

BIRD OBSERVER

OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS



VOL. I NO. 6
NOV. - DEC. 1973

MUD HEN



TABLE OF CONTENTS

AROUND FALMOUTH	PAT GARREY	132
ON THE MULTIPLICATION OF SPECIES ..	J. T. LEVERICH	134
SIGHTING OF A BLACK-BROWED ALBATROSS	RICHARD VEIT	137
ATTENTION FEEDER USERS	ALICE LITTLEFIELD	138
INDEX TO VOLUME 1		139
THE BIRD OBSERVER SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER		140
THE BIRD OBSERVER SUMMARY FOR OCTOBER		146
A REBUTTAL	HUGH WILLOUGHBY	154
CORRIGENDA TO BIRD OBSERVER SUMMARIES		155

S T A F F

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EDITOR'S PAGE

More on the 32nd A.O.U. Check-list Supplement

The Auk for October, 1973, carries corrections and additions to the 32nd supplement to the Check-list of North American Birds (1957, fifth edition). Only one item pertains to J. T. Leverich's summary in BIRD OBSERVER, Vol. 1, No. 5, Sept-Oct., 1973. On page 104, for Storm Petrel read Storm-Petrel.

MONK PARAKEET UPDATE

Since 1968, over 50,000 Monk Parakeets (*Mycopsitta monachus*) have been imported into the United States. Escapes have shown the ability to withstand northern winters and initially established a feral population near New York City, now numbering 200 to 300. Since these birds are known to damage grain and fruit crops, there was great concern among agricultural interests when it seemed that the Monk Parakeet was extending its range.

Unconfirmed sightings have now been made from 21 states. However, according to P. A. Buckley (*American Birds*, Vol. 27, no. 3), "There is good evidence that repeated local releases/escapes are responsible for much of the supposed "range extension". Richard Robins, University of Miami, notes (Center for Short-Lived Phenonema, Card 1948), "No Monk Parakeets have been imported to the United States since the summer of 1972 ... The population of Monk Parakeets in the wild may possibly be declining as a result of this ban."

Dr. Buckley warns that not every free-flying parrot should be assumed to be a monk. One potentially confusing species is the Canary-winged Parakeet (*Brotogeris versicolurus*), which may have become established around Miami (*American Birds*, Vol. 26, No. 3).

The Monk Parakeet is a pale green psittiforme about 12 inches in length, from head to tip of tail. It has a light gray hood, extending from the forehead to the breast, some blue on the wings, and a light-colored bill. These birds are the only members of their order that live in large community nests of sticks, rather than in tree holes. They are native to Argentina, southern Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

The Canary-winged Parakeet is also green but smaller, being about 9 inches long. When flushed or flying, a yellow wing-patch is conspicuous. Other field marks include a blue eye ring and a horn-colored bill. These birds are native to Brazil.

L. J. R. and R. H. S.

REGIONAL COMPILERS

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

Regional Statistical Editor:	Mrs. Ruth P. Emery, 225 Belmont Street, Wollaston 02170
Barnstable County:	Mr. Blair Nikula, Park Street, Harwich 02645
Bristol County:	Mrs. Phyllis Regan, 132R Horseneck Road, S. Dartmouth
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AROUND FALMOUTH (Late November to Mid-February)

Pat Garrey, Woods Hole

After crossing the Cape Cod Canal on the Bourne Bridge, follow Rte. 28 to Falmouth, and then turn left on West Main St., as if going to Hyannis. At 0.3 miles, on the right is the town parking lot (across from the Quarter Deck Restaurant), with the town hall set well back. Siders (not Sider's) Pond is in back of the town hall, behind which you can park on weekends, but otherwise use the town parking lot. I strongly suggest that you arrive here before 11:00 a.m., since the light is bad from that time on.

Usual wintering birds are: Pied-billed Grebe; Coot; Mallard, Black, Ring-necked, and Ruddy Duck; Green-winged Teal; American Wigeon; Greater and Lesser Scaup; Hooded Merganser; and Belted Kingfisher. In winter, the concentration of Canvasbacks is the best in Massachusetts. Occasional ducks include Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Wood Duck, Redhead, Gadwall, and European Wigeon. For several years, one or two Tufted Ducks (European stragglers) frequented the pond. You may also see both Snow and Blue Geese, but these are not wild. Explore the thickets around the pond for kinglets, Mockingbirds, Cardinals, Gray Catbird, Purple and House Finches, Woodcock, and occasionally a Chat. If Siders Pond is open, it might pay one well to cross West Main St. and do Shiverick and Weeks Ponds behind the stores.

Now turn eastward on West Main St. and right on Walker St. to Surf Dr. There are some good feeders on the right side of the road which are frequented by Field, Song, and White-throated Sparrows; House Finches; and Evening Grosbeaks.

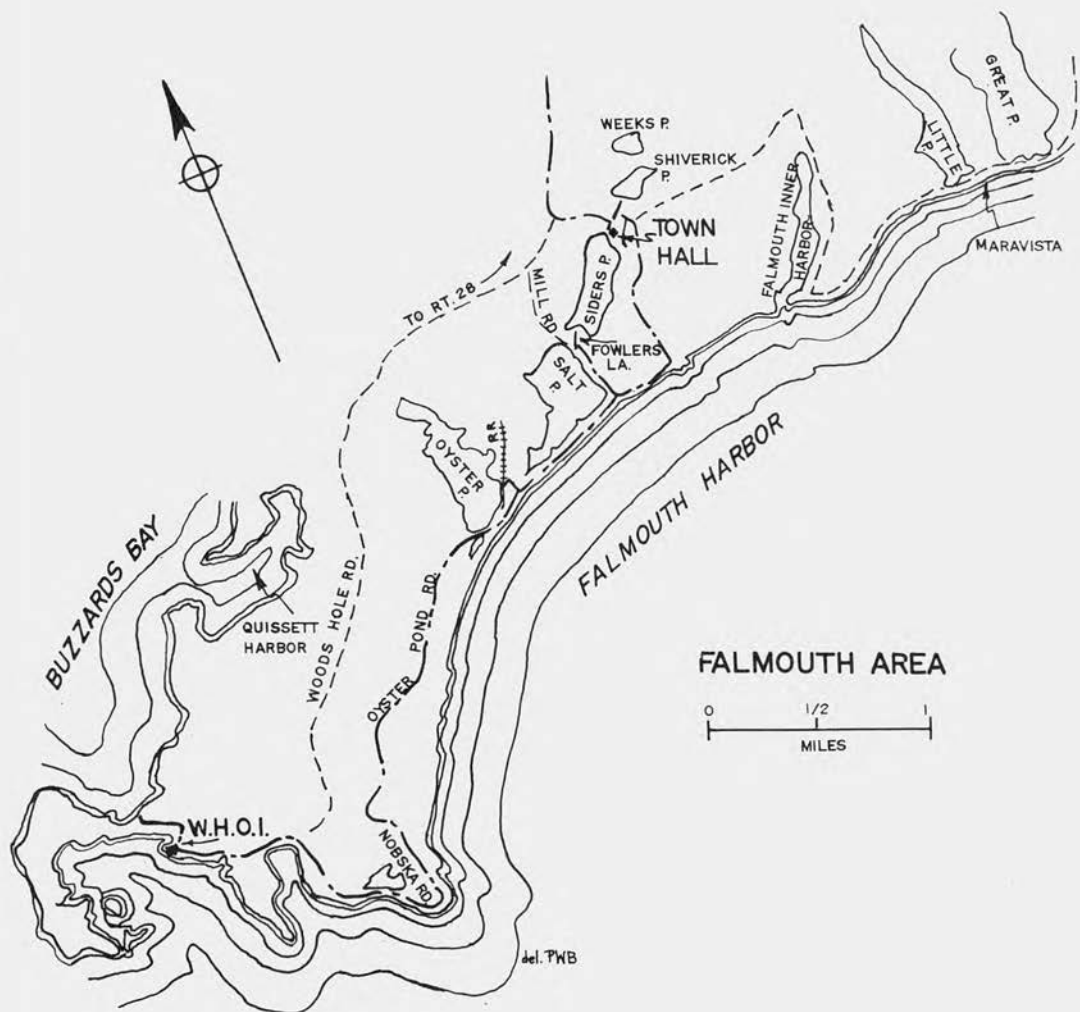
Turn right on Surf Dr. and right on Mill Rd. to look over the northeastern part of Salt Pond. If Siders Pond is open at its southern end, continue on to Mill St. to Fowler La. Leave your car and walk to the gray house at the end of the lane. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are happy to have visitors in their yard to view the south end of Siders Pond. But please ... no large groups.

Return to Surf Dr. and continue westward. Turn right on Elm Rd. and drive up to the red gate on your right, which marks the Falmouth Waterfowl Sanctuary. In the thickets you should find Yellow-rumped Warblers. The first house on the left of Elm Rd. has good feeders; approach it from the old railroad bed or the driveway to the back of the house.

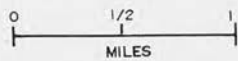
Again, return to Surf Dr. and follow it to Oyster Pond Rd.; continue southwestward until you take the left to Nobska Pt. Light House. There you will find large rafts of Common Eiders, Great Cormorants on the island to your right, Purple Sandpipers, and three scoters. Rounding the point, keep on Church St. until you return to the main road leading to Woods Hole. Turn left and then right on Water St., which will take you through the town.

On the left you will find the yellow building of the U. S. Department of Commerce Fish and Wildlife Service; go into the parking space to look over Woods Hole Harbor. You should get good numbers of scoters, Bonaparte's Gull, Bufflehead, and American Goldeneye. Turn right and right again as you come out from behind the building, then take your next left and go to North St., where another left will bring you to Gosnold Rd. and the bathing beach where Common and Red-throated Loons, Horned Grebes and Oldsquaws can be found.

If you have missed the Mute Swans or Canada Geese, go back through Falmouth on the main road (Rte. 28), and then turn right at the Howard Johnson's on Falmouth Heights Rd. to Falmouth Heights. Upon reaching the ocean, turn left on Grand Ave. and follow the shore road eastward about 1.3 miles, stopping to look behind the Maravista Motel. Then continue along the shore until you reach Green Pond. Turn around in the boat yard over the bridge, and then take the first right on Acapesket. This will return you to Rte. 28.



FALMOUTH AREA



del. PWB

ON THE MULTIPLICATION OF SPECIES

J. T. Leverich, Cambridge

Evolution is a complex and extremely time-consuming process, which even today continues to affect all existing bird species. Most examples of evolutionary change involve the species as a whole, gradually transforming its entire population in an essentially uniform fashion. This second article in my series is devoted to that minority of evolutionary events that have resulted in speciation, the splitting of one internally cohesive ancestral species into two or more reproductively isolated daughter species.

