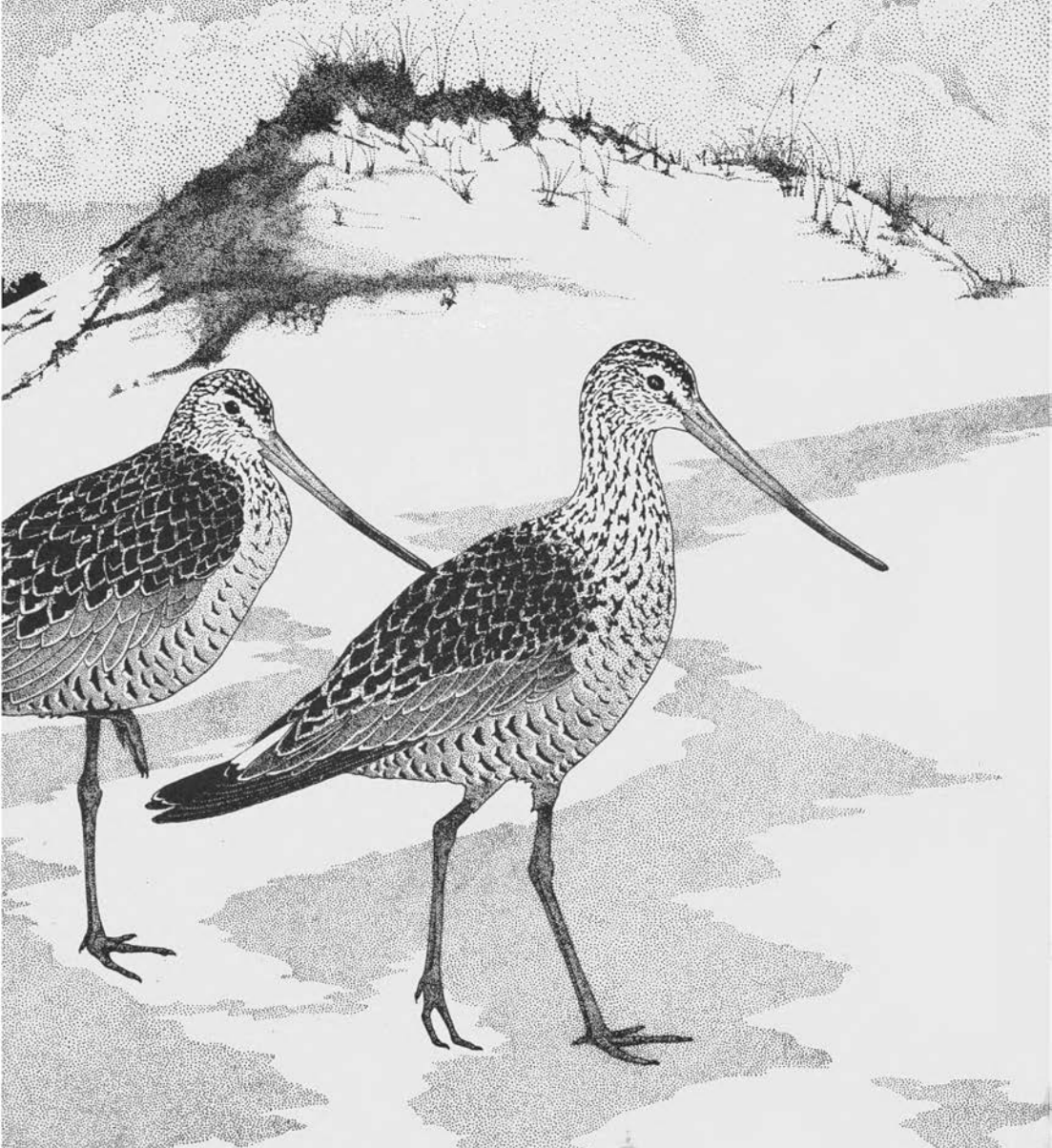


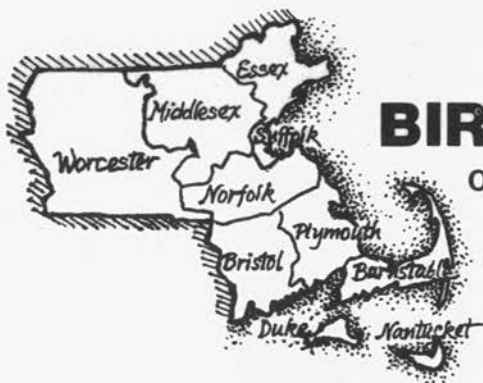
BIRD OBSERVER

OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS



DECEMBER, 1981

VOL. 9 NO. 6



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BEHAVIOR HOT-LINE

To encourage as much participation as possible, Don and Lillian Stokes would be glad to have you call in your observations of bird behavior to be used in their feature, "Behavior-watching Field Notes." Call 369-8488 to report, or send your observations on 3 x 5 cards to Behavior Field Notes, 52 Nowell Farm Road, Carlisle, MA 01741.



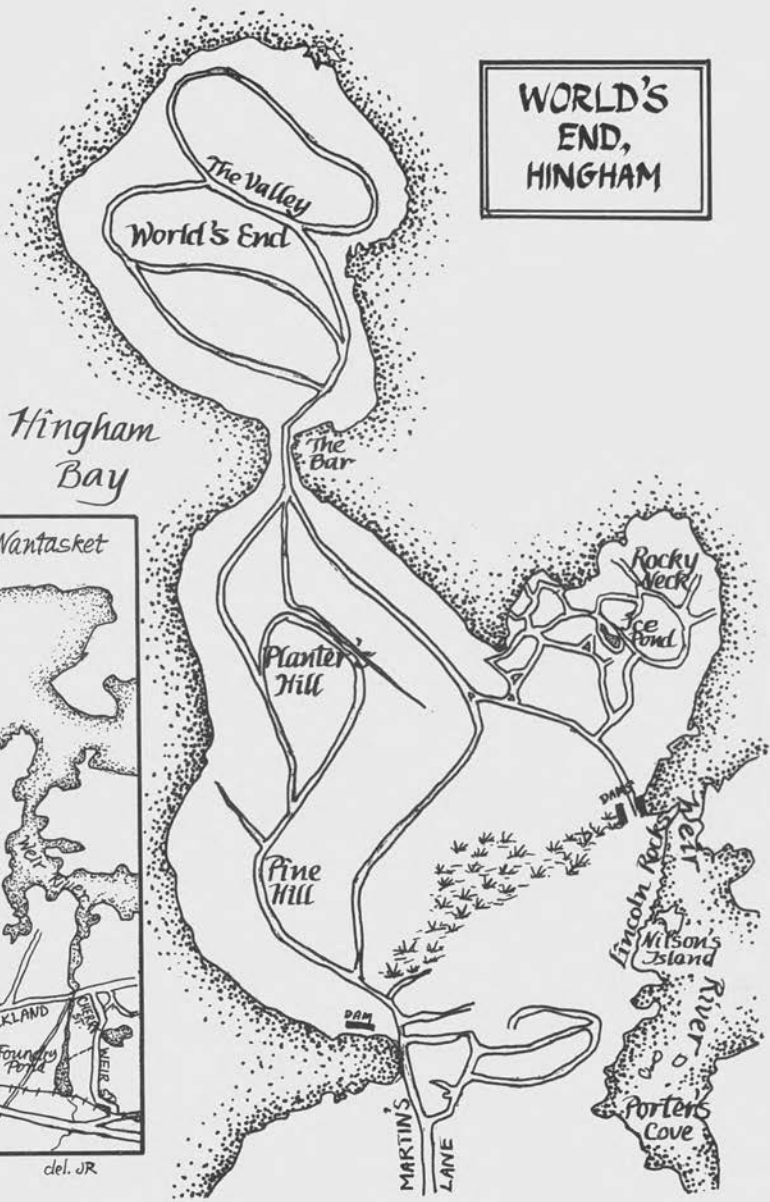
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**WORLD'S
END,
HINGHAM**



Hingham
Bay



del. JR

BIRDING IN HINGHAM

WORLD'S END TO FOUNDRY POND

by Neil Osborne, Cohasset

World's End, a property of the Trustees of Reservations, is located at the north end of Cushing's Neck between Hingham Harbor on the west and the Weir River on the east. To reach the entrance from the Route 3A traffic circle near Hingham Harbor, drive east on Rockland Street towards Nantasket. At the first set of lights turn left onto Martin's Lane and go to the end of the road. There is currently an entrance fee of \$1.25 per person, the proceeds being used for the care and maintenance of the reservation. A season pass may also be obtained, which is good for one year from the date of purchase. Cars are allowed only as far as the parking area inside the gate. The gates are open from about 9:30 A. M. to about 5:00 P. M. When there is room to park in the small area outside the gate, you can walk into the reservation early in the morning when the birding tends to be the best. If you leave before the custodian arrives you can even avoid the fee.

The reservation consists of approximately 250 acres, mostly on two islands with over 5 miles of shoreline. The southern island is now connected to the mainland by two stone dams built by settlers in the seventeenth century. The island is made up of two drumlins, Pine Hill and Planter's Hill, and an area of cliffs and ledges to the east of Planter's Hill known as Rocky Neck. Some of the geological history of this area can be seen in the granite rocks, and geology buffs can often be found exploring the neck. The area between the dams, once tidal mudflats, is now a marshy area dominated by Phragmites. The northern island is also composed of two drumlins that have a depression between them known as The Valley. The origin of the name World's End for this area is unknown, but one story attributes it to local fox hunters. The hunt would drive the foxes from the farms and forests of South Hingham to Cushing's Neck and eventually onto a narrow spit on the north side of Planter's Hill. For any fox unfortunate enough to arrive here it was the end of the world. The spit is now a gravel causeway connecting the two islands. There are some excellent views of Boston and the South Shore from the tops of the drumlins, especially Planter's Hill which is the highest.

After entering the reservation from Martin's Lane, follow the road north across the west end of the marsh. As you cross the dike there is a drainage ditch on the right where birds such as egrets, bitterns, rails, or dabbling ducks can sometimes be seen. There can also be passerines at the edge of the Phragmites stand, especially in the fall. After crossing the dike, follow the road to the right as far as the entrance to a small clearing on the right. The area you are now pass-

ing through often provides the best birding in the reservation. The trees and thickets along this northwest side of the marsh make an excellent migrant trap, especially in the fall. I have found as many as twenty species of warblers in this area on more than one occasion. The edges of the clearing can also produce some exciting action. At the back of the clearing is a small stand of cat-tails and a wet area full of weeds and bushes. A variety of birds including warblers, wrens, sparrows, blackbirds, thrushes, rails, and ducks can be found here.

Near the entrance to the clearing a short boardwalk passes through some thickets near the edge of the woods. Cross the boardwalk and follow the path to the edge of one of the large fields which dominate World's End. Bluebirds have occasionally been seen in this area. Continue east on a path along the edge of the woods, keeping alert for birds such as meadowlarks, bobolinks, and raptors. Soon a path on the right goes into the woods and, bearing to the right, leads to a boardwalk across the eastern end of the marsh. The boardwalk passes one of the largest stands of Swamp Rose Mallow on the south shore. In late summer it is a spectacular sight, with colors ranging from white to deep pink. The thickets, mudflats, and open water can produce a variety of passerines, shorebirds, and waders. Near the end of the boardwalk turn left and follow a path over a wooded ledge. After descending the ledge, follow the path that bears right, keeping the stone wall on your left. The path passes through a small stand of pines and ends near the bank of the Weir River. Here the merging of several habitats provides an opportunity to find a variety of migrants in the trees and thickets and waders, shorebirds, or waterfowl in the river on the appropriate tides. A road to the right crosses the stone dam and enters the woods, passing Lincoln's Rocks on the edge of the river. Soon some short paths on the left lead to a point, near Nelson's Island, where there is a good view of the river and Porter's Cove. If the tide permits, walking onto the island can give a better view. The road continues on through the woods and returns to the parking lot and the entrance. On a warm evening in late March or April one can see and hear dozens of woodcocks performing all along this route around the marsh.

To continue birding, return across the dam and turn right on the road which leads to the cedar covered ledges of Rocky Point. A network of roads and paths wanders through the cedars, and along the bank of the river. Winter finches can be found in this area during flight years, especially in November. Pine Siskins are fairly regular and redpolls and both crossbills have been seen here. Boreal Chickadees have also been found in this area. Near the center of the point is Ice Pond which is bordered by thickets and bushes. Dabbling ducks can be found here in the spring and shorebirds in the fall when there is usually very little water in the pond. At the north end of the pond a road leads to the top of a cliff which pro-

vides an excellent vantage point for observing the waterfowl, gulls, terns, and shorebirds in the mouth of the Weir River. Working back towards the west, several paths along the cliffs or through the cedars lead back to the fields on Planter's Hill. A road to the right leads around the summit of the hill to the causeway known as The Bar that leads to the outer island.

The two drumlins which make up this island are mostly covered with weedy fields and The Valley between is filled with trees and thickets. The Valley usually provides the best land birding on the outer island. The road makes a complete circuit of the island, providing many opportunities to observe gulls and waterfowl in Hingham Bay and raptors such as Red-tailed, Rough-legged, and Marsh hawks, and occasionally Short-eared Owls hunting over the fields. The same raptors, and rarely Snowy Owls, can be seen on the islands in the bay. Large numbers of kestrels and all three species of accipiters have also been seen here. Winter and early spring are usually the best times to bird on the outer island. Returning across The Bar, the road to the right leads back to the entrance.

After leaving World's End, return to the lights at the beginning of Martin's Lane and turn left. At the bottom of the hill continue straight through the lights on Rockland Street. Just before the lights is an area known as The Heronry. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries there was a large Black-crowned Night Heronrookery here, apparently supporting several hundred pairs. The last few pairs were finally driven away when the road was built around 1855. There were also a number of fossilized trees uncovered at this time which were remnants of an ancient forest that was inundated by the sea. Further along the road some of these huge stumps can be found in the marshes on the lefthand side of the road. Just before the road crosses the Weir River, park at the small power substation and follow the power lines down the river bank. An old quarry behind the Old Colony Sand and Gravel yards and the mudflats of Weir River Bay a little further down the power line have produced a variety shorebirds, waders, and waterfowl over the years. There is also a colony of Rough-winged Swallows and several kingfishers nesting in the sandy cliffs at one end of the quarry. The remains of an old stone dam can be seen where the river widens into the bay. This was once the site of a woolen mill owned by General Benjamin Lincoln. It was subsequently the site of a flour mill, and later of a smallpox hospital.

Returning to the road, cross the river and take the first right onto Cherry Street which quickly merges with Weir Street. A small pond on the left is worth a good look. It is especially popular with Wood Ducks in the fall. The thickets and trees along the road can also provide some good birding. Across the street from the pond, a wood road runs through the oak woods and along the top of a ridge near the river.

Great Horned Owl and Broad-winged Hawk have been seen in this area. Continuing south on Weir Street, stop at a pull-off on the right where a dirt road leads along the edge of an abandoned quarry and down to Foundry Pond. A variety of waterfowl, waders, and passerines can be found in this area. Five species of swallows have been seen here and at least three of them nest regularly. A little further along Weir Street, there is a pull-off on the left where an old road leads into the woods. This can be a worthwhile walk as far as a small swampy area on a road that branches off to the right. When birding the Weir Street area, it is advisable to spend some time walking along the street. Migrants, especially warblers, like to forage in the oaks beside the street, particularly where it runs along the rim of the quarry. Some of my best success has been walking along the street on a warm spring evening. Further along the street there is an abandoned railway bed. The birding can be good in either direction and you can drive to Foundry Pond by turning right. At the end of the street a right turn leads back to Route 3A and a left goes toward Nantasket Beach.

I have been birding the area described for about ten years, with some excellent results. My list for the area exceeds 230 species including Cerulean Warbler, Summer Tanager, Caspian Tern, Redheaded Woodpecker, Wilson's Phalarope, and seventeen species of raptors. This area, especially World's End, also contains some interesting flora for those interested in botany. The walls of the quarries also reveal some of the intriguing geological history of the area. A brief outline of the history of this area is recounted in a booklet entitled A History of World's End, published by the Trustees of Reservations, 224 Adams Street, Milton, MA 02186.

NEIL OSBORNE is a professional organic chemist with the New England Nuclear Corporation who has been in birding for over twenty years. He is interested in natural history, is the current president of the South Shore Bird Club, and has birded regularly on the south shore for the past twelve years.

JULIE S. ROBERTS majored in studio art and art history at Smith College, did postgraduate work in art education at the University of Wisconsin, and taught art in Malden public schools. An active birder for ten years and staff member of BOEM since 1978, she enjoys print making and nature drawing, and her graphics regularly embellish these pages.

Wanted: Leitz Trinovid binoculars (10x40 preferred) to buy or swap for small oriental rug. Fred Bouchard: 617-489-2298

A CLOSER LOOK

By Kimball Garrett

(Reprinted from The Western Tanager, November 1979)

The Western Grebe is an abundant wintering bird along the southern California coast, with small flocks remaining locally through the summer. It is also a resident locally at the Salton Sea and along the Colorado River (common at Lake Havasu). Near the coast it breeds only very locally, as at Sweetwater Reservoir near San Diego. In winter and during migration, individuals or flocks are often encountered on other deep freshwater lakes in the region. As a species, it presents no particular field problem; its clean black and white neck--very long for a grebe--and its long yellowish bill, combined with its large size, help distinguish it from other grebes. But few readers may be aware that the Western Grebe has two distinct color morphs, both of which occur in southern California. Furthermore, at least one recent author has presented evidence that these morphs may even represent distinct biological species. Below, I will briefly summarize the distinguishing features of these two types of Western Grebes, first discussing the history of their taxonomic status.

In the middle of the nineteenth century, when the Western Grebe was first described, the light and dark color phases were each given the status of a full species. This is hardly surprising, as the taxonomic thinking of a hundred years ago dictated that almost any form differing noticeably in appearance from known, previously classified forms be treated as a separate species. The dark phase was known as Podiceps occidentalis (we now know the Western Grebe as Aechmophorus occidentalis), and the light phase was dubbed Podiceps clarkii. The American Ornithologists' Union has, however, long considered the two color phases part of the same species. Robert Storer (The Living Bird 4:59-63, 1965) has described and depicted these two forms, and a recently completed study by John Ratti of Utah State University (Auk 96:573-586, 1979) has shed new light on the species question.

