

BIRD OBSERVER



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

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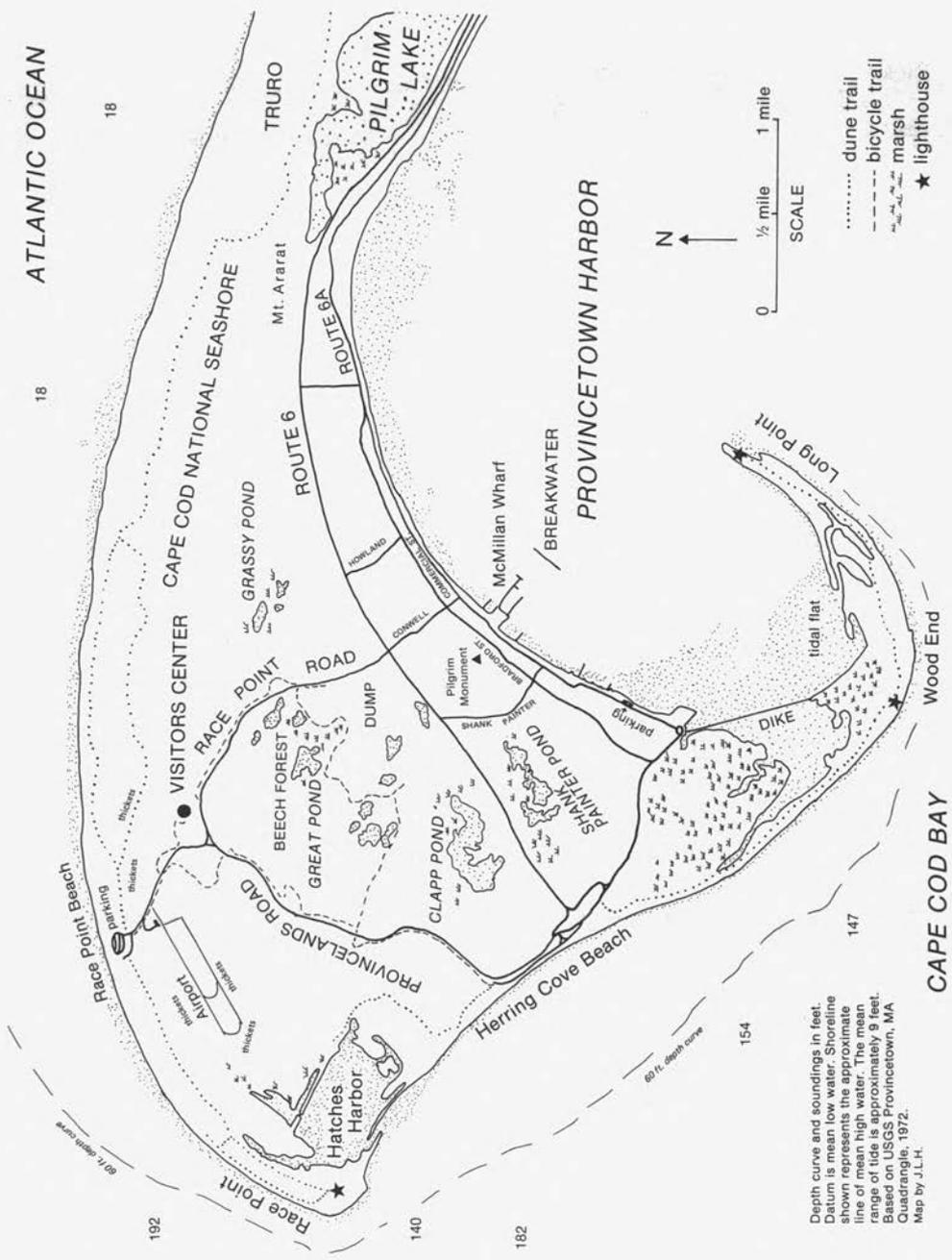
SURPRISE! SURPRISE!

With Volume 15, *Bird Observer* appears in new plumage. Our new cover, which will feature a different picture each issue, and our new format and type are the direct result of the very generous contributions from our subscribers generated by our fund-raiser in February just a year ago. The funds were used to purchase a Compaq DeskPro and Microsoft Word software for word processing. To produce this first issue of Volume 15, we have borrowed an Apple LaserWriter.

A new cover for *Bird Observer* has been planned for several years, and the support you demonstrated at the time of the fund-raiser provided the impetus and inspiration for us to take this step forward. It has taken some courage and a great deal of hard work by the *Bird Observer* staff to implement these changes, and we sincerely hope you like our new look.

Bird Observer is subscriber-supported and staffed entirely by volunteers. We think we have a good publication that is steadily getting better. We cannot survive without your support and approval, and our high level of subscription renewal indicates that we have it.

So we wish to extend to you, our subscribers and contributors, a sincere and heartfelt thank you. We are very grateful.



Depth curve and soundings in feet. Datum is mean low water. Shoreline shown represents the approximate line of mean high water. The mean range of tides is approximately 9 feet. Based on USGS Provincetown, MA Outerport, 1972. Map by J.L.H.

BIRDING IN PROVINCETOWN

by Blair Nikula

Provincetown, that overgrown sand dune at the tip of Cape Cod, was long neglected by birders visiting the cape in spite of, or perhaps because of, its unique, isolated location. However, increased coverage over the last decade or two has proven the area to be an exciting though unpredictable birding spot at any season, usually well worth the extra driving time required to get there (about half an hour from Orleans, two to three hours from Boston). The list of birds recorded here exceeds three hundred species and includes a veritable who's who of Massachusetts vagrants.

Perhaps the most alluring aspect of birding in Provincetown for most landlubbers is the presence of varying numbers of pelagic birds within sight from land at almost any time of the year, but especially in the fall. On a day-to-day basis, this area has been the most consistent locale in the state, and probably on the east coast, for land-based observations of pelagic birds. Frequent sightings of marine mammals from shore serve as icing on the seabird cake. P'town, as it is known locally, also harbors several active whale-watching fleets. These make almost daily trips in season (late April to early October) to Stellwagen Bank a few miles to the north, affording the seaworthy observer the opportunity for a more intimate pelagic experience.

During the fall the area is also favorable for migrant landbirds and is on a par with many of the better-known coastal landbird traps. A northwest wind at this season often results in waves of passerines, showering the dune thickets with sparrows, thrushes, vireos, and the like. Migrant falcons and accipiters are routinely encountered at this season as well.

Provincetown is also the best spot on Cape Cod to witness the spring migration. The cape was once considered an avian wasteland in the spring, but it is now known to be otherwise. Although the occurrence of spring migrants is more unpredictable than on the mainland and the volume of migration is usually considerably less, the species diversity on the cape is every bit as great, and the birding at times equals or even surpasses that on the mainland. Indeed, spring birding in P'town offers some advantages over the mainland: the trees are generally smaller, and the cool ocean breezes retard the emergence of vegetation by as much as ten to fifteen days in comparison to inland areas. Consequently, while birders at Mt. Auburn suffer "warbler neck" playing frustrating games of hide-and-seek with warblers hidden in the densely foliated treetops, observers in the Beech Forest are still enjoying open, often eye-level views of their quarry. Here a Tennessee Warbler is more than just an unseen voice in the canopy! An added attraction in the spring is a substantial movement of hawks over the outer

cape, with the resulting concentration of these birds in the Provincetown area. The following areas are some of the most consistently productive.

Pilgrim Lake. During the early 1900s this lake, created in 1860 by the diking of what was originally a saltwater harbor, apparently teemed with marsh birds and waterfowl. However, the encroaching sand and a sixteen-inch, man-induced lowering of the water level in 1958 (in the name of mosquito control) have led to its demise. It is doubtful that any marsh birds are now breeding here, and ducks other than the ubiquitous American Black Duck are an infrequent sight. A sandbar occasionally exposed toward the west end of the lake attracts Double-crested Cormorants (April to October), and the ever-present flocks of gulls should be checked for possible Iceland Gull or Glaucous Gull during the winter months. Along the east end of the lake the thickets harbor migrant landbirds in season and can be explored from a dirt road off Route 6 just before you reach the lake on the right. To check the lake, you can pull off Route 6 onto the grassy shoulder, but be careful to avoid the soft spots and storm drains. The grassy borders of the highway from here to the end at Herring Cove should be watched for sparrows, pipits, etc., during migration.

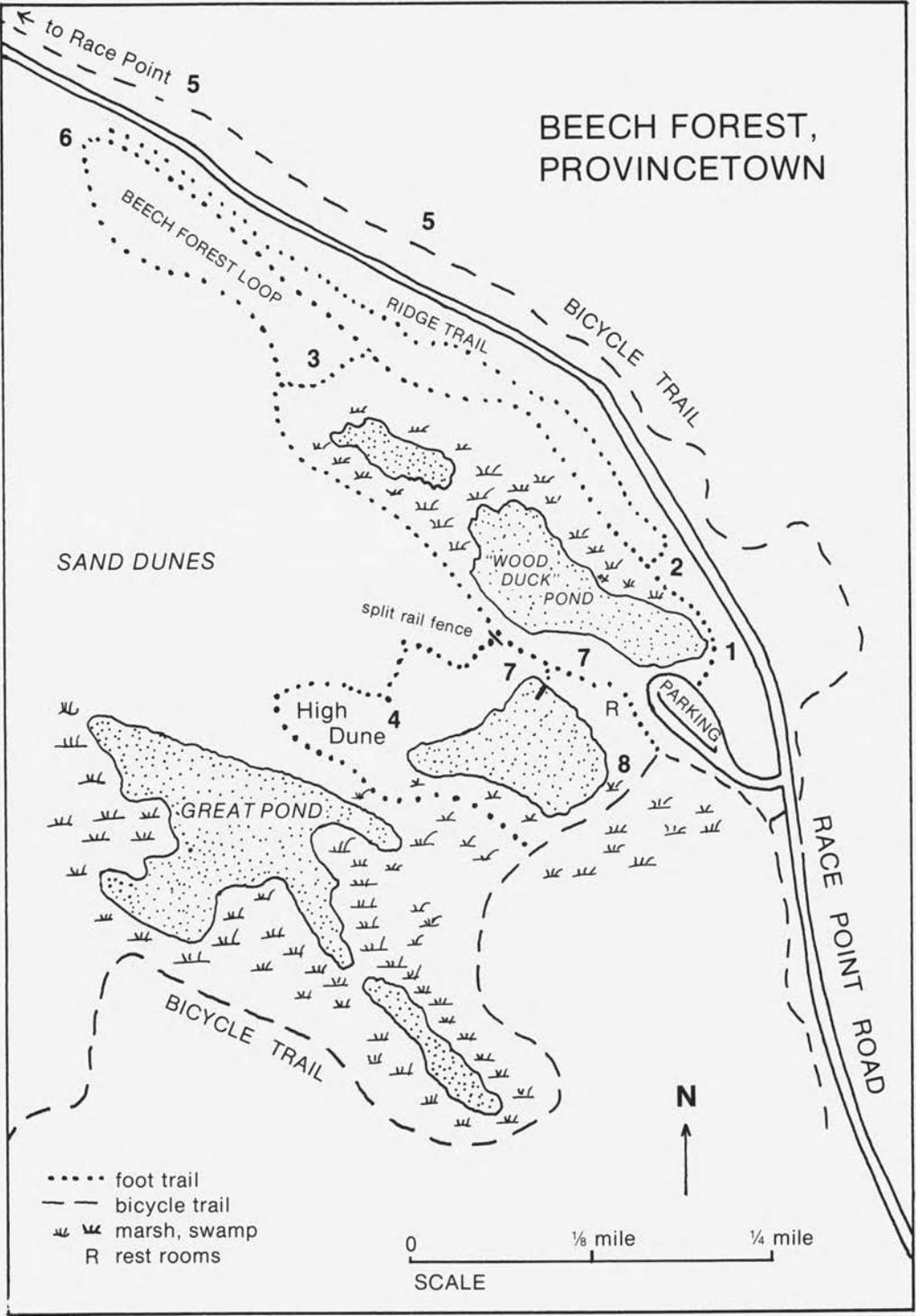
Provincetown Dump. If there are any vultures or eagles in the area, they are apt to frequent the dump, and the gulls should be checked for white-winged and possible Lesser Black-backed Gull. Access is from Race Point Road, a short distance from the Route 6 lights.

