, Ipswich	45, 5		W. Bailey CBC, J. Berry
Ruddy Turnstone:				
12, 16	N. Scituate, Winthrop	11, 1		R. Forster#, D. Finch# CBC
30	Nantucket	6		R. Veit# CBC
American Woodcock:				
10	Manomet	1		M. B. O.
Common Snipe:				
8-30, 29	Woburn, Ipswich	1, 2		v.o., H. D'Entremont
<u>Greater Yellowlegs:</u>				
1, 15	Braintree, Wareham	3, 1		W. Petersen
16, 24	Boston Harbor, Eastham	1, 1		L. Robinson CBC, B. Nikula
Red Knot:				
2, 16	Chatham, Revere-Winthrop	16, 203		BBC (R. Pease), D. Finch# CBC
Purple Sandpiper:				
15, 22	Revere-Winthrop, Cohasset	95, 270		D. Finch# CBC, S. Higginbotham CBC
Dunlin:				
1, 12	Revere, Cohasset	250+, 450		R. Veit#, R. Forster#
<u>Semipalmated Sandpiper:</u>				
29	Nauset	7		M. Gardler CBC
<u>Marbled Godwit:</u>				
29	Chatham	1		C. Goodrich CBC
Sanderling:				
16	Revere-Winthrop	800+		D. Finch, D. Abbott, R. Veit CBC
<u>Northern Skua:</u>				
28	Rockport	1		C. Leahy
Glaucous Gull:				
thr.	6 localities	6 individuals		v.o.
Iceland Gull:				
28	Gloucester	20		C. Leahy
Black-headed Gull:				
15, 16	Wareham, Winthrop	1, 13		W. Petersen# CBC, D. Finch# CBC
23, 30	Wollaston, Nantucket	6, 1		E. Morrier, R. Veit CBC
Laughing Gull:				
15	Onset	1		W. Petersen# CBC
Bonaparte's Gull:				
12, 29	Cohasset, Newburyport	300, 100		R. Forster, B&M Witthoft
30	New Bedford	958		G&J Fernandez CBC
<u>Little Gull:</u>				
29	Nauset	1		M. Gardler CBC
Black-legged Kittiwake:				
9, 28, 30	Rockport, Gloucester, Nantucket	300, 12, 20		G. Soucy#, C. Leahy, R. Veit#
Razorbill:				
9	Rockport, Barnstable	20, 3		G. Soucy#, W. Petersen#
29, 30	Cape Cod area, Nantucket	10, 152		W. Bailey compiler CBC, R. Veit CBC
Dovekie:				
9, 29	Rockport, Duxbury	8, 1		R&D Hale, R. Ames CBC
Black Guillemot:				
8-28	Rockport (A.P.)	2-8		v.o.