Typical birds of the two color phases are rather easily recognized in the field. Here is a summary of the major differences between the light and the dark phases:

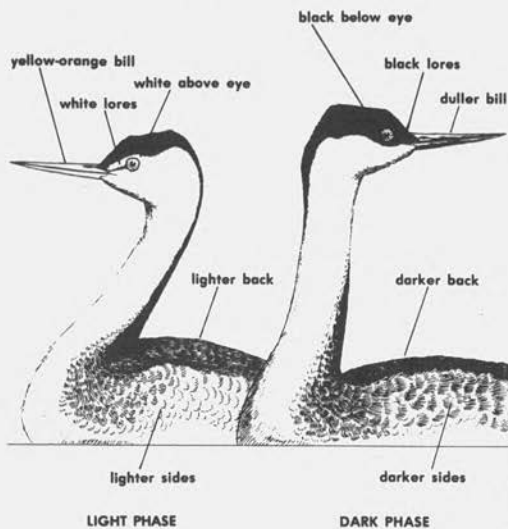
| | LIGHT PHASE | DARK PHASE |
|---------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Bill: | Bright orange-yellow | Dull greenish-yellow |
| Crown: | Black not reaching lores or eyes | Black extends to lores and below eyes |
| Back: | Paler gray | Darker gray |
| Flanks: | Whitish | Mottled gray |

A small minority of birds are intermediate in some or all of these characters. Additionally, there may be a tendency for

the lores of dark-phased birds to lighten somewhat in winter. Dark-phased birds predominate in breeding colonies through western North America, with local exceptions (e.g., Goose Lake in northern California where light-phased birds comprise over 90% of the breeding population). In Mexico light-phased birds predominate in many populations. Winter ratios of the two forms are not well-known, but dark-phased birds certainly predominate along the southern California coast. Readers could contribute much information by noting the relative abundances of these two phases along the coast in winter. A critical look at the resident populations along the Colorado River and at the Salton Sea, and at wintering populations elsewhere in the interior could also shed much light on the biology of these birds.

The light and dark morphs of the Western Grebe show little ecological divergence; that is, their habitat and food preferences differ little, if at all. Some segregation in foraging sites and diving habits has been noted in a study at Clear Lake, California, but little analysis has been done on the wintering grounds.

Ratti's arguments for considering the dark and light morphs true biological species center on studies of mixed colonies which have revealed a very low incidence of mixed pairs. At the Bear River Refuge at the north end of the Great Salt Lake (where most of the surveys were conducted), dark birds paired with other dark birds and light birds with other light birds. Only about one pair in a hundred was mixed dark X light. This "assortative" mating seems compatible with the modern biological species concept which emphasizes reproductive isolation of populations; in short, the two phases behave biologically as separate species. But don't go racing to amend your various lists yet; this unusual situation will require even more extensive study before any taxonomic changes are made.



Color Morphs of the Western Grebe

Illustration by Kimball Garrett

A WINTER RAPTOR SURVEY - BACKGROUND AND RESULTS

by Wayne R. Peterson, Whitman

Why a Winter Raptor Survey?

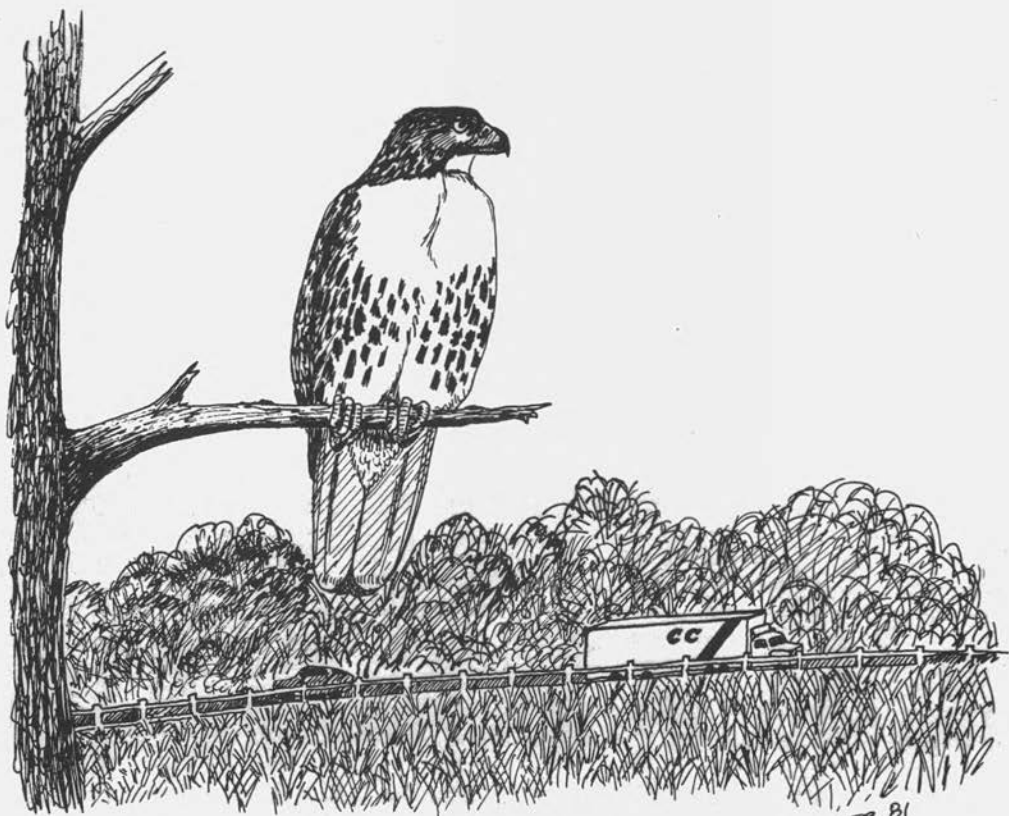
Frequently in our regular birding pursuits we fail to concentrate our observations on specific species or to confine our efforts within clearly defined boundaries. On Christmas counts the emphasis is often on diversity, while in the summer, census work centers around breeding species. While these types of field study do allow a longterm measure of comparison, they frequently lack the precision needed to be fully reliable as an index for measuring the subtle fluctuations in bird populations. Aside from the National Audubon Society's Winter Bird-Population Census, there are few systematic efforts being made to monitor winter bird life.

Realizing this, in February of 1981 the South Shore Bird Club initiated a winter raptor survey in an effort to put winter raptor populations into a perspective based upon systematic data collecting techniques. The initial plan called for a census area that would be small enough to manage and yet large enough to insure enough raptor diversity to maintain the interest of amateur observers. The reason that raptors were selected for this project were manifold: 1) raptors are generally of high interest to birders; 2) raptors are often among the more conspicuous birds of the winter landscape; 3) the census area selected contains much suitable winter raptor habitat; and 4) while raptors as a group are presently being studied from many aspects, winter populations in this locality are not under close scrutiny.

Raptors include both the diurnal hawks and the nocturnal owls. In its first winter raptor survey, the South Shore Bird Club concentrated on the diurnal hawks. Future efforts may include night census work as well so that a better understanding of the wintering population can also be obtained.

Problems and Considerations Associated with Censusing Raptors

The accurate censusing of a winter raptor population requires many days and hours of field work within a census area. In a one-day census, only a fraction of the raptors actually present will likely be recorded. Regardless of the amount of effort put into a raptor census, there are several basic factors that must be considered in planning the census and analyzing the counts. In general, these include 1) the extent of coverage within the census area, 2) the weather conditions during the census, 3) the nature of the habitat being covered, 4) the time of day of



Redtail Hawk

censusing, and 5) the abundance of suitable prey in the census area. Any one of these factors can influence the degree of success of a one-day census. Nonetheless, such a census employs techniques that are instructive to participants and provides data that are meaningful from a statistical point of view. These benefits should offset the inherent limitations of a one-day census.

To locate wintering raptors in a one-day effort, it is useful to keep in mind certain facts about diurnal raptor biology. These include the following: 1) most hawks in mid-winter do not maintain or defend a feeding territory but instead cover a loosely defined winter range; 2) winter hawk distribution is often concentrated by available habitat or high prey density; 3) soaring is most frequent at mid-day or during sunny, breezy weather; 4) buteos and American Kestrels (Falco sparverius) spend considerable time perched at meadow and woodland edges; and 5) accipiters confine much of their hunting to woodland areas.

What Data to Record When Censusing Raptors

To provide data that support many aspects of raptor study, it is worthwhile to record the following information:

- 1) Specific weather data at the start and finish times of the survey, and significant weather changes during the survey.
- 2) Mileage covered during the survey - both by car and on foot.
- 3) Time and precise location of each raptor encounter.
- 4) Species and, if observed, additional individual characteristics as follows:
 - a. age of buteos
 - b. sex of kestrels and Northern Harriers (Circus cyaneus)
 - c. color morphs of Rough-legged Hawks (Buteo lagopus)
- 5) Behavior observed, e.g.:
 - a. perching
 - b. flying
 - c. flight hunting
 - d. soaring
 - e. feeding (try to record prey type)
- 6) Any intra-specific or inter-specific social activity.
- 7) The habitat type where each individual is first observed.

To facilitate recording the above information, observers should be provided with a topographical map of their region, as well as a standardized data collection sheet

Summary of the First South Shore Bird Club Winter Raptor Survey

Using the techniques briefly described above, the South Shore Bird Club ran a pioneer winter raptor survey in 1981. The club chose as its census area the Whitman and Bridge-water topographical map quadrangles in Plymouth County. The census took place from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM on 15 February 1981. Five parties of observers traveled a total of 200 miles under ideal census conditions. Temperatures ranged from 28 F to 45 F and skies were clear. Winds were light SW and the ground was totally free of snow. Highlights of the census results are presented below.

- 1) Species totals were as follows:

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Red-tailed Hawk | 40 |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 5 |
| Rough-legged Hawk | 8 |
| Northern Harrier | 1 |
| American Kestrel | 26 |
- 2) No exceptionally high single-location concentrations of raptors were found, possibly suggesting no abnormally high prey concentrations this season.
- 3) Of three recorded feeding encounters, Microtus (Meadow Vole) was the prey item.
- 4) The virtual absence of accipters indicates either a void in their local winter distribution or a problem

with census technique itself. Likely, each of these explanations is partially true.

- 5) All observed Red-tailed Hawks (Buteo jamaicensis) were adults. Also, a number of birds were mated pairs. Do the young winter elsewhere?
- 6) Of the kestrels, 12 were males and 9 were females, suggesting a fairly even wintering distribution of the sexes. A number of these may also have been mated pairs, but were simply not as obvious as the earlier-nesting redtail pairs.
- 7) Redtails and kestrels showed a strong affinity to power lines, thus demonstrating the possible significance of these human artifacts to their winter ecology.

Plans for Future Winter Raptor Surveys

In spite of its preliminary nature, this survey, a first of its kind in Massachusetts, was met with such enthusiasm that the author is confident of its establishment as a successful continuing project. As such, these surveys could provide a valuable data base in the future. Readers interested in participating in the coming season's surveys are invited to contact the author, care of Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts. The first survey of 1982 is scheduled for Sunday, 17 January.

WAYNE R. PETERSEN, resident of Whitman, teaches life science at Hanover Junior High School. He is particularly interested in waterbirds, with special emphasis on shorebirds. In addition, he has taught courses in bird biology and identification, has lectured extensively, and has published a number of papers on various aspects of birdlife.

DENISE BRAUNHARDT, M.S. in wildlife biology from University of Massachusetts, is a free-lance illustrator, writer, and wildlife photographer. She is a 4H agent for Suffolk County.

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"ANTIQUÉ" CHRISTMAS COUNTS: GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

by Leif J. Robinson, Wellesley

The October, 1975, issue of American Birds contained a proposal for an experiment: to conduct Christmas Bird Counts in areas surveyed two generations earlier using techniques of that period -- no modern binoculars, field guides, even "pishing". Fortunately, I was privy to a route walked from 1915 to 1926 by Warren F. Eaton in Weston, Massachusetts. Realizing that one year's data would be inadequate for assessing trends in the quality of birdlife, I've continued these "antique" counts for the past half-dozen years.

Eaton covered a particularly fortunate area in this Boston suburb; other than normal natural evolution, changes have been minimal. Houses now ring most of the periphery, and a town dump was established. But overall, the landscape -- including a railroad right-of-way, a mature hemlock stand, two fresh-water ponds with attendant small marshes, some fields and mixed woodlots -- would seem quite familiar to Eaton.

Some general statistics. Eaton recorded 37 species; I, 41; 22 were common to both tallies. He averaged 16 species a year; I, 24 -- the birdlife is clearly more diverse in the modern era. Eaton logged some 2,200 individuals; I, 3,100 in four fewer walks. This increased abundance is due almost completely to the relatively recent invasion of the Herring Gull.

The accompanying table summarizes probably significant changes (or the lack of them) in the wintering bird populations over some six decades. Only species seen either on more than half of Eaton's 10 counts or the six of mine are included. Evidence for change is straightforward. For each species is given the average birds per hour (bph) recorded at the two epochs. The next number is three times the standard deviation ($3 \times sd$) of the average, which is nothing more than a measure of the scatter of the observations that went into it -- 99.7 percent of all observations should deviate less than this value from the average. For example, an average of 7 with a three-times standard deviation of 5 means that virtually all the observations should fall within the range 2 to 12. Given last is the number of years in which the species was recorded.

Thus, we have two quantitative measures of a species presence: its average numerical abundance (and an indication of the variation from year to year) and the frequency of its occurrence. If, as in the case of Downy Woodpecker, the modern-epoch average falls outside the three-times standard deviation range of the earlier count, this strongly suggests that a real change has occurred, in this instance one of increase. Such a conclusion is possible despite the fact that this species was recorded every year by both observers.

My thesis is obvious: despite forebodings of lessening environmental quality (which may well be true), these exists today

1915-1926

| | bph | 3xsd | yrs |
|-------------------------|------|------|-----|
| Red-tailed Hawk | 0.44 | 1.36 | 9 |
| Ruffed Grouse | 0.66 | 2.00 | 7 |
| Ring-necked Pheasant | | | |
| Great Black-backed Gull | | | |
| Herring Gull | | | |
| Rock Dove | * | * | * |
| Mourning Dove | | | |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 0.28 | 0.45 | 9 |
| Downy Woodpecker | 0.34 | 0.50 | 10 |
| Blue Jay | 0.61 | 0.61 | 10 |
| Common Crow | 3.18 | 2.80 | 10* |

| | bph | 3xsd | yrs |
|-------------------------|------|-------|-----|
| Fish Crow | 5.39 | 8.82 | 10 |
| Black-capped Chickadee | | | |
| Tufted Titmouse | 0.35 | 0.79 | 8 |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | 0.50 | 1.15 | 10 |
| Brown Creeper | | | |
| Mockingbird | | | |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | 1.49 | 2.86 | 8 |
| Starling | 1.06 | 4.01 | 6* |
| House Sparrow | 6.26 | 10.57 | 3* |
| Cardinal | | | |
| American Goldfinch | 1.16 | 5.12 | 6 |
| Dark-eyed Junco | 3.46 | 4.98 | 10 |
| Tree Sparrow | 2.37 | 6.20 | 10 |
| Song Sparrow | 0.35 | 3.06 | 2 |

* Rock Dove: not counted 1915-26 though present

* Common Crow: abnormally high count of 488 birds in 1920 omitted from average

* Starling: abnormally high count of 125 birds in 1919 omitted from average

* House Sparrow: not counted before 1924

Blue List Candidate?

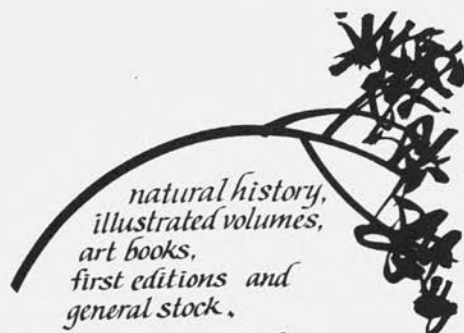
1975-1980

| | bph | 3xsd | yrs |
|--|-------|-------|-----|
| | 0.45 | 0.93 | 5 |
| | 1.24 | 2.91 | 5 |
| | 1.27 | 3.12 | 5 |
| | 45.54 | 81.84 | 6 |
| | 7.52 | 20.91 | 5 |
| | 0.50 | 1.38 | 5 |
| | 0.22 | 1.26 | 2# |
| | 1.17 | 1.56 | 6 |
| | 4.22 | 13.53 | 5 |
| | 21.79 | 49.41 | 6 |
| | 1.61 | 6.15 | 4 |
| | 8.28 | 11.16 | 6 |
| | 0.78 | 2.49 | 5 |
| | 1.25 | 2.79 | 6 |
| | 0.05 | 0.39 | 1# |
| | 0.58 | 0.90 | 6 |
| | 0.27 | 2.01 | 1# |
| | 27.41 | 62.40 | 6 |
| | 0.90 | 1.83 | 5 |
| | 0.70 | 0.81 | 6 |
| | 1.86 | 5.76 | 6 |
| | 5.38 | 10.35 | 6 |
| | 2.04 | 11.07 | 2 |
| | 2.19 | 7.14 | 6 |

on these 100-odd acres more wintering birdlife of greater diversity than prevailed 60 years ago. The impact of "southern species" and gulls is almost totally responsible for the numerical change; also, wintering Red-shouldered Hawks in Eaton's era were clearly less abundant than the red-tails that have replaced them today.

In short, over this period, the birdlife changed dramatically. Eight species invaded, one left, six probably increased, four probably decreased, five remained the same, and one we cannot judge. Can there be a better case for quantitative bird-watching? I really wonder about the future of the Black-capped Chickadee.

LEIF J. ROBINSON is editor of Sky and Telescope, an international popular magazine of astronomy and space science. He has been a bird student for 15 years with a principal interest in resident populations and the statistical means for assessing them. Mr. Robinson is also active in studying the migration of birds of prey.



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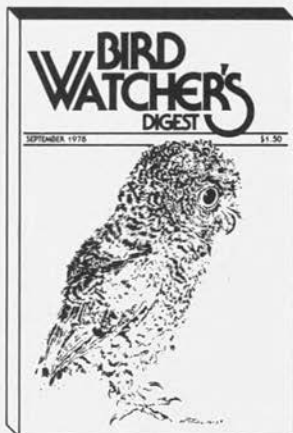


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by Leif J. Robinson, Wellesley

Visual sightings of kills by diurnal raptors are surprisingly few (see, for example, L. Brown, Birds of Prey, 1977:105) thus this observation may be of some interest.

On the morning of December 24, 1979, I was conducting a census of the Weston Town Dump when a flurry of activity, accompanied by loud repeated squawking, about 20 feet up in a large tree bordering Stony Brook, caught my eye. Simultaneously, several starlings flew away to the left, while three or four others, joined by a couple of crows (probably Fish), flew in from the right onto the top of the 60-foot tree; they all stared silently downward. The flurry tumbled to the ground and disappeared behind a small roadside mound.

From my vantage atop a huge pile of leaves, I could hear the squawking continue - high-pitched, inflected, rising "krrees" repeated every second or so. After 5 or 10 seconds the squawking began to fade, and after perhaps 30 seconds more it had become so weak as to be audible only by cupping my hands around my ears.

Then I approached the place from which the sounds had come. Suddenly, a male Cooper's Hawk bolted from the ground and flew silently to a small tree some 20 feet distant. After glowering at me for a few seconds, the hawk moved to another tree only a little farther away where it remained.

On the ground, amid dry leaves and some moss-covered twigs, lay a starling, belly down and head somewhat tilted upward. As seen through my binoculars, though the bird was only a few feet away, the starling's pale yellow gape was opened wide and halved by a pure-white, long pointed tongue that quivered with each pant. Though the plumage of this adult was well ordered, some buttons of blood dotted its salt-sprinkled black coat. After about 30 seconds, I slowly walked away and disappeared behind mounds of trash - feeling well the eyes of the Cooper's Hawk burning holes in the back of my sweater.

After about 20 minutes I returned to the kill. Much to my surprise a male American Kestrel flushed, giving its "kee-kee-kee" call, and landed in the tree first occupied by the Cooper's Hawk. A quick glance revealed that the starling, still belly down, had by now been virtually decapitated. I left the site amid "kee-kee-kee" cheers as the kestrel returned to its meal.

Two points are worth noting. Either the Cooper's Hawk was quite inept or the starling was very tenacious. Second, either the Cooper's Hawk was not particularly hungry or the kestrel was. We shall never know the answers.

The title, incidentally, refers to my starling census of two days previous, made during my fifth annual "antique" Christmas count, as I try to follow the footprints Warren F. Eaton left some 60 years before.

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CHICKADEE INVASION

by Trevor Lloyd-Evans, Manomet Bird Observatory

The most spectacular feature of the 1980 autumn landbird banding at Manomet Bird Observatory (MBO) was the continuous passage of migrant Black-capped Chickadees heading south along the bluff. They are generally diurnal or daytime migrants, rather than nocturnal like the majority of passerine species. Manomet banded 2,610 in the year, 2,531 of those as fall migrants between 1 August and 15 November. This is a huge number, well above average for the species, 55% above last fall! Manomet knows they are migrating south, partly because they can be seen moving down the edge of the coastal vegetation; partly because the number of banded chickadees caught on subsequent days is minute. They are replaced each day by more unbanded birds. Major invasions are always in the fall from late August to mid-November and occur at intervals of several years. The only other such flight since Manomet started banding in 1966 was the even more impressive year of 1971 (see table) when over 4,000 chickadees were banded. A. M. Bagg (Audubon Field Notes 23(1):8-12, 1969) noted another major flight year in 1961. Ludlow Griscom (Birds of Massachusetts, 1955) also singles out October 1954 as a major flight season on Cape Cod, and there were doubtless others before that.

MBO PROPERTY - YEARLY BANDING TOTALS BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES

| <u>1966</u> | <u>1967</u> | <u>1968</u> | <u>1969</u> | <u>1970</u> | <u>1971</u> | <u>1972</u> | <u>1973</u> | <u>1974</u> | <u>1975</u> | <u>1976</u> | <u>1977</u> |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 158 | 82 | 1308 | 1011 | 436 | 4642 | 204 | 1031 | 254 | 990 | 856 | 183 |
| | | | | | <u>1978</u> | <u>1979</u> | <u>1980</u> | | | | |
| | | | | | 273 | 443 | 2610 | | | | |

Why do they migrate in some years?

British ornithologists at the Edward Grey Institute in Oxford first showed that in the closely related tits they were studying, numbers of young produced depended on exact synchronization of the breeding cycle with the hatch of the insect larvae which are the main food item of young tits and chickadees. Exact timing can produce a lot of young. They have up to three broods per year and up to 14 young per brood! That certainly accounts for the numbers, but why the autumn movement in some years? In 1975 then Staff Biologist Bruce A. Sorrie summarized MBO data and that of A. M. Bagg (1969) in volume 3, no. 5 of Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts. When natural foods such as cones and certain hardwood seeds are in good supply in the northeastern U. S. and southeast Canada (often a two-year cycle), the chickadees have enough food for the winter and stay there, or move only short distances. If, on the other hand, a poor natural food crop coincides with an excellent

breeding season, the local food is quickly used up and the fall invasion starts. Perhaps weather also helps determine movements? At least, a series of NW winds (as seen this fall) will drift moving chickadees and other migrants to the east coast in increased numbers. This northern origin is perhaps also indicated by the presence of Boreal Chickadees only in major Black-capped Chickadee years. The former species breeds only as far south as the spruce zone in North America.

The 1980 invasion was heralded by September reports of unusual numbers from as far away as northern Maine islands and Derby Hill, New York, on Lake Ontario. The migration was very heavy from 12 September to 7 November, peaking at the end of October. Manomet did not actually fall behind the 1971 rate of catching until 12 October, but then the 1980 numbers slackened off a little.

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE - RECOVERIES 1966-1980



Where do they go?

The southern limit of normal Black-capped Chickadee winter (or summer) range is in central New Jersey on the coast, a little farther south higher in the Appalachian Mountains. The map shows all the recovery sites of chickadees banded at MBO (open circles) and three sites in New York and Rhode Is-

land where fall chickadees were banded before recapture at MBO (crosses). 81% of the recoveries are from autumn birds, presumable migrants, the rest are mostly from summer banding and were recovered within Plymouth County. All out-of-county recoveries (except one) were of birds banded in the fall. Black-capped Chickadees will very seldom cross more than a mile or two of water; for example, they hardly ever reach Block Island, Rhode Island and are not seen on MBO seabird cruises. Thus the movement must follow the coastlines, mostly south and west, only reaching Long Island from the west end where it is closest to shore, and terminating in southern New England, New York or New Jersey. They never return in spring in more than token numbers on the coast, 14 banded from 1 April to 16 June 1980, and no return movement has been noted inland. We must assume that the great majority of these mostly young birds perish through lack of winter food.

The exception was banded at MBO on 16 September 1976, a normal fall migrant, vanished for a year and a half, and then turned up in Madsen, Ontario in May 1978. A Mr. Ernie Brown caught the bird, released it alive, and returned our band to the Fish and Wildlife Service in Washington, D. C. This was a really unusual recovery; Madsen lies at 50°N, 93°W on the Manitoba border. Do chickadees from that far west routinely reach New England? What are their chances of getting back? Was this just a disoriented bird, atypical of its species and lost? Manomet looks forward to at least a few more recoveries from the 1980 banding of 2,610 Black-capped Chickadees now that the invasion is over.

TREVOR LLOYD-EVANS, senior staff biologist at Manomet Bird Observatory, received his degree in zoology at the University of Wales and worked with the British Trust for Ornithology in the Population Survey Section before coming to MBO in 1972. A professional biologist specializing in ornithology, Trevor's particular fields of interest and investigation are avian molt and taxonomy and the general migration strategy of land birds. He is the newly elected president of the Nuttall Ornithological Club.



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Field Records: August 1981



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

August 1981 was very dry and on the warm side. The temperature averaged 72.1°; the high mark was 90° on the 10th and 11th while the coolest day was August 26 with 51°. Rain totaled only 1.04 inches, 2.42 inches under normal and the least amount in August since 0.83 inches in 1972. This was the fifth driest August in 111 years of record. Variable totals fell in the Greater Boston area, but most areas were on the dry side. At Blue Hill, for example, only 0.53 inch was recorded, a new dry record for August since 1886. Walpole reported only 0.36 inch, the least amount of rain in this century! Northwest winds, those most favorable for autumn migrations, occurred on August 13, 16, 17, 18, 24 and 27.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

Summering loons occur each year; they are usually non-breeding birds, often sick or oiled, with most reports from the coastal locations and a few inland records. More astonishing was the discovery of a Red-necked Grebe off Monomoy on August 12. The only other recent summer sightings were on August 4, 1954 at Monomoy and, more recently, a completely breeding-plumaged bird was picked up dead on August 30, 1979 at Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. A total of not less than 50 Manx Shearwaters was noted on the Brookline Bird Club pelagic trip to Stellwagen Bank on August 23. There are only three other records of equal or better density: 50+ at Provincetown on September 25, 1977 and again on November 25, 1979; 120 at Sandy Neck, Barnstable on August 12, 1979. A summering, or a very early, Great Cormorant was carefully studied at Sandy Neck on August 27. In recent years early fall migrants have occurred in early September.

The heron roost at Plum Island is still the best show in town. Maximum counts were 13 Great Blue Heron, 11 Little Blue Heron, 14 Great Egret, 420+ Snowy Egret, 4 Louisiana Heron, and 25 Glossy Ibis. The best time to visit is on a weekday evening in August. Be sure to arrive at the Stage Island tower at least two hours before sunset.

R.H.S.

| <u>SPECIES/DATE</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> | <u>NUMBER</u> | <u>OBSERVERS</u> |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Common Loon: | | | |
| 1,30 | Lakeville, S.Dartmouth | 3, 6 | W.Petersen, R.Stymeist# |
| Red-necked Grebe: | | | |
| 12 | off Monomoy | 1 | P.Trull |
| Pied-billed Grebe: | | | |
| 16 | P.I. | 4 | G.Gove# |
| Cory's Shearwater: | | | |
| 12,16 | 15 mi. east of Chatham, Stellw. | 60+, 75 | P.Trull, B.Nikula |
| Greater Shearwater: | | | |
| 23 | Stellw. | 15 | BBC (W.Drummond) |
| Sooty Shearwater: | | | |
| 23 | Stellw. | 30 | BBC (W.Drummond) |
| Manx Shearwater: | | | |
| 16,23 | Stellw. | 15+, 50+ | B.Nikula, BBC (W.Drummond) |
| 25 | Barnstable (S.N.) | 10 | R.Pease |
| Wilson's Storm-Petrel: | | | |
| 23 | Stellw. | 25 | BBC (W.Drummond) |
| Gannet: | | | |
| 23,26 | Stellw., Eastham | 1, 18 | BBC (W.Drummond), B.Nikula |
| Great Cormorant: (full details on file) | | | |
| 27 | Barnstable (S.N.) | 1 imm. | N.+ O.Komar, G.d'Entremont# |
| Double-crested Cormorant: | | | |
| 9 | Monomoy, Westboro | 42, 1 | BBC, L.Babbitt |

| <u>SPECIES/DATE</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> | <u>NUMBER</u> | <u>OBSERVERS</u> |
|--|---|---|--|
| Double-crested 8,30 | Cormorant, continued: P.I., Revere | 200, 200+ | BBC, C.Jackson# |
| Great Blue Heron: thr. 9 | P.I., Eastham (F.H.) S.Hanson, Westboro | max.13 8/16, max. <u>62</u> 6, 7 | 8/30 v.o., J.Barton + v.o. W.Petersen, L.Babbitt |
| Green Heron: 29,30 | Monomoy, S.Dartmouth | 1, 4 | J.Barton#, J.Heywood# |
| Little Blue Heron: thr. 13,17 | P.I. roost Lakeville, Monomoy | max.11 (8 ad., 3 imm.) 1 ad., 2 | 8/23 R.Stymeist# + v.o. L.P Pratt, W.Bailey# |
| Cattle Egret: 11,14;22 22 | Ipswich Essex | 3, 8; 20 8 | J.Berry; R.+ D.Hale P.Parsons# |
| Great Egret: thr. 23;30 | P.I. roost E.Boston; S.Hanson, S.Dartmouth | max. 14 8/23 4;3,28 | R.Stymeist# + v.o. S.Zende#;W.Petersen,R.Stymeist# |
| Snowy Egret: thr. thr. thr. 29 | P.I. roost E.Boston (Belle Isle) Monomoy Barnstable (S.N.) | max. 420+ 8/23 max. 230 max. 100 108 | D.Arvidson# + v.o. S.Zende# + v.o. v.o. J.Aylward |
| Louisiana Heron: thr. | P.I. roost | max. 4 8/23 | D.Arvidson# + v.o. |
| Black-crowned Night Heron: 5,29 | Saugus, P.I. | 6, 10+ | J.Berry |
| Yellow-crowned Night Heron: 1,3 | P.I. | 1, 2 ad. | BBC |
| Least Bittern: 1;2 6,14 | P.I.; W.Harwich, Hull Wayland, P.I. | 1; 1, 1 1, 1 | E.Nielsen;J.Hines,W.Hanley J.Hines, S.Loring + R.Emery |
| Glossy Ibis: thr. thr. 8 | P.I., M.V. Monomoy, E.Boston Sandwich | max. 25 8/22, 10 max. 9, max. 4 12 | G.Gove# + v.o., V.Laux v.o., S.Zende# J.Aylward |

WATERFOWL

A summering Brant was found throughout the month on Martha's Vineyard. Ring-necked Ducks arrived early at Lakeville again this year. It was a very good year for Wood Ducks, especially numerous near Concord. Hooded Mergansers were found throughout the month at Stage Island Pool, Plum Island. R.H.S.

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|---|
| Brant: thr. | M.V. | 1 | V.Laux |
| Mallard: thr. | Newton | 114 | N.+ O.Komar |
| Gadwall: thr.,22 | P.I., Monomoy | max. 50, 12+ | S.Henderson#+v.o.,W.Harrington |
| Pintail: thr. | P.I. | max. 6 8/29 | BBC |
| Green-winged Teal: 16,22 | P.I., Monomoy | 25, 100+ | S.Henderson#, B.Nikula# |
| Blue-winged Teal: 16,22 | P.I., Monomoy | 125, 75+ | S.Henderson#, B.Nikula# |
| Northern Shoveler: 22 | Monomoy | 12+ | B.Nikula# |
| Wood Duck: 1,12 22,26 30,31 | P.I., S.Hanson Concord, Hyannis Weston, Newton | 15, 25 7, 2 15+, 6 | E.Nielsen, W.Petersen BBC, J.Aylward J.Hines, N.+ O.Komar |
| Ring-necked Duck: 30 | Lakeville | 10 | W.Petersen |
| Common Eider: 22,30 | Manchester, S.Dartmouth | 1, 33 | J.Berry, R.Stymeist# |
| Surf Scoter: 22 | Manchester | 7 | J.Berry |
| Ruddy Duck: thr. | P.I. | max. 8 | v.o. |
| Hooded Merganser: 1-22,23,26 | P.I. | 1, 2, 4 | v.o., R.Forster, R.Forster |

| <u>SPECIES/DATE</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> | <u>NUMBER</u> | <u>OBSERVERS</u> |
|--|---|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Red-breasted Merganser: thr. | P.I. | max. 7 | v.o. |
| <u>RAPTORS</u> | | | |
| A very early adult Peregrine Falcon was found at Scituate on August 2 and 3. It is not known whether this bird was a Cornell Peregrine. Another Peregrine Falcon was found at Plum Island and presumably the same bird was present at Ipswich at the end of the month. R.H.S. | | | |
| Turkey Vulture: | | | |
| 7+8,11+23 | Ipswich, Westboro | 1, 1 + 1 | J.Nove, J.Hines + L.Babbitt |
| 27,30 | N.Braintree, P'town | 8, 1 | D.Crompton, J.Barton |
| Goshawk: | | | |
| 27,29 | Annisquam | 1, 1 | H.Wiggin |
| Cooper's Hawk: | | | |
| 15 | P.I. | 1 | G.Gove# |
| Red-shouldered Hawk: | | | |
| 17 | Topsfield (IRWS) | 1 ad. | R.Scott |
| Broad-winged Hawk: | | | |
| 21-31 | Newton | 9 | N.+ O.Komar |
| Northern Harrier (Marsh Hawk): | | | |
| thr. | P.I. | max. 4 | v.o. |
| Osprey: | | | |
| 30 | Lakeville, Westport | 2 yg.in nest, 21 | W.Petersen, R.Stymeist# |
| | Other reports of 1-2 individuals made a total of 12 early migrants. | | |
| Peregrine Falcon: | | | |
| 2-3 | Scituate | 1 ad. | D.Clapp, W.Petersen |
| 29,30 | P.I., Ipswich | 2, 1 | G.Gove, T.Duquette |

RAILS THROUGH SKIMMERS

American Oystercatchers increased on Monomoy with 34 being seen there on the 2nd. Upland Sandpipers were seen on the Vineyard throughout the month with a maximum of 18 reported. With the drought conditions of this year causing inland ponds to dry up, many shorebirds frequented the muddy edges of these ponds providing a number of reports of various shorebirds from these locations. Red Knots continued at Scituate with a maximum of 2800 seen there. According to Bailey (*Birds in Massachusetts*, 1955), "The favored localities of Scituate, Outer Cape and Plymouth will normally produce from 500 to 2000 birds on a day's trip. The highest count...was 4500, seen at Scituate...on 8/13/50..." A maximum of 5000 Semipalmated Sandpipers was also reported from Scituate. The only Marbled Godwits reported were two from Monomoy. Hudsonian Godwits were seen throughout the month in the Newburyport-Plum Island area and on Monomoy where a maximum of 125 were recorded. G.W.G.

A single Bonaparte's Gull was reported from Lakeville although not normally reported from inland locations. The Bonaparte's has an overland migration route but is usually seen along the coast in Massachusetts. An adult Sabine's Gull was reported from Stellwagen Bank. Forster's Terns were reported from four locations with a maximum of five terns on Monomoy where six Black Terns were also seen. Black Skimmers were reported from six locations ranging from Ipswich to Fairhaven.

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Virginia Rail: | | | |
| 3,13 | P.I., Wayland | 1, 3 | BBC, J.Hines |
| 22 | GMNWR | 1 | BBC |
| Sora: | | | |
| 6, 13, 21 | Wayland | 1 imm., 1 ad. | J.Hines |
| Common Gallinule: | | | |
| 1,15 | P.I. | 9, 3 | BBC, E.Nielsen |
| 21;22 | GMNWR | 3 ad., 8 imm.; 6 | J.Hines; BBC |
| American Coot: | | | |
| 1,22 | P.I. | 2, 1 | E.Nielsen, BBC |
| American Oystercatcher: | | | |
| 2,8 | Monomoy, M.V. | 34, 3 | BBC, Mr.Cady |
| 17,29 | Monomoy | 30, 12 | W.Bailey, O.+ N.Komar |
| 21 | M.V. | 12 | V.Laux |
| Semipalmated Sandpiper: | | | |
| 2,3,7 | Scituate | max. 450 | W.Petersen |
| 1,3,16 | P.I. | max. 200 | BBC |
| 2,9,29 | Monomoy | max. 200 | BBC |

| <u>SPECIES/DATE</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> | <u>NUMBER</u> | <u>OBSERVERS</u> |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Semipalmated Sandpiper, continued: | | | |
| 14,23,30 | Revere | max. 50 | S.Zendeh, BBC |
| 14,16 | Lexington, S.Dartmouth | 34, 45 | J.Andrews, T.Raymond |
| Piping Plover: | | | |
| 2,9,29 | Monomoy | max. 10 | v.o. |
| 8,9 | P.I., Ipswich | 2, 2 | BBC, J.Berry |
| 30 | Acoaxet | 7 | R.Stymeist |
| Killdeer: | | | |
| 3,29;9,11 | P.I.; Westboro | max. 10; max. 45 | BBC; J.Hines |
| 14,21 | Revere, Newton | 3, 12 | S.Zendeh, O.+ N.Komar |
| 30 | Lakeville | 4 | D.Briggs |
| American Golden Plover: | | | |
| 22,26,29 | P.I. | 1, 3, 2 | v.o. |
| 2;22,30 | Monomoy; M.V. | 1; 3, 4 | BBC; V.Laux |
| 23,29 | E.Boston, Newburyport | 1, 1 | S.Zendeh, BBC |
| Black-bellied Plover: | | | |
| 1,2,16,29 | P.I. | max. 700 | BBC |
| 9,29 | Monomoy | max. 300 | BBC, J.Barton |
| 14 | Revere | 175 | S.Zendeh |
| Ruddy Turnstone: | | | |
| 1,15,29 | P.I. | max. 39 | v.o. |
| 2,9 | Monomoy | 5, 20 | BBC |
| 3 | Scituate | 100 | W.Petersen |
| 16,30 | S.Dartmouth | 7, 65 | T.Raymond, R.Stymeist |
| Common Snipe: | | | |
| 15,22 | WBWS, Wayland | 1, 1 | J.Hines |
| 22,29 | P.I. | 1, 1 | BBC |
| Whimbrel: | | | |
| 1,17,29 | Monomoy | 4, 20, 25 | v.o. |
| 2,23,26,29 | P.I. | max. 8 | v.o. |
| 11,16 | Annisquam, S.Dartmouth | 1, 4 | H.Wiggin, T.Raymond |
| 3,30 | Scituate, Chatham | 2, 5 | W.Petersen, BBC |
| 4,15 | WBWS | 51, 17 | J.Hines |
| Upland Sandpiper: | | | |
| 1;8,29 | Newburyport | 8; 3, 1 | G.Gove; BBC |
| 23 | Newbury-Newbypt | 9 | R.Forster |
| 29 | Ipswich | 4 | R.Stymeist |
| thr. | Martha's Vineyard | max. 18 | V.Laux |
| 6;13,14 | Monomoy; Chatham | 1; 1,2 | B.Nikula |
| Spotted Sandpiper: | | | |
| 1,22,29 | P.I. | max. 4 | BBC |
| 9,18 | Westboro, Woburn | 7, 4 | L.Babbitt, C.Jackson |
| 30 | S.Dartmouth | 10 | R.Stymeist# |
| Solitary Sandpiper: | | | |
| 9,16 | Concord | 2, 5 | J.Carter, R.Walton |
| 11,13;14 | Lexington | max. 3 | J.Carter; J.Andrews |
| 18 | Woburn | 4 | C.Jackson |
| 9 | S.Hanson | 5 | W.Petersen |
| 22,30 | Wayland, Weston | 3, 2 | J.Hines |
| Willet: | | | |
| 1,2,9,29 | Monomoy | max. 16 | v.o. |
| Greater Yellowlegs: | | | |
| 16,22 | P.I. | max. 180 | G.Gove#, BBC |
| 14,30 | Revere | 80, 80 | S.Zendeh, BBC |
| Lesser Yellowlegs: | | | |
| 1,8 | P.I. | max. 50 | BBC |
| 9,13 | Lexington | max. 7 | J.Andrews, J.Carter |
| Red Knot: | | | |
| 3 | Scituate | 2800 | W.Petersen |
| 8,17,29 | P.I. | 4, 20, 9 | BBC, C.Ewer, G.Gove# |
| 2,9;29 | Monomoy | 430, 4; 50 | BBC; E.Nielsen# |
| 14,30 | Revere | 13, 1 | S.Zendeh, BBC |
| Pectoral Sandpiper: | | | |
| thr. | P.I. | max. 25 | v.o. |
| 9,11 | Westboro | 2, 3 | J.Hines, L.Babbitt |
| 11 | Lexington | 4 | J.Carter |
| White-rumped Sandpiper: | | | |
| thr. | P.I. | max. 150 | v.o. |
| 30 | E.Boston | 17 | BBC |

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|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Baird's Sandpiper: | | | |
| 15,17,22 | P.I. | 1, 1, 2 | v.o. |
| 20-22 | Monomoy | 1 | W.Bailey# |
| 30 | M.V. | 2 | V.Laux |
| Least Sandpiper: | | | |
| 9,23 | Westboro | 25, 45 | L.Babbitt |
| 16,29 | P.I. | 50, 40 | BBC |
| Short-billed Dowitcher: | | | |
| thr. | P.I. | max. 30 | BBC |
| 9,29 | Monomoy | 90, 10 | BBC, J.Barton# |
| 14,23 | Revere | 100, 23 | S.Zendeh |
| Long-billed Dowitcher: | | | |
| 1,23,29 | P.I. | 2, 65, 2 | E.Nielsen, R.Forster, BBC |
| 23,26 | E.Boston, Chatham | 2, 1 | S.Zendeh, B.Nikula |
| Stilt Sandpiper: | | | |
| 1-23 | P.I. | max. 18 | v.o. |
| 4,30 | WBWS | 5, 2 | J.Hines, BBC |
| 17,29 | Monomoy | 1, 2 | W.Bailey#, O.+ N.Komar# |
| Semipalmated Sandpiper: | | | |
| 16,29 | P.I. | 100, 500 | BBC |
| 2,9 | Monomoy | max. 300 | BBC |
| 2,3 | Scituate | max. 5000 | W.Petersen |
| 14 | Revere | max. 4000 | S.Zendeh |
| Western Sandpiper: | | | |
| 2,8 | Monomoy, Annisquam | 1, 1 | BBC, H.Wiggin |
| 26,29 | P.I. | 1, 2 | R.Forster, G.Gove |
| 30 | E.Boston | 1 | BBC |
| Buff-breasted Sandpiper: | | | |
| 26,29 | P.I. | 1, 3 | R.Forster, J.Berry |
| 17,29 | Monomoy | 1, 2 | W.Bailey, W.Harrington |
| 28 | M.V. | 4 | V.Laux |
| 30 | Newton | 1 | M.Myerson# |
| Marbled Godwit: | | | |
| 18,23,29 | Monomoy | max. 2 | v.o. |
| Hudsonian Godwit: | | | |
| thr. | P.I. | max. 24 | v.o. |
| thr. | Newbypt Harbor | max. 32 | G.Gove |
| thr. | Monomoy | max. 125 | v.o. |
| 3,28 | Scituate, M.V. | 1, 2 | W.Petersen, V.Laux |
| 14,16 | Revere | 53, 30 | S.Zendeh# |
| Sanderling: | | | |
| thr. | Monomoy | max. 700 | v.o. |
| 15,24 | P.I. | max. 40 | BBC |
| 30 | E.Boston | 100 | BBC |
| Wilson's Phalarope: | | | |
| thr. | P.I. | max. 5 | v.o. |
| 23;15,23 | Monomoy; M.V. | 2; 1, 3 | v.o.; V.Laux |
| 14,16,23 | Revere | 2, 2, 1 | S.Zendeh# |
| Northern Phalarope: | | | |
| 22-29 | P.I. | 1 | v.o. |
| 16,30;23 | Stellwagen | 7, 5; 6 | B.Nikula; BBC |
| 18,26 | Nauset, Monomoy | 1, 5 | B.Nikula |
| 25,26 | Barnstable, Eastham | 46, 5 | R.Pease, B.Nikula |
| Pomarine Jaeger: | | | |
| 25;30 | Barnstable, Stellw. | 6, 1 | R.Pease, B.Nikula# |
| Parasitic Jaeger: | | | |
| 16,30;25 | Stellwagen; Barnstable | 5; 15 | B.Nikula; R.Pease |
| Black-headed Gull: | | | |
| 1,22 | P.I. | 1 | E.Nielsen# |
| Laughing Gull: | | | |
| thr. | Monomoy | max. 450 | BBC |
| 15,17 | P.I. | 1 | BBC |
| 30 | Hingham, Westport | 40, 100 | N.Osborne, R.Stymeist# |
| 14,23 | Nahant, Stellw. | 80, 25 | S.Zendeh, BBC |
| Bonaparte's Gull: | | | |
| 1,8 | Lakeville, P.I. | 1, 60 | W.Petersen, BBC |
| 14 | Revere | 500 | S.Zendeh |
| Little Gull: | | | |
| thr. | Newbypt-P.I. | max. 3 | v.o. |

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|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Black-legged Kittiwake: | | | |
| thr. | Monomoy | max. 8 | v.o. |
| 17 | P.I. | 1 | C.Ewer |
| Sabine's Gull: | | | |
| 30 | Stellw. | 1 ad. | B.Nikula# |
| Forster's Tern: | | | |
| thr. | Monomoy | max. 5 | v.o. |
| 1,2 | Nantucket | 1 | N.Jenks-Jay |
| 17 | P.I. | 2 | C.Ewer |
| 23 | Stellwagen | 2 | BBC |
| Common Tern: | | | |
| 30 | Stellwagen | 4000 | B.Nikula |
| 18 | Nauset | 3000 | B.Nikula |
| Arctic Tern: | | | |
| thr. | Monomoy | max. 4 | v.o. |
| Roseate Tern: | | | |
| 6,18 | P'town, Nauset | 800, 1000 | P.Trull#, B.Nikula |
| Least Tern: | | | |
| thr. | P.I. | max. 50 | v.o. |
| 2, 9 | Monomoy | 4 | BBC |
| 30 | S.Dartmouth, Westport | 75, 25 | R.Stymeist# |
| Black Tern: | | | |
| 3 | Scituate | 1 | W.Petersen |
| 16,22 | P.I. | 2, 1 | G.Gove# |
| 17-30 | Monomoy | max. 6 | v.o. |
| Black Skimmer: | | | |
| 1,2;25 | Nantucket; Chatham | 1; 1 ad., 1 imm. | N.Jenks-Jay; R.Comeau |
| 8,9 | Sandwich, Fairhaven | 1 imm., 2 imm. | J.Aylward, R.Barnhart |
| 23 | Ipswich | 1 imm. | T.Duquette |
| 29,30 | Scituate | max. 4 | v.o. |

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

The Common Nighthawk migration got under way August 19. The great majority of night-hawks migrate through the Connecticut valley area and this year was no exception. There were, however, some large flights noted near Boston with 422 counted in Brookline, 76 in Newton, 104 in Framingham-Sudbury, and 45 in Belmont. A full report of the 1981 Common Nighthawk migration statewide is available through the Natural History Services, Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln, MA 01773. Be sure to enclose a large, self-addressed, stamped envelope.

R.H.S.

| | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mourning Dove: | | | |
| 21-31 | Newton | 56 | N.+ O.Komar |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo: | | | |
| 1-19 | 5 loc. | 9 ind. | v.o. |
| Black-billed Cuckoo: | | | |
| 1,21,22 | P.I., Concord, Newton | 1, 1, 1 | BBC, J.Hines, N.+ O.Komar |
| Screech Owl: | | | |
| thr. | 5 loc. | 10 ind. | v.o. |
| Great Horned Owl: | | | |
| thr. | 4 loc. | 7 ind. | v.o. |
| Short-eared Owl: | | | |
| thr. | Monomoy | max. 5 | v.o. |
| Saw-whet Owl: | | | |
| 18 on | Middleboro | 1 | D.Briggs |
| Common Nighthawk: | | | |
| 18-26,18-31 | Newton, Sudbury-Framingham | totals: 76, 104 | N.+ O.Komar, R.Forster |
| 19-28,22-24 | Brookline, Belmont | totals: 422, 45 | R.Stymeist, J.Heywood |
| 17,22 | Concord, Rutland | 19, 125 | W.Wyman, L.Babbitt |
| 23,30 | Worcester, Weston | 20, 11 | D.Crompton#, J.Hines |
| Chimney Swift: | | | |
| 28 | Brookline | 40 | R.Stymeist |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird: | | | |
| 30 | W.Newbury | 1 | V.Albee# |
| Common Flicker: | | | |
| 18-31 | Newton | 29 | N.+ O.Komar |
| Pileated Woodpecker: | | | |
| 6,10,27 | Norwell, Duxbury, Lincoln | 1, 1, 1 | fide W.Petersen, A.Leitas, R.Forster |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: | | | |
| 17 | Topsfield (IRWS) | 1 imm. | R.Scott |

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| Hairy Woodpecker: | | | |
| 18-31 | Newton | 6 | N.+ O.Komar |
| Downy Woodpecker: | | | |
| 18-31 | Newton | 35 | N.+ O.Komar |

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SPARROWS

A roost, predominantly of American Robins but also including some Common Grackles, was discovered in a red maple swamp on the Woburn/Lexington line. The first of two careful counts of birds entering the roost turned up 4100 individuals, a large number but not inconsistent with other historical records. Further details will be published subsequently in *Bird Observer*. As in July, an early report of a Swainson's Thrush was received, this time from Plum Island. It would be interesting in the future to watch more closely for these inconspicuous birds in order to determine to what extent they regularly occur in the late summer months.

A general migratory movement of passerines commenced on the 23rd and continued through the last week of the month. Vireos and warblers were especially noticeable at coastal sites with some nice southern rarities being reported. Two Prothonotary Warblers (both sexes) were seen on Cape Cod on the 28th and 29th, two of the heaviest migration days. At Marblehead Neck, a Kentucky Warbler was seen on the 24th. A week later, another southern skulker, a male Hooded Warbler, was observed there.

Some unusually early individual migrants were noted during the big movement of the last week of the month. On Martha's Vineyard, the Rusty Blackbird which turned up on the 29th was early by a good three to four weeks. The August 23rd Pine Siskin there was also a bit of a surprise although this could presage a situation similar to last year when the siskins pushed right through eastern Massachusetts early to winter farther south. Lincoln's Sparrows typically arrive in our area beginning in mid-September, so the individual which spent the last week of August in Baldwinville was noteworthy.

L.E.T.

| | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Eastern Kingbird: | | | |
| thr.,16-22 | P.I., GMNWR | 50+, 20+ | v.o., BBC |
| 25,30 | Wayland, Truro | 10, 10 | J.Hines, BBC |
| Great-crested Flycatcher: | | | |
| thr. | 3 loc. | 8 ind. | v.o. |
| Eastern Phoebe: | | | |
| thr. | 3 loc. | 6 ind. | v.o. |
| Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: | | | |
| 13,20 | M.V., Newton | 1, 1 | V.Laux, N.Komar |
| 22,30 | Monomoy, S.Dartmouth | 1, 2 | B.Nikula, J.Heywood# |
| Least Flycatcher: | | | |
| 24,30 | MNWS, Framingham | 1, 2 calling | J.MacDougall, R.Forster |
| <u>Empidonax</u> sp.: | | | |
| 21-30 | Concord-Wayland-Weston | 6 | J.Hines |
| 26,30 | P.I., MNWS | 3, 2 | R.Forster#, J.Grugan |
| Eastern Wood Pewee: | | | |
| 24,26 | Weston, P.I. | 2, 3 | J.Hines, R.Forster# |
| 30 | Westport | 2 calling | R.Stymeist# |
| Olive-sided Flycatcher: | | | |
| 18 | Gloucester | 1 | C.Leahy |
| Horned Lark: | | | |
| 1,29 | P.I., Monomoy | 8, 5 | BBC, J.Barton# |
| Tree Swallow: | | | |
| thr. | P.I. | 10000-50000 (max.8/17) | v.o. |
| 30 | Westport area | 6000 | J.Heywood# |
| Bank Swallow: | | | |
| 1,22. | P.I. | 10, 400 | BBC, R.Stymeist |
| Barn Swallow: | | | |
| thr.,21 | P.I., Wayland | 2000 max. 8/3, 800+ | BBC, J.Hines |
| Cliff Swallow: | | | |
| 1 | Lakeville | 1 | W.Petersen |
| Purple Martin: | | | |
| 3,29 | P.I. | 100, 1 | BBC |
| 5,20 | S.Orleans, Weston | 17+, 2 | B.Nikula#, J.Hines |
| Fish Crow: | | | |
| 22 | Natick | 5+ calling | J.Hines |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch: | | | |
| 1,3 | Lakeville, S.Wellfleet | 5, 4 | W.Petersen, J.Hines |
| 30 | Chatham, MNWS | 1, 1 | BBC, J.Grugan# |

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|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Brown Creeper: | | | |
| 3 | S.Wellfleet | 3 | J.Hines |
| Carolina Wren: | | | |
| 30 | Westport-S.Dartmouth | 6 | R.Stymeist# |
| Long-billed Marsh Wren (Marsh Wren): | | | |
| 16-22,22 | GMNWR, Wayland | 8 max., 8 | v.o., J.Hines |
| Northern Mockingbird: | | | |
| 18-31,29 | Newton, P.I. | total 61, 18 | N.+ O.Komar, BBC |
| Gray Catbird: | | | |
| 8-29,18-31 | P.I., Newton | 45 max. 8/29, total 88 | v.o., N.+ O.Komar |
| American Robin: | | | |
| 26, 17 | Woburn, Stoneham | 4100 (roost), 200 | J.Andrews#, M.Martineck |
| Wood Thrush: | | | |
| 18-31,26 | Newton, Weston | total 7, 4 | N.+ O.Komar, J.Hines |
| Swainson's Thrush: | | | |
| 9; 10 | P.I., W.Newbury; Littleton | 1, 2; 2 | W.Petersen; J.Baird |
| 11-31 | Wayland-Weston | 6 max. 8/20 | J.Hines |
| 20,21 | Newton, MNWS | 1, 4 | N.Komar, R.Stymeist# |
| Gray-cheeked Thrush: | | | |
| 28 | Worcester | 1 | D.+ V.Crompton |
| Veery: | | | |
| 18,25 | Littleton, Newton | 3, 3 | J.Baird, N.+ O.Komar |
| 29 | P.I.; Wayland, Weston | 1; 3, 2 | BBC: J.Hines |
| Eastern Bluebird: | | | |
| 11,20 | Westboro, Milton | 7, 2 | J.Hines, H.Ellis |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: | | | |
| 18,22 | Chatham, Newton | 3, 1 | B.Nikula, N.+ O.Komar |
| Cedar Waxwing: | | | |
| 12,18-31 | S.Hanson, Newton | 35, total 111 | W.Petersen, N.+ O.Komar |
| 15,29 | Annisquam, P.I. | 49, 20 | H.Wiggin, BBC |
| White-eyed Vireo: | | | |
| 30 | Westport | 6 singing | J.Heywood# |
| Yellow-throated Vireo: | | | |
| 30 | MNWS | 1 | J.Grugan# |
| Red-eyed Vireo: | | | |
| 29 | P.I. | 5-6 singing m. | J.Berry |
| Philadelphia Vireo: | | | |
| 24 | Littleton | 1 | J.Baird |
| Warbling Vireo: | | | |
| 9,13 | W.Newbury, Wayland | 2, 1 | W.Petersen, J.Hines |
| Black-and-white Warbler: | | | |
| 8,27 | W.Newbury, Wayland | 1, 2 | BBC, J.Hines |
| Prothonotary Warbler: | | | |
| 28,29 | Monomoy, Chatham | 1 f., 1 m. | C.Goodrich, N.+ O.Komar# |
| Worm-eating Warbler: | | | |
| 3,22 | Lincoln, MNWS | 1, 1 | P.Murphy, J.MacDougall |
| Golden-winged Warbler: | | | |
| 29 | P.I. | 1 | BBC |
| Blue-winged Warbler: | | | |
| 9,11 | Westboro, Wayland | 1, 1 | L.Babbitt, J.Hines |
| 26,30 | Chatham, MNWS | 4, 2 | B.Nikula, M.Lynch# |
| Tennessee Warbler: | | | |
| 18-31 | Wayland-Weston | total 38 | J.Hines |
| 26,30 | P.I., MNWS | 6, 1 | R.Forster#, SSBC |
| Nashville Warbler: | | | |
| 29,31 | P.I., Wayland | 1, 2 | BBC, J.Hines |
| Yellow Warbler: | | | |
| 1,16 | M.V., P.I. | 40, 20 | V.Iaux, BBC |
| 24 | Belmont | 2 "last" | L.Robinson |
| Magnolia Warbler: | | | |
| 24,29 | Wayland, P.I. | 1, 4 | J.Hines, BBC |
| Cape May Warbler: | | | |
| 15,19 | P.I., Annisquam | 2, 10 | D.Stemple, H.Wiggin |
| 24,29 | Littleton, P.I. | 2, 35 | J.Baird, BBC |
| Black-throated Blue Warbler: | | | |
| 29,30 | P.I., Chatham | 1, 1 | BBC |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler: | | | |
| 1 | Lakeville | 1 f. (from July) | W.Petersen |
| Blackburnian Warbler: | | | |
| 18 | Littleton, Wayland | 2, 1 | J.Baird, J.Hines |