Although each particular instance of speciation is actually a highly individualized phenomenon, general patterns may be discerned. One classical pattern, which has occurred many times in nature, is this:

Stage 0: Initial conditions

At the beginning one finds a single species, composed of a fairly homogeneous population of birds breeding in a geographically continuous range. Individual variation within the species is maintained through the normal (Mendelian) processes of particulate inheritance. Indeed, there is a tendency toward increased variability, resulting from the regular occurrence of random mutations, which create new genes. The homogeneity of the species results principally from a free internal gene exchange, that is, from random mating within the population. Concurrently, there is also a tendency toward reduced variability, produced by the pressures of natural selection, eliminating those aberrant individuals (for example, albinistic birds) that deviate too drastically from the general population norms. Yet, all population tendencies stand more or less in balance with one another. The ornithologist says that such a group of birds comprises a single monotypic species.

Stage 1: Geographic Isolation

The glaciations of the Pleistocene Era were accompanied by severe and prolonged weather changes. Any such traumatic change in external conditions should cause a contraction of the species range. And as a consequence, the species typically separates into two (or more) populations that are geographically isolated from each other. The ornithologist speaks now of allopatric populations, that is, breeding communities occupying non-overlapping ranges.

Stage 2: Genotypic divergence

Physical isolation interrupts free gene exchange, inhibiting the tendency toward intergroup homogeneity. New genes in either population necessarily remain segregated there. Moreover, natural selection will now favor those genes (new or old) that best adapt each subgroup separately to the peculiar conditions of its own range. The natural and expected result is genotypic divergence: the gene pools of the two populations grow increasingly dissimilar.

Ordinarily, this process is detectable using morphological criteria alone, the two populations come to look different. When this happens, the ornithologist says that there are now two (or more) geographic subspecies. The species as a whole is said to be polytypic.

Stage 3: Reproductive isolation

As generic divergence continues, certain more severe population differences arise which may serve as mechanisms for maintaining permanently the present (accidental) reproductive isolation of the subspecies. As soon as these isolating mechanisms have evolved, the various populations are technically separate species.

In practice, the ornithologist may find it difficult to decide whether a given pair of populations has reached species rank. Of course, if the populations have re-established contact, then the birds themselves will furnish the necessary evidence (the total absence or limited occurrence of hybridization). However, even when the two populations remain totally isolated, the ornithologist may decide that the two groups have diverged too far morphologically to be classed as a single species. In either case, he says that there are now two species comprising a single superspecies.

Member species of a single superspecies complex usually occupy the same ecological niche;

they depend upon exactly the same environmental resources, and they search for these necessities of life in the same or similar habitats. Thus, they are in competition with each other. Each species will automatically be better adapted to exploit this mutually shared niche within the area in which it evolved. Hence, should the two species come into contact at this point, each would serve as a natural "barrier" to the extension of the range of the other.

Because of this barrier effect, member species of the same superspecies are always allopatric.³ (If the ranges share a common border, with perhaps a narrow overlap zone, the more precise term is parapatric.) Familiar examples of species pairs at this stage of evolution are the following:

- 1) Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Pheucticus ludovicianus) and Black-headed Grosbeak (P. melanocephalus).
- 2) Indigo Bunting (Passerina cyanea) and Lazuli Bunting (P. amoena).
- 3) Common Redpoll (Acanthis flammea) and Hoary Redpoll (A. hornemanni).

Stage 4: Sympatry

As genotypic divergence continues, the various component species of the superspecies frequently come to occupy distinct ecological niches. The barrier effect is eradicated concomitantly. Each species is then free to extend its breeding area into the range previously occupied exclusively by the other.

Ecologically compatible species with broadly overlapping ranges are said to be sympatric. A complex of closely related sympatric species is said to be a species group.

A well-known species group in North America is that composed of the four brown-backed thrushes from the genus Catharus: 1, Gray-cheeked Thrush (C. minimus); 2, Swainson's Thrush (C. ustulatus); 3, Hermit Thrush (C. guttatus); and 4, Veery (C. fuscescens). Their breeding ranges overlap in pairs -- 1 with 2, 2 with 3, and 3 with 4. Only quite locally do three of this species group breed in the same area.

Let us examine the first pair more carefully. The Gray-cheeked Thrush evolved in the Arctic Zone and inhabits primarily stunted northern fir and spruce forests. As a result, it has become specialized for ground-feeding. Swainson's Thrush evolved in the Boreal Zone, where it inhabits mixed or pure tall coniferous forests. Since it is now an arboreal feeder, it is no longer in competition with the Gray-cheeked Thrush, and the ranges of these two species can and do overlap broadly.

There is, by the way, an obvious moral here. During the May migration, the Massachusetts birder who wishes to find a Swainson's Thrush should watch the trees, at or above eye-level. Gray-cheeked Thrushes will most frequently be seen on or near the ground.

Variations in the Evolutionary Pattern

1. Many of our North American subspecies arose during the Pleistocene glaciations, when breeding ranges contracted into isolated glacial refuges. In Australia, a similar contraction accompanied a period of prolonged drought.

Such severe climatic conditions are, however, by no means necessary for new species to evolve. Birds regularly colonize isolated areas on the outer edges of their normal ranges. Any such peripheral isolate bears the potential for becoming a separate species, provided that immigration from the center of the range completely ceases after the initial colonization. Enterprising birds which manage to reach distant islands are even more successful at speciation. If the island should happen to be one of an isolated group, the stage is set for one of nature's finest evolutionary dramas -- spectacular archipelago speciation.

All 14 species of Darwin's finches (genera Geospiza, Camarhynchus, Certhidea) on the Galapagos Islands are presumed to have evolved from a single ancestral species, which invaded this island group from the mainland of South America. The 14 living and 8 extinct species of Hawaiian honeycreepers (Family Drepanididae) are likewise thought to be descended from one (or at most, two) immigrant species.

Biologists are not especially interested in how geographical isolation comes about, but they do insist that this condition is absolutely essential if the speciation process is

to go forward. A single monotypic species may by ordinary evolutionary processes increase its geographic variability, with birds in the south, say, becoming darker and those in the north becoming lighter. It cannot produce two distinct subspecies without spatial isolation of one or more subsidiary populations. Again, if two already differentiated subspecies should re-establish contact before isolating mechanisms are acquired, evolutionary divergence will be arrested at that point. Stage 1 must come first.

2. Biologists agree that Stage 2 must always precede Stage 3. This may seem obvious, since these stages differ mainly as to degree of divergence. Yet, there is a profound truth hidden here.

Until 1940 or so, most evolutionary geneticists believed that a new species came into being by a single drastic mutation (a saltation), which befell a particular individual, who then became the progenitor of the new species. They assumed that isolating mechanisms came first, with the other species differences evolving gradually later. (Saltationists were naturally at some pains to explain where that first individual's mate came from!)

Today's evolutionist regards speciation as a population phenomenon. To him, reproductive isolation (Stage 3) results very gradually and naturally from an accumulation of minor population differences.

3. Stage 4 (ecological compatibility) may occur at any time during the speciation process, or, as we have it, after speciation has been completed. Some pairs of subspecies are already apparently compatible. Should they at some future time acquire isolating mechanisms, these pairs would pass directly from the category of polytypic species to that of species group.

It is not just evolutionary biologists who must make the distinctions discussed above. Each specialist tends to prefer a particular one of these concepts. For most ornithologists (and many bird-watchers), the species is the "biological unit of classification" par excellence. Systematic biologists, however, normally focus on the subspecies; and zoogeographical ornithologists, who specialize in ecological problems, naturally think in terms of superspecies and species groups.

Footnotes

1. Mendel's theory of particulate inheritance will probably be familiar to many readers. Two of its principles, which are relevant here, are:
 - a. Offspring inherit each characteristic either from the father or from the mother; the children thus express a composite mixture of parental qualities, not a blend of them. (A "blending" form of inheritance would necessarily do away with half of the population variability in each generation.)
 - b. Offspring carry genes, however, from both parents, and those (recessive) genes which do not express themselves in the first generation may nonetheless "reappear" in subsequent generations.
2. In the first article of this series, What is a Bird Species? (BIRD OBSERVER, Vol. 1, No. 5), it was pointed out that the concept of a species is a "biological" concept, which may be objectively applied to real-life situations. The all-important evidence concerns the actual or potential breeding behavior of the birds themselves.

By contrast, the concept of a subspecies is more old-fashioned, a "morphological" concept, which is more subjective in its application. To justify the naming of a population as a new subspecies, one does not prove that it is distinctive or acts different; one must prove that it "looks different" when examined in the museum tray.

3. This is actually a matter of definition. See Comment 3 of the following section.
4. The words "allopatric" and "sympatric" are widely used in ornithological literature. "Parapatric" is apparently a newer coinage, which has yet to achieve widespread currency. In its place, many authors use various circumlocutions such as "essentially allopatric with a narrow zone of overlap."
5. Lack, D., Darwin's finches, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, England, 1947.
6. Amadon, D., The Hawaiian honeycreepers (Aves, Drepanidae [sic]), Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. History 95: 151-262, 1950.

SIGHTING OF A BLACK-BROWED ALBATROSS

Richard R. Veit, Milton

On September 16, 1973, I was a passenger aboard the Brant Point, running between Nantucket, Massachusetts and Hyannis. From the night of the 14th into the night of the 15th, there had been a northeasterly storm, with high winds and periods of rain. A brief clearing occurred on the night of the 15th, after which the wind went to the northwest where it stayed through the 16th, reaching a force of 20-30 m.p.h. and raising a heavy swell out of Nantucket Sound.

The boat left Nantucket Harbor on the 16th at 3:50 p.m. At approximately 4:10 p.m., I began to notice Greater Shearwaters (Puffinus gravis) flying north to south about a half mile to the east of the boat. Greater Shearwaters are rare to uncommon in the sound, as most stay well out to sea. A few of the 35 to 40 individuals came quite close.

At 4:30 p.m., a very large bird with a tremendous wingspan crossed the bow, flew by at a distance of 50 feet, and then followed alongside for 10 minutes, giving me excellent views with 10-power binoculars.