Mourning Dove:				
30	New Bedford area	688		G&J Fernandez CBC
<u>Common Puffin:</u>				
8,29	off Chatham,Orleans	1 ad.,1 imm.		W.Harrington#,C.Goodrich# CBC
Monk Parakeet:				
11,31	Essex,Waban	1,1		M.Ladd,R.Peters
<u>Barn Owl:</u>				
1-22	Long Island,Boston Harbor	1		v.o.
29,30	Orleans,Nantucket	1,2		C.Goodrich# CBC,R.Veit# CBC
Screech Owl:				
16,23	Saugus,Newbury,Gloucester	2,1,1		D.Finch#,R.Stymeist#,W.Petersen#
Great Horned Owl:				
16,19	Saugus,Middleboro	1,3		D.Finch# CBC,D.Briggs
23	Georgetown	2		P.Martin# CBC
Snowy Owl:				
4-28	Squantum and Islands	1		D.Brown & v.o.
28,29	S.Weymouth,Fairhaven	1,1		E.Berry,G.Mock
Barred Owl:				
thr.,13	Belmont,W.Roxbury	1,1		G.Clark,J.Pickup
19,22	Middleboro,Athol	1,1		D.Briggs,R.Coyle CBC
Long-eared Owl:				
15,23	Assonet,Wenham	1,1		N.Hill CBC,N.Nash CBC
29,30	Orleans,Nantucket	1,1		W.Petersen# CBC,R.Veit# CBC
Short-eared Owl:				
9,16-31	Eastham,Squantum	1,1-2		V.Laux,E.Morrier & v.o.
28,29	Bridgewater,Duxbury	8,4		D.Briggs#,R.Ames CBC
Saw-whet Owl:				
10	Manomet	1(b.)		M.B.O.
Belted Kingfisher:				
thr.	10 localities	19 individuals		v.o.
Red-headed Woodpecker:				
thr.	Woburn(Horn Pond)	1 ad.		v.o.
23	Annisquam	1		H.Wiggin# CBC
<u>Eastern Kingbird:</u>				
8	Falmouth	1		V.Laux
<u>Western Kingbird:</u>				
5	S.Wellfleet(WBWS)	1		W.Bailey
<u>Great-crested Flycatcher:</u>				
29	Marion	1(excellent details)		K.Anderson,T.L.Evans# CBC
<u>Eastern Phoebe:</u>				
29	Marshfield	1		R.Ames CBC
<u>Tree Swallow:</u>				
1	E.Orleans	1		C.Goodrich,B.Nikula
<u>Common Raven:</u>				
6	Rockport(A.P.)	1(well studied,banded bird)		R.Forster,M.Gardler
Fish Crow:				
thr.	West Roxbury	135 max.(Dec.26)		F.Atwood
<u>Boreal Chickadee:</u>				
1-15	P.I.	1		v.o.
<u>House Wren:</u>				
1,15	Orleans,Wareham	1,1		C.Goodrich#,W.Petersen CBC
22	Milton	1		S.Higginbotham CBC
Winter Wren:				
1;8	Ipswich;Woburn,Falmouth	1;1,3		J.Berry#;D&A Bandes,V.Laux
18,20	Middleboro,Wayland	1,1		G.Stiles,J.Baird
23,31	Gloucester,Tewksbury	4,1		W.Petersen# CBC,M.Wilson
Carolina Wren:				
thr.,1-12	Sandwich,Dartmouth	1,1		R.Pease,P.Regan
16,29	Littleton,Orleans	2,1		J.Baird# CBC,W.Petersen# CBC
<u>Long-billed Marsh Wren:</u>				
thr.	W.Harwich	max.22		B.Nikula
Gray Catbird:				
16	Jamaica Plain	1		H.D'Entremont#
23	Westport,Wenham	1,1		A.Agush#,N.Nash
Brown Thrasher:				
18,19,20	Scituate,Manomet,Lincoln	1,1 b.,1		R.Veit#,M.B.O.,M.Baggs

American Robin:			
2	Topsfield(IRWS)	25+	J.Berry
16	Cambridge(Mt.A)	18	R.Stymeist#
Hermit Thrush:			
1;2	Ipswich;Orleans,Chatham	1;2,1	J.Berry;J.Loughlin,R.Pease#
16,22	Belmont,Vineyard Haven(M.V.)	1,1	N.Claflin,M.Hancock
Eastern Bluebird:			
15,29	Assonet,S.Chatham	2,6	N.Hill CBC,H.Rich CBC
Ruby-crowned Kinglet:			
15	Marion area	26	R.Harlow,compiler CBC
<u>Water Pipit:</u>			
15,30	Taunton,New Bedford	20,55	D.Elkin CBC,G&J Fernandez CBC
Cedar Waxwing:			
20	Dedham	17	E.Bosher
Northern Shrike:			
23,29	Gloucester,Orleans	1,1	W.Petersen# CBC,W.Petersen CBC
30	Nantucket,New Bedford	1,1	R.Veit CBC,G.Fernandez CBC
Starling:			
22	Quincy(Fore River Bridge)	100,000+	S.Higginbotham,compiler CBC
<u>Black-and-white Warbler:</u>			
4,17	Sandwich,Needham	1,1	V.Laux,J.Loughlin
Orange-crowned Warbler:			
2,7	Chatham,Gloucester	1,1	B.Nikula,A.Robinson
15,20,29	Falmouth,Manomet,Orleans	2,1(b.),1	R.Forster# CBC,M.B.O.,J.Baird#CBC
<u>Nashville Warbler:</u>			
29	Woods Hole	1	R.Veit
<u>Northern Parula Warbler:</u>			
20	Manomet	1	K.Anderson
Yellow-rumped Warbler:			
thr.	Manomet	90(b.)	M.B.O.
29	P.I.,Marshfield area	35,112	BBC(E.Pyburn),R.Ames,compilerCBC
Pine Warbler:			
15,24	Wareham,W.Harwich	7,2	W.Petersen# CBC,B.Nikula
<u>Prairie Warbler:</u>			
29	Orleans	1	J.Baird,R.Forster CBC
Palm Warbler:			
3,15	Rockport,Wareham	2,8	M.McClellan,W.Petersen# CBC
16,29	Brookline,Orleans	1,36	A.Agush# CBC,J.Baird# CBC
<u>Northern Waterthrush:</u>			
16	Concord area	1	P.Alden,compiler CBC
Common Yellowthroat:			
1;2	Ipswich,Orleans;Scituate	1,1;1	J.Berry#,C.Goodrich#;R.Veit#
15	Belmont,Taunton	1,2	P.Butler,T.Athearn CBC
16	Concord	2	P.Alden CBC
Yellow-breasted Chat:			
10,21	Gloucester,Foxboro	1,1	A.Robinson,J.Fuller#
26	Annisquam,Marshfield	1,1	H.Weissberg#,R.Ames CBC
28	Chatham	1	R.Forster
<u>Wilson's Warbler:</u>			
5&6	Fall River	1 m.	E.Athearn#
Eastern Meadowlark:			
thr.,16	Bridgewater,Waltham	20+,9	D.Briggs,E.Morrier CBC
24,29	Ipswich,Eastham	25,25	J.Berry,M.Gardler# CBC
Redwinged Blackbird:			
22,23	Newton,Concord(GMNWR)	6,1	R.O'Hara#,B&M Witthoft
30	New Bedford area	803	G&J Fernandez CBC
Northern Oriole:			
16,29,30	Watertown,Chatham,Nantucket	1,3,1	D&A Bandes,H.Rich#,R.Veit# CBC's
Rusty Blackbird:			
15,17	Wareham,Middleboro	1,1	W.Petersen# CBC,D.Briggs
22	Newton	1	R.O'Hara#
Common Grackle:			
22	Quincy area	27	S.Higginbotham,compiler CBC
30	New Bedford area	1442	G&J Fernandez CBC
Brown-headed Cowbird:			
8,30	Byfield,New Bedford area	175,1239	T.Joyce,G&J Fernandez CBC

<u>Western Tanager:</u>			
20-29,23-31	Chatham,Rockport	1,1	V.Saunders & v.o.,P.Stengel&v.o.
27	Wellesley	1	E.Sanders CBC
<u>Cardinal:</u>			
16	Boston area	56	R.Stymeist,compiler CBC
22	Quincy area	54	S.Higginbotham,compiler CBC
<u>Dickcissel:</u>			
6,11	Ipswich,Framingham	1,2	R.Forster,R.Forster
29	Cape Cod area	3	W.Bailey,compiler CBC
<u>Evening Grosbeak:</u>			
8	Byfield	100+	T.Joyce,fide H.Wiggin
<u>Purple Finch:</u>			
29	Marshfield area	20	R.Ames,compiler CBC
<u>House Finch:</u>			
thr.,15	Beverly,Jamaica Plain(A.A.)	32,32	G.Soucy,J.Pickup
<u>Pine Grosbeak:</u>			
2,8&23	Milton,Byfield	1,2&1	R.Veit,T.Joyce
<u>Common Redpoll:</u>			
9,15	Middleboro,Dartmouth	2,2	BBC(T.Athearn),J&G Fernandez
23,26	Squantum,Annisquam	3,1	E.Morrier,H.Weissberg
29,31	Eastham,Beverly	3,1	M.Gardler# CBC,G.Soucy
<u>Pine Siskin:</u>			
29,31	Marshfield,Beverly	204,90	R.Ames CBC,G.Soucy
<u>Red Crossbill:</u>			
15,30	P.I.,Nantucket	20,350	BBC(W.Drummond),R.Veit CBC
<u>White-winged Crossbill:</u>			
1&15	P.I.	2&4	BBC(I.Giriunas),G.Soucy#
15,16	N.Falmouth,Cambridge(Mt.A)	2,11	R.Stymeist#,R.Stymeist# CBC
30	Nantucket	1	R.Veit CBC
<u>Green-tailed Towhee:</u>			
1-20	Scituate	1	S&B Swaebe & v.o.
<u>Savannah Sparrow: (Ipswich race)</u>			
2,20	Duxbury,Squantum	1,2	R.Veit#,E.Morrier#
<u>Sharp-tailed Sparrow:</u>			
23	Gloucester	3	W.Petersen,R.Forster CBC
<u>Seaside Sparrow:</u>			
23	Gloucester	1	W.Petersen,R.Forster CBC
<u>Lark Sparrow:</u>			
29	Orleans	1	J.Baird,R.Forster CBC
<u>Dark-eyed Junco: (Oregon race)</u>			
17,19,29	Brookline,Lincoln,Marshfield	1,1,1	A.Agush,G.Loud,R.Ames
<u>Chipping Sparrow:</u>			
4,16	Middleboro,Concord	2(b.),1	D.Briggs,P.Alden CBC
<u>Clay-colored Sparrow:</u>			
29	Orleans	1	J.Baird,R.Forster# CBC
<u>Field Sparrow:</u>			
5,11	Ipswich,Framingham	3,3	W.Drummond,R.Forster
15	Marion area	83	R.Harlow,compiler CBC
<u>White-crowned Sparrow:</u>			
31	Danvers	1	E.Pyburn
<u>Fox Sparrow:</u>			
7,16	Needham,Belmont	3,8	J.Pickup,P.Butler CBC
<u>Swamp Sparrow:</u>			
29	Marshfield area	23	R.Ames,compiler CBC
<u>Song Sparrow:</u>			
16	Boston area	108	R.Stymeist,compiler CBC
<u>Lapland Longspur:</u>			
8	P.I.	40+	C.Baines#
<u>Snow Bunting:</u>			
22;30	Athol;Ipswich,Nantucket	85;120,30	R.Coyle CBC;J.Berry,R.Veit CBC

In February and March, the rocky coasts from Essex County south to Plymouth should be checked for wintering loons, grebes, cormorants and especially the sea ducks. Cape Cod will produce the majority of the Common Eider off Monomoy as well as good numbers of Common Goldeneye off the west coast. A strong northeasterly storm could produce a small flight of alcids observable from any promontory (favorite locales are Cape Ann and First Encounter Beach, Eastham, Sandy Neck, Barnstable, and 'Sconset Beach, Nantucket. However, the majority of the alcids remain well out to sea at this late season. Check all inland fresh-water ponds for wintering waterfowl.

The open-country raptors can be most easily found over the *Spartina* marshes of Essex County, as well as the moors of the coastal plain. Dense evergreens should be carefully searched for wintering owls and Goshawks.

A large gull population might harbor among its numbers one of the less common northern or European species. Large populations of these may be found at Newburyport Harbor, Cape Ann, Revere Beach and numerous other localities wherever refuse is present in large quantities.

For over-wintering land birds, check low, thick, wetlands with abundant ground cover as well as feeders, the latter especially after heavy snows.

Fruit-bearing trees and shrubs (evergreen or deciduous) will provide food for the winter finches. Good birding!

R. R. V.

A NEW AVIAN SPECIES

For many birders, it is a rare day when they identify a new species. But imagine discovering an unknown species that is also a member of a new genus! Furthermore, you do this on a well-populated island with one of the most celebrated bird families.

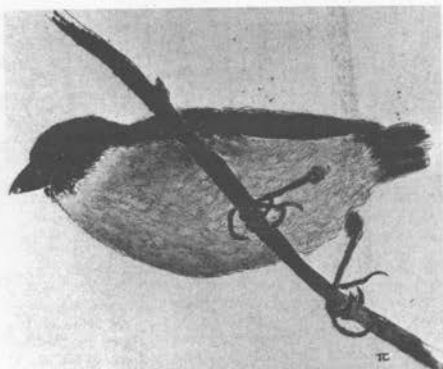
Yet, in December, 1973, the world became aware of a previously unknown Hawaiian honeycreeper, the first endemic bird found in Hawaii since 1923. Along with the classical Darwin finches, this family (*Drepanididae*) represents an extreme example of adaptive radiation -- the specialization of an organism to a specific ecological niche. As might be anticipated, such specialization makes these organisms particularly vulnerable to environmental upset. In the case of the Hawaiian honeycreepers (before now comprising seven genera with 22 species), eight species have become extinct in the recent past, because of man's encroachment.

The new Hawaiian honeycreeper (as yet unnamed) was found by eight students from the University of Hawaii, working under a National Science Foundation grant, who surveyed the virtually inaccessible Hana Rain Forest on Maui's Haleakala volcano, one of the wettest places on earth. They estimate that only about 150 of these birds exist within an area of 10 to 12 square miles between elevations of 6,000 to 7,500 feet.

About the size of an English Sparrow, the new species has a brownish-olive back that changes to light buff on the underparts. The most striking feature is a black mask that extends from the forehead to below the lower mandible and backward in a wedge that ends behind the eye.

L. J. R.

*A bird debut.
A new feathery
friend, and
member of the
Hawaiian Honey-
creeper family,
has just made
itself known to
ornithologists. It
represents the
first new genus
and species of
bird discovered
in 10 years.*



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WASHINGTON — May 18 to 27, 1974. This tour is led by Terry Wahl, co-author of "A Guide to Finding Birds in Washington" and organizer of many pelagic trips. Will visit many habitat areas, including a pelagic trip and show you a large number of the state's birds.

DRY TORTUGAS BOAT TRIP — May 31 to June 2, 1974. On last year's trips, in addition to the Sooty and both noddy terns, Cave Swallow and White-tailed Tropicbird were seen. Something unusual always turns up.

AUSTRALIA — August 18 to September 7, 1974. An abbreviation of our 1973 tour which recorded 494 species of birds, timed to coordinate with the International Ornithological Congress in Canberra. As long as you go that far, why not see as much as you can?

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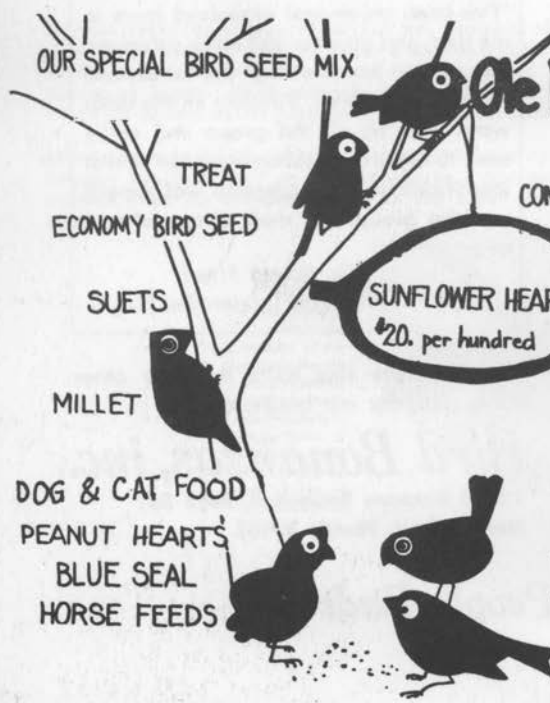
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