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| Chestnut-sided Warbler: | | | |
| 18,24 | Littleton, Weston | 1, 1 | J. Baird, J. Hines |
| 26,30 | P.I., Chatham | 1, 1 | R. Forster, BBC |
| Bay-breasted Warbler: | | | |
| 30 | P.I., Chatham | 3, 1 | BBC |
| Blackpoll Warbler: | | | |
| 24-30 | 3 loc. | 5 ind. | v.o. |
| Pine Warbler: | | | |
| 30 | MNWS | 1 | S. Carroll# |
| Prairie Warbler: | | | |
| 9,23 | Westboro | 5, 2 | L. Babbitt |
| Ovenbird: | | | |
| 9,24 | P.I., MNWS | 1, 4 | W. Petersen, J. MacDougall |
| 25,26 | Weston, P.I. | 1, 1 | J. Hines, R. Forster |
| Northern Waterthrush: | | | |
| 1,2 | Chatham, P.I. | 1, 2 | J. Hines, E. Nielsen |
| 3-30 | 6 loc. | 20 ind. | v.o. |
| Kentucky Warbler: | | | |
| 24 | MNWS | 1 | J. MacDougall |
| Mourning Warbler: | | | |
| 24,25 | Cohasset, N. Scituate | 1, 1 | R. Viet |
| Common Yellowthroat: | | | |
| 22,30 | Monomoy, S. Dartmouth | 40, 25 | W. Harrington#, R. Stymeist# |
| Yellow-breasted Chat: | | | |
| 26,28 | Chatham, Monomoy | 1, 1 | B. Nikula#, C. Goodrich |
| 30 | MNWS | 1 | J. Grugan |
| Hooded Warbler: | | | |
| 30 | MNWS | 1 m. | M. Lynch# |
| Wilson's Warbler: | | | |
| 18-30 | 3 loc. | 5 ind. | v.o. |
| Canada Warbler: | | | |
| 16-24,29 | 4 loc., Weston | 4 ind., 3 | v.o., J. Hines |
| American Redstart: | | | |
| 18-30,28 | 4 loc., Monomoy | 8 ind., 75 | v.o., C. Goodrich |
| Bobolink: | | | |
| 1,30 | P.I., Truro | 25, 23 | BBC |
| Northern Oriole: | | | |
| 17,25 | Stoneham, Weston | 8, 18 | M. Martineck, J. Hines |
| Rusty Blackbird: | | | |
| 29 | M.V. | 1 at feeder | V. Laux |
| Scarlet Tanager: | | | |
| 17,20 | Stoneham, Weston | 15, 4 | M. Martineck, J. Hines |
| 23,30 | P.I., Chatham | 3, 1 | R. Forster, BBC |
| Indigo Bunting: | | | |
| 21,25 | Concord, Lakeville | 7, 10 | J. Hines, C. + P. Draghetti |
| Purple Finch: | | | |
| thr., 26 | P.I., Weston | 25 max. 8/16, 5 | v.o., J. Hines |
| Pine Siskin: | | | |
| 23 | M.V. | 1 | V. Laux |
| Savannah Sparrow: | | | |
| 29 | P.I. | 8 | BBC |
| Sharp-tailed Sparrow: | | | |
| 1,22 | Monomoy, P.I. | 5, 8 | BBC |
| 23 | Newbury | 30+ | R. Forster# |
| Vesper Sparrow: | | | |
| 3 | S. Wellfleet | 9 | J. Hines |
| White-throated Sparrow: | | | |
| 29,30 | Framingham, Weston | 1 imm., 1 imm. | R. Forster, J. Hines |
| Lincoln's Sparrow: | | | |
| 24-31 | Baldwinville | 1 | J. O'Regan |

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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

FORBUSH BIRD CLUB - WORCESTER SCIENCE CENTER

1982 ANNUAL BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

AWARDS - (1st) Edward Howe Forbush Award and \$50
(2nd) Award Ribbon and \$25
(3rd) Award Ribbon and \$15

ENTRY PROCESS:

1. Obtain entry form from Worcester Science Center, 222 Harrington Way, Worcester, MA 01604. Phone: 617-791-9211
2. Entry fee is \$3.00 per entry.
3. Prints should be mounted or matted, not framed. Composite pictures, multiple prints and collages are not eligible.
4. Entries must be no smaller than 8 x 10 or no larger than 16 x 20, including mat. The prints should be no smaller than 35 sq. in.
5. Deadline is Monday, February 1, 1982.
6. Participants may be asked to submit proof of originality.
7. Photos not dealing with the subject of birds will not be accepted.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION - Worcester Science Center

Field Records: September 1981



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

September 1981 was cool with frequent but light rain. The temperature averaged 63.7°, 3.3° cooler than last September. The high mark was 90° on the 14th; the low was 44° on the 30th. Rain totaled 2.54 inches, 0.62 inch less than normal. This is remarkably little considering the frequency of rain: measurable amounts fell on twelve days, traces came on another six days, leaving only twelve days all month with none. Starting September 21, a series of three strong cold fronts brought clear skies, brisk northwest winds, and thus, favorable conditions for migration. Thunder was heard on four days, double the past average. On the 14th, violent local winds and possibly a small tornado hit sections in the Canton-Millis-Walpole and Westwood areas with hail up to one inch size recorded. Northwest winds occurred on September 9, 11, 12, 21, 22, 24, 25, 28, and 30.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

Loons were migrating by the month's end with a few noticed over inland locations. Only one report of Cory's Shearwater was recorded and that far fewer in number than last year. Great Cormorants arrived in small numbers with one inland record at South Peabody, and Double-crested Cormorants were migrating in the large numbers typical of September.

Great Blue Herons migrating south were reported in the usual numbers with several lingering at Great Meadows. The herons remained at Plum Island through the 26th at least when Little Blue and Louisiana herons and Great Egrets were last reported. Cattle Egrets were reported off and on from the Maplecroft Farm in Ipswich; on a few occasions they were seen feeding in the wake of a tractor at the farm where development has begun. The last and only report of Least Bittern was noted at Great Meadows on the 5th.

R.H.S.

| <u>SPECIES/DATE</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> | <u>NUMBER</u> | <u>OBSERVERS</u> |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Common Loon: | | | |
| 4,6 | Marblehead, Framingham | 4, 1 | R.Heil, R.Forster |
| 25,26 | Newton, Framingham | 3, 1 | O.Komar, R.Forster |
| 26 | Lakeville, Salisbury | 4, 22 | W.Petersen, R.Heil |
| Red-throated Loon: | | | |
| 20 | Eastham (F.E.) | 1 | R.Forster, D.Clapp |
| Pied-billed Grebe: | | | |
| 6,19,27 | P.I., GMNWR, Scituate | 3, 3, 2 | E.Nielsen, BBC, W.Petersen |
| Cory's Shearwater: | | | |
| 27 | off Monomoy | 15 | BBC (H.D'Entremont) |
| Greater Shearwater: | | | |
| 5,19 | Rockport, Eastham | 1, 3 | S.Carroll#, R.Forster# |
| 26,27 | Stellwagen, off Monomoy | 45, 40 | BBC, W.Petersen# |
| Sooty Shearwater: | | | |
| 27 | off Monomoy | 2 | BBC (H.D'Entremont) |
| Manx Shearwater: | | | |
| 19,26 | Eastham, Stellwagen | 1, 6 | R.Forster#, W.Petersen# |
| 27 | off Monomoy | 2 | BBC (H.D'Entremont) |
| Gannet: | | | |
| 5,20 | Rockport, Eastham | 9, 35 | S.Carroll#, R.Forster# |
| Great Cormorant: | | | |
| 5,7 | Scituate, Ipswich | 1, 1 imm. | D.Clapp, BBC (J.Berry) |
| 13,17-21 | N.Scituate, S.Peabody | 6, 1 imm. | W.Petersen, R.Heil |
| 19,21 | Duxbury, Lynn | 2, 1 imm. | W.Petersen#, R.Heil |
| Double-crested Cormorant: | | | |
| 6,7,25,26 | P.I. | 200±, 150, 1500, 1000 | v.o. |

| <u>SPECIES/DATE</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> | <u>NUMBER</u> | <u>OBSERVERS</u> |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Double-crested Cormorant (continued): | | | |
| 9,15 | Westboro, Salisbury | 204, 770 | B.Blodgett#, R.Heil |
| 19,28 | Quincy-Duxbury, Hingham | 1108, 750 | SSBC, S.Higginbotham |
| Great Blue Heron: | | | |
| 5 | Scituate, P.I. | 5, 9 | D.Clapp, BBC |
| 7 | Harvard (Oxbow), Westboro | 5, 10 | M.Lynch#, D.Crompton |
| 20,21 | GMNWR, Saugus | 6, 8 | SSBC, J.Berry |
| 20,25 | Weymouth, Stow | 8, 20 | BBC, S.Anderson |
| Green Heron: | | | |
| 26,29,30 | P.I., Newton, Lexington | 1, 1, 1 | G.Gove, O.+N.Komar, J.Andrews |
| Little Blue Heron: | | | |
| 1-26 | P.I. | max. 3 (1 ad.) | G.Gove, E.Nielsen |
| 4,5 | Eastham, Topsfield | 1, 1 | J.Grugan#, BBC(I.Giriunas) |
| 9,13 | Marshfield | 2 imm., 1 | J.O'Regan, SSBC |
| 12,17 | Monomoy, Scituate | 1 imm., 2 imm. | W.Petersen# |
| 19,29 | Duxbury, Rowley | 1 pied, 1 | W.Petersen#, D.Alexander# |
| Cattle Egret: | | | |
| 5,24 | Topsfield, Ipswich | 1, 6 | BBC, J.Berry |
| Great Egret: | | | |
| 1-26,1-23 | P.I., Squantum | max. 7, 2 | v.o. |
| 11,12 | S.Hanson, Monomoy | 3, 1 | W.Petersen# |
| 20,21 | Halifax, Westboro | 2, 1 | J.Flaherty, L.Babbitt |
| Snowy Egret: | | | |
| thr. | P.I. | max. 400+ 9/26 | E.Nielsen + v.o. |
| 4,8 | Scituate, Saugus-Revere | 40, 35 | D.Clapp, J.Berry |
| 19 | South shore | 222 | SSBC (Round-up) |
| Louisiana Heron: | | | |
| 1-26 | P.I. | 1 | v.o. |
| Black-crowned Night Heron: | | | |
| 2,6 | Squantum, P.I. | 20, 40 | E.Nielsen, G.Gove |
| Yellow-crowned Night Heron: | | | |
| 6,12 | Eastham | 2 | B.Nikula# |
| Least Bittern: | | | |
| 5 | GMNWR | 1 | J.Grugan |
| American Bittern: | | | |
| 12, 17+20 | Monomoy, GMNWR | 1, 1 | H.Wiggin#, G.Gove + SSBC |
| Glossy Ibis: | | | |
| 12 + 26 | Monomoy | 6, 8 | W.Petersen# + v.o. |
| 12 + 20 | P.I. | 7, 10 | E.Nielsen# + v.o. |

WATERFOWL

Good numbers of dabblers were noted at Plum Island with maximum counts of 225+ Pintail, 1050 Green-winged Teal, and 50 Northern Shoveler. American Wigeon returned in better numbers at mid-month. Ring-necked Ducks, the first of the bay ducks to arrive, increased to 150 at Lakeville by the month's end. An early Brant was noted at South Dartmouth on the 28th. R.H.S.

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|------------|----------------------------|
| Brant: | | | |
| 28 | S.Dartmouth | 1 | T.Raymond |
| Pintail: | | | |
| 12,25 | Monomoy, P.I. | 125, 225+ | W.Petersen#, R.Heil |
| Green-winged Teal: | | | |
| 12,30 | Monomoy, P.I. | 300, 1050 | W.Petersen# |
| Blue-winged Teal: | | | |
| 6,17 | P.I., GMNWR | 300+, 60 | R.Heil, G.Gove |
| American Wigeon: | | | |
| 12;19 | Monomoy, P.I.; GMNWR | 50, 50; 30 | W.Petersen#, E.Nielsen;BBC |
| Northern Shoveler: | | | |
| 12,19 | Monomoy, S.Wellfleet (WBWS) | 12, 2 | W.Petersen#, R.Forster |
| 20,26 | GMNWR, P.I. | 2, 50 | SSBC, BBC (G.Gove) |
| Wood Duck: | | | |
| 11,17 | S.Hanson, GMNWR | 100+, 150+ | W.Petersen, G.Gove |
| 19 | Hingham, Bridgewater | 115, 100 | SSBC (Round-up) |
| Ring-necked Duck: | | | |
| 13,26 | Lakeville | 75, 150 | W.Petersen# |
| Common Eider: | | | |
| 5,13 | Rockport, Scituate | 28, 70 | M.Lynch#, SSBC |
| White-winged Scoter: | | | |
| 3,28 | Swampscott, Wollaston | 10, 25 | W.Foley, S.Higginbotham |

| SPECIES/DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS |
|------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Surf Scoter: 5,26 | Rockport, P.I. | 7, 3 | M.Lynch#, E.Nielsen |
| Black Scoter: 3,5 | Swampscott, Rockport | 6, 1 | W.Foley, M.Lynch# |
| Ruddy Duck: thr.,12 | P.I., Monomoy | max. 5, 2 | v.o., W.Petersen |
| Hooded Merganser: thr.,20 | S.Peabody, P.I. | max. 7 9/8, 2 | R.Heil, BBC |
| 29 | Newton | 2 | O.Komar |
| Common Merganser: 13 | Lakeville | 1 | W.Petersen |

RAPTORS THROUGH GALLINULES

The Broad-winged Hawk migration at Mount Wachusett was disappointing this year, due perhaps to the wet weather of the month. The high single day count was 1240 on the 18th compared with single day counts last September of 1820, 1839, and 2498. The Sharp-shinned Hawk migration along the coast on the other hand was noteworthy. On the 20th, over 1000 Sharp-shinned Hawks were recorded at the Marconi Station at South Wellfleet. Other high counts were reported along the cape and islands. An early light-phased Rough-legged Hawk was observed at Mount Wachusett on September 10. A total of five immature Bald Eagles were reported, four of them west of Boston. At least nine Peregrine Falcons were noted, but this is quite a few less than last September. The highlight of the month was a Black Vulture, photographed at Truro on the 30th.

A Ruffed Grouse in Newton gives hope that they may be breeding closer to Boston; one was found dead in the Chestnut Hill area this spring. An adult Purple Gallinule was found at Great Meadows on September 17 but could not be seen there again despite the many observers on hand during the following days. Could this be the immature bird that was present last fall at the same time? Mark your calendars for next year!

R.H.S.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| <u>Turkey Vulture:</u> | | | |
| 10-20 | Mt. Wachusett | 11 | v.o. |
| 12 | Athol, Petersham | 4, 1 | J.O'Regan#, J.Baird |
| 13+20,22 | Princeton, Cambridge | 5+2, 1 | K.Holmes#, A.Hird |
| 26,29 | Byfield, Leominster | 1,3 | R.Heil, F.Bouchard |
| <u>Black Vulture:</u> | | | |
| 30 | Truro | 1 ph. | R.Prescott |
| <u>Goshawk:</u> | | | |
| 7,12 | Harvard (Oxbow), Petersham | 2, 1 | M.Lynch#, J.Baird |
| 10,13 | Mt. Wachusett | 2, 1 | P.Roberts# |
| 20,29 | Princeton, N.Scituate | 1, 1 | fide P.Roberts, S.Higginbotham |
| <u>Sharp-shinned Hawk:</u> | | | |
| 5-30 | Framingham | 61 max. 34 9/21 | R.Forster |
| 10,13,18,20 | Mt.Wachusett | 54, 5, 158, 48 | v.o. |
| 13+20,18 | Princeton, GMNWR | 18 +29, 33 | K.Holmes#, P.Roberts# |
| 20 | S.Wellfleet (Marconi) | 1009 | R.Forster, D.Clapp |
| 20 | Wellfleet (Long Pond), P.I. | 70, 5 | L.Taylor, BBC |
| 21 | Chatham, Lynn | 270, 110 | B.Nikula, R.Heil |
| 25 | Newbury, Nantucket | 12+, 110 | R.Heil, R.Stymeist# |
| 30 | W.Newbury | 50+ | W.Petersen |
| <u>Cooper's Hawk:</u> | | | |
| 10,18,20 | Mt.Wachusett | 1, 1, 1 | P.Roberts# |
| 12, 19 | Athol, Halifax | 2, 1 ad. | J.O'Regan#, W.Petersen# |
| 20,21 | S.Wellfleet, Lynn | 4, 1 | R.Forster#, R.Heil |
| 24,25 | Ayer, Newbury | 1, 1 | N.Smith, R.Heil |
| 25,30 | Framingham, W.Newbury | 1, 1 | R.Forster, W.Petersen# |
| <u>Red-tailed Hawk:</u> | | | |
| 10,13,18,20 | Mt. Wachusett | 20, 3, 8, 6 | v.o. |
| 13+20,18 | Princeton, GMNWR | 4 + 2, 4 | K.Holmes#, P.Roberts# |
| <u>Red-shouldered Hawk:</u> | | | |
| 5 | Wachusett | 1 | A.Maley, L.Robinson |
| 10,30 | N.Andover, Rowley | 2, 1 | R.Heil, D.Alexander# |
| <u>Broad-winged Hawk:</u> | | | |
| 10,13,18,20 | Mt.Wachusett | 121, 39, 1240, 298 | P.Roberts# + v.o. |
| 20 | Princeton, W.Newbury | 102, 14 | K.Holmes, BBC |
| 21;24 | Framingham, Newton; Ayer | 232, 21; 700 | R.Forster, O.+N.Komar; N.Smith |
| <u>Rough-legged Hawk:</u> | | | |
| 10 | Mt.Wachusett | 1 lt.phase early | P.Roberts# |

| <u>SPECIES/DATE</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> | <u>NUMBER</u> | <u>OBSERVERS</u> |
|--|---|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Bald Eagle: | | | |
| 7,9 | Harvard (Oxbow), Mt.Wachusett | 1 imm., 1 | M.Lynch#, L.Robinson |
| 13 | Princeton | 1 imm. | K.Holmes# |
| 24,30 | Ayer, Wellfleet (WBWS) | 1 imm., 1 imm. | N.Smith, W.Bailey |
| Northern Harrier (Marsh Hawk): | | | |
| 13-30,18 | Newton, Mt.Wachusett | 6, 9 | N.+ O.Komar, P.Roberts# |
| 20,26 | Wellfleet, P.I. | 7, 8 | D.Clapp#, G.Gove# |
| Osprey: | | | |
| 4-29 | Newton | 13 | N.+ O.Komar |
| 10,13,18,20 | Mt.Wachusett | 5, 4, 19, 9 | v.o. |
| 10+24,13+18 | Woburn, GMNWR | 1 + 1, 3 + 1 | G.Gove |
| 12+26,13+20 | P.I., Princeton | 1 + 2, 1 + 6 | E.Nielsen#, K.Holmes# |
| 16+29,21+29 | Salem, Lynn | 1 + 1, 5 + 2 | C.Blaszczak, R.Heil + C.Blaszczak |
| 20,27 | Worcester, Boylston | 1, 1 | L.Babbitt |
| 20,21,25 | Lexington | 2, 1, 1 | J.Andrews |
| 25,26 | Newbypt - Salisbury | 8, 12 | R.Heil |
| Peregrine Falcon: | | | |
| 5 on | P.I. 1-2 or 3 ind. observed on 10 dates | | v.o. |
| 6,25 | Annisquam, Nantucket | 1, 2 | H.Wiggin, R.Stymeist# |
| 24,26 | Ayer, Chatham | 2, 1 | N.Smith, B.Nikula# |
| Merlin: | | | |
| 5 on | P.I. | 15 reported | v.o. |
| 7-13,11+21 | Woburn, Westboro | 1, 1 + 1 | G.Gove, L.Babbitt |
| 23-25 | Nantucket | 17 | R.Stymeist, R.Emery, D.Arvidson |
| Other reports of 1-2 individuals totaling 22 from v.o. | | | |
| American Kestrel: | | | |
| 8-25 | Newton | 19 | N.+ O.Komar |
| 18,20 | Mt.Wachusett, GMNWR | 53, 5 | P.Roberts# |
| Ruffed Grouse: | | | |
| 10 | <u>Newton</u> | 1 | O.+ N.Komar |
| Clapper Rail: | | | |
| 12 | Orleans | 1 | H.Coolidge, H.Wiggin |
| Virginia Rail: | | | |
| 12 | P.I. | 1 | E.Nielsen |
| Sora: | | | |
| 6,19 | Monomoy, GMNWR | 1, 4 | W.Drummond, BBC |
| Purple Gallinule: | | | |
| 17 | GMNWR | 1 ad. | R.Prybis, G.Gove, H.Cutler |
| Common Gallinule: | | | |
| thr. | GMNWR | max. 11 9/18 | v.o. |

SHOREBIRDS

The fall migration of Lesser Golden Plover was near normal with high counts of just seventeen at Plum Island and on Nantucket. Shorebirds of typically western ranges showed a less than average fall flight with only eight Baird's and six Buff-breasted sandpipers reported. Interesting though are the reports of Buff-breasted from Newton and Rockland! A Curlew Sandpiper was reported from Newburyport on the 13th, and Purple Sandpipers were noted at North Scituate on the same date. The only Marbled Godwits reported this month were two from Monomoy present there most of the month. It was a great year for White-rumped Sandpipers with over 100 reported from Plum Island through September 12th.