The body of the bird was mainly white. The entire upper surface of the wings, including the back, was dark or black. The rump and lower back were white, in contrast to the short black tail. Its head was also white, with a black mark through the eye and with some grayish marks toward the nape. The bill was very large, heavy, and hooked at the tip; it was yellow throughout (I would say similar in hue to that of an adult Herring Gull or Great Black-backed). As the bird wheeled (banked) with its underside toward me, I could see the under surface of the wings, which were heavily edged with black; a small patch in the center was grayish or slightly mottled, but not white.

Although size can be deceptive over the ocean, I feel that the bird overwhelmed the shearwaters and even the Great Black-backed Gulls which were present. I would also judge the wingspan to be considerably greater than a Gannet's. The body of the bird was very chunky (heavy-set); along with the huge bill, the bird had a very bull-headed appearance. It flew very much like a shearwater, with few flaps and long periods of gliding and banking.

There are two relatively common, large oceanic species which fit parts of this description: Great Black-backed Gull and Gannet. I am convinced that the gull can be eliminated quickly by my bird's tremendous size and wingspan, its massive hooked bill, and its shearwater-like flight.

I am familiar with plumage variations in sub-adult Gannets, which can possess dark mantles. However, Gannets have long pointed tails; this bird's tail was short and definitely rounded. Gannets have rather thin, tapering, pointed bills; this bird had a distinctive heavy hooked bill. Gannets are relatively slim-bodied; this bird was very heavy-set.

Therefore, I am convinced that I saw an albatross.

But was it a Black-browed Albatross (Diomedea melanophris) or a Yellow-nosed Albatross (D. chlororhynchos)? I have since examined skins at the American Museum of Natural History and have studied the literature. The entirely yellow bill would eliminate the Yellow-nosed Albatross, which in the adult has only a thin yellow ridge along the top; the immature has an entirely black bill. The adult Black-browed Albatross has a fair amount of white on the underwing, so my bird could not be an adult.

In Turbott's Birds of New Zealand, he describes the immature Black-browed as having the dusky and gray underwings that I observed, which are not present in the Yellow-nosed. W. B. Alexander in Birds of the Ocean claims that while the Black-browed is still young, the bill becomes yellow, while the head turns from gray to white. I would assume, therefore, that my bird was a sub-adult Black-browed Albatross -- still possessing remains of the immature plumage, yet old enough for the bill and head to have assumed their essentially adult characteristics.

The only other white-bodied, dark-backed albatross with Atlantic distribution is the Shy or White-capped (D. cauta), whose probability in these waters is very remote. It, too, has a considerable amount of white on the underwings in all plumages.

In retrospect, evidence is mounting that the Black-browed Albatross is an occasional visitor to the western North Atlantic. Yet, it is indeterminate whether recent sightings indicate a range extension of this species or a reflection of vastly growing interest and familiarity with pelagic birds.

During the last century, the Black-browed Albatross has been observed or collected in the eastern North Atlantic on 25 or more occasions. One individual spent the "summers" of 1860-94 with a Gannet colony in the Faeroes north of Britain and apparently associated with the Gannets throughout the year (see R. C. Murphy, Oceanic Birds of South America, page 511).

Aside from a bird collected off the west coast of Greenland in August, 1935 (which justifies this species' inclusion in the A.O.U. Check-list), the Black-browed Albatross has recently been reported several times in the western North Atlantic:

June 28, 1972: Off Bird Island, Massachusetts, two birds, the first United States sighting (American Birds, October, 1972, 832).

August 19, 1972: South of Morehead City, North Carolina, two birds (American Birds, August, 1973, 739).

Summer of 1972: Four other sightings of albatrosslike birds. July 13, Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts; mid-July, two birds 100 miles east of Manasquan Inlet, New Jersey (questionable); early August, two birds 45 miles east-southeast of Manasquan (questionable); August 19, between Bar Harbor, Maine, and Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. (American Birds, August, 1973, 740).

July 5, 1973: An adult Black-browed Albatross was reported off Brielle, New Jersey; the lone observer unsuccessfully attempted to photograph the bird.

Keith Shackleton and Ted Stokes state in their book, Birds of the Atlantic Ocean, page 27, "All albatrosses are, to a certain extent, wandering birds and some cover enormous mileages. The frequent -- nine within the last seventy years -- suggest that this species wanders well north when not engaged on family matters." The range map in this book confines the Black-browed Albatross to the eastern Atlantic, east of the Azores but up to 50° north latitude.

As defined by W. B. Alexander (Birds of the Ocean, second edition, page 11), the range of this species is "Southern Oceans between 60° S. and the tropic of Capricorn. Breeds on islets off Cape Horn, Staten I., South Georgia, the Falkland Is., Kerguelen, the Auckland Is., Macquarie I., Campbell I., Antipodes I., and Ildefonso I., Chile."

A note of caution should be introduced here. I question, for example, the ability of even the most experienced observer to distinguish the various albatross plumages at distances up to one mile (as reported by Paul G. DuMont in American Birds, August, 1973, 739). In fact, even at the close range at which I saw my bird, the distinguishing field marks (such as bill color) were not conspicuous. Only by careful inspection during a rather extended period (10 minutes) was I sure of the field marks -- especially considering the rarity of the bird!

I hope that potential observers, now aware of the possibility of sighting albatrosses in New England waters, exercise good judgment in identifying these and other unusual birds. There is a large amount of literature concerning plumages of albatrosses, which should be read thoroughly before making an identification of these birds. Only by positive identification will any trends in the range extension of such species (if such exist) become evident.

ATTENTION FEEDER USERS!

We must always have the welfare and safety of our birds in mind. There are feeders with a section for suet held behind wire. The idea seems good, but during winter a bird can be blinded when it reaches through the wire to the suet. The eyeball can become frozen by coming in contact with the wire. Plastic wiring or mesh (such as around onions or frozen turkeys) do away with the hazard.

Cardboard frozen-orange-juice cans, filled with a mixture of suet and seed and hung from a branch, make excellent winter feeders for chickadees and other small birds.

Mrs. Alice Littlefield
Cambridge

INDEX TO BIRD OBSERVER -- Vol. 1

AROUND FALMOUTH, Pat Garrey	132
ATTENTION FEEDER USERS	138
AUTUMN BIRDING AT GREAT MEADOWS, Peter Alden	109
BIRD OBSERVER SUMMARY FOR NOVEMBER, 1972	16
DECEMBER	19
JANUARY, 1973	35
FEBRUARY	43
MARCH	58
APRIL	63
MAY	82
JUNE	92
JULY	114
AUGUST	119
SEPTEMBER	140
OCTOBER	146
BIRDING ON PLYMOUTH BEACH, Bruce A. Sorrie	53
BIRDS OF MONOMOY, Richard Forster	76
"BLUE LIST"	57
CAHOW, Philip Martin	81
CORRIGENDA TO BIRD OBSERVER SUMMARIES	155
FEEDING WINTER BIRDS, Eliot Taylor	4
FRANCES TORREY ELKINS, Chandler S. Robbins	75
GIRLS DON'T FLY SO WELL, Leif J. Robinsin	81
GOOD DAY AT CAPE ANN, Herman D'Entremont	6
GOSHAWKS 1972-73, Leif J. Robinson	51
GREAT GRAY OWL, Philip Martin	46
GREAT MEADOWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Berlin Heck	112
HOW DO PEOPLE BECOME BIRD WATCHERS?, Eliot Taylor	80
LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL, Wayne R. Petersen	113
MANOMET BIRD OBSERVATORY, Brian A. Harrington	52
MONOMOY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Berlin Heck	78
ON THE MULTIPLICATION OF SPECIES, J. T. Leverich	134
PARALYTIC SHELLFISH POISONING IN THE NORTH SHORE AREA OF MASSACHUSETTS, SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1972, William Forward	10
PEREGRINE UPDATE, Leif J. Robinson	56
ROBERT CUSHMAN MURPHY, Leif J. Robinson	56
SIGHTING OF A BLACK-BROWED ALBATROSS, Richard R. Veit	137
SPRING WARBLER MIGRATION, MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY, Robert J. H. Stymeist	28
STATE-WIDE BIRDERS' MEET 1973, Gina Sprong	34
THAYER'S GULL, J. T. Leverich	125
WHAT IS A BIRD SPECIES?, J. T. Leverich	104
COMMENTARY ON, Leif J. Robinson	108
A REBUTTAL OF, Hugh Willoughby	154
WINTER GULL POSTSCRIPT, Wayne R. Petersen	42
WINTER GULLS IN MASSACHUSETTS, Philip Martin	12
WINTERING BALD EAGLES AT QUABBIN RESERVOIR, Herman D'Entremont	11

"GULF OF CALIFORNIA SEA BIRD BREEDING FAILURE"

This is the title of Card 1653 from the Smithsonian Institution's Center for Short-Lived Phenomena. It notes that in the midriff region of California, between February and April, 1973, "several species of sea birds failed to breed, or made only weak nesting attempts." These species included: California Brown Pelican, Double-crested and Brandt's Cormorant, Heermann's Gull, Elegant Tern, Western Gull, Black Oystercatcher, and Craveri's Murrelet.

This announcement from the Denver Wildlife Research Center states that the pelicans nested at only 5 to 20 percent pre-1973 numbers (25 to 30 thousand), while the Western Gulls nested at 30 to 50 percent previous levels and raised a limited number of young. Heermann's Gulls only gathered nest scraps, while Elegant Terns had begun few nests by mid-May.

The failure is tentatively attributed to unusual water conditions that indirectly affected the availability of food fishes.

L. J. R.

THE BIRD OBSERVER SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER

A Black-browed Albatross in Nantucket Sound headed September's list of rarities, only to be followed by a Northern Fulmar off Provincetown later in the month. Careful watch of a heron-egret roost on Plum Island provided us with high counts of many species, showing a peak count at that roost on or about the 16th of the month.

The hawk migration was highlighted by a Turkey Vulture on Martha's Vineyard and a Bald Eagle at Lakeville. Several sightings of Peregrine Falcons were recorded, along with many reports of Merlin, and a high count of more than 40 American Kestrels on Nantucket.

A large count of 52 Piping Plovers was received from Monomoy. A Marbled Godwit and an American Avocet also visited the island this month. A Skua was seen at Tuckernuck Island, and two reports of Sabine's Gull were notable. A Gull-billed Tern continued in Newburyport. Many reports of Forster's Tern were received, noting an increase in that species in the state in recent years. As many as 12 Black Skimmers were found on Monomoy.

Many reports of Western Kingbird were received, primarily from the Cape. A high count of 75,000 Tree Swallows was made at Plum Island. The warbler migration was headlined by several Worm-eating, Cerulean and Yellow-throated Warblers, along with one Kentucky. A Yellow-headed Blackbird appeared on Monomoy, and several Blue Grosbeaks were reported. Lark Sparrows were seen in three localities, as were Clay-colored Sparrows. Lapland Longspur reports at the end of the month gave fair warning of the soon approaching winter season.

