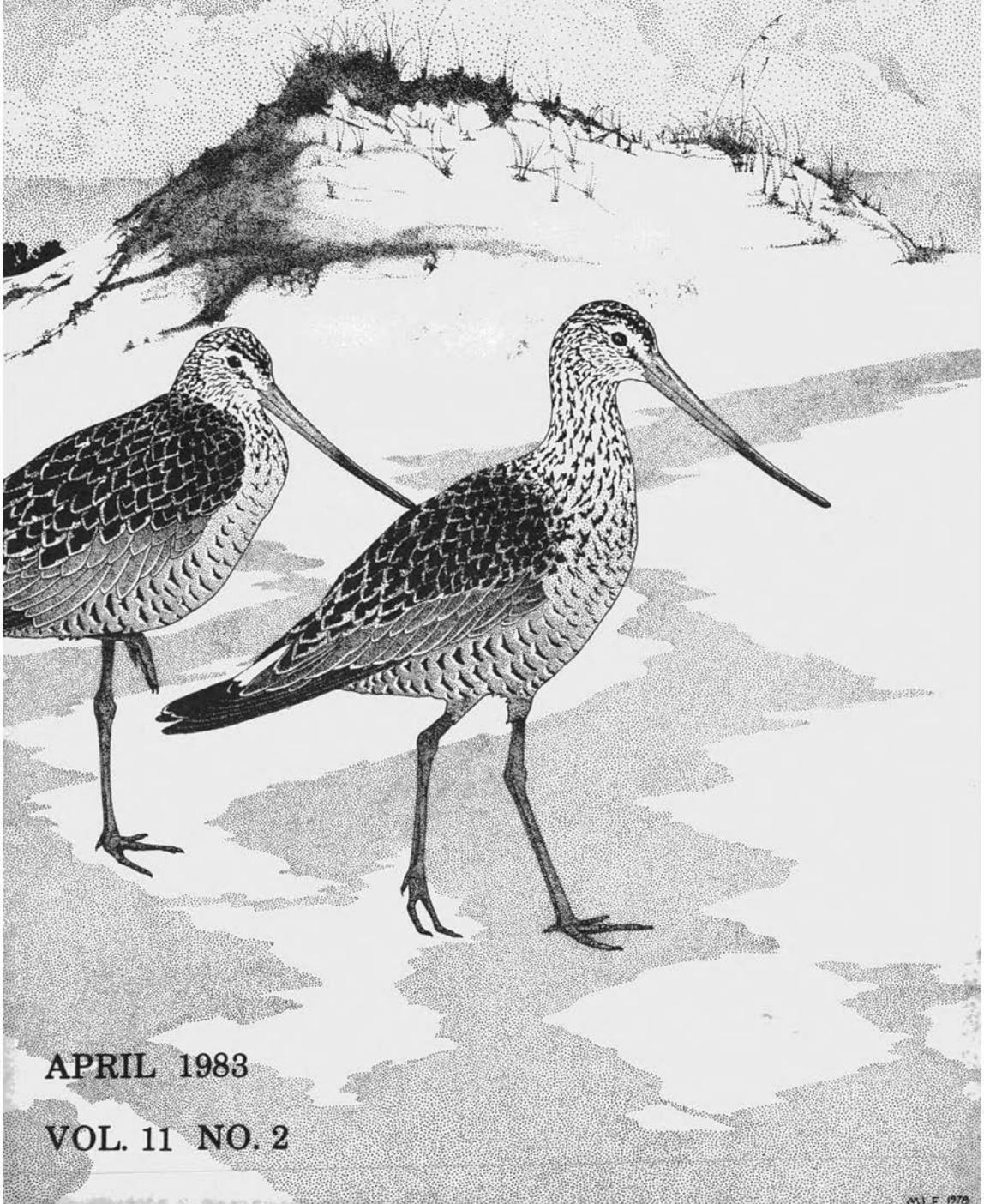


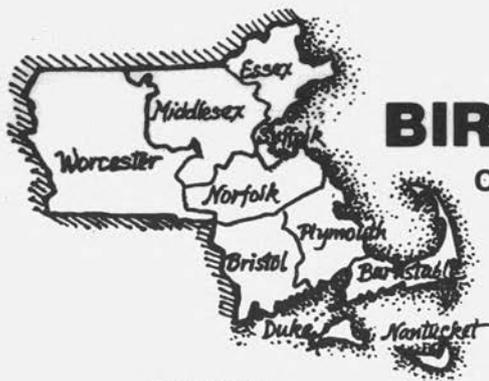
BIRD OBSERVER

OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS



APRIL 1983

VOL. 11 NO. 2



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Bird Observer Pelagic Bird and Mammal Trip: July 24

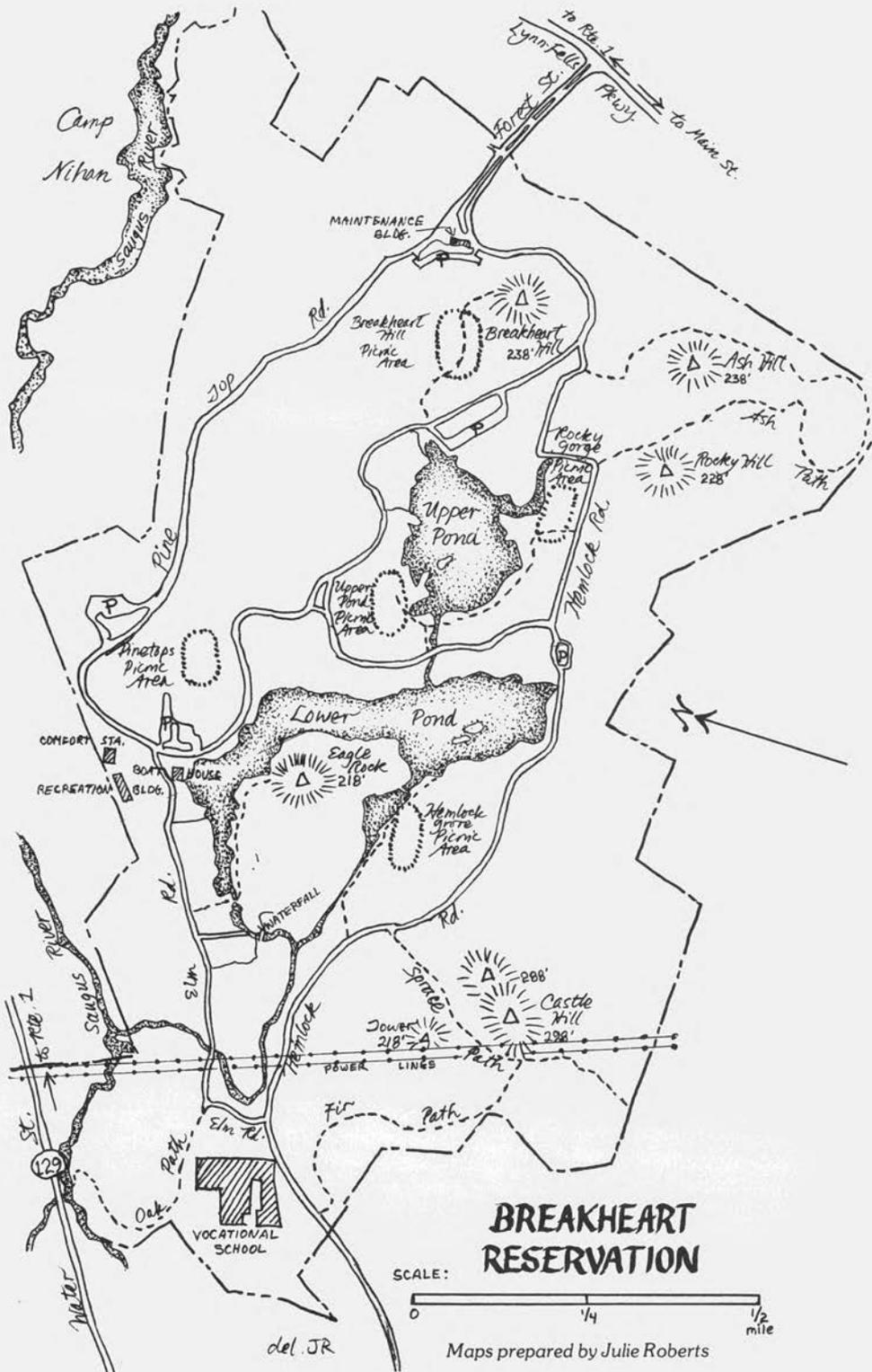
Bird Observer will sponsor a Sunday, July 24 pelagic trip from Harwichport to Pollock Rip, aboard the Yankee. Last year on this trip 800 Greater, 50 Sooty, 5 Manx and 15 Cory's shearwaters were observed at very close range. Humpback Whales were seen lunge feeding on all sides of the boat! Wayne Petersen will provide narration and information while at sea.

The cost of this trip will be \$20 per person; to register please make checks payable to Bird Observer and mail to Herman D'Entremont, 358 Tappan Street, Brookline, MA 02146.

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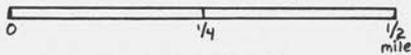
WILDLIFE OBSERVATION PERMIT FOR NORTH MONOMOY ISLAND

Access to the North Island of Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge will be by PERMIT ONLY from April 15 to August. Anyone planning to visit this area during this period may obtain a permit from the Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge, Morris Island, Chatham (phone 945-0594).



BREAKHEART RESERVATION

SCALE:



Maps prepared by Julie Roberts

BREAKHEART RESERVATION: A MAGICAL URBAN WILDERNESS

by Craig Jackson, Malden

Over the last several years I have become increasingly acquainted with Breakheart Reservation in Saugus, have come to know its patterns and its rhythms, and have explored many parts of it. For me it has become a place to renew my sense of natural order. Though one reason for coming to Breakheart is to look at birds, I don't expect rarities, nor are they likely to be present. But after all, the visit of a rare bird implies that to some degree the natural order has been disturbed and is thus, itself, a disturbing event. What are found here are the birds that should be here, along with some less common ones like Sora or Turkey Vulture, probably my two least expected sightings.

Geologically part of the Fells Upland, Breakheart Reservation consists almost entirely of hilly terrain with numerous granite outcrops on many of its hills. It also contains two relatively large ponds. Along its northern border, the Saugus River winds its way through level swampy areas and on the eastern side forms two freshwater marshes with its tributary, the Hawkes Brook, in the area known as Camp Nihan.

At one time the entire reservation was a Boy Scout camping area, but now only Camp Nihan, a Metropolitan District Commission youth camp, is still used for that purpose. As a result while Camp Nihan, to which access is restricted, is relatively pristine and litter-free, the rest of the reservation shows the scars of many suburban parks - trash, broken bottles, cans, graffiti on the rocks, etc. These "signs of civilization" are less disturbing if I try to view them as future artifacts. Archeologists of the twenty-second century will treasure them as highly as archeologists today value broken potsherds from American Indian ruins, which may themselves be the remains of "beer blasts" long ago.

Although small when compared to Middlesex Fells, or even Lynn Woods, Breakheart Reservation contains a great diversity of habitat. As there are three main entrances into Breakheart, it can be divided arbitrarily into three parts: Camp Nihan (not strictly within the reservation but regarded here as a part of it), the Lynn Fells section, and the Vocational School section. Although each section possesses a variety of habitats, Camp Nihan is mostly freshwater marshland, the Lynn Fells section is mostly upland oak forest, and the Vocational School section is mostly wooded lowlands. In addition, several of the larger hills and the larger ponds present special habitats. Thus, each part has its own characteristic plant and animal life.

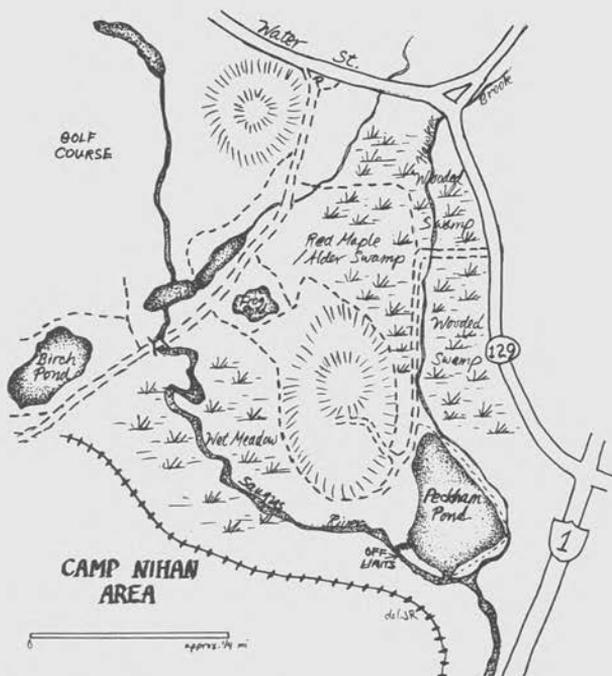
Before describing each of these areas more fully, I would like to offer some hints that may increase your enjoyment of the reservation. First, although the visitor may be tempted

to drive into Breakheart when the gates are open, I strongly advise against it (even though the M.D.C. has made some recent improvements for parking). Once on the road, the driver may become caught in what often seems to be a race around the track with few places to pass or be passed. Thus it becomes impossible to drive leisurely around. Second, although Breakheart Reservation is small enough that it is possible to walk completely around it in one day, it is much better to explore only one part of it at a time. Your day's list may not be as large, but you will undoubtedly gain a much better grasp of the ecology of the area you visit as well as have a greater chance to observe the interactions of organisms that are present. Finally, and most importantly, Breakheart needs time to work its magic and entrance you. Give it the time it needs!

Although it is probably good to have a map along (the Boston North topographical one works well), it is not necessary and at times may even be an impediment. I often "forget" my map at home and, while wandering, may find that I'm "lost" (most trails are unmarked and may be easily missed) only to stumble upon a new and interesting area or come across an old one that I had forgotten existed or could no longer find.

Camp Nihan. The first time you visit Camp Nihan you should stop and introduce yourself to the ranger for trespassing in the area without permission is prohibited. The main entrance to the camp is off Water Street (Route 129) which goes west off Route 1 (see map). Since this is for persons using the camp, continue west and pull into a dirt parking area on the left just after the road turns - there is a traffic triangle here. A walk down the dirt road (emergency vehicles only) brings one to the edge of the Camp Nihan marshes. These marshes which comprise the largest part of the area are surprisingly varied. The first one on the left is surrounded by alders and Red Maples. There are also a good number of Red Maples in the marsh itself. It is generally quite wet but in many parts seems to be in the process of succession from a marsh to a shrub-tree swamp. There are two large stands of cat-tails within it as well. The Hawkes Brook flows slowly along its edge and in one section flows into it. You can walk completely around this marsh by going down the first path on the left, following it until it intersects the main road into Camp Nihan, then going right at the ranger station and following the path at the base of the hill that goes around the other side of this marsh. This path will take you back to the dirt road from which you entered.

Birds can be quite plentiful and varied in the Red Maple/alder swamp as the year progresses. In early spring, just after the Skunk Cabbage has unfurled, and while male Red-winged Blackbirds proclaim their territories, numbers of other blackbirds, including a fairly large number of Rusty Blackbirds, will be found roosting and feeding either in the marsh or on its edge. As spring advances, in early morning Swamp Sparrows will be heard (and occasionally seen) trilling from



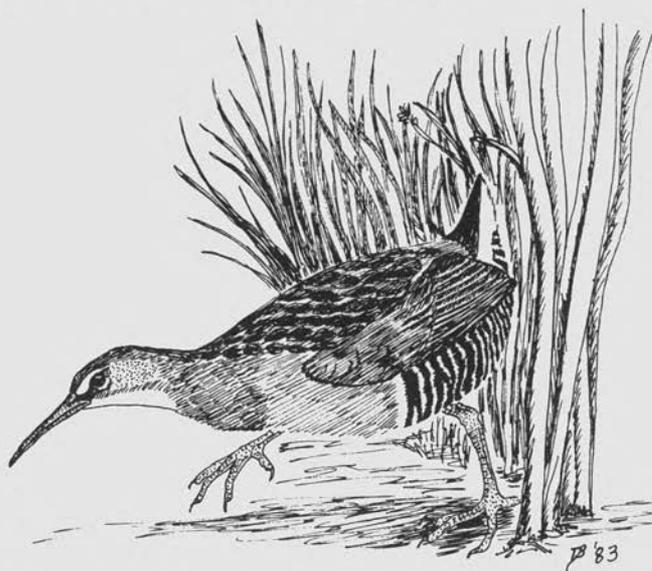
some of the Red Maples, alders, and cat-tails in the swamp; a pair of Green Herons may be flushed as you walk along; female Mallards will appear with their young in tow; and as the day gets warmer, Tree Swallows will swoop across the marsh, a pair of which will soon take up residence in a hollow stump near the ranger's station. If you are patient while playing a recording of rail calls near either stand of cat-tails, you will almost assuredly have Virginia Rails call back, come out and dash around looking for the intruder, then dart back into the marsh. One pair appears to be so well "trained" that they answer the tape as soon as the tape button is pushed and before any sound comes out! Within a week or two, Northern Orioles and Yellow Warblers will be singing from trees along the marsh, seeking mates and proclaiming territories, while Common Yellowthroats do the same from bushes along the edge of the marsh.

There are other interesting paths in the Camp Nihan section. On the right of the dirt road upon which you entered there is another trail which winds through briar thickets along the edge of a span of the Saugus River. It is a good place for catbirds, cardinals, Brown Thrashers, and other birds that like dense thickets. (I once flushed a Ruffed Grouse in here one winter.) The first person of the day to walk through this area may spot (or more likely, flush) a pair of Wood Ducks either here in the river or in a small marshy area on the other side of the path that leads to the golf course. They arrive early in spring and remain through most of May before they disappear. They may nest nearby for I once observed an aerial chase with one male pursuing four others.

When he finally drove them off, he joined a female swimming in the river. This was also the only time I ever saw a Wood Duck (a female) standing on a limb of a tree, certainly a peculiar sight.

Further on is a second marsh. The Saugus River flows through this marsh on its way to the ocean. It is really a wet meadow with Tussock Sedge being the dominant vegetation. There are also large numbers of bushes that border the river, particularly near the road. In the spring the river often overflows its banks leaving behind alluvial deposits that provide good soil for new growth. The road crosses the river over a narrow bridge from which one can watch the patterns of rushing water forming whirlpools and eddies as it courses by. Hatches of insects and schools of fish can be seen from this bridge, and it is a fine place from which to watch a sunrise. Although there are paths on both sides of this marsh, it is not possible to make a complete circuit unless you are prepared to get very wet.

This wet meadow seems to have a less varied bird population than the Red Maple/alder swamp, but there are other interesting creatures here. I once came across a Fishing Spider swimming along its edge, and huge fish, probably carp, can often be seen thrashing about. Red-winged Blackbirds and Song Sparrows (absent from the other marsh) nest in its sedges and bushes. Mallards can often be seen swimming in the river as well as a pair of Canada Geese that nest in the Camp Nihan pond. In the trees above the marsh there are often several Black-crowned Night-Herons roosting throughout the spring and summer.