R.H.S.

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| American Oystercatcher: | | | |
| thr. | Monomoy-Chatham | max. 9 9/26 | v.o. |
| 23,25 | Nantucket | 5, 2 | R.Stymeist# |
| Semipalmated Plover: | | | |
| 6,7 | Monomoy, Ipswich | 60, 50+ | BBC |
| 6,9 | P.I., Lynn | 400+, 30+ | R.Heil |
| Piping Plover: | | | |
| 6,12 | Monomoy | 20, 30 | BBC, W.Petersen# |
| Killdeer: | | | |
| 19+26,21 | Halifax, Lynn | 42 + 30, 40 | W.Petersen, R.Heil |
| Lesser Golden Plover: | | | |
| 1,5 | Newton, Scituate | 1, 1 | N.+ O.Komar, D.Clapp |
| 6 on | P.I. | max. 17 9/26 | v.o. |
| 12,13 | Monomoy, GMNWR | 7, 4 | W.Petersen#, G.Gove |
| 12,13 | Marion, Scituate | 3, 3 | G.Mock, SSBC |
| 21 | Lynn, Westboro | 3, 1 | R.Heil, L.Babbitt |
| 25 | Nantucket | 17 | R.Stymeist, R.Emery |

| | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Black-bellied Plover: | | | |
| 5,6 | Scituate, Monomoy | 260, 1500 | D.Clapp, BBC |
| 6,7,12,26 | P.I. | 200 reported each time! | v.o. |
| Ruddy Turnstone: | | | |
| 2,5 | Squantum, Scituate | 10, 80 | E.Nielsen, D.Clapp |
| American Woodcock: | | | |
| 2,3 | Squantum, Newton | 1, 1 | E.Nielsen, N.Komar |
| 20 | Sandwich | 8 | R.Forster |
| Common Snipe: | | | |
| 5,12 | P.I., Monomoy | 2, 1 | BBC, W.Petersen# |
| Whimbrel: | | | |
| 4 | Chatham, S.Wellfleet, Truro | 22, 6, 12 | R.Emery, J.Grugan |
| 5-26 | P.I. | 4 - 1 | v.o. |
| 6,7,20 | Monomoy | 25, 65, 20 | B3C, B.Nikula#, W.Petersen# |
| 19,30 | Duxbury, Salisbury | 6, 1 | SSBC, R.Forster |
| Upland Sandpiper: | | | |
| 5,7 | Chatham, Ipswich | 6, 8 | B.Nikula#, J.Berry# |
| 10,13 | Monomoy, Halifax | 3, 1 | B.Nikula#, W.Petersen# |
| Solitary Sandpiper: | | | |
| 2,5 | Spencer, W.Newbury | 4, 2 | D.Crompton, BBC |
| 6,8+21 | Newton, S.Peabody | 3, 7 + 4 | N.+ O.Komar, R.Heil |
| 28,29 | W.Newbury, N.Scituate | 2, 1 | D.Arvidson#, W.Petersen |
| Willet: | | | |
| 6,12 | Monomoy | 10, 4 | BBC, H.Wiggin# |
| Greater Yellowlegs: | | | |
| 20,26 | P.I. | 250, 200 | BBC |
| Lesser Yellowlegs: | | | |
| 20,26 | P.I. | 97, 100 | BBC |
| Red Knot: | | | |
| 6,13 | Monomoy, Scituate | 20, 35 | BBC, SSBC |
| 19 | Quincy, Duxbury | 41, 11 | SSBC (Round-up) |
| Purple Sandpiper: | | | |
| 13 | Scituate | 13 | SSBC |
| White-rumped Sandpiper: | | | |
| 6,12,27 | P.I. | 100+, 100+, 6 | E.Nielsen + v.o. |
| 9 | Lynn | 10 | R.Heil |
| Baird's Sandpiper: | | | |
| 5,14-30 | Scituate, P.I. | 2, max. 6 | D.Clapp#, v.o. |
| Curlew Sandpiper: | | | |
| 13 | Newburyport | 1 | I.Giriunas, A.Blaisdell |
| Dunlin: | | | |
| 6,9 | Monomoy, <u>Lynn</u> | 2, 1 | BBC, R.Heil |
| 12,19,26 | P.I. | 1, 30, 500 | E.Nielsen# + v.o. |
| Short-billed Dowitcher: | | | |
| 20,26 | P.I. | 20, 50 | BBC |
| Long-billed Dowitcher: | | | |
| 25,30 | Newburyport | 75+, 45 | R.Heil, W.Petersen# |
| Stilt Sandpiper: | | | |
| 6,7,13,19 | P.I. | 24, 32, 42, 5 | v.o. |
| 9,20,25 | Westboro, W.Newbury, Newbypt | 12, 3, 3 | B.Blodgett#, O.Komar#, R.Heil |
| Western Sandpiper: | | | |
| 4,5,9 | WBWS, Scituate, Lynn | 3, 3, 2 | J.Grugan#, D.Clapp#, R.Heil |
| 6,12,26 | P.I. | 6, 3, 2 | G.Gove#, E.Nielsen, G.Gove# |
| 11,12 | Westboro, Monomoy | 1, 2 | L.Babbitt, W.Petersen |
| Buff-breasted Sandpiper: | | | |
| 1,12+19 | <u>Newton</u> , Monomoy | 1, 1 + 1-2 | O.+ N.Komar, v.o. |
| 13,14 | <u>Rockland</u> , P.I. | 1, 1 | W.Petersen, J.McLean# |
| Marbled Godwit: | | | |
| 19 | Monomoy | 2 | v.o. |
| Hudsonian Godwit: | | | |
| thr. | P.I.-Newbypt, Monomoy | max. 6, max. 11 | v.o. |
| 4-19 | Westboro | 1 | D.Crompton# + v.o. |
| Wilson's Phalarope: | | | |
| thr.,19 | P.I., Monomoy | max. 4 9/13, 2 | v.o., W.Harrington |
| Northern Phalarope: | | | |
| 13,19 | P.I., Eastham | 1, 1 | R.Forster, D.Clapp# |
| 26 | Stellwagen | 250 | W.Petersen# |

JAEGERS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

A total of eighty-two jaegers, six Pomarine and seventy-six Parasitic, were reported from the waters off the cape. Lesser Black-backed Gulls are being increasingly

reported, particularly from Provincetown and the islands, and many birders have had their first good look at an adult bird. A first winter Mew Gull which was identified as the North American race, Larus canus brachyrhynchus, on the basis of its brownish rather than white underparts was reported from Nantucket.

Another gull highlight was the report of two individual Sabine's Gulls from Stellwagen Bank. Forster's Terns did not put in the impressive appearance that they have in some years with only thirty-two being reported. A late Arctic Tern was reported from September 12 although Bailey reports a late date of September 29 for six birds seen by Grisco. Caspian Terns were reported from P.I. and Quincy and a maximum of nine Black Skimmers provided a good show for birders at Squantum with others reported from Scituate and Monomoy. A Razorbill was reported by two groups at Stellwagen Bank.

In Rowley, a Saw-whet Owl flew into a window. The latest nighthawk report was of three individuals on the 25th. In Middleboro, a Whip-poor-will was heard calling on the 5th and another on September 12. If you would like to know when to look for Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers in the fall, the reports were concentrated within the time period of September 20 to 29. Seven Western Kingbirds from six locations were reported throughout the month. A Fork-tailed Flycatcher appeared again in the same location in Chatham as last year. Is this the same bird returning? Why not, considering the Purple Gallinule at GMNWR and other regularly recurring odd birds, e.g., the Tufted Duck in Falmouth and the European Wigeon in Cohasset in years past. An interesting question; perhaps these odd vagrants get caught up in some sort of pattern and return to a particular area, e.g., the Eurasian Curlew of Monomoy and Martha's Vineyard.

G.W.G.

| <u>SPECIES/DATE</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> | <u>NUMBER</u> | <u>OBSERVERS</u> |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Pomarine Jaeger: | | | |
| 27 | Stellw., off Monomoy, C.Cod Bay | 3, 2, 1 | B.Nikula, BBC, P.Hallowell# |
| Parasitic Jaeger: | | | |
| 3,12 | P'town, Monomoy | 3, 3 | R.Walton, W.Petersen |
| 26,27 | Stellw. | 12, 35 | W.Petersen, B.Nikula |
| 27 | off Monomoy, C.Cod Bay | 15, 8 | BBC, P.Hallowell |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull: | | | |
| 7;22-25 | Monomoy; Nantucket | 1; 1 3rd yr., 2 ad. | B.Nikula#; R.Stymeist# |
| Mew Gull: | | | |
| 28,29 | Nantucket | 1 | S.Perkins |
| Black-headed Gull: | | | |
| 12,20,25 | P.I. | 1 | v.o. |
| 19 | Hingham | 1 | SSBC |
| Laughing Gull: | | | |
| 6,12,19,20 | P.I. | 1 | v.o. |
| 1-23 | Quincy-Hingham | max. 75 | v.o. |
| 4,6 | Chatham, Monomoy | 10, 8 | J.Grugan#, BBC |
| 20,23 | Eastham, Nantucket | 20, 75 | R.Forster#, R.Stymeist# |
| Bonaparte's Gull: | | | |
| 6-25 | Newbypt | max.500 | v.o. |
| 9 | Lynn | 80 | R.Heil |
| Little Gull: | | | |
| 7-30 | Newbypt | max.9: 7 ad., 2 imm. | v.o. |
| 19 | Eastham | 1 ad. | R.Forster |
| Sabine's Gull: | | | |
| 26,27 | Stellw. | 1 imm., 1 ad. | W.Petersen#, B.Nikula# |
| Black-legged Kittiwake: | | | |
| 19,26 | Eastham, Stellw. | 2 imm., 1 | R.Forster#, W.Petersen |
| Forster's Tern: | | | |
| 13,20;26 | Newbypt; P.I. | 1, 1; 1 | R.Forster, BBC; BBC |
| 6-13 | Monomoy | max. 16 | v.o. |
| 26,28 | Chatham, Quincy | 8, 1 | R.Stymeist, S.Higginbotham |
| 23 | Nantucket | 4 | R.Stymeist |
| Common Tern: | | | |
| 6,12 | Monomoy, Newbypt | 400, 25 | BBC, E.Nielsen |
| 19,28 | Duxbury, Quincy | 20, 500+ | SSBC, S.Higginbotham |
| 1,26 | Eastham, Chatham | 3000, 1200 | B.Nikula, R.Stymeist |
| 23,27 | Nantucket, Stellwagen | 3600, 3000 | R.Stymeist, B.Nikula |
| Arctic Tern: | | | |
| 12 | Chatham, Monomoy | 1 imm. | W.Petersen# |
| Roseate Tern: | | | |
| 1,6 | Eastham, Monomoy | 2000, 25 | B.Nikula, BBC |

| <u>SPECIES/DATE</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> | <u>NUMBER</u> | <u>OBSERVERS</u> |
|--|-------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Least Tern: | | | |
| 6,12 | Monomoy | 3, 2 | BBC, W.Petersen# |
| 6,12 | P.I. | 2, 5 | BBC, E.Nielsen |
| 9 | Scituate | 3 | J.O'Regan |
| Caspian Tern: | | | |
| 9,18 | P.I., Quincy | 2, 1 | A.Blaissdell#, J.Murphy |
| Black Tern: | | | |
| 6,12 | Monomoy | 1, 2 | BBC, W.Petersen# |
| Black Skimmer: | | | |
| 1-19 | Squantum | max. 9 | v.o. |
| 5 | Scituate | 1 | D.Clapp |
| 7,19;12 | Monomoy | 2, 5; 1 imm. | W.Harrington; H.Wiggin |
| Razorbill: | | | |
| 27 | Stellwagen | 1 | P.Hallowell#, B.Nikula# |
| Black Guillemot: | | | |
| 15,18 | Annisquam | 1 | H.Wiggin |
| Mourning Dove: | | | |
| 24,26 | Nantucket, Truro | 125, 40 | R.Stymeist#, N.+ O.Komar |
| Cuckoo, sp.: | | | |
| 26 | Truro | 1 | N.+ O.Komar |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo: | | | |
| 29 | P.I., Newton | 1, 1 | W.+ B.Drummond, N.Komar |
| Black-billed Cuckoo: | | | |
| 8,29 | Salem, N.Scituate | 1, 1 | S.Higginbotham, R.Heil |
| Screech Owl: | | | |
| thr. | Newton, E.Middleboro | 6, 3 | N.+ O.Komar, K.Anderson |
| 7 | Harvard | 11 | M.Lynch + S.Carroll |
| Great Horned Owl: | | | |
| 7,24 | Ipswich | 2 imm., 1 | J.Berry |
| 7,26 | Harvard, Taunton | 2, 2 | M.Lynch#, J.Flaherty |
| Barred Owl: | | | |
| 5,26 | Littleton, Taunton | 1, 1 | J.Baird, J.Flaherty |
| Short-eared Owl: | | | |
| 6,24 | Monomoy, Nantucket | 2, 1 | BBC, R.Emery# |
| Saw-whet Owl: | | | |
| 29 | Rowley | 1 | R.+ D.Alexander |
| Whip-poor-will: | | | |
| 5,12 | E.Middleboro | 1 calling, 1 | K.Anderson, W.Petersen# |
| Common Nighthawk: | | | |
| 5,22 | Worcester | 2, 1 | D.+ V.Crompton, L.Babbitt |
| 8,13,25 | Newton | 16, 4, 3 | N.+ O.Komar |
| 7,24 | Brookline, Wellesley | 51, 1 | R.Stymeist, R.Forster |
| Chimney Swift: | | | |
| 5,20 | P.I., Newbypt | 16, 2 | BBC |
| 3,19 | Newton, Duxbury | 73, 2 | N.+ O.Komar, SSBC |
| 21 | Westboro, S.Peabody | 5, 3 | L.Babbitt, R.Heil |
| 28 | Hingham | 1 | S.Higginbotham |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird: | | | |
| 6,19 | P.I., Bridgewater | 1, 1 | BBC, SSBC |
| 7 | Harvard | 2 | M.Lynch + S.Carroll |
| Belted Kingfisher: | | | |
| thr. | Everett-Beverly (B&MRR) | max. 6 | J.Berry |
| 6,26 | P.I. | 1 m., 2 | E.Nielsen, BBC |
| 19 | Quincy - Bridgewater | 25 | SSBC (Round-up) |
| Northern Flicker: | | | |
| 24,26 | Nantucket, P.I. | 100, 35 | R.Stymeist, E.Nielsen |
| Pileated Woodpecker: | | | |
| 7,12 | Framingham, Lincoln | 1, 1 | R.Forster |
| 26 | Hamilton | 2 | J.Berry |
| Red-headed Woodpecker: | | | |
| 11 | Annisquam | 1 ad. | H.Wiggin |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: (concentrated 9/20 - 9/29) | | | |
| 20,21 | Rockport, S.Peabody | 4, 1 | P.Stangel, R.Heil |
| 26,30 | Chatham | 4, 4 | B.Nikula# |
| 26 | P.I., Worcester | 20, 1 | E.Nielsen, L.Babbitt |
| 27 | N.Scituate | 2 | N.Osborne |
| Hairy Woodpecker: | | | |
| 27 | Ipswich | 4 | J.Berry |
| Eastern Kingbird: | | | |
| 5,19 | P.I., Duxbury | 8, 1 | BBC, SSBC |
| 24,26 | Nantucket, Chatham | 6, 2 | R.Stymeist, N.+ O.Komar |

| <u>SPECIES/DATE</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> | <u>NUMBER</u> | <u>OBSERVERS</u> |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Great Crested Flycatcher: | | | |
| 13,15 | Marshfield, Salisbury | 1, 1 | SSBC, R.Heil |
| 17 | S.Peabody | 1 | R.Heil |
| Western Kingbird: | | | |
| 7;17,18 | Monomy; P.I. | 1; 2, 1 | W.Harrington#;W.+ B.Drummond,M.Purdy |
| 9,11 | Essex, Woburn | 1, 1 | H.Weissberg, G.Gove |
| 15,30 | Nantucket, Eastham | 1, 1 | E.Andrews, W.Bailey |
| Fork-tailed Flycatcher: | | | |
| 22-27 | Chatham | 1 | P.Bailey + v.o. |
| Eastern Phoebe: | | | |
| 5-29 | P.I. | max. 3 | v.o. |
| 18,21 | Belmont, Framingham | 1, 3 | L.Robinson, R.Forster |
| Empidonax sp.: | | | |
| 5,7 | P.I., Wellesley | 1, 2 | E.Nielsen, K.Winkler |
| Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: | | | |
| 4,5,17 | Needham, P.I., MBO | 1 dead, 1, 1 b. | R.Forster, BBC, T.Lloyd-Evans* |
| Eastern Wood Pewee: | | | |
| 7,15,26 | Boxford, Annisquam, Chatham | 2, 1, 1 | E.Nielsen,H.Wiggin,N.+ O.Komar |
| Olive-sided Flycatcher: | | | |
| 11,19 | Annisquam, Hingham | 1, 1 | H.Wiggin, SSBC |

SWALLOWS THROUGH WAXWINGS

Tree Swallows were still migrating in large numbers at month's end though mostly on the south shore. It was a great year for migrating Blue Jays with large flocks reported from Chatham from September 21 on. Good numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches were also recorded this fall. A Short-billed Marsh Wren (Sedge Wren) was observed at Great Meadows in Concord. The roost of American Robins continued into September.