S.P.G.

Red-throated Loon:			
29	Barnstable	2	W.Petersen
Horned Grebe:			
22	Plymouth	1	H&D Carmichaels
Black-browed Albatross:			
15	Nantucket Sound	1	R.Veit
Northern Fulmar:			
29	off Provincetown	1	P.Donahue#
Cory's Shearwater:			
19,22&23	Nantucket	18+,50+	R.Stymeist#,BBC(L.Jodrey)
Greater Shearwater:			
29,30	off Provincetown	6	BBC(W.Cornwell)
Manx Shearwater:			
15	Barnstable	1	R.Forster
Wilson's Storm-Petrel:			
29	off Provincetown	25+	BBC(H.D'Entremont)
Gannet:			
15	Barnstable	20	R.Forster
Great Cormorant:			
8	P.I.	1(first)	P.Donahue,G.Gove#
Great Blue Heron:			
29	Eastham(F.H.)	71	BBC(H.D'Entremont)
Green Heron:			
30	Cambridge(Mt.A)	2	C.Marks#
Little Blue Heron:			
8,13,16,30	P.I.	2,5,10+,7	v.o.
15	Duxbury	7	W.Petersen,D.Casoni
Cattle Egret:			
15,30	Marshfield,P.I.	6,1	SSBC,M.Gardler
Great Egret:			
thr.	P.I.	max.12(8th)	v.o.
8-30	Barnstable	6-1	W.Petersen#
Snowy Egret:			
8,13,16	P.I.	270,573,776	v.o.
20,23,30	P.I.	681,462,300	v.o.
8,15	Barnstable,Duxbury	60,140	W.Petersen#
Louisiana Heron:			
8,13,16,23	P.I.	4,5,4,3	v.o.
Black-crowned Night Heron:			
16,29	S.Dartmouth,Eastham	50,80	P.Regan,BBC(H.D'Entremont)

Yellow-crowned Night Heron:			
8-20	P.I.	1 imm.	P.Donahue,W.Petersen,R.Stymeist#
8,15	Wellfleet(WBWS),Tuckernuck I.	1,1	B.Nikula,R.Veit
Least Bittern:			
9	Harwich	1	R.Pease
Glossy Ibis:			
8,20,30	P.I.	30,19,2	v.o.
3,15	Concord(GMNWR),Middleboro	1,3	BBC(V.Albee),SSBC
Whistling Swan:			
27	Provincetown	1	W.Bailey
Mallard:			
15	Duxbury	200+	W.Petersen#
Gadwall:			
1,23	Monomoy,P.I.-Ipswich	50+,120	W.Petersen,C.Goodrich,R.Forster
2	Concord(GMNWR)	10	BBC(S.Grinley)
Pintail:			
16	P.I.	35	W.Petersen#
Green-winged Teal:			
16	P.I.	500	W.Petersen#
Blue-winged Teal:			
16	P.I.	300	W.Petersen#
American Wigeon:			
23	P.I.	400	W.Petersen,R.Forster
28,29	Nantucket	96	SSBC(J.Kenneally)
Northern Shoveler:			
thr.	P.I.	max.20+(23rd)	W.Petersen#
30	Monomoy(north end)	3	R.Stymeist,W.Russell#
Redhead:			
13-25;16	Monomoy;P.I.	3;6	R.Pease,W.Bailey;R.Stymeist
Bufflehead:			
16	P.I.	1	W.Petersen#
Common Eider:			
30	Barnstable	450(migrants)	W.Petersen#
White-winged Scoter:			
30	Barnstable	304	W.Petersen#
Surf Scoter:			
30	Barnstable	2074	W.Petersen#
Black Scoter:			
30	Barnstable	325	W.Petersen#
Ruddy Duck:			
15	P.I.	10	BBC(R&D Hale)
Turkey Vulture:			
9	W.Tisbury(M.V.)	1	R.Woodruff
Cooper's Hawk:			
25,29	Chatham,Wellfleet	1,1	H.Rich#,BBC(H.D'Entremont)
Red-tailed Hawk:			
28,29	Nantucket	8	SSBC(J.Kenneally)
Rough-legged Hawk:			
8,22	Concord(GMNWR),P.I.	1,1	BBC(S.Grinley),BBC(W.Van Cor)
28	Nantucket	1	SSBC(J.Kenneally)
Bald Eagle:			
11	Lakeville(Little Quitticas)	1 ad.	R.Maxim
Marsh Hawk:			
28,29	Nantucket	10	SSBC(J.Kenneally)
Peregrine Falcon:			
23,25	P.I.,Monomoy	1,1	R.Veit#,W.Bailey#
28,29	Nantucket,Barnstable	1,1	SSBC(J.Kenneally),W.Petersen#
Merlin:			
8-26	P.I.	9 singles	v.o.
thr.	5 locations	10 singles	v.o.
American Kestrel:			
18	Nantucket	40+	R.Stymeist,M.Baird,P.Fox
Clapper Rail:			
15,30	South Shore,P.I.	4,1	SSBC(Roundup),M.Gardler
Virginia Rail:			
15	Marshfield	15	SSBC(Roundup)
Common Gallinule:			
23	P.I.	60	W.Petersen,R.Forster

Semipalmated Plover:			
15	South Shore	278+	SSBC(Roundup)
Piping Plover:			
30	Monomoy;Barnstable	52+;9	R.Stymeist,R.Veit;W.Petersen#
Golden Plover:			
17,28	Concord,Nantucket	22,25	R.Stymeist#,SSBC(J.Kenneally)
Black-bellied Plover:			
8,15	Chatham(No.Bch.),Plymouth	1000+,1000+	H.D'Entremont,SSBC(Roundup)
Ruddy Turnstone:			
22	Scituate	55	SSBC(M&B Litchfield)
Whimbrel:			
8	Chatham(North Beach)	13	H.D'Entremont#
29,30	Barnstable,P.I.	1,2	W.Petersen#,J.Berry
Upland Sandpiper:			
13	Truro	1	M.McClellan
Willet:			
27	Chatham	3	R.Forster
Greater Yellowlegs:			
8	Barnstable	75	W.Petersen#
Red Knot:			
9,15	Barnstable,Scituate	50,200	W.Petersen#,SSBC(Roundup)
29	Barnstable	30	W.Petersen#
Purple Sandpiper:			
15,28	Scituate,Nantucket	2,1	SSBC(Roundup),SSBC(J.Kenneally)
Pectoral Sandpiper:			
17	Concord(GMNWR)	22	R.Stymeist#
White-rumped Sandpiper:			
3	Concord(GMNWR)	3	BBC(V.Albee)
Baird's Sandpiper:			
thr.	3 localities	4 singles	v.o.
Least Sandpiper:			
29	Barnstable	4	W.Petersen#
Dunlin:			
30	Monomoy	1000+	R.Stymeist,R.Veit,P.Martin
Short-billed Dowitcher:			
30	Barnstable	6	W.Petersen#
Long-billed Dowitcher:			
8,16	P.I.	17,23+	P.Donahue#,W.Petersen#
Stilt Sandpiper:			
11,30	P.I.,Barnstable	15,1	R.Forster#,W.Petersen#
Western Sandpiper:			
thr.,2	Nauset,P.I.	max.75(17th),100	B.Nikula#,P.Alden#
Buff-breasted Sandpiper:			
2-11,7	P.I.,Monomoy	max.4(11th),7	R.Forster#,W.Bailey#
17,18	Nantucket(Miacomet)	11	L.Jodrey,G.Soucy,R.Stymeist#
1-27	Eastham	max.4	v.o.
Marbled Godwit:			
10-21	Monomoy	1	v.o.
Hudsonian Godwit:			
1-24	P.I.-Newburyport	10-1	v.o.
8,9	Chatham,Barnstable	5,1	H.D'Entremont,W.Petersen
Sanderling:			
30	Barnstable	1800+	W.Petersen#
American Avocet:			
19	Monomoy	1	J.Harris,B.Nikula,v.o.
Red Phalarope:			
1-17	Eastham	1	v.o.
Wilson's Phalarope:			
1-13	P.I.	2-5(8th)	v.o.
13,16	Monomoy,Rowley	2,1	R.Pease,W.Petersen#
Northern Phalarope:			
8-13	P.I.	1	v.o.
15,29	Barnstable,off Provincetown	25,13	R.Forster,BBC(W.Cornwell)
Pomarine Jaeger:			
14,15	Barnstable,Dennis	2,2	R.Pease,R.Stymeist#
24,28	Barnstable,Nantucket	8,5	D.Brown,SSBC(J.Kenneally)

Parasitic Jaeger:			
thr.	Barnstable	1-23(15th)	v.o.
15	Plymouth,Dennis	4,17	SSBC(Roundup),R.Pease#
22	Nantucket	10	BBC(G.Soucy)
Northern Skua:			
6	Tuckernuck I.	1	R.Veit
Black-headed Gull:			
1,30	Newburyport,Monomoy	1,2	R.Stymeist#
Laughing Gull:			
15	Quincy	41	SSBC(Roundup)
Little Gull:			
thr.	Newburyport	1-9	v.o.
Black-legged Kittiwake:			
2,23	Wellfleet,Newburyport	1,1	W.Petersen#,R.Forster#
8,15,29	Barnstable	singles	v.o.
Sabine's Gull:			
2;24	Marion;Barnstable	1;1	G.Gove;R.Pease,D.Brown
Gull-billed Tern:			
2-19	Newburyport	1	v.o.
Forster's Tern:			
thr.	P.I.,Wellfleet	1-20+(21st),1-10	v.o.,v.o.
thr.	Eastham,Monomoy	max.7,max.5	v.o.
Common Tern:			
8,30	Barnstable	2000-1000	W.Petersen#
22	Salisbury	12	R.Emery#
Roseate tern:			
8,30	Barnstable	1000-50	W.Petersen#
22,23	Nantucket	100	BBC(G.Soucy)
Least Tern:			
24	Barnstable	3	D.Brown
Caspian Tern:			
24	Barnstable	3	D.Brown
Black Tern:			
1-29	Plymouth	3-1	v.o.
13,30	Monomoy	3	R.Veit,P.Martin
Black Skimmer:			
thr.	Monomoy	max.12(22nd)	v.o.
4	Plymouth Beach	2	Sawyers
Yellow-billed Cuckoo:			
19,26	Nantucket,Chatham	1,2	R.Stymeist#,H.Rich
Black-billed Cuckoo:			
30	P.I.	1	BBC(N.King)
Barred Owl:			
2,29	Sandwich	1 calling	R.Pease
Long-eared Owl:			
2-30	P.I.	1	v.o.
Short-eared Owl:			
thr.,30	Monomoy,P.I.	1,1	J.Harris,M.Gardler
Whip-poor-will:			
3,15	Manomet,Plymouth	1 b.,1	MBO,SSBC(Roundup)
Common Nighthawk:			
29	Littleton	1	J.Baird
Chimney Swift:			
29	P.I.	1	M.Gardler
Ruby-throated Hummingbird:			
29	off Provincetown,P.I.	1,4	BBC(H.D'Entremont),M.Gardler
Red-headed Woodpecker:			
10,21-30	Manomet,Barnstable	1 b.,1	MBO,R.Pease & v.o.
22	Monomoy	1 imm.	C.Goodrich
29	Cuttyhunk I.,Nantucket	1,1	P.Hallowell,SSBC(S.Higginbotham)
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:			
22,29-30	P.I.,P.I.	2,8+	R.Emery#,J.Berry,v.o.
Western Kingbird:			
11,14	Barnstable,Oak Bluffs(M.V.)	1,1	H.D'Entremont,R.Fox
17,22	Chatham,Monomoy	1,1	Elrick,W.Bailey#
26,26-30	Eastham(F.H.),P.I.	2,1	R.Forster,M.Gardler#
Great Crested Flycatcher:			
29	P.I.	1	M.Gardler