Beech Forest. This unique area is without a doubt the finest spot on Cape Cod to witness the spring passerine migration and is also worth checking in the fall, particularly from late August to late September when the warblers are passing through. It is an oasis among the dunes with small marshy ponds surrounded by beeches, alders, six species of pines and, most notably, oaks. Spring migrants are most likely to be encountered where oaks predominate, whereas fall migrants are more widespread and are apt to be found anywhere. Accordingly, the following remarks pertain primarily to the spring season when the location of the birds is more predictable according to habitat. Species to be expected include all of the typical eastern Massachusetts migrants. Some of the better spots in the Beech Forest are the following (numbers correspond to those on the accompanying map).

"Wooden Bridge." (1) This area adjacent to the parking lot is among the most consistently productive. If there are any birds around at all, there is apt to be a pocket of them here. Check the oaks on the opposite side of Race Point Road as well.

"Ridge Trail." (2) This ill-defined and unmaintained trail branches off from the main trail approximately a hundred yards from the parking lot. After passing a small stand of Scotch and Austrian pines on the right, bear right up the steep

BEECH FOREST, PROVINCETOWN



- foot trail
- - - bicycle trail
- ≡ marsh, swamp
- R rest rooms

0 1/8 mile 1/4 mile
SCALE

sandy slope and onto the trail along the top of the ridge. This is one of the highest spots in the Beech Forest and is usually good for warblers, vireos, and some of the shyer species such as thrushes. It seems to be more active during the late morning and latter part of the season (last half of May). One advantage of this trail is that the birder is at treetop level, where observation is easier. It also offers refuge from the nonbirding and often noisy weekenders.

Far end of "Wood Duck" Pond. (3) This section of the trail with its large oaks and beeches is the most consistently satisfying, particularly early in the morning. It is sheltered from most of the raw ocean breezes and catches the warmth of the rising sun. Several "layers" of birding potential are present here, from the moist hollow below to the tops of the highest trees on the hillside above. On a good day it's difficult to decide whether to look up, down or straight ahead!

"High Dune." (4) This is one of the better locations in P'town from which to see spring hawks. To reach it, watch for a section of split-rail fence on the south side of the main trail. Turn south here (away from "Wood Duck" Pond) and follow the sandy trail through the scrub pine to the highest vantage point. A clear view is available in all directions, and most of the town can be seen. It seems that sooner or later most of the hawks present in the area on a given day will pass by this dune as they mill about, and the birder is often afforded excellent looks. All of the common raptors of the northeast can be expected here, and some of the accidental southern species (e.g., kites and Black Vulture) have been recorded as well.

Other spots in the Beech Forest that are worth checking for migrants are (5) the bicycle trail on the northeast side of Race Point Road, (6) the oaks at the far (northwest) corner of the forest, (7) the main trail from the split-rail fence to the restrooms, and (8) the bicycle trail from the rest rooms south between the ponds.

During weekend afternoons the parking lot and main trails become cluttered with weekenders who are often noisy and can hamper birding efforts; try to arrive early to beat the rush. Access to the parking lot is off Race Point Road.

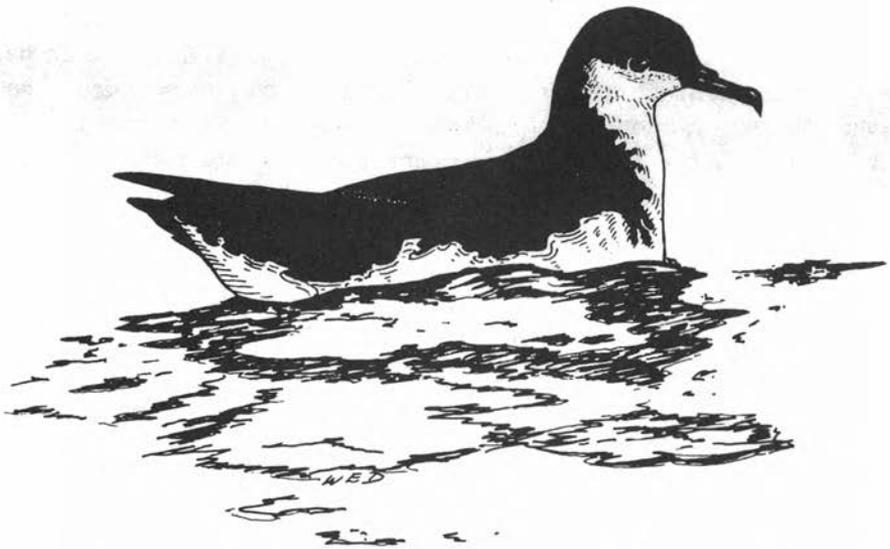
National Seashore Visitors Center. This is another good hawkwatching site; however, the light is often a problem here. Viewing can be done from the parking lot or, better, from the observation deck at the top of the building, where the outer dunes can be watched for falcons and accipiters.

Airport and vicinity. This area is mainly of interest in the fall, when the many thickets attract numerous passerines, and accipiters and falcons frequently pass over. Park at the Race Point parking lot and walk back to the airport (the airport parking lot is reserved for customers). From here one may proceed southwest following the line of wet thickets that extends from the parking lot to the end of the runway. But keep well away from the runway! If you are ambitious and continue far enough, about 1.25 miles, you will end up at Hatches

Harbor (see below). The complete route, although arduous, is well worth the effort on a good day. A recommended alternative is to walk down the outer beach from the Race Point parking lot and walk back along the airport (or vice versa), a loop which combines the possibilities for both seabirds and landbirds. Another walk where passerines can be abundant begins across the road from the airport and follows the densely vegetated ravines that run eastward through the dunes for about two to three miles. With the passage of a cold front in the fall this entire area may be hopping with migrants and offer some lively birding. During the late fall and winter, Northern Harriers, Rough-legged Hawks and Northern Shrikes (in flight years) can often be found here.

Race Point parking lot. One of the finest locations in eastern North America to watch for seabirds, this site offers the potential for a diverse and exciting array of pelagics, particularly from late August through February. All of the regular northwest Atlantic pelagics have been seen here, and the commoner species can be seen with some regularity and occasionally in great numbers when conditions are favorable. Exactly why these birds occur with such consistency in this vicinity remains uncertain, though a variety of factors are likely involved. Undoubtedly P'town's location, thrusting prominently toward the Gulf of Maine, results in many seabirds being intercepted by this land mass as they move southward during the fall. The rich Stellwagen Bank, host to an abundance of marine birds and mammals, lies just a few miles to the north and certainly contributes to many of the sightings here. Another important factor appears to be the presence of water that is deep (over a hundred feet) close to shore in this area. Presumably this sharp dropoff results in some upwelling and, in conjunction with the strong rips and currents characteristic of the region, provides a plentiful source of food. If the sea is fairly calm, the deep-water line (where the shallow, light blue water turns to a deep, dark blue) can be seen from the parking lot some eight hundred yards out from shore. Farther to the west this line comes progressively closer to shore and is closest, roughly two hundred yards out, just north of the tip of Race Point itself (see map).

Generally the best weather conditions are cloudy skies with light to moderate northeast winds, although during the peak season (September to November) a few birds can usually be found under almost any conditions. When the winds are strong (40+ mph) from the northeast, viewing is very difficult, particularly if it is raining. The dunes in front of the parking lot have built up to the point that it is nearly impossible to see the water from the comfort of your car, making it necessary to brave the elements. Both the bathhouse and the old Coast Guard station can afford some protection from the worst of the weather. Viewing pelagics from land is rarely a comfortable endeavor at any location! Strong northwest winds following a northeast storm can provide a good show as the pelagics that were blown into Cape Cod Bay by the storm



Shearwater

Illustration by William E. Davis, Jr.

stream back out into the open ocean. During the warmer months fog may bring the birds in, but one must be on hand at the precise moment the fog clears, since little if anything can be seen before and the birds move out rapidly as visibility improves.

There is probably no finer place in the northeast to see jaegers; on any day from mid-August through October, with a little patience and a sharp eye, one can usually expect to see at least two or three jaegers and at times counts of fifty or more are possible. Parasitic is by far the most common, but Pomarine is possible and Long-tailed is reported very rarely. Impressive numbers of shearwaters are also possible, with counts in the hundreds and even thousands not uncommon, especially after storms. Greater Shearwater is the predominate species, but Sooty is very possible during the summer and early fall, and this is an excellent spot to look for Manx Shearwater from August through October.

While scoping for birds, keep an eye out for the distinctive spouts of whales, which are present throughout the year, with largest numbers generally during the spring and fall. Fin and Humpback whales are the most common, but Minke and Right whales are possible and White-sided Dolphins are seen on occasion. "Have you seen any whales?" is a question often hurled at the scope-wielding birder.

Race Point. When conditions are favorable, this point is unsurpassed for close observations of pelagics from land. Deep water is less than two hundred yards offshore here and alcids, shearwaters and other seabirds can often be seen feeding at remarkably close range. Much of the information above on the Race Point parking lot pertains to this area as well. During the winter months guillemots, Razorbills, and murrens have been found regularly along the outer beach between the point and the parking lot. A calm sea at this time of year is best, since these alcids can often be seen sitting and feeding along the deep-water line. Unfortunately, access is only by foot or four-wheel drive from the Race Point parking lot.

Hatches Harbor. As its name indicates, this area once served as a harbor but has since sanded in, a fate for which every body of water in P'town seems destined. It now consists of a small patch of salt marsh and some tidal flats separated from the bay by a spit of sand. On the east it is bordered by the remains of a man-made dike; to the east of the dike lies the airport with its border of wet thickets. The flats and spit attract large numbers of gulls year round and terns from July to October, and occasionally the rarer members of their clan can be found. Lesser Black-backed Gull has been found here with some regularity in the fall. A few shorebirds are also usually present in season. Harbor Seals frequently haul out on the spit during the winter. Although the habitat is limited here, the land's-end location makes it the type of spot where almost anything is apt to drop in. Access is by foot or four-wheel drive.

Herring Cove. This is another vantage point for viewing seabirds, but because the observer is at a very low elevation and the birds are usually at a considerable distance from shore, it is generally less fruitful than the Race Point area (which is visible to the north). Poor light can also be a problem during the afternoon. Large numbers of terns feed here from late summer to early fall and often attract jaegers into easy viewing range. Various sea ducks are common during the colder months.

Shank Painter Pond. This swampy pond is one of those places that looks as if it should be full of birds yet rarely has any. Wood Ducks are sometimes present and night-herons occasionally fish the edges, but otherwise there is little to be said about the area. It is easily checked from Route 6, however, and should not be passed by without a quick look.

Vesper Sparrows may nest in the dunes in this part of town and the grassy edges of the highway should be watched for sparrows during migration. The thickets, as elsewhere, may harbor migrants.

Wood End, Long Point and dike. Located at the west end of Provincetown Harbor, this area consists of a typical barrier beach with salt marsh and mudflats on the inside, and scrubby thickets in the dune hollows. Black-crowned Night-Herons have nested here, as have a few Common and

Least Terns. The mudflats attract small numbers of shorebirds in season and the thickets may have a few migrant landbirds in the fall. During the late summer large flocks of terns roost on the flats at low tide and generally include good numbers of Roseate Terns. Summering Black-legged Kittiwakes (invariably immatures) have been regular here in June and July, as have immature Arctic Terns. Small numbers of pelagics are sometimes seen off the beach in summer and fall.

It is possible to park at the west-end rotary (but get there early in the summer) and walk out the dike to Wood End, but this should be done cautiously and only at low tide. Be very aware of the tide, because the higher tides can cover the dike. A young woman drowned here once when she became trapped by an extreme tide.

Provincetown Harbor. This is one of the best known and most frequently birded locations in P'town. It is primarily of interest in winter when it attracts white-winged gulls, kittiwakes, alcids (particularly after storms), cormorants, and a variety of sea ducks. There are several vantage points from which to check the harbor, all accessible from Commercial Street. The best of these is McMillan Wharf which extends well out into the harbor and offers the opportunity for excellent looks at many of the birds. Alcids, when they are present, are often very close to the wharf, even underneath it, so be sure to look over the edge! Photographers will find this an exceptional place to photograph several species of birds that can normally only be approached from a boat. During the winter it is possible to drive out to the end of the wharf.

A couple of public parking lots elsewhere off Commercial Street also provide good views of the harbor. The best is toward the west end (see map), adjacent to the Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies. From here, guillemots can be seen in some years out near the center of the harbor. There are extensive mudflats along the east end of the harbor at low tide but they are rather barren of birds.

Although I have described some of the more profitable birding locations in P'town, keep in mind that the dunes throughout town are full of wet, swampy thickets that are apt to have birds during a good wave. Keep an eye out for pockets of birds as you drive around the area, and be prepared to do a little exploring of your own. Be aware, however, that parking on the side of the road is prohibited along Race Point Road, Provincelands Road, and sections of Route 6. This ban is strictly enforced and with good reason, so stick to the designated parking areas.

Because parking is rather limited and many areas are not accessible by paved road, considerable walking is necessary to cover the region well. Another means of transportation you may wish to consider is the bicycle. There is an excellent though rather rigorous bicycle trail that covers much of the town and

many of the areas outlined above are readily accessible by bicycle. Those with a four-wheel drive vehicle can obtain a permit to drive the beach out to Race Point at the National Seashore headquarters on Race Point Road. Access to the dune trails is tightly controlled and becoming increasingly restricted, so be sure to obtain the proper permits before venturing onto any of them.

If you find that some of your old birding spots are getting a little too predictable and you're ready for a change, give Provincetown a try. I think you'll find it always intriguing, often exciting, occasionally disappointing, but rarely predictable!

BLAIR NIKULA, regional editor for *American Birds* and an authority on the birds of Cape Cod and Monomoy, has produced with members of the Cape Cod Bird Club a manuscript soon to be published about birding spots on the cape.

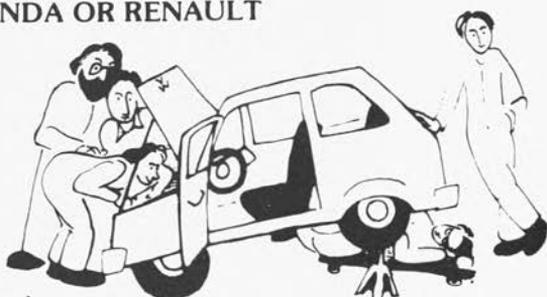
FOR SALE: Plates from *Jardines Naturalist Library*. Published in 1835, the 4 x 6 inch hand-colored plates are of Raptors, Owls, Grouse, Rails, Herons, Shorebirds, Ducks, Geese, Loons, Auks, and Gulls. Price is \$5.00 to \$7.50 per plate. For a complete list, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Tad Lawrence, Department of Biology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1048 or call 313-334-1216 (evenings).

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BOOK REVIEW

by Marilyn S. Murphy

Harrier, Hawk of the Marshes: The Hawk That Is Ruled by a Mouse. Frances Hamerstrom, foreword by Roger Tory Peterson. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C., 1986. 171 pages. Line drawings by Jonathan Wilde. Black and white photographs. \$24.95 clothbound; \$10.95 paperbound.

Hawkwatchers and birders who may have hoped that Frances Hamerstrom's recent book on the Northern Harrier would prove to be the North American equivalent of Donald Watson's valuable *The Hen Harrier* (1977) will be sorely disappointed in this publication. *Harrier, Hawk of the Marshes* is, as Frances Hamerstrom describes it, "a voyage of discovery," and it is a choppy one at that as she recounts her investigation of the question Do harriers mate for life? and her growing realization of the relationship between harrier mating systems and the rise and fall of vole populations. Hamerstrom spent over twenty-five years in a fifty-thousand-acre area of Wisconsin investigating harrier pair fidelity in what was a remarkably lengthy and perhaps unique opportunity to study this interesting raptor. Her brief book scratches the surface of these years; she imparts a disjointed and rather haphazard account of her experiences, not the rich tapestry of observations and developed ideas that one might expect from a long-term study.

Hamerstrom has organized her experiences into twenty-two short chapters with titles such as "We Resort to Paint, Dyes, and Jesses," "On the Care and Feeding of Gabboons," "Mice move into My Life," "Eco-Snooping," "A Mouse Leaves its Mark on Mating Systems," etc. The text has all the earmarks of a raconteur talking into a tape recorder. In these chatty chapters, studded with exclamation marks, Hamerstrom describes first the difficulties of locating nests, trapping and marking harriers, and directing her various assistants whom she calls "gabboons," for reasons never explained. A picture quickly emerges of a formidably energetic and undaunted woman, trudging through drainage ditches and nettles at dawn, armed with her tame Great Horned Owl Ambrose who was used as a lure to entrap harriers. There is an engaging photograph of Ambrose glaring from his perch in the mists of early morning waiting for his assignment. Also described are the use of telemetry in tracking harriers, hand-rearing young birds that had either been orphaned (occasionally as a result of Hamerstrom's research) or that had been taken from the nest for teaching purposes for the gabboons, and the effects of DDT on harriers in her study area. Hamerstrom was one of those invited to participate in the 1965 University of Wisconsin symposium on the population decline of the Peregrine Falcon and other raptors, the meeting that so persuasively documented the population crash of these birds.

Unlike the Peregrine, Hamerstrom's harriers reacted to DDT not by laying thin-shelled eggs but by displaying a peculiar state of listlessness; the sky dances of the mating season disappeared and breeding virtually stopped.

Editorial inattention is apparent in several of these chapters. At the outset, the reader discovers in Roger Tory Peterson's foreword a reference to "England, which boasts four kinds of harriers," only to find Hamerstrom writing on page 32 that "there are three different species of harriers in Britain," and again on page 35, "In Britain there are three species." An alert editor might have come to the aid of the confused reader by noting that, in addition to the Marsh, Montagu's, and Hen harriers, Peterson includes the Pallid Harrier as a vagrant to Britain in his *Field Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe* (1967).

Other errors garble the account so as to make the meaning unintelligible. Describing her harrier population during the DDT period, Hamerstrom writes: "Plainly it *was* in trouble, not because they were failing to breed! In the worst year, 1968, we had enough females for twenty nests, yet only two nested; the study area, but because they were failing to breed!" (page 67). For this, Smithsonian Institution Press is asking us to pay twenty-five dollars?

More confusion occurs in Hamerstrom's explanation of harrier eye color. The dust jacket of the hardcover edition includes a beautiful color photograph by Frederick Hamerstrom of two harriers with the caption "grayish eye of male, chocolate eye of female." The ordinary observer, to whom this book sometimes seems to be addressed, might assume that if one was fortunate enough ever to come upon a harrier eyeball to eyeball, one would expect the male to always have gray eyes and the female to always have chocolate-colored eyes. Not so. The birds in the photo are young birds, and their eye color will change, as we learn later in scattered sections of the chapter "Identification of Harriers." Here the reader's confusion is compounded by the statement, "In 1963, I noticed that nestling males have grayish brown irises, whereas those of the nesting [*sic*] females are chocolate." One has to be careful to catch this typographical error since it alters the meaning of the sentence; "nesting female" should read "nestling female." Several pages later we learn that the adult male has bright lemon-colored eyes, and females over five years of age have yellow irises. In females, "gradually the percentage of brown flecks decreases at a fairly constant rate." A drawing, which should clarify the progression of changing eye color in female harriers, shows flecking in twelve irises and bears the caption, "proportions of eye spotting in iris of female harrier. Percentage (%) of flecking (dark) decreases with age." However, the drawing shows not a decrease in flecking with age but an increase; i.e., the drawing is *backwards*.

Readers who like their raptor studies straight as well as accurate may have lost patience even before this. However, the chapter on identification of harriers includes several pages which should be read by everyone who has wanted to sex

brown harriers in the field and didn't know how. Hamerstrom points out that the rufous tawny breast of the immature is a characteristic of fall birds only; by spring, the immatures' deep rufous breast feathers have faded to the color of the adult female. How then to differentiate between spring immatures and adult females? Hamerstrom describes two fieldmarks: (1) a dark area on the underside of the trailing edge of the innerwing, which is characteristic of the immature (this mark was pointed out to Hamerstrom by Bill Clark whose photograph is included); and (2) gaps near the center of both wings caused by the molt of primaries one through three that occurs in adult females before mid-June. Spring hawkwatchers will have a good test of their powers of observation searching for these marks.

What has Hamerstrom learned after twenty-five years? Between 1959 and 1983, she studied 330 nests. Because of her persistence in color-marking birds, she was able to identify many individuals and not only answer her initial question "Do harriers mate for life?" with a resounding "No" but to document the occurrence of polygyny in her study area. Pair fidelity was virtually nonexistent, but bigamy was recorded in 54 nests and trigamy in 24. Tables showing the percentage of successful nests and of young fledged per mating system are included in an appendix. Hamerstrom suggests several possible explanations for the occurrence of polygyny: a large vole population (she



Immature Northern Harrier

Photo by Bill Clark

"A dark patch under the wings characterizes the immatures."

*Reprinted with permission from Frances Hamerstrom's
Harrier, Hawk of the Marshes.*

believes that voles act as an aphrodisiac to harriers), shrinking habitat, and an abundance of females that occurred during the DDT period when the sex ratio went from equal numbers of both sexes to a ratio of 34 females to 8 males. An abundance of females was also suggested as a possible reason for polygyny by Balfour and Cadbury in the Orkney Islands, where polygyny among Hen Harriers has been observed since 1931. Considering the documentation of polygyny among harriers in both Wisconsin and Orkney and other scattered reports, it is unfortunate that Hamerstrom did not include in this book sex ratio statistics accrued during her twenty-five-year study. If polygyny is an aberrant response of this species to an imbalanced sex ratio and if stress results in a diminution of the male harrier population, then monitoring harrier sex ratios assumes a greater significance in assessing the health of this increasingly troubled species. *American Birds* has included the Northern Harrier on its Blue List every year since 1972 with numbers reported as "down or greatly down nearly everywhere." Is it true, as I heard suggested at a hawkwatch conference some years ago that there really are as many male adult harriers as females; that there are simply fewer birders out when the males migrate? Would it help in the assessment of the harrier population if birders and hawkwatchers made more of an effort to tackle the difficult problem of sexing brown harriers? Such questions are neither raised nor answered in this book.

Is *Harrier, Hawk of the Marshes* with all its editorial and authorial lapses worth the hardcover price of \$24.95? Not with only 136 pages of text, a brief bibliography and appendix, muddy black-and-white photographs and an erratic index (for example, eye color is not listed). Although Jonathan Wilde's illustrations are charming, it is regrettable that his color illustration of harrier food transfer on the cover is so overwhelmed with blue tints. Serious raptor students will probably opt for Hamerstrom's journal articles, but others who do not want to overlook what may be the only book written about our North American harrier may want the paperback edition, warts and all, for occasional reference (\$10.95). Someday, perhaps one of Hamerstrom's gabboons will write the book this could have been.

MARILYN S. MURPHY is a Senior Information Specialist at the Houghton Mifflin Corporate Library in Boston. Her articles and photographs have appeared in *Aquasphere: Journal of the New England Aquarium*. She has birded in Africa, Australia, New Guinea, Hawaii, and Great Cranberry Island, Maine.

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OPEN YEAR ROUND

A VISIT WITH CHARLES, A TALK ABOUT CHICKADEES

by John C. Kricher

The evening had begun routinely enough. I was sipping some really good scotch, a Christmas gift from a more than average friend. The scotch had all of the benefits that years bring to whiskey. If it were human, it would be well through puberty and into serious dating. I felt privileged to help it come of age and shortly thereafter went to bed.

For some reason sleep was elusive, and I soon found myself walking to my study. Perhaps reading a scientific paper or two would help me sleep. I've always thought that many journal articles would make fine anaesthetics in times of surgical emergency. Just have the patient read something like "A Morphological and Phylogenetic Analysis of the Possible Significance of the Epicondyle-Opisthotic Complex in Synapsid Postcranial Development," and it's off to dreamland. But don't read it aloud lest the surgeons join the patient.

Upon entering my study, I saw my cat Ben sleeping on my favorite chair. What was unusual about this vision was that Ben wasn't alone. He was sitting in Charles Darwin's lap, being petted by a guy who died over a hundred years ago. Darwin looked good considering his age and physiological state. In fact, he looked pretty much like his pictures: long beard, bald head, very deeply set, penetrating eyes, protected by strong brow ridges. His face was serious but friendly, not unlike an intellectual version of Santa Claus. He seemed like a nice guy. Darwin looked up, saw me, and I could tell from his expression that he felt he owed me an explanation. What follows, best as I can recall, is our conversation.

CD: You have a nice cat. What's its name?

JK: Ben. Are you Charles Darwin?

CD: Remarkable you should recognize me so easily. I am Darwin's ghost.

JK: I don't believe in ghosts. At least I don't think I do.

CD: Talk to Shirley MacLaine if you have doubts. I've not time to discuss it. She's right, you know. We've all led many lives. You were once a *Mesopteryx*. It probably accounts for your interest in birds.

JK: I don't think I've ever heard of a *Mesopteryx*.

CD: No, you haven't. No one has. You were a member of a species that evolved directly from *Archaeopteryx*, in the Jurassic, and looked much more like a so-called modern bird. You know, short stiffened tail, large wishbone and flight muscles, strengthened backbone. You were a fine flier. Teeth were largely gone. Quite fancy plumage. You looked far less similar to the dinosaurs from which you evolved than did *Archaeopteryx*. Unfortunately, you left no fossil record.

JK: My oversight. I'm not a good journal writer.

CD: Bird evolution has always been a particular passion of mine, ever since I came to appreciate those odd little finches I saw on the Galapagos. I've got John Gould to thank for that, you know. You surely have heard of Gould -- great artist, capital ornithologist. He worked with all of my bird specimens from the *Beagle* journey, especially the finches. I never did pay much attention to the little beggars whilst on the islands. I did notice the Galapagos Mockingbirds and thought it curious that they depart from one another in form so slightly from island to island. But Gould put me on to the uncanny similarities among the finch group, which, at the same time, demonstrated such divergencies. And, do you know that Gould used Captain FitzRoy's specimens? Mine were not sufficiently labeled to be of much use. Poor old fundamentalist FitzRoy. He still isn't speaking to me. They call them Darwin's finches. Bloody things ought to be called FitzRoy's finches.

JK: May I ask a really basic question? What the hell are you doing here?

CD: I am pleased to tell you that I do not reside in hell. Frankly I was a bit surprised, though pleasantly. But to address your inquiry, I've come to read *The Auk*. I do enjoy remaining familiar with evolution work. Have you seen the two lead articles which deal with your parids, the Black-capped and Carolina chickadees?

JK: Let me see if I understand this. You're here to read my *Auk*? And yes, I read the chickadee papers.

CD: I've read your journals often in the late hours, more so than you, I dare say. What do you make of the hybrid zone between the Black-capped and Carolina chickadees? Does it invalidate their status as separate species?

JK: I'm actually talking to Darwin about evolution. This is big! I take it you mean the southwestern Missouri contact zone. Yeah, I read that paper. Seems like complete mixing between Carolinas and Black-caps over a fifteen-kilometer strip between the Great Plains and the Ozark Plateau. Lots of intermediate type birds, hybrids both in plumage and voice. Nothing to indicate that they are separate species, at least not in that area. It's gonna raise havoc with the Christmas bird count. Guess they'll have to settle for "chickadee sp."

CD: What is a species?

JK: Well, you ought to know, you wrote the damn book. You called it *On the Origin of Species*.

CD: The title continued, *by Means of Natural Selection or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life*. I was never totally sure what a species is. I thought that varieties, subspecies, races, and species all were part of a gradual process, the process of evolution. I believe I still hold to that view, though I am aware of the importance of assigning an organism a distinct species identity. I am frankly somewhat surprised that it is so easy to do,

given the power of evolution. Examples like the Missouri chickadees please me immensely.

JK: Yes, hybrid zones are the exceptions that prove the rule, *your* rule in fact. Flickers hybridized extensively and lost their species status. So did orioles. The birders are still bent out of shape over that one. All the Dark-eyed Juncos were consolidated into one species. God, and presumably you, only know what a Thayer's Gull is. Hybrid zones clearly show evolution actually happening. If every bird could easily be placed in a given species, evolution would be much more doubtful as an explanation for patterns of life on earth. It's the messy cases that support your theory.

CD: Theory? At this point I prefer fact. And don't waste your time looking for Thayer's Gulls. Does this Missouri hybrid zone mean that the Black-capped and Carolina forms of chickadee will be considered subspecies and not species? I believe you refer to such a practice as lumping. Am I not correct?

JK: Imagine the Massachusetts state bird lumped with a rebel chickadee? Probably rename it "Common Chickadee." Certainly couldn't call it "Northern Chickadee." We'd have another civil war. You'd have more than the ABA to deal with if that happened. No, actually I don't think they'll be lumped. There are many areas where Carolinas and Black-caps coexist and don't interbreed. I guess they'll continue being considered separate species. It's a potentially tricky problem though. And to add to it, you know, Black-caps and Carolinas are very similar genetically, as, indeed, are many species of birds.

CD: Yes, I've just completed reading that paper on the close genetic distances between the chickadees. I knew so little of genetics. It's still a struggle for me to comprehend it all. I only wish I had drawn Mendel's conclusions. I take it that although the Black-capped and Carolina chickadees share the vast majority of their genes, they still may be regarded as separate species?

JK: That's true. Many bird species show close genetic distances, but no one doubts that they are separate species. This is because they are reproductively isolated, the factor that is now believed most important in conferring species status. Look at the *Empidonax* flycatchers, for instance. Voice keeps them from interbreeding, and voice can be influenced by just a few genes. Consider humans. We share ninety-nine percent of our genes with chimpanzees, but look at the differences between us and chimps. There is no way a human and a chimp could mate and produce a fertile, healthy hybrid, in spite of our genetic similarities.

CD: I would very much enjoy sharing that chimpanzee information with Queen Victoria. She was appalled by my theory, as it applied to human origins. I believe that is why I was never knighted, at least that's what my many biographers say. If only the old girl could know what commonalities lie in those

coiled DNA molecules. I say, this conversation has been both pleasant and insightful, but it is late, and I must go.

JK: Why not stay till dawn? Lots of chickadees come to my feeders.

CD: Thank you, but no. I wouldn't know what to call them.

Author's postscript: The papers that Charles and I discussed are in *The Auk*, volume 103, October 1986. They are "Morphological and vocal variation across a contact zone between the chickadees *Parus atricapillus* and *P. carolinensis*" by M. B. Robbins et al., pages 655-666, and "Extensive protein similarity of the hybridizing chickadees *Parus atricapillus* and *P. carolinensis*" by M. J. Braun and M. B. Robbins, pages 667-675.

JOHN C. KRICHER teaches biology at Wheaton College and is president of the Association of Field Ornithologists. His forthcoming book *Exploring the American Tropics* will be published in the fall of 1987 by Prentice Hall Press. Another book *A Field Guide to Eastern Fields and Forests* will be published in the spring of 1988 by Houghton Mifflin.

HELP TO MONITOR BOSTON'S PEREGRINES

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife is seeking part-time volunteers to assist in monitoring Peregrine Falcons in downtown Boston in the spring of 1987. Following the release of six eyasses in both 1984 and 1985, a territorial pair appeared in downtown Boston in early 1986. Although it is believed no nesting occurred in 1986, it is anticipated that nesting is quite likely to occur in 1987.

Interested persons should be available for at least three or four hours per week between March 1 and June 30, 1987. Some knowledge of birds and of the Peregrine Restoration Program in particular is very helpful but not essential. Activities will involve monitoring and recording the behavior of the Boston Peregrines. Work will be in the urban setting, but the exact working details will depend to some extent on the birds themselves and cannot be predicted at this time.

For more information contact Dr. Thomas W. French, Assistant Director for Nongame and Endangered Species, MDFW, 100 Cambridge St., Boston, MA 02202 (tel: 727-3151) or Brad Blodget, State Ornithologist, MDFW, Field Headquarters, Route 135, Westboro, MA 01581 (tel: 366-4470 or 727-2864).

FIELD PROBLEM: NORTHERN VERSUS LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE

by James Baird

If there were only one species of shrike, birders would have an easy time of it, for shrikes, in the generic sense, are easily identified. Shrikes are not sociable, and one is usually seen sitting alone in a tree top or on a telephone wire, occasionally flicking its tail, which is otherwise held nearly horizontal to the ground. In flight, a shrike can be recognized by its quick (almost fluttery) wingbeat and its low undulating flight that ends with an upward swoop to its perch. Or perhaps you'll note a robin-sized bird hovering over a field or bush or engaged in a persistent chase of another usually smaller bird -- chances are this too is a shrike. Identification is cinched when a closer look reveals a grayish or brownish bird with dark mask, wings, and tail. But shrikes can be an identification problem since in North America there are two species: Northern Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*) and Loggerhead Shrike (*L. ludovicianus*).

Northern Shrike. The Northern Shrike is widely distributed throughout much of the north temperate zone. There are fifteen races of *L. excubitor* in the Old World, occupying a wide range of habitats from Scandinavia to Siberia, south to Spain and India. In North America there are only two subspecies of Northern Shrike, which unlike the Old World populations do not occupy widely diverse habitats but are narrowly restricted to the open forests and bogs of northern Canada and Alaska. The western race, *L. e. invictus* differs from the eastern race *L. e. borealis* by being larger and paler.

Loggerhead Shrike. Unlike the Northern Shrike, the Loggerhead is endemic to North America, and its nine subspecies range from the Canadian prairies and New England south into Mexico. *L. l. migrans* is the race that occupies the eastern half of North America, but it cannot be distinguished, except in the hand, from the other races. Throughout this extensive range, the Loggerhead is restricted to essentially treeless open country.

Occurrence in Massachusetts. Since this note was originally prepared, there has been a significant change in the occurrence of Loggerhead Shrike in Massachusetts although the few recent reports still fall within the same time frame as past occurrences. There has been a gradual but steady decline in the northeastern population for more than a decade. The reason(s) for this decrease remain unknown.

The Loggerhead species was never common in Massachusetts and has always been a "rare" breeder in the state, most recently in 1971. It was a rare spring migrant with most occurrences falling between mid-March and mid-April. The few spring reports of recent years have fallen within this same period. However, the major change has been in its fall occurrence. Twenty years

ago, Loggerhead Shrike was an uncommon but regular coastal migrant from mid-August to mid-September. In 1968 alone, no fewer than nineteen Loggerhead Shrikes were noted during this time period in Massachusetts, two of which were inland. At that time occasional Loggerheads would linger into winter. The most recent such occurrence was a bird at Salisbury in 1979 which was present from September until at least late December. In recent years, three Loggerhead Shrikes during fall migration would be termed an excellent season.

On the other hand, the occurrence of Northern Shrike has remained unchanged during the past two decades. They are present from November to April with numbers fluctuating each winter. Unlike the Loggerhead, Northern Shrikes are as likely to be seen inland as along the coast. Many of these are immatures with varying amounts of brown replacing the gray plumage. In years when flights occur, individuals may appear as early as mid-October, but in any year Northern Shrikes are seldom encountered after mid-April.

A Summary Comparison.

Size. Northern is *larger*; average wing chord length is 112 mm. Loggerhead is *smaller* (25.4 mm shorter); wing chord length is 96.5 mm.

Color. Northern adult is *pale gray* with blackish mask, wings and tail; *immature is brownish* with dark brown mask, wings, and tail. Loggerhead *adult and immatures are alike -- dark gray* with black mask, wings, and tail.

Bill. The bill of the Northern Shrike is *long* (average is 18.7 mm) and blackish with a light base to the lower mandible. The bill of the Loggerhead is *stout* (average is 15.5 mm) and all black.

Mask. In the adult Northern, the black mask extends from the base of the bill to the ear covert; in the immature, there is a dark brown mask only behind the eye. The Loggerhead has a black mask from the base of the bill to the ear covert *and it extends across the lower forehead.*

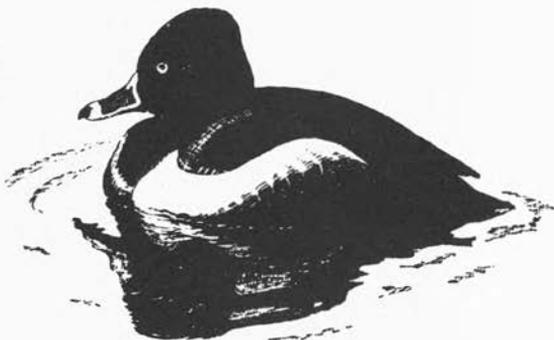
Barring on underparts. The Northern adult has *fine wavy barring* on whitish underparts that is usually obvious but sometimes nearly absent; the immature has conspicuous fine wavy barring on brownish-white underparts. *Barring is absent* in the adult Loggerhead; the immature may have fine wavy barring on the breast and sides.

White markings. These are reduced or dulled in the Northern Shrike whereas the Loggerhead has larger and highly contrasting amounts of white with nearly twice as much white in the tail.

This article was originally printed as "Field Problem No. 14" by Massachusetts Audubon Society but has been revised and updated by Richard Forster with the consent of the author for publication in *Bird Observer*.

FIELD RECORDS

OCTOBER 1986



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

October 1986 was cool, dry, and cloudy. The temperature averaged 53.9 degrees, 0.9 degree below normal. This was the seventh month in a row on the cool side. The high mark was 80 degrees on October 1, and the lowest was 34 degrees on Halloween. Rain totaled 3.27 inches, nearly double that of last October. No thunderstorms were reported, and there was no outstanding windstorm. R.H.S.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

Over 100 Common Loons were reported flying past Sandy Neck Beach in Barnstable on October 11, and there were another 41 on October 18 at that location. There were 59 Pied-billed Grebes reported during the month, about average for the past two Octobers. Pelagic trips this year were uneventful, and the BBC trip out of Plymouth managed to find a single Northern Fulmar and just two Greater Shearwaters. An injured Leach's Storm-Petrel was picked up on a Revere street by the police. The bird was taken for rehabilitation by Massachusetts DFW officials but died two weeks later.

Three American Bitterns were found at Belle Isle in East Boston, where 17 Great Blue Herons and 48 Snowy Egrets were also counted on October 4. The roost of Black-crowned Night-Herons at Yarmouthport reached 177 individuals on October 7. Two Cattle Egrets were noted on Nantucket on October 29, and a Glossy Ibis was reported from Naushon Island on October 5, late dates for these species. R.H.S.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCTOBER 1986
Red-throated Loon				
11, 18	Manomet, Barnstable (S.N.)	2, 3	W. Petersen, M. Lynch#	
18	Quabbin (G40), S. Dart.	1, 6	E. Nielsen#, T. Raymond	
19	Salisbury, P.I.	4, 10	M. Lynch, S. Carroll	
20, 22	N. Scituate, Lakeville	85, 1	S. Higginbotham, D. Briggs	
26, 29	Stellwagen, P.I.	14, 20	BBC (H. D'Entremont), G. Wood	
Common Loon				
3	Nantucket	52	BBC (D. Davis)	
11	Barnstable (S.N.), Lakeville	100+, 2	P. Trimble, W. Petersen	
14, 18	Nantucket, Barnstable (S.N.)	2, 41	F. Bouchard, M. Lynch#	
19	P.I.; Quabbin (G40)	6, 3	M. Lynch#, E. Nielsen#	
28, 29; 28	P.I.; Lakeville	7, 11; 4	G. Wood; K. Ryan	
Pied-billed Grebe				
thr	Cambr. (F.P.), S. Monomoy	2 max, 6 max	J. Barton, B. Nikula	
3, 4	Lakeville, Nantucket	4, 4	K. Anderson, BBC (D. Davis)	
5, 25; 5	Arlington; P.I.	2, 4; 1	L. Taylor; G. d'Entremont	
11	Lakeville, GMNWR	10, 3	G. Gove#, M. Lynch#	
12	Boxford, Quabbin (G40)	1, 2	J. Berry, M. Lynch#	
13, 17	W. Newbury, Easton	9, 5	J. Berry, K. Ryan	
19, 29	Eastham, GMNWR	4, 2	G. d'Entremont#, M. Hall	
Horned Grebe				
12	Salisbury, Braintree	1, 2	W. Petersen#, G. d'Entremont#	
12, 19	Quabbin (G 40), P.I.	3, 2	M. Lynch#, S. Carroll#	
25, 27	Revere, Littleton	30+, 2	J. Cumming, J. Baird	
28	Lakeville	5	K. Ryan	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCTOBER 1986
Red-necked Grebe				
12, 18	Braintree, Dennis (Corp. B.)	1, 3	G. d'Entremont, B. Nikula	
19, 27	Manomet, Sandwich	1, 5	W. Petersen, P. Trimble	
Northern Fulmar				
26	Stellwagen	1	BBC (H. D'Entremont)	
Greater Shearwater				
26	Stellwagen	2	BBC (H. D'Entremont)	
Leach's Storm-Petrel				
2	Revere	1	fide T. French#	
18, 26	Dennis, Stellwagen	1, 1	B. Nikula, BBC (H. D'Entremont)	
storm-petrel species				
18	Dennis (Corp. Beach)	1	B. Nikula	
Red-billed Tropicbird				
1-26	Gay Head (M.V.)	1 ad	v.o.	
Northern Gannet				
5, 10	P'town, Barnstable (S.N.)	20, 125	M. Lynch#, J. Aylward	
18, 26	Dennis (Corp. B.), Stellw.	150, 40	B. Nikula, BBC (H. D'Entremont)	
28, 29	Nantucket, P.I.	25, 40+	M. Litchfield, G. Wood	
Great Cormorant				
3, 4, 5	Nantucket	3, 2, 1	BBC (D. Davis)	
5, 11	Cuttyhunk, Lakeville	10, 1	P. Trimble, W. Petersen	
12, 18	Randolph, Lakeville	1 imm, 2	G. d'Entremont, W. Petersen	
Double-crested Cormorant				
thr	Salem-Boston (train)	65 max (10/7)	J. Berry	
3, 4, 5	Nantucket	75, 42, 45	BBC (D. Davis)	
3, 4	Wachusett Res.	11, 21	M. Lynch#	
5, 13	Chatham, Newbypt	100+, 150	S. Carroll#, J. Berry	
17	Quincy-Braintree	800+ (3 flocks)	K. Ryan	
19, 25	Salisbury-P.I., Braintree	255, 150	M. Lynch#, K. Ryan	
American Bittern				
4	E. Boston (B.I.)	3	S. Zende	
7, 11	Nant., GMNWR	1, 2	M. Litchfield, M. Lynch#	
22, 25	P.I.	1, 1	G. Wood, F. Bouchard#	
Great Blue Heron				
thr	Salem-Everett (train)	10 max	J. Berry	
4	E. Boston (B.I.)	17	S. Zende	
4, 5	Nantucket, Eastham	13, 42	BBC (D. Davis), M. Lynch#	
4, 5	P.I. area	24, 25-30	BBC (R. McHale, S. Thomas)	
11	Hamilton, GMNWR	4, 7	J. Berry, S. Carroll#	
19	P.I., Eastham	9, 31	S. Carroll#, L. Taylor#	
27, 31	Duxbury, Squantum	5, 7	D. Clapp, K. Ryan	
Great Egret				
4, 5	P.I.	2, 1	BBC (R. McHale, S. Thomas)	
11, 13-25	S. Monomoy, P.I.	1, 1	B. Nikula, v.o.	
Snowy Egret				
3, 19, 26	P.I.	10, 3, 1	G. Wood, M. Lynch#, J. Nove#	
4, 5, 13	E. Boston (B.I.)	48, 7, 4	S. Zende	
5, 26	Nantucket	28, 1	BBC (D. Davis), M. Litchfield	
Little Blue Heron				
2, 4	Scituate, Nantucket	1, 1	J. Hassett#, BBC (D. Davis)	
Cattle Egret				
29	Nant. (Bartlett's)	2	E. + J. Andrews	
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
thr	Yarmouthport	177 max 10/7	J. Aylward	
4	E. Boston (B.I.)	11	S. Zende	
Glossy Ibis				
5	Naushon I.	1	P. Trimble	

WATERFOWL

A **Fulvous Whistling-Duck** was found on Sachacha Pond, Nantucket, on October 9; it was last seen coming to decoys with American Black Ducks in Polpis Harbor on October 25. This is the sixteenth record for the state. The most recent record was of two birds photographed on South Monomoy on August 7, 1983. At Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary in Topsfield, over 125 Wood Ducks were tallied.

The Ring-necked Duck population on the Lakeville ponds swelled to over 1100 individuals on October 18. Other large flocks were recorded from the Cherry Hill Reservoir in West Newbury and also at Fresh Pond in Cambridge. Ruddy Ducks were reported in good numbers from five locations. Unusual species included a young male King Eider on Nantucket and a Eurasian Wigeon on South Monomoy.

R.H.S.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCTOBER 1986
Fulvous Whistling-Duck				
9-25	Nantucket	1	A. + F. Werner + v.o.	
Mute Swan				
18	Plymouth-Bourne	46	SSBC (A. Leggett)	
Snow Goose				
thr	P.I.	60 max 10/5	G. Wood + v.o.	
1, 5	Marshfield, Medford	120, 30	D. Clapp, BBC (R. Clayton)	
Brant				
18	Plymouth-Bourne	175	SSBC (A. Leggett)	
18, 25	Barnstable, Revere	2, 1	M. Lynch#, J. Cumming	
25, 31	Winthrop, Salisbury	7, 2	J. Cumming, G. Wood	
Canada Goose				
2, 13	Watertown, Ipswich	132, 900	R. Stymeist, J. Berry	
19, 20	W. Newbury, P.I.	1354, 436	M. Lynch#, G. Wood	
Wood Duck				
10	Topsfield (IRWS)	125+	M. West	
11, 12	GMNWR, Braintree	30+, 30	M. Lynch#, G. d'Entremont	
Green-winged Teal				
11	Manomet, GMNWR	5, 75+	W. Petersen, S. Carroll#	
13	Lexington, Ipswich	25+, 57	J. Carter, J. Berry	
19, 25; 25	S. Monomoy; P.I.	225, 250; 265	B. Nikula; BBC (F. Bouchard)	
American Black Duck				
1, 19	Plymouth, S. Monomoy	200, 100	D. Clapp, B. Nikula	
Mallard				
1	Plymouth	250	D. Clapp	
Northern Pintail				
11	Ipswich (Clarks Pond)	50	R. Forster	
11; 11, 25	GMNWR; S. Monomoy	18; 60, 50	M. Lynch#; B. Nikula	
13, 23	Rowley, Yarmouthport	10, 38	J. Berry, J. Aylward	
26	P.I.	35	BBC (J. Nove)	
Blue-winged Teal				
11, 13	Sandwich, Rowley	4, 10	P. Trimble, J. Berry	
19, 25	Salisbury, S. Monomoy	2, 3	M. Lynch#, B. Nikula	
26	P.I.	2	BBC (J. Nove)	
Northern Shoveler				
11, 25	S. Monomoy	60, 30	B. Nikula	
11, 29	GMNWR	19, 11	M. Lynch#, M. Hall	
18, 26	Ipswich, Falmouth	2, 1	J. Berry, P. Trimble	
27	P. I.	1	G. Wood	
Gadwall				
11	Ipswich, Plymouth	18, 4	R. Forster, W. Petersen	
13, 28	Rowley, Ipswich	6, 6-8	J. Berry	
19, 25	S. Monomoy	100, 80	B. Nikula	
29, 30	GMNWR, Cambr. (F. P.)	31, 1	M. Hall, J. Barton	
Eurasian Wigeon				
11, 25	S. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula	
American Wigeon				
thr	GMNWR	120+ max 10/11	M. Lynch#	
thr	Cambridge	21 max 10/15	J. Barton#	
5, 13, 25	Arlington	57, 68, 7	L. Taylor + v.o.	
11, 19, 25	S. Monomoy	125, 80, 150	B. Nikula	
13, 28	Ipswich	75+, 140	J. Berry	
Canvasback				
15-31	Cambridge (F.P.)	201 max 10/30	J. Barton + v.o.	
25	S. Monomoy	4	B. Nikula	
Ring-necked Duck				
thr	Lakeville	1100+ max 10/18	W.Petersen + v.o.	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCTOBER 1986
Ring-necked Duck (continued)				
thr	W. Newbury (Cherry Hill)	300 max 10/16	R. Forster + v.o.	
thr	Cambr. (F.P.)	103 max 10/30	J. Barton + v.o.	
11, 25	S. Monomoy	55, 10	B. Nikula	
11, 12	Petersham, Braintree	12, 250+	K. Anderson, G. d'Entremont	
Greater Scaup				
thr	Cambr. (F.P.)	22 max 10/30	J. Barton + v.o.	
13, 19	P.I., W. Newbury	20, 50+	W. Petersen#, M. Lynch#	
26, 28	Nant., Lakeville	120, 250	M. Litchfield, K. Ryan	
Lesser Scaup				
thr	Cambr. (F.P.)	5 max	J. Barton + v.o.	
12, 19	Braintree, Lexington	5, 6	G. d'Entremont, J. Carter	
22, 30	Lakeville	3, 21	D. Briggs, K. Ryan	
scaup sp.				
11, 25	S. Monomoy	30, 100	B. Nikula	
Common Eider				
17, 24, 29	Nant. Sound	200, 450, 700	M. Litchfield	
18	Manomet	200 (1.5 hrs)	W. Petersen	
King Eider				
24	Nantucket	1 juv m	M. Litchfield	
Oldsquaw				
11, 18	Manomet	1, 18	W. Petersen	
17, 24, 29	Nant. Sound	2, 5, 50	M. Litchfield	
18, 29	Barnstable (S. N.), P.I.	222, 5	M. Lynch#, G. Wood	
Black Scoter				
11	Barnstable (S.N.), Manomet	50, 450 (1.5 hrs)	P. Trimble, W. Petersen	
14, 17	Nant. Sound	16, 25	M. Litchfield + v.o.	
24, 29	Nant. Sound	75, 350	M. Litchfield + v.o.	
Surf Scoter				
11, 18	Barnstable (S.N.)	1500+, 1975	P. Trimble, M. Lynch#	
11, 18	Manomet 1650 (1.5 hrs),	1225 (1.5 hrs)	W. Petersen	
14, 17	Nant. Sound	202, 600+	M. Litchfield + v.o.	
24, 29	Nant. Sound	700, 400	M. Litchfield + v.o.	
18	Dennis (Corp. B.)	500	B. Nikula	
White-winged Scoter				
11, 18	Barnstable (S.N.)	1500, 588	P. Trimble, M. Lynch#	
11, 18	Manomet 500 (1.5 hrs),	200 (1.5 hrs)	W. Petersen	
11, 28	Monomoy, P.I.	1000, 100	B. Nikula, G. Wood	
17, 24, 29	Nant. Sound	250+, 400, 350	M. Litchfield	
Common Goldeneye				
11, 12	Lakeville, Braintree	1, 2	W. Petersen, G. d'Entremont	
Bufflehead				
28, 29	Lakeville, Salem	75, 12	K. Ryan, J. Berry	
Hooded Merganser				
11, 25	S. Monomoy	1, 2	B. Nikula	
24, 25	N. Orange, Arlington	1, 7	C. Ryan, L. Taylor	
26, 28	Falmouth, Lakeville	15, 10	P. Trimble, K. Ryan	
Common Merganser				
12	Quabbin (G40)	17	S. Carroll#	
29	GMNWR	2	M. Hall	
Red-breasted Merganser				
18	Barnstable (S.N.)	574	M. Lynch#	
18	Manomet, Lakeville	225 (1.5 hrs), 1	W. Petersen	
19, 26	S. Monomoy, Nantucket	1500, 400	B. Nikula, M. Litchfield	
Ruddy Duck				
thr	Lakeville	70 max 10/18	W. Petersen + v.o.	
thr	Arlington	27 max 10/18	L. Taylor + v.o.	
11, 19, 25	S. Monomoy	140, 190, 330	B. Nikula	
12, 19	Braintree, W. Newbury	125, 80+	G. d'Entremont, M. Lynch#	

RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS

Ospreys were reported from sixteen or more locations with at least 31 individuals noted; this far and away surpasses the 8 individuals reported last October. A good flight of Sharp-shinned Hawks was

noted from Nantucket during the first eleven days of the month, with 96 noted on October 1 during a warm northwesterly wind. A subadult **Golden Eagle** was described at Mount Watatic on October 25. The Peregrine Falcon numbers were astonishing; at least 44 birds were reported; 31 were noted last October. A dark-phase **Gyr Falcon** was reported from Morris Island in Chatham on October 5 and was seen again two days later by other observers (who submitted convincing field notes). Another large falcon was reported from Plum Island on October 20. This bird was observed twice for a total time of about an hour. It was observed in flight and in pursuit of prey, catching an American Black Duck. The hunting behavior and the lack of a distinct facial pattern suggested Gyr Falcon to some of the observers.

R.H.S.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCTOBER 1986
Turkey Vulture				
10, 12	Randolph, Barre	1, 6	J. Heywood, M. Lynch#	
12, 20	Quabbin (G40), Millis	3, 1	S. Carroll#, R. Forster	
Osprey				
1-19	11 locations	21 ind	v.o.	
19	GMNWR	5 (all fishing)	G. Gove#	
23-27	4 locations	5 ind	v.o.	
Bald Eagle				
19, 20	Quabbin (G40), Concord	1 imm, 2	E. Nielsen, R. Drinker	
29, 30	N. Monomoy, GMNWR	1 imm, 1 imm	B. Nikula, R. Sher	
Northern Harrier				
thr	P.I.	5 max 10/16	G. Wood + v.o.	
5, 8	Nauset Beach, Sudbury	4, 2	M. Lynch#, R. Forster#	
11, 19, 25	S. Monomoy	4+, 2+, 4	B. Nikula	
11; 12, 25	Halifax; N. Monomoy	3; 2, 4	W. Petersen; B. Nikula	
	Other reports of 1 or 2 individuals from six locations.			
Sharp-shinned Hawk				
1-11	Nantucket	96 max 10/1 (total 171)	T. Carrolan	
4, 5	ONWR, Eastham	2, 3	S. Carroll, M. Lynch	
5	Natick, Waltham	6, 2	R. Forster, L. Taylor	
5	E. Boston (B.I.)	10	S. Zende#	
Cooper's Hawk				
3, 4	Bolton Flats, Lincoln	1 ad, 1	M. Lynch#, R. Forster	
5, 8	Natick, Sudbury	2, 1	R. Forster, R. Walton#	
11, 18	GMNWR, E. Middleboro	1 imm, 1	M. Lynch#, K. Anderson	
19	Cotuit, Truro	1, 1	E. Henderson, L. Taylor#	
25, 26	Yarmouthport, Millis	1, 1	J. Aylward, M. Kasprzyk	
Northern Goshawk				
3, 4	ONWR	1 ad, 1 imm	M. Lynch, S. Carroll	
12	Gay Head (M.V.)	1 imm (eating gull)	J. Gordon#	
17, 23	Lakeville, N. Orange	1, 1	K. Ryan, C. Ryan	
Red-shouldered Hawk				
5	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson	
Red-tailed Hawk				
5	Waltham	5	L. Taylor	
12, 19	Cuttyhunk, E. Boston	2, 1	P. Trimble, S. Zende#	
Rough-legged Hawk				
4	Nantucket	1	BBC (D. Davis)	
Golden Eagle				
25	Mt. Watatic	1 subadult	P. Roberts	
American Kestrel				
thr	Beverly-Boston (train)	4 max 10/29	J. Berry	
4, 5	Nantucket, P.I.	6, 3	BBC (D. Davis), G. Wood	
Merlin				
1-11	Nantucket	8+	T. Carrolan + v.o.	
3, 5	P.I.	1, 1	G. Wood	
5, 11	Cuttyhunk, GMNWR	3, 1	P. Trimble, S. Carroll#	
12, 23	Quabbin (G40), Cambr.	1, 1	M. Lynch#, S. Dennison#	
Peregrine Falcon				
thr	N. Monomoy	4 max 10/8	P. Trull + v.o.	
1-11	Nantucket	total 23+	T. Carrolan	
1	Scituate, P.I.	1, 1	J. Hasset, G. Wood	
3, 4	Lancaster, Yarmouthport	1 imm, 1	M. Lynch#, R. Scott	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCTOBER 1986
Peregrine Falcon (continued)				
5	Chatham, E. Orleans	3, 1	S. Carroll#, A. + E. Williams	
5, 12	Cuttyhunk	1, 1	P. Trimble	
11, 19, 25	S. Monomoy	1+, 2+, 2+	B. Nikula	
13, 16	Newbypt, Rockport	1, 1	W. Petersen, R. Norris	
Gyr Falcon (details submitted)				
5, 7	Chatham (Morris I.)	1 dk	N. Proctor#, M. McClellan#	
large <i>Falco</i> sp. (details submitted)				
20	P.I.	1 dk	D. Arvidson#	
Ruffed Grouse				
11	Manomet	1 road kill	W. Petersen	
18	Ipswich	1	J. Berry	
Northern Bobwhite				
5, 11	Belmont, Easton	4, 11	L. Taylor, K. Ryan	
Virginia Rail				
11, 29; 13	GMNWR; Harwich	7, 1; 1	M. Lynch#, M. Hall; P. Trimble	
Sora				
11, 21	GMNWR, Nantucket	3, 1	M. Lynch#, B. Sorrie	
Common Moorhen				
11, 19	GMNWR, WBWS	1, 1	M. Lynch#, G. d'Entremont#	
American Coot				
1, 11	Plymouth	1, 20	D. Clapp, W. Petersen	
11, 19, 25	S. Monomoy	6, 5, 9	B. Nikula	
12, 13	Braintree, W. Newbury	17, 3	G. d'Entremont, J. Berry	
23-31	Cambridge (F.P.)	4-5	J. Barton	
25	Arlington	4	L. Taylor	
29, 30	GMNWR, Lakeville	21, 36	M. Hall, K. Ryan	

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Up to 30 Lesser Golden-Plovers were present at Nantucket and 15 Whimbrels, which is a relatively high count for this date, were seen at Eastham. A juvenile Hudsonian Godwit was seen at Arlington Reservoir; there are few inland records of this species in eastern Massachusetts. One Marbled Godwit was seen on at North Monomoy. Of the few Baird's Sandpipers reported this year, one was noted in Marshfield on October 8.

Up to 350 Laughing Gulls were counted at Cuttyhunk, and Little, Common Black-headed, Lesser Black-backed, and Glaucous gulls were reported. At least two Lesser Black-backed Gulls were found on Nantucket where 200 to 300 Roseate and Common terns were present in a mixed flock all month. Forster's Terns were also noted for most of the month with up to 23 at Duxbury. One Dovekie was seen on the BBC pelagic trip on October 26.

A Nanday Conure seen in Clinton was a probable escape but must have been spectacular to see in the "wild" in Massachusetts, and a Northern Saw-whet Owl livened things up for people wandering about Fresh Pond in search of an elusive rarity. Four Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported from Nantucket.

G.W.G.

Black-bellied Plover

thr	N. Monomoy	800 max 10/12	B. Nikula + v.o.
11, 26	Nantucket	45, 30	M. Litchfield
19, 21	Petersham, P.I.	7, 15	E. Nielsen, M. Kasprzyk

Lesser Golden-Plover

thr, 12-29	P.I., N. Monomoy	4 max 10/3, 2 max 10/12	G. Wood + v.o., B. Nikula
3, 28	Nantucket, Ipswich	30, 3	BBC (D. Davis), J. Berry
5, 12	Nantucket, M.V.	15, 9	M. Litchfield, R. Stymeist

Semipalmated Plover

thr	N. Monomoy	50 max 10/20	B. Nikula
16, 27	P.I., Plymouth	47, 16	G. Wood, D. Clapp

Killdeer

5, 11	Arlington, Ipswich	16, 47	L. Taylor, R. Forster
12, 23	Petersham, Concord	11, 85	M. Lynch, R. Forster
30	Lakeville	6	K. Ryan

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCTOBER 1986
American Oystercatcher				
11, 19, 29	Chatham	26, 14, 9	B. Nikula	
14, 24	Nantucket	1, 6	F. Bouchard, M. Litchfield	
Greater Yellowlegs				
5, 13	Eastham, Newbypt	78, 55	M. Lynch, J. Berry#	
10, 11	Winchester, Nantucket	5, 10	B. Sorrie, M. Litchfield	
19, 21	P.I.	15, 46	M. Kasprzyk#, M. Lynch	
Lesser Yellowlegs				
13	Lexington, Newbypt	7, 15	J. Carter, W. Petersen#	
19, 21	Wellfleet, P.I.	4, 1	G. d'Entremont, M. Kasprzyk#	
Solitary Sandpiper				
5	P.I.	1	G. d'Entremont	
Willet				
13, 22	Newbypt	2, 1	J. Berry#, G. Wood	
Spotted Sandpiper				
12	Randolph, Braintree	2, 1	G. d'Entremont	
Whimbrel				
5, 17	P.I., Eastham	1, 15	G. d'Entremont#, D. Briggs	
Hudsonian Godwit				
11, 13, 29	Newbypt	6, 11, 13	R. Forster, J. Berry#, G. Wood	
13	Arlington	1 juv	R. Stymeist#	
19	S. Dartmouth, S. Monomoy	1, 1	T. Raymond, B. Nikula	
29	Scituate	1	J. Hassett	
Marbled Godwit				
29	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula	
Ruddy Turnstone				
5	Nantucket	6	BBC (D. Davis)	
Red Knot				
thr	N. Monomoy	100 max 10/12	B. Nikula	
27	Plymouth	56	D. Clapp	
Sanderling				
thr	N. Monomoy	1000 max 10/12, 20	B. Nikula	
16, 17	P.I., Nantucket	60, 27	G. Wood, M. Litchfield	
27	Duxbury	375	D. Clapp	
Semipalmated Sandpiper				
1-21	Newbypt-P.I.	100 max 10/1	v.o.	
12, 19	M.V., Eastham	30, 40	R. Stymeist#, G. d'Entremont#	
27	Plymouth	6	D. Clapp	
Least Sandpiper				
10, 12	Winchester, N. Monomoy	2, 15	B. Sorrie, B. Nikula#	
Western Sandpiper				
6	Marshfield	1	J. Hassett	
White-rumped Sandpiper				
thr	P.I.	20 max 10/13	G. Wood	
thr	N. Monomoy	15 max 10/12	B. Nikula	
18, 28	E. Quabbin, Nantucket	6, 1	B. Blodget, M. Litchfield	
Baird's Sandpiper				
8	Marshfield	1	D. Clapp	
Pectoral Sandpiper				
thr	N. Monomoy	100 max 10/12	B. Nikula	
5, 12	Arlington, M.V.	5, 15	L. Taylor, R. Stymeist	
18, 21	E. Quabbin, P.I.	75, 1	B. Blodget, M. Kasprzyk	
Purple Sandpiper				
20	N. Scituate	25	S. Higginbotham	
26	Lynn	3	BBC (H. D'Entremont)	
Dunlin				
thr	N. Monomoy	1500 max 10/29	B. Nikula	
13, 21	Newbypt, P.I.	15, 1600+	J. Berry#, M. Kasprzyk	
19, 27	S. Dartmouth, Duxbury	300, 1750	T. Raymond, D. Clapp	
Stilt Sandpiper				
11	Newbypt	1 juv	R. Forster	
Short-billed Dowitcher				
13, 19	Newbypt, P.I.	1-2 juv, 4	J. Berry#, M. Lynch	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCTOBER 1986
Long-billed Dowitcher				
13-29	Newbypt-P.I.	75 max 10/21	v.o.	
Common Snipe				
2, 13	P.I., Newbypt	1, 2	G. Wood, W. Petersen#	
19, 29	P'town, GMNWR	7, 1	G. d'Entremont, M. Hall	
American Woodcock				
11, 29	Petersham, Nantucket	1, 2	E. Nielsen, M. Litchfield	
Wilson's Phalarope				
3	WBWS	1	D. Clapp	
Red Phalarope				
18	Manomet	3	M. Lynch	
Parasitic Jaeger				
18, 31	Barnstable, Nantucket	1, 1	M. Lynch, M. Litchfield	
Laughing Gull				
5, 12	Cuttyhunk	60, 350	P. Trimble	
4, 5	Nantucket, Chatham	30, 50	M. Litchfield, M. Lynch	
Little Gull				
13, 26	Newbypt, Plymouth	1 ad, 1 ad	W. Petersen#, BBC (H.	
D'Entremont)				
Common Black-headed Gull				
4	Yarmouthport	1	R. Scott	
Bonaparte's Gull				
13, 27	Newbypt, Plymouth	260, 24	J. Berry, D. Clapp	
Ring-billed Gull				
thr	Beverly to Boston	125 max 10/29	J. Berry	
1, 13	Plymouth, Newbypt	700, 150	D. Clapp, J. Berry	
27	Barnstable	350	J. Aylward	
Iceland Gull				
26	Stellwagen	1	BBC (H. D'Entremont)	
Lesser Black-backed Gull				
7, 11, 15	Nantucket	1 (1S), 1 ad, 1 ad	M. Litchfield	
Glaucous Gull				
thr	Nantucket	1 (3W)	M. Litchfield	
Black-legged Kittiwake				
18, 26	Barnstable, Stellwagen	7, 40	M. Lynch, BBC (H. D'Entremont)	
Caspian Tern				
2, 19	Marshfield, Salisbury	2, 2	J. Hassett, M. Lynch	
Roseate Tern				
3	Nantucket	110	M. Litchfield	
Common Tern				
3, 18	Nantucket, Chatham	40, 300	M. Litchfield, J. Aylward#	
Roseate and Common terns				
4, 31	Nantucket	300, 200	M. Litchfield	
Forster's Tern				
11, 14	Newbypt, Nantucket	1, 1	R. Forster, F. Bouchard	
12, 19	Chatham	9, 12	B. Nikula	
27, 30	Duxbury, Marshfield	23, 5	D. Clapp, J. Hassett	
Dovekie				
26	Stellwagen	1	BBC (H. D'Entremont)	
Nanday Conure				
22	Clinton	1 escape	B. Blodget	
Eastern Screech-Owl				
4, 11	ONWR, Hamilton	1, 1	M. Lynch, J. Berry	
26	Chatham	1	B. Nikula	
Great Horned Owl				
5, 24	E. Middleboro	5, 1	K. Anderson	
11, 28	Hamilton, E. Orleans	2-3, 1	J. Berry, E. Williams	
Barred Owl				
11, 12	Hamilton, Petersham	1, 5	J. Berry, M. Lynch	
24	Stoncham	1	M. Martinek	
Short-eared Owl				
22	Nantucket	3	B. Sorrie#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCTOBER 1986
Northern Saw-whet Owl				
10, 25	IRWS, Cambridge (F.P.)	1, 1	M. West, R. Williams + v.o.	
27	Cambridge	1	P. Kleespies	
Belted Kingfisher				
thr	Beverly to Boston	3 max 10/14	J. Berry	
5, 30	Nantucket, Lakeville	7, 2	BBC (D. Davis), K. Ryan	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				
7, 12	Nantucket, Cuttyhunk	4, 1	M. Litchfield, P. Trimble	
19	P'town	1	G. d'Entremont	
Downy Woodpecker				
3	Ipswich	7	J. Berry	
Hairy Woodpecker				
19, 25	Petersham, S. Monomoy	6, 1	E. Nielsen, B. Nikula	
Northern Flicker				
4	Nantucket	25	BBC (D. Davis)	

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

There was little evidence of strong migration in the October reports. Exceptions were Red-breasted Nuthatch and Golden-crowned Kinglet, which were widely distributed in good numbers during the first three weeks of the month. Also, a few winter finch species arrived, including an early Common Redpoll at East Quabbin on the nineteenth and large flocks of Pine Siskins throughout the region beginning on the ninth. Small flocks of Evening Grosbeaks made an appearance from the nineteenth on. Weather conditions seemed excellent for southward migration on October 6-7, but migrant reports during that period were notable only from Nantucket, where Eastern Wood-Pewee, eight species of warblers including an Orange-crowned and ten Palms, Indigo Bunting, and Lapland Longspur were observed.

Carolina Wren numbers from Falmouth continued high as they had in September. Other species occurring in good numbers included Eastern Bluebird with 47 at East Quabbin on the nineteenth and Common Raven with a flock of 12 seen simultaneously at Mt. Watatic on the twenty-fifth. Single individuals of Blue Grosbeak and Dickcissel constituted, in both cases, the lowest October counts for at least the last ten years. White-crowned Sparrow, which typically appears in either very large or very small numbers, demonstrated another off year.

Leading the list of rarities was the Nantucket jackdaw, which continued throughout the month. The unusual sparrow department included three Clay-colored at a variety of sites and dates, a Lark Sparrow seen on the eleventh, and a **Henslow's Sparrow** seen on the third, both at Bolton Flats in Lancaster. Many field-hours on the part of a large number of observers were spent searching unsuccessfully for a Redwing, the European thrush, which was reported during the interval from October 21 to 23. Though details of this exceedingly unusual species were received from two observers, typically sufficient for inclusion in the record, this sighting must be considered hypothetical in light of the facts that one of the observations was for a total of less than ten seconds, that the second was at a distance of more than 100 meters, and that such a large number of other observers were unable to detect the bird.

South Monomoy is a most unusual site for the reports of Northern Cardinal and House Sparrow, but single individuals of both of these species were found there on the twenty-fifth. Similarly, a Sharp-tailed Sparrow that was seen off and on for ten days at Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge in Concord was at an unusual (though not unprecedented) location. L.E.T.

Eastern Wood-Pewee				
7	Nantucket	1	M. Litchfield	
Eastern Phoebe				
12, 19	P.I., Quabbin (G40)	1, 2	G. d'Entremont#, E. Nielsen	
Western Kingbird				
3, 4	M.V., Nantucket	3, 1	P. Vickery, M. Litchfield	
12, 12-13	N. Truro, Nant.	1, 1	W. Petersen#, F. Bouchard	
24, 31	Eastham, E. Quabbin	1, 1	W. Bailey, C. Wittgoth	
Eastern Kingbird				
5	Nantucket	1	BBC (D. Davis)	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCTOBER 1986
Barn Swallow				
24, 25	N. Scituate, Falmouth	2, 1	D. Ludlow#, J. Hassett	
Blue Jay				
3, 12	Ipswich, Topsfield	40, 52	J. Berry	
Eurasian Jackdaw				
thr	Nantucket	1	E. Andrews#	
Common Raven:				
25	Mt. Watatic	12	P. Roberts	
Red-breasted Nuthatch				
2, 3	Brookline, Ipswich	1, 24	H. Wiggin, J. Berry	
7; 12, 19	Nant.; Quabbin (G 40)	15; 27, 42	M. Litchfield; M. Lynch#	
Carolina Wren				
thr, 12	Brookline, M.V.	2 max, 6	H. Wiggin#, R. Stymeist#	
17, 19	Easton, Orleans	1, 3	K. Ryan, G. d'Entremont#	
26, 29	Falmouth, E. Middleboro	12, 1	P. Trimble, K. Anderson	
House Wren				
12, 17	Concord, Lancaster	1, 1	J. Carter, M. Kasprzyk	
24	N. Scituate	1	J. Hassett	
Winter Wren				
2, 25	P.I., S. Monomoy	1, 1	G. Wood, B. Nikula	
Marsh Wren				
5, 12	Marshfield, Randolph	3, 3	J. Hassett, G. d'Entremont	
Golden-crowned Kinglet				
2, 5	Brookline, Waltham	3, 12	H. Wiggin, L. Taylor	
9, 18	Lexington, Ipswich	7, 8	J. Carter, J. Berry	
19	Quabbin (G40)	52	E. Nielsen	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				
2, 12, 19	P.I., Topsfield, Quabbin (G40)	5, 3, 1	G. Wood, J. Berry, E. Nielsen	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				
10	Scituate	2	D. Clapp	
Eastern Bluebird				
12, 13	Quab. (G40), E. Middleboro	32, 1	S. Carroll#, K. Anderson	
19, 23	Quab. (G40), Stow	49, 3	E. Nielsen, T. Carrolan	
Swainson's Thrush				
1	Chatham	1	P. Trimble	
Hermit Thrush				
11, 12	Hamilton, Quab. (G40)	4, 11	J. Berry, S. Carroll#	
13, 29	P.I., Sandwich	3, 7	W. Petersen, P. Trimble	
Wood Thrush				
12	Cuttyhunk	1	P. Trimble	
American Robin				
12, 25	Topsfield, Holliston	100, 124	J. Berry, R. Hildreth	
Water Pipit				
3, 5	Lancaster, Nantucket	36, 10	M. Lynch#, M. Litchfield	
23	Concord	70	R. Forster#	
Cedar Waxwing				
3-4, 24	ONWR, Wayland	2, 8	M. Lynch#, R. Forster	
Northern Shrike				
31	Nantucket	1 b	E. Andrews	
Solitary Vireo				
19	Salisbury, Truro	1, 1	S. Carroll#, L. Taylor#	
Red-eyed Vireo				
2, 3	P.I., Ipswich	2, 1	G. Wood, J. Berry	
Orange-crowned Warbler				
7, 25	Nantucket, N. Monomoy	1, 1	M. Litchfield, B. Nikula	
28	Belmont	1	L. Taylor	
Nashville Warbler				
3, 7	Ipswich, Nantucket	1, 2	J. Berry, M. Litchfield	
19, 25	Truro, Cambr. (F.P.)	1, 1-2	L. Taylor#, v.o.	
Northern Parula				
4, 7	Holliston, Nantucket	1, 3	R. Hildreth, M. Litchfield	
Cape May Warbler				
3, 9	Ipswich, Nantucket	2, 12	J. Berry, M. Litchfield	
18	Lakeville	1	W. Petersen	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCTOBER 1986
Black-throated Blue Warbler				
7, 30	Nantucket, Needham	3, 1 m	M. Litchfield, D. Case	
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
4, 5	Holliston, Nantucket	23, 50	R. Hildreth, F. Bouchard	
Black-throated Green Warbler				
3, 7	Ipswich, Nantucket	1 m, 4	J. Berry, M. Litchfield	
15, 26	Nantucket, Falmouth	2, 1	M. Litchfield, P. Trimble	
Pine Warbler				
3, 26	Ipswich, Falmouth	1 m, 4	J. Berry, P. Trimble	
Palm Warbler				
7, 17	Nantucket, Lancaster	10, 2	M. Litchfield, M. Kasprzyk	
19	Eastham, Cuttyhunk	6, 5	G. d'Entremