

BIRD OBSERVER



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Manuscripts should be typed double-spaced on one side only of 8.5 x 11 inch paper with 1.5 inch margins all around. There is no limit on the length of manuscripts, but most do not exceed 10 double-spaced typewritten pages (about 3000 words). Use the 1983 A.O.U. Check-List for bird names and sequence. Type tables on separate pages. Black-and-white photographs and graphics are best. Include author's or artist's name, address, and telephone number and information from which a brief biography can be prepared if needed. Views expressed in *BIRD OBSERVER* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect an official position of Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts, Inc.

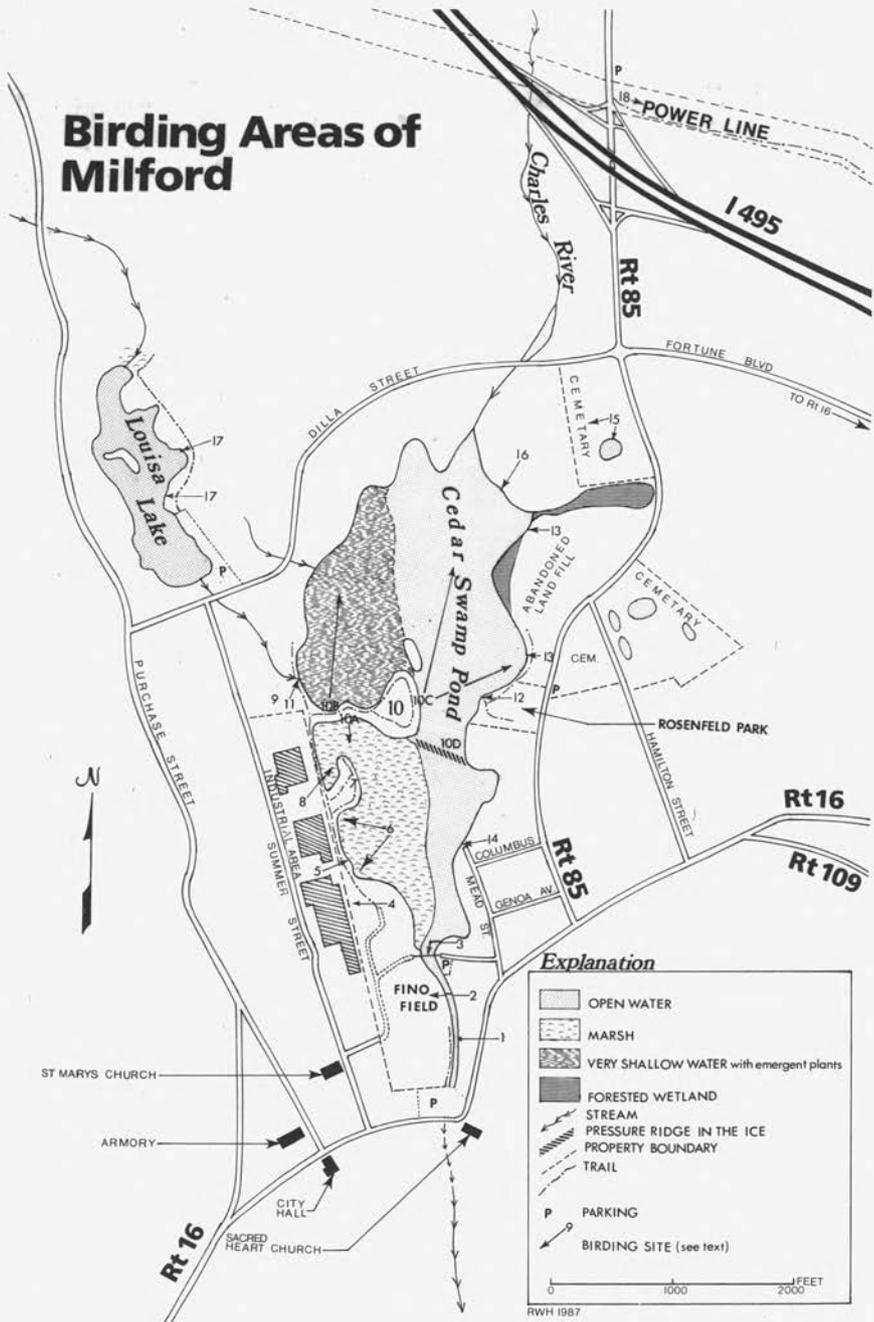
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VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR WHIP-POOR-WILL COUNT

Glenn d'Entremont and Bob Campbell will coordinate a count of Whip-poor-wills in the Myles Standish Forest in Plymouth during the month of June and are looking for volunteers. At present they are doing weekly counts along a seven-mile route but would like to make one complete count of the entire park. If you are interested, please contact Glenn at 617-961-2616 (Randolph) or Bob at 617-335-5709 (Weymouth) by June 1, 1989.

Birding Areas of Milford



BIRDING AREAS OF MILFORD

by Richard W. Hildreth

Within a mile and a half of downtown Milford (Worcester County) are three productive and accessible birding sites. These are Cedar Swamp Pond, Louisa Lake, and the power line east of Route 85. In almost any season, except the dead of winter, a half day of careful birding at these sites will result in a respectable list of species. To get to this area from the north via Route 495, take the Route 85 (Milford) exit. From east or west, follow Route 16. See the map for local details. The numbers on the map refer to the locations so numbered in the text.

Cedar Swamp Pond is a shallow impounded pond in Milford on the upper reaches of the Charles River Valley. This was formerly an Atlantic white cedar (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*) swamp that was in great part destroyed by the creation of a large municipal landfill, now abandoned. Few cedars are present today.

Because the chief attraction of the west side of the pond is marsh birds and waterfowl, an early start in the birding day is essential, just before dawn if possible. Park in the lot on Route 16 across from the Sacred Heart Church. Look for House Finches around the edges of the lot. Then follow the trail (1) north along the Charles River.

This section of the river does not freeze in winter, so it is a good location for ducks. Also in winter, American Goldfinches, House Finches, and sometimes Common Redpolls can be found feeding on alder along the river. Song Sparrows breed here, and some linger through the winter. American Robins, Gray Catbirds, and Northern Mockingbirds are common. A Gray-checked Thrush has been observed here during spring migration.

The open grassy areas of **Fino Field (2)** should be checked for Killdeers, American Robins, and Chipping Sparrows. A Black-crowned Night-Heron was once observed before dawn feeding in the field.

A foot bridge across the **Cedar Swamp Pond dam (3)** makes a good vantage point to view a major section of the pond to the north and a section of the river below the dam to the south. During the warmer months Wood Ducks, Mallards, American Black Ducks, and Common Moorhens can usually be seen. In winter, Mallards, American Black Ducks, and sometimes, Canada Geese are seen below the dam. In the spring and fall waterfowl season, a good variety of ducks can sometimes be viewed quite close up just above the dam.

Along the road (4) north from Fino Field are an abandoned railroad grade and industrial buildings to the west. The area along the railroad is overgrown with weeds and shrubs. This is a good site to search for sparrows during fall

migration. American Kestrels, Mourning Doves, American Robins, Common Yellowthroats, and Northern Orioles are regular inhabitants of this area.

Along the edge of the marsh (5), the shrubs and a stand of Japanese knotweed should be checked for Yellow Warblers, Common Yellowthroats, Song Sparrows, and Swamp Sparrows.

There are good places (6) along the marsh and at Overlook Point (7) from which to view the area and the small ponds (8) where the following species can be found in the appropriate season: American Bittern (spring), Least Bittern, Wood Duck, American Black Duck, Mallard, Northern Harrier (winter), King Rail (seen in 1987 and 1988), Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, Killdeer, Common Nighthawk (spring), Chimney Swift, Tree and Barn swallows, Red-winged Blackbird, Rusty Blackbird (spring and fall), and Common Grackle. There is a stand of Russian olive near the road at Overlook Point that, when fruiting, attracts robins, catbirds, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Cedar Waxwings, and inevitably, starlings. The small ponds attract Solitary Sandpipers in the spring and are good sites for close views of Virginia and Sora rails.

An open upland shrubby area (9) provides a habitat where Rufous-sided Towhees, Brown Thrashers, Northern Mockingbirds, and Chipping Sparrows can be found.

The Island (10) is an elevated tract of land surrounded by the marsh-pond with a narrow neck of land connecting it to the western shore. A large number of species have been seen on or from the island. The neck of land provides on the south side (10A) close-up views of species in the marsh. To the north (10B) is a section of the pond with shallow water and many emergent plants but not quite a true marsh. This is a good spot for ducks, as well as Pied-billed Grebes, Common Moorhens, and American Coots (fall). In summer, Eastern Kingbirds hawk for insects over the water. To the north and northeast of the island (10C) can be seen Pied-billed Grebes, Great Blue Herons, waterfowl, and Common Moorhens. Otters may also be observed here. The island itself has migrating warblers during spring and fall, and Warbling Vireos have nested here.

When Cedar Swamp Pond freezes in winter, most of it can be safely explored on the ice. However, a pressure ridge (10D) sometimes forms here resulting in very thin ice or open water along it, which attracts gulls and crows. In winter, ice seldom forms at the point where the stream from Louisa Lake enters the pond (11). With a careful approach views of many ducks can be obtained. In spring and summer Gray Catbirds, migrating warblers, Common Yellowthroats, and Northern Cardinals are found here.

To bird the east side of Cedar Swamp Pond, park beside the cemetery on Route 85 across the road from Rosenfeld Park. Take special care crossing the very busy highway. During open hours in summer, you may be able to drive into the Rosenfeld Park lot. A trail (12) leads from the parking lot to the pond.

Approach the pond carefully so as not to flush waterfowl and waterbirds that are often close to the shore. During periods of very low water, flats are exposed along the channel close to the eastern shore. In the late summer and fall, shorebirding can be interesting. Killdeer, yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, and Common Snipe may be seen here. A Water Pipit was once seen on the flats. This is a good vantage point to see Great Blue and Green-backed herons and Black-crowned Night-Herons. Pied-billed Grebes, several species of ducks, Common Moorhens, and American Coots (fall) can be expected. During fall migration, Ospreys and Merlins are seen. Landbird species found here include American Kestrel, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Common Yellowthroat, Song Sparrow, and American Goldfinch.

Walk north along the east shore of the pond from Rosenfeld Park to the abandoned landfill site (13). Very good views of the pond can be had from several locations that are productive during the spring and fall waterfowl seasons. The old landfill is overgrown with weeds which attract sparrows in the fall. An American Kestrel is nearly always present. In winter this is a good place to find American Tree Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos, American Goldfinches, and in some winters Common Redpolls.

At the north end of Mead Street (14), good views of the eastern side of the pond can be obtained. This site is good for a quick look during the spring and fall waterfowl season.

Pine Grove Cemetery (15) is an old cemetery with big trees and woods adjacent, a good birding site during spring migration, especially for wood warblers. In summer look for ducks and Green-backed Heron in the pond.

When melting first occurs in the early spring, the ice leaves the northern end of Cedar Swamp Pond before other areas are open. Ducks are often concentrated in the open water west of the cemetery (16). Carefully approach the pond through the woods at that season to get close views of a good variety of waterfowl species.

Louisa Lake (17) is a small shallow impounded pond with a flood control dam. A large lot on Dilla Street allows plenty of room to park. Drive to the rear (north end) of the lot, and park to view the pond. Here a good assortment of ducks, Great Blue Heron, and Spotted Sandpiper can often be seen. Follow the road along the east shore to the north end of the pond, where there is another flood control structure. American Kestrel, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, American Robin, Warbling Vireo, and Northern Cardinal are species that occur here in summer. This site is most worthwhile during the spring and fall waterfowl seasons. Because this area is very heavily used for a variety of recreational activities, birding without interruption is difficult unless you get out early.

To bird along the power line (18) east of Route 85, park on the northbound side of the highway just north of where the line crosses the road. A trail follows the power line east up a steep grade that provides a strenuous hike. The woody vegetation along the line is kept down by cutting and the use of herbicides. The open country here attracts a distinctive breeding bird fauna. Typical birds to be found are Turkey Vultures, Red-tailed Hawks, which nest on the power pylons, American Kestrels, Eastern Kingbirds, Eastern Bluebirds, Northern Mockingbirds, Brown Thrashers, Prairie Warblers, Indigo Buntings, and Rufous-sided Towhees. Bird species seen along the edge of the clearing include Sharp-shinned Hawk, Northern Flicker, Great Crested Flycatcher, and Scarlet Tanager. During fall migration the open power line high on the hill makes a good hawkwatch site.

A provisional checklist of 140 species seen at the three Milford sites from 1983 through 1988 has been compiled by the author, who would be very interested in bird observations from this area. To obtain a copy of the list and to report birds, please write Richard W. Hildreth, 135 Washington Street, Holliston, MA 01746, or call 508-429-5085.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article first appeared in 1987 in The Chickadee, (57: 1987) and is reprinted here in modified form with permission of the author and the publication.

RICHARD W. HILDRETH has been a naturalist from childhood and received early training and encouragement at Massachusetts Audubon's Wildwood Camp at Barre, where his interest began to focus on birds. He is an exploration geologist, trained at Boston University, who has worked for twenty years as a research and development professional with NRC Inc., a firm specializing in rare metals such as tantalum and niobium. A lifelong Massachusetts resident, Hildreth is chiefly interested in inland birding in the upper Charles River basin and Blackstone Valley area. His favorite out-of-state areas are Washington County, Maine, and coastal New Jersey. He leads trips for the Forbush Bird Club, is the compiler for the Uxbridge Christmas Count, and an active participant in the butterfly atlas project.

He would like to thank Charles B. Quinlan for reading an early draft of this article and contributing several important observations and Carol Hildreth, who provided editorial assistance.

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OBSERVATIONS OF MIGRATING RED-THROATED LOONS

by Julie Zickefoose

October 30, 1988 was a clear cold day with a brisk northwest wind. I was carrying a large container of mealworms (for my pet birds) across my backyard on Dolbia Hill in East Haddam, Connecticut, approximately twelve miles from the coast. Hearing a chorus of unfamiliar calls, I looked up to see a large flock of waterfowl several hundred feet overhead. Throwing the mealworms into the air, I raced to the house, ran in the backdoor, snatched my binoculars, ran out the front, and focused on the birds. Starting out as a dense ball, the flock quickly formed into three wavering Vs. There were at least 150 birds, but what were they? Suddenly they veered, giving me a view of their profiles. Entirely white below, they were silvery gray to charcoal above. Their pointed, narrow wings, rapid wingbeats, slender bodies, and tapered shape fore and aft convinced me that they were Red-throated Loons (*Gavia stellata*). Their distinctive call, however, proved most helpful in identification—a low, dry, staccato quacking that sounded remarkably like a spring chorus of wood frogs. As soon as the birds were out of sight, I played Kellogg and Allen's recording of the calls of Red-throats, confirming the identification.

That same afternoon, veteran birder Jay Hand was on a ladder, patching his roof in Old Lyme. Hearing "barking" calls overhead, he looked up to see three ragged chevrons of at least a hundred birds in all, high overhead. In what must be every birder's nightmare, he realized that the flock would be out of sight before he could descend and find his binoculars. He was able to observe that the birds were moving too fast, with too rapid a wingbeat to be geese, and the call did not match any goose calls he knew. Jay's flock passed over, heading south, around 3:30 P.M., whereas mine was seen at noon. It would seem that October 30 was a good flight day for Red-throated Loons. As Jay said, "I had never before seen a flock of migrating Red-throats. They always just magically appear on the coast, and I've never thought much about how they arrive there."

How unusual is an inland flock of 150 Red-throats? Most observations I found were made along the coast, not over land, and many seemed to reiterate Bent's (1919) report:

The migration along the New England coast is mainly in October. When travelling they fly at a great height and in a direct course along the shore, a mile or two out from land; they usually fly singly, although several are in sight at one time, widely scattered. There is, however, some sociability among them, most noticeable on foggy days, when they manage to keep in touch with each other by frequent interchange of call notes, as if helping each other to

maintain the same general line of flight. They are even somewhat gregarious at times, gathering in small parties on the water to rest and calling to their passing companions; these gatherings are sometimes quite noisy, and are well known to gunners as "loon caucuses."

The gregariousness of Red-throats, at least on water, is well-recognized. Palmer (1962) notes:

In the interior, they are a rarity in fall except on the Great Lakes, where loose associations of as many as 1200 individuals have been seen in October (Lake Ontario). No doubt all but the few remaining there to winter continue on to the Atlantic coast.

On favored feeding waters off Cape May, New Jersey, Stone (1937) reported flocks of up to 175 birds and, in spring migration, flocks of up to 500. Ogilvie (1976) cites flocks of several hundred seen on migration in Europe.

There is a difference, however, between flocks on feeding grounds and inland flocks such as the one I observed. Abundant food, rather than a tendency toward true social flocking, could motivate formation of feeding rafts. Only one reference specifically mentioned a large flying flock (61 individuals) off Point aux Basques, Quebec (Lewis 1937).

Records kept at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in eastern Pennsylvania show a flock of ten Red-throats passing over on October 30, 1986, the largest flock seen there. A total of eleven Red-throats was seen that year, their peak thus far (L. Goodrich, personal communication).

Loon expert Dr. Judith W. McIntyre commented, "There are regular migrations over the northeastern United States, but often they are very high up, and your sighting is a lucky observation. The number of birds in the flock is not as exciting to me as the fact that they were flying in V-formation. To my knowledge, no species of loon is known to fly in formation." Although nonplanar clusters, such as the large ball of loons I first saw, probably carry no energy-saving benefit for flock members (Higdon and Corrsin 1978), V-formations confer a real advantage. Badgerow (1988) showed that Canada Geese flying in formation enjoy an average energy savings of about ten percent over solo flight. He goes on to note that this advantage "could translate as greater flight range [or] greater reserves at the end of a flight." Either advantage would seem desirable for a flock of loons far from water and food, and it is interesting that although Red-throats are described as gregarious, observations of formation flight are absent in the literature.

This was not to be my last encounter with Red-throated Loons that fall. One week later, on November 6, I was driving east on Interstate 95 from New London to Groton, Connecticut. A small blotch in the sky ahead resolved into a

clumped flock of seven east-bound Red-throats flying parallel to the highway. I slowed down slightly to keep pace with them and managed to clock them at 48 mph for just under one mile, before they veered south down the Thames River toward Long Island Sound. (This maneuver is not for the fainthearted, especially when performed on the Groton-New London bridge. Better birders than I have driven off the road for less.) Terres (1980) lists flight speed of two clocked in Alaska as 47.1 and 48.8 mph. Knowing these birds may be overhead in late October, perhaps more birders will listen for the low quack of the Red-throated Loon and add to our scant knowledge of this graceful diver.

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JULIE ZICKEFOOSE, a Connecticut artist and writer whose work appears with increasing regularity in ornithological books, journals, and magazines, resides in Hadlyme, acting as overseer of a Nature Conservancy property with fellow artist, bird carver Robert Braunfield. Julie's enthusiasm for birds began with her first warblers: Yellow-rumps—"I couldn't believe how lovely they were"—and "a bathing Blue-winged, in the swamp behind my house. I was maybe eight and had crept up on him on my belly through the catbrier." She has since "been obsessed with birds, drawing them, raising and patching them." This involvement currently includes pet parrots and rehabilitating a cat-mauled Blue Jay.

BOOK REVIEW: *THE BIRDER'S HANDBOOK*

by Paul J. Baicich

The Birder's Handbook: A Field Guide to the Natural History of North American Birds by Paul R. Ehrlich, David S. Dobkin, and Darryl Wheye. 1988. Illustrations by Shahid Naeem. New York: Simon and Schuster (Fireside). 816 pages. \$14.95 softcover; \$24.95 hardcover.

This book is certainly different, perhaps unique. You have only to thumb through it casually to realize that you are holding something novel in the way of a North American bird book. Weighing in at over 2 pounds and 5 ounces, it is still amazingly compact (5.5 x 8.5 x 1.75 inches), especially when one considers what is contained between its covers. The authors have undertaken to supply life history details about every North American bird species nesting regularly on the continent north of Mexico plus extensive general information about the natural history and biology of birds in a field-guide format—a book that birders will want to carry along, at least in the car, as a field book.

Throughout the main text, the left-hand pages summarize the life history of each of nearly 650 North American breeding species (including extinct species such as the Passenger Pigeon), two to a page. The right-hand pages provide short essays (250 in all) on a wide range of ornithological topics, which may or may not relate to the species described across the way on the left-hand pages.

Species Treatments (left-hand pages). The title line of each account gives the common name of the bird followed by the species binomial and the author of the scientific name; e.g., Common Nighthawk is followed by *Chordeiles minor* Forster.

The second line of the species account is a reference line that compactly lists the pages on which the species can be found in seven standard field guides. The *Handbook* is promoted as a companion to field guides, which the authors presume birders have already selected. Hence, there are no species illustrations in the book but only this reference line. (There are black-and-white drawings and helpful charts throughout the book to illustrate the essays.)

Next in each account is a "summary line" which indicates in a condensed form by abbreviations, numbers, and graphics numerous facts about where the species builds its nest, the type of nest and sex of parent that builds it, the type and number of eggs and breeding system, incubation and development, primary diet and ancillary food preferences, and foraging techniques. A key to the graphic symbols is conveniently reproduced on the inside covers for quick reference.

The subsequent text expands on the subjects in the summary line (breeding, nest, eggs, and diet), adds some particulars on conservation (especially dealing

with wintering grounds), offers additional notes of interest about behavior, and lists references to essays in the book that concern the species and to relevant sources in the lengthy bibliography in the index.

The contents of the left-hand pages are very impressive. Each short species treatment is superb, jam-packed and bursting with information. The overall result is both valuable and important. There is little that the authors miss here, though I noticed a few lapses in incubation or fledging periods for such species as Short-tailed Hawk, White-crowned Pigeon, Ringed Kingfisher, and Gray Kingbird. The coverage of conservation is particularly welcome, with vital material on the winter ranges and threatened neotropical habitats for each species.

A few things, however, bothered me. The graphics used in the summary lines are interesting, but one wonders if the little pictures of cups, cliffs, bushes, etc. tend toward the gimmicky. Also Ehrlich, Dobkin, and Wheye are unique in listing only one dimension for egg size—length; to omit information about the width is an unfortunate economy of space, especially when length is given, redundantly, in both inches and millimeters. Another problem is the taxonomic order. True to typical field-guide format, the sequence of species in the book frequently departs from the current AOU taxonomic order. I am afraid that if this practice continues, many birders will never get the 1983 AOU sequence quite right in their own minds.

Although the authors have a point about conservation, I question the value of including extinct birds such as Labrador Duck, Great Auk, Carolina Parakeet, and Passenger Pigeon in the species accounts when there is no treatment of species like Clay-colored Robin and Black-capped Gnatcatcher, birds which have now nested in North America on multiple occasions. On the other hand, the Rufous-capped Warbler is included on the basis of a sole nest that was abandoned after four eggs were laid.

A more serious flaw was discovered when I checked the author/date citations given as "Refs." at the end of the treatment paragraphs in some of the species accounts. Although the 63-page bibliography is marvelously up-to-date, I encountered over a dozen such citations in the text that were missing from it. To check this for yourself, start with the woodpeckers.

The Essays (right-hand pages). These essays are fine. Indeed some should be read time and again. They are short, informative, and almost uniformly well-written. They include topics as diverse as "Birds and DNA," "Piracy," and "Polyandry in the Spotted Sandpiper." Some effort has been made, where feasible, to position essay topics near a species or group that the information is relevant to. For example, essays on "Hovering Flight" and "Metabolism" occur within the hummingbird pages, "Distraction Display" falls opposite Killdeer, "Hoarding Food" is across from Acorn Woodpecker, and

"Hybridization" across from Blue-winged Warbler—all appropriate juxtapositions of subject matter and species that naturally stimulate the birder to read and learn more about bird behavior and biology. The more general essays are randomly distributed and sometimes divided into sections ("Bird Names" has fifteen parts) to allow placement near one of the species discussed. Fortunately, the authors have provided a very satisfactory subject index that enables the reader to find the way back to a particular essay if the exact title or page number is forgotten. Another convenience is a running head at the bottom of the page listing the title of the essay on that page (similar heads on the left-hand pages list the bird group of the species on that page).

Does the book's format work? The arrangement of species descriptions on the left and essays on the right may take some time and practice to get used to. Moreover, to get the most out of the book, one must read thoroughly the thirty-page introduction, which is well worth the time and effort.

The *Handbook* has been compared with *The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds* by John Terres (which is arranged in conventional encyclopedic form, has photos and illustrations galore, and outweighs it by six pounds) and to Christopher Leahy's *The Birdwatcher's Companion* (which has no species treatments but is more readable and often witty). Some observers have called the *Handbook* "Bent in a backpack." But it is difficult to categorize this book, because it is really two books combined in one and arranged in an unusual format. Perhaps it is *sui generis*. In short, this book can provide the birder a portable compendium of knowledge of North American birdlife.

Among the possible effects of the *Handbook* are these—it should engender greater appreciation of avian biology among birders, help answer many questions, and, more importantly, raise some new ones about North American birdlife. Thus, it may expand the horizon for many birders and even encourage some to undertake bird investigation. The authors repeatedly draw attention to opportunities for study in avian biology. The essay "How Do We Find Out About Bird Biology" on page 319 is an explanation of research and an invitation to further study that deserves to be committed to memory. Goodness, are we about to witness a movement away from field identification? I doubt it. But we might just experience a further enrichment of the birding scene with this book's appearance.

This review cannot close without reference to the authors. Paul R. Ehrlich, a member of the National Academy of Sciences, is Professor of Biology and Bing Professor of Populations Studies at Stanford University and is well-known for his population concerns, butterfly studies, and prolific writings (400 scientific articles and 20 books). He has recently "returned" to an early interest in birds. If the *Handbook* is any indication of the depth of his interest, we are all fortunate. David S. Dobkin is a Henry Rutgers Fellow and Assistant Professor of Zoology

at Rutgers University with many publications on ornithology and ecology including studies of hummingbird flower mites. Darryl Wheye, a biological consultant and writer based at Stanford, has worked on insect and avian relationships. Their collaboration has clearly been fruitful.

And finally, this book is unusual by virtue of its price. At a time when book costs are reaching absurd heights, it is delightful to encounter a reasonably priced bird book, one that would be cheap at twice the price.

PAUL J. BAICICH began birding in New York City as a youngster and joined the Queens County Bird Club at age fourteen, a "pivotal experience" for him. Paul believes that birding should be fun and a shared learning experience, should encompass an active conservation ethic, and include a current of scientific inquiry. He has a particular interest in Texas birds and especially enjoys birding in Alaska but has also birded in Europe, Israel, Mexico, Central and South America. He is a new member of the board of directors of the American Birding Association. Paul lives in Maryland and works in the airline industry.

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SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE FEEDING AND NESTING BEHAVIOR OF GREAT HORNED OWLS

by Alan E. Strauss

The following observations of a nest of Great Horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus*) established in a hollow cavity in an oak tree at Swan Point Cemetery in Providence, Rhode Island, were made between February and April of 1986 when the nest site was visited almost every day for about two months. The site was also occupied during 1987 and 1988. Great Horned Owls are the second most common and widely distributed owl in Rhode Island (Ferren 1980, page 1). These large ear-tufted owls are most common in the interior of Rhode Island but also breed regularly in coastal sections (Ruecker Wildlife Refuge publication).

Owl pellets were collected and field notes were recorded regarding roosting locations as well as kill sites and the location of prey remains. Changes in feeding behavior based upon the amount, type, and size of pellets were noted during the season. When the young were born, their behavior was observed as well as that of the adult owls.

Nesting behavior. The owl nest, located in the southeast end of the cemetery, has been utilized by Great Horned Owls for at least five years. A large cavity exists in an oak tree about twenty-five feet from the ground. When the female first entered the tree, she could only be detected by her ear tufts and the top of her head; binoculars were needed to view the owl at this time. The nest site was first visited on February 20, 1986. At this time the female owl could be seen sitting far down and to the right in the tree cavity. Great Horned Owls usually nest by late February and prefer areas that have eastern white pines (*Pinus strobus*) and standing water (Petersen n.d.).

On March 7 the owl was first seen moving and sitting up high and to the left in the cavity; binoculars were not necessary. The position of the owl can be interpreted as a sign of when the young were first hatched; after their birth she was forced up high on the nest and to the left in the tree cavity.

Great Horned Owls add very little material to the nest cavity, which is cleared and lined with breast and down feathers. Typically the clutch contains from one to three coarsely textured dull white eggs (Peterson 1975: 98). Incubation takes from twenty-eight to thirty-five days and is mostly accomplished by the female while the male provides food.

Beginning on March 9 the male owl was seen in various locations throughout the cemetery. The female remained rather still on the nest. On March 11 she was seen sitting extremely high up on the nest, and she was observed moving her head and shifting position. On this date the first young owl, covered

in off-white down, was seen stretching a wing, which appeared to be about six inches long. A dramatic increase in droppings and pellets throughout the area was also observed during the next several days.

Prior to March 14, all of the owl pellets, droppings, and bone remains were found at some distance from the nest tree. My interpretation was that the owls periodically cleaned the nest site, removing any signs that the tree contained a nest, perhaps as protection from raccoons, which occasionally raid the nests and eat the eggs or young. On the fourteenth of March, bird bones with skin and ligaments on them were found adjacent to the nest tree. At this time the young owl was beginning to attain a brown tone to its feathers. Two days later, it was confirmed that there were at least two young in the nest.

On March 18 two young owls were observed, one light gray in color, the other light brown. The adult bird was pushed up very high and to the left. There was still room in the cavity for the young to hide behind the female, which they sometimes did as they shifted position in the nest. The baby owls had large heads with dish-shaped faces and resembled "abominable snowmen." They would occasionally open their large beaks as if yawning. They also began bobbing their heads up and down, a sign that they were trying to focus and were at least fourteen days old (Tim Rumage, personal communication).

Two days later, March 20, some light brown banding and speckling was observed on the wings of one of the young owls. One bird became more curious and edged its way to the front of the tree cavity. This bird would often shake its head, stretch its wings, lift a foot, and sway its head back and forth while watching me. On the twenty-third, the first owl pellet was found directly under the nest tree. The female at this time was nearly crowded out of the nest, and she sat so high that the tops of her legs and the barring on her chest could be seen.

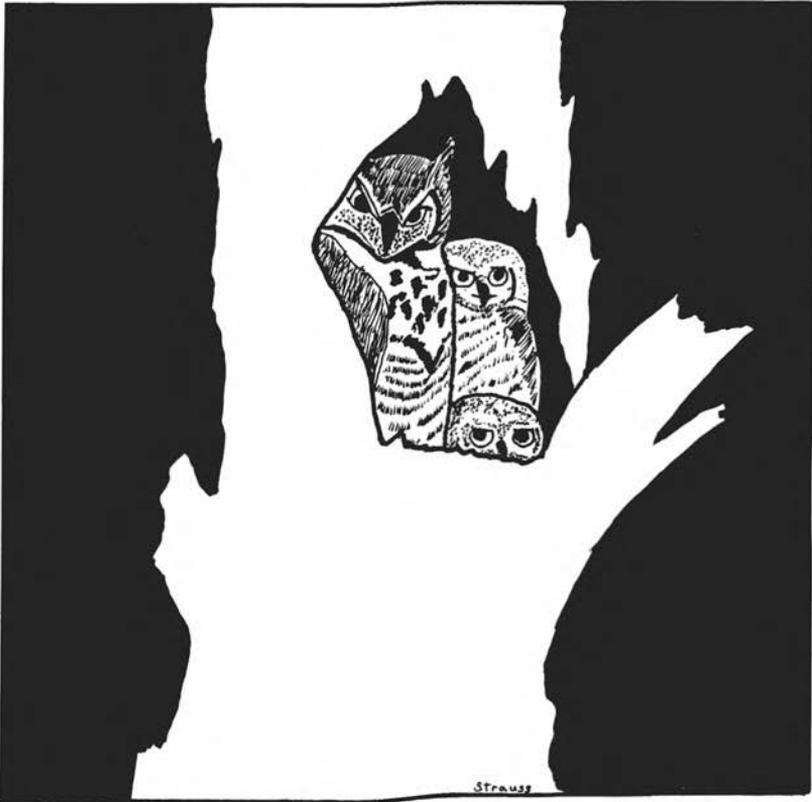
On March 24 the young owls constantly shifted around in the nest and were seen preening, fidgeting, and stepping on each other. One sat up against the female's breast, which forced her chest feathers up. One youngster had brown tones on its back, a light gray head, and a pale brown face with white lines where the bib would be. A day later, definite brown barring, especially on the end of the wing, was observed on one of the young birds.

Four days later (March 29) both the male and female were seen in the hemlock trees adjacent to the nest site between 2:00 and 4:30 P.M., leaving the young unattended for the first time. The female was attacked by several crows and a Red-tailed Hawk, which she fought with in the air for a brief period. It was also confirmed at this time that there were three young in the nest.

The following day, one of the young had a little white bib, dark brown around the eyes, and the beginning of ear tufts. The next day, black eyebrows and a black line around the facial disk could be seen. By April 2 the adult owls

left the nest much more frequently, and the young perched at the very front of the tree cavity.

During the first two weeks of April, the adult owls sat in the conifer trees within view of the nest site and occasionally perched together on the same limb. On April 11 one of the young sat on a branch outside of the cavity for the first time. Numerous droppings were found around the base of the tree and on the branches. On April 13 at 6:30 P.M., two young owls were perched on branches; the male bird sat in a nearby tree. At 7:00 P.M., the young began to cry for food, making a sound similar to that of the call of a Red-tailed Hawk. The male owl flew to the nest tree, saw me, clattered its beak, and made a two-toned alarm call that sounded like a hoarse cough, which was repeated for several minutes while the young hopped up and down on the branches, flapped their wings frantically, and continued to cry. The adult bird was constantly moving its head around, and I left so as not to disturb the birds further.



The next morning, April 14, all three young owls were sitting in the branches. Apparently young owls first leave the safety of the tree cavity at night. Pellet pieces and droppings continued to build up at the base and on the branches of the nest tree during the second week of April, apparently indicating that the young "branchers" were spending considerable time out of the tree hollow at night. On April 14 only two young owls were found on the branches of the nest tree. However, all three were seen during a night visit on that same date. They were not crying that night as they had done previously.

The nest area was visited for the next week until April 21, and the two adults were sometimes seen in the conifers throughout the area during this time.

Feeding habits. The first signs of the presence of owls at Swan Point Cemetery were pellets and droppings or "whitewash." In February the owls utilized half a dozen roosting trees, usually oaks but also two large conifers. The pellets were often whole, from two to five inches in length, and covered with a shiny coating, probably mucous, when fresh. On February 14 a rabbit's foot was found and on the twenty-eighth a pellet with several bird feathers in it. A "kill spot" was discovered on the same date. This consisted of two clusters (ten and twelve inches in diameter) of Mourning Dove feathers and corn kernels.

During the first week of March various pieces of squirrel and rabbit fur were found throughout the nesting area. One roost near the nest cavity appeared to have been used almost every night. On March 11 a dramatic increase in pellets and droppings occurred, coinciding with the displacement of the female to the left side of the nest and probably signaling the hatching of the young owls. On March 14 several pieces of pellets and regurgitated clumps of feathers were found as were bird bones, small bird feet, scattered feathers, and a pigeon carcass, innards, and feathers. In the second week of March most of the pellets contained bird feathers, beaks, feet, and seed. People had been leaving bird seed under one of the large conifers to attract songbirds. Numerous droppings and pellets were found under these trees. The seed in the pellets led me to believe that the owls were hunting the small birds attracted by the bird seed.

During the third week of March, starling and flicker feathers and body parts and a portion of a grackle were found. On March 17 feathers and blood on the ground indicated a kill. Pellets, somewhat smaller than previously, were recovered from beneath the nest tree during this week. By the end of March, bird bones, skulls, backbones, and leg bones appeared in the pellets, which also contained rabbit and squirrel remains.

On April 4 a squirrel foot was found with numerous rodent jaws, fur, and bird feet. On April 16 a starling carcass and on the twenty-first a dead rabbit hanging in a tree were found.

The pellets and the food remains suggest that at first the adult owls ate rabbits and squirrels, the latter being the most common prey item. It appears that

once the young were born the owls began to feed on birds, either because they were easier for the young to eat or because the rodent supply was diminishing. Great Horned Owls also eat mice, skunks, amphibians, and reptiles, as well as other birds, including smaller owls (Rumage 1980: 2). Various small rodent jaws were recovered from the pellets in Swan Point Cemetery. When the young owls were born, the number of pellets increased, and the size changed. Previous to the birth of the young, the pellets were whole and large; after their birth, the pellets were about half the size of the earlier ones or in small pieces. Although pellets were scattered around the nest tree throughout an area eight hundred feet in diameter, several oak trees and two large hemlocks were used as consistent roosts.

Conclusions. This study taught me that careful observations of nesting Great Horned Owls on a regular basis can be very rewarding. Observations of the adult owls' behavior provided clues as to when the young were born and their feeding habits. Studying the young owls provided data on the physical and behavioral development of wild owls. I hope that people who view these nesting owls in the future will treat with respect these valuable wild predators, will learn about them, and will not adversely affect the tradition of their using the Swan Point nesting oak.

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ALAN E. STRAUSS, a graduate of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, earned his M.A. from the State University of New York at Binghamton and is at present project archaeologist and research fellow at the Center for Archaeological Studies at Boston University. A birder since childhood but only serious about it since the winter of 1986, he has birded in all the New England States and recently on the Gulf Coast of Florida.

A TICK-LIST FOR BIRDERS: UPDATE ON LYME DISEASE

by Dorothy R. Arvidson

How many people do you know with Lyme Disease? In New England, chances are pretty good that you know one or two. Among my friends in the Northeast, five are victims of this plague, as are two in Wisconsin. All of them are birders or field biologists. For three of them, the disease has been sufficiently disabling to require a change in life-style or a change of profession—which is what prompts me to write this article.

The best protection against Lyme disease is to be informed. Four readable articles are "At the Drop of a Tick" in *Science News*, March 25, 1989 (135/12: 184-7); "Watch out for the tick attack" in *Consumer Reports*, June 1988 (54/6: 382-5); "Lyme Disease and the Birder" in *Bird Observer*, April 1988 (16/2: 83-4); and "Lyme Disease" in *Scientific American*, July 1987 (257/1: 78-83).