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:			
1	Monomoy	6	W.Petersen#
1-8,1-12	P.I.,Manomet	1,5 b.	BBC(E.Pyburn)#,MBO
5,12	Annisquam, W. Roxbury	1,1	H.Wiggin,F.Atwood
Willow Flycatcher:			
8	Middleboro	1(fitz-bew)	D.Briggs
Olive-sided Flycatcher:			
10,13	Boston(Pru.),P.I.	1,1	H.Wiggin,P.Donahue#
18	Nantucket(Elk Pt.)	1	R.Stymeist#
Tree Swallow:			
15,22	Duxbury,P.I.	3500,75,000	SSBC,R.Emery#
Purple Martin:			
1-8	P.I.	max.15	BBC(E.Pyburn)#
Fish Crow:			
thr.	W.Roxbury	max.100	F.Atwood
15,20	Marshfield,Plymouth	1,1	SSBC,Carmichaels
Brown Creeper:			
30	Orleans(Pochet)	25	R.Forster
Winter Wren:			
29,30	Barnstable(S.N.),Monomoy	3,1	W.Petersen,R.Veit#
Carolina Wren:			
15,22	Manomet,Plymouth	1,1	W.Petersen#,Carmichaels
Gray Catbird:			
1-9,1-14	Manomet,W.Roxbury	90 b.,max.59	MBO,F.Atwood
Swainson's Thrush:			
1-12,thr.	Manomet,S.Dartmouth	18,5 b.	MBO,H.Atkinson
Gray-cheeked Thrush:			
1-12,29	Manomet,Barnstable(S.N.)	1 b.,5	MBO,W.Petersen#
Veery:			
1-9	Manomet	14 b.	MBO
Eastern Bluebird:			
thr.,15,22	Sherborn,Plymouth,Pelham	9,6,22	E.Taylor,SSBC,J.Seitz
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:			
1-15,13,13	Manomet,P.I.,Plymouth	4,1,1	MBO,Argues,SSBC
9,30	Chatham,Monomoy	2,1	R.Pease,Russell#
Golden-crowned Kinglet:			
30	Orleans(Pochet)	160	R.Forster
Ruby-crowned Kinglet:			
30	Orleans(Pochet)	65	R.Forster
Water Pipit:			
12	Newburyport	1(first)	R.Forster
27	Eastham(First Encounter)	28	R.Forster
29	Plymouth Beach	25	Carmichaels
Loggerhead Shrike:			
8,14	Monomoy,Eastham(F.H.)	1,1	C.Goodrich#,B.Nikula
17,28-29	Nantucket	1	G.Soucy#,SSBC(J.Kenneally)
White-eyed Vireo:			
15,25	Plymouth,Chatham	5,1	SSBC,H.Rich
Yellow-throated Vireo:			
16,22	Annisquam,Nantucket	1,1	H.Wiggin,BBC(L.Jodrey)
23,27	Andover,Middleboro	1,1	W.Drummond,R.Maxim
Solitary Vireo:			
28-29,30	Nantucket,Sandwich	5,5	SSBC(J.Kenneally),R.Pease
Philadelphia Vireo:			
8,15	Monomoy,Plymouth	6,3	C.Leahy,SSBC
18 single reports from 12 localities			
Warbling Vireo:			
11,22	Middleboro,Annisquam	2,1	D.Briggs,H.Wiggin
Worm-eating Warbler:			
4,18	Manomet,Haverhill	1 b.,1	MBO,W.Drummond
28	Sandwich	1(dead)	R.Pease
Golden-winged Warbler:			
16,20,25	Norwell,Manomet,Chatham	1,1 b.,1	Litchfields,MBO,H.Rich
Tennessee Warbler:			
13,22,28-29	Littleton,Annisquam,Nantucket	5,1,2	J.Baird,H.Wiggin,SSBC(J.Kenneally)
Orange-crowned Warbler:			
11,17	Boston(Pru.),Squantum	1,1	H.Wiggin,E.Morrier
29,30	P.I.,Orleans(Pochet)	2,1	M.Gardler,R.Forster

Cape May Warbler:			
14,16,22	Annisquam	30,50,15	H.Wiggin
Cerulean Warbler:			
2,2	Manomet,S.Dartmouth	1 b.,1 b.	MBO,H.Atkinson
13	W.Roxbury	1	F.Atwood
Yellow-throated Warbler:			
4-6,19	Chatham,Manomet	1,1	R.Forster#,Gardner
26-27	Truro(Corn Hill)	1	P.Donahue#
Pine Warbler:			
16	Westwood	150	J.Clancy
Palm Warbler:			
22	Monomoy	100	C.Goodrich
Louisiana Waterthrush:			
12	Tuckernuck I.	1	R.Veit
Kentucky Warbler:			
2	Danvers	1	R.O'Hara & A.Agush
Connecticut Warbler:			
	14 single reports from 11 localities		
Mourning Warbler:			
1-9,1	Manomet,Littleton	9 b.,1	MBO,J.Baird
23,29	S.Dartmouth,P.I.	1 b.,1	H.Atkinson,M.Gardler
Yellow-breasted Chat:			
1-9	Manomet	20 b.	MBO
Hooded Warbler:			
5,22	Tuckernuck I.,Annisquam	1,1	R.Veit,H.Wiggin
Bobolink:			
8,28-29	Truro,Nantucket	178+,75	R.Stymeist#,SSBC(J.Kenneally)
Yellow-headed Blackbird:			
12-22	Monomoy	1	J.Harris,W.Bailey#
Rusty Blackbird:			
8,29	Concord(GMNWR),Truro	2,2	BBC(S.Grinely),BBC(H.D'Entremont)
Blue Grosbeak:			
19,29-30	Nantucket	1,1	R.Stymeist,SSBC(J.Kenneally)
22,29-30	Monomoy,Barnstable	1,1	W.Bailey#,W.Petersen#
30	Orleans,Truro	1,1	R.Forster#,C.Goodrich
Dickcissel:			
thr.	Truro	max.4	P.Donahue#
	10 single reports from 6 localities		
Grasshopper Sparrow:			
4,26	Falmouth,Manomet	3,1 b.	R.Pease,MBO
Sharp-tailed Sparrow:			
22	P.I.	8	R.Emery#
Seaside Sparrow:			
3,30	W.Dennis Beach,Duxbury Beach	3,2	Holdridge,D.Briggs
Vesper Sparrow:			
22,29;22	P.I.;Scituate	3,2;1	W.Drummond,R.Emery;SSBC
Lark Sparrow:			
2&8,7	Newburyport,Chatham	1,2	BBC(E.Pyburn),V.Laux#
20&22	Monomoy	1	W.Bailey,C.Goodrich
Clay-colored Sparrow:			
1	Monomoy	1(from Aug.)	W.Bailey#
13,29	Tuckernuck I.,P.I.	1,1	R.Veit,M.Gardler#
Lincoln's Sparrow:			
	14 single reports from 10 localities		
Lapland Longspur:			
27,30,30	P.I.,Monomoy,Duxbury	8,2,2	P.Martin#,Russell#,H.D'Entremont

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THE BIRD OBSERVER SUMMARY FOR OCTOBER

Fall came to New England early in October. On the first, a high moving across our area brought cool temperatures and some scattered frost, but by the weeks end, the temperatures remained above normal with very little precipitation. On October 25th, tropical storm "Gilda" moved north causing gale-force winds and above normal tides. Cloudy and blustery conditions continued along the coast through the weekend providing good pelagic birding.

Migrating Common and Red-throated Loons were seen in small numbers throughout the month, building up to their early November peak. The pelagic birds observed during the storm period of October 25-29 were notable, especially from Sandy Neck Beach in Barnstable and First Encounter Beach in Eastham (two of the most productive areas during an east-northeasterly storm). This same storm, undoubtedly, blew the Leach's Storm-petrel inland to Horn Pond in Woburn.

The high count of Great Blue Herons at Nauset Marsh was 100, reaching that peak on the 8th. Black-crowned Night Herons, on the other hand, were exceptionally scarce, especially from the Eastham area. Southern herons lingered and the count of 250+ Snowy Egrets at Plum Island is remarkable for October.

Unusual were eight Whistling Swans reported from two localities, with no high counts of Mute Swans received. The Black Duck counts were concentrated only at Newburyport Harbor and Plymouth. The reports of other ducks were seasonably normal. There were particularly high counts of Gadwall, Green-winged Teal, Common Eider and White-winged Scoter.

Raptors were reported in poor numbers during the month with some notable exceptions: one Golden Eagle, four immature Bald Eagles, and 17 Ospreys. Nine Peregrine Falcons were reported, and while this is no prognostication for our eastern United States population, it is nevertheless encouraging.

Twenty-six species of shorebirds were recorded. Three Willets, a Spotted Sandpiper (late), a Short-billed Dowitcher (late), a Marbled Godwit and a Red Phalarope were noteworthy. There was a high count of 15 Little Gulls in Newburyport. 300 Black-legged Kittiwakes during the storm of the 25th and an amazing count of 52 Forster's Terns at Eastham could be a maximum for Massachusetts. Two interesting alcid reports were received during the month. A Common Murre was well observed off Provincetown on the A.O.U. boat trip on the 8th. On the 27th, the Brookline Bird Club observed and photographed an immature Puffin off Eastham.