Virginia Rail

Illustration by Denise Braunhardt

There are also two small ponds along the main dirt road which are surrounded by Grey Birches. These birch ponds, while they appear promising for migrants, never seem to deliver, but they are picturesque and can easily entice one away from searching for birds. Late one winter, in March, when little snow had fallen, "black ice" thickly covered the smaller one, and bubbles of air could be seen encapsulated within the ice, "stopped cold" as the water rapidly froze about them. Both ponds are shallow and may dry up considerably during summer droughts. Last summer the large birch pond was totally dry except for a small depression about eight feet in diameter, retaining the entire year's production of tadpoles for the pond. The former bottom of the pond was covered with small yellow flowers, springing up miraculously, their seeds having lain dormant there for several years.

There is a path that goes behind the larger pond on a hillside above it. The path starts from the edge of a pine grove that borders the golf course and goes through prime habitat for Rufous-sided Towhees and House Wrens as well as an area that Red Fox frequent and within which they may well den. Further along this path there is a pine grove where Pine Warblers can be heard singing.

Although the return of familiar birds in spring is exhilarating at Camp Nihan, my favorite time of year there is still the autumn, particularly one of our Indian Summer days near the end of October, despite the fact that there are, presumably, "no birds" around at that time of year. Indeed, it is probably at this very time that the bird life reaches its peak numbers for huge flocks of starlings can be seen wheeling and darting around the sky above the marsh. Watching these flights is for me one of the highlights of the birding year in Breakheart! However, it isn't really the birds but the vegetation that makes the fall season special. Red Maple leaves change to every hue of red and orange; fallen leaves speckle the placid river; and pine needles festoon every bush and tree upon which they fall. Goldenrod and Artemesia (Common Mugwort, its English name) grow thickly along the paths suffusing the air with powerful scents.

In winter, some species will linger in the Camp Nihan marshes and may well survive. On recent Christmas Counts, I have recorded Virginia Rail, Marsh Wren, Common Yellowthroat, and Swamp Sparrow in the Red Maple/alder swamp. If the winter is cold enough and the marshes frozen, one can traverse them entirely, examining at close hand the many different marsh plants as well as the nests that had been built that summer.

Vocational School Area. Although Camp Nihan is my favorite place in Breakheart, there are other areas which offer different experiences. The most interesting and productive of these is near the Vocational School entrance to Breakheart. This entrance is off Farm Street, which is the extension of Main Street, and it is about 0.5 mile south of the intersection of Farm Street and Water Street (Route 129). The area



Ruffed Grouse

Illustration by Denise Braunhardt

has many different habitats but the dominant one is wooded lowlands. Enter through the gate and follow the road to your right. There will soon be a dirt path on the left which leads downward. A large pile of dirt is there to prevent vehicular traffic. Follow this path. In spring, the area you are now in is almost certain to have Ovenbirds calling. They are probable but unproven breeders here. Farther along there is a small path on the left that skirts a grove of pine trees with ferns covering the ground beneath them. A Veery might be calling here, and you may also hear and feel the ground vibrate as a Ruffed Grouse drums upon a log. This sound can also be heard near the school entrance, so it's hard to tell where the sound is coming from. Following this path takes you to a stream crossing. This seems to be the best spot to observe migrants in Breakheart. One day last spring I found twelve warbler species plus five other migrant species here. I have also seen nesting Broad-winged Hawks in this area.

Another habitat that can be explored from the Vocational School is the upland forest (young second growth, mostly birch and aspen) through which the power line path has been cut. Access is either by way of Fir Path (see map) or by hiking up the power line road. Rufous-sided Towhees are common here, Field Sparrows and Prairie Warblers can be heard singing throughout the area, and Indigo Buntings may call from the woodland edge. I have not often explored this area, so there may be other treasures as well.

The Saugus River winds through some very marshy areas near the Vocational School. One of these is a very large marsh just behind the school that has many "drowned" trees. As

with Camp Nihan, some species such as Swamp Sparrow may linger here through the winter. I have also been told that Eastern Bluebirds nested in a tree in this vicinity about ten years ago. The dense thickets that border the river near here seem to offer ideal winter habitat for Winter Wren as well. Unfortunately, I have never found any but I'm still looking.

Lower Pond (John A. W. Pierce Lake). This is a very picturesque lake which can be most easily reached from the Vocational School entrance. Along its edge many different species of plants can be found and Pepperbush, Witch Hazel, and Mountain Maples are some of the shrubs which often are very numerous. Hemlock and White Pine are the dominant trees along its shoreline, and there is a dense stand of American Beech in one section as well. However, my favorite trees that grow around this lake are the Yellow Birch. In one spot in particular one can clearly see the "big visible roots of Yellow Birch lay hold of [the] rocky hillside like monstrous claws" (R. Platt, A Pocket Guide to Trees, Pocket Books, New York, 1951, p. 55). This tree with its delicate, silver curls of bark reflects the sunlight and normally hints of frailty; but here it reigns, its grip secure, its bark as solid as its place along this shore. A walk around the lake's perimeter, though quite long, reveals the varied lake shore communities that are present and their representative bird life. Over the years, it has become clear that the same species are found in the same places year after year - Spotted Sandpipers along one shore, Eastern Kingbirds along another, and Scarlet Tanagers along a third.

Lynn Fells Entrance. The third entrance to Breakheart Reservation is via Forest Street which comes off Lynn Fells Parkway a short distance west of Route 1. This area is predominantly upland. Oaks dominate most of the area with Scrub Oaks ruling the higher elevations and Red Oaks in the lower areas. Blueberry bushes cover the hillsides, and the area is subject to regular brush fires. The best way to observe this part is to walk left from the entrance and then take two more lefts. This will put you on Ash Path (see map), a dirt road that goes up and down some of these hillsides. Prairie Warblers, Field Sparrows, Brown Thrashers, and Rufous-sided Towhees can all be heard singing, and House Wrens may also be present and singing as well. Broad-winged Hawks have nested along this path and have been seen here. (There is at least one pair and possibly two that regularly nest in Breakheart.) Along the bases of the hills throughout the area both cuckoos may be heard though rarely seen, Great Crested Flycatchers can be spotted calling from the tops of trees, and Black-and-white Warblers may also be singing.

Summer is the best time to visit here. Just bring a small bucket, plop yourself down among the blueberries, and while away the afternoon picking them as you listen to the ascending song of a Prairie Warbler or the rapid trill of a Field Sparrow. While taking a rest and lying on your back, you

may spot a soaring Broad-winged Hawk, and it's no trouble at all to call out a towhee.

Upper Pond (John Leo Silver Lake). Summer is also the best time to visit Upper Pond, best reached from the Forest Street entrance. The predominant vegetation includes Gray Birch, Pepperbush, Red Oak, and Sheep Laurel. The spectacle here is the swallows and swifts that whiz around over the pond hawking insects. Both Tree and Barn swallows will be found in good numbers, and other swallows may be seen as well. In the fall, Buffleheads will visit, returning again in the spring when courtship can often be observed here. This spring, three Common Mergansers were seen on the pond which also seems promising as a place for spring migrants, but so far I have not had any luck.

Castle Hill. One other spot in Breakheart that I should mention is Castle Hill, easily reached from Main Street or by following Fir or Spruce paths. It is the highest hill in Breakheart and between its two peaks commands good views in all directions: one peak has a better view northward, the other southward. Although I have hawk-watched from these peaks on occasion, it was not particularly fruitful. What is fascinating to watch from here, however, is the build-up of the Breakheart crow roost. In winter, starting around two or three P.M., American (Common) Crows can be seen flying toward this area. Much vocalization will be heard as the numbers build and move from one group of trees to another. Around four P.M., the crows start flying to the trees that are to the southwest of Castle Hill. Up to 2000 birds may be in these trees! After the sun sets, a large number of these head for Crystal Lake in Melrose, their nighttime roost. Whether all fly off to Crystal Lake, or how many do and how many stay behind or go elsewhere are all questions that remain to be answered. However, regardless of the answers, the sight and size of this roost is mind-boggling!

There are other creatures to be found in Breakheart. I have several times come upon Woodchucks in the Camp Nihan area. Once, one walked right under me as I quietly sat on a log across a path, watching chickadees building their nest! Both Woodchucks and Red Foxes appear to have their dens near here. Although I have seen foxes during the day, one is more likely to encounter them at night; in early spring they can sometimes be heard (and glimpsed) at night, yelping as they pursue their mates and dash in a frenzy across the golf course. Raccoons may be found sleeping in the tops of trees during the day, muskrats may be seen swimming in the marshes and ponds, and skunks may cross your path at night. Once, I even found a Spring Peeper sitting on a Jewelweed leaf. My most surprising encounter, however, was with a nasty Northern Water Snake, two and a half feet long, which refused to let me pass along the path but instead struck at me repeatedly. I kept looking to make certain there were no rattles on the tail! After a prolonged confrontation, I was finally able

to convince it with the help of two large sticks (one was not enough!) to retreat back into the water.

My favorite times to be in Breakheart are either after sunset or before dawn. During these nighttime rambles, I often call out Screech Owls with a tape recorder. They can be heard in all three main areas. At other times, I just walk in and listen, being as unobtrusive as possible. It is at these times that the din of Spring Peepers, the trilling of American Toads, the "quacking" of Wood Frogs, and the yelping of Red Foxes may best be heard. Walking down a path, I may be as startled as the skunk I have just surprised, or upon hearing a rustle in the bushes and standing very still, I may observe a shadowy raccoon saunter across my path. At such times, or when just hearing the rustling of leaves and the gurgle of streams, I feel a sense of serenity and oneness with the natural world about me.

I invite you to share Breakheart's magic! I have not described all the paths and wonders there, for you will discover them on your own when you come. I hope I have persuaded you to look for them. Further, in writing about this place, I hope to encourage the reader to do something else: to find your own Breakheart in whatever part of the state you live - a place where you can retreat and renew your spirit.

One last word. If, in exploring Breakheart Reservation, you do come across a rarity, please break the news to me gently.

CRAIG JACKSON, an avid birder since 1975 when he went up to Newburyport to look at "that dumpy little gull," is a founder of Take a Second Look (TASL), an organization that encourages the careful study of common birds. He has been instrumental in forming the Friends of Belle Isle Marsh which seeks to preserve that marsh through public education. Massachusetts Audubon Society presented Craig and Sôheil Zendehe the Audubon "A" award for this conservation effort. In his spare time, Craig works in a factory where he is chief steward of his union.

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Shorebirds: a workshop and observer training program

Part I. In a unique joint venture, Manomet Bird Observatory joins Bird Observer to offer a three-part shorebird workshop led by Wayne R. Petersen. Two seminars, highlighted by slides, study skins, and discussion, will cover shorebird distribution and ecology, feeding and migration strategies, and an overview of modern research techniques. Special emphasis will be given the problems of identifying and aging local species. The culmination of the seminars will be a field trip to prime shorebird habitat in the Newburyport/Plum Island area.

Part II. Under the auspices of Manomet Bird Observatory and the International Shorebird Survey Project, Wayne R. Petersen will offer a series of three training sessions at major shorebird concentration areas for serious students interested in contributing to ongoing research. This field work will emphasize techniques of estimating flock size, aging and identifying shorebirds, and assessing habitat and usage areas. Participants in this program will then be encouraged to take part in MBO research programs that require the assistance of trained observers, an unusual opportunity for amateurs to get involved in research. Only persons who have enrolled in Part I (or observers with extensive shorebird experience) are eligible for Part II.

Dates, Hours, and Places.

Part I. The seminars will meet 7:30 - 9:00 P.M. at the First Church in Belmont, Unitarian Universalist, 404 Concord Avenue, on Tuesday and Thursday, June 21 and 23, OR on Monday and Wednesday, June 27 and 29. The field trips to Newburyport/Plum Island will be on Saturday, July 16, for the Tuesday/Thursday group and on Sunday, July 17, for the Monday/Wednesday group. Participants should register for one sequence or the other. Each sequence is limited to 20 persons.

Part II. The first field trip meets at Manomet Bird Observatory, off Point Road, Manomet, at 1:00 P.M. on Saturday, July 30, OR Sunday, July 31. The second trip will be to Newburyport/Plum Island on August 6 and 7, and the Monomoy trips (ferry charge = \$12) will be on August 27 and 28. Participants should register for either the Saturday or the Sunday sequence. Each sequence is limited to 20 persons.

Schedule for Registration:

Part I:	June 21, June 23, July 16	(Tues./Thurs./Sat. sequence)
	June 27, June 29, July 17	(Mon./Wed./Sun. sequence)
Part II:	July 30, August 6, August 27	(Saturday sequence)
	July 31, August 7, August 28	(Sunday sequence)

To register for Part I alone or for Parts I and II, send a check for \$35 (Part I only) or \$65 (Parts I and II) made out to Manomet Bird Observatory, to Box 936, Manomet, MA 02345. Please include your name, address, day and evening telephone numbers and indicate whether you have a sequence preference. Call MBO, 224-6521 for further information.

RESULTS OF THE 1982 SPRING MIGRATION WATCH

by John Andrews, Lexington and Lee Taylor, Arlington

In the spring of 1980 and 1981, a cooperative field study of spring migration was organized and results were published in Bird Observer (see references). In those years, the migration study focused exclusively upon warblers (Parulidae) observed during the month of May. In 1982 the study was expanded to include the 120 species between Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Scarlet Tanager on the state checklist published by the Massachusetts Audubon Society, and the study duration was increased to cover the period April 15 to May 31. This report presents the 1982 results and compares the three years of the project.

Methods. The methods used in the study have been described in detail in our earlier published reports and are summarized only briefly here. Participants were asked to visit their selected sites at least once every four days during the study period. They were requested to follow fixed routes through the sites and to record the numbers of each species detected either by visual sighting or by song. At the end of the study they were asked to identify those species for which breeding residents contributed to the count and to note any species that was seen in distinctly greater or lesser numbers than usual.

Results. As some observers had too few visits and some deviated from the instructions, not every data set of the twenty-two submitted was suitable for detailed analysis. Thirteen of the more complete data sets were selected for full analysis (see Table 1). They represent 217 site visits and a total of 239.7 hours of field observation. Only these thirteen are included in the data analysis that follows.

Table 1. Sites Subjected to Complete Data Analysis in 1982.

SITE	VISITS		FIELD HOURS	TOTAL SPECIES	OBSERVERS
	APR.	MAY			
Cambridge-Mt.A.	3	10	10.25	61	L.Robinson
Cambridge-Mt.A.	6	11	26.58	73	F.Bouchard
Braintree/Weymouth- Pond Meadow Park	7	12	21.33	65	G.d'Entremont R.Campbell
Marblehead - MNWS	1	14	12.92	62	C.Blasczak
Lexington-Whipple H.	2	14	14.86	48	J.Andrews
Newton-Novitiate Park	6	11	25.92	70	N.Komar
Newton-Bowen School	8	10	12.97	50	O.Komar
Jam.Plain-Gethsemane	7	9	31.47	60	N.Komar, M.Greenwald
P'town-Beech Forest	4	17	16.92	65	B.Nikula
Waltham-Met.St.Hosp.	6	11	16.00	55	L.Taylor
Cambridge-Acorn Park	5	13	12.00	37	L.Robinson
Bolton-Bolton Flats	5	8	12.58	51	B.Parker
Concord-GMNWR	<u>5</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>16.92</u>	<u>42</u>	B.Porter
COMBINED TOTALS	65	152	239.72	95	

Overall, the 1982 spring migration was rated as poor by experienced participants. This evaluation was in agreement with the reports in American Birds, 36(5): 823 (September 1982), where R. J. Adams wrote, "Passerine numbers were low - warblers in particular The sparseness of birds on the East Coast no doubt relates to the strong easterly winds which kept trans-Gulf migrants away from the Florida coast and probably the other eastern regions as well."

A summary of the counts for each species is provided in Table 2. Of the 120 species on the current Massachusetts Audubon checklist within the study limits, 92 were recorded during the project. In addition, there were write-ins of three species not on the checklist (Prothonotary Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, and Kentucky Warbler). The ten most abundant species were, in order of decreasing abundance, Red-winged Blackbird, European Starling, Common Grackle, Yellow-rumped Warbler, American Robin, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Gray Catbird, and Common Yellowthroat. With the sole exception of Yellow-rumped Warbler, the high counts of these species were predominantly due to breeding residents.

In Table 2, the comment which follows any species listed indicates that two or more participants reported that a species had occurred in distinctly greater or lesser numbers than usual. These subjective ratings are useful in identifying years with migration patterns that differ sharply from the preceding few years. However, the authors are convinced that only quantitative data are reliable for detecting gradual long-term changes. The reason is that if the abundance of a species changes gradually (e.g., increasing ten percent each year), the expectations of observers might change accordingly.

Breeding frequency may also be understood from Table 2. Use of a site by a breeding pair was sufficient for recording that site as a breeding site. Only eleven of the thirteen sites reported breeding information. Therefore, the numbers given in the table must be compared with that total (eleven).

Table 2. Abundance by Species.

SPECIES	SITES AT WHICH SEEN	BR. SITES	BIRDS /HOUR	SPECIES	SITES AT WHICH SEEN	BR. SITES	BIRDS /HOUR
Y.-b.Cuckoo	5	2	0.046	H.Woodp.	11	6	0.221
B.-b.Cuckoo	7	1	0.054	D.Woodp.	13	9	1.318
G.H.Owl	2		0.008	E.Kingb.	10	5	0.492
C.Nighthawk	2		0.008	G.C.Flyc.	9	2	0.167
Ch.Swift	12	3	0.868	E.Phoebe	1		0.033
R.-th.Humm.	4		0.029	Y.-b.Flyc.	3		0.029
4 of 9 at Mt.Auburn				Acad.Flyc.	1		0.004
B.Kingf.	6		0.054	Provincetown			
No.Flicker	13	10	2.011	Will.Flyc.	4	1	0.067
Pi.Woodp.	1		0.004	Ald.Flyc.	2		0.050
Concord				L.Flyc.	5		0.067

Table 2. (continued)

SPECIES	SITES AT WHICH SEEN	BR. SITES	BIRDS /HOUR	SPECIES	SITES AT WHICH SEEN	BR. SITES	BIRDS /HOUR
E.Wood-Pewee	9	3	0.096	Proth.Warb.	1		0.004
O.-s.Flyc.	1		0.008	Mt.Auburn			
Bolton				Tenn.Warb.	9		0.334
T.Swallow	9	4	0.617	Nash.Warb.	10	1	0.284
Bank Sw.			0.038	N.Parula	12		1.018
N.R.-w.Swall.	5		0.125	Yell.Warb.	13	6	2.040
Barn Sw.	11	5	0.734	Mag.Warb.	13		0.709
P.Martin	2		0.008	Below average			
Blue Jay	13	10	4.683	Cape May Warb.	4		0.071
Am.Crow	13	9	4.308	B.-t.B.Warb.	11		0.234
Fish Crow	6		0.209	Y.-r.Warbler	13		5.523
B.-c.Chickadee	13	10	3.496	B.-t.G.Warb.	12		0.413
T.Titmouse	13	9	1.827	Blackb.Warb.	10		0.263
W.-b.Nuth.	10	7	0.476	Ch.-s.Warb.	7		0.142
R.-b.Nuth.	3		0.079	Bay-b.Warb.	7		0.154
House Wren	10	5	0.409	Blackpoll	11		0.734
Marsh Wren	2	1	0.008	Cerul.Warb.	1		0.004
N.Mockingbird	11	4	0.592	Provincetown			
G.Catbird	13	11	3.150	Pine Warb.	4	1	0.167
B.Thrasher	11	2	0.505	Breeding: Provincetown			
Am.Robin	13	9	5.018	Prairie W.	5	2	0.129
W.Thrush	10	4	0.342	Palm Warb.	11		0.484
H.Thrush	7		0.093	Ovenbird	11		0.455
S.Thrush	11		0.259	N.Waterthr.	8		0.150
G.-ch.Thrush	3		0.017	Mourn.Warb.	4		0.025
3 of 4 at Mt.Auburn				C.Yellowthr.	13	10	2.474
Veery	9		0.175	Y.-b.Chat	1		0.004
B.-g.Gnatc.	9		0.334	Marblehead			
Above average (2 sites)				Hood.Warb.	1		0.004
G.-c.Kinglet	2		0.013	Marblehead			
R.-c.Kinglet	11		0.722	Kent.Warb.	1		0.004
Below average (2 sites)				Braintree			
C.Waxwing	10	1	1.806	Wils.Warb.	9		0.154
E.Starling	13	10	7.117	Can.Warb.	11		0.459
W.-e.Vireo	2		0.017	Am.Redstart	13		1.130
Newton(NP), Marblehead				Below average (2 sites)			
Y.-t.Vireo	2		0.008	House Sparrow	8	3	0.384
Bolton, Marblehead				Bobolink	10	1	1.589
Sol.Vireo	11		0.279	E.Meadowlark	3	2	0.129
R.-e.Vireo	13	6	0.517	R.-w.Blackb.	13	10	8.567
Phil.Vireo	1		0.004	Orch.Oriole	2		0.013
Braintree				2 Mt.Auburn, 1 Braintree			
Warb.Vireo	8	1	0.213	N.Oriole	13	8	1.039
B.-and-w.Warb.	13		1.339	Rusty Blackb.	5		0.108
G.-w.Warbler	1		0.004	C.Grackle	13	10	5.626
Marblehead				B.-h.Cowbird	13	8	1.873
Blue-w.Warb.	5		0.038	Sc.Tanager	12	3	0.125
				Below Average (2 sites)			

Migration Timing in 1982. Migration timing is a topic of some interest to both casual observers and data analysts. In previous years (see references), a technique was developed for determining the peaks and troughs of the migration by

comparing the number of migrants seen on a given day to the number that would have been seen if each reporting site had seen an average number of migrants. For example, if 15 migrants were reported from a site for which the average was only 10, then the migration magnitude would be 1.5 for that site on that particular day. When more than one site report, the counts for those sites are added together, and a combined migration magnitude is then computed.

Because of the massive data entry problems that would have resulted from attempting to analyze timing for all 95 species recorded in 1982, a streamlined timing analysis was applied this year using seven "indicator" species. These seven were common species that were clearly migratory in the sense of having no significant breeding populations within the study region. A mix of early, mid-, and late season migrants was included. The seven species were Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Solitary Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler, Northern Parula, Palm Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, and American Redstart.

Eight general movements were discovered. They occurred on April 19 and 25, and May 5, 10, 16-18, 20, 23, and 31. Major troughs (less than one-fourth the average number of migrants) occurred on April 18, 26, and 28, and May 7 and 22. Amplitudes of the peaks were less dramatic this year than in either of the preceding two years: no peak of magnitude greater than 2.0 occurred. In 1980, a sustained movement was observed in mid-May, but in 1982, the migration was erratic and inconsistent.

All previous experience has indicated that temperature and wind direction are weather parameters with a definite impact on migration. In spring, northerly winds followed by a shift to the southwest seem to be correlated with the heaviest migration, a result that appeals to common sense. Inspection of data from the National Weather Service for Boston showed that these conditions prevailed only on April 16-20 and 25-26 this year. Peaks in migration did occur at these times. In May, cold easterly winds prevailed for almost the whole month. It is easy to believe that whatever May migration we experienced was induced not so much by favorable weather as by desperation!

Analysis of Warbler Counts. The counts of warblers were subjected to special analysis in order to compare the 1982 results to the data from the previous two years. The first step in this analysis was to eliminate counts of breeding individuals so that only the migrating population could be studied. This was accomplished by noting the counts of breeding species on days of little migratory activity when the purely migrant species were essentially missing from the count. The counts on these "no migration" days were taken to represent the abundance of the sedentary breeding population and were subtracted from counts on other days in the same time period. These corrections had the greatest impact on the

counts for Yellow Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, and Common Yellowthroat.

The relative abundances of each warbler species are provided in Table 3. The first three columns contain the abundances for the three separate years, and the fourth column provides the abundances for all three years combined. The variations in the relative abundances are low for most species, especially in view of the fact that different sites and different observers have been employed in the three years of the study. The stability in the rank ordering is apparent. More than 85% of the yearly rankings fall within ± 2 places of the combined rankings.

Table 3. Relative Abundance of Migrant Warblers, 1980-82.

WARBLER SPECIES	1980	1981	1982	COMBINED 1980-82	MT.A. 1980-82
Yellow-rumped	21.21	29.80	37.14*	29.79	43.23
American Redstart	11.86	9.44	7.43	9.47	5.79
Black-and-white	7.87	8.01	7.57	7.78	6.80
Northern Parula	7.57	5.10	6.54	6.58	5.24
Magnolia	6.69	5.05	4.77	5.52	3.16
Blackpoll	6.36	4.13	4.94	5.26	5.11
Common Yellowthroat	4.16	7.19	3.56	4.61	2.34
Black-throated Green	5.64	3.16	2.81	3.89	4.30
Tennessee	6.00	3.27	2.24	3.81	5.34
Yellow	3.11	4.59	3.28	3.52	2.18
Canada	3.05	4.18	3.09	3.32	1.27
Ovenbird	2.56	3.42	2.64	2.79	1.27
Blackburnian	2.16	1.43	1.77	1.83	1.63
Palm	0.26	1.28	3.25*	1.74	2.51
Wilson's	2.20	2.24	1.04	1.73	1.30
Bay-breasted	2.49	0.82	1.04	1.50	1.43
Black-throated Blue	1.51	1.12	1.71	1.50	1.60
Nashville	1.28	1.48	1.65	1.48	1.50
Chestnut-sided	1.70	1.28	0.95	1.29	1.40
Northern Waterthrush	1.05	1.22	1.04	1.08	0.72
Cape May	0.69	0.87	0.48	0.64	1.20
Blue-winged	0.20	0.51	0.25	0.29	0.20
Prairie	0.29	0.20	0.20	0.23	0.16
Pine	0.07	0.00	0.36	0.17	0.13
Mourning	0.03	0.05	0.20	0.10	0.13
Cerulean	0.00	0.05	0.03	0.02	0.00
Prothonotary	0.00	0.05	0.03	0.02	0.03
Worm-eating	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.01	0.03
TOTAL COUNT (Bird-days)	3051	1960	3565	8576	3072

*Increased 1982 counts for these species were due largely to the addition of two weeks in April to the count period.

Comparison of Mt. Auburn to Other Sites. Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge is probably the most intensively birded area in eastern Massachusetts during the spring migration. Bird

Observer publishes many reports from Mount Auburn, and a long-term migration study at this site could be readily sustained. For these reasons, it is of considerable interest whether or not the species composition of the migrant population at Mount Auburn is typical of eastern Massachusetts as a whole. In order to investigate this question, warbler data from six available sets of Mount Auburn data (two from each year of the project) were combined into a special data set. The relative abundances from this set are given in the last column of Table 3. In comparing Mount Auburn data with the combined data, it should be noted that while Yellow-rumped Warbler was most abundant in both data sets, it is much more dominant at Mount Auburn (43.23% compared to 29.79%). In further analysis, Yellow-rumped Warbler was deleted, and the relative abundances of the remaining 27 species were tested for statistically significant ($P < .01$) differences. This analysis revealed that Mount Auburn had significantly greater relative abundances for Black-throated Green, Tennessee, Palm, and Cape May warblers. Mount Auburn had significantly smaller relative abundances for American Redstart, Magnolia Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow Warbler, Canada Warbler, and Ovenbird.

On the basis of these observations, one notes that the two early migrants, Yellow-rumped Warbler and Palm Warbler, occur in greater relative abundances at Mount Auburn. For the species that migrate mostly during May, Mount Auburn seems to exhibit a trend toward a lower proportion of ground or low-foraging species and a higher proportion of treetop-foraging species. Landscaping practices which remove leaf litter and underbrush may be affecting the species composition at well-tended cemetery sites like Mount Auburn. If so, then habitat changes at a site may pose a problem for a long-term population study. The availability of counts from several different sites with different habitat characteristics provides a safeguard against confusing changes due to site habitat alterations with actual changes in the general migratory population.

Comparison with Connecticut River Valley Data. A remarkable data set was received from Seth Kellog who selected South Pond in Southwick (southeast of Springfield) as his site. Seth was afield on 13 visits in April and 22 visits in May. Because his site was outside the nominal study region, his data were not combined with the other data sets, but serve an important function in allowing us to compare the migration in the Connecticut River Valley with the migration in eastern Massachusetts. The following differences are notable:
1) Southwick produced much higher numbers of certain migrant species such as swallows and Rusty Blackbirds; 2) certain breeding species were much more abundant (Veery, Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Blue-winged Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Bank Swallow, and Cliff Swallow.

Although we have our hands full with the data from eastern

Massachusetts, it is obviously impossible to adequately understand the migration without some knowledge of what is happening farther west. This is especially true in years when it is suspected that weather conditions have deflected migrants east or west of their normal routes. The Field Study Committee will follow with interest any migration watch activity in Western Massachusetts.

It is our hope that the Spring Migration Watch can be repeated under the sponsorship of the Bird Observer Field Study Committee. New participants who can provide regular coverage of a site within the study area are welcomed. To receive a set of project instructions, contact Lee Taylor, 92 Brooks Avenue, Arlington, MA 02174.

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JOHN ANDREWS is chairman of Bird Observer Field Study Committee. His special ornithological interests include avian population dynamics, habitat utilization, and behavior. Active in several environmental and conservation groups, he is president of Citizens for Lexington Conservation. John works as a research engineer at an M.I.T. laboratory.

LEE E. TAYLOR, a second-generation birder, is a compiler of records for Bird Observer and is active in local bird study projects. He develops computer-based communication systems at M.I.T. in Lexington and has served as a member of the Arlington Conservation Commission.

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A NOTE ON PLUMAGE TERMINOLOGY

by Richard S. Heil, Peabody

There has always been the need in Bird Observer records for a standard list of acceptable plumage terminology to be employed by both field observers and the records staff. Many observers, this writer included, have in the past erroneously attempted to age or sex a bird when it cannot safely be done other than in the hand. Any of the popular field guides can lead the unwary observer astray, especially in the fall when birds of the year complicate identification. For example, fall reports of adult male Black-throated Blue Warblers, adult male Cape May Warblers, female Hooded Warblers, female Lark Buntings, or adult Lark Sparrows might not be accurate. The fall immature males of Black-throated Blue and Cape May warblers are not generally separable from adults in the field. The immature and adult female Hooded Warblers are very similar, and fall immature and most winter-plumaged adult male Lark Buntings are inseparable as are immature and adult Lark Sparrows. The juvenile Lark Sparrow, on the other hand, is quite a different looking bird, very heavily streaked on the crown, nape, and breast. Normally, plain-breasted Chipping, Field, and White-crowned sparrows have similarly streaked juvenal plumages, but in each this plumage is usually (as in the Lark Sparrow) of short duration and is seldom observed during migration. However, in some individuals the normal molt may be retarded so that the previous season's plumage is retained much later than is typical; e.g., some Chipping Sparrows may still possess juvenal plumage in October.

Unfortunately, a number of different plumage terminologies have been and continue to be used in the literature for those birds in which both male and female adults have two plumages per cycle and are referred to in the records as summer (breeding) and winter plumages. In this category are the loons, grebes, Oldsquaws, most shorebirds, gulls, terns, alcids, starlings, many wood warblers (most notably Blackpoll and Bay-breasted warblers), Chipping Sparrows, and Snow Buntings. In Ruddy Ducks, Bobolinks, Scarlet Tanagers, Indigo Buntings, American Goldfinches, Dickcissels, Lark Buntings, and longspurs only the males have two markedly different plumages per cycle. Most small passerines attain adult plumage by the first summer although some do not until the second summer, e.g., American Redstart and Orchard Oriole. Many of the larger waterbirds may require three to five years to attain full adult plumage.

The aging nomenclature now in use and suggested for use in the future in the Bird Observer records is shown below in the proper sequence:

- 1) downy young; 2) juvenile; 3) first winter, etc. (1W, 2W, 3W);
- 4) first spring/summer, etc. (1S, 2S, 3S); 5) adult winter;
- 6) adult summer (breeding).

Thus, for reasons explained above and because not all observers may be able to age all groups of birds accurately, particularly gulls, this system will replace the "alternate" and "basic" plumage terminology often used in the past. The terms "sub-adult" or, simply, "immature" can be used to indicate any unidentified immature plumage.

The Greek letter phi (ϕ) can be used to designate all birds that cannot be sexed, that is, dimorphic species in which immatures and adult females are not readily separable in the field but are easily distinguished from adult males. This symbol cannot be used in the fall for species like Bobolink, Scarlet Tanager, and Lark Bunting in which adult males molt into a winter plumage essentially the same as that of adult females and immatures. For these species, the symbol $\phi\phi$ should be used. Waterfowl in eclipse plumage can also be denoted $\phi\phi$. Thus, ϕ is essentially for individuals not adult male, and $\phi\phi$ is for individuals entirely unsexed. The symbol $\phi\phi$ is not generally necessary for monomorphic species.

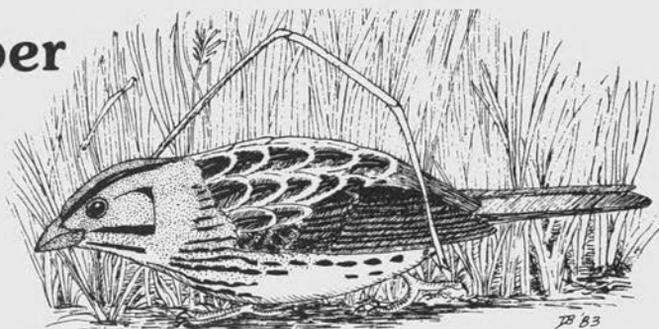
Color phases in jaegers can be reported as dark, intermediate, or light, and color phases in Northern Fulmar might best be reported as double light, light, dark, and double dark. (See Palmer: Handbook of North American Birds, Volume 1, plate on page 60.)

Observers are urged to make an effort to identify plumages and where possible to attempt to age or sex a bird using care in doing so. The percentages of migrant juvenile shorebirds noted in the fall may reflect nesting success on the high Arctic breeding grounds. Color phases, as in the Western Grebe, Northern Fulmar, and Common Murre, may be geographical or racial and give insight into species distribution or taxonomy. Indeed, the color phases of the Western Grebe are now being considered as possibly two distinct species. The race of fulmar breeding along the west coast of Greenland and Canada, Fulmarus glacialis minor, comprises mainly dark and double-dark individuals. A thorough knowledge of plumages greatly facilitates such studies of migration, distribution, molt, and, most fundamentally, identification.

RICHARD S. HEIL, editor of the New England Christmas Bird Count and of the Northeastern Maritime Region (Winter Season) for American Birds, was formerly a records compiler for Bird Observer. He has worked on research projects for Massachusetts Audubon Society and has been a part of three pelagic studies for Manomet Bird Observatory aboard both Russian and domestic vessels. Rick has been a bird-watcher since the age of fifteen and is at present a full-time student at Salem State College, majoring in biology.

Field Records

December 1982



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

December 1982 was very mild, dry and cloudy. The temperature averaged 39.6° , 6.6° above normal. This December ties for the fifth warmest in 111 years! A cold spell of six days from the ninth through the fourteenth averaged nine degrees below normal and prevented the month from breaking the all time record. Many new records were set: the 70° on the fourth topped the old mark of 63° set in 1950; 70° again on the sixth topped the 69° of 1912. Three additional records were also broken. Also of note: the daily mean temperature of 64° on the sixth set a new record for so late in the year. In fact, just one week later, a mean of only 14° was noted, a drop of 50° . This was the largest range of mean temperatures in a month since January 1957. The month's low mark was 10° on the thirteenth, a drop of 60° from the high a week earlier.

Precipitation totaled 1.27 inches, 2.09 inches under normal. This was the eleventh driest December in 165 years. Snow totaled 5.5 inches, 2.6 inches less than the past average; the most in any one day was 1.4 inches on the twelfth. Minor glazing from freezing rain was noted on December 19, 23, and 24.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

Both Common and Red-throated loons were migrating during strong northwest winds on December 12 though Red-throated Loons predominated with 155 counted in just one hour during midday. The report stated they had been flying all morning, but no count was taken. The Western Grebe, found in late November, was present throughout the month in the Duxbury - Third Cliff, Scituate area. During the month, seven Double-crested Cormorants were reported, including two inland records.

Two of the four immature Little Blue Herons found in Scituate during November continued through December 7, and another was seen on Nashawena Island on the last day of 1982.

At Nantucket, two Tundra Swans, a Eurasian Wigeon and a "Eurasian" Teal continued all month. Another Eurasian Wigeon was found on Rantoul Pond in Ipswich. Brant numbers were good along the Squantum - Weymouth shore, and 1275 were counted on the Cape Cod Christmas Bird Count (CBC). Two Blue-winged Teal in Ipswich (exceptional in winter) were well described. Other highlights included 102 Redheads in the Buzzards Bay CBC, 11 Barrow's Goldeneye, 7 Harlequin Ducks, 5 King Eiders, and 1235 Common Mergansers on the Plymouth CBC.

R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Common Loon:			
5,25	Duxbury Beach, Ipswich (Crane's)	40, 16	W.Petersen#, J.Berry
Red-throated Loon:			
5,12	Duxbury Beach, Rockport	20, 155 in one hr.	W.Petersen#, R.Stymeist#
Red-necked Grebe:			
5,23	Duxbury Beach, Plymouth	3, 79	W.Petersen#, CBC
Western Grebe:			
thr.	Duxbury-Scituate	1	v.o.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Horned Grebe:			
15	P.I.	75	R.Heil
Pied-billed Grebe:			
23	Plymouth	11	CBC
Great Cormorant:			
5	Nahant-Winthrop,N.Scituate	600, 40	R.Stymeist#, H.Mallers
Double-crested Cormorant:			
5,11	Braintree,Lynn(Flax Pond)	1, 1 imm.	SSBC(P.O'Neil),R.Heil
19;26	S.Boston; P.I.	3 imm; 1 ad, 1 imm.	CBC(D.Brown);J.Berry,G.Gove#
Great Blue Heron:			
6,18	Pocasset, Buzzards Bay	10, 36	P.Hallowell, CBC
19,25	Woburn, Weston	3, 1	G.Gove, L.Robinson
25,29	Winchester, Everett	1, 1	G.Gove, J.Berry
Little Blue Heron:			
1-7,31	Scituate, Nashawena I.	2 imm., 1 imm.	v.o.,R.Knott(fide J.Hatch)
American Bittern:			
26	Duxbury, Bridgewater	1, 1	CBC(D.Clapp),CBC(D.Briggs)
Tundra Swan:			
thr.	Nantucket	2(1 ad., 1 imm.)	E.Andrews + v.o.
Canada Goose:			
4	GMNWR	870	P.Roberts
Brant:			
4,18	Weymouth, Quincy	550, 952	L.Robinson, CBC
19	Cape Cod	1275	CBC
Snow Goose:			
5	P.I.	12	P.Roberts
"Blue" Goose:			
19	Cape Ann	1	CBC
Gadwall:			
4,5	GMNWR, Marston's Mills	34, 12	P.Roberts, B.Nikula
Northern Pintail:			
1,4,9	GMNWR, P.I., SRV	22, 24, 15	H.Mallers,BBC,R.Walton
Green-winged Teal:			
1	GMNWR	31	H.Mallers
Blue-winged Teal: (Details on file)			
6	Ipswich	2	R.Heil, J.Smith
'Eurasian' Teal:			
thr.	Nantucket	1	v.o.
Eurasian Wigeon:			
thr.,6-31	Nantucket, Ipswich	1 ad. m.,1 ad. m.	E.Andrews+v.o.,R.Heil+v.o.
American Wigeon:			
1	GMNWR	75	H.Mallers
Northern Shoveler:			
5,9	GMNWR, SRV	5, 5	P.Roberts, R.Walton
Wood Duck:			
1	GMNWR	2	H.Mallers
Redhead:			
18	Buzzards Bay	102	CBC
Ring-necked Duck:			
5,15	Braintree,Cambridge	22, 2	SSBC, F.Bouchard
18	Falmouth	48	CBC
Canvasback:			
5,26	Braintree,Middleboro-Taunton	52, 585	SSBC, CBC
Lesser Scaup:			
11	Lynn (Flax Pond)	21	R.Heil
Barrow's Goldeneye:			
2 on,4	Manomet, Quincy Bay	1, 1	K.Anderson, L.Robinson
5,8	Hull, Nantucket	1 f., 4	L.Robinson,E.Andrews+v.o.
18,19,23	Wareham,Rockport,Plymouth	1, 2, 1	CBC
Harlequin Duck:			
4;19	Cohasset;Gloucester,E.Orleans	1; 3, 3	R.Titus; CBC
Common Eider:			
5	Nahant-Winthrop	8700+	BBC
23,26	Plymouth, Marshfield	8758, 18507	CBC
King Eider:			
18	Quincy, Hull	1, 1	CBC
31	E.Orleans	3	B.Nikula
White-winged Scoter:			
5,23	Duxbury Beach, Plymouth	300, 1035	W.Petersen#, CBC

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Ruddy Duck:			
4,5	Waltham, Braintree	105, 83	R.Stymeist#, SSBC
Hooded Merganser:			
5,11	Braintree, Worcester	13, 8	SSBC, D.Crompton
19,23	Gr. Boston, Plymouth	19, 45	CBC
31	Lexington, Ipswich	3, 11 f.	J.Andrews, J.Berry#
Common Merganser:			
23	Plymouth	1235	CBC
Red-breasted Merganser:			
18	Quincy, Buzzards Bay	686, 3556	CBC
31	P'Town	2500	B.Nikula#

RAPTORS THROUGH COOT

Northern Goshawks were reported from seven locations. Three Cooper's Hawks, all well-described, were reported from three widely scattered localities. An adult Bald Eagle was found along the Merrimac River, and others were noted from Ashburnham and Lakeville. The only Peregrine reported was from Nantucket, and four Merlin were noted on the Cape Cod CBC.

R.H.S.

Northern Goshawk:			
4,5	Lexington, Duxbury	1, 1	A.Morgan, W.Petersen#
5,18,27	P.I., Millis, Lincoln	1 imm., 1, 1	P.Roberts, CBC, J.Baird
19,31	Thompson's I., Nantucket	1, 1	CBC(D.Brown), v.o.
Sharp-shinned Hawk:			
18	Buzzards Bay, Millis	7, 3	CBC
23,26	Plymouth, Marshfield	3, 3	CBC
Cooper's Hawk:			
14,19	Burlington, Everett	1, 1	C.Leahy, CBC(J.Grugan)
31	Newburyport	1	A.Blaisdell
Red-shouldered Hawk:			
18,19	Millis, Orleans	1, 1	CBC(B.Cassie), CBC(R.Forster)
21	Tewksbury	1	J.Fillery
Rough-legged Hawk:			
10,13	Framingham, Lexington	1, 1	F.Bouchard, J.Andrews
Bald Eagle:			
4,11	Ashburnham, Lakeville	1 ad., 1 subadult	D.MacKerron, R.Titus
26-31	Newburyport	1 ad.	B.Perna, J.Berry
Northern Harrier:			
12,19	P.I., Cape Cod	15, 17	BBC(S.Henderson), CBC
Peregrine Falcon:			
31	Nantucket	1	D.Arvidson# + v.o.
Merlin:			
19	Cape Cod	4	CBC
Virginia Rail:			
3	Middleboro	1	K.Holmes
Sora:			
4	W.Harwich	2	B.Nikula
American Coot:			
1, thr.	SRV, Lakeville	60, 150+	R.Walton, D.Briggs
5,18	Braintree, Millis	108, 118	SSBC, CBC

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A number of shorebirds lingered later than normal and have been doing so for the past few years. Included among these were Greater Yellowlegs, small sandpipers (a Least this year noted on the fourth), and Long-billed Dowitchers, one of which was seen and identified by call at Centerville on two occasions two weeks apart. Three Red Phalaropes were also late on the Marshfield Christmas Bird Count (CBC). There were other, more normal lingerers, including Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, American Woodcock and Common Snipe.

A probable Herring x Glaucous Gull hybrid was seen twice in Gloucester, and there were many reports of Iceland Gulls including one inland in Millis. Three Lesser Black-backed and five Black-headed gulls were reported. Laughing Gulls also tarried beyond their normal departure date with reports from four locations, the latest being on the December 26 from Marshfield. A Black Tern continued in Chatham being last reported on the fifth, ten weeks later than normal. This may be a record date.

Many alcids were seen on the Outer Cape CBC; winds had been strong from the SW from

the 14th to the 16th, then were strong out of the NNE from the 17th to the 20th, which probably accounts for the high counts of these species. Individual Common Murres were seen at Provincetown and from the ferry to Nantucket. Thick-billed Murres were seen passing Sandy Neck at the rate of 310 per hour on the ninth, a day of strong NW winds preceded by a day of strong SW winds.

Seven species of owls were reported this month including 19 Eastern Screech and 8 Great Horned on the Greater Boston CBC. A Snowy Owl landed at Logan International Airport, apparently without mishap, and the intellectual Barred Owl continued residency at Harvard Yard. The Outer Cape CBC recorded 89 flickers, and Pileated Woodpeckers were found on at least two CBCs. The Red-bellied Woodpecker in Holden continued; two were seen on the Buzzards Bay CBC and one on the Plymouth count. A Red-headed Woodpecker spent the month in Westwood and will probably spend the winter there, and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was found on the Greater Boston CBC, a late but not unusual date for that species. G.W.G.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Kildeer:			
3,18	Quincy	2, 1	R.Emery#,CBC
Black-bellied Plover:			
5,19	Boston Harbor, Cape Cod	14, 4	BBC,CBC
Ruddy Turnstone:			
19,31	Cape Ann, Nantucket	24, 9	CBC, v.o.
American Woodcock:			
19	Cape Cod	3	CBC
Common Snipe:			
18,19,23	Buzz. Bay, Cape Cod, Plymouth	4, 5, 4	CBC
19,26	Cape Ann, Bridgewater	4, 8	CBC
Greater Yellowlegs:			
19	Cape Cod	6	CBC
26,31	Hyannis, Orleans	4, 5	R.Stabins#
Purple Sandpiper:			
5	Boston Harbor, Scituate	220, 350	BBC,W.Petersen#
11,15	Rockport, Westport	60, 98	BBC,CBC
26,28	N.Scituate, Salisbury	35, 10	CBC,J.Carter
Least Sandpiper:			
4	W.Harwich	1	B.Nikula#
Dunlin:			
4,11	Westport, Newbypt	156, 43	G.Gove#
5,19	Boston Harbor, Cape Cod	100, 582	BBC,CBC
23,26	Plymouth, Marshfield	68, 400	CBC
Long-billed Dowitcher:			
13,26	Centerville	1	P.Trimble#
Sanderling:			
5,23	Boston Harbor, Plymouth	140, 28	BBC,CBC
Red Phalarope:			
26	Marshfield	3	CBC
Glaucous Gull:			
11,19	Newbypt, Gloucester	1 (2W), 3	G.Gove,CBC
19,26	Cape Cod, Marshfield	2, 1	CBC
Herring x Glaucous Gull:			
1,19	Gloucester	1 (1W)	R.Heil,J.Smith
Iceland Gull:			
12-26	Newbypt	max. 8 (12/26)	v.o.
17,28	Salisbury	1, 2	J.Carter
19,28	Cape Ann	max. 11 (12/19)	CBC + v.o.
19	Cape Cod	8	CBC
18,26	Quincy, Marshfield	4, 1	CBC
18,23	Millis, Plymouth	1, 2	CBC
Great Black-backed Gull:			
19	Cape Ann	2782	CBC
Lesser Black-backed Gull:			
18,18-23	Wareham, Westport	1 (3W), 1 (3W)	CBC
19	Orleans	1	BBC
Herring Gull:			
	200-8,000 reported from 5 CBCs		
Ring-billed Gull:			
18,19	Quincy, Cape Ann	754, 156	CBC
23,26	Plymouth, Bridgewater	709, 383	CBC
Common Black-headed Gull:			
18;19,25	Hull; Cape Ann, Cape Cod	1 each	CBC

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Common Black-headed Gull, cont.:			
26,25-30	Revere, Nantucket	1 ad., 1 ad.	G.Gove#,E.Andrews#
Bonaparte's Gull:			
5,7	Falmouth, Quincy	1500, 200	B.Nikula#,S.Higginbotham
17	Cohasset, Nantasket	300, 500	S.Higginbotham
18,19	Quincy, Cape Ann	623, 103	CBC
Laughing Gull:			
3,18	N.Scituate, Quincy	8, 2	H.Maller,CBC
19,26	Chatham, Marshfield	1, 1	V.Laux#,CBC
Little Gull:			
5,27	Chatham, Nantucket	2, 1 ad.	W.Harrington#,E.Andrews
Black-legged Kittiwake:			
19	Cape Cod, Cape Ann	3407, 35	CBC
Black Tern:			
5	Chatham	1	W.Bailey#
Large alcid species:			
19,23;31	Eastham, Plymouth; P'town	2557, 3; 400+	CBC;B.Nikula#
Razorbill:			
19	Cape Cod, Cape Ann	1210, 1	CBC
23,31	Plymouth, P'town	10, 25+	CBC,B.Nikula#
Common Murre:			
31	P'town, Nantucket	1, 1	B.Nikula#,G.Gove#
Thick-billed Murre:			
9	Sandy Neck, Barnstable	310 per hour	R.Pease
23,26	Plymouth, Mid-Cape	3, 1	CBC
Dovekie:			
19	Revere, Eastham, Cape Ann	1, 65, 1	CBC
26	Mid-Cape	4	CBC
Black Guillemot:			
4,5	N.Scituate	3, 1	B.Sorrie,W.Petersen#
17,23	Cohasset, Rockport	1, 3	S.Higginbotham,P.Hallowell
31	P'town	11	B.Nikula#
Mourning Dove:			
26	Bridgewater	216	CBC
Common Barn-Owl:			
18	Quincy	1	CBC
Eastern Screech-Owl:			
18	Milton, Quincy, Millis	8, 1, 3	CBC
19	Cape Ann, Boston	3, 19	CBC
23,30	Plymouth, Lexington	3, 1	CBC,J.Carter
Great Horned Owl:			
18	Millis, Quincy	2, 1	CBC
19	Cape Cod, Boston	5, 8	CBC
25,26	Woburn, Bridgewater	1, 1	G.Gove,CBC
27	Brookline	1	O.+N.Komar#
Snowy Owl:			
15,18	Boston (Logan), Quincy	1, 1	W.McMakin,CBC
19,22	Cape Cod, Bridgewater	1, 1	CBC
26,27-31	Duxbury, P.I.	1, 1	CBC,v.o.
Barred Owl:			
thr.	Cambridge-Harvard Yard	1	v.o.
Long-eared Owl:			
thr.	Lexington	max. 2	v.o.
19	Orleans	1	CBC
Short-eared Owl:			
thr.	P.I.	max. 4	v.o.
5	Duxbury	2	W.Petersen#
17,19	Quincy, Cape Cod	1, 1	D.Brown,CBC
Northern Saw-whet Owl:			
31	Rochester	1	S.Peak,fide D.Briggs
Belted Kingfisher:			
thr.	Single individuals from 7 locations		
19,23	Cape Cod, Plymouth	18, 6	CBC
Northern Flicker:			
thr.	Single individuals from 5 locations		
18;19	Westport, Quincy; Cape Cod 13, 9; 89		CBC
23	Plymouth	10	CBC
Pileated Woodpecker:			
18	Athol	1	CBC
26	Mid-Cape - Yarmouthport	1	CBC

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS
Pileated Woodpecker, cont.:			
28	Royalston	1	Athol BC
Red-bellied Woodpecker:			
thr.	Holden (from Nov.)	1	D.Crompton#
18,23	Buzzards Bay, Plymouth	2, 1	CBC
Red-headed Woodpecker:			
5-6,27	Westwood	1 imm.	C.Lillie,J.Clancy
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:			
19	Boston	1	CBC(G.+H. D'Entremont)
Downy Woodpecker:			
25	Weston	7	L.Robinson

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

Heavy Blue Jay migration had been noted by a number of observers during the fall. Christmas Bird Count (CBC) data, however, showed that jays remained in the southeastern part of the state, concentrated particularly around Buzzards Bay. Common Raven, once considered a decidedly uncommon species in Eastern Massachusetts, has been reported rather frequently recently. In December two ravens were observed in the Mt. Watatic area, the site of several single sightings during the fall. The Jackdaw on Nantucket since November was seen through December 30. Questions as to the bird's origins were never answered, but there was suspicion of ship-assisted passage or escape.

An Ash-throated Flycatcher was discovered in Magnolia on the rather late date of December 27. A recent article in American Birds (Vol. 36 No. 3, May 1982) discussed records for this species east of the Mississippi and indicated that most fall occurrences in the Northeast have been in the late November to early December period. A few Tree Swallows commonly hang on to December, but a count of 75 at one location is certainly noteworthy. December wren reports were slightly above the average for the last few years with Winter Wren particularly notable. A House Wren was seen in Westport during the Christmas Count. There were several interesting reports of late wood warblers. In the first part of the month, single individuals of Black-throated Blue Warbler, Wilson's Warbler and American Redstart were found. Even later, on the Acoaxet Christmas Count, a Northern Waterthrush was seen. L.E.T.

Western Kingbird:			
1-2,5-7	Natick, Gloucester	1, 1	R.Barnes,C.+K.Leahy
Ash-throated Flycatcher:			
27	Magnolia	1	M.Barnett#
Horned Lark:			
12,23	P.I./Salisbury, Plymouth	98, 38	BBC,CBC
26,31	Saugus, Ipswich	9, 75 ⁺	N.+O.Komar,J.Berry#
Tree Swallow:			
3	Medfield	75	J.Marshall
Blue Jay:			
18	Buzzards Bay, Quincy	727, 67	CBC
19	Cape Ann, Cape Cod	72, 238	CBC
23	Plymouth	190	CBC
Common Raven:			
8	Ashburnham	2	D.MacKerron
Fish Crow:			
18-28	6 locations	17	CBC
Jackdaw:			
from Nov.-30	Nantucket	1	v.o.
Black-capped Chickadee:			
18	Buzzards Bay, Athol	779, 1162	CBC
19	Cape Cod, Cape Ann	874, 469	CBC
23,26	Plymouth, Taunton	423, 231	CBC
Tufted Titmouse:			
18	Buzzards Bay, Quincy	176, 63	CBC
19,23	Cape Ann, Plymouth	86, 38	CBC
26	Taunton	90	CBC
Red-breasted Nuthatch:			
18	Buzzards Bay, Athol	3, 13	CBC
18,19	Millis, Cape Cod	1, 32	CBC
23,26	Plymouth, Bridgewater	2, 1	CBC
House Wren:			
18	Westport	1	CBC (D.Emerson)
Winter Wren.			
2-26,5	5 locations, Nahant	5, 5	v.o.,R.Heil

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Winter Wren (continued):			
18,19	Buzzards Bay, Gtr. Boston	3, 3	CBC
31	Nantucket	1	P.Buckley
Carolina Wren:			
4-26,18	6 locations, Buzzards Bay	6, 23	v.o., CBC
18	Millis, Westport	2, 5	CBC
26	Taunton	3	CBC
Marsh Wren:			
thr.,4	Newburyport, Marshfield	2, 1	R.Heil, R.Titus
19	Cape Cod	1	CBC
Northern Mockingbird:			
18	Quincy, Cape Cod	24, 70	CBC
23,26	Plymouth, Marshfield	34, 35	CBC
Gray Catbird:			
2-23,5	6 locations, Nahant	6, 2	v.o., R.Heil
18,30	Westport, Nahant	2, 1	CBC, R.Heil
Brown Thrasher:			
18,19	Westport, Cape Cod	1, 2	CBC
American Robin:			
5,18	E.Middleboro,Buzzards Bay	25, 423	K.Anderson, CBC
19,31	Cape Cod, Ipswich	43, 2	CBC, J.Smith#
Hermit Thrush:			
18-23,18	4 locations, Buzzards Bay	4, 9	CBC
19	Cape Cod	2	CBC
Golden-crowned Kinglet:			
19	Cape Cod, Cape Ann	100, 44	CBC
23,26	Plymouth, Marshfield	61, 18	CBC
Ruby-crowned Kinglet:			
18	Millis, Athol	3, 2	CBC
25	Weston, Woburn	1, 1	L.Robinson, G.Gove
23,26	Plymouth, Taunton	1, 1	CBC
Water Pipit:			
18,26	Westport, Taunton	14, 1	CBC
Cedar Waxwing:			
8-31,19	Middleboro, Cape Ann	30, 41	D.Briggs#, CBC
23	Plymouth	28	CBC
Northern Shrike:			
1,11	Sudbury, Shrewsbury	1, 1	R.Walton, T.Osborne
19,23	Eastham, Sudbury	1, 1	CBC, R.Walton
26	Marshfield	1	CBC
European Starling:			
18,19	Quincy, Gtr. Boston	100000, 200000	CBC
Orange-crowned Warbler:			
5,18	Falmouth, Buzzards Bay	1, 2	B.Nikula#, CBC
18+21,26	Cambridge,Duxbury Beach	1, 1	L.Robinson, CBC
Black-throated Blue Warbler:			
8	Middleboro	1 (details)	R.Turner
Yellow-rumped Warbler:			
18	Millis, Buzzards Bay	11, 349	CBC
19	Cape Ann, Cape Cod	20, 976	CBC
23,26	Plymouth, Marshfield	270, 113	CBC
Pine Warbler:			
19,23	Cape Cod, Plymouth	5, 3	CBC
Palm Warbler:			
1-3,19	Belmont, Cape Cod	1, 2	L.Robinson, CBC
Northern Waterthrush:			
18-23	Acoaxet	1	D.Emerson
Common Yellowthroat:			
2,21	Gloucester (E.P.),Lexington	2, 1	R.Heil, Rising
26	Scituate	1	CBC
Yellow-breasted Chat:			
2,5	Gloucester (E.P.),Chatham	1, 1	R.Heil, R.Comeau
5	Rockport, Falmouth	1 b., 1	R.Norris, D.Reynolds#
18,23	Buzzards Bay, Plymouth	1, 1	CBC
30-31	Nahant	1	L.Pivachek
Wilson's Warbler:			
6	Belmont	1	L.Robinson
American Redstart:			
5	Chatham	1	R.Comeau

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SNOW BUNTING

At about the time of the flycatcher excitement, the same Magnolia feeder attracted both races of Northern Oriole. The "Bullock's" was not an adult male, but was well-described. Also in the last week of December, a Western Tanager was discovered in Chatham. The concurrent appearance of this number of rarities might be explained by the prevailing southwest winds and extraordinarily warm temperatures. A Henslow's Sparrow was found in a field adjacent to the Brookline incinerator during the Christmas Count and remained for the rest of the month. Another CBC find was the "Oregon Junco" in Marshfield.

Through December, this had not been a particularly good winter finch flight season. The only reports of Pine Grosbeaks and Common Redpoll were from the Athol CBC, site also of the only large numbers of Evening Grosbeaks. The single Red Crossbill sighting was in Brockton, and no White-winged Crossbills were reported. Pine Siskin occurred sparsely, south of Boston. L.E.T.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Eastern Meadowlark:			
19,23	Cape Cod, Plymouth	68, 19	CBC
26,31	Taunton, Ipswich	10, 25	CBC, J.Berry#
Red-winged Blackbird:			
1-13,19	Belmont, Cape Cod	6 max., 10	L.Robinson, CBC
26,30	Marshfield, Hanover	50, 40	CBC, R.Fox
Northern Oriole:			
1-18,1	7 locations, Waltham	7, 2	v.o., Cotter
20,23-31	Southboro, S.Peabody	2, 1	C.Nilson, R.Heil
30	Magnolia	1	R.Heil
"Bullock's" Oriole:			
30	Magnolia	1 (good details)	R.Heil#
Rusty Blackbird:			
30	Nantucket	6	v.o.
Common Grackle:			
18	Medfield	3	CBC
Brown-headed Cowbird:			
12,18	P.I., Millis	12, 26	BBC, CBC
29	Middleboro	24	D.Briggs
<u>Western Tanager:</u>			
27-28	Chatham	1	R.Clem
Northern Cardinal:			
18,23	Buzzards Bay, Plymouth	236, 91	CBC
Dickcissel:			
26	Marshfield	1	CBC
Evening Grosbeak:			
2,9-31	Easton, Middleboro	15, 30	K.Ryan, D.Briggs#
18,19	Athol, Cape Cod	1739, 2	CBC
23,26	Plymouth, Taunton	76, 79	CBC
Purple Finch:			
18	Athol, Quincy	87, 30	CBC
19	Marlboro, Cape Cod	9, 4	B.Parker, CBC
23,26	SRV, Marshfield	63, 23	R.Walton, CBC
26	Taunton	10	CBC
House Finch:			
18,19	Quincy, Cape Cod	134, 371	CBC
23,25	Plymouth, Ipswich	168, 110	CBC, J.Berry
Pine Grosbeak:			
18	Athol	1	CBC
Common Redpoll:			
18	Athol	4	CBC
Pine Siskin:			
18,26	Milton, Marshfield	2, 2	CBC
American Goldfinch:			
18,23	Quincy, Plymouth	29, 154	CBC
26	Marshfield	126	CBC
Red Crossbill:			
20	Brockton	7	R.Titus
Rufous-sided Towhee:			
4-26	6 locations	6	v.o.
18	Westport, Buzzards Bay	7, 17	CBC
19	Cape Cod	10	CBC

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS
"Ipswich" Sparrow:			
2,5	Marshfield, Salisbury	2, 3	CBC, P.Roberts
Savannah Sparrow:			
23,26	Plymouth, Saugus	2, 3	CBC, N.+O.Komar
26,31	Marshfield, Ipswich	15, 2	CBC, J.Berry
Henslow's Sparrow:			
19-31	Brookline 1 (details in this vol.)		A.Wilson+N.Mueller+O.+N.Komar+v.o.
Sharp-tailed Sparrow:			
18,19	Westport, Cape Cod	2, 2	CBC
Seaside Sparrow:			
thr.	Newburyport	max. 3 (12/15)	R.Heil
19	Cape Cod	1	CBC
Dark-eyed Junco:			
18	Athol, Quincy	145, 127	CBC
23,26	Plymouth, Middleboro	256, 197	CBC
"Oregon" Junco:			
26	Marshfield	1	CBC (D.Clapp)
American Tree Sparrow:			
18,19	Quincy, Cape Cod	184, 30	CBC
23	SRV	142	R.Walton
23,26	Plymouth, Marshfield	100, 53	CBC
31	Ipswich	150	R.Heil
Chipping Sparrow:			
5-31	Mt.A.	1	R.Stymeist + v.o.
15,18	SRV, Cohasset	1, 1	R.Walton, CBC
19,26	Cape Cod, Middleboro	6, 1	CBC
Field Sparrow:			
10,24	Easton	1, 4	K.Ryan
18,19	Buzzards Bay, Cape Cod	79, 38	CBC
25	Woburn, Weston	5, 5	G.Gove, L.Robinson
23,30	Plymouth, Lincoln	12, 7	CBC, J.Carter
White-crowned Sparrow:			
14	W.Newton	1	P.Macintosh
White-throated Sparrow:			
18	Westport, Buzzards Bay	102, 295	CBC
19,23	Cape Cod, Plymouth	224, 133	CBC
Fox Sparrow:			
18	Buzzards Bay	2	CBC
14-19	single individuals from 5 locations		
Swamp Sparrow:			
18	Buzzards Bay, Quincy	22, 5	CBC
19,23	Cape Cod, Plymouth	38, 40	CBC
Song Sparrow:			
18	Buzzards Bay, Quincy	202, 61	CBC
19,23	Cape Cod, Plymouth	160, 105	CBC
26	Marshfield, Middleboro	38, 40	CBC
Snow Bunting:			
5-28	P.I.	max. 700	v.o.
23	Plymouth	90	CBC

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Field Records January 1983



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

January 1983 was mild and wet. The temperature averaged 31.2° , 1.6° above normal; 8.2° milder than the severe January of last year. The mercury high for the month was 59° on the eleventh, the low was zero on the nineteenth. This was the third month in a row with the average temperature on the mild side.

Precipitation totaled 5.03 inches, 1.04 inches more than normal and the most in January since 1979. The most rain in a twenty-four hour period was 2.00 inches on the 15th-16th, followed closely by 1.15 inches again on the twenty-third. Snowfall totaled just 4.7 inches, 7.9 inches below normal. All the measurable snow came in one storm on the 15th and 16th. At Boston and along the south shore, this storm was mostly rain, but over inland locations to the west and north of Boston, up to two feet of snow fell. In many suburbs the heavy snow weighed down limbs of trees and several trees were toppled causing many power outages.

Special Note. Beginning with the January 1983 field records which follow, Bird Observer has adopted the new taxonomic sequence that is the presently accepted avian classification of the American Ornithologists' Union (A.O.U.). Bird Observer has already begun to use the new common names as provided in the Thirty-fourth Supplement to the A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds (See: Time for a Change: Check Your List!, B.O.E.M. 10(5):271-272). To compare these taxonomic changes with the former sequence, look over the December records in this issue. For a copy of the complete revised checklist, send a check for \$3.00 to G. E. Woolfenden, Dept. of Biology, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL 33620.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

Two, possibly three, Arctic Loons were reported this month. The bird observed in Rockport appeared strikingly black and white on the water. The dark on the top of the head extended below the eye giving the bird a capped appearance. The bill appeared all dark; it was straight and not thick at the base. There was a noticeable lack of contrast between the tip and the base of the bill. The bird was seen in direct comparison with two species: 1) a Red-breasted Merganser, which was only marginally smaller and 2) a Herring Gull, which appeared larger and bulkier than the loon. The overall impression of the observer was that it resembled a large Thick-billed Murre. Common Loons were viewed before and immediately following the sighting.

A winter-plumaged Eared Grebe was found on the north end of Plum Island on the twenty-seventh where it was seen alongside a Horned Grebe. The former bird was visibly smaller, had a smaller, more rounded head, and was more slender necked. It lacked the distinct triangular white face-patch characteristic of winter-plumaged Horned Grebes. The bird's face was slightly paler than the cap, but rather dusky grayish brown in color. The rear of the neck was dark, fusing gradually on the sides into a lighter fore-neck; thus the sharp black and white demarcation of a Horned Grebe's neck was lacking.

The Western Grebe (from November 28, 1982) continued in the Third Cliff area of Scituate throughout the month. On the fifteenth of the month during northeasterly winds two Northern Fulmars were observed off the Brant Rock section of Marshfield. Nine Double-crested Cormorants were reported including three immatures present all month in Newburyport, possibly the first time that Double-cresteds spent so much winter time in this north shore location.

Fifty Great Blue Herons were seen on the Nantucket CBC, and the presence of others in

many locations is probably explained by the warmer than normal December. R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
<u>Red-throated Loon:</u>			
1	Nantucket	103	CBC
<u>Arctic Loon:</u>			
11-18	Quincy (Hough's Neck)	1	D.Brown, R.Emery + v.o.
21	Rockport (Thacher's I.)	1	R.Forster, J.Bertrand
25	Gloucester (Bass Rocks)	1	W.Drummond + v.o.
<u>Common Loon:</u>			
1,2	Nantucket, Newburyport	224, 34	CBC
28,30	P.I., Barnstable (SN)	33, 50	R.Heil, R.Abrams
<u>Pied-billed Grebe:</u>			
1	Nantucket, Lakeville	8, 5	CBC, K.Holmes
<u>Horned Grebe:</u>			
1,2	Nantucket, Newburyport	31, 36	CBC
28,30	P.I., Barnstable (SN)	120, 100	R.Heil, R.Abrams
<u>Red-necked Grebe:</u>			
1,8	Nantucket, Gloucester	10, 7	CBC, G.Gove#
21,22	Cape Ann, N.Scituate	16, 5	R.Forster#, N.Osborne
<u>Eared Grebe:</u>			
27	P.I. (N. end)	1 winter plumage	R.Heil, J.Smith
<u>Western Grebe:</u>			
thr.	Scituate (Third Cliff)	1 from 11/28/82	v.o.
<u>Northern Fulmar:</u>			
15	Marshfield (Brant Rock)	2	D.Brown
<u>Northern Gannet:</u>			
1,8	Nantucket, Cape Ann	33, 15	CBC, BBC
15,21	Rockport	2 ad., 1 ad.	J.Berry#, R.Forster#
<u>Great Cormorant:</u>			
16,22	Hingham, Rockport	112, 153	BBC, H.Wiggin#
<u>Double-crested Cormorant:</u>			
thr.,1	Newburyport, Buzzards Bay	3 imm., 1 ad.	R.Heil+v.o., R.Titus#
21,23	Somerville, Everett	2 ad., 1 ad. + 1 imm.	J.Berry, J.Heywood#
29	Falmouth	1	H.Wiggin#
<u>American Bittern:</u>			
1,2,22	P.I.	1, 1, 1	v.o., CBC, Allen Bird Club
<u>Great Blue Heron:</u>			
1,2	Nantucket, Newburyport	50, 4	CBC
7,11	E. Boston, Wareham	8, 3	fide R.Forster, D.Briggs
Other reports of 1-2 individuals from many locations			
<u>Black-crowned Night-Heron:</u>			
1	Nantucket	2	CBC

WATERFOWL

Special birds continuing into January from November 1982 included Tundra Swans, Eurasian Wigeon, King Eiders, and Harlequin Ducks.

The vast raft of Common Eider that was present off Low Beach in the Siasconset area of Nantucket was, in the opinion of several observers, awesome! The magnitude of this raft posed a difficult problem in estimating the numbers - give or take a few 100,000!!

Nantucket is also the major wintering home of the Oldsquaw. In recent years, the Nantucket Christmas Bird Count has recorded the highest count of individuals in the nation. This year 81,525 or so were logged as they flew by Madaket on their way to the Tucker-nuck-Muskeget Shoals for the night.

Brant were well represented along the south shore. At least eighteen individual King Eider were recorded, and Barrow's Goldeneye totaled at least twenty-two individuals. Hooded Mergansers were reported in good numbers from various parts of the state. R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
<u>Tundra Swan:</u>			
thr.	Nantucket (from Nov. '82)	2 (1 ad., 1 imm.)	E.Andrews + v.o.
2	Ipswich, M.V.	1, 6	CBC(J.Berry), CBC(V.Laux)
<u>Snow Goose:</u>			
1	Nantucket	1	CBC
<u>Brant:</u>			
13,15	Quincy (Hough's Neck), Thompson's I.	900, 1000+	H.Mallers, R.Stymeist#

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Canada Goose: 2	Newburyport (area), Concord (area)	2690, 3044	CBC
Wood Duck: 10,28,30	N.Scituate, Nantucket, Wayland	1, 2, 1	H.Mallers, E.Andrews, R.Forster
Green-winged Teal: 1,14	Nantucket, P.I.	53, 1	CBC, D.Spencer#
"Eurasian" Teal: 1-2	Nantucket	1	D.Brown + v.o.
American Black Duck: 14,16	P.I., Plymouth	2518, 1100	D.Spencer#, H.Mallers#
Mallard: 22,27	Brockton, Belmont	225, 116	R.Titus, L.Robinson
Northern Pintail: 2,14	P.I.	26, 15	CBC, D.Spencer#
Blue-winged Teal: 2	P.I.	2	CBC
Northern Shoveler: 2	P.I.	2	CBC
Gadwall: 2,6,8	Newburyport, SRV, Gloucester	36, 3, 4	CBC, R.Walton, G.Gove#
Eurasian Wigeon: thr.,1-8	Nantucket, Ipswich	1 m., 1 m.	E.Andrews + v.o., J.Berry + v.o.
American Wigeon: 9	Braintree	20	S.Higginbotham
Canvasback: 9, 23	Wareham, Lakeville	167, 62	SSBC, BBC
Redhead: 2	Falmouth	6	BBC (Timberlake)
Ring-necked Duck: 2,8	Concord, Jamaica Plain	17, 4	CBC, H.Coolidge#
9,12	Braintree, Norwood	15, 12	S.Higginbotham, R.Titus
Greater Scaup: 15	Boston Harbor	4000	TASL
Lesser Scaup: 1,8	Lynn (Flax Pond), Jamaica Plain	11, 2	W.Foley, H.Wiggin#
9	Braintree	2	S.Higginbotham
Common Eider: 1-2	Nantucket	300,000-500,000	G.Gove, R.Stymeist + v.o.
King Eider: thr.	Gloucester (Bass Rocks)	1 imm. m., 1 f.	v.o.
1-2,2	Nantucket, Sagamore	4+, 1 m.	v.o., BBC
11+30	Rockport	3, 2	fide R.Forster, A.+N.Clayton
15-18	Quincy (Hough's Neck)	1-2	S.Higginbotham# + v.o.
13,16	N.Scituate, Bourne	1 f., 1 imm. m.	H.Mallers, R.Titus#
26,30	Manomet, P'town	1 imm.m., 1 imm.m.	D.Briggs, B.Nikula#
Harlequin Duck: thr.	E.Orleans, Rockport	2, max. 5	v.o., v.o.
2,30	M.V., Marshfield (Brant Rock)	10, 1 f.	CBC, W.Petersen#
Oldsquaw: 1	Nantucket	81,525	CBC
Black Scoter: 1	Nantucket	529	CBC
Surf Scoter: 21	Cape Ann	4	R.Forster#
White-winged Scoter: 1	Nantucket	3250	CBC
Common Goldeneye: 1,2	Nantucket, Concord	2346, 7	CBC
15,16	Newburyport, Quincy (Nut I.)	248, 450	E.Nielsen, D.Brown
Barrow's Goldeneye: thr.	Dennis, Nantucket	1, 7 max.	v.o., G.Gove#+v.o.
2	Newburyport, Falmouth	1, 1	CBC, BBC
3-23,8-23	N.Scituate, Quincy	1, 1	v.o., v.o.
8+16, 14+16	Chatham, Harwich	1, 1	B.Niemia + v.o.
15,22	Nahant, Plymouth	2, 1	L.Taylor#, G.Gove
22,22-30	Marshfield, Gloucester	1, 1-2	G.Gove, C.Floyd# + v.o.
28-29	Newburyport	1-2	R.Heil + v.o.
Bufflehead: 1,2	Nantucket, Newburyport	533, 235	CBC

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Hooded Merganser:			
1	Falmouth, Nantucket	78, 12	B.Nikula, CBC
2,3	Ipswich, Lakeville	7, 4	CBC, D.Briggs
9	Braintree, Buzzards Bay	33, 17	S.Higginbotham, SSBC
14,23	Quabbin, Everett	32, 17	G.Gove, R.Stymeist#
29,30	Westport, N. Falmouth	12, 18	R.Caron, R.Stymeist#
Common Merganser:			
1;2	Nantucket; Newburyport, Concord	37; 60, 56	CBC
3+23	Lakeville	62 + 33	D.Briggs + BBC
9	Rochester, Framingham	20, 3	SSBC, R.Forster
Red-breasted Merganser:			
1	Nantucket	6088	CBC
Ruddy Duck:			
1,2	Lynn, Concord	2, 34	W.Foley, CBC

RAPTORS THROUGH BOBWHITE

The eagle census at Quabbin on January 8 logged in eighteen Bald and three Golden eagles. Eagles continued all month at Quabbin, both from Hardwick (Gate 43) and Enfield Lookout (Western Massachusetts area).

Christmas Count compilers are faced with problems in estimating true numbers of roving species of birds; this was especially evident on the Nantucket CBC where 54 Northern Harriers were counted. True, Nantucket does host an exceptional number of wintering raptors, but in the case of the harrier, I think a little movement from area to area is evident. This could also be said of the numbers of Red-tailed Hawks reported on the Concord and Newburyport CBC's.

Other interesting raptor reports included eight sightings of Northern Goshawk, five reports of Red-shouldered Hawk, nine Merlins and three Peregrines. R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Bald Eagle:			
thr.	Lakeville	1 imm.	K.Holmes + v.o.
thr.	Newburyport	1 ad.	v.o.
6-7,30	GMNWR, Middleboro	1 (3W), 1 imm.	R.Walton# + v.o., P.Hallowell
At Quabbin 18 eagles were seen on January 8.			
Northern Harrier:			
1	Nantucket	54-	CBC
2	Newburyport	21-	CBC
Sharp-shinned Hawk:			
1,2	Nantucket, Concord	13, 3	CBC
Singles reported from 13 locations.			
Cooper's Hawk:			
26,29	Nantucket, Sudbury	1 ad., 1 ad.	E.Andrews#, R.Walton
Northern Goshawk:			
2	Newburyport, Concord	2, 2	CBC
4-5,14	Easton, P.I.	1, 1 imm.	K.Ryan, D.Spencer#
22,30	Baldwinville, Newburyport	1, 1	J.O'Regan, P.Roberts
Red-shouldered Hawk:			
thr., 9	Orleans, Templeton	1 ad., 1	v.o., G.Gove#
10,15	Easton, Newburyport	1, 1	K.Ryan, E.Nielsen
22	Franklin	1 ad.	B.Parker
Red-tailed Hawk:			
1	Nantucket	32-	CBC
2	Newburyport, Concord	32-, 59-	CBC
23,29	SRV, Whitman-Bridgewater	14, 28	R.Walton# + v.o., W.Petersen# + v.o.
Many other reports of 1-6 individuals from many locations			
Rough-legged Hawk:			
thr.	Newburyport-Salisbury	max. 4 reported	v.o.
29	Whitman-Bridgewater	4	W.Petersen + v.o.
31	Marshfield	5	W.Petersen#
Golden Eagle:			
8;9	E.Quabbin; Naushon I.	2 ad., 1 imm.; 1 imm.	R.Forster#; J.Hatch
American Kestrel:			
1,2	Nantucket, Newburyport	18, 16	CBC
29	Whitman-Bridgewater	14	W.Petersen + v.o.
Merlin:			
1	Nantucket, Chatham	4, 1	CBC, B.Nikula#

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Merlin (continued):			
16,27	Squantum, Belmont	1, 1	D.Brown, L.Robinson
30	Provincetown, Truro	1, 1	B.Nikula + v.o.
Peregrine Falcon:			
1,2	Monomoy, M.V.	1 ad., 2	B.Nikula#, CBC
Ruffed Grouse:			
2	Lexington, Concord	1, 15	J.Andrews, CBC
Northern Bobwhite:			
2	Concord	10	CBC

RAILS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

The only rail species reported this month was Virginia with nine found on the Nantucket CBC. Counts of American Coot in Lakeville showed a decline by a factor of ten in 23 days. Some of the regularly wintering shorebirds were seen including Purple Sandpipers at the usual places and American Woodcock ("lesser bog lovers") always noteworthy in the winter. A Semipalmated Plover was seen at close range on two occasions in Marblehead; Bailey gives a late date for this species of December 8. A Laughing Gull was seen on the Nantucket CBC; this species is notable at this time of year. Three Little Gull individuals were seen, two of which were not in the usual locations reported, and Common Black-headed Gull reports outnumbered Lesser Black-backed this month. A Mew Gull (*Larus canus*) was seen at the north end of Plum Island, and the following is adapted from notes supplied by the observer:

There were about 110 gulls either sitting in the water or flying about relatively low. These included 45 Herring, 20 Great Black-backed, 25 Ring-billed, 20 Bonaparte's and a Little Gull. The subject gull was slightly smaller than the Ring-billed but had the same basic shape. It was seen flying with kittiwakes and Ring-billed and appeared to be in between in size. It was in the air most of the time but landed for a short while, about one minute, being on the water with some Bonaparte's Gulls where it was studied with a 25x scope at about 60 yards. The head appeared rounded compared to the head shape of Ring-billed Gulls. The bill was relatively small and thin, was yellowish-green, and no marks or bands were present. The general shape of head and bill was not unlike that of kittiwakes seen nearby. Spots were noted on the head, mainly on the hindneck; however, these were less distinct than on Ring-billed Gulls. The wings were relatively long; when sitting on the water, they reached well beyond the tail. The primaries were black with large white mirrors, noticeably larger than on the Ring-billed. The rest of the upper wing was uniformly gray. The tail was white without any trace of subterminal band thus suggesting a fully adult bird.

If one wants to see lots of gulls and other seabirds, one should go to Nantucket. Among a total of nine species of gulls reported, about 50,000 Herring Gulls, 6000 Great Black-backed and 16,000 kittiwakes were estimated on the CBC there. Iceland Gulls were reported from three inland locations, and a Lesser Black-backed Gull, found on the Concord CBC, spent the month at the Cambridge Reservoir. Four species of alcids were reported, including a fairly good showing of Dovekies which have been relatively rare in recent years.

Barn-Owls apparently like the Islands; they are difficult to find anywhere else, but this is, after all, the northern limit of their range. A red-phase Screech-Owl was seen in Ipswich and the Concord CBC recorded 21 Eastern Screech and 20 Great Horned owls. The Great Horned Owl at Mt. Auburn is apparently a permanent resident, and the Barred Owl is still enrolled at Harvard University; that bird will produce an interesting anecdote for future records. Snowy Owls were down in numbers this winter but they are cyclical. Nothing like the Long-eared Owl roost in Lexington two years ago materialized. Northern Saw-whet Owls put on a great audio/visual show at Nantucket; see the description by Leif Robinson elsewhere in this issue. A Red-headed Woodpecker continued from December in Westwood as did a Red-bellied at Manomet, and four of the latter species were counted on the Martha's Vineyard CBC. Two late Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, one of which at least was an immature, were present for the Nantucket CBC, and the Concord CBC recorded almost 400 Downy and 150 Hairy Woodpeckers, giving a ratio of 8 Downys to 3 Hairys; I've always assumed the ratio was about 5 to 1. G.W.G.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Virginia Rail:			
1; 2	Nantucket; Ipswich, Concord	9; 2, 1	CBC
American Coot:			
1,8; 23	Lakeville	130, 30; 10	K.Holmes#; BBC
1	Nantucket, Lynn	41, 10	CBC, W.Foley

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
American Coot (continued):			
9,16	Braintree, Plymouth	30, 16	S.Higginbotham, H.Mallers
Black-bellied Plover:			
2	Newburyport	6	CBC
Semipalmated Plover:			
16-18	Marblehead	1	J.Smith#
Greater Yellowlegs:			
8,19	Newburyport, Orleans	1, 1	H.Coolidge#, J.Aylward#
Ruddy Turnstone:			
22,29	N.Scituate	3, 1	N.Osborne, H.Wiggin#
Red Knot:			
22,29	N.Scituate	9, 3	N.Osborne, H.Wiggin#
Sanderling:			
30	Barnstable	100	R.Abrams
Purple Sandpiper:			
12,13; 29	N.Scituate	300, 75; 50	H.Mallers; M.Argue
15,21	Rockport	100, 25	J.Berry#, R.Forster
22,30	Cape Ann	60, 24	BBC
Dunlin:			
2,16	P.I., Quincy	56, 21	CBC, D.Brown
22	Marshfield	50	G.Gove
Common Snipe:			
1	Ipswich, Nantucket	2, 2	J.Berry#, CBC
2	Concord, Newburyport	1, 6	CBC
9,23	Buzzards Bay, Bridgewater	1, 1	SSBC, BBC
American Woodcock:			
1,2	Nantucket, Concord	2, 1	CBC
Laughing Gull:			
1	Nantucket	1	CBC
Little Gull:			
2,11,15	Lynn, Rockport, P.I.	1, 1, 1	W.Foley, fide R.Forster, E.Nielsen
Common Black-headed Gull:			
7,8	E.Boston, Gloucester	3, 1	fide R.Forster, H.Wiggin#
8,16; 15	Chatham; Boston Harbor	1, 3 (2 ad.); 2	B.Nikula#; TASL
Bonaparte's Gull:			
1	Nantucket	258	CBC
15	P.I.	108	E.Nielsen#
<u>Mew Gull:</u>			
15	P.I.	1 ad. (details)	TASL-E.Nielsen
Ring-billed Gull:			
1,2	Nantucket, Newburyport	537, 117	CBC
2,16	Concord, Plymouth	21, 500	CBC, H.Mallers#
Herring Gull:			
1,2	Nantucket, Newburyport	49627, 8852	CBC
2,16	Concord, Quincy	276, 2500	CBC, D.Brown
Iceland Gull:			
thr.	Cape Ann	max. 40 (1/22)	v.o.
1,2	Nantucket, Newburyport	51, 13	CBC
thr.	Newburyport-P.I.	max. 35 (1/15)	v.o.
3-6	Walpole	1 (2 w)	R.Titus
7,23	Wayland, Sudbury	1 ad., 3 (1 w)	R.Forster
30	Provincetown	6	B.Nikula
Lesser Black-backed Gull:			
1	Nantucket	3	CBC
2-31	Lincoln/Waltham	1	CBC + v.o.
Glaucous Gull:			
thr.	Gloucester	max. 3 (1/22)	v.o.
1,5	Nantucket, S.Boston	7, 1 (2 w)	CBC, J.Berry
16,18	Quincy, Milton	1 (2 w), 1	D.Brown, S.Higginbotham
Great Black-backed Gull:			
1,2	Nantucket, Concord	5692, 276	CBC
Black-legged Kittiwake:			
1	Nantucket	15904	CBC
8,15,22	Cape Ann	max. 10 (1/15)	v.o.
30	Provincetown	400	B.Nikula
alcid species:			
11,15	Rockport, Marshfield	73, 20	P.Yawkey, D.Brown
Dovekie:			
2	Rockport	1	B.Hallett#
15	Marshfield, P.I.	24, 1	D.Brown, E.Nielsen
16,30	Scituate, Barnstable	1, 1	R.Titus, R.Abrams

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Thick-billed Murre:			
2,9	Rockport, Naushon I.	4, 1	B.Hallett#, J.Hatch
15,22	Marshfield, Salisbury	2, 1	D.Brown, Allen BC
30	Gloucester	1	N.+A.Clayton + v.o.
Razorbill:			
1,2	Nantucket, M.V.	22, 90	CBC
2	P.I., Rockport	2, 1	CBC, B.Hallett#
15,30	Marshfield, Provincetown	6, 35	D.Brown, B.Nikula#
Black Guillemot:			
1	Nantucket	25	CBC
thr.	Cape Ann	max. 12 (1/30)	v.o.
15,22	Marshfield, N.Scituate	7, 1	D.Brown, N.Osborne
Mourning Dove:			
thr.	Brookline	max. 40 (1/22)	B.Rielly
2,21	Concord, Marshfield	1290, 55	CBC, D.Clapp
Common Barn-Owl:			
1,2	Nantucket, M.V.	1, 4	CBC
Eastern Screech-Owl:			
2,3	Concord, Ipswich	21, 1 (red)	CBC, J.Berry
9	Framingham	2	R.Forster#
Four individuals from as many locations.			
Great Horned Owl:			
thr.	Mt.A.	1	v.o.
2	Lexington, Concord	1, 20	J.Andrews, CBC
9	Framingham	2	K.Hamilton
Five individuals from as many locations.			
Snowy Owl:			
thr.	P.I.	max. 6 (1/2)	v.o.
2,16	M.V., Quincy	1, 1	CBC, D.Brown
24	Winthrop	1	J.Huff
Barred Owl:			
thr.	Cambridge-Harvard Yard	1	v.o.
2	Concord	2	CBC
Long-eared Owl:			
thr.	Lexington	1	v.o.
2,16-18	M.V., Quincy	4, 1	CBC, D.Brown
29,30	P.I.	1	P.Roberts
Short-eared Owl:			
thr.	Newburyport	max. 6 (1/5)	v.o.
1; 4,16	Nantucket; Quincy	2; 1, 2	CBC; G.Wilson, D.Brown
13	Bridgewater	1	K.Holmes#
Northern Saw-whet Owl:			
1,2	Nantucket, M.V.	4, 2	CBC
9	Framingham	1	K.Hamilton#
Belted Kingfisher:			
2,30	Concord, Falmouth	6, 4	CBC, R.Stymeist
Four individuals from as many locations.			
Red-headed Woodpecker:			
2,30	M.V., Westwood	3, 1 imm.	CBC, v.o.
Red-bellied Woodpecker:			
2,15	M.V., Manomet	4, 1	CBC, MBO staff
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:			
1	Nantucket	2 (1 imm.)	CBC
Downy Woodpecker:			
2	Concord	<u>395</u>	CBC
Hairy Woodpecker:			
2	Concord	<u>152</u>	CBC
19	Brookline	<u>1 m.</u> +2 f.	H.Wiggin
Northern Flicker:			
1,2	Nantucket, Concord	<u>175</u> , 6	CBC
5	Rowley	<u>4</u> (in 1 tree)	J.Carter
Three individuals from as many locations.			
Pileated Woodpecker:			
2,14	Concord, Hardwick	1, 1	CBC, G.+C. Gove
21,23	Sudbury, Hamilton	1, 1	L.Cunningham, J.Berry#

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

The majority of January reports were generated by New Year's weekend Christmas Bird Counts at Nantucket, Newburyport and Concord and a January 9 Framingham town count. The Concord CBC produced its usual large numbers of winter residents including over 1000 American Tree Sparrows, over 2000 American Crows, and close to 3000 Black-capped Chickadees. Yellow-rumped Warbler was abundant on Nantucket, with more than 5000 counted.

The most unusual species reported for the month was Say's Phoebe in Littleton, unfortunately seen only on the day of the CBC. House Wrens often linger in our area into early winter, but the bird at Marblehead on the dead-of-winter date of January 28 was surprising. Over 100 Golden-crowned Kinglets were in the Concord area on Christmas Count day, constituting one of the highest winter counts for kinglet in the last five years. Cedar Waxwing numbers were up slightly from December, with notable counts from Concord and Lincoln.

L.E.T.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
<u>Say's Phoebe:</u>			
2	Littleton	1	CBC (J.Baird)
<u>Horned Lark:</u>			
1-15, 1	P.I., Nantucket	127 max. (1/2), 41	v.o., CBC
4,29	Concord, Ipswich	55+, 30	J.Carter, J.Berry
<u>Blue Jay:</u>			
1,2	Nantucket, Concord	80, 242	CBC
2,9	Newburyport, Framingham	97, 24	CBC, R.Forster#
<u>American Crow:</u>			
1,2	Nantucket, Concord	528, 2343	CBC
2,23	Newburyport, Bridgewater	398, 310	CBC, BBC
<u>Fish Crow:</u>			
2,9	Concord, Framingham	43, 58	CBC, K.Hamilton
<u>Black-capped Chickadee:</u>			
1,2	Nantucket, Concord	208, 2885	CBC
2,9	Newburyport, Framingham	743, 184	CBC, R.Forster#
<u>Tufted Titmouse:</u>			
2	Concord, Newburyport	554, 64	CBC
9	Framingham	38	K.Hamilton
<u>Red-breasted Nuthatch:</u>			
1,2	Nantucket, Concord	22, 5	CBC
2,9	Newburyport, Framingham	10, 6	CBC, K.Hamilton#
9-30	4 locations	6 total	v.o.
<u>White-breasted Nuthatch:</u>			
2	Concord, Newburyport	406, 63	CBC
<u>Brown Creeper:</u>			
2	Concord, Newburyport	59, 9	CBC
<u>Carolina Wren:</u>			
9-30, 9	N.Falmouth, Framingham	6 max. (1/30), 1	v.o., K.Hamilton
10, 29	Newton, Lakeville	1, 2	P.Lichtman, W.Petersen#
<u>House Wren:</u>			
28	Marblehead	1	R.Heil
<u>Marsh Wren:</u>			
1,2	Nantucket, Newburyport	5, 2	CBC
2	Concord, M.V.	1, 1	CBC
<u>Golden-crowned Kinglet:</u>			
1,2	Nantucket, Concord	18, <u>110</u>	CBC
2,9	Newburyport, Framingham	21, <u>9</u>	CBC, R.Forster
<u>Ruby-crowned Kinglet:</u>			
2,15	Concord, Nahant	1, 1	CBC, L.Taylor#
<u>Eastern Bluebird:</u>			
3	M.V.	5+	V.Laux#
<u>Hermit Thrush:</u>			
1,2	Nantucket, P.I.	2,1	CBC
2,12	Ipswich, Hingham	1, 2	CBC, H.+L. Mallers
15,30	Milton, N.Falmouth	1, 3	D.Brown, R.Stymeist#
<u>American Robin:</u>			
1,2	Nantucket, Newburyport	461, 75	CBC
2,21	Concord, N.Scituate	65, 40	CBC, Mrs.G.Kelly
<u>Gray Catbird:</u>			
1,2	Nantucket, Concord	8, 3	CBC
16-29,30	3 locations, N.Falmouth	3 singles, 4	v.o., R.Stymeist#

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Northern Mockingbird:			
1,2	Nantucket, Newburyport	33, 63	CBC
2,9	Concord, Framingham	157, 24	CBC, K.Hamilton#
Brown Thrasher:			
29	Lakeville	1	W.Petersen#
Cedar Waxwing:			
2	Concord, Newburyport	283, 42	CBC
12,19	Hingham, Norwell	56, 95	H.+L.Mallers, D.Clapp
27,30	Hopkinton, Lincoln	30, 160	J.Eastman, R.Forster#
Northern Shrike:			
1,2-26	Nantucket, Concord	1, 3 max. (1/2)	CBC, R.Walton
Orange-crowned Warbler:			
1,2	Nantucket, M.V.	1, 1	CBC
Yellow-rumped Warbler:			
1	Nantucket, W. Newbury	5128, 55	CBC, A.Blaisdell#
2,29	Concord, Bridgewater	35, 20	CBC, W.Petersen#
Pine Warbler:			
1	Nantucket	1	CBC
Palm Warbler:			
1,2	Nantucket, Ipswich	5, 1	CBC
Common Yellowthroat:			
1	Nantucket	2	CBC
Yellow-breasted Chat:			
from Dec.-9,29	Nahant, N.Falmouth	1, 1	L.Pivachek#, M.Argue#

NORTHERN CARDINAL THROUGH EVENING GROSBEEK

In addition to the Henslow's Sparrow which continued from December into January at the Brookline incinerator site, a second individual was seen in Wayland on New Year's Day. Purple Finches were reported in good numbers from most Christmas Counts in the region this year. The 612 individuals at Concord was a remarkable count, however, far eclipsing last year's national CBC high of 397 in Virginia.