Prevalence. Lyme disease first surfaced in the United States in 1975 as an arthritis epidemic affecting thirty-nine children and twelve adults living in heavily wooded areas around Lyme, Connecticut. A Yale epidemiologist, Dr. Allen C. Steere, was asked by health officials to investigate, and the subsequent events constitute a fascinating piece of medical detection (see *Scientific American* reference above). Steere established that Lyme arthritis was not contagious but was spread by the bite of a tick, *Ixodes dammini*, and was probably the same disease as a tick-transmitted rash known as ECM (erythema chronicum migrans) that had plagued Europe for nearly a century, for which no causative agent had been found. Nor could any disease organisms be found in the joint fluids of Lyme patients or in the cell cultures of *I. dammini*. In 1981, researchers in New York investigating a death from Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever sent, by accident, some *I. dammini* ticks to an authority on tickborne disease, Willy Burgdorfer, at Rocky Mountain Laboratories in Montana. Burgdorfer isolated from the digestive tracts of these ticks a spirochete (similar to the one responsible for syphilis), which was cultured by Alan G. Barbour in the same labs. By 1984 further research confirmed the connection between the spirochete, the tick, and Lyme disease. The newly discovered bacterium was named in Willy's honor, *Borrelia burgdorferi*.

By 1988, Lyme disease had increased tenfold in the United States, with five thousand new cases that year. The disease has been found in forty-three states, and 90% of the cases have occurred in eight states (CA, CT, MA, MI, NJ, NY, RI, and WI). It is known throughout Europe and has been reported in Australia, the Soviet Union, China, Japan, and Africa. A number of different *Ixodid* tick species, all of them tiny, blood-sucking ectoparasites, can carry the Lyme disease spirochetes in their digestive tracts and inject the bacteria via their

tubular mouthparts into the hosts they parasitize. The hosts include a variety of mammals—field mice, voles, cats, dogs, horses, cattle, deer, and man—and birds. In New England the predominant hosts are white-tailed deer for the adult tick and white-footed mice for the larval and nymphal stages.

Present medical research is investigating how the spirochete produces its diverse and profound effects in people, how to control the exploding tick population, and is searching for a vaccine against the spirochete or the tick.

What is Lyme disease like? In New England the disease starts with the bite of a spirochete-carrying tick, *I. dammini*, commonly called the deer tick, which is most active in spring and summer. However, because of its minute size, the tick and the bite may go unnoticed. Hence, the first sign that you have the disease is a "bull's eye rash." This temporary rash begins as a red elevated dot on the skin at the location of the bite, surrounded within two to thirty-two days by an expanding red rash that spreads outward to form a round or oval reddened area two or three inches across (sometimes much larger and often with a pale center). Other early symptoms are flu-like: profound fatigue, stiff neck, headache, chills, fever, and muscle aches. Unfortunately, even the rash may not be noticed or occasionally may not develop, but you should take seriously flu-like symptoms that occur during the summer and seek medical help. And don't hesitate to express to the doctor your concern about any exposure to ticks.

If undiagnosed or untreated, a second stage of the disease occurs weeks or months later in which cardiac problems and neurological symptoms may develop, symptoms such as palpitations, shortness of breath, severe headache, facial paralysis, or encephalitis. These often disappear within a week or two. In the third stage of Lyme disease, severe chronic neurological problems may occur in untreated patients, with about half developing arthritis, commonly in the knees. In some, the arthritis becomes chronic with degenerative changes.

Diagnosis and treatment. There is as yet no certain way of diagnosing Lyme disease. A blood test for antibodies is unreliable until six weeks after the tick has infected you. Antibiotics are used to treat all stages of the disease but are most effective when used early.

What is the tick like? The adult deer tick is tiny, pale, and about the size of a sesame seed. The immature stages, larvae and nymphs, are smaller than the adults. The ticks take only one blood meal in each stage, and all can carry the Lyme disease spirochetes. Ticks remain attached to the host for several days or longer when feeding but eventually drop off. When not on a host, the larvae and nymphs are present in vegetation close to the ground, and the adults climb up on bushes to about a meter above the ground. Deer ticks are prolific (each female lays 2500 eggs), can go for long periods without feeding, and can survive New England winters but do not tolerate desiccation. Hence, they are found in moist areas. In the Northeast the adults parasitize chiefly deer and the immature ticks,

mostly field mice. It is the nymphal ticks in the grass and low bushes that are most apt to attach themselves to the feet and legs of people.

Suggested precautions. In the Northeast, 80-90% of deer ticks carry Lyme disease spirochetes and are present in grassland, woodland, and marshland as well as in parks and suburban lawns that are frequented by deer. Mid-April to October is as good for ticks as it is for birders. Here are ways to reduce the risk.

✓ Keep a clothing barrier between you and the ticks. Wear socks and shoes (not sandals), long sleeves, and pants cinched at the ankles or tucked inside your socks. It is easier to find ticks on light-colored clothes than on dark.

✓ Inspect your clothing at intervals. Brush off the ticks out-of-doors, that is, before you get in the car or enter the house.

✓ Use tick repellent on clothing (to avoid skin reactions), at least from the knees down. *Permanone*, a repellent not widely available and not for use on skin, contains permethrin that kills ticks on contact. Deet or N,N-diethyl-metaltoluamide, the active agent in products like *Off*, does not kill ticks but does repel them. Strong solutions of deet applied to clothing work best. Use tick-repellent collars on your pets to avoid ticks entering the house by that means.

✓ Stay in the middle of the trail; avoid tall grass and bushes.

✓ When you undress, check for ticks, which crawl about on the skin for several hours before attaching. Deer ticks are tiny, but their motion may catch your eye. Once they attach and expand with blood, they are more visible.

✓ Be careful when removing attached ticks. Assume that every deer tick you meet carries Lyme disease spirochetes. Do not squeeze or rupture ticks engorged with blood. This might pump spirochetes into the wound or spread them into breaks in your skin. Remove ticks using thin, curved forceps (available at pharmacies or ask the druggist to order them). Slide the forceps underneath the tick, gently pull it away, discard it without handling it, and disinfect the bite area. Lyme-disease researchers who are often bitten when collecting ticks in the field attribute their success in avoiding the disease to the use of curved forceps and prompt removal of ticks. Carry forceps, disinfectant, and repellent in your pack. There is apparently a period of a few hours after the tick starts its blood meal before the spirochetes pass into the host. The sooner the tick is removed, the less the chance of infection.

✓ Monitor any tick bites for several weeks. Be alert for the development of a rash or flu-like symptoms so that antibiotics can be given immediately.

Birders, take heart. Although it truly does seem to be "a jungle out there," the rewards and joys of birding more than compensate for making a few modifications of behavior and attire.

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GULLS HAWKING ANTS

On October 15, 1986, a very large, synchronous nuptial flight of ants occurred along a hundred meters of Manomet Bluffs, which overlook Cape Cod Bay in Plymouth County. The weather was balmy: air temperature was 72 degrees F., winds were southeast two to three mph, and the sky was partially cloudy. I estimated that over a hundred thousand ants were ascending from nests in the ground, flying about fifty meters above the ground, with great numbers floating dead on the ocean surface. I suspected that more than ten ant colonies were involved, given the magnitude of the flight.

I noted unusual foraging behavior of both Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) and Herring Gulls (*L. argentatus*). While swimming, a first-year and two second-year Herring Gulls were picking dead ants off the water, along with other less abundant food items. Adult Herring Gulls and adult Great Black-backed Gulls (*L. marinus*) were also present but were not feeding on the ants. I also watched a first-winter Ring-billed Gull hawking ants in midflight. The gull would circle over the hundred-meter stretch of bluff where the ants were most concentrated, abruptly altering its flight course to catch the insects in midair. It continued in this manner for half an hour, catching about four ants per minute. Several adult Ring-billed Gulls flew through the foraging zone during this time, but only one was observed to hawk ants, for about five minutes.

These observations suggest that the gulls feeding on ants are opportunistic. Subadults were the main participants in this kind of foraging. Perhaps adult gulls may evaluate the situation better than immature birds and realize that the net energy gain per unit of time, particularly flying to catch ants in the air, is small or negative. Subadults may still be learning how to forage efficiently.

I thank Kathy Murphy and Mark Kasprzyck for their helpful comments on this note.

Andrew A. Whitman, Orono, Maine

AN UNUSUAL HERON POSE

My husband Don and I enjoy trips to Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge at the end of summer to watch the herons feeding there. In fact, I first decided to get more involved in birding, when someone showed me my first Great Blue Heron through a scope at Great Meadows. Boy, was I surprised to learn what I'd been missing. I thought herons were only Florida birds!

On a crisp September afternoon, we were on the main path at Great Meadows looking at some herons in the distance and trying to decide whether it

was worth photographing them. My hobby is bird photography, but I had never gotten very close pictures of a Great Blue at this refuge. They always seemed afraid to come close to the main path where people congregate. Suddenly one of the herons came flying toward us and landed a bit unsteadily on some thick lily pads no more than thirty feet from the path. As soon as he steadied himself, he spread out his wings and held them away from his body, cormorant style, for over fifteen minutes. It seemed not to bother him at all that many people were coming over to admire him, laugh at his strange stance, and take pictures.

Perhaps this heron had gotten quite wet in his last fishing attempt and needed to dry out his wings, or perhaps this is the method by which herons sunbathe. He was not using his wings as a sunshade for the purpose of shadowing fish, as some herons and storks do, because he was not looking toward the water at all. Whatever his reason, I have never seen any other heron spread and keep its wings out in this manner. It certainly made our day, and we finally got some close-up and unique photographs of a Great Blue.

Sandy B. Selesky, Westford



Photo by Sandy Selesky, whose camera work has appeared in *Birder's World* and has been exhibited at Harvard University, at MAS's Marshfield sanctuary, and at the BBC's 75th Anniversary Celebration.



Northern Wheatear
Red River Beach, Harwich, MA
October 3, 1988

Photos by Roger Everett



FIELD RECORDS

OCTOBER 1988

by George W. Gove and Robert H. Stymeist

October 1988 was very cool, dry, and not as "bright and blue" as the average October. The temperature averaged 50.8 degrees, 4.0 degrees below normal. This was the coldest October since 1974. No daily temperature records were broken. The high temperature was 83 degrees on October 1, and the low was 31 degrees on October 31. The first freeze in Boston came on Halloween, seven days earlier than normal. Several inland suburban areas had a freeze even earlier in the month. Rainfall totaled only 1.60 inches, 1.76 inches less than normal, but many suburbs had heavier totals with amounts over an inch during a gusty nor'easter on October 22. A trace of melting snow was noted on October 8. This was the second earliest snow in the record span. The earliest snowfall on record was a trace on October 2 in 1899. There was frequent fog early in the month, and high winds on October 22 caused considerable damage along the coast.

R.H.S.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

Up to 220 Horned Grebes were counted at Wollaston, and the first Red-necked Grebe of the season was reported from the Cambridge Reservoir in Lincoln. Pelagic species seen offshore and from land during October storms included Northern Fulmars, Greater, Sooty, and Manx shearwaters, and both Wilson's and Leach's storm-petrels. Although there have been mid-November records for Wilson's Storm-Petrels on Georges Bank, October 9 is a later than normal date for Wilson's Storm-Petrels at Stellwagen Bank. Gannets numbered in the thousands at three locations on October 22, and thousands of Double-crested Cormorants were noted migrating. Among late reports of herons were a Tricolored Heron at Plum Island on October 2, a Green-backed Heron at North Middleboro on October 28, a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Eastham on October 15, and a Glossy Ibis at South Dartmouth on October 28.

G.W.G.

| DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | OCTOBER 1988 |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Red-throated Loon | | | | |
| 4, 16 | Barnstable (S.N.), Rockport | 1, 25 | R. Forster, M. Lynch | |
| 16, 22 | P. I., Barnstable | 50, 15 | R. Heil, T. Aversa | |
| 22, 29 | Rockport, Revere | 50, 5 | J. Berry, J. Cumming | |
| Common Loon | | | | |
| 1-31 | Quabbin (G35) | 40 max | D. Small | |
| 4, 8 | Barnstable (S.N.) | 12, 9 | R. Forster, R. Stymeist# | |
| 4, 16 | Lakeville, Rockport | 5, 23 | R. Forster, M. Lynch# | |
| 30 | Cape Cod Bay | 23 | BBC (H. D'Entremont) | |
| loon species | | | | |
| 22 | Manomet | 50 | G. d'Entremont | |
| Pied-billed Grebe | | | | |
| 1-29 | Arlington (Spy Pond) | 5 max | L. Taylor | |
| 1, 4 | Peabody, Lakeville | 2, 13 | D. F. Oliver, R. Forster | |
| 17-30 | Cambridge (F.P.) | 1 or 2 | J. Barton | |
| 6, 24 | PRNWR, W. Newbury | 1, 2 | W. Drew#, T. Aversa | |
| Horned Grebe | | | | |
| 9, 21 | Wayland, Newburyport | 1, 2 | R. Forster | |
| 23, 30 | Gloucester, Lexington | 1, 2 | BBC (J. Nove), R. Forster | |
| 31 | Wollaston | 220 | R. Abrams | |
| Red-necked Grebe | | | | |
| 5-19, 22 | Lincoln, Manomet | 1, 1 | R. Forster + v. o., G. d'Entremont | |
| Northern Fulmar | | | | |
| 9 | Stellwagen Bank | 100 | R. Prescott | |
| Greater Shearwater | | | | |
| 9, 22 | Stellwagen Bank, P'town | 35, 12+ | R. Prescott, W. Petersen | |
| 30 | Cape Cod Bay | 50 | BBC (H. D'Entremont) | |

| DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | OCTOBER 1988 |
|--|---|------------------------------------|--|--------------|
| Sooty Shearwater 9, 22 30 | Stellwagen Bank, P'town Cape Cod Bay | 3, 12 6 | R. Prescott, W. Petersen# BBC (H. D'Entremont) | |
| Manx Shearwater 9, 19 22 | Stellwagen Bank Provincetown, Rockport | 6, 12 12, 2 | R. Prescott, S. Perkins W. Petersen#, J. MacDougall | |
| Wilson's Storm-Petrel 9 | Stellwagen Bank | 6 | R. Prescott | |
| Leach's Storm-Petrel 8 9 | Barnstable (S.N.), Rockport Eastham, Stellwagen Bank | 1, 1 3, 12 | J. Heywood#, G. Soucy# B. Nikula#, R. Prescott | |
| storm-petrel species 8 | Barnstable (S.N.) | 12 | B. Nikula# | |
| Northern Gannet 4, 8 9, 22 22, 30 | Barnstable (S.N.) Eastham, Rockport Provincetown, Cape Cod Bay | 17, 350 250, 2100 2000, 2000 | R. Forster, B. Nikula# B. Nikula, R. Heil W. Petersen, BBC (H. D'Entremont) | |
| Great Cormorant 2, 14 22, 29 | Cuttyhunk, N. Scituate Newburyport, Concord | 6, 2 imm 3, 1 imm | P. Trimble, T. Aversa BBC (L. Pivacek), R. Forster | |
| Double-crested Cormorant 15, 17 23, 27 | P. I., Newburyport Winthrop, Hanson | 12000, 2000 1000, 300 | R. Abrams, R. Stymeist# J. Cumming, W. Petersen | |
| American Bittern 7, 15 22 29 | S. Dart. (Allens Pd), GMNWR Salisbury, P. I. P. I. | 1, 2 1, 1 1 | LCES (D. Christiansen), M. Lynch# BBC (L. Pivacek), M. Argue# D. Chickering | |
| Great Blue Heron thr 2, 6-28 10 21 | Essex County Cape Cod, S. Dart. (Allens Pd) Eastham, Braintree PRNWR | 18 14, 4-9 32, 9 9 | J. Berry BBC (R. Timberlake), LCES (D. Christiansen) P. Trimble, T. + J. Cameron W. Drew# | |
| Great Egret 1-10, 10 6-28 10 21 | Scituate, P. I. S. Dart. (Allens Pd) Westport, N. Monomoy PRNWR | 1, 2 17 max 10/6 13, 3 6 | G. d'Entremont LCES (D. Christiansen) R. Stymeist#, B. Nikula# W. Drew# | |
| Snowy Egret thr 10 | P.I. Westport | 63 max 10/9 6 | v. o. R. Stymeist | |
| Little Blue Heron 2, 23 | P. I., Eastham | 3 ad, 1 | F. Burrill, M. Lynch# | |
| Tricolored Heron 1-2 | P.I. | 1 ad | F. Burrill | |
| Green-backed Heron 1, 2 1, 2; 9 28 | Newburyport, Harwich W. Newton; Brookline N. Middleboro | 1, 1 1, 1; 1 1 | BBC (R. McHale), J. Heywood T. Kuklinski; H. Wiggin K. Holmes | |
| Black-crowned Night-Heron thr 24, 28 | Yarmouthport P.I., E. Boston | 140 max 10/5 14, 12 | J. Aylward T. Aversa | |
| Yellow-crowned Night-Heron 15 | Eastham | 1 imm | D. Small | |
| Glossy Ibis 28 | S. Dart. (Allens Pd) | 1 | LCES (D. Christiansen) | |

WATERFOWL

A Greater White-fronted Goose spent the last two weeks of the month at the reservoir in West Newbury, and Snow Geese were at Plum Island and North Monomoy. A Eurasian Wigeon was seen for one day at Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. Ring-necked Ducks, scaup species, and sea ducks were moving by the third week of the month, and a Harlequin Duck was present in Winthrop at month's end. G.W.G.

| | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------|---|
| Mute Swan 9-23 10, 22 16-29, 23 | P. I. Westport, N. Scituate Arlington, Gloucester | 6 max 10/21 176, 30 2, 5 | v. o. J. Heywood#, R. Forster L. Taylor#, BBC (J. Nove) |
| Greater White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) 15-30 | W. Newbury | 1 | R. Heil + v. o. |

| DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | OCTOBER 1988 |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Snow Goose | | | | |
| 6-23 | P. I. | 76 max 10/16 | v. o. | |
| 15 | N. Monomoy | 14 | B. Nikula# | |
| Brant | | | | |
| 22, 30 | Eastham, Plymouth | 500, 293 | W. Petersen#, BBC (H. D'Entremont) | |
| 30, 31 | Wachusett Mt., Quincy | 110, 600 | P. Roberts, R. Abrams | |
| Canada Goose | | | | |
| 6, 21 | PRNWR | 395, 331 | W. Drew# | |
| 17 | GMNWR | 1100 | E. Taylor | |
| Wood Duck | | | | |
| 15, 16 | GMNWR, Concord | 25, 44 | M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist# | |
| 30, 31 | S. Monomoy, Quabbin (G40) | 4, 5 | B. Nikula, D. Small | |
| Green-winged Teal | | | | |
| thr | P. I. | 175 max 10/6 | W. Drew# + v. o. | |
| 15; 21, 30 | GMNWR; S. Monomoy | 150; 300, 500 | S. Perkins#; B. Nikula | |
| American Black Duck | | | | |
| thr | P. I. | 236 max 10/21 | W. Drew# + v. o. | |
| 6-28 | S. Dart. (Allens Pd) | 579 max 10/28 | LCES (D. Christiansen) | |
| 10, 30 | Eastham, S. Monomoy | 120, 250 | P. Trimble, B. Nikula | |
| Northern Pintail | | | | |
| 6-21 | P. I. | 30 max 10/16 | v. o. | |
| 17, 21-30 | GMNWR, S. Monomoy | 19, 120 | E. Taylor, B. Nikula | |
| Blue-winged Teal | | | | |
| 3-5, 10 | Marlboro, GMNWR | 3, 2 | R. Graefe, T. Aversa | |
| 21 | S. Monomoy | 2 | B. Nikula | |
| Northern Shoveler | | | | |
| 14-23 | P. I. | 12 max 10/23 | G. Gove + v. o. | |
| 15, 30 | GMNWR, S. Monomoy | 7, 30 | S. Perkins#, B. Nikula | |
| Gadwall | | | | |
| 9, 16 | Ipswich, GMNWR | 20, 10 | J. Berry, G. d'Entremont | |
| 21, 30 | W. Newbury, S. Monomoy | 2, 30 | R. Forster, B. Nikula | |
| Eurasian Wigeon | | | | |
| 2 | GMNWR | 1 m | D. Arvidson | |
| American Wigeon | | | | |
| 1-22, 16 | Arlington, GMNWR | 66 max 10/22, 50 | L. Taylor#, G. d'Entremont | |
| 17-30, 30 | Cambridge (F.P.), S. Monomoy | 20 max 10/22, 50 | J. Barton, B. Nikula | |
| Canvasback | | | | |
| 23, 30 | Cambridge (F.P.) | 96, 460 | R. Stymeist#, J. Barton | |
| Ring-necked Duck | | | | |
| thr | Cambridge (F.P.) | 185 max 10/30 | J. Barton + v. o. | |
| thr | W. Newbury (Cherry Hill Reservoir) | 750 max 10/29 | BBC (S. Bolton) + v. o. | |
| 4 | Lakeville | 550 | R. Forster | |
| Greater Scaup | | | | |
| thr | Cambridge (F.P.) | 22 max 10/23 | J. Barton + v. o. | |
| 4, 29 | Barnstable, P. I. | 35, 192 | R. Forster, M. Lynch# | |
| 23, 29 | W. Newbury | 48, 100 | J. Berry, BBC (S. Bolton) | |
| Lesser Scaup | | | | |
| thr | Cambridge (F.P.) | 6 max 10/23 | R. Stymeist# + v. o. | |
| 6-23 | P. I. | 12 max 10/23 | v. o. | |
| 9-23 | W. Newbury | 28 max 10/21 | R. Forster + v. o. | |
| 24 | Lakeville | 200 | K. Anderson | |
| scaup species | | | | |
| 21, 30 | S. Monomoy | 40, 30 | B. Nikula | |
| Common Eider | | | | |
| 4, 8 | Barnstable (S.N.) | 16, 8 | R. Forster, R. Stymeist# | |
| 6, 21 | PRNWR | 38, 70 | W. Drew# | |
| 16, 30 | Rockport, S. Monomoy | 170, 2000 | M. Lynch#, B. Nikula | |
| Harlequin Duck | | | | |
| 31 | Winthrop | 1 m | J. Cumming | |
| Oldsquaw | | | | |
| 15, 22 | P. I., Provincetown | 1, 10 | T. Aversa | |
| 22 | Rockport | 30 | J. Berry | |
| Black Scoter | | | | |
| 4, 8 | Barnstable (S.N.) | 240, 86 | R. Forster, R. Stymeist# | |
| 10, 17 | P. I., GMNWR | 700, 5 | D. Chickering, E. Taylor | |
| 14-24, 22 | Cambridge (F.P.), Manomet | 1, 100 | J. Barton, G. d'Entremont | |
| Surf Scoter | | | | |
| 2 | Harwich | 7 | R. Stymeist# | |
| 4, 8 | Barnstable (S.N.) | 254, 135 | R. Forster, R. Stymeist# | |
| 10-23, 12-28 | P. I., Cambridge (F.P.) | 500 max 10/10, 1-3 | v. o., J. Barton | |

| DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | OCTOBER 1988 |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Surf Scoter (continued) | | | | |
| 16, 22 | Rockport | 1300, 950 | M. Lynch#, J. Berry | |
| 22 | Manomet | 1000 | G. d'Entremont | |
| White-winged Scoter | | | | |
| 4, 8 | Barnstable (S.N.) | 120, 255 | R. Forster, R. Stymeist# | |
| 6-23 | P. I. | 1500 max 10/16 | W. Drew# + v. o. | |
| 16, 22 | Rockport | 428, 600 | M. Lynch#, R. Heil | |
| scoter species | | | | |
| 30 | S. Monomoy | 3000 | B. Nikula | |
| Common Goldeneye | | | | |
| 30 | Lexington | 1 m | R. Forster | |
| Bufflehead | | | | |
| 21, 23 | W. Newbury, P. I. | 8, 2 m + 12 f | R. Forster, G. Gove | |
| 30 | S. Monomoy, Lexington | 100, 44 | B. Nikula, R. Forster | |
| 31 | Quincy | 550 | R. Abrams | |
| Hooded Merganser | | | | |
| 1-23 | Arlington | 1 m + 7 f | C. Black# | |
| 10-30 | Lexington | 44 max 10/30 | R. Forster + v. o. | |
| 18, 20 | Newton, Stoneham | 3 m + 2 f, 18 | M. Murphy, T. Aversa | |
| 21, 30 | PRNWR, Eastham | 4, 13 | W. Drew#, L. Taylor# | |
| Common Merganser | | | | |
| 29, 31 | Waltham, Quabbin (G40) | 21, 15 | S. Perkins, D. Small | |
| Red-breasted Merganser | | | | |
| 4, 8 | Barnstable (S.N.) | 45, 180 | R. Forster, R. Stymeist# | |
| 16; 21, 30 | Rockport; S. Monomoy | 612; 800, 2500 | M. Lynch#; B. Nikula | |
| Ruddy Duck | | | | |
| 1-23 | Arlington | 18 max 10/23 | L. Taylor# | |
| 4, 10 | Lakeville, Braintree | 45, 54 | K. Holmes, T. + J. Cameron | |
| 9-23 | W. Newbury | 34 max 10/22 | v. o. | |
| 16-30 | Cambridge (F.P.) | 101 max 10/28 | J. Barton | |
| 10-29, 30 | Danvers, S. Monomoy | 41 max 10/10, 250 | J. Brown, B. Nikula | |

VULTURES THROUGH GALLIFORMES

The most notable report for October's field records was that of a **Swainson's Hawk** in the Halifax-Middleboro area. This hawk, an immature dark-phase bird, stayed in the area October 10-21 and was seen by many people. An adult Golden Eagle was seen at two locations in the Sudbury River Valley on October 16. Wild Turkeys were again reported from southeastern Massachusetts. G.W.G.

| | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Turkey Vulture | | | | |
| 6, 28 | S. Dart. (Allens Pd) | 5, 5 | LCES (D. Christiansen) | |
| 9, 10 | Quabbin (G40), Canton | 4, 6 | M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist# | |
| Reports of 1-3 birds from 10 locations. | | | | |
| Osprey | | | | |
| 2, 9 | Cuttyhunk, P. I. | 3, 2 | P. Trimble, J. Gordon# | |
| 4-25 | Marlboro | 1 or 2 | R. Graefe | |
| 15-30 | GMNWR | 1-4 | v. o. | |
| Bald Eagle | | | | |
| 9 | Quabbin (G40) | 3 | BBC (M. Lynch) | |
| Northern Harrier | | | | |
| thr | Newburyport-P. I. | 8 max 10/29 | v. o. | |
| thr | Essex County. | 8-10 | J. Berry | |
| 10-15 | Middleboro-Halifax | 5-10 | v. o. | |
| 21, 30 | S. Monomoy | 5, 3 | B. Nikula | |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | | | | |
| 2, 9 | Cuttyhunk, Quabbin (G40) | 2, 8 | P. Trimble, BBC (M. Lynch) | |
| Reports of 1 or 2 birds from 8 locations. | | | | |
| Cooper's Hawk | | | | |
| 9, 11 | Barnstable, E. Middleboro | 1, 1 | P. Trimble, K. Anderson | |
| 15, 20 | GMNWR, Wellfleet | 1 imm, 1 | S. Perkins#, R. Prescott | |
| 29, 30 | W. Newbury, Truro | 1, 1 | D. Small, L. Taylor# | |
| Northern Goshawk | | | | |
| 10, 15; 13 | Belmont; Middleboro | 1, 1; 1 | S. Perkins + v. o.; R. Stymeist# | |
| 16, 27 | Forestdale, GMNWR | 1, 1 | P. Trimble, S. Perkins | |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | | | | |
| 6, 10 | E. Middleboro, Middleton | 1, 2 | K. Anderson, J. MacDougall | |
| 11, 14 | DWWS | 1 imm, 1 imm | R. Forster, T. Aversa | |
| Swainson's Hawk | | | | |
| 10-21 | Halifax-Middleboro | 1 imm | H. W. Harrington, A. Leggett + v. o. | |

| DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | OCTOBER 1988 |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| Red-tailed Hawk | | | | |
| 10-19 | Halifax-Middleboro | 2-6 | v. o. | |
| 15 | Woburn | 4 | BBC (N. King) | |
| Rough-legged Hawk | | | | |
| 25, 28 | DWWS, Wayland | 1, 1 dk | N. Sferra, J. Huntington | |
| Golden Eagle | | | | |
| 16 | GMNWR, Sudbury (Weir Hill) | 1 ad | R. Walton, R. Stymeist# | |
| American Kestrel | | | | |
| 9, 13 | Quabbin (G40), Middleboro | 9, 2 | BBC (M. Lynch), K. Anderson | |
| 16, 21 | Ipswich, PRNWR | 1, 1 | J. Berry, W. Drew# | |
| Merlin | | | | |
| 1, 9 | Peabody, Quabbin (G40) | 1, 2 | D. F. Oliver, BBC (M. Lynch) | |
| 20, 23 | Wellfleet, Foxboro | 1, 1 | R. Prescott, M. Kasprzyk# | |
| Reports of individuals from 11 locations. | | | | |
| Peregrine Falcon | | | | |
| 2, 9 | Eastham, Chatham | 2, 2 | D. F. Oliver, L. Roscoe# | |
| 9-23 | P. I. | 1 or 2 on each of 4 days | v. o. | |
| 9, 15 | N. Monomoy | 2, 4 | B. Nikula + v. o. | |
| Reports of individuals from 13 locations. | | | | |
| Wild Turkey | | | | |
| 4, 12 | Brockton, Middleboro | 5, 1 | K. Anderson | |
| 9, 31 | Quabbin (G40), (G37) | 15, 8 | BBC (M. Lynch), D. Small | |
| Northern Bobwhite | | | | |
| 2, 4 | S. Wellfleet, Eastham | 10, 10 | D. F. Oliver, R. Forster | |
| Quayle thr | Washington | 1 | G. Bush | |

RAILS THROUGH PHALAROPES

Up to 3 Clapper Rails were present in Chatham throughout the month, and Soras were noted at three locations. Lesser Golden-Plovers were seen at eight locations, and a Piping Plover seen at North Monomoy on October 30 was very late. Two Whimbrels were noted this month, and single Marbled Godwits were present at Plum Island and in the Chatham-North Monomoy area. Baird's Sandpipers at Scituate and at Plum Island were late; the previous latest date in *Bird Observer* field records for this species was November 6, 1983, although there were January/February sightings in earlier years. Four Stilt Sandpipers at Plum Island were also tardy. An American Woodcock was seen on a BBC pelagic trip to Stellwagen Bank. G.W.G.

| | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Clapper Rail thr | Chatham | 3 max | P. Trull |
| Virginia Rail | | | |
| 1, 16 | DWWS, GMNWR | 1, 1 | G. d'Entremont#, T. Aversa |
| Sora | | | |
| 1, 2 | DWWS | 1-3 | v. o. |
| 10, 10-12 | GMNWR, Newton | 3, 1 | T. Aversa, S. Dennison# |
| American Coot | | | |
| 3-19, 16-17 | Marlboro, GMNWR | 1-3, 12 max | R. Graefe, v. o. |
| 12-31, 23 | Cambridge (F.P.), Plymouth | 1-6, 137 | J. Barton, R. Abrams |
| Black-bellied Plover | | | |
| 1, 23; 9 | Winthrop; N. Monomoy | 300, 500; 400 | J. Cumming; B. Nikula |
| 16, 21 | P. I., PRNWR | 46, 54 | BBC (P. Stevens), W. Drew# |
| Lesser Golden-Plover | | | |
| 4, 9 | Barnstable, Salisbury | 1, 1 | R. Forster# |
| 10, 15; 30 | N. Monomoy; S. Monomoy | 4, 2; 1 | B. Nikula# |
| 15 | Middleboro | 4 | G. d'Entremont# |
| 21-29, 23 | P. I., Halifax | 5 max 10/21, 7 | v. o., W. Petersen |
| Semipalmated Plover | | | |
| 14, 17 | Marshfield, P. I. | 11, 5 | T. Aversa |
| 16, 18 | N. Monomoy, Chatham | 80, 3 | B. Nikula, R. Stymeist# |
| 22 | Winthrop | 1 | J. Cumming |
| Piping Plover | | | |
| 10; 16, 30 | Chatham; N. Monomoy | 5; 2, 1 | B. Nikula# |
| Killdeer | | | |
| 2-23 | Halifax | 100 max 10/23 | v. o. |
| 5-25 | Marlboro | 10 max 10/18 | R. Graefe |
| 1, 10 | Arlington Reservoir, Ipswich | 19, 12 | L. Taylor#, J. Berry |
| 10, 25 | Concord (Nine Acre Corner) | 30, 50 | R. Forster |
| American Oystercatcher | | | |
| 2, 10 | Cuttihunk, N. Monomoy | 2, 35 | P. Trimble, B. Nikula# |
| 6, 10 | Chatham | 43, 40 | W. Bailey |

| DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | OCTOBER 1988 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Greater Yellowlegs | | | | |
| 1-31 | Newburyport-P. I. | 90 max 10/21 | v. o. | |
| 1-29 | E. Boston | 107 max 10/1 | J. Cumming | |
| 23 | Newbury | 40 | D. F. Oliver | |
| Lesser Yellowlegs | | | | |
| 10-23 | Newburyport-P. I. | 40 max 10/23 | v. o. | |
| 10, 22 | Arlington Reservoir | 10, 3 | L. Taylor# | |
| 22 | N. Scituate | 1 | R. Forster | |
| 30 | Lexington (Cambridge Reservoir) | 1 | R. Forster | |
| Solitary Sandpiper | | | | |
| 6-11 | Lexington (Cambridge Reservoir) | 1-3 | R. Forster, C. Floyd | |
| Willet | | | | |
| 1 | P. I. | 1 | BBC (R. McHale) | |
| Spotted Sandpiper | | | | |
| 2, 4-19 | Harwich, W. Newton | 1, 1 | J. Heywood, T. Kuklinski | |
| 9, 22 | W. Newbury | 1, 1 | R. Forster, BBC (L. Pivacek) | |
| 15, 20 | Danvers | 2, 1 | J. Brown | |
| Whimbrel | | | | |
| 1, 9 | P. I., N. Monomoy | 1, 1 | D. Chickering, B. Nikula# | |
| Hudsonian Godwit | | | | |
| 9-24 | Newburyport-P. I. | 14 max 10/10 | v. o. | |
| 1, 22 | E. Boston, Salisbury | 1, 9 | J. Cumming, BBC (L. Pivacek) | |
| Marbled Godwit | | | | |
| 1-22 | P. I. | 1 | D. Chickering + v. o. | |
| 6-10 | Chatham-N. Monomoy | 1 | B. Nikula + v. o. | |
| Ruddy Turnstone | | | | |
| 28, 30 | Winthrop, Plymouth | 1, 3 | T. Aversa, BBC (H. D'Entremont) | |
| Red Knot | | | | |
| 9, 16 | N. Monomoy | 150, 15 | B. Nikula | |
| 15, 24 | P. I. | 39, 35 | T. Aversa | |
| 30 | Plymouth | 2 | BBC (H. D'Entremont) | |
| Sanderling | | | | |
| 9, 16 | N. Monomoy | 400, 300 | B. Nikula | |
| 16 | P. I. | 43 | BBC (P. Stevens) | |
| Semipalmated Sandpiper | | | | |
| 10, 21 | Halifax, S. Monomoy | 1, 25 | K. Anderson, B. Nikula# | |
| 23 | Newbury | 4 | D. F. Oliver | |
| Western Sandpiper | | | | |
| 22, 23 | P. I. | 3, 1 | BBC (L. Pivacek), D. F. Oliver | |
| 21, 30 | Salisbury, Monomoy | 1, 3+ | R. Forster, B. Nikula | |
| <i>Calidris</i> species | | | | |
| 30 | Monomoy | 3 | B. Nikula | |
| White-rumped Sandpiper | | | | |
| 9-23 | P. I. | 50 max 10/10 | G. d'Entremont# + v. o. | |
| 9, 16; 21 | N. Monomoy; S. Monomoy | 4, 5; 25+ | B. Nikula | |
| 29, 30 | Winthrop, Monomoy | 13, 12 | J. Cumming, B. Nikula | |
| Baird's Sandpiper | | | | |
| 7, 10 | Scituate, P. I. | 1, 1 | D. Clapp, G. d'Entremont# | |
| Pectoral Sandpiper | | | | |
| 1-23 | Arlington Reservoir | 11 max 10/1 | L. Taylor# | |
| 9-23 | P. I. | 20 max 10/10 | G. d'Entremont# + v. o. | |
| 9, 30 | N. Monomoy | 15, 12 | B. Nikula | |
| 21, 30 | S. Monomoy | 120, 30 | B. Nikula | |
| 10-23 | Halifax | 50 max | W. Petersen, K. Anderson | |
| 15, 23 | GMNWR, Newbury | 8, 25 | S. Perkins, D. F. Oliver | |
| Purple Sandpiper | | | | |
| 15 | P. I. | 1 | T. Aversa | |
| Dunlin | | | | |
| 8-29 | Newburyport-P. I. | 302 max 10/29 | M. Lynch# + v. o. | |
| 9, 16 | N. Monomoy | 500, 900 | B. Nikula | |
| 22-29 | Winthrop | 600 max 10/29 | G. Gove# + v. o. | |
| Stilt Sandpiper | | | | |
| 21 | P. I. | 4 | R. Forster | |
| Long-billed Dowitcher | | | | |
| 1-29 | E. Boston | 4 or 5 | J. Cumming | |
| 10-29 | P. I. | 44 max 10/15 | v. o. | |
| Common Snipe | | | | |
| 10, 23 | P. I. | 1, 1 | G. d'Entremont#, D. F. Oliver | |
| 10, 16 | Halifax, Ipswich | 1, 2 | K. Anderson, D. F. Oliver | |

| DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | OCTOBER 1988 |
|----------------------|----------------------------|---------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| American Woodcock | | | | |
| 10, 15 | Middleton; DWWS, S. Boston | 1; 1, 1 | J. MacDougall; D. Morimoto | |
| 16 | Middleboro, Concord | 2, 1 | K. Holmes, R. Stymeist# | |
| 30 | Stellwagen Bank | 1 | BBC (H. D'Entremont) | |
| Red-necked Phalarope | | | | |
| 4, 8 | Barnstable (S.N.) | 2, 1 | R. Forster, B. Nikula | |
| 8, 9 | Rockport, Newburyport | 3, 15 | G. Soucy#, H. Wiggin# | |
| 9 | Stellwagen Bank | 4 | R. Prescott | |
| Red Phalarope | | | | |
| 9, 10 | Stellwagen, N. Monomoy | 2, 1 | R. Prescott, W. W. Harrington# | |
| 15, 22 | GMNWR, Winthrop | 1 ph, 2 | A. Bennett#, J. Cumming | |

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS

Pomarine and Parasitic jaegers were noted at Stellwagen Bank and from shore on stormy days. An adult **Franklin's Gull** was seen once in Winthrop, possibly the same bird that was at East Boston a month earlier. Single adult Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen at four locations, and an immature Sabine's Gull was seen at Stellwagen Bank on a BBC pelagic trip. Six Caspian Terns were noted at Barnstable, and Common Terns were still present in numbers throughout the month. Dovekies were migrating during the storm on October 22, when one was seen inland at Fresh Pond in Cambridge. G.W.G.

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Pomarine Jaeger | | | | |
| 9 | Stellwagen Bank | 1 | R. Prescott | |
| Parasitic Jaeger | | | | |
| 9, 19 | Stellwagen Bank | 2, 4 | R. Prescott, S. Perkins | |
| 22 | Rockport, Manomet | 4, 3 | R. Heil, G. d'Entremont# | |
| jaeger species | | | | |
| 5, 9; 8 | Eastham; Barnstable | 3, 6; 21 | B. Nikula | |
| 22 | Rockport; P'town, Eastham | 2; 7, 5 | R. Heil; W. Petersen# | |
| Laughing Gull | | | | |
| 1-29 | E. Boston | 30 max 10/1 | J. Cumming | |
| 2, 18 | Harwich, Chatham | 170, 74 | R. Stymeist# | |
| 2, 10 | Cuttyhunk, Westport | 140, 250 | P. Trimble, R. Stymeist# | |
| 28 | Winthrop | 170 | T. Aversa | |
| Franklin's Gull | | | | |
| 28 | Winthrop | 1 ad | T. Aversa | |
| Little Gull | | | | |
| 2-16 | Newburyport Harbor | 2 ad max 10/9 | R. Stymeist# + v. o. | |
| 18 | Lynn | 1 | J. Quigley | |
| Common Black-headed Gull | | | | |
| 7; 18, 25 | E. Boston; Lynn | 1 ad; 1 ad | J. Quigley | |
| 10, 22 | Provincetown, Winthrop | 1, 1 | J. Cumming | |
| Bonaparte's Gull | | | | |
| 2, 14; 15 | Newburyport; Ipswich | 150, 85; 14 | J. Brown, J. Berry; J. Berry | |
| 22, 29; 26 | Winthrop; Lynn | 300, 8; 550 | J. Cumming; J. Quigley# | |
| Ring-billed Gull | | | | |
| 10, 21 | Westport, Halifax | 325, 200 | R. Stymeist#, K. Anderson | |
| 3, 22 | E. Boston, Winthrop | 137, 470 | J. Cumming | |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull | | | | |
| 5, 11 | Nantucket, Lynn | 1 ad, 1 ad | M. Litchfield, J. Quigley | |
| 30 | Cape Cod Bay, S. Monomoy | 1 ad, 1 ad | BBC (H. D'Entremont), B. Nikula | |
| Black-legged Kittiwake | | | | |
| 8, 9 | Barnstable, Eastham | 9, 30 | B. Nikula | |
| 22 | Rockport, Provincetown | 220, 3500 | R. Heil, W. Petersen# | |
| 22, 30 | Eastham, Cape Cod Bay | 500, 250 | T. Aversa, BBC (H. D'Entremont) | |
| Sabine's Gull | | | | |
| 30 | Cape Cod Bay | 1 imm | BBC (H. D'Entremont) | |
| Caspian Tern | | | | |
| 5 | Barnstable | 6 | R. Pease | |
| Common Tern | | | | |
| 10, 22 | Westport, P. I. | 6, 5 | R. Stymeist#, BBC (L. Pivacek) | |
| 10, 22, 30; 30 | P'town; Cape Cod Bay | 150, 44, 6; 23 | v. o.; BBC (H. D'Entremont) | |
| Forster's Tern | | | | |
| 2, 21 | Newburyport, PRNWR | 2, 1 | J. Brown, W. Drew# | |
| 10, 22 | Westport, Barnstable | 6, 10 | R. Stymeist#, T. Aversa | |
| Dovekie | | | | |
| 22 | Rockport, Manomet | 78, 3 | R. Heil, G. d'Entremont# | |
| 22 | Eastham, Provincetown | 1, 5 | W. Petersen# | |
| 22, 23 | Cambridge (F.P.), Gloucester | 1, 1 | C. Marchant, BBC (J. Nove) | |

| DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | OCTOBER 1988 |
|-----------|-----------------------|--------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Razorbill | | | | |
| 9, 19 | Stellwagen Bank | 1, 1 | R. Prescott, S. Perkins | |
| 22, 30 | Manomet, Cape Cod Bay | 1, 4 | G. d'Entremont, BBC (H. D'Entremont) | |

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoos were noted as late as October 9, and single Yellow-billed Cuckoos were noted on eight occasions, including one banded at Manomet Bird Observatory. Northern Saw-whet Owls were seen at Marblehead and at Salisbury. A Chimney Swift was noted on October 2, and both Red-headed and Red-bellied woodpeckers were seen. G.W.G.

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|--|
| Mourning Dove | | | | |
| 10, 15 | Ipswich, Belmont | 150, 125 | J. Berry, R. Stymeist# | |
| Black-billed Cuckoo | | | | |
| 9 | P. I., Salisbury | 1, 1 | R. Stymeist#, R. Forster | |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo | | | | |
| 1, 15; 1 | Beverly; Quabbin (G40) | 1, 1; 1 | J. Brown; T. Aversa | |
| 2, 19; 6 | Truro; MBO | 1, 1; 1 b | R. Stymeist#; M. Kasprzyk | |
| 9, 23 | P. I. | 1, 1 | M. Argue#, J. Gordon# | |
| Eastern Screech-Owl | | | | |
| 1, 16 | Brookline, Arlington | 2, 1 | R. Stymeist#, L. Taylor# | |
| Great Horned Owl | | | | |
| thr | Ipswich | 2 | J. Berry | |
| 9, 15-25 | Quabbin (G40), E. Middleboro | 1, 1 or 2 | BBC (M. Lynch), K. Anderson | |
| 29, 31 | Belmont, Hanson | 1, 2 | L. Taylor#, W. Petersen | |
| Northern Saw-whet Owl | | | | |
| 24, 29 | MNWS, Salisbury | 1, 1 | R. Wolanin, BBC (S. Bolton) | |
| Chimney Swift | | | | |
| 2 | Topsfield | 1 | J. Brown | |
| Belted Kingfisher | | | | |
| 1, 4-13 | Newburyport, Marlboro | 2, 1 | BBC (R. McHale), R. Graefe | |
| 9, 16 | Quabbin (G40), GMNWR | 3, 2 | BBC (M. Lynch) | |
| Red-headed Woodpecker | | | | |
| 16 | Wellesley | 1 imm | R. Bankart | |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | | | | |
| 26 | Woburn | 1 | J. Lavelle | |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | | | | |
| 1, 2 | P. I., Waltham | 2, 1 | H. Wiggin#, L. Taylor# | |
| 9, 12 | Quabbin (G40), MBO | 3, 1 b | BBC (M. Lynch), MBO | |
| Pileated Woodpecker | | | | |
| 23 | Ipswich | 1 | J. MacDougall | |

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SHRIKES

Three Western Kingbirds were recorded during the month, 3 more than last October, but not as many as the 8 noted in October 1986. Swallows were still present in impressive numbers early in the month. Two late Cliff Swallows were reported in Middleboro on October 15, nearly a month beyond their usual departure date.

The Eurasian Jackdaw continued to be seen along Hummock Pond on Nantucket throughout the month, and a Common Raven being harassed by a dozen American Crows was seen along Route 95 in Groveland. A total of 16 Winter Wrens was reported during the month, nearly as many as last October.

A Northern Wheatear at Red River Beach in Harwich was certainly one of the fall's highlights. This individual of the Greenland race, *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa*, was found by a vacationing birder and then seen by many the next day. This may have been the same bird reported in September in Wellfleet.

There was a good flight of Water Pipits with an exceptional count of 200 or so in Lincoln on Halloween Day. The Loggerhead Shrike first found on September 29 continued throughout the month at Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary in Marshfield, and the season's first Northern Shrike was found on Plum Island on October 28. R.H.S.

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-------|----------------------------|--|
| Eastern Wood-Pewee | | | | |
| 1 | Newburyport | 1 | BBC (R. McHale) | |
| <i>Empidonax</i> species | | | | |
| 6, 9 | Peabody, Scituate | 1, 1 | R. Heil, G. d'Entremont | |
| Eastern Phoebe | | | | |
| 2, 9 | Waltham, Quabbin (G40) | 9, 18 | L. Taylor#, BBC (M. Lynch) | |
| 14, 15 | DWWS, Belmont | 2, 8 | T. Aversa, R. Stymeist# | |

| DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | OCTOBER 1988 |
|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Western Kingbird | | | | |
| 1, 6 | P.I., Chatham (Morris I.) | 1, 1 | A. Dessinger, P. Trull | |
| 13 | S. Dart. (Allens Pd) | 1 | W. Evill# | |
| Horned Lark | | | | |
| 9, 13 | Quabbin (G40), Middleboro | 25, 22 | BBC (M. Lynch), D. F. Oliver | |
| 21, 29 | Salisbury, P.I. | 35, 45 | R. Forster, M. Lynch# | |
| Tree Swallow | | | | |
| 2 | Naushon-Cuttyhunk | 15000 | P. Trimble | |
| 6 | S. Dart. (Allens Pd) | 3000+ | LCES (D. Christiansen) | |
| 9 | Scituate | 2500+ | G. d'Entremont | |
| 10 | Westport, Halifax | 70, 3000+ | R. Stymeist#, K. Holmes | |
| 15, 22 | N. Monomoy, P'town | 200, 15 | B. Nikula#, W. Petersen# | |
| Cliff Swallow | | | | |
| 15 | Middleboro | 2 | G. d'Entremont# | |
| Barn Swallow | | | | |
| 5, 15-28 | Wayland (Heards Pd) | 4, 1 | R. Forster | |
| 10, 15 | Middleboro | 10, 2 | D. F. Oliver + v. o. | |
| Blue Jay | | | | |
| 2 | Millis | 1500+ | R. Forster | |
| Eurasian Jackdaw | | | | |
| thr | Nantucket (Hummock Pd) | 1 | fide E. Andrews | |
| American Crow | | | | |
| thr | E. Middleboro-Halifax | 200+ | K. Anderson | |
| 28, 30 | W. Roxbury, Hamilton | 250, 60 | T. Aversa, J. MacDougall | |
| Fish Crow | | | | |
| 15, 22 | Hanson, N. Scituate | 1, 1 | W. Petersen, R. Forster | |
| 31 | Wellesley | 1 | R. Forster | |
| Common Raven | | | | |
| 9, 17 | Quabbin (G40), Groveland | 3, 1 | BBC (M. Lynch), R. Stymeist | |
| Black-capped Chickadee | | | | |
| 9 | Quabbin (G40) | 63 | BBC (M. Lynch) | |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | | | | |
| 9, 29 | Quabbin (G40), Topsfield | 23, 2 | BBC (M. Lynch), J. MacDougall | |
| Brown Creeper | | | | |
| 9 | Quabbin (G40), P.I. | 9, 3 | BBC (M. Lynch), R. Forster# | |
| 10 | Middleboro | 4 | K. Holmes | |
| Carolina Wren | | | | |
| thr, 1 | Ipswich, Brookline | 1, 2 | J. Berry, R. Stymeist | |
| 2 | Eastham, P'town | 1, 1 | D. F. Oliver | |
| 10 | Milton, Fall River | 1, 4 | T. Cameron, R. Stymeist# | |
| 16, 30 | Middleboro, Hyannis | 3, 2 | G. d'Entremont#, P. Trimble | |
| House Wren | | | | |
| 1 | Topsfield, Cuttyhunk | 1, 1 | J. Brown, P. Trimble | |
| Winter Wren | | | | |
| 1 | Milton, Nahant | 1, 1 | G. d'Entremont#, J. Cumming | |
| 2, 9 | P'town, Quabbin (G40) | 1, 2 | BBC (R. Timberlake), BBC (M. Lynch) | |
| 10, 13 | Eastham, Stoneham | 1, 2 | P. Trimble, T. Aversa | |
| 15, 16, 29 | Nahant | 2, 2, 1 | L. Pivacek | |
| 16, 28 | Sudbury, Medfield | 1, 1 | G. Gove, T. Aversa | |
| 30 | S. Monomoy | 1 | B. Nikula | |
| Marsh Wren | | | | |
| 15 | GMNWR | 15 | M. Lynch# | |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | | | | |
| 1, 16 | Milton (Blue Hills), P.I. | 50, 46 | G. d'Entremont, BBC (P. Stevens) | |
| 20, 29 | Brookline, Framingham | 2, 7 | H. Wiggin, R. Forster | |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | | | | |
| 1, 5 | P.I., Wayland | 12, 4 | BBC (R. McHale), R. Forster | |
| 9 | Quabbin (G40) | 29 | BBC (M. Lynch) | |
| 27, 31 | W. Newton, Lexington | 2, 1 | T. Kuklinski, J. Heywood | |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | | | | |
| 10 | Sandwich | 1 | P. Trimble | |
| Eastern Bluebird | | | | |
| thr | E. Middleboro | 10 max 10/25 | K. Anderson | |
| 9 | Quabbin (G40) | 20 | BBC (M. Lynch) | |
| 13 | Medford (Fells) | 14 | P. Roberts | |
| Gray-cheeked Thrush | | | | |
| 2 | Cuttyhunk | 1 | P. Trimble | |
| Swainson's Thrush | | | | |
| 1; 3, 4 | Topsfield; Manomet | 1; 1 b, 1 b | J. Brown; MBO | |
| 9, 16 | Quabbin (G40), P.I. | 1, 1 | BBC (M. Lynch), C. Floyd | |

| DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | OCTOBER 1988 |
|----------------------|--------------------------|------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Hermit Thrush | | | | |
| 9, 14-20 | Quabbin (G40), Manomet | 9, 9 b | BBC (M. Lynch), MBO | |
| 16-19, 27 | Belmont, Stoneham | 12, 11 | S. Perkins + v. o., T. Aversa | |
| 30 | Ipswich, Waltham | 6, 4 | J. MacDougall, J. Heywood | |
| American Robin | | | | |
| 15, 24 | Belmont, Middleboro | 250+, 200+ | R. Stymeist#, K. Holmes | |
| 31 | Lexington | 80+ | J. Heywood | |
| Northern Wheatear | | | | |
| 2-3 | Harwich (Red River B.) | 1 ph | D. Stokes + v. o. | |
| Gray Catbird | | | | |
| 1; 5, 13 | P.I.; Wayland, Wellesley | 14; 5, 3 | BBC (R. McHale); R. Forster | |
| Northern Mockingbird | | | | |
| 1, 7 | Marshfield, Brookline | 8, 5 | D. F. Oliver, H. Wiggin | |
| Brown Thrasher | | | | |
| 30 | P'town | 1 | L. Taylor# | |
| Water Pipit | | | | |
| 9 | Salisbury, New Braintree | 12, 50 | R. Forster#, BBC (M. Lynch) | |
| 10 | Concord, Newbury | 12, 15 | R. Forster, G. d'Entremont# | |
| 10, 11 | P'town, Middleboro | 20, 60 | J. Smith, H. W. Harrington | |
| 15 | Danvers, Monomoy | 15, 1 | J. Brown, D. Small | |
| 22, 23 | P.I., Eastham | 19, 6 | BBC (L. Pivacek), M. Lynch# | |
| 31 | Lincoln | 200 | I. Nisbet | |
| Cedar Waxwing | | | | |
| 1, 2 | Brookline, Truro | 35, 12 | R. Stymeist, J. Cumming | |
| 15, 23 | Ipswich, Belmont | 16, 110 | J. Berry, L. Taylor# | |
| Northern Shrike | | | | |
| 28 | P.I. | 1 | J. Murray | |
| Loggerhead Shrike | | | | |
| thr | DWWS | 1 | v. o. | |

VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES

A total of 21 species of warblers was seen during the month, down from the 24 species noted last October. Late warblers included a Blue-winged Warbler in Provincetown on October 2, a Prairie Warbler on October 22, an American Redstart on October 30, and a Wilson's Warbler on Plum Island on October 16.

Dickcissels were reported from three locations, and Blue Grosbeaks were found in Belmont and in Middleboro. Two Clay-colored Sparrows were reported this October compared with 5 last October. There were 2 reports of immature Lark Buntings, and one or two Lark Sparrows were reported from Middleboro. The first Fox and American Tree sparrows were noted late in the month. Good numbers of White-crowned and Lincoln's sparrows were observed in many locations.

At Hears Pond in Wayland 325 Rusty Blackbirds were seen on October 9, and large flocks of blackbirds were reported from the Middleboro-Lakeville area. A Brewer's Blackbird was photographed in Chatham, and a Yellow-headed Blackbird visited a feeder in Eastham on October 18. R.H.S.

| | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|--|
| White-eyed Vireo | | | | |
| 10 | P'town | 1 | J. Smith | |
| Solitary Vireo | | | | |
| 9 | Salisbury, Quabbin (G40) | 1, 6 | R. Forster, BBC (M. Lynch) | |
| 14, 16 | DWWS, P.I. | 1, 1 | T. Aversa, C. Floyd | |
| Red-eyed Vireo | | | | |
| 7, 11, 17 | Manomet | 2 b, 5 b, 2 b | MBO | |
| 10, 14 | Stoneham, Marshfield | 1, 1 | T. Aversa | |
| 16, 17 | P.I., Lincoln | 1, 1 | C. Floyd | |
| Blue-winged Warbler | | | | |
| 2 | P'town (Beech Forest) | 1 | BBC (R. Timberlake) | |
| Tennessee Warbler | | | | |
| 12 | Manomet | 1 b | MBO | |
| Orange-crowned Warbler | | | | |
| 10, 11 | Ipswich, Manomet | 1, 1 b | C. Schubarth, MBO | |
| 13, 19 | Worcester, Truro | 1, 1 | M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist# | |
| Nashville Warbler | | | | |
| 6, 20; 15 | Manomet; Belmont | 2 b, 1 b; 1 | MBO; J. Heywood# | |
| Northern Parula | | | | |
| 1, 16 | P.I., Rockport | 1, 1 | M. Argue#, D. F. Oliver | |
| Yellow Warbler | | | | |
| 1 | P.I. | 1 | H. Wiggin# | |
| Magnolia Warbler | | | | |
| 1, 6 | Nahant, Framingham | 1, 1 | J. Cumming, R. Forster | |

| DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | OCTOBER 1988 |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|---|--------------|
| Cape May Warbler 1, 2; 2 9 | Nantucket; Millis P.I. | 2, 1; 1 1 | BBC (D. Davis); R. Forster R. Forster# | |
| Black-throated Blue Warbler 1, 3, 9 6, 12, 19 14; 17 | W. Newbury P.I., Stoneham, P.I. Manomet Marshfield; P.I., Chatham | 1, 1, 1 f 1 b, 1 b, 1 b 1; 1, 1 | M. Argue#, T. Aversa, R. Forster# MBO T. Aversa; R. Stymeist, W. Bailey | |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler 9, 10 10, 17, 23 15, 27 | Quabbin (G40), Fall River P.I. Danvers, W. Newton | 93, 65 10, 150+, 31 150, 10 | BBC (M. Lynch), R. Stymeist# J. Berry, R. Stymeist, D. F. Oliver J. Brown, T. Kuklinski | |
| Black-throated Green Warbler 1, 12 15, 17 | Brookline, Manomet Belmont, Ipswich | 4, 1 b 1, 3 | R. Stymeist, MBO L. Taylor#, J. Berry | |
| Pine Warbler 9, 10 | Quabbin (G40), Fall River | 12, 6 | BBC (M. Lynch), R. Stymeist# | |
| Prairie Warbler 22 | W. Newbury | 1 | BBC (L. Pivacek) | |
| Palm Warbler 1 6, 9 16, 21 | DWWS, Scituate Framingham, Quabbin (G40) Forestdale, S. Monomoy | 10, 15 15, 25 30, 20 | G. d'Entremont# R. Forster, BBC (M. Lynch) P. Trimble, B. Nikula | |
| Blackpoll Warbler 1 17, 23 | Milton, Quabbin (G40) Hamilton, Millis | 50, 28 1, 1 | G. d'Entremont, BBC (M. Lynch) J. Berry, R. Forster | |
| American Redstart 10, 30 | Fall River, Petersham | 1, 1 | R. Stymeist#, E. Nielsen | |
| Ovenbird 7 | Manomet | 1 b | MBO | |
| Mourning Warbler 6, 10 | Boston, Topsfield | 1, 1 | N. Staulker, J. Brown | |
| Common Yellowthroat 9 12, 23 | Scituate, Quabbin (G40) Halifax, Belmont | 1, 4 1, 1 | G. d'Entremont, BBC (M. Lynch) K. Anderson, L. Taylor# | |
| Wilson's Warbler 16 | P.I. | 1 m | C. Floyd | |
| Yellow-breasted Chat 3, 6 15, 19 | Manomet Belmont, Chatham | 1 b, 1 b 1, 1 | MBO R. Stymeist, W. Bailey | |
| Scarlet Tanager 1, 2 30 | Brookline (2 locations) Hyannis | 2, 2 1 | R. Stymeist, B. Rielly P. Trimble | |
| Blue Grosbeak 10, 15 | Belmont, Middleboro | 1, 1 | S. Perkins#, R. Stymeist# | |
| Indigo Bunting 10, 16 | Sandwich, Forestdale | 5, 3 | P. Trimble | |
| Dickcissel 9, 16, 22 10, 13-20 | P.I. Truro, Peabody | 1, 1, 1 2, 1 | D. Gagne, BBC (P. Stevens), BBC (L. Pivacek) R. Heil# | |
| Rufous-sided Towhee 6, 13 | Framingham, Stoneham | 3, 5 | R. Forster, T. Aversa | |
| American Tree Sparrow 20 29, 30 30 | Bolton Flats Ipswich, Waltham SRV, Petersham | 20 3 or 4, 1 5, 2 | E. Salmela J. Berry, J. Heywood R. Forster, G. Gove# | |
| Chipping Sparrow 1 29, 30 | P.I., Quabbin (G40) P.I., Wayland | 50, 25 9, 3 | BBC (R. McHale), T. Aversa G. Gove#, R. Forster | |
| Clay-colored Sparrow 2, 28 | Cuttyhunk, P.I. | 1, 1 | P. Trimble, fide S. Perkins | |
| Field Sparrow 1, 16 | Peabody, Sudbury | 8, 2 | D. F. Oliver, G. Gove# | |
| Vesper Sparrow 3, 9 10, 15 16 | Wellfleet, W. Newbury Scituate, Middleboro Forestdale | 8, 1 1, 3 2 | D. Arvidson#, H. Wiggin# T. Cameron#, M. Lynch# P. Trimble | |
| Lark Sparrow 13-15 | Middleboro | 1 or 2 | D. F. Oliver# + v. o. | |

| DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | OCTOBER 1988 |
|--------------------------------|---|------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Lark Bunting | | | | |
| 3, 10 | P'town, Ipswich | 1 imm (details), 1 imm | M. McClellan#, D. Brown | |
| Savannah Sparrow | | | | |
| 1, 10 | Peabody, Ipswich | 30, 50 | D. F. Oliver, J. Berry | |
| 10, 15 | Middleboro | 40, 100+ | G. d'Entremont# + v. o. | |
| 25, 29 | Concord, E. Boston | 27, 10 | R. Forster, J. Cumming | |
| "Ipswich" Sparrow | | | | |
| 21 | S. Monomoy, Salisbury | 1, 2 | B. Nikula, R. Forster | |
| Grasshopper Sparrow | | | | |
| 15, 16 | Middleboro, N. Monomoy | 1, 1 | D. Brown#, B. Nikula | |
| Sharp-tailed Sparrow | | | | |
| 1 | P.I., Scituate | 4, 4 | BBC (R. McHale), G. d'Entremont | |
| Seaside Sparrow | | | | |
| 9 | Scituate | 1 | G. d'Entremont | |
| Fox Sparrow | | | | |
| 27, 29 | Concord, Truro | 1, 1 | C. Floyd, D. Morimoto | |
| 30 | Sudbury | 1 | R. Forster | |
| Song Sparrow | | | | |
| 1, 6 | Danvers, Framingham | 40, 65 | J. Brown, R. Forster | |
| 9, 13 | Quabbin (G40), Bolton | 57, 90 | BBC (M. Lynch), M. Lynch# | |
| 15 | GMNWR, Middleboro | 60, 50 | M. Lynch#, G. d'Entremont# | |
| Lincoln's Sparrow | | | | |
| 6, 15 | Framingham, Belmont | 9, 6 | R. Forster, R. Stymeist# | |
| 15, 30 | Middleboro, Truro | 4+, 2 | G. d'Entremont#, L. Taylor# | |
| | Reports of 1-3 birds from 10 locations. | | | |
| Swamp Sparrow | | | | |
| 1, 5 | Peabody, Wayland | 8, 15 | D. F. Oliver, R. Forster | |
| 6, 10 | Framingham, Belmont | 20, 35 | R. Forster, S. Perkins# | |
| 15, 16 | GMNWR, Sudbury | 120+, 20 | M. Lynch#, G. Gove | |
| White-throated Sparrow | | | | |
| 6, 9 | Framingham, Quabbin (G40) | 45, 52 | R. Forster, BBC (M. Lynch) | |
| White-crowned Sparrow | | | | |
| 1 | Peabody, Belmont, Nahant | 3, 3, 5 | D. F. Oliver, L. Taylor#, J. Cumming | |
| 1 | Newburyport, Scituate | 16, 5 | BBC (R. McHale), G. d'Entremont | |
| 2 | Truro, Wellfleet | 30+, 18 | R. Stymeist, J. Heywood# | |
| 6, 14, 17 | Manomet | 3 b, 1 b, 1 b | MBO | |
| 9, 10 | Salisbury, Ipswich | 10, 6 | R. Forster, G. d'Entremont# | |
| 13, 16 | Bolton, Forestdale | 29, 15 | M. Lynch#, P. Trimble | |
| | Many other reports of 1-3 individuals from a wide area. | | | |
| Dark-eyed Junco | | | | |
| 2 | Boston H. (Georges I.) | 4 | BBC (P. Stevens) | |
| 28 | Sherborn, Wayland | 15, 25 | R. Forster | |
| 30 | Waltham, Topsfield | 15, 32 | J. Heywood#, J. MacDougall | |
| Lapland Longspur | | | | |
| 12, 16 | Halifax, Middleboro | 2, 3 | R. Forster#, G. d'Entremont# | |
| 21, 30 | Salisbury | 3, 1 | R. Forster, D. Chickering | |
| Snow Bunting | | | | |
| 29, 30 | Salisbury, Chatham | 16, 8 | D. Chickering, P. Trimble | |
| 31 | Quabbin (G40) | 150 | D. Small# | |
| Eastern Meadowlark | | | | |
| 2, 6 | DWWS, Framingham | 13, 5 | R. Stymeist#, R. Forster | |
| 16, 30 | Middleboro, Truro | 10+, 4 | G. d'Entremont#, L. Taylor# | |
| Yellow-headed Blackbird | | | | |
| 18 | Eastham | 1 | fide B. Nikula | |
| Rusty Blackbird | | | | |
| 1, 5 | Peabody, Wayland | 7, 7 | D. F. Oliver, R. Forster# | |
| 9, 10 | Wayland (Heards Pd) | 325, 240 | R. Forster | |
| 13, 15 | Bolton, GMNWR | 26, 10 | M. Lynch# | |
| Brewer's Blackbird | | | | |
| 15 | Chatham | 1 ph | B. Nikula | |
| Common Grackle | | | | |
| 15, 16 | Bridgewater, Norwell | 1100+, 1000+ | R. Stymeist, B. + M. Litchfield | |
| Brown-headed Cowbird | | | | |
| 9, 16 | Barnstable, Middleboro | 100, 750 | P. Trimble, G. d'Entremont# | |
| 21 | P.I. (north end) | 135 | R. Forster | |
| Northern Oriole | | | | |
| 1, 9 | Marshfield, Salisbury | 1, 1 | G. d'Entremont#, R. Forster# | |
| Purple Finch | | | | |
| thr | P.I. | 1 or 2 | v. o. | |
| 15, 30 | Middleboro, Ipswich | 1, 2 | G. d'Entremont#, J. MacDougall | |

FIELD RECORDS

NOVEMBER 1988



by Glenn d'Entremont, George W. Gove, and Robert H. Stymeist

November was what October might have been, mild and sunny. The temperature averaged 46.7 degrees, 1.5 degrees above normal. This was the sixteenth mildest November in 118 years. The high temperature was 67 degrees on November 6, and the temperature reached into the 60s on eight additional days. The low mark was 28 degrees on November 24. Rain totaled 6.57 inches, 2.36 inches more than normal. The most in any one day was 2.25 inches on November 20. This was only the eighth November in 118 years without any snow. A late season thunderstorm struck on November 20. In fact some suburbs recorded thunder on November 8 and 13 as well, quite unusual for November. R.H.S.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

The Boston Harbor waterfowl monitoring program was initiated November 13. This series of waterfowl counts follows in the footsteps of *Bird Observer's* Take A Second Look (TASL) program of regular surveys of the harbor from East Point in Nahant to the Weir River in Hingham. Over the next few years, the Massachusetts Audubon Society (MAS) will conduct these surveys as the clean-up of Boston Harbor proceeds. In the *Bird Observer* field records, these observations will be shown as reports from Boston Harbor with MAS/TASL listed as the observers. On the first census, forty-five volunteers tallied 68 Horned Grebes, 175 Double-crested Cormorants, 1182 Brants, 1194 American Black Ducks, and 1000 Common Eiders—to mention a few highlights.

There were many reports of Pied-billed Grebes. A Red-necked Grebe at the Chestnut Hill Reservoir in Brighton was especially interesting, although not unprecedented. Northern Gannets were flying past Chatham at a rate of about 280 per hour on November 7.

On November 22, an adult Brown Pelican in winter plumage was found on a Nahant Beach. The Salem Animal Rescue League transferred the very weak bird to a rehabilitation center in Hingham where it died three days later.

American Bitterns were noted from four locations. Great Blue Herons were reported in good numbers from a wide area; on the MAS/TASL count, 28 individuals were tallied in Boston Harbor. Cattle Egrets lingered in South Dartmouth, Bourne, and Sandwich.

Ten Tundra Swans were photographed at Nauset on November 18. This is the right time for migrants of this species to be found, but unfortunately the ten were only seen on one day. On November 25 three Tundra Swans were seen on Nantucket. Two adult "Blue" Snow Geese were found at the Cherry Hill Reservoir in West Newbury, and a "Richardson's" Canada Goose was noted in Lakeville.

At Fresh Pond in Cambridge, a high of 1045 Canvasbacks was tallied on November 5. The number of Canvasbacks seen in the fall at Fresh Pond has been increasing over the last few years, but this total far surpasses the nearly 700 individuals reported in November 1987. Lakeville is the traditional stronghold for Ring-necked Ducks; about 1000 individuals were counted there on November 1. Very good numbers of Hooded Mergansers and Ruddy Ducks were also reported from a wide area. R.H.S.

| DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | NOVEMBER 1988 |
|-------------------|------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Red-throated Loon | | | | |
| 2, 5 | Wayland, Ipswich | 1, 24 | R. Forster, BBC (J. Berry) | |
| 13, 20 | Mass. Bay, Rockport | 8, 35 | BBC (S. Perkins), C. Schubarth | |
| Common Loon | | | | |
| 5, 19; 6 | Natick; P.I. | 1, 1; 7 | E. Taylor; D. F. Oliver# | |
| 9, 13 | Wayland, Gloucester | 1, 15 | R. Forster, BBC (W. Drummond) | |
| 13, 19 | Mass. Bay, P'town | 15, 5 | BBC (S. Perkins), D. F. Oliver | |
| 19, 20 | Newbypt area, Cape Ann | 15, 15 | BBC (S. Moore), C. Schubarth | |
| Pied-billed Grebe | | | | |
| 5, 12, 20 | Arlington (Spy Pd) | 15, 9, 11 | L. Taylor# | |
| 11, 25 | Braintree, Lakeville | 5, 3 | J. Hatch#, W. Petersen | |

| DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | NOVEMBER 1988 |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Horned Grebe | | | | |
| 2, 9; 6 | Waltham; Quabbin (G40) | 2, 3; 5 | R. Forster; M. Lynch# | |
| 13 | Boston H., Rockport | 68, 20 | MAS/TASL, BBC (W. Drummond) | |
| 14, 19 | Hull, W. Yarmouth | 20, 22 | P. Thayer, P. Trimble | |
| 25 | Lakeville | 26 | W. Petersen | |
| Red-necked Grebe | | | | |
| 6, 13 | Quabbin (G40), Brighton | 1, 1 | M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist | |
| 27 | Rockport | 3 | J. Berry# | |
| Northern Gannet | | | | |
| 7 | Chatham | 800+/- | V. Fazio | |
| 13 | Mass. Bay, Rockport | 6, 10 | BBC (S. Perkins), BBC (W. Drummond) | |
| 19, 20 | Salisbury, Rockport | 4, 62 | BBC (S. Moore), C. Schubarth | |
| Brown Pelican | | | | |
| 22 | Nahant | 1 ad (winter pl) | C. Wasserman | |
| Great Cormorant | | | | |
| 6, 12 | Concord | 1 imm | R. Forster | |
| 9, 11 | Waltham, Lakeville | 1 imm, 2 | R. Forster, W. Petersen | |
| 13 | Boston Harbor | 25 | BBC (S. Perkins) | |
| Double-crested Cormorant | | | | |
| 4, 11 | S. Dart., Lakeville | 20, 7 | D. Christiansen, W. Petersen | |
| 13 | Boston Harbor | 175 | MAS/TASL | |
| 19, 22 | Newburyport, Natick | 10, 1 | J. Berry, R. Forster | |
| 23, 25 | Cambridge, Plymouth | 1, 1 | J. Barton, W. Petersen | |
| American Bittern | | | | |
| 5, 19 | P.I. | 1, 1 | BBC (W. Gette), D. Donovan# | |
| 8, 11 | S. Dart., Salisbury | 1, 1 | D. Christiansen, C. Black# | |
| 24 | Eastham (Fort Hill) | 1 | B. Nikula | |
| Great Blue Heron | | | | |
| 5 | Belmont, Wakefield | 3, 5 | L. Taylor#, BBC (D. Williams) | |
| 7 | Squantum | 9 | K. Ryan | |
| 8 | S. Dart. (Allens Pd) | 10 | LCES (D. Christiansen) | |
| 13 | Everett, Boston H. | 10, 28 | J. Heywood, MAS/TASL | |
| Many reports of 1 or 2 individuals from a wide area. | | | | |
| Cattle Egret | | | | |
| 13 | S. Dart. (Tucker Pd) | 1 | D. Christiansen | |
| 19, 23 | Bourne, Sandwich | 2, 3 ph | D. Clapp, P. Trimble | |
| Black-crowned Night-Heron | | | | |
| 5, 22 | Wakefield, E. Boston | 3, 4 | BBC (D. Williams), T. Aversa | |
| Tundra Swan | | | | |
| 18, 25 | Nauset, Nantucket | 10 ph, 3 | R. Everett#, D. Arvidson# | |
| Mute Swan | | | | |
| thr | P.I., Gloucester | 5 max, 12 max | 11/26 C. Black#, R. Stymeist + v. o. | |
| 5, 12-28 | Wakefield, Arlington | 1, 2 | BBC (D. Williams), L. Taylor# | |
| Snow Goose | | | | |
| 6, 7 | Quabbin (G40), Wellfleet | 1, 75 | M. Lynch#, V. Fazio | |
| 11-19 | P.I. | 22 max 11/19 | BBC (S. Moore) + v. o.# | |
| 13 | Arlington | 1 imm | L. Taylor | |
| "Blue" Snow Goose | | | | |
| 20 | W. Newbury (Cherry Hill) | 2 ad | R. Forster | |
| Brant | | | | |
| 3, 4 | S. Dart., Quincy | 5, 250+ | D. Christiansen, T. Aversa | |
| 13, 19 | Boston H., Newbypt | 1182, 3 | MAS/TASL, D. Donovan# | |
| Canada Goose | | | | |
| thr | Cambridge (F.P.) | 240 max 11/23 | J. Barton + v. o. | |
| 5, 10 | Wakefield, GMNWR | 157, 450 | BBC (D. Williams), T. Aversa | |
| 14, 18, 20 | P.I. | 945, 725, 1500 | W. Drew, T. Aversa, R. Forster | |
| 15, 30 | S. Dart. (Allens Pd) | 487, 400 | LCES (D. Christiansen) | |
| 22, 27 | GMNWR, Framingham | 930, 400 | R. Forster | |
| "Richardson's" Canada Goose | | | | |
| 11, 26 | Lakeville, GMNWR | 1, 1 | W. Petersen, S. Perkins | |
| Wood Duck | | | | |
| 5 | P.I., Ipswich | 1, 1 | BBC (W. Gette), BBC (J. Berry) | |
| 10 | GMNWR | 6 | T. Aversa | |
| Green-winged Teal | | | | |
| thr | P.I., S. Monomoy | 430 max 11/11, 650 max 11/5 | W. Drew#, B. Nikula | |
| 19 | Wayland (Heards Pd) | 90 | R. Forster | |
| American Black Duck | | | | |
| thr | S. Dart. (Allens Pd) | 489 max 11/1 | LCES (D. Christiansen) | |
| 5, 19, 26 | S. Monomoy | 300, 300, 200 | B. Nikula# | |
| 13, 14 | Boston H., P.I. | 1194, 405 | MAS/TASL, W. Drew# | |

| DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | NOVEMBER 1988 |
|--|--|---|---|---------------|
| Mallard 5, 12 23, 26 | Cambridge (F.P.), Falmouth Sandwich, Quabbin (G41) | 132, 147 120, 86 | J. Barton, M. Lynch# P. Trimble, M. Lynch# | |
| Northern Pintail 5, 19, 26; 5 10, 16; 14 | S. Monomoy; Waltham GMNWR; P.I. | 60, 130, 10; 3 15, 5; 16 | B. Nikula#; D. F. Oliver T. Aversa, D. Flood; W. Drew# | |
| Blue-winged Teal 5, 19; 6 | S. Monomoy; GMNWR | 2, 1; 1 | B. Nikula#; V. Fazio | |
| Northern Shoveler thr 14, 22 | S. Monomoy, P.I. GMNWR, Hull | 45 max 11/19, 16 max 11/3 4, 1 | B. Nikula#, R. Forster# + v. o. R. Forster, P. Thayer | |
| Gadwall 5, 19, 26 6, 16 13, 20; 21 25 | S. Monomoy GMNWR Arlington; Braintree Plymouth (Billington Sea) | 30, 25, 10 20, 20 1; 2 30 | B. Nikula# BBC (R. Vernon), D. Flood L. Taylor#; K. Ryan W. Petersen | |
| Eurasian Wigeon 10-30, 25 | Chatham, Plymouth | 1, 1 m | G. Carpenter#, W. Petersen | |
| American Wigeon thr thr 1; 5, 19, 26 5, 13 21, 25 | Arlington Reservoir Cambridge (F.P.) New Bedford; S. Monomoy Ipswich, Squantum-Wollaston Braintree, Plymouth | 85 max 11/5 28 max 11/7 26; 40, 30, 10 25, 40 18, 50 | L. Taylor J. Barton R. Forster; B. Nikula# BBC (J. Berry), MAS/TASL K. Ryan, W. Petersen | |
| Canvasback thr 2, 6 11, 19 26, 29 | Cambridge (F.P.) Cambridge Reservoir, W. Newbury Lakeville, W. Newbury S. Monomoy, Marlboro | 1045 max 11/5 12, 10 15, 50 35, 4 | J. Barton + v. o. R. Forster, J. Berry W. Petersen, BBC (S. Moore) B. Nikula#, R. Graefe | |
| Redhead 1-15, 18 25, 26 | Cambridge (F.P.), Middleboro Plymouth, S. Monomoy | 1 f, 1 m 4, 25 | J. Barton + v. o., D. Briggs W. Petersen#, B. Nikula# | |
| Ring-necked Duck thr thr 1, 10 6, 11 13, 26 | Cambridge (F.P.) Marlboro Lakeville, Framingham Quabbin (G40), Halifax W. Newbury, S. Monomoy | 154 max 11/5 and 11/7 50 max 11/9 900-1000, 36 189, 65 260, 300 | J. Barton + v. o. R. Graefe R. Forster M. Lynch#, W. Petersen R. Forster, B. Nikula# | |
| Greater Scaup thr 12, 13 | Cambridge (F.P.) Falmouth, Boston H. | 23 max 11/6 709, 326 | J. Barton + v. o. M. Lynch#, MAS/TASL | |
| Lesser Scaup thr 5 6, 12 25 26 | Cambridge (F.P.) Natick, Wakefield W. Newbury, Falmouth Plymouth, Lakeville S. Monomoy | 4 max 11/4 and 11/5 1, 2 12, 2 7, 20 40 | J. Barton + v. o. E. Taylor, BBC (D. Williams) D. F. Oliver#, M. Lynch# W. Petersen W. Petersen + B. Nikula | |
| Common Eider 13 14, 26 | Boston Harbor S. Monomoy | 1000 9000, 10000+ | MAS/TASL D. Houghton, B. Nikula# | |
| Harlequin Duck 12, 20-31 30 | Winthrop, Rockport S. Monomoy | 1 m, 4 3 | T. Aversa, C. Schubarth D. Houghton# | |
| Oldsquaw 11 19, 20 | Lakeville W. Yarmouth, Rockport | 1 30, 99 | W. Petersen P. Trimble, C. Schubarth | |
| Black Scoter 4, 20 | S. Monomoy, Rockport | 1000, 62 | D. Houghton#, C. Schubarth | |
| Surf Scoter 20 | Rockport | 34 | C. Schubarth | |
| White-winged Scoter 4, 26 11, 13 14 | S. Monomoy Lakeville, Boston H. PRNWR | 17000, 15000 6, 312 170 | D. Houghton, B. Nikula# W. Petersen, MAS/TASL W. Drew# | |
| Common Goldeneye 13 | Boston Harbor | 391 | MAS/TASL | |
| Bufflehead thr 7, 9 13, 18 | S. Dart. (Allens Pd) Chatham, Cambridge Reservoir Boston H., Newbypt H. | 55 max 11/15 365, 24 2141, 400+ | LCES (D. Christiansen) V. Fazio, R. Forster MAS/TASL, J. Berry | |

| DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | NOVEMBER 1988 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Hooded Merganser | | | | |
| 2, 9 | Cambridge Reservoir | 46, 57 | R. Forster | |
| 5, 19, 26 | S. Monomoy | 10, 15, 25 | B. Nikula# | |
| 12, 23 | Falmouth, Stoneham | 56, 18 | M. Lynch#, T. Aversa | |
| 25 | Plymouth, Lakeville | 40, 12 | R. Forster | |
| 27, 29 | Braintree, Eastham | 28, 48 | T. Cameron#, T. Aversa | |
| Common Merganser | | | | |
| 5, 6 | Wakefield, Quabbin (G40) | 52, 34 | BBC (D. Williams), M. Lynch# | |
| 25, 27 | Lakeville, W. Newbury | 200+, 100+ | R. Forster#, M. Lynch# | |
| Red-breasted Merganser | | | | |
| 4, 13 | S. Monomoy, Boston H. | 10000, 764 | D. Houghton#, MAS/TASL | |
| 15 | S. Dart. (Allens Pd) | 102 | LCES (D. Christiansen) | |
| 16 | Hull (Point Allerton) | 1200 | P. Thayer | |
| Ruddy Duck | | | | |
| thr | Cambridge (F.P.) | 29 max 11/9 | J. Barton + v. o. | |
| thr | Marlboro | 14 max 11/9 | R. Graefe | |
| 2, 9 | Cambridge Reservoir | 70, 90 | R. Forster# | |
| 5, 19, 26 | S. Monomoy | 170, 150, 130 | B. Nikula# | |
| 5 | Wakefield, Waltham | 29, 34 | BBC (D. Williams), D. F. Oliver | |
| 5 | Arlington Reservoir, Natick | 19, 20 | L. Taylor, E. Taylor | |
| 6, 7 | W. Newbury, Norton | 54, 110 | J. Berry, K. Ryan | |
| 19, 25 | Framingham, Plymouth | 100, 80 | E. Taylor, W. Petersen | |

VULTURES THROUGH ALCIDS

Turkey Vultures lingered through midmonth, and there were many reports of Ospreys through November 19, which is late for this species. Details were submitted for a Swainson's Hawk sighting by an observer familiar with this species in the west. The hawk was seen in the area where this species was seen in October. Swainson's Hawk is now regular in the fall at Cape May, and now that many local birders have seen this species, there will probably be more reports.

A Yellow Rail was reported by the observer as follows: "Flushed from *Spartina patens* only two or three feet from my feet; flew thirty to forty feet and landed in some taller *S. alterniflora*. Size and dorsal coloration were somewhat reminiscent of Eastern Meadowlark; dorsal surface, straw-colored with white rectangular patches on the trailing edge of each wing; bill, stubby; flight, weak and sloppy." Clapper Rails were noted in Chatham and in Newburyport, and up to 225 American Coots were counted in the Billington Sea in Plymouth, a goodly number of coots considering reports of the last several years. A report of a late bird was that of a Black Skimmer; the latest records for this species are generally in late September so that this report constitutes a very late one.

G.W.G.

| | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Turkey Vulture | | | | |
| 3, 11 | Eastham, Salisbury | 1, 1 | C. Ewer, L. Taylor# | |
| 11, 17 | Braintree, Stoughton | 1, 1 | K. Ryan | |
| Osprey | | | | |
| 2, 11 | Easton, Braintree | 2, 2 | K. Ryan | |
| 6 | Concord, GMNWR | 2, 2 | R. Forster, BBC (R. Vernon) | |
| 9-19 | Wayland | 3 max 11/9 | R. Forster | |
| Reports of 11 individuals from 11 locations 11/5-11/19. | | | | |
| Bald Eagle | | | | |
| 6 | Quabbin (G40) | 2 imm + 1 ad | M. Lynch# | |
| 25 | Lakeville | 1 ad + 1 imm | W. Petersen | |
| Northern Harrier | | | | |
| thr | S. Dart. (Allens Pd) | 3 max | LCES (D. Christiansen) | |
| 5, 19, 26 | S. Monomoy | 3, 3+, 3+ | B. Nikula# | |
| 2, 19 | Marlboro, PRNWR | 1, 7 | R. Graefe, D. Donovan# | |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | | | | |
| 6, 12 | Quabbin (G40), Falmouth | 2, 2 | M. Lynch# | |
| 12, 19 | Weymouth, P. I. | 1, 1 | W. Petersen, D. F. Oliver# | |
| 19, 29 | W. Yarmouth, Chatham | 1, 1 | P. Trimble, T. Aversa | |
| Cooper's Hawk | | | | |
| 5, 6 | Medfield, Quabbin (G40) | 1, 1 | T. Aversa, M. Lynch# | |
| 13, 16 | Ipswich, Squantum | 1, 1 | J. Berry, MAS/TASL | |
| Northern Goshawk | | | | |
| 14, 17 | Millis, Brookline | 1, 1 | R. Forster, H. Wiggin | |
| 19 | P. I., Hardwick | 1, 1 ad | M. Argue#, M. Lynch# | |
| 18, 30 | Easton, Middleboro | 1 ad, 1 | K. Ryan, K. Holmes | |

| DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | NOVEMBER 1988 |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| Red-shouldered Hawk 23 | Sharon | 1 ad | R. Titus | |
| Swainson's Hawk (details submitted) 1 | Middleboro | 1 | R. Titus | |
| Red-tailed Hawk 3, 27 | Boston, Newton | 1, 1 | M. Murphy | |
| Rough-legged Hawk 6 | W. Newbury | 1 | D. Chickering | |
| 25 | Nantucket | 3 | D. Arvidson# | |
| American Kestrel 13, 19; 19 | Everett; Newburyport | 1, 3; 1 | J. Heywood; D. Donavan# | |
| 28 | Middleboro | 1 | K. Holmes | |
| Merlin 13, 19 | Winthrop, Hyannis | 1, 1 | MAS/TASL, P. Trimble | |
| 27 | Salisbury | 1 | M. Lynch# | |
| Peregrine Falcon 4 | Boston | 1 | M. Murphy | |
| 15, 23 | S. Dartmouth | 1, 1 imm | LCES (D. Christiansen) | |
| 19; 26 | S. Monomoy | 1 imm; 1 ad + 1 imm | B. Nikula# | |
| Ruffed Grouse 25, 2-24 | Stoughton, Easton | 2, 1 or 2 | T. Aversa, K. Ryan | |
| Wild Turkey 6 | Quabbin (G40) | 13 | M. Lynch# | |
| Northern Bobwhite 25 | Sandwich | 3 | P. Trimble | |
| Yellow Rail (details submitted) 21 | Chatham (Morris I.) | 1 | B. Nikula | |
| Clapper Rail 1-26, 6 | Chatham, Newburyport | 2, 1 | P. Trull#, C. Floyd | |
| American Coot thr | Cambridge (F.P.), W. Newbury | 7 max, 9 max | J. Barton, v. o. | |
| 5-20, 5 | Arlington, Waltham | 16 max, 14 | L. Taylor#, D. F. Oliver | |
| 23, 25 | Sharon, Plymouth | 14, 225 | R. Titus, W. Petersen | |
| Black-bellied Plover 1-15 | S. Dart. (Allens Pd) | 7 max 11/1 | LCES (D. Christiansen) | |
| 6, 13 | P. I., Ipswich | 30, 50 | J. Berry | |
| 6, 17 | N. Monomoy, Squantum | 250, 25 | B. Nikula, K. Ryan | |
| Lesser Golden-Plover 6, 12 | P. I. | 8, 6 | D. F. Oliver#, D. Chickering | |
| 13 | Ipswich | 1 | J. Berry | |
| Semipalmated Plover 1 | S. Dart. (Allens Pd) | 1 | LCES (D. Christiansen) | |
| 6, 13 | N. Monomoy, Salisbury | 5, 1 | B. Nikula, J. Berry# | |
| Killdeer 9, 17; 13 | Easton; Middleboro | 23, 18; 6 | K. Ryan; K. Holmes | |
| 15, 14-18 | Wenham, Marlboro | 5, 4 or 5 | J. Brown, R. Graefe | |
| American Oystercatcher 6 | Chatham | 7 | B. Nikula | |
| Greater Yellowlegs thr | S. Dart. (Allens Pd) | 9 max 11/15 | LCES (D. Christiansen) | |
| 7 | Squantum, WBWS | 29, 14 | K. Ryan, V. Fazio | |
| 6, 18 | Quabbin (G40), Lakeville | 11, 8 | M. Lynch#, D. Briggs | |
| Lesser Yellowlegs 2, 7 | Lexington, WBWS | 1, 1 | R. Forster, V. Fazio | |
| 24 | Stoughton | 1 | R. Titus | |
| Spotted Sandpiper 3, 6 | S. Dartmouth, Lincoln | 1, 1 | D. Christiansen, S. Perkins | |
| Hudsonian Godwit 6-19 | Newburyport | 6 max 11/18 | v. o. | |
| 5 | Barnstable | 2 | M. Tuttle | |
| Marbled Godwit 11 | Newburyport | 1 | L. Taylor# | |
| Ruddy Turnstone 11 | Quincy | 2 | K. Ryan | |
| Red Knot 7, 13 | WBWS, S. Boston | 1, 1 | V. Fazio, MAS/TASL | |
| Sanderling 6, 11 | N. Monomoy, Quincy | 250, 32 | B. Nikula, K. Ryan | |
| Calidris species 7 | WBWS | 14 | V. Fazio | |

| DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | NOVEMBER 1988 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| White-rumped Sandpiper | | | | |
| 2, 5 | Winthrop, S. Monomoy | 14, 2 | T. Aversa, B. Nikula | |
| 6, 13 | P. I., Salisbury | 3, 1 | D. F. Oliver#, R. Forster | |
| Pectoral Sandpiper | | | | |
| 5 | Arlington Reservoir | 7 | L. Taylor# | |
| 5, 6 | S. Monomoy, N. Monomoy | 25, 3 | B. Nikula | |
| 9, 11 | Easton, Braintree | 6, 1 | K. Ryan, J. Hatch# | |
| Purple Sandpiper | | | | |
| 13, 19 | P. I., Salisbury | 1, 15 | R. Forster, H. Wiggin# | |
| Dunlin | | | | |
| 1, 6 | Lakeville, P. I. | 1, 305 | R. Forster, D. F. Oliver | |
| 6, 19 | N. Monomoy, Newburyport | 600, 200 | B. Nikula, J. Berry | |
| Short-billed Dowitcher | | | | |
| 6 | N. Monomoy | 2 | B. Nikula | |
| Long-billed Dowitcher | | | | |
| 5, 6 | P. I. | 6, 5 | BBC (W. Gette), D. F. Oliver# | |
| Common Snipe | | | | |
| 19 | Truro | 1 | D. F. Oliver# | |
| American Woodcock | | | | |
| 6, 9 | Medfield, Wayland | 1, 1 | R. Forster | |
| Laughing Gull | | | | |
| 2, 13 | New Bedford, E. Boston | 18, 56 | R. Titus, J. Quigley | |
| Little Gull | | | | |
| 2, 10; 10 | Lynn; Revere | 1, 1; 1 ad | J. Quigley | |
| 13 | Mass. Bay | 1 ad + 1 (1W) | BBC (S. Perkins) | |
| 11, 21 | Revere | 1, 1 | J. Quigley | |
| Common Black-headed Gull | | | | |
| 8; 12, 24; 27 | Lynn; Revere; E. Boston | 1 ad; 2 ad; 4 ad | J. Quigley | |
| 19 | Newburyport | 1 ad + 1 imm | J. Berry | |
| Bonaparte's Gull | | | | |
| 3, 19 | S. Dartmouth, Newburyport | 121, 125 | D. Christiansen, J. Berry | |
| 13, 30 | Boston Harbor, Lynn | 300, 300 | BBC (S. Perkins), J. Quigley | |
| Ring-billed Gull | | | | |
| 5, 10 | Arlington, Weston | 50, 100 | L. Taylor#, E. Taylor | |
| 27 | E. Boston | 800 | J. Quigley | |
| Iceland Gull | | | | |
| 26 | Barre | 1 | M. Lynch# | |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull | | | | |
| 26 | Barre | 1 imm | M. Lynch# | |
| Glaucous Gull | | | | |
| 13 | Salisbury | 1 | R. Forster | |
| Black-legged Kittiwake | | | | |
| 13 | Mass. Bay | 1 | BBC (S. Perkins) | |
| Common Tern | | | | |
| 13 | Wellfleet | 12 | L. Sager | |
| Black Skimmer (details submitted) | | | | |
| 8 | S. Dartmouth | 1 ad | D. Christiansen | |
| Thick-billed Murre | | | | |
| 13, 27 | Rockport, Cape Ann | 3, 1 | BBC (W. Drummond), D. Chickering | |
| Razorbill | | | | |
| 13 | Mass. Bay | 2 | BBC (S. Perkins) | |
| 13, 20 | Rockport | 2, 2 | BBC (W. Drummond), C. Schubarth | |
| Black Guillemot | | | | |
| 13-27 | Rockport | 3-4 | v. o. | |
| Atlantic Puffin | | | | |
| 20 | Rockport | 1 | C. Schubarth | |

DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

A Common Barn-Owl was found at Squaw Rock Park in Quincy and was seen by many birders on November 5. A Great Horned Owl found on South Monomoy was very unusual for the island, and a Barred Owl in Brookline was also noteworthy.

A Pileated Woodpecker was reported from Manchester, and there were 2 reports of Red-bellied Woodpeckers during the month. Three individual reports of Eastern Phoebe represent the first November *Bird Observer* field records for this species in two years. A Western Kingbird was present at Fort Hill in Eastham for nearly a week, and Tree Swallows were noted at three locations. The American Crow roost in Framingham totaled over 3400 birds, and the Eurasian Jackdaw continued to be seen on Nantucket throughout the month. It was another lean year for Red-breasted Nuthatches with no birds reported from

coastal locations. Good numbers of Carolina Wrens were reported, and 3 House Wrens were the first November *Bird Observer* field records since 1984. American Robins were noted in large flocks at several locations.

The Loggerhead Shrike first found in September was still present at Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary in Marshfield through November 7. A Northern Shrike was found at Plum Island on November 11.

Two Orange-crowned Warblers were noted, and late warbler reports included a Blackpoll in Bourne on November 19. A dead Rose-breasted Grosbeak was found; this was the first November *Bird Observer* field record of the species since 1976. A Blue Grosbeak was photographed in Sandwich, and an Indigo Bunting was photographed at a feeder in Newton, a month later than the usual departure date in our area. Lingering sparrows included 4 Chipping Sparrows and a Lincoln's Sparrow in Everett. A Clay-colored Sparrow was noted in Truro, and Fox Sparrows were reported from three locations.

Snow Buntings were noted in good numbers throughout the area, and small numbers of Lapland Longspurs were also reported. Large flocks of blackbirds were present in the Bridgewater-Lakeville area early in the month. Three Red Crossbills and a single Evening Grosbeak were reported from Quabbin.