A heavy nocturnal migration occurred the night of September 3-4 of birds flying below the cloud cover at very low altitudes as witnessed by Richard Heil of Peabody. There was a low overcast, light northeast winds, and a fine mist. Identification and numbers were estimated by distinctive call notes. The sounds of low flying Swainson's Thrushes, Veeries, Bobolinks, and warblers were constantly present during Heil's two and one-half hours of listening from 11 P.M. During any given three second period, at least five thrush call notes could be discerned. At 7:30 A.M. the next day, small numbers of Bobolinks were still flying over. R.H.S.

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Tree Swallow: | | | |
| 5,19;26 | P.I. | 400, 1000; 1 | BBC; E.Nielsen |
| 19,26 | Quincy-Plymouth, Monomy | 6840, 10,000+ | SSBC, B.Nikula# |
| 26 | Halifax-Middleboro | 10,000+ | W.Petersen |
| Bank Swallow: | | | |
| 5,7 | P.I., Wayland | 1, 1 | E.Nielsen, J.Hines |
| 13,19;25 | Marshfield, Bridgewater; P.I. | 1, 2; 1 | SSBC; R.Heil |
| Rough-winged Swallow: | | | |
| 12 | Harwich | 3 | R.Heil |
| Barn Swallow: | | | |
| 19,21 | Quincy-Plymouth, Westboro | 73, 15 | SSBC, L.Babbitt |
| 25,30 | P.I. | 50+, 2 | R.Heil, W.Petersen# |
| Cliff Swallow: | | | |
| 13-26 | P.I. | 2-3 | v.o. |
| 19,26 | S.Hanson, Halifax | 1, 1 | W.Petersen |
| Purple Martin: | | | |
| 6,12 | P.I., Newburyport | 1, 2 | E.Nielsen |
| 13 | Bridgewater | 2 yg. | B.Sorrie# |
| Blue Jay: | | | |
| 11,22 | Annisquam | 40, 191 | H.Wiggin |
| 15,27 | Boylston | 25, 30 | L.Babbitt |
| 19 | Quincy-Plymouth | 602 | SSBC (Round-up) |
| 20 | Newbypt,Weymouth;Worcester | 39, 48; 15 | BBC; L.Babbitt |
| 21,26;25 | Framingham; Newton | 128, 147; 128 | R.Forster; O.+ N.Komar |
| 21,24,26,30 | Chatham | 600+, 300+, 285+, 500+ | v.o. |
| Fish Crow: | | | |
| 14 | Framingham | 35 | B.Blodgett |
| Black-capped Chickadee: | | | |
| 19 | Quincy-Plymouth | 424 | SSBC (Round-up) |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch: | | | |
| 6,12 | P.I., Chatham | 20+, 25+ | E.Nielsen, B.Nikula |
| 13,19 | Lakeville, Quincy-Plymouth | 15, 25 | W.Petersen#, SSBC |

| <u>SPECIES/DATE</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> | <u>NUMBER</u> | <u>OBSERVERS</u> |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Red-breasted Nuthatch (continued): 21+30,23-25 | Chatham, Nantucket | 30 + 60, 70 | B.Nikula, D.Arvidson# |
| Brown Creeper: 30 | Chatham | <u>55</u> | B.Nikula |
| House Wren: 4;5 | Wayland, Weston; W.Newbury | 2, 2; 1 | J.Hines; BBC |
| 18,28 | Weston, Wayland | 3, 1 | J.Hines |
| Long-billed Marsh Wren: 19 | GMNWR, Marshfield | 5, 3 | J.Hines, SSBC |
| 19,20 | Duxbury, Newton | 3, 1 | SSBC, N.+ O.Komar |
| 26 | W.Harvich | 2 | J.Hines |
| Sedge Wren (Short-billed Marsh Wren): 6 | Concord (GMNWR) | 1 | R.Forster |
| Gray Catbird: 5+13,5 | Newton, P.I. | 25 + 26, 36 | N.+ O.Komar, BBC |
| Brown Thrasher: 5,7 | Newton, P.I. | 5, 5 | N.+ O.Komar, E.Nielsen |
| American Robin: 9 | Woburn | 3118 | L.Taylor# |
| | | See comment elsewhere in this issue. | |
| Wood Thrush: 6+13,16 | Newton, Needham (TV tower) | 1 + 3, 3 dead | N.+ O.Komar, R.Forster |
| 18+20,26 | Weston, P.I. | .1 + 1, 4 | J.Hines, BBC (G.Gove) |
| Hermit Thrush: 8, 27 | Salem, P.I. | 1, 2 | R.Heil, v.o. |
| Swainson's Thrush: 3-4 | S.Peabody | <u>600+</u> | R.Heil |
| 16 | Needham (TV tower) | 3 dead | R.Forster |
| 26,27 | P.I., Chatham | 3, 1 | E.Nielsen |
| 27,30 | Boylston, Weston | 1, 2 | L.Babbitt, J.Hines |
| Gray-cheeked Thrush: 5,15 | Worcester, Boylston | 1, 1 | D.Crompton, L.Babbitt |
| 3-4 | S.Peabody | 12 | R.Heil |
| Veery: 3-4 | S.Peabody | 250+ | R.Heil |
| 4,16 | Needham (TV tower) | 12 dead, 4 dead | R.Forster |
| 26,29 | Chatham, N.Scituate | 1, 1 | R.Stymeist#, W.Petersen |
| Eastern Bluebird: 12,28 | Orleans, Hingham | 1, 9 m. | H.Coolidge#, S.Higginbotham |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 4,26 | MNWS, Chatham | 1, 2 | R.Heil, R.Stymeist# |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet: 26 | Framingham, P.I. | 3, 15 | R.Forster, E.Nielsen |
| 29,30 | Newton, Weston | 2, 3 | N.Komar, J.Hines |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 18,22 | Wayland, Newton | 1, 1 | J.Hines, N.+ O.Komar |
| 26;30 | Framingham, P.I.; Chatham | 4, 10; 40 | R.Forster, E.Nielsen; B.Nikula |
| Water Pipit: 12,13 | Monomoy, P.I. | 1, 1 | H.Coolidge#, R.Forster |
| 21;25 | Westboro; P.I., Newton | 6; 13, 1 | L.Babbitt; R.Heil, O.Komar |
| Cedar Waxwing: 5,6 | P.I., Newton | 24, 24 | BBC, N.+ O.Komar |
| 19,20 | Plymouth, Wayland | 55, 20 | SSBC, J.Hines |
| 22,26 | Belmont, P.I. | 23, 30 | L.Robinson, BBC |

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS

Peak movements in the passerine migration occurred on September 4, 15, 17, 21, and especially September 26. The month's total complement of Solitary Vireo observations (eight individuals) occurred on that day as did some high counts of certain warbler species in Chatham. These included twenty Nashville Warblers and forty Black-throated Greens. Other high single-day counts during the last part of the month were of Black-poll Warblers with eighty in South Peabody on the 21st and 118 in Newton on the 29th. Yellow-breasted Chats were well represented both in numbers and distribution. The banding nets on Nantucket turned up twenty chats on the 15th, a number remarkable to those of us who study birds solely with optical aids! Yellow Warblers departed early this year as usual with September's only significant count of ten individuals on Plum Island occurring on September 5.

A careful and methodical census of warblers in the Wayland-Weston area was conducted by

John Hines. The same mile-long country route was covered on foot for about three hours on each of eighteen mornings throughout September. The census results are given below.

| Species | Number of "bird-days" | Percent of total "bird-days" | Maximum single-day count | Number of days observed |
|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Common Yellowthroat | 46 | 15.1 | 11 | 14 |
| American Redstart | 34 | 11.1 | 13 | 12 |
| Blackpoll | 33 | 10.8 | 12 | 8 |
| Tennessee | 27 | 8.9 | 5 | 13 |
| Black-throated Blue | 22 | 7.2 | 5 | 11 |
| Black-and-white | 18 | 5.9 | 5 | 10 |
| Nashville | 18 | 5.9 | 3 | 10 |
| Magnolia: | 16 | 5.2 | 3 | 10 |
| Yellow-rumped | 16 | 5.2 | 12 | 2 |
| Black-throated Green | 16 | 5.2 | 3 | 10 |
| Northern Parula | 15 | 4.9 | 3 | 8 |
| Cape May | 13 | 4.3 | 6 | 4 |
| Bay-breasted | 7 | 2.3 | 2 | 6 |
| Chestnut-sided | 4 | 1.3 | 2 | 3 |
| Northern Waterthrush | 4 | 1.3 |] | 4 |
| Canada | 4 | 1.3 | 2 | 2 |
| Blackburnian | 3 | 1.0 | 2 | 2 |
| Ovenbird | 3 | 1.0 | 1 | 3 |
| Wilson's | 3 | 1.0 | 1 | 3 |
| Blue-winged | 2 | 0.7 | 1 | 2 |
| Prairie | 1 | 0.3 | 1 | 1 |
| Total "bird-days": | 305 | | | |

Note that the counts are in "bird-days" and therefore do not necessarily represent the actual number of individuals present; e.g., a single bird which lingered and was observed on three days would contribute three bird-days. For a report of a similar spring warbler census by several observers, see the April 1981 issue of Bird Observer.

September warbler rarities included a Kentucky at Chatham on the 7th and a Yellow-throated at Nantucket on the 21st. Last year's single fall Yellow-throated Warbler occurred under identical circumstances but two weeks earlier. Significant mortality of night-time passerine migrants, especially warblers, occurred due to collisions with the guy wires of a television antenna tower in Needham on September 4 and 16. Some of the numbers are included in the records below, and further details are given in the November 1981 issue of the M.A.S. bulletin, Sanctuary (Vol. 21, no. 3). L.E.T.

| SPECIES/DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| White-eyed Vireo: | | | |
| 12,13 | Monomoy, Scituate | 1, 5 | W.Petersen#, SSBC |
| Yellow-throated Vireo: | | | |
| 7,10 | Harvard, Chatham | 3, 1 | M.Lynch#, B.Nikula |
| 13,22 | P.I. | 1, 1 | P.Parsons#, W.Drummond# |
| Solitary Vireo: | | | |
| 26 | P.I., Chatham, Lexington | 3, 4, 1 | E.Nielsen, v.o., J.Andrews |
| Red-eyed Vireo: | | | |
| 4,16 | Needham (TV tower) | 4 + 1 dead | R.Forster |
| 12 | Chatham | 30 | R.Heil |
| 5-26,26 | P.I., Chatham | 16 max., 10 | v.o., M.Greenwalt# |
| Philadelphia Vireo: | | | |
| 5-7,7 | P.I., Harvard | 3, 2 | v.o., S.Carroll |
| 12,13 | Chatham | 5, 8 | B.Nikula# |
| 21,22 | Newton, Worcester | 1, 1 | N.+ O.Komar, L.Babbitt |
| 26 | Chatham | 2 | v.o. |
| Warbling Vireo: | | | |
| 5,7 | W.Newbury, Harvard | 1, 4 | BBC, M.Lynch# |
| 10-26,13 | Chatham, Scituate | 1, 1 | v.o., W.Petersen# |
| Black-and-white Warbler: | | | |
| 4,16 | Needham (TV tower) | 15 + 6 dead | R.Forster |
| 6,12 | P.I., MNWS | 3, 3 | E.Nielsen, BBC |
| 25,26 | Boston, Chatham | 2, 1 | J.Grugan, M.Greenwalt# |
| Prothonotary Warbler: | | | |
| 10,18 | Chatham, Annisquam | 1 m., 1 | M.Carlton, H.Wiggin |
| 27 | Scituate | 1 | N.Osborne# |
| Worm-eating Warbler: | | | |
| 12 | Mattapoissett | 1 | G.Mock |

| <u>SPECIES/DATE</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> | <u>NUMBER</u> | <u>OBSERVERS</u> |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Golden-winged Warbler: | | | |
| 12,25;27 | Chatham; Rockport | 1, 1; 1 | R.Heil, B.Nikula; P.Stangel |
| 13 | P'town (Beech F.), Hingham (World's End) | 1, 1 m. br. | pl. D.Brown, N.Osborne |
| 14,18 | MBO, Weymouth (Wompatuck Pk.) | 1 b., 1 | T.Lloyd-Evans, R.Campbell |
| Blue-winged Warbler: | | | |
| 15,27-28 | Salisbury, P.I. | 1, 1 | R.Heil, v.o. |
| Tennessee Warbler: | | | |
| 5,26 | P.I., Chatham | 2, 1 | BBC, N.Komar# |
| Orange-crowned Warbler: | | | |
| 15,29 | Nantucket, Scituate | 1, 1 | L.Jodrey#, S.+R.Higginbotham |
| 30 | MBO | 1 b. (repeat) | J.Carter |
| Nashville Warbler: | | | |
| 5,26 | P.I. | 1, 1 | BBC, E.Nielsen |
| 26,17 | Chatham, S.Peabody | <u>20</u> , 8+ | B.Nikula#, R.Heil |
| Parula Warbler: | | | |
| 5-26 | P.I. | 4 ind. | v.o. |
| 22,27 | Cambridge, Lexington | 2, 1 singing | F.Bouchard, J.Andrews |
| Yellow Warbler: | | | |
| 4,5 | Needham, P.I. | 1 dead, 10 | R.Forster, BBC |
| 7,19 | Ipswich, P.I. | 1, 1 | BBC, E.Nielsen |
| Magnolia Warbler: | | | |
| 6,16 | P.I., Needham (TV tower) | 4, 2 dead | E.Nielsen, R.Forster |
| 28,29 | Hingham, N.Scituate | 1, 2 | S.+ R.Higginbotham |
| Cape May Warbler: | | | |
| 6,7;11 | P.I.; Annisquam | 4, 7; 10 | E.Nielsen; H.Wiggin |
| 26,29 | Chatham, N.Scituate | 4, 4 | O.Komar#, S.+ R.Higginbotham |
| Black-throated Blue Warbler: | | | |
| 6,8 | P.I., MBO | 1, 1 | E.Nielsen#, K.Anderson |
| 26 | Chatham, P.I. | 4, 4 m. | M.Greenwald#, E.Nielsen |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler: | | | |
| 5,6 | P.I., Concord | 1, 1 | BBC, R.Forster |
| 11,21 | S.Hanson, Westboro | 5, 20 | W.Petersen, L.Babbitt |
| 26,30 | Truro, P.I. | 25, 100 | O.Komar#, R.Emery# |
| Black-throated Green Warbler: | | | |
| 13,26 | Lakeville, P.I. | 3, 4 | W.Petersen#, BBC |
| 26,30 | Chatham | <u>40</u> , 20 | B.Nikula# |
| Blackburnian Warbler: | | | |
| 5,22 | P.I., Worcester | 1, 1 | BBC, L.Babbitt |
| 30 | Lynn, Rockport | 1, 2 | C.Blasczak, P.Stangel |
| Yellow-throated Warbler: | | | |
| 21 | Nantucket | 1 | R.Veit# |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler: | | | |
| 12,13 | Monomoy, Scituate | 2, 1 | W.Petersen, SSBC |
| 12 | Chatham | 5 | R.Heil |
| Bay-breasted Warbler: | | | |
| 4,5-12 | Needham (TV tower), P.I. | 1 dead, 2 max. | R.Forster, v.o. |
| 12,26 | Hamilton, P.I. | 1, 6 | J.Berry, BBC |
| 27,29 | Chatham, N.Scituate | 2, 1 m. | E.Nielsen, S.+R.Higginbotham |
| Blackpoll Warbler: | | | |
| 4,6-30 | Needham (TV tower), P.I. | 2 dead, 5 total | R.Forster, v.o. |
| 26,21 | Hamilton, S.Peabody | 5, <u>80</u> | J.Berry, R.Heil |
| 29 | Newton | <u>118</u> | O.Komar# |
| Pine Warbler: | | | |
| 13 | Townsend, Lakeville | 8 m., 2 | B.Drummond#, W.Petersen |
| 19,27 | S.Wellfleet, Chatham | 8, 1 | R.Forster, E.Nielsen |
| Prairie Warbler: | | | |
| 7,11 | Truro, Annisquam | 1, 1 | J.Grugan, H.Wiggin |
| 22,26 | Cambridge, Truro | 1, 1 | F.Bouchard, M.Greenwald# |
| Palm Warbler: | | | |
| 12,13 | P.I., Littleton | 1, 1 | E.Nielsen, J.Baird |
| 26,29 | Truro, N.Scituate | 12, 6 | O.Komar#, S.+ R.Higginbotham |
| Ovenbird: | | | |
| 4,16 | Needham (TV tower) | 12 + 9 dead | R.Forster |
| 4-28,18 | Newton, Brookline | 6 ind., 2 | N.+ O.Komar, D.Arvidson# |
| 26 | P.I. | 3 | E.Nielsen |
| Northern Waterthrush: | | | |
| 4+16 | Needham (TV tower) | 6 + 3 dead | R.Forster |
| 7-18 | 5 loc. | 5 ind. | v.o. |
| 22,27 | Belmont, Scituate | 1, 1 | L.Robinson, W.Petersen |

| <u>SPECIES/DATE</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> | <u>NUMBER</u> | <u>OBSERVERS</u> |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Kentucky Warbler: | | | |
| 7 | Chatham | 1 | B.Nikula |
| Connecticut Warbler: | | | |
| 6,13-17 | Framingham, various loc. | 1, 6 ind. | R.Forster, v.o. |
| 20,21 | Newton, S.Peabody | 2, 1 | N.+ O.Komar, R.Heil |
| Mourning Warbler: | | | |
| thr. | 5 loc. | 6 ind. | v.o. |
| 10,18 | Chatham, MBO | 2, 2 | B.Nikula#, T.Lloyd-Evans# |
| 8-17 | S.Peabody - Salem | 5 (3 max. 9/17) | R.Heil |
| Common Yellowthroat: | | | |
| 4+16 | Needham (TV tower) | 1 + 32 dead | R.Forster |
| 17,26 | S.Peabody, Truro | 65+, 5 | R.Heil, O.Komar# |
| Yellow-breasted Chat: | | | |
| thr.,12 | 8 loc., P.I. | 16 ind., 2 | v.o., BBC |
| thr.,21 | Nantucket | 20 b., 2 | E.Andrews, G.Soucy |
| Hooded Warbler: | | | |
| 7,13 | Annisquam, Salisbury | 1, 1 | H.Wiggin, R.Veit |
| 14 | MBO | 1 b. | T.Lloyd-Evans |
| Wilson's Warbler: | | | |
| 5-12,12 | P.I., Chatham | 4 max., 6 | v.o., W.Petersen# |
| 13,15 | Scituate, Salisbury | 6, 10 | SSBC, R.Heil |
| 26,29 | Truro, Scituate | 2, 2 | N.Komar#, W.Petersen |
| Canada Warbler: | | | |
| 5,12 | P.I., Monomoy | 1, 2 | BBC, W.Petersen# |
| 17,28 | S.Peabody, Newton | 5, 1 | R.Heil, N.+ O.Komar |
| American Redstart: | | | |
| 4+16 | Needham (TV tower) | 27 + 2 dead | R.Forster |
| 4 | MNWS, Nahant; Newton | 45, 30; 27 | R.Heil, N.+ O.Komar |
| 26 | P.I. | 5 | E.Nielsen |

BOBOLINKS THROUGH LONGSPURS

Bobolinks were observed in good numbers during the migration wave of September 4-5 with a notable count of over 1100 in Newton. At southeastern Massachusetts coastal sites, Blue Grosbeak counts were above average. A maximum of eleven individuals was seen at the usual Corn Hill, Truro location during the last week of the month. Several early September reports of Evening Grosbeaks may have been the first indication that we are about to be treated to a good finch winter.

L.E.T.

Bobolink:

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 2,4 | Spencer, S.Peabody | 50, 500+ | D.+ C.Crompton, R.Heil |
| 5,24 | Newton, Nantucket | <u>1134</u> , 55+ | N.+ O.Komar, R.Stymeist |
| Eastern Meadowlark: | | | |
| 5,26 | Newbypt | 4, 5 | BBC, E.Nielsen |
| Yellow-headed Blackbird: | | | |
| 10,12 | Chatham, Eastham | 1, 1 | H.Rich#, R.Heil# |
| Redwinged Blackbird: | | | |
| 3,19 | Newton, GMNWR | 54, 50 | N.+ O.Komar, BBC |
| 30 | Rowley | 100 | D.Alexander# |
| Northern Oriole: | | | |
| 6,12 | P.I., Chatham | 5, 15+ | E.Nielsen, R.Heil |
| 18,26 | Annisquam, Chatham | 1, 2 | H.Wiggin, N.Komar# |
| Rusty Blackbird: | | | |
| 19 | GMNWR, Rockport | 3, 2 | G.Gove, P.Stangel |
| 26,30 | Chatham, Rockport | 3, 2 | R.Stymeist#, P.Stangel |
| Common Grackle: | | | |
| 7,19 | Ipswich, south shore | 500, 2311 | J.Berry, SSBC |
| 28 | Newton | 860 | N.+ O.Komar |
| Brown-headed Cowbird: | | | |
| 7,26 | Ipswich, Hamilton | 20+, 150 | BBC, J.Berry |
| Scarlet Tanager: | | | |
| 5,24 | P.I., Stoneham | 1, 6 | BBC, B.Hartnett |
| 25,26-30 | Nantucket, Salem | 6, 3 | R.Stymeist#, C.Blaszczak |
| Summer Tanager: | | | |
| 30 | Chatham | 1 | B.Nikula |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak: | | | |
| 4,16 | Newton, Needham (TV tower) | 6, 3 dead | N.+ O.Komar, R.Forster |
| 8,11-13 | S.Peabody, Woburn | 21, 8 | R.Heil, G.Gove |
| 21,25 | S.Peabody; Nantucket | 12, 15 | R.Heil, R.Stymeist# |

| <u>SPECIES/DATE</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> | <u>NUMBER</u> | <u>OBSERVERS</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Blue Grosbeak: | | | |
| 20-26,15-25 | Truro, Nantucket | 11 max., 8 max. | v.o. |
| 21,26 | Newton, Harwich | 1, 2 | N.+ O.Komar, B.Nikula# |
| Indigo Bunting: | | | |
| 13,20 | Halifax, Lexington | 10, 4 | W.Petersen, J.Andrews |
| 26 | Truro | 7 | O.Komar# |
| Dickcissel: | | | |
| 15-25,15 | Nantucket, Salisbury | 1, 2 | v.o., R.Veit |
| 26 | Chatham, Framingham | 1, 1 | R.Veit#, R.Forster |
| 20,27 | Truro | 2, 1 | R.Forster, B.Nikula# |
| Evening Grosbeak: | | | |
| 6,11 | P.I., Whitman | 10, 3 | R.Heil, W.Petersen |
| 26 | Hamilton | 2 | J.Berry |
| Purple Finch: | | | |
| 10,21 | Newton | 28, 35 | N.+ O.Komar |
| 6,19 | P.I., south shore | 20, 107 | BBC, SSBC |
| 26 | Chatham, Truro | 25, 20 | N.Komar#, M.Greenwald# |
| Rufous-sided Towhee: | | | |
| 7-26 | P.I. | 40 max. | v.o. |
| Savannah Sparrow: | | | |
| 5,6 | P.I., Monomoy | 12, 10 | E.Nielsen, BBC |
| 10,26 | Newton, Concord | 33, 150+ | N.+ O.Komar, R.Walton |
| 15 | Salisbury | 110+ | R.Heil |
| Grasshopper Sparrow: | | | |
| 15,29 | Nantucket, Framingham | 1, 1 | L.Jodrey#, R.Forster |
| Sharp-tailed Sparrow: | | | |
| 7,26 | Newburyport | 25, 30 | E.Nielsen |
| 12,19 | Monomoy, Duxbury | 15+, 10 | W.Petersen# |
| Seaside Sparrow: | | | |
| 5-7 | Concord GMNWR | 1 imm. | R.Walton + v.o. |
| | | See comment elsewhere in this issue. | |
| Vesper Sparrow: | | | |
| 19 | S.Wellfleet, Boston (Moon I.) | 8, 1 | R.Forster, R.Stymeist |
| Lark Sparrow: | | | |
| 15 | Nantucket | 1 | G.Soucy, L.Jodrey |
| 19+20 | Nantucket | 2 | R.Veit |
| Dark-eyed Junco: | | | |
| 26 | P.I. | 35 | G.Gove |
| Chipping Sparrow: | | | |
| 15,20;26 | Boylston, Worcester; P.I. | 25, 30; 30+ | L.Babbitt; E.Nielsen |
| Clay-colored Sparrow: | | | |
| 26 | Harwich | 1 | B.Nikula |
| White-crowned Sparrow: | | | |
| 19,22 | Hingham, Cambridge | 2, 3 | SSBC, F.Bouchard |
| 25+26,26 | Framingham, Chatham | 1 imm. + 1 ad., 1 | R.Forster, R.Stymeist |
| White-throated Sparrow: | | | |
| 26 | Hamilton, P.I. | 20+, 30+ | J.Berry, E.Nielsen |
| Lincoln's Sparrow: | | | |
| 17,21 | S.Peabody | 17+, 11+ | R.Heil |
| 28,30 | W.Newbury, Lexington | 1, 1 | D.Arvidson#, I.Taylor |
| Lapland Longspur: | | | |
| 15+30,27 | Salisbury, Scituate | 1 + 1, 1 | R.Heil+R.Forster#, W.Petersen# |

CORRIGENDA

Field Records: July 1981

Cliff Swallow:

26 Middleboro 200+ E.Akers
should be deleted.

ADDENDA

Field Records: July 1981

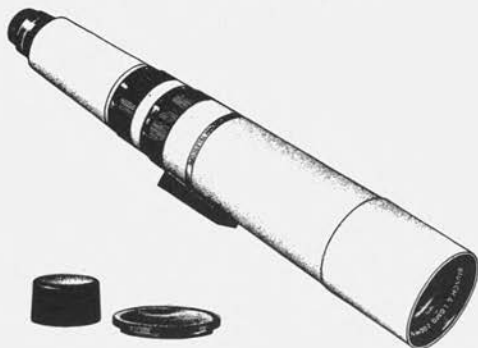
Purple Martin:

4,6 Lakeville, P.I. 20+ pair, 25 W.Petersen#, BBC
26 P.I., Middleboro 146, 200+ R.Stymeist, E.Akers

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| Newton | The Mall at Chestnut Hill | 244-2366 |

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INLAND RECORD OF SEASIDE SPARROW

by Richard Walton, Concord

On September 5, 1981, the writer observed an immature Seaside Sparrow (Ammodramos maritima) at the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge in Concord. The bird remained at the Meadows (on the west end of the main dike) until at least September 7, where it was closely observed and photographed by several individuals. Because of this species' normally restricted habitat, I was prompted to review the literature and publish this note.

The Seaside Sparrow is a bird of the coastal salt marshes. Its status as a breeding bird in Massachusetts has been confirmed at Allen's Pond, Barnstable, Monomoy, and the Parker River marshes. The species' affinity for and restriction to this particular habitat has been noted by various authors. G. E. Woolfenden (1968) in his description in Bent states: "Confined as it is to the salt marshes of the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of North America, the seaside sparrow is by far the most maritime in distribution of all our land birds." (p. 820)

J. Bull (1964) describes the Seaside Sparrow as "confined to the coast (and) casual away from its saline environment." Extralimital records reported by Bull are as follows: "Cruickshank (1942) knew of a single observation at Van Cortland Park in late April, and Carleton (1958) listed only three sight reports from Central Park and one from Prospect Park, all in May.... Fisher collected one at the mouth of the Croton River, N.Y., Oct. 2, 1885, specimen in M.C.Z. collection, the farthest inland report known for our area" (Bull, 1964).

Woolfenden's (1968) study of a colony of Seaside Sparrows in New Jersey led him to conclude that the "population is essentially migratory." This is most likely the case for a majority of the Massachusetts birds. Manomet Bird Observatory banding data attest to the spring and fall movement of this species - seven spring records (4/29 - 6/9) and eight fall records (8/13 - 9/30).

There are, however, many state records for wintering Seaside Sparrows. Griscom and Snyder (1955) published reports of this species "wintering regularly at Barnstable" as early as 1898. Contemporary records establish a fairly regular pattern of winter residency - American Birds, Christmas Bird Counts: Cape Cod - 1980 (4), Newburyport - 1979 (3), Cape Cod - 1977 (1), 1976 (11), and 1975 (8).

The weather pattern of the period preceding the Concord sighting is significant. During the first five days of September the wind direction was east and northeast, averaging at least ten miles per hour. Fog was recorded on the first through fourth with a trace of precipitation on

the second and third. This pattern seems conducive to dislocation from the coast, inland. Independent observations indicating a major migratory movement on the night of September 3-4 raise the possibility that this sparrow may have arrived at the Great Meadows on the fourth. A heavy audio-count was made during this time period in the Newbury vicinity, and a tower kill in Needham yielded a count of 87 birds on the morning of September 4.

The immature Seaside Sparrow at the Meadows was an overall dusky brown with a grayer ground color to the chest and belly. No contrast was evident between the upper tail feathers, rump, and back. The flanks, chest, and cheek areas displayed fine streaking with a pectoral line of demarcation. The malar region showed the characteristic, strong jaw line. No yellow was apparent at either the bend of the wings or at the lores. The latter area was, however, distinctively buff-gray. The legs seemed long relative to overall body size, and the bill was elongate and somewhat conical.

This individual spent a good deal of time walking on the dike while foraging, with success, for insects (larvae?). During the first day of observation, I approached to within three feet of the bird on several occasions. By the third day (September 7) the sparrow was much less approachable and would make short flights (20 - 40 feet) back into the cover of Cattail (Typha latifolia) and Buttonbush (Cephalanthus occidentalis).

Although the occurrence of Seaside Sparrow at this inland location is unusual, the time of year and concurrent weather pattern provide at least a partial explanation for this record.

Acknowledgment

I would like to thank Richard Forster for his help with this article.

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- . 1974. Birds of New York State, Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday/Natural History Press.
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- Woolfenden, G.E. 1968. "Northern Seaside Sparrow," in A.C. Bent, Life Histories of North American Cardinals, Grosbeaks, Buntings, Towhees, Finches, Sparrows, and Allies (Part Two), New York, Dover.

RICHARD WALTON is a teacher in Concord, Mass., and has a special interest in birds, as well as in the ornithological history of the Sudbury River Valley.

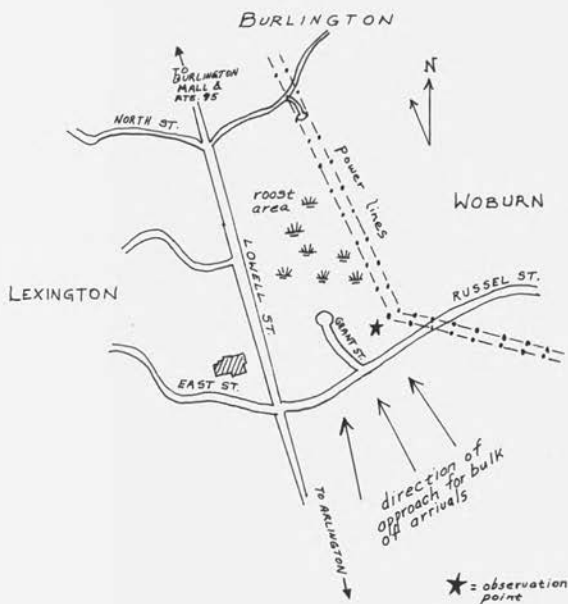
A POST-BREEDING ROOST OF AMERICAN ROBINS

by John W. Andrews, Lexington

In mid-July of last summer (1981) I began to notice that just before sunset flocks of birds would pass over my house, all flying in a northerly direction. Initially, the flocks were mostly Common Grackles (Quiscalus quiscula), but in August American Robins (Turdus migratorius) began to dominate. One evening over 600 robins passed in a 25-minute period. As they flew, the robins frequently emitted the special call that is given while the birds are in flight to their communal roosts. (In his Guide to the Behavior of Common Birds, Don Stokes compares this call to that of the Cedar Waxwing (Bombycilla cedrorum), "a high thin eeee".) This call, together with the day-to-day regularity of the movement, left little doubt that I was observing a well-established roosting flight.

By following the flight line by automobile, I was able to determine that the birds were flying to a site on the Woburn/Lexington town lines, some two miles north of my house. The roost site was in a deciduous swamp located just north of Russell Street in Woburn and just west of the power lines into Burlington. (see map.)

On August 26 a small group of interested birders assembled at the site with the intention of counting the birds as they entered the roost. The principal observation spot was a ballfield located on the southeast side of the roost. We waited for several minutes without seeing a single robin. Then, with impressive suddenness, the



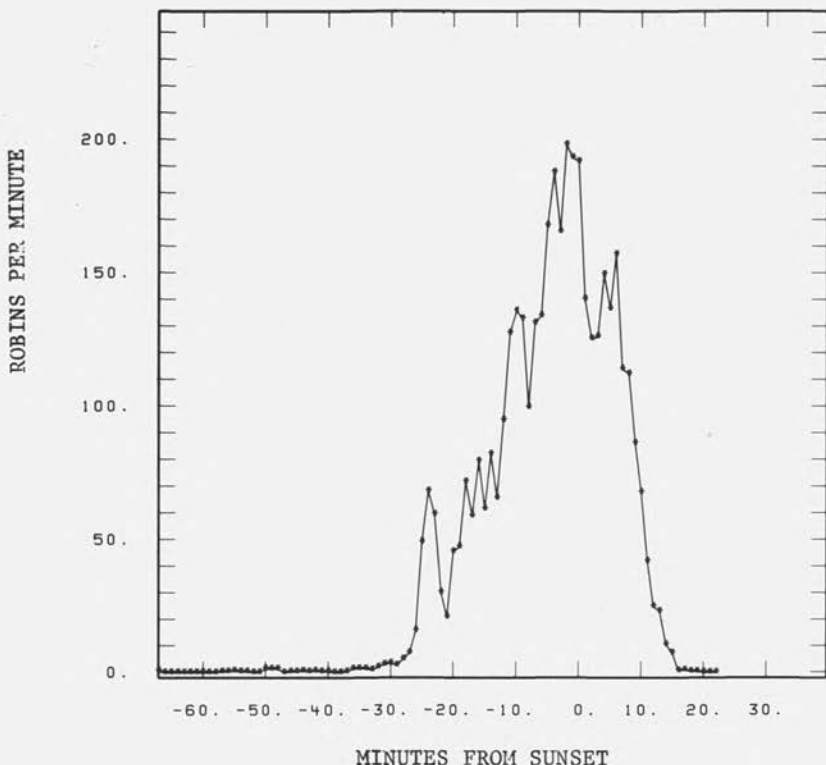


Figure 1 . Rate at which birds entered roost on August 26.

flight began. Flocks of a few dozen birds began to appear from the southeast. Soon there was an almost continual stream of robins - all heading toward the roost site. At its peak about 200 birds per minute were passing over the ballfield.

Figure 1 provides a plot of the rate at which the birds entered the roost.[⊗] It can be seen that the flight took place over a 45-minute period, beginning about 30 minutes before sunset and ending about 15 minutes after sunset. The peak of the flight occurred in the 10 minutes preceding sunset. During the last 10 minutes, the birds flew at very low altitudes - often less than 15 feet above the ground. These late arrivals tended to alight in the shrubs and smaller trees near the periphery of the roost

[⊗]For plotting purposes the actual data recorded in the field were smoothed by averaging the count for each minute with the counts for the preceding and following minute. This reduced spurious peaks caused by irregularities in the counting intervals.

area rather than flying farther to the larger trees in the center.

In total, over 4,100 robins were counted from the ball-field. Only a very small number of grackles were observed entering the roost area. Spot checks on other sides of the roost area revealed less than 20 birds/minute entering from those directions. Hence it appears that more than 75 per cent of the birds came from the south-southeast. This would imply that the total size of the roost was about 5,500 birds.

A second set of data was collected on September 9. Some 3,800 birds were counted then with a peak rate of approximately 150 birds/minute. The plot of the arrivals was remarkably similar in timing and shape to that of August 26 (although there seemed to be a more extended "leading edge" due to small numbers of birds arriving before the main flight).

A limited number of reports have suggested that the flight lines for this roost may have extended many miles (robins in Concord and Framingham were observed flying toward this roost at sundown).

On the face of it, this roosting behavior appears to be a ridiculous waste of energy. Why should a robin fly miles every day just to find a tree in which to spend the night? There must be some compelling evolutionary advantage to such behavior. It has been theorized that such flocking reduces predator pressure or allows birds to assist each other in finding food. It would be very interesting to find out just how far the flight lines extend. It would also be interesting to determine whether such large roosts form each year, how many roosts form in the Greater Boston area, and whether the same sites are used year after year.

Acknowledgment

These data were collected with the assistance of Jim Barton, Josette Carter, George Gove, Craig Jackson, Martha Reinstein, Bob Stymeist, and Lee Taylor.

JOHN W. ANDREWS, a Lexington resident for three years, is president of Citizens for Lexington Conservation and an associate member of the Lexington Conservation Commission. A research engineer at M.I.T., John is in the process of forming the Committee for Special Field Studies under the auspices of Bird Observer.



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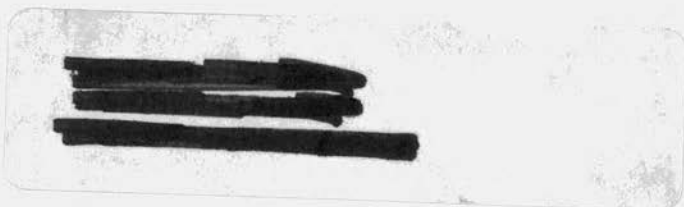
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