A Ground Dove was found and photographed on Monomoy on the 7th, a first "state record." It was seen by over 60 members of the A.O.U. on their field trip to Monomoy. The possibility of a release was suggested.

A Barn Owl was found in Boston Harbor. An early Snowy Owl was reported from Byfield, and both Long-eared and Saw-whet Owls were found at Plum Island.

A Common Raven was well observed in North Westport. This bird is spreading its range and confirmed reports of its occurrence in central Massachusetts and Berkshire County increase each year. One hundred fifty Common Crows were at a roost in Brookline. The "birdy" between the 5th-6th hole at the Wachusett Golf Course was a Boreal Chickadee, while the Black-capped Chickadee migration levelled off from their invasion of September.

A roost of American Robins at West Roxbury's Getheseme Cemetery totaled 3300 at mid-month, and a late Wood Thrush was picked up dead at the Prudential Center.

Twenty-one species of warblers were reported; the highlights being 7 Orange-crowned, 3 Connecticut, a late Mourning Warbler, and 2 Yellow-breasted Chat. A Yellow-headed Blackbird appeared at a feeder in Rockport for one week. "Millions," or we guess at least a great number, of Redwings were flying over Winchester on the 27th. High counts of 14,000 Common Grackles were received from Woburn, and a mixed flock of mostly grackles totaling over 100,000 was roosting in Lynnfield. Perhaps the most noteworthy birds this month were the two Brewer's Blackbirds found at East Orleans on the 27th. More on this will follow in Bird Observer.

Blue Grosbeaks were reported from Corn Hill in Truro, and two female "Painted Buntings" were reported without details. Winter finches appeared in a mild eruption between the 6th-8th and tapered off by months end. Sparrows peaked during the month with high counts

of White-crowned (150) at Monomoy and 80 Swamp Sparrows at Fowl Meadow in Milton on the 3rd.

R.H.S.

Common Loon:			
25	Squantum	15	E.Morrier
Red-throated Loon:			
20,24	P.I.	250+,100+	BBC(S.Garrett),D.Alexander
Red-necked Grebe:			
26,28	Squantum,Barnstable	1,2	E.Morrier,B.Nikula
Horned Grebe:			
21,28	Centerville,Quincy	2,9	R.Pease,SSBC(R.Langley)
Pied-billed Grebe:			
22;27	W.Newbury;Ipswich,Westport	5;5,9	J.Berry;J.Berry,BBC(T.Athearn)
Greater Shearwater:			
6	Eastham(First Encounter Bch.)	175	R.Webster
Manx Shearwater:			
6.13.26	Eastham,Barnstable,Sandwich	2,1,1	R.Webster,R.Pease,V.Laux
Leach's Storm-Petrel:			
26&29	Barnstable	5&2	R.Pease#
27	Eastham(First Encounter Bch.)	4	C.Goodrich#
28,29	Woburn(Horn Pond),Manomet	1,5	P.Donahue#,W.Petersen
Wilson's Storm-Petrel:			
11	Eastham(First Encounter Bch.)	1	R.W.Smart
Gannet:			
25;27	Barnstable;Eastham,Truro	1000;500,1000	v.o.
Great Cormorant:			
8,20	Provincetown,P.I.	1,9	P.Follis#,BBC(S.Garrett)
Double-crested Cormorant:			
7	Marblehead-P.I.	720+	R.Veit#
10,11	Nantucket,Woods Hole	46,48	D.Briggs
Great Blue Heron:			
thr.	Nauset	max.100(Oct.8)	v.o.
Green Heron:			
13	Eastham	1	D.Baines
Little Blue Heron:			
1,12	P.I.,Wellfleet(WBWS)	9,1 imm.	P.Donahue,W.Bailey
Great Egret:			
1,14;6	P.I.;Barnstable	7,1;2	P.Donahue#,W.Petersen#:R.Pease
Snowy Egret:			
1,27	P.I.	250+,9	P.Donahue#,M&A Argue#
Louisiana Heron:			
1	P.I.	2	P.Donahue#
Black-crowned Night Heron:			
thr.	Eastham	3!(low)	v.o.
American Bittern:			
27	Eastham,P.I.	2,1	BBC(H.D'Entremont),R.Emery#
28	Ipswich	1	BBC(J.Berry)
Glossy Ibis:			
6	P.I.	1	R.Veit
Whistling Swan:			
23	Wareham,Lakeville	7,1	R.Maxim.W&G Lavallee
Brant:			
18,20	Squantum,P.I.	18,16	H.D'Entremont#,BBC(S.Garrett)
Snow Goose:			
7,13	Monomoy,P.I.	24,20	v.o.,BBC(S.Garrett)
Black Duck:			
9,21	P.I.,Plymouth	1000,1400	BBC(P.Parsons),BBC(J.Nichols)
Gadwall:			
27	Ipswich	100	BBC(J.Berry)
Pintail:			
28	Monomoy,Ipswich	100+,40	W.Petersen#,BBC(J.Berry)
Green-winged Teal:			
22	P.I.	320+	R.Stymeist,P.Butler
Blue-winged Teal:			
8,28	Concord(GMNWR),Monomoy	10,10	BBC(J.Hinds),W.Harrington#

European Wigeon:			
thr.	P.I., Ipswich	1,1	v.o., v.o.
9	Halifax	1	R. Maxim
American Wigeon:			
8	Concord (GMNWR)	400	BBC (J. Hinds)
28	P.I., Monomoy	10+, 125	R. Stymeist, W. Harrington#
Northern Shoveler:			
7, 28	P.I., Monomoy	20, 20	R. Stymeist#, W. Petersen
Wood Duck:			
8	Concord (GMNWR)	20	BBC (J. Hinds)
Redhead:			
thr., 12	P.I., Plymouth	1, 1	v.o., H&D Carmichael
Ring-necked Duck:			
17-25	Lakeville	50+	R. Maxim#
Canvasback:			
27	S. Dartmouth	2	BBC (T. Athearn)
28	Monomoy	8	W. Petersen & W. Harrington
Greater Scaup:			
19	Wollaston Bay	2000+	W. Cornwell
Common Goldeneye:			
22	Newburyport	20	J. Berry
Bufflehead:			
22	Newburyport	50	J. Berry
Oldsquaw:			
17	Newburyport	175-200	M. Gardler
Common Eider:			
28	Monomoy	10, 500	W. Petersen & W. Harrington
White-winged Scoter:			
28	Monomoy	9000+	W. Petersen & W. Harrington
Surf Scoter:			
20, 21	P.I., Manomet	300, 250	BBC (S. Garrett), BBC (J. Nichols)
Ruddy Duck:			
28	Monomoy	11	W. Petersen & W. Harrington
Hooded Merganser:			
27, 31	Lakeville, Ipswich	3, 3 f.	C&W Corwin, J. Berry
Red-breasted Merganser:			
21, 20	Rockport, P.I.	34 f., 35	J. Berry, BBC (S. Garrett)
Goshawk:			
27	P.I.	1	T&C Baner
Sharp-shinned Hawk:			
thr.	reported from four localities		v.o.
Cooper's Hawk:			
21	W. Newbury	1	M. Argue
Broad-winged Hawk:			
6	Dartmouth	2	BBC (T. Athearn)
Rough-legged Hawk:			
6, 11	Dartmouth, Nantucket	1, 1	BBC (T. Athearn), D. Briggs
<u>Golden Eagle:</u>			
14	Chatham	1 imm.	H. Rich
<u>Bald Eagle:</u>			
6, 14	Dartmouth; Eastham (Nauset)	1 imm.; 1 imm.	BBC (T. Athearn); C. Goodrich, R. Veit#
22, 31	Truro, P.I.	1 imm., 1 imm.	W. Petersen#, W. Forward
Osprey:			
thr.	17 reported from 15 localities		v.o.
Peregrine Falcon:			
4, 11	Salisbury, Nantucket	1, 1	M. McClellan, D. Briggs
7, 13	Eastham (Nauset)	1, 1	C. Goodrich#
7&8, 23	Monomoy, Marblehead	1&1, 1	W. Bailey#, N. Claflin#
8, 17	Newburyport	1, 1	BBC (P. Parsons), M. Gardler
30	Barnstable	1	N. Claflin#
Merlin:			
1-19	12 birds reported		v.o.
King Rail:			
2	Halifax	1	R. Maxim
Clapper Rail:			
2, 27, 30	Harwich, Chatham, Squantum	1, 3-4, 1	R. Pease, W. Harrington, R. Veit
12, 27; 13	Wellfleet (WBWS); Eastham	1, 2; 1	W. Bailey & v.o.; SSBC (F. King)