G. d'E. and R.H.S.

| DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | NOVEMBER 1988 |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Mourning Dove | | | | |
| 5 | Hull | 50 | P. Thayer | |
| Common Barn-Owl | | | | |
| 5 | Squantum (Squaw Rock) | 1 | D. Brown + v. o. | |
| Eastern Screech-Owl | | | | |
| 13 | Brookline | 1 | BBC (R. Stymeist) | |
| Great Horned Owl | | | | |
| thr | Ipswich | 3 max | J. Berry | |
| 5-12, 13 | Belmont, Brookline | 1, 3 | L. Taylor#, BBC (R. Stymeist) | |
| 19, 30 | S. Monomoy, Middleboro | 1, 1 | B. Nikula, K. Holmes | |
| Barred Owl | | | | |
| 13 | Brookline (Lost Pond) | 1 | BBC (R. Stymeist) | |
| Short-eared Owl | | | | |
| 18, 23 | Hyannis, N. Monomoy | 1, 1 | P. Trimble, P. Trull | |
| Northern Saw-whet Owl | | | | |
| 26 | Hamilton | 1 | BBC (I. Giriunas) | |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | | | | |
| 7, 27 | Brewster, Middleboro | 1, 1 f | E. Gill, K. Holmes | |
| Hairy Woodpecker | | | | |
| 19 | PRNWR | 1 | D. Donovan | |
| Northern Flicker | | | | |
| 27 | Braintree | 25+ | J. + T. Cameron | |
| Pileated Woodpecker | | | | |
| 19 | Manchester | 1 | BBC (G. Hotz) | |
| Eastern Phoebe | | | | |
| 4, 5 | Cambridge (F.P.), P.I. | 1, 1 | D. Flood, BBC (W. Gette) | |
| 27 | W. Newbury | 1 | M. Lynch# | |
| Western Kingbird | | | | |
| 14-19 | Eastham (F.H.) | 1 | A. King# | |
| Horned Lark | | | | |
| 6 | Quabbin (G40) | 30 | M. Lynch# | |
| 9, 11 | Concord, Halifax | 16, 250+ | R. Forster, W. Petersen | |
| 13-27 | Salisbury | 15 max | v. o. | |
| 13, 19 | Ipswich, Quabbin (G37) | 110+, 75 | J. Berry, G. d'Entremont# | |
| Tree Swallow | | | | |
| 1 | S. Dart. (Allens Pd) | 250 | LCES (D. Christiansen) | |
| 4, 19 | S. Monomoy, Danvers | 25, 1 | D. Houghton#, J. Brown | |
| Blue Jay | | | | |
| 12 | Falmouth | 29 | M. Lynch# | |
| American Crow | | | | |
| thr, 25 | Framingham, Sandwich | 3400+, 110 | E. Taylor, P. Trimble | |
| Fish Crow | | | | |
| 12 | Sudbury, Concord | 20, 9 | R. Forster, R. Forster | |
| 13, 23-30 | Brookline, Framingham | 1, 5 | H. Wiggin, E. Taylor | |
| Common Raven | | | | |
| 6-23 | Quabbin (G40) | 3 max | v. o. | |
| Eurasian Jackdaw | | | | |
| thr | Nantucket | 1 | E. Andrews | |

| DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | NOVEMBER 1988 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Tufted Titmouse 25 | Wompatuck State Park | 49 | D. Ludlow | |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch 6, 26 | Quabbin (G40), (G41) | 9, 16 | M. Lynch# | |
| Brown Creeper 19 | East Quabbin | 6 | M. Lynch# | |
| Carolina Wren 1-22, 12 | Ipswich, Falmouth | 1, 14 | J. Berry, M. Lynch# | |
| 13, 14 | Brookline, Milton | 2, 2 | BBC (R. Stymeist), T. + J. Cameron | |
| 23 | Sharon | 2 | R. Titus | |
| 25, 26 | Sandwich, Eastham (F.H.) | 1, 2 | P. Trimble, C. Floyd | |
| House Wren 6, 12 | Lexington, Falmouth | 1, 1 | L. Taylor#, M. Lynch# | |
| 26 | Eastham (F.H.) | 1 | C. Floyd | |
| Winter Wren 19, 25 | Falmouth, Stoughton | 1, 1 | C. Black#, T. Aversa | |
| 26 | Quabbin (G41) | 1 | M. Lynch# | |
| Marsh Wren 14 | GMNWR | 2 | R. Forster | |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet 6 | Quabbin (G40), Lincoln | 19, 11 | M. Lynch#, BBC (J. Nove) | |
| 26 | Middleboro, Quabbin (G41) | 1, 13 | K. Holmes, M. Lynch# | |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet 8, 11 | Stoneham, Squantum | 2, 2 | T. Aversa, R. Forster | |
| 13, 19 | Brookline, Everett | 1, 1 | BBC (R. Stymeist), J. Heywood | |
| Eastern Bluebird 10 | DWWS | 1 | D. Ludlow + D. Clapp | |
| Hermit Thrush 8, 12 | Newton, Falmouth | 2, 3 | M. Murphy#, M. Lynch# | |
| 12 | Wayland | 1 | R. Forster | |
| American Robin 6 | Millis, Quabbin (G40) | 150+, 123 | R. Forster, M. Lynch# | |
| 14, 30 | Everett, Middleboro | 75, 15 | J. Heywood, K. Holmes | |
| Gray Catbird 6, 11-19 | P.I., Falmouth | 1, 4 max | C. Floyd, v. o. | |
| Northern Mockingbird 7, 12 | Chatham, Falmouth | 16, 7 | V. Fazio, M. Lynch# | |
| 13, 27 | Brookline, Salisbury | 7, 6 | BBC (R. Stymeist), M. Lynch# | |
| Water Pipit 6, 13 | Lincoln, W. Newbury | 38, 5 | BBC (J. Nove), J. Brown | |
| 14 | Concord | 5 | R. Forster | |
| Cedar Waxwing 4, 6 | Cambridge (F.P.), Quabbin (G40) | 12, 20+ | D. Flood, M. Lynch# | |
| 19 | Ipswich | 13 | J. Berry | |
| Northern Shrike 11 | P.I. | 1 ad | L. Taylor# | |
| Loggerhead Shrike 1-7 | DWWS | 1 ad | v. o. | |
| shrike species 19 | Salisbury | 1 | H. Wiggin | |
| Orange-crowned Warbler 13 | Salisbury, Brookline | 1, 1 | R. Forster#, BBC (R. Stymeist) | |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler 8-14, 19 | Millis, PRNWR | 3 max, 6 | R. Forster, D. Donovan# | |
| 26, 27 | S. Monomoy, Salisbury | 50, 24 | W. Petersen#, M. Lynch# | |
| Pine Warbler 6 | Quabbin (G40) | 1 | M. Lynch# | |
| Palm Warbler 26, 27, 30 | S. Monomoy, Everett, Norwood | 5, 6, 1 | W. Petersen, R. Stymeist#, S. Bolton | |
| Blackpoll Warbler 19 | Bourne | 1 | D. Clapp | |
| Common Yellowthroat 4, 16 | DWWS, GMNWR | 1, 1 | T. Aversa, D. Flood | |
| Yellow-breasted Chat 4, 24 | S. Dart., Berkley | 1, 1 | LCES (D. Christiansen), A. Stetson | |
| Northern Cardinal 12, 19 | Falmouth, Everett (one spot) | 18, 15 | M. Lynch#, J. Heywood | |

| DATE | LOCATION | NUMBER | OBSERVERS | NOVEMBER 1988 |
|--|--|---|--|---------------|
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak 25 | Lincoln | 1 road kill | L. Seeckts | |
| Blue Grosbeak 23-24 | Sandwich | 1 ph | P. Trimble | |
| Indigo Bunting 23-25 | Newton | 1 ph | N. Mueller | |
| Rufous-sided Towhee 14-27, 19 | Everett, Manchester | 1 m, 2 | J. Heywood, BBC (G. Hotz) | |
| American Tree Sparrow 6, 9 | Quabbin (G40), SRV | 9, 36 | M. Lynch#, R. Forster | |
| Chipping Sparrow 14, 19, 27 | Everett | 4, 1, 1 | J. Heywood# | |
| Clay-colored Sparrow 22 | Truro | 1 | fide S. Perkins | |
| Field Sparrow 3, 19 25 | Lincoln, Everett Sandwich | 3, 4 7 | R. Forster, J. Heywood P. Trimble | |
| Vesper Sparrow 25 | Sandwich | 1 | P. Trimble | |
| Savannah Sparrow 25 | Sandwich | 10 | P. Trimble | |
| "Ipswich" Savannah Sparrow 26 | S. Monomoy | 1 | B. Nikula# | |
| Sharp-tailed Sparrow 5 | P.I. | 1 | BBC (W. Gette) | |
| Fox Sparrow 5, 19 26 | Quabbin (G40), Falmouth S. Monomoy | 1, 1 1 | D. Small#, D. Clapp W. Petersen# | |
| Song Sparrow 19 | Everett (one spot) | 15 | J. Heywood | |
| Lincoln's Sparrow 19 | Everett | 1 | J. Heywood | |
| White-throated Sparrow 4, 14 19 | Cambridge (F.P.), Boston Everett | 1, 15 11 | D. Flood, H. Wiggin J. Heywood | |
| White-crowned Sparrow 6 | W. Newbury | 1 imm | J. Berry | |
| Dark-eyed Junco 13 | Brookline | 5 | H. Wiggin# | |
| Lapland Longspur 9, 13 13, 26 | Concord, Ipswich P.I., S. Monomoy | 1, 2 1, 10 | R. Forster, J. Berry R. Forster, W. Petersen# | |
| Snow Bunting 4, 5 6-25 9, 11 23, 26 23-30 | Duxbury B., Ipswich P.I. Concord, Halifax Mashpee, S. Monomoy S. Dartmouth | 43, 110 80 max 6, 20 10, 250+ 100 max | D. Clapp, BBC (J. Berry) v. o. R. Forster, W. Petersen P. Trimble, B. Nikula# LCES (D. Christiansen) | |
| Red-winged Blackbird 1, 5 | Bridgewater, Ipswich | 400, 75+ | R. Titus, BBC (J. Berry) | |
| Eastern Meadowlark 15, 30 | S. Dart. (Allens Pd) | 9, 8 | LCES (D. Christiansen) | |
| Rusty Blackbird 13, 15 | Brookline, Millis | 1, 1 | BBC (R. Stymeist), R. Forster | |
| Common Grackle 2, 8 26 | Lakeville, Topsfield S. Monomoy | 3200, 18 1 | R. Titus, J. Brown W. Petersen | |
| Brown-headed Cowbird 1, 26 | Bridgewater, Essex | 300, 55 | R. Titus, BBC (I. Giriunas) | |
| Purple Finch 5, 6 9, 12 | Squantum, Quabbin (G40) Sudbury, Falmouth | 1, 7 6, 4 | G. d'Entremont, M. Lynch# R. Forster, M. Lynch# | |
| House Finch 19 | Holliston | 80+ | T. Aversa | |
| Red Crossbill 19 | Quabbin (G40) | 3 | M. Lynch# | |
| American Goldfinch 23 | Brookline | 5 | H. Wiggin | |
| Evening Grosbeak 6 | Quabbin (G40) | 1 | M. Lynch# | |

BIRD OBSERVER FIELD RECORDS

Bird Observer monthly field records represent observations from the ten counties of eastern Massachusetts (Essex, Middlesex, Worcester, Suffolk, Norfolk, Plymouth, Bristol, Barnstable, Duke, and Nantucket). Although space does not permit the inclusion of all sightings submitted, the compilers attempt to present sufficient data to document early and late dates for migratory species, maximum counts for migrants, and high or low numbers for the more common species and to note species outside of their normal ranges.

Please send eastern Massachusetts field records of any given month, no later than the 8th of the subsequent month, to Robert H. Stymeist, 98 Boylston Street, Watertown, MA 02172. The basic information that should be submitted is species name, date and place of observation, an accurate count or careful estimate, sex (if determinable), immature or adult plumage, vocalizations (if any), and observers. Species should be arranged in the current A.O.U. (American Ornithologists' Union) checklist order. Reports of species that can be difficult to identify should include details of the diagnostic characteristics observed or heard that led to the identification.

All field records received by *Bird Observer* are archived at the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

| | | | |
|----------|--------------------------------|-----------|--|
| ad | adult | F.P. | Fresh Pond, Cambridge |
| b | banded | G37 or 40 | Gate 37 or 40, Quabbin |
| br | breeding | H. | Harbor |
| dk | dark (phase) | H.P. | Halibut Point, Rockport |
| f | female | I. | Island |
| imm | immature | M.V. | Martha's Vineyard |
| ind | individuals | Mt.A. | Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge |
| juv | juvenile | Nant. | Nantucket |
| loc | location | Newbypt | Newburyport |
| lt | light (phase) | P.I. | Plum Island |
| m | male | Pd | Pond |
| max | maximum | P'town | Provincetown |
| mi | mile | Quab. | Quabbin |
| migr | migrating | Res. | Reservation |
| n | nesting | R.P. | Race Point, Provincetown |
| ph | photographed | S. Dart. | South Dartmouth |
| pl | plumage | S.N. | Sandy Neck, Barnstable |
| pr | pair | Stellw. | Stellwagen (Bank) |
| S | summer (1S = first summer) | BBC | Brookline Bird Club |
| thr | throughout | BOEM | Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts |
| v.o. | various observers | CBC | Christmas Bird Count |
| W | winter (2W = second winter) | CCBC | Cape Cod Bird Club |
| w/ | with | DFWS | Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary |
| yg | young | DWWS | Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary |
| # | additional observers | EMHW | Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch |
| A.A. | Arnold Arboretum | FCBC | Felix Cutler Bird Club |
| A.P. | Andrews Point, Rockport | GMNWR | Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge |
| B. | Beach | IRWS | Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary |
| B.I. | Belle Isle, E. Boston | LCES | Lloyd Center for Environmental Studies |
| B.R. | Bass Rocks, Gloucester | MAS | Massachusetts Audubon Society |
| Buzz. | Buzzards Bay | MBO | Manomet Bird Observatory |
| C. | cape as in Cape Cod | MNWS | Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary |
| Cambr. | Cambridge | NEHW | New England Hawk Watch |
| Corp. B. | Corporation Beach, Dennis | ONWR | Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge |
| C.P. | Crooked Pond, Boxford | PRNWR | Parker River National Wildlife Refuge |
| E.P. | Eastern Point, Gloucester | SRV | Sudbury River Valley |
| F.E. | First Encounter Beach, Eastham | SSBC | South Shore Bird Club |
| F.H. | Fort Hill, Eastham | WBWS | Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary |
| F.M. | Fowl Meadow | WMWS | Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary |

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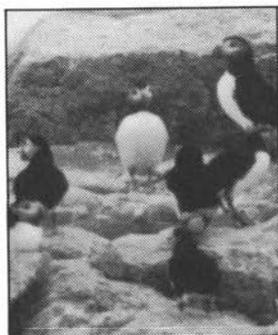
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ABOUT THE COVER: Black-throated Green Warbler

"Then there came into view close by in a little opening, where the sun shone in, a brilliant male of this species, his green back, yellow cheeks, and black throat fairly gleaming in the morning sun, and the white markings of his wings and tail flashing in and out as he moved among the dark branches. I thought it the most beautiful bird in the world and longed to possess it. It was my first real introduction to the wood warblers—a day never to be forgotten—and since then I have always had an affection for the gentle bird." So wrote Edward Howe Forbush about his first look at a Black-throated Green Warbler.

This month's cover should call forth the anticipation and excitement birders feel in the month of April, when the first Black-throated Greens arrive, darting and flitting among the trees with other members of the family Parulidae, because they frequently travel in mixed flocks. These warblers belong to the genus *Dendroica*, which has twenty-seven species and is the largest within the family of American wood warblers. They winter mainly in the montane regions of Mexico and Central America and migrate through North America, chiefly east of the Rockies. The passage northward takes them through eastern Texas and up the Mississippi Valley, and also through the gulf states if they cross the Gulf of Mexico from the Yucatan. The breeding range encompasses eastern British Columbia to Newfoundland, parts of the Great Lakes states, the Alleghenies south to Georgia, and all of New England.

In sharp contrast to the coniferous tree preference of the northern Black-throated Green (*Dendroica virens virens*), there is a southern race (*D. V. waynei*) which breeds in the cypress swamp and magnolia habitat along coastal plains from southeastern Virginia to eastern South Carolina. Arthur T. Wayne was credited with the discovery after he sent a male specimen to the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard on April 25, 1918. In addition to the habitat differences, he noted the overall duller plumage and the smaller, more delicate bill.

The high-pitched, buzzy song of the Black-throated Green is a familiar one and conjures up images of lazy summer days. Commonly, the song pattern, "zee zee zee zee zoo zee," is delivered in two ways, one slower paced than the other but both having the same quality. The bird is a persistent singer. Margaret Morse Nice (1932) noted 466 songs in a single hour and more than 14,000 in ninety-four hours of observation. It is fortunate for the birder that they do sing a lot because when silent they may go unobserved in the higher branches of the trees.

The great migrating waves of wood warblers are among the most impressive annual features of New England birdlife, touching everyone in a personal way. Dr. Elliott Coues paid tribute to this in 1878: "We may seek warblers everywhere in their season; we shall find them a continual surprise; all mood and circumstance is theirs."

J. B. Hallett, Jr.

MEET OUR COVER ARTIST

JULIE ZICKEFOOSE is a free-lance artist and naturalist who is devoted to the study, conservation, and appreciation of birds. Educated at Harvard University in biology and art, she worked for the Nature Conservancy for six years before turning to art as a full-time career. While with the Nature Conservancy she created the Least Tern/Piping Plover Recovery Program to answer an urgent need for conservation of these two threatened sea- and shorebirds in Connecticut. She continues to work on behalf of plovers and terns and helps to maintain a seventy-box bluebird trail, which produced 225 fledglings in 1968. Rehabilitation of injured and orphaned songbirds occupies much of each summer.

A self-taught painter, Julie Zickefoose's formal art training consists of a year of studio drawing at Harvard. However, regular studio sessions with models and daily sketching of wild birds and animals continue her education. She paints in watercolor from sketches made directly from living birds. Binoculars and a spotting scope allow her to draw wild subjects in every possible pose from a distance sufficient to keep them at their ease. It is these studies which give life, accuracy, and feeling to her paintings. While the majority of modern wildlife artists rely heavily on photographs for reference, Julie feels strongly that only life studies can make lively paintings.

Julie Zickefoose's work has been exhibited at the Harvard University Museum of Comparative Zoology, the Peabody Museum of Salem, the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University, the Memorial University of Newfoundland, the New England Hawkwatch Convention at Connecticut College, and at the 80th International Ornithological Convention in Ottawa, at which she was one of only two artists participating. Awards include a Radcliffe Travelling Fellowship to paint birds of Amazonian Brazil and an International Council for Bird Preservation stipend. Paintings, drawings, and articles by her have appeared in *American Birds*, *Bird Watcher's Digest*, *Bird Observer*, and numerous publications of the U. S. and Canadian Wildlife Services. She also leads field trips and lectures on bird art and conservation throughout Connecticut and is currently illustrating *Birds of Insular Newfoundland* and a book on Ospreys.

Julie's Black-throated Green Warbler is the second Zickefoose creation to appear on the cover of this publication, the first being a black-and-white sketch of a Song Sparrow in June of 1987. The original of the warbler on this month's cover is a watercolor and is reproduced with the artist's permission from a black-and-white photograph of the original.

Dorothy R. Arvidson

To kick off the 1989 At a Glance series, we find the February bird to be, by virtue of its black dorsal coloration, long tail, slender neck, and slender hooked beak, a cormorant of some kind. Since there are only two cormorant species in the western North Atlantic, the choice is between the Great Cormorant and the Double-crested Cormorant. The latter is the common breeding cormorant in southern New England, normally arriving in late March and departing by early November. The Great Cormorant is most common from mid-October through mid-April, but there is a handful of recent breeding records from Boston Harbor and Buzzards Bay.

In adult plumage both species are more or less uniformly black. The Great Cormorant, however, possesses a chin strap of white feathers bordering its yellow throat pouch, along with white feather tufts on its flanks during the breeding season. In second-year individuals, the white throat feathering is more diffuse but is always extensive enough to distinguish the species from the Double-crested Cormorant, which also differs by having an orange, not yellow, throat pouch.

Identification of immature cormorants offers different problems. First-year Great Cormorants are brownish above and exhibit an unmarked whitish belly in contrast to a dusky, streaked neck, upper breast, and flanks. In comparison, immature Double-crested Cormorants are brownish above but show an unstreaked, pale, grayish-white neck and breast and a uniformly brown lower breast and belly. Yearlings in worn plumage are sometimes almost entirely whitish beneath, somewhat unlike the way the species is depicted in many popular field guides. In addition, the Double-crested Cormorant has a slenderer neck and bill than the Great Cormorant, the latter species also having a more angular-headed appearance and heavier "jowls" beneath the throat.



Photo by Wayne R. Petersen

The mystery cormorant is plainly an immature with a pale neck and belly. The bird also has an obviously dark upper breast and the suggestion of streaking on the flanks along the edge of the folded wing. These features, combined with the pale feathering on the throat, indicate that the pictured bird, which was photographed in July in a small pond near Gardner, Maine, is an immature Great Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax carbo*.

AT A GLANCE

Photo by Wayne R. Petersen



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