Winter finch numbers remained low in January, with the only Pine Siskins and one of few large counts of Evening Grosbeak occurring in Concord. No crossbills or Pine Grosbeaks were reported.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Northern Cardinal:			
1,2	Nantucket, Concord	44, 266	CBC
9	Framingham	55	E.Morrier#
Dickcissel:			
1-18,2	WBWS, Ipswich	1, 1	D.Reynolds#, CBC
22,30	Marshfield, Pocasset	1, 1	N.Osborne, P.Hallowell
Rufous-sided Towhee:			
1,2	Nantucket, Newburyport	14, 2	CBC
2,9	Concord, Framingham	2, 1	CBC, R.Forster#
16,30	Milton, N.Falmouth	1, 3 m. together	D.Brown, R.Stymeist#
American Tree Sparrow:			
1,2	Nantucket, Newburyport	45, 262	CBC
2,9	Concord, Framingham	1001, 190	CBC, E.Morrier#
8, 8-22	Belmont, Ipswich	80, 90 max. (1/8)	L.Taylor#, J.Berry
Chipping Sparrow:			
1,2	Middleboro, Concord	3, 3	R.Titus#, CBC
Field Sparrow:			
2	Concord, Newburyport	39, 8	CBC
10,30	Lincoln, N.Falmouth	18, 6	J.Carter, R.Stymeist#
Savannah Sparrow:			
1,2	Nantucket, Concord	47, 4	CBC
2	Newburyport	2	CBC
"Ipswich" Sparrow:			
1,2	Nantucket, Salisbury	2, 2	CBC
17,30	P.I., Duxbury Beach	1, 1	H.Mallers#, W.Petersen#
Henslow's Sparrow:			
1,15(from Dec.)	Wayland, Brookline	1, 1	J.Hines, v.o.
Sharp-tailed Sparrow:			
29,30	N.Scituate, Eastham	4, 4	J.Heywood#, B.Nikula#
Seaside Sparrow:			
2	Newburyport	2	CBC

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Fox Sparrow:			
2	Newburyport, Concord	1, 1	CBC
Song Sparrow:			
1,2	Nantucket, Newburyport	129, 65	CBC
2,9	Concord, Framingham	225, 79	CBC, E. Morrier#
Swamp Sparrow:			
1,2	Nantucket, Concord	20, 15	CBC
9,22-30	Framingham, Ipswich	3, 2	K.Hamilton#, J.Berry
White-throated Sparrow:			
1,2	Nantucket, Concord	215, 111	CBC
9	Framingham	56	K.Hamilton#
White-crowned Sparrow:			
1,2	Nantucket, Concord	1, 1	CBC
Dark-eyed Junco:			
2	Newburyport, Concord	270, 1120	CBC
9	Framingham	191	R.Forster#
Lapland Longspur:			
1	P.I.-Salisbury	18	v.o.
Snow Bunting:			
1,1-30	Nantucket, P.I.	129, 170 max. (1/30)	CBC, v.o.
Red-winged Blackbird:			
1,25	Nantucket, Belmont	36, 4	CBC, L.Robinson
Eastern Meadowlark:			
1	Nantucket, Bridgewater	32, 2	CBC, D.Davis#
2,29	Newburyport	21, 10	CBC, P.Roberts
29	Ipswich	13	J.Berry
Rusty Blackbird:			
2	Concord	3	CBC
Common Grackle:			
1,2	Nantucket, Concord	2, 5	CBC
12	Wayland	8	R.Forster
Brown-headed Cowbird:			
1,2	Nantucket, Concord	1, 25	CBC
19,21	Abington, Marshfield	50, 4	W.Petersen, D.Clapp
24	Easton	2 (pr.)	K.Ryan
Northern Oriole:			
1	Nantucket	1	CBC
7(from Dec.), 18	Peabody, Woburn	1, 1	R.Heil
Purple Finch:			
1,2	Nantucket, Concord	11, 612	CBC
2,9	Newburyport, Framingham	132, 90	CBC, R.Forster#
10,15	Lincoln, Sudbury	14, 15	J.Carter, R.Forster
16,29	Ipswich, Bridgewater	16, 20	J.Berry, W.Petersen
House Finch:			
2	Concord, Newburyport	546, 374	CBC
9	Framingham	487	K.Hamilton#
Pine Siskin:			
2	Concord	4	CBC
American Goldfinch:			
1; 2	Nantucket; Concord, Newburyport	88; 899, 190	CBC
8, 15+16	Lexington, Easton	80, 50	L.Taylor#, K.Ryan
Evening Grosbeak:			
1	Stoughton, Topsfield	11, 10	R.Titus, BBC
2	Concord, Newburyport	691, 153	CBC
6; 9	Hanover; Petersham, Framingham	25; 32, 284	R.Fox;G.Gove#,K.Hamilton#

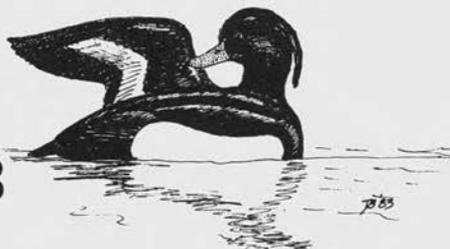
CORRIGENDA

Field Records: September 1982

Connecticut Warbler:			
11	Nantucket	1 b.	E. Andrews
		should be deleted.	
Yellow-breasted Chat:			
27	Lexington	1	A. Williams
		should read	
26	E. Orleans	1	A. Williams

Field Records

February 1983



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

February temperatures averaged 32.8° , 2.1° above normal; the high mark was 57° on the third, just one degree short of the record for this date which was set in 1970; the lowest temperature this month was 7° on the eleventh. Precipitation totaled 5.0 inches, 1.3 inches more than normal. Snow was on the heavy side with a total of 22.3 inches, nearly double the past average of 11.6 inches. All the measurable snow came in two big storms. The storm on February 6-8 dumped 8.8 inches of heavy wet snow, and the storm of the eleventh and twelfth brought 13.5 inches of light fluffy snow. The depth of the snow reached 18 inches on February 12, the deepest in Boston since early March 1978. The 13.5 inches of measurable snow in this second storm came in less than 24 hours, to become the thirteenth greatest 24-hour total since 1891. This winter of 1982-83 ties with that of 1889-90 for the ninth warmest in 112 years.

GREBES THROUGH WATERFOWL

The Western Grebe continued at Third Cliff Scituate throughout the month. Double-crested Cormorants continued to winter in a wide variety of locations throughout eastern Massachusetts.

A Blue-winged Teal reported from Nantucket was unusual for midwinter. The highlight of the month was the drake Tufted Duck found at Cockeast Pond in the Acoaxet area of Westport near the month's end. King Eiders and Harlequin Ducks continued at many of the same locations they have been at since November 1982. R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Horned Grebe:			
27	Gloucester (Bass Rocks)	32	C.Floyd
Red-necked Grebe:			
22,27	Dennis, Gloucester (Bass Rocks)	16, 18	B.Nikula, C.Floyd
Western Grebe:			
thr.	Scituate	1	v.o.
Northern Gannet:			
20	P'town, Rockport	6, 1	W.Smith#, D.Briggs#
Great Cormorant:			
19	Hull	130	R.Titus
Double-crested Cormorant:			
6,9-15	Nantucket, Somerville	1 imm., 1	E.Andrews#, J.Berry
13,20	Squantum, Cape Ann	2, 1	BBC(D.Brown), M.Greenwald#
American Bittern:			
28	P.I.	1	D.Spencer, NWR staff
Brant:			
27	Squantum	800	G.Wilson
American Black Duck:			
28	P.I.	833	D.Spencer, NWR staff
Northern Pintail:			
28	P.I., Belmont	13, 1	NWR-D.Spencer, L.Robinson
<u>Blue-winged Teal:</u>			
6	Nantucket	1 m.	C+E Andrews
Gadwall:			
thr.	Gloucester	4-5	v.o.
Canvasback:			
27	Westport	225	W.Petersen#
Redhead:			
6,27	Lakeville, Westport	3, 1	K.Holmes, W.Petersen

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
<u>Tufted Duck:</u>			
27-28	Westport (Cockeast Pond)	1 m.	S.Garrett, E.Pyburn+v.o.
<u>Greater Scaup:</u>			
13	Quincy	1100	BBC(D.Brown)
<u>Common Eider:</u>			
19	Plymouth	3800	R.Titus
<u>King Eider:</u>			
1-27;27-28	Gloucester (Bass Rocks)	1 imm.m,1 f.; 2 imm.m.,1 f.	v.o.
13-21	Quincy-Hull	1 ad. m.	G.Gove + v.o.
27,28	Marblehead, E. Orleans	1 ad.m., 2 imm.m.	S.Fulghum, A.Williams
<u>Harlequin Duck:</u>			
19	Scituate, Rockport (town)	1 f., 1 imm.m.	R.Titus, W.Smith#
20+27	Rockport (Folly Cove)	3 m., 2 f.	N.Komar# + BBC
28	E. Orleans	2	A.Williams
<u>Oldsquaw:</u>			
13,20	Newburyport	75, 40	BBC
<u>Barrow's Goldeneye:</u>			
thr.	Newburyport Harbor	max. 7	v.o.
6,20	Gloucester Harbor	2, 1	SSBC, N.Komar
<u>Hooded Merganser:</u>			
14,22	Somerville, Lakeville	5, 3	J.Berry, D.Briggs#
<u>Common Merganser:</u>			
13+20	Newburyport	50, 50	BBC
20,28	Boston, Belmont	9, 16	J.Paputseanos, L.Robinson

RAPTORS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Three immature Bald Eagles were identified as individuals by an observer in Lakeville. Plumage variations were noted and representations of the birds were made using the sketches from the December 1982 B.O.E.M. (pages 322, 323). On February 13, two of the birds were noted by the same observer soaring together and diving toward each other with legs down and talons extended, possibly in courtship flight. As many as four immature Bald Eagles were reported from Lakeville, and the Massachusetts Eagle Survey conducted January 8 counted 23 Bald Eagles and 3 Golden Eagles; 20 of the Bald Eagles and the Golden Eagles were at Quabbin with the remainder at Lakeville and Great Meadows Refuge. This was nearly twice as many eagles as were censused last year, according to the Boston Globe (March 24, 1983:30). An adult Cooper's Hawk was seen in Sudbury, and Northern Goshawks were reported from four locations. On a hawk census in the Sudbury River Valley, 23 Red-tailed Hawks were counted, and a Peregrine Falcon was noted in Chatham. The South Shore Bird Club was fortunate to see 26 Turkeys at Quabbin.

No rails, gallinules or coots were reported this month, and only three species of shorebirds appear in the records - highly unusual. Both Little and Black-headed gulls were noted and New Gulls were reported from two locations; details were provided for January for the Newburyport bird. The bird seen in Provincetown was superficially like a Ring-billed Gull, but the mantle was a shade darker, there was more white on the trailing edge of the wings, there were more dark feathers on the head, and the bill was small and plain according to notes supplied by the observer.

Thayer's Gulls were reported this month from Plum Island and Gloucester. The former bird was with similarly aged Iceland (Kumlien's) Gulls and was the color of "cafe au lait" (coffee, regular) with dark outer webs of the primaries, a dark secondary bar, and a dark subterminal tail band. The Kumlien's Gulls had less dark feathering in the wings and tail. The Gloucester bird had the small-headed appearance of an Iceland Gull and a greenish bill with a dark tip but otherwise was similar to a very pale Herring Gull of the same age, had dark outer webs of the primaries on the upper (dorsal) surface, and also had dark eyes. The above was taken from notes supplied by the observer. Much more detailed notes were submitted on the Gloucester gull and are on file with the records. These notes, in addition to providing a detailed description, considered behavior, consorting species and plumages, alternative identification and the observer's experience with the species. It was also noted that photos were obtained. There also have been one or two Thayer's Gulls reported in Rhode Island. The foregoing suggests that (1) they are extending their range, (2) observers are becoming more discriminating, and (3) they have recently been elevated to the status of species. If they were to be lumped with the Iceland Gull, reports would probably decline. The Lesser Black-backed Gull continued on the Cambridge Reservoir and a Glaucous Gull was seen there also. It would be interesting to know where it goes when it isn't at the Reservoir; certainly it doesn't feed there nor does it roost there at night, in all probability, since gulls in general seem to go to the coast at night and return inland in the early morning. Studying this distinctive bird's movements would be

challenging and informative.

Alcids were sparingly represented this month; an oiled Common Murre in breeding plumage was seen in Provincetown. A Barn Owl was found dead in East Orleans and a Snowy Owl spent the month in downtown Worcester. Great Horned Owls were giving a hoot in Baldwinville, and the Barred Owl in Cambridge did provide the interesting anecdote; it was seen on several occasions by R.H.S.'s mother in the Harvard MBTA station (Red Line) before the first train arrived. The owl gained access through the construction opening. When the first train arrived, it departed - presumably to get to its first class. A Red-headed Woodpecker has been in Stoneham since November and is now molting into adult plumage; two others were also reported, one from the Vineyard where two Red-bellied Woodpeckers were noted. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers have been reported every month this winter. In 1940 and 1946 one or two birds spent the winter according to W. Bailey. Apparently that's becoming usual. G.W.G.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Bald Eagle:			
thr.	Quabbin	max. 8 sightings (5 ad. +3 imm.)	v.o.
thr.	Lakeville	max. 4 imm.	K.Holmes + v.o.
17	Newburyport	1 ad.	M.Schoene
28	Barnstable	1 imm.	N.Hayes
Northern Harrier:			
5-28	P.I.	max. 3 (2/6)	v.o.
13,22	Quincy, Salisbury	1, 2	BBC
Sharp-shinned Hawk:			
26,27	Newburyport, Brookfield	1, 1 ad.	BBC, M.Lynch#
Cooper's Hawk:			
19,22	Sudbury	1 ad.	R.Forster
Northern Goshawk:			
13,25	Harvard, Stoughton	1, 1 ad.	S.Carroll#, R.Titus
26,28	Newburyport, Chatham	1, 1	BBC, W.Bailey
Red-tailed Hawk:			
5-28	Newburyport P.I.	max. 6	v.o.
27	SRV	23	R.Walton#
	Five individuals from as many locations.		
Rough-legged Hawk:			
thr.	Newburyport-P.I.	max. 5	v.o.
13	Quincy, Malden	1, 1	BBC, D.Gibson
20,22	Wayland	1	E.Morrier#
Golden Eagle:			
20	Quabbin	1 imm.	P.Roberts
American Kestrel:			
thr.	Newburyport-P.I.	2	v.o.
13	Quincy	7	D.Brown
	Four individuals from as many locations.		
Merlin:			
3	Belmont	1	L.Robinson
Peregrine Falcon:			
26	Chatham	1	W.Bailey
Ruffed Grouse:			
6	Needham	2	O.Komar#
Wild Turkey:			
19	Quabbin	26	SSBC
Greater Yellowlegs:			
13	Orleans	2	B.Nikula
Purple Sandpiper:			
6	N.Scituate, E. Gloucester	500, 110	v.o., J.Berry#
13,26	P.I.	14, 17	BBC
27	Cape Ann	40	BBC
Dunlin:			
3,5	Nantucket, P.I.	2, 3	J.+E. Andrews, BBC (Giriunas)
Little Gull:			
5,21	Newburyport	1, 1	BBC, D.Briggs
Common Black-headed Gull:			
21	Newburyport	1	D.Briggs
Bonaparte's Gull:			
5,17	Newburyport	76, 6	BBC, F.Bouchard
Mew Gull:			
5,20	Newburyport, P'town	1 ad., 1 ad.	H.Wiggin+M.Argue,W.Smith#
Ring-billed Gull:			
26	Newburyport	45	BBC

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Herring Gull: 28	P.I.-PRNWR	417	D.Spencer
<u>Thayer's Gull:</u> 19	P.I.	1 (1 w)	W.Smith#
19-21	Gloucester	1 (2 w)	W.Smith# + v.o.
<u>Iceland Gull:</u> thr.	Gloucester	max. 100 (2/19)	v.o.
thr.	Newburyport-P.I.	max. 25 (2/26)	v.o.
20	P'town	15	W.Smith#
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull:</u> thr.	Waltham-Cambridge Res.	1 ad.	v.o.
<u>Glaucous Gull:</u> thr.	Gloucester	max. 5 (2/27)	v.o.
6	Waltham-Cambridge Res.	1 (2 w)	O.Komar
17,19,26	Newburyport-P.I.	1	v.o.
13,14	P'town, SRV	2, 1	B.Nikula, R.Walton
<u>Great Black-backed Gull:</u> 28	P.I.-PRNWR	104	D.Spencer
<u>Black-legged Kittiwake:</u> 20	P'town	200	W.Smith#
<u>Common Murre:</u> 20	P'town	2	W.Smith#
<u>Thick-billed Murre:</u> 18	P'town	1	B.Nikula
<u>Razorbill:</u> 20	P'town	1	W.Smith
<u>Black Guillemot:</u> 6	W.Gloucester	2	J.Berry#
20,27	Rockport, Cape Ann	1, 3	N.Komar#, BBC
<u>Mourning Dove:</u> 7,8	Chelmsford, Brookline	50, 41	W.+ M. Harris, B.Reilly#
<u>Common Barn-Owl:</u> 19	E. Orleans	1 (dead)	fide G. Adami
<u>Eastern Screech-Owl:</u> thr.	Lakeville	1	K.Holmes
15,20	Ipswich, Topsfield	1, 1	J.Berry, BBC
<u>Great Horned Owl:</u> 2,5	Mt.A., Stoughton	1, 1	M.Argue#, R.Titus
13,23	Milton, Baldwinville	1, 2	BBC, J.O'Regan
<u>Snowy Owl:</u> thr.	Newburyport-P.I.	max. 2	v.o.
10; 13,28	Saugus; Squantum	1; 1	J.Berry; BBC
thr.	Worcester	1	M.Lynch + S.Carroll
27	Barnstable	1	fide B.Sorrie
<u>Barred Owl:</u> thr.	Cambridge	1	v.o.
<u>Short-eared Owl:</u> 13-27	Squantum	max. 2	v.o.
thr.	P.I.	max. 3	v.o.
<u>Northern Saw-whet Owl:</u> 5,6	P.I.	1	BBC, SSBC
<u>Belted Kingfisher:</u> 1,10	Belmont, Needham	1, 1	L.Robinson, N.Karnstein
<u>Red-headed Woodpecker:</u> thr.	Stoneham	1 (from Nov.)	C.Libby
21,27	Westwood, M.V.	1, 1	F.Bouchard, V.Laux#
<u>Red-bellied Woodpecker:</u> 27	M.V.	2	V.Laux#
<u>Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:</u> 24-28	Mt.A.	1	C.Jackson + v.o.
<u>Downy Woodpecker:</u> 6	Needham	18	O.+N.Komar#
<u>Hairy Woodpecker:</u> 6	Needham	4	O.+N.Komar#
<u>Northern Flicker:</u> 13,23	Squantum, Lincoln	5, 1	BBC, P.Swift
<u>Pileated Woodpecker:</u> 6	Weston	1	S.Farlow

HORNED LARK THROUGH EVENING GROSBEAK

As during the late winter of 1982, Common Ravens were reported from several areas of the Quabbin Reservoir including the baffle dams accessible from Gate 43. Two ravens were seen in association there on February 25. After not being detected during January, the Nantucket Jackdaw resurfaced, this time at a site on the outskirts of Nantucket Town. The bird was seen intermittently for the remainder of February. The only warbler report besides the expected few Yellow-rumps was of a single Palm in Cohasset. This is a hearty species and a not uncommon winterer. Given the mild weather, it is rather a surprise that no other wintering warblers were found. Purple Finch, conspicuously abundant since the Christmas Bird Counts, remained in considerable numbers and distribution. The winter irruptive finches also continued their trend for this winter -- one of nonoccurrence throughout our region. L.E.T.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Horned Lark: 6-26, 19	P.I./Salisbury, Ipswich	150 max. (2/6), 58	v.o., BBC
Fish Crow: 6, 22	Needham, Cambridge	10, 1	O.Komar, F.Bouchard
Common Raven: 26	Hardwick	2 (together)	L.Taylor#
<u>Jackdaw:</u> From Nov. thru Feb.	Nantucket	1	E.Andrews#
Red-breasted Nuthatch: 20, 26	P.I., Petersham	1, 1	BBC, G.Gove#
Brown Creeper: 6, 22	Needham, Cambridge	9, 2	O.Komar, F.Bouchard
24, 26	SRV, Hardwick	4, 5	R.Walton, G.Gove#
Carolina Wren: 6-17, 10	Kingston, S. Natick	2 (pair), 1	B.Sorrie#, J.Alexander
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 6	Needham, Hardwick	5, 2	O.Komar, BBC
13	P.I.	2	BBC
American Robin: 3, 14	Lexington, Braintree	50+, 10	C.Jefferson, R.Campbell
19, 23	Marshfield, Lincoln	20, 30	R.Titus, P.Swift
Cedar Waxwing: thr., 2	Middleboro, Concord	31, 140	D.Briggs, H.Wiggin#
14, 17	Framingham, Northboro	50+, 130	Picciani, B.Parker
Northern Shrike: 2, 7; 6	Sudbury; Hardwick	1, 1; 1	R.Forster; BBC
6, 28	Wayland, SRV	1, 1	E.Morrison, R.Walton
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 5, 6	P.I., Needham	1, 4	M.Argue#, O.Komar#
12	Middleboro	2	D.Briggs
Palm Warbler: 27	Cohasset	1	R.Titus
Northern Cardinal: 14	Needham	14	N.+O.Komar#
Dickcissel: 12	Ipswich	1	D.Crivello
Rufous-sided Towhee: 12	Milton	2	Dr.McDonough
Field Sparrow: 6	Needham	2	O.Komar
"Ipswich" Sparrow: 13	P.I.	3	BBC
Fox Sparrow: 13	Milton	1	BBC
Song Sparrow: 6, 22	Needham, Cambridge	5, 8	N.+O.Komar, F.Bouchard
Swamp Sparrow: 13	Ipswich	2	J.Berry
White-throated Sparrow: 6, 13	Needham, Milton	13, 7	N.+O.Komar, BBC
Dark-eyed Junco: thr., 6	Mt. A., Needham	120, 51	R.Stymeist, O.+N.Komar#
19	Middleboro	72	R.Titus
Lapland Longspur: 6-13, 21	P.I., Cohasset	4 max. (2/6), 1	v.o., E.Strawm#

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Snow Bunting:			
6,19	P.I., Ipswich	75, 90+	SSBC, BBC
21	Salisbury	15	H.Parker#
Red-winged Blackbird:			
4,6	SRV, Ipswich	6 m., 2	R.Walton, SSBC
7-28,27	Middleboro, Scituate	15 max., 25	D.Briggs, E.Cutler
Eastern Meadowlark:			
5,19	P.I., Ipswich	1, 1	R.Forster, BBC
20	Newburyport	1	BBC
Rusty Blackbird:			
14	Middleboro	1 m.	D.Briggs
Brown-headed Cowbird:			
4,8	SRV, Chelmsford	1, 4	R.Walton, W.Harris
Purple Finch:			
6,14	Needham, SRV	24, 53	O.Komar, R.Walton
20,24	Ipswich, Lexington	16, 17	J.Berry, A.Williams
26	Petersham	30	L.Taylor#
Pine Siskin:			
13	Harvard	3	M.Lynch
Evening Grosbeak:			
7,13	Chelmsford, Newburyport	50, 6	W.Harris, BBC
14,24	Ipswich, Lexington	9, 7	J.Berry, A.Williams
26	Petersham	150	G.Gove#

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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

SEARCH FOR COLOR-MARKED SHOREBIRDS

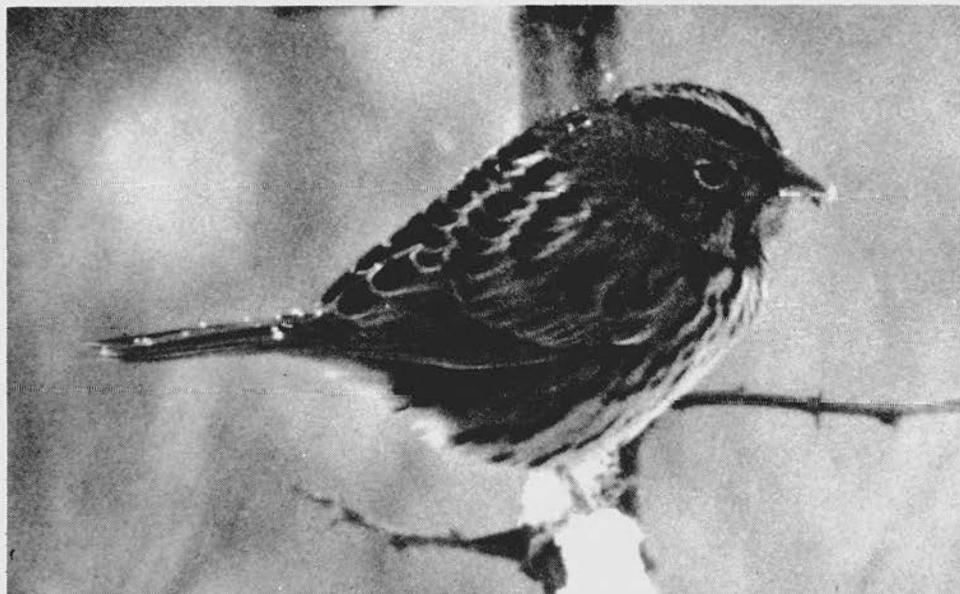
In spring 1983, shorebirds will be color-marked in South America and at migration stops along the U.S. coastline by the Pan American Shorebird Program. The key species are Sanderling, Red Knot, and Black-bellied Plover. If you observe a color-marked shorebird, try to note the color and location of the dye on the body, the color and leg (left or right) of any leg flags, and color and leg (left or right) of any leg bands. Even incomplete color-marking information will be very useful.

Please send the information to Pan American Shorebird Program, c/o Manomet Bird Observatory, Box 936, Manomet, MA 02345. Please contact MBO if you have questions about this program. Volunteers are urgently needed to participate in searching for marked birds.

A WINTER RECORD OF HENSLOW'S SPARROW IN MASSACHUSETTS

by Nicholas Komar, Newton

The turn of the year is a time when many serious and casual birders join together to participate in the local Christmas Count. In the mind of every participant is the desire to find some rare bird, the proverbial needle in a haystack. On the Greater Boston Christmas Bird Count, December 19, 1982, three birders, Alf Wilson, Ned Mueller, and the author, were rewarded with a "dream" bird in the south Newton sector. The bird was a Henslow's Sparrow, *Ammodramus henslowii*, the first winter record for Massachusetts in over forty years. We found it in Brookline, yards from the Newton border, in a large weedy field adjacent to the Brookline Recycling Center. Typical of its behavior, this tiny sparrow did not make its presence known until Alf Wilson very nearly stepped on it, at which time it fluttered only about ten feet and landed again in the four-foot weeds. Fortunately, a few inches of snow provided a good background for viewing this highly camouflaged bird, and the three of us obtained excellent views of the sparrow. We observed the bird for about an hour while it perched in a bare sapling for minutes at a time only twenty feet away. It also spent much time underneath a fallen log at the western end of the field near the edge of frozen Lost Pond. While it rested underneath this suspended log, protected from the snow, we approached to within about five feet before we realized it was there. Alf Wilson commented that we probably could have caught the bird barehanded without much difficulty.



Henslow's Sparrow

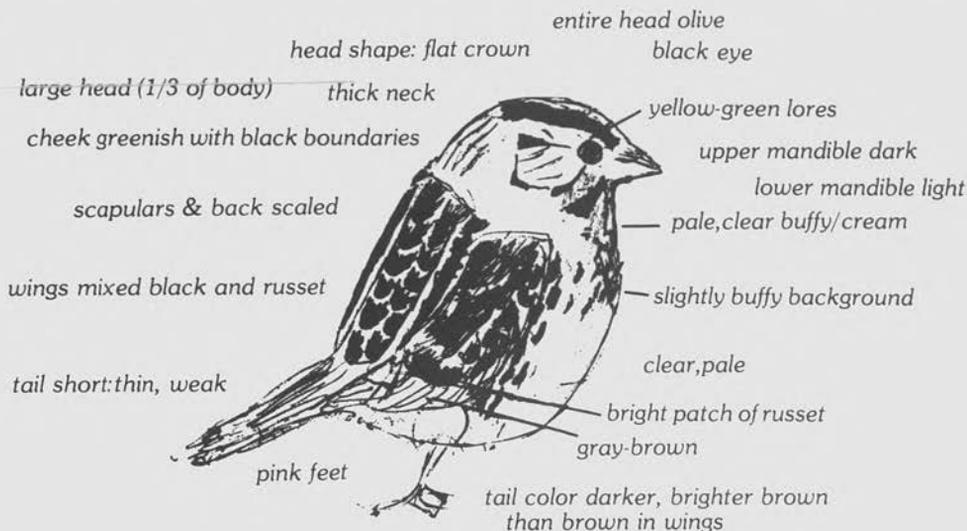
*Photo by Dorothy R. Arvidson
December 1982
Brookline, Massachusetts*

Immediately after this lengthy encounter with our new friend, the Henslow's Sparrow (last observed the day of the January 15, 1983 snowstorm), we collaborated on what we had seen, jotted down the field marks, and made a rough sketch.

The bird was small, four or five inches in length, with a short tail, thick neck, and a large, obtuse head. The entire head appeared olive-green. The crown was marked by two thick black stripes extending back from the bill above the equally thick olive superciliary line. Between the black stripes was a narrower olive median line which approached a yellowish color on the forehead. This color was also present in the lores above each eye. The eyes were dark with thin white eye rings. A thin black line extended back from each eye, broadening toward the nape in a triangular fashion. This line formed the upper border of the auricular (ear patch) which was also olive but with faint undefined markings. Two other black markings formed borders of the auricular, one of which was parallel to the prominent black malar stripe (whisker). The area between this and the malar stripe was a deep buff, matching the color of the throat. The bill was thick and conical with a dark upper mandible and a flesh-colored lower mandible. The nape was a thick band of olive sharply demarcated from a brown back. Extending from the base of the nape to the striped crown was a set of five or six very narrow black lines.

The underparts were lightly streaked on the breast, a light buff in color. The belly was clear white, and the buffy sides and flanks were heavily streaked. The tarsi (legs) were pink.

The upperparts were generally mottled black and brown. The wings consisted mostly of dull brown feathers with lighter



Field Sketch of Henslow's Sparrow

Sketch by Nick Komar
December 19, 1982

edges especially noticeable on the coverts and the secondary feathers. There was a small bright rufous patch at the base of the tertials, which were black, and the primaries were a dull gray-brown. The back feathers were arranged in five distinct columns which appeared scaled due to black feathers with white edges. The medium-short and thin tail was rufous.

As the plumage of this bird resembled an adult Henslow's in all respects except for the buffy throat (typically white in an adult) and the yellowish highlights on the head (generally darker green in the adult), I would guess that this individual was a hatching-year bird. (Other observers described the nape and head as "very bright" or "mustard color" rather than green, and Dwight (1900) describes the pileum and nape of a first winter bird as yellowish olive-buff.) Indeed, the vast majority of vagrants are immature birds.

As a breeder, the Henslow's Sparrow is rare and very local, ranging across the northern United States from Minnesota, Iowa, and Missouri east to New England, Maryland, and Virginia. However, in recent years the Henslow's Sparrow has withdrawn from its breeding range in New England. Its winter range is the deep South from Florida and Georgia west to Louisiana and east Texas. In eastern Massachusetts, the Henslow's Sparrow is a very rare migrant. Since 1975, only four fall migrants (September 14 - October 19) and two birds in spring (May 16 and 18) have been noted in Bird Observer field records. Prior to 1975, Henslow's Sparrows were known to breed at the Worcester Airport in Leicester where as many as five birds were noted during the summer of 1973. However, 1974 was the last year they bred there or anywhere else in Massachusetts. In that year as many as four birds were heard singing in Newburyport. Henslow's Sparrow is little known in western Massachusetts where the only record since 1971 was an individual singing in Windsor July 19, 1980.

Henslow's Sparrow has seldom been recorded in winter in the north. The Brookline bird (December 19 - January 15) constitutes only the second winter record, and the first confirmed by photographs, for Massachusetts. The first was an "extraordinary late straggler" (Bailey) reported at a feeder in West Bridgewater on February 29, 1940. In addition to this record, Hill (1965) reported "several unconfirmed sight records in January and February." Surprisingly, a second Henslow's appeared this winter at the Wayland dump during the Concord Christmas Count on January 1, 1983. Other winter records in the northeast worth mentioning are November 6 in Massachusetts (Bailey, Bent, Hill), November 27 in New York (Bull, 1964), December 2 in New Jersey (American Birds 1981, 35(May): 285), and a report of Henslow's at a feeder on Long Island, New York from December 26, 1963 - January 14, 1964 (Bull, 1974), a stay very similar to that of our Brookline bird.

The lack of winter records could be in part due to the difficulty of observing a species of such a retiring nature. Our Henslow's' mouselike behavior was especially notable later in December when the snow had melted. At this time, the bird

was practically impossible to find, for it could run under the grasses and hide in tussocks which were not available to it earlier because of snow cover. So, a word to the wise and eager birder: keep your eyes to the ground next winter and you may be rewarded with a rare sparrow.

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NICHOLAS KOMAR, a senior at Newton South High School, has been birding (and playing the cello) since the age of seven. He has travelled to South and Central America primarily to bird. A member of Bird Observer's Field Study Committee, Nick is currently working on sparrow migration and a screech owl study and is especially interested in animal behavior.

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CHATTING WITH SAW-WHETS

by Leif J. Robinson, Wellesley

Every Christmas Count is memorable, and Nantucket's January first enterprise this year was no exception. There, for the first time, I had a dialogue with Saw-whet Owls. Soheil Zende, Christine Newman, and I arrived at the Polpis Woods about 5:30 A.M. Except for the occasional squeak of wind-swayed trees, no sound was heard. Then, at about 6:00 A.M. (less than seventy minutes before sunrise), two or three Saw-whets began vocalizing. The birds continued until at least 6:45 A.M., well after the sky had become very bright. Near the end of New Year's Day, we returned to the forest; and at 4:45 P.M. (twenty-three minutes after sunset), I was able to elicit more, though much less enthusiastic, responses.

In all, our ears picked up five different types of Saw-whet vocalizations.

1. One was the familiar call featured on a Peterson recording, a fairly low-pitched, mellow "peep" repeated again and again at intervals of a second or a bit less. The tempo was extremely regular though the pitch varied from time to time. This call is very easily imitated by whistling.

2. Startlingly loud and presumptive for so small a bird was its "kow-kow" call, with each syllable strongly accented at the beginning. The notes are issued sharply and in quick succession; the entire call takes only about one second.

On that afternoon I heard a single "que" call that seemed closely related to one syllable of the "kow-kow." Both vocalizations contained overtones, giving them a slightly buzzy quality.

3. A catlike whine was also uttered in the afternoon. It was drawn out and quickly repeated - three times, I believe. This call was reminiscent of a Long-eared Owl vocalization, but it seemed higher pitched.

4. The Saw-whets also gave a kingfisherlike rattle, heard only by Soheil and Chris in the morning. This call was apparently stated in agitation - the birds were buzzing my companions at the time!

5. Most fascinating of all was the great variety of squeaks, clicks, and other indescribable Saw-whet noises. Some were very short, thin, and extremely high-pitched with a metallic or finchlike quality. One note in particular reminded Soheil and me very much of an Evening Grosbeak's flight call. I had the impression that all the messages in this category were "trivial inter-owl dialogue;" they were so soft and omnidirectional that it would seem impossible for

a predator to home in on the sender.

After writing down my impressions, I read Forbush's and Bent's characterizations of Saw-whet calls. I could appreciate what both authors were describing, but you will have a tough time reconciling their verbal parodies with mine. On next year's Christmas Count I'll have a tape recorder along to capture the wonderful ventriloquial and varied voices of the Saw-whet.

Was the forest really quiet of owls when we first arrived? Thinking back, there wasn't any wind at all!



Northern Saw-whet Owl

Illustration by Denise Braunhardt

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

TASL BOSTON HARBOR HERON CENSUS

This year Bird Observer's Take a Second Look (TASL) is once again organizing a series of Boston Harbor Heron Censuses. Herons, primarily Snowy Egrets, will be tallied as they pass over strategic spots in Boston Harbor at dawn on the following Sundays:

May 8, 22; June 5, 19; July 3, 17, 31;
August 14, 28; September 4, 18; October 2, 16.

The spots we need to cover are Belle Isle Marsh in East Boston, Squantum Marsh in Quincy, Long Island in the harbor, and Weir River in Weymouth. We particularly need volunteers for the latter three spots.

Last summer, we conducted a pilot census of this sort at Belle Isle Marsh. On a number of mornings, especially late in the summer, spectacular flights of herons were observed, culminating in 131 Snowy Egrets and 5 Great Egrets on September 11. (A more detailed report on these censuses appears in TASL News for April 1983.) As a result of the pilot census, we have developed an instruction and tally sheet to make record keeping easy and uniform.

If you would like to help with this project and monitor one of the most exciting avian displays in Boston Harbor, we urge you to contact the Heron Census coordinator: Soheil Zende, 380 Broadway, Somerville 02145, 628-8990.

BREEDING RECORDS NEEDED

The Breeding Records Project of Bird Observer's Field Study Committee was announced in April 1982. Its twofold purpose was to obtain nesting data for the Nest Record Program (NRP) run by Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology since 1965 and thus to obtain information on the nesting habitat of certain target species of local interest.

Although hundreds of amateur and professional field ornithologists annually contribute thousands of nest records to the Cornell lab, the RESPONSE FROM MASSACHUSETTS BIRDERS HAS BEEN POOR. The North American NRP has collected, processed, and now computerizes information on the nesting biology of birds from over 250,000 nest records on file. These data are available to any qualified researcher interested in aspects of avian reproductive biology such as geographic variation in breeding dates, clutch size, nest location and habitat, cowbird parasitism, and nesting success.

TO BE A PART OF THIS PROGRAM, the observer simply records on a convenient nest record card information on species, location, habitat, and history of that particular nesting attempt. This information can be gathered in the course of one's regular birding. Repeat visits to nests are especially valuable, but all data are welcome even though the nest cannot be checked again to determine success. In the fall, the record cards can be sent to the local project coordinator. All contributors receive semi-annual newsletters summarizing requests from researchers, many of whom are studying endangered species.

TO JOIN THIS WORTHWHILE EFFORT, obtain a supply of cards and a set of instructions from Cornell directly (Laboratory of Ornithology, Nest Record Program, Ithaca NY 14850) or from the REGIONAL COORDINATOR, JIM BERRY (136 County Road, Ipswich MA 01938, telephone evenings: 617-356-5505).

At a Glance . . .

Photo by H. B. Kane



Courtesy of the Massachusetts Audubon Society

Can you identify this bird?

Identification will be discussed in next issue's *At a Glance*.

As eighty percent of the respondents in the contest decided, the bird pictured last month was, indeed, a SANDERLING. The mail received reveals such a perspicacious readership that BOEM will certainly have to try harder to find suitable pictures of hard-to-identify subjects. I shall let the letters received enlighten us about this bird.

"Not being its typical habitat, it takes more than a glance. It is easily recognized as a 'peep.' The bill is not overly large or small. The white of the forehead, side neck, and underparts is striking, and the dark bend of the wing is diagnostic."

"The black shoulder is a key to the identification, but also the medium sized, heavy black bill is a clue."

Further edification: "The back coloration indicates a moulting or immature bird. My guess is that the picture was taken in late August." "It is an immature (juvenile) going into 1st winter (basic) plumage."

Right on all counts! One cannot do better than this. It is somewhat discouraging to run a contest in which nearly all are winners. Any picture contributions from our readers will be most welcome. I may even let the readers take over this column.

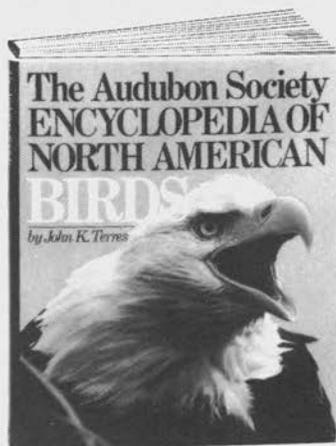
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