Virginia Rail:			
2,29	Harwich,W.Roxbury	8,3	R.Pease,F.Atwood
Sora:			
2	Harwich	10	R.Pease
Common Gallinule:			
2,6	Harwich,P.I.	5,12	R.Pease,R.Stymeist & A.Horn
American Coot:			
22,27	Concord,Woburn	100,50	BBC(D.Weaver),BBC(J.Tomfohrde)
28	P.I.,Ipswich	100,100	R.Stymeist & A.Horn,J.Berry
28	Randolph	60	SSBC(R.Langley)
Semipalmated Plover:			
28	Monomoy	20	W.Petersen & W.Harrington
Killdeer:			
1-9	Halifax	100	R.Maxim,C.Corwin
Golden Plover:			
1-27	6 places	22 individuals	v.o.
Ruddy Turnstone:			
10-27,21	Ipswich,Duxbury	2,2	J.Berry,BBC(J.Nichols)
American Woodcock:			
1,4	Sandwich,Plymouth Beach	1,1	R.Pease,H&D Carmichael
22,27	Centerville,Ipswich	1,1	H.Dunham,J.Berry
Spotted Sandpiper:			
21	Cambridge(Charles River)	1	R.Stymeist & H.Butler
Solitary Sandpiper:			
2,20	Winchester,Haverhill	1,2(last)	M.McClellan,W.Drummond
3	W.Tisbury(M.V.)	1	Mr.&Mrs.Warnaar
5	S.Dennis(Fresh P.)	1	B.Holdridge
Willet:			
19,22	Eastham,Chatham	1,2	B.Holdridge,D.Briggs
Greater Yellowlegs:			
20	P.I.	50	BBC(S.Garrett)
Red Knot:			
5	Plymouth Beach	100	H&D Carmichael
Lesser Yellowlegs:			
14	W.Newbury	13	W.Petersen & R.Forster
Purple Sandpiper:			
8,31	P.I.,Mashpee	6,2	BBC(P.Parsons),H.D'Entremont#
Pectoral Sandpiper:			
1-16,6	Halifax,Rowley	max.30(Oct.16),8	R.Maxim#
28	Monomoy,P.I.	2,2	W.Petersen#,R.Stymeist#
White-rumped Sandpiper:			
28	Monomoy	max.6(Oct.28)	W.Petersen & W.Harrington
28	Newburyport	2	R.Stymeist#
Dunlin:			
21	Duxbury,Plymouth	600,200	BBC(J.Nichols)
28	Newburyport-P.I.	350	BBC(J.Berry)
Short-billed Dowitcher:			
14,17	Newburyport	1(well studied & heard),14	W.Petersen & R.Forster,M.Gardler
Long-billed Dowitcher:			
1-21	Newburyport	max.27(Oct.17)	M.Gardler# & v.o.
Western Sandpiper:			
1,14,28	P.I.,Truro,Monomoy	20,3,1	P.Donahue,R.Veit#,W.Petersen#
Marbled Godwit:			
7	Nauset	1	C.Goodrich
Hudsonian Godwit:			
17,21	Newburyport	9,3	M.Gardler,R.Emery#
Red Phalarope:			
8	off Provincetown(at sea)	1	P.Alden#
Pomarine Jaeger:			
10,14	Sandwich,Eastham	1,3	R.Pease,R.Veit#
Parasitic Jaeger:			
25,30;27	Barnstable;Eastham	13,2;2	R.Pease#;P.Donahue#
Great Black-backed Gull:			
27	Provincetown	4200	BBC(S.Grinley)
Herring Gull:			
14,27	W.Roxbury,Provincetown	1000(dump),3500	J.Pickup,BBC(S.Grinley)

Black-headed Gull:			
12-28	Wollaston area	1-3	G.Wilson
14,28	Newburyport,Dennis	2,1	W.Petersen#,B.Nikula
Laughing Gull:			
14-28	Wollaston & Squantum	max.45(Oct.19)	E.Morrier,W.Cornwell & v.o.
Bonaparte's Gull:			
8,9	Newburyport,Wollaston	150,250	BBC(P.Parsons),W.Cornwell
Little Gull:			
13-20,14	Newburyport,Wollaston	max.15(Oct.17),1	M.Gardler,S.Higginbotham# & v.o.
Black-legged Kittiwake:			
25,27	Eastham	100+,200	R.Pease,P.Donahue#
Forster's Tern:			
thr.	Eastham(Nauset)	max.52(Oct.12)& 45(Oct.22)	W.Bailey & v.o.,C.Goodrich
17,28	Newburyport,Monomoy	1,1	M.Gardler,W.Petersen#
20&27	Truro(Pamet Harbor)	13&5	P.Donahue & W.Petersen#
Common Tern:			
27,30	Truro,Barnstable(S.N.)	150,100	W.Petersen#,H.D'Entremont#
Caspian Tern:			
20	Centerville	2(ad.& imm.)	V.Laux
Black Tern:			
3,15	Plymouth Beach	1,1	H&D Carmichael,W.Petersen
Razorbill:			
11,27	Eastham(First Encounter Bch.)	1,1	R.Smart#,BBC(H.D'Entremont)
30	Barnstable(S.N.)	1	N.Claflin#
Common Murre:			
8	off Provincetown	1	P.Alden#(A.O.U.)
Thick-billed Murre:			
8,14	Provincetown(at Pier)	1,1	v.o.,R.Veit#
Dovekie:			
26,27	Dennis,off Eastham	1,27	R.Pease#,BBC(S.Grinley)
Puffin:			
27	off Eastham	1 imm.(photographed)	BBC(S.Grinley & H.D'Entremont)
Ground Dove:			
7	Monomoy	1	T.Howe & 60 A.O.U. Members
Yellow-billed Cuckoo:			
1,8	Sandwich,Milton	1,1	R.Pease#,R.Veit
Black-billed Cuckoo:			
13,14	Chatham,Truro	1,1	SSBC(F.King),BBC(Baines)
Barn Owl:			
18	Squantum(Moon Island)	1	H.D'Entremont & E.Morrier
Snowy Owl:			
22	Byfield	1	T.Joyce
Barred Owl:			
1	Sandwich	1	R.Pease
Long-eared Owl:			
1-22	P.I.	1-2	v.o.
Short-eared Owl:			
7-8,28,30	Monomoy,P.I.,Squantum	2-3,1,1	v.o.,J.Berry,R.Veit
Saw-whet Owl:			
13	P.I.	1	BBC(P.Butler)
Pileated Woodpecker:			
8,28	Shirley,Wayland	1,1	D.Lussier,Budner
Red-headed Woodpecker:			
1,7	Middleboro,Chilmark(M.V.)	1 imm.,1	D.Briggs,Rosenwalds
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:			
22	Chatham	1	D.Briggs
Eastern Kingbird:			
12	Provincetown	1	H.Wiggin#
Western Kingbird:			
4-14	Truro(Corn Hill)	1	v.o.
Eastern Phoebe:			
21	Orleans,Middleboro	1,1	W.Petersen#,D.Briggs
Horned Lark:			
27	Salisbury	50+	R.Emery#
Tree Swallow:			
27	Westport	50	BBC(T.Athearn)
28	E.Orleans,Quincy	1,1	W.Petersen#,SSBC(R.Langley)

Bank Swallow:			
15	Halifax	45	L.Pratt
Barn Swallow:			
31	Rockport,Gloucester,Mashpee	40+,10,2	M.McClellan,M.McClellan,R.Pease
<u>Common Raven:</u>			
1	North Westport	1	J.Smith,R.Edwards,J&G Fernandez
Common Crow:			
27	Brookline	150	H.Wiggin
Fish Crow:			
thr.,27	W.Roxbury,Brookline	max.100(Oct.29),1	F.Atwood,H.Wiggin
<u>Boreal Chickadee:</u>			
8	Princeton(Wachusett Golf Crs.)	1	M.Gardler
Winter Wren:			
1,2	Winchester,P.I.	2,1	P.Donahue#,J.Clancy
11,18	Jamaica Plain(A.A.),Wellfleet	1,1	J.Pickup,R.Pease
22&25	Haverhill	1	W.Drummond
Carolina Wren:			
8	W.Tisbury(M.V.)	1	M.Hancock
12,31	Plymouth,Scituate	1,1	H&D Carmichael,E.Sabin
Long-billed Marsh Wren:			
27	Truro	2	W.Petersen#
Gray Catbird:			
24&25,27	Braintree(Great Pond),Westport	1,1	R.Langley,BBC(T.Athearn)
Brown Thrasher:			
7	Vineyard Haven(M.V.)	1	M.Hancock
American Robin:			
thr.,29	W.Roxbury(roost)	max.3300(Oct.14),135	J.Pickup,F.Atwood
Wood Thrush:			
25	Boston(Prudential)	1(dead)	H.Wiggin
Hermit Thrush:			
28	Rowley,Cambridge(Mt.A.)	1,1	BBC(J.Berry),BBC (Holman)
Swainson's Thrush:			
21,29	S.Dartmouth,W.Roxbury	2,1	PBC(P.Regan),F.Atwood
Gray-cheeked Thrush:			
1,16	Winchester,Middleboro	1,1	P.Donahue,C.Corwin
7,13	Marblehead,Cambridge(Mt.A.)	1,1	D.Snyder#,R.Stymeist
			(both - Bicknell's type)
Veery:			
7	Chatham	1	BBC(A.Tait)
Eastern Bluebird:			
thr.,21	Sherborn,N.Andover	9-15,8-10	J.Willison#,S.Battles
Golden-crowned Kinglet:			
7	Chatham	27	BBC(A.Tait)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet:			
28	Cambridge(Mt.A.)	1	BBC (Holman)
Water Pipit:			
1,10	P.I.,Plymouth	15,12	P.Donahue,H&D Carmichael
Loggerhead Shrike:			
7,17	Provincetown,Wellfleet	1,1	N.Hill#,P.Donahue
Solitary Vireo:			
7,8	Marblehead,W.Tisbury(M.V.)	1,1	P.Butler#,M.Hancock
Red-eyed Vireo:			
14	Chatham	1	BBC(Baines)
Philadelphia Vireo:			
5	Lynnfield	1	B.Keenan
Black and White Warbler:			
21	Duxbury	1	BBC(J.Nichols)
Tennessee Warbler:			
1,29	Sandwich,W.Roxbury	1,1	R.Pease,F.Atwood
Orange-crowned Warbler:			
1-27	reported from 7 localities	singles	v.o.
Nashville Warbler:			
1,29	Sandwich,W.Roxbury	1,1	R.Pease,F.Atwood
Parula Warbler:			
7,12,29	Marblehead,Squantum,W.Roxbury	1,1,3	R.Stymeist,E.Morrier,F.Atwood
Yellow Warbler:			
8	P.I.	1	BBC(P.Parsons)

Magnolia Warbler:				
8,9	off Provincetown, Sandwich	1,1		P. Alden(A.O.U.), R. Pease
29	W. Roxbury	1		F. Atwood
Cape May Warbler:				
1	Winchester, Sandwich	5,1		P. Donahue, R. Pease
29	W. Roxbury	2		F. Atwood
Black-throated Blue Warbler:				
21,23	Orleans, Sandwich	1,1		W. Petersen, R. Pease
Yellow-rumped Warbler:				
13,29	P. I., W. Roxbury	100+,22		BBC(P. Butler), F. Atwood
Black-throated Green Warbler:				
28;29	P. I.; W. Roxbury	1;1		L. Robinson, R. Stymeist#; F. Atwood
Blackburnian Warbler:				
21	Cambridge(Mt. A.)	1		BBC(E. Riggs)
Bay-breasted Warbler:				
8,13	Cambridge(Mt. A.), Plymouth	1,1		R. Veit, H&D Carmichael
Blackpoll Warbler:				
21,29	Duxbury, W. Roxbury	1,36		BBC(J. Nichols), F. Atwood
Palm Warbler:				
28	Monomoy, Truro	6,1		W. Petersen#, BBC(S. Grinley)
Ovenbird:				
6	Paxton	1		D. Crompton
Connecticut Warbler:				
3,6	Milton(F.M.), Marblehead	1,1		R. Veit, M. Baird#
7	Provincetown	1		N. Hill
Mourning Warbler:				
7	Orleans(North Beach)	1		C. Goodrich
Common Yellowthroat:				
28	Truro	1		BBC(S. Grinley)
Yellow-breasted Chat:				
22,27	Chatham, Truro	1,1		D. Briggs, P. Donahue#
American Redstart:				
7	Nantucket	1		E. Simonds
Bobolink:				
6	Barnstable	2		R. Pease
Eastern Meadowlark:				
22	P. I.	32		R. Stymeist#
Yellow-headed Blackbird:				
13-19	Rockport	1		P. Stangel, v.o.
Redwing Blackbird:				
23	Winchester	"million"		M. McClellan
Northern Oriole:				
27	Truro	1		BBC(H.D'Entremont)
Rusty Blackbird:				
28	Braintree	11		SSBC(R. Langley)
Brewer's Blackbird:				
27-28	E. Orleans	2		W. Petersen, C. Goodrich, W. Bailey
Common Grackle:				
28	Woburn, Lynnfield	14,000,"100,000"		P. Donahue, B. Keenan
Brown-headed Cowbird:				
21	Rockport	110		J. Berry
Scarlet Tanager:				
15,29	Mansfield, W. Roxbury	1,8		A. Richardson, F. Atwood
Cardinal:				
28	P. I.	1		P. Butler#
Blue Grosbeak:				
7,13	Truro(Corn Hill), Dighton	2,1		C. Goodrich, R. Emerson
Indigo Bunting:				
13,27,31	Dighton, Truro, Centerville	1,1,1		R. Emerson, W. Petersen, R. Pease
Painted Bunting:				
16,21	Plymouth, Westwood	1 f., 1 f.		H&D Carmichael, J. Clancy
Dickcissel:				
1-28	Reported from 7 localities	1-5		v.o.
Evening Grosbeak:				
31	Barnstable	3		R. Pease
House Finch:				
1-10	Wollaston	12		R. Emery

Pine Grosbeak:			
8,27	W.Boylston,Brookline	1,1	M.Gardler,H.Wiggin
28	Danvers	15-20	H.Ashe
Common Redpoll:			
8,13	Milton,Cambridge(Mt.A.)	1,13	R.Veit,R.Stymeist
28	Lexington	1	P.Reed
Pine Siskin:			
1;6	Newton;Marblehead,Wellfleet	1;50,30+	P.Martin;R.Veit#,M.McClellan
7;28	Edgartown(M.V.),Milton;P.I.	30,40;15	S.Whiting,R.Veit;J.Berry
Red Crossbill:			
6,28	Brewster,P.I.	25,41+	C.Goodrich,v.o.
31	Falmouth,Woods Hole	10,30	H.D'Entremont#,R.Pease#
White-winged Crossbill:			
27	Orleans(Pochet)	15	P.Donahue
Rufous-sided Towhee:			
27	Westport	3	BBC(T.Athearn)
Savannah Sparrow:			
15	Squantum	64 + 1(Ipswich)	R.Veit
Grasshopper Sparrow:			
1,6	P.I.,Dartmouth	1,1	P.Donahue,BBC(T.Athearn)
21,22	Long Island,Truro	1,1	L.Robinson#,W.Petersen
Vesper Sparrow:			
27	Wellfleet(Marconi Station)	4	P.Donahue
Dark-eyed Junco:			
8	P.I.	42(low)	BBC(P.Parsons)
Tree Sparrow:			
14,27	Cambridge(Mt.A.),Truro	1,6-8	BBC(R.O'Hara),P.Donahue
Chipping Sparrow:			
31	Sandwich	14	R.Pease
Clay-colored Sparrow:			
13,14	Truro,Middleboro	1,1	C.Goodrich,D.Briggs
Field Sparrow:			
28	P.I.	1	BBC(J.Berry)
White-crowned Sparrow:			
7,28	Truro	60,1	C.Goodrich,BBC(S.Grinley)
8	Monomoy	150	C.Goodrich
Fox Sparrow:			
7,10,22	Milton,W.Roxbury,Haverhill	1,1,1	R.Veit,J.Pickup,W.Drummond
Lincoln's Sparrow:			
1,12,13	P.I.,Truro,Dighton	2,1,1	P.Donahue#,R.Emery,R.Emerson
2,3&7	Squantum,Milton(F.M.)	1,2&1	R.Veit
Swamp Sparrow:			
3	Milton(F.M.)	80+	R.Veit
Lapland Longspur:			
1,27	P.I.,Salisbury	20,35+	P.Donahue,M&A Argue
Snow Bunting:			
28,29	Ipswich,Woburn	73,20	BBC(J.Berry),M.McClellan

Abbreviations

ad.	adult	SSBC	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
A.O.U.	American Ornithologists' Union	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

A REBUTTAL

I found the article by J. T. Leverich on "What is a Bird Species" to be most interesting. It is knowledgeable without being pedantic, and it presents in a very clear manner many of the highlights of the 32nd Supplement. For these reasons I was somewhat surprised to note Leif Robinson's reaction.

Mr. Robinson says, "As for me, I'll count any species, race, or morph that can be reliably identified through field marks, voice, or habitat." Okay, let's see where this leads. First, Leif specifically mentions "the two largest herons in North America"; he counts both of them. Obviously, he therefore must also count another conspicuous pair of Ardeids - the White Reddish Egret and the Reddish Reddish Egret. Why not?--they are both "reliably identified through field marks," etc. Also, the Gray Screech Owl and the Rufous Screech Owl are easy. The list is looking good so far. Add Purple Grackle, Bronzed Grackle, and, of course, Ridgway's Grackle--all easily identified in the field if a bit of care is exercised. Now, let's see...how many of the Sharp-tailed Sparrows are we to count? There are some people who can reliably identify at least three races in the field (I am decidedly not one of those people). After all, L.J.R. presumably wants to keep the three Seaside Sparrows, and they are in no way superior to my nominees, the three Sharp-tails.

From here on it can get ridiculous. The female Williamson's Sapsucker is very different from her mate; under Leif's criteria she probably qualifies. Well, if not her, at least we can include the Pied Blue Heron. And a common bird hereabouts in the spring is the Yellow-billed Starling. To amplify the possibilities, just remember that Mr. L. Irby Davis "reliably identifies" a great many forms through voice; his list is amazing--and highly "personal," to mention another of Leif's touchstones. Davis's list is very likely to remain highly personal, I might add. Yet his strange list makes good sense if we accept the premise of counting "what we are able to recognize in the field." After all, a tape recorder is not one whit more artificial than is a pair of binoculars.

To make any kind of consistent sense, Leif must accept any of the "species" which have appeared on earlier A.O.U. Check-lists--not only those on the 1957 effort. Many of these are, of course, no longer any more valid than some of the 1957 entries will be after the new list comes out. Even a desultory examination of Dr. Roger Tory Peterson's super job on A Field Guide to Mexican Birds indicates what we have ahead of us: many more name changes will be made. They have to be; many of the current names are stupid, illogical, duplicative, misleading, and confused. Also, in many cases they were based on entirely inadequate information. G. Stuart Keith covers the issues extremely well in his article in Birding, Vol. IV, No. 2. But people are fighting the facts. It is a rear-guard action only; logic, common sense, and the march of history are all on the side of the professionals.

In 1970 the California Field Ornithologists published a workable compromise; their list of the Birds of California is compiled according to species--insofar as present knowledge permits an accurate listing--but with named variations within that category being listed in a sub-category. Thus, anyone who wants to count these recognizable forms may continue to do so. But do not call them "species"; to do so would be grossly inaccurate.

In my own records, I have always had a small group called Recognizable Sub-species and Named Hybrids. That list will now expand as it absorbs entries from the main Life List. I can live with (Kumlien's) Iceland Gull and (Ipswich) Savannah Sparrow--to use the best technique of vernacular naming which I have seen, that of Dr. Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr., in his famous Guides to Bird Finding; American Birds has not yet realized that this method is the answer to their nomenclatural dilemma.

All of us are going to have to adapt to some variation of the system noted above, because a great many more changes are very obviously in the works. The new Check-list will not be hard to live with--after we get used to it through seeing it in print in completed form (which will not, of course, be a permanent list...). The process will not be painful, for everyone will suffer approximately the same losses. I lose about 16 pseudo-species but pick up 8 others; so what? The situation is inevitable in a growing, evolving scientific discipline. Birding will be less interesting when all of our knowledge is static. But don't worry: that will never happen!

Hugh Willoughby
Riverside, R. I.

"THE LAST WORD"

The day Mr. Willoughby's letter arrived, I birded Fresh Pond. There by the pump house was a beautiful duck--its crown had the green tint of a Mallard coming out of eclipse, the light tan neck contrasted nicely with the chocolate body, and the white bars alongside the purple speculum were striking. I immediately added this drake to my X List--twice, because I couldn't decide whether it was a Mallard X Black or a Black X Mallard!

Seriously, I was delighted with Hugh's carefully prepared and provocative letter. Though my own views have not been seriously altered, the exchange of such information can do nothing but make better birders of us all. This is what BIRD OBSERVER is all about, a forum for the exchange of ideas and information among enthusiasts--casual or serious, international or back yard. This forum is open to everyone who has something to contribute.

L.J.R.

CORRIGENDA

In Vol. 1, N. 3 (Summary for March)

Western Grebe:
1; 11, 19, 23 Cohasset; N. Scituate 1; 13 E. Sabin; v.o.
should read

Western Grebe:
1; 11, 19, 23 Cohasset; N. Scituate 1; 1 E. Sabin; v.o.

(Summary for April)

Wilson's Storm-Petrel:
3, 27 Barnstable, Sandy Neck 20, 500 R. Pease
should read

Wilson's Storm-Petrel:
3 Barnstable, Sandy Neck 20 R. Pease

Gannet:
20, 22 Ipswich, Brewster 2, 3 V. Nelson, G. Soucy
should read

Gannet:
20, 22 Ipswich, Brewster 2, 3 V. Nelson, G. Soucy
27 Barnstable, Sandy Neck 500 R. Pease

BIRDING BERMUDA IN '74

I have joined with Astronomy Island, Ltd., in planning a special-interest cruise to Bermuda, leaving New York September 14th and returning on the 21st. We will have three days of ocean birding while on the new 20,000-ton *Sea Venture*, the official cruise ship of Bermuda, and four days to bird and explore this island during fall migration.

This program is limited to 12. Staterooms, all with private facilities, are \$435 to \$565 (double occupancy); a few rooms sleep three at lower cost. For more information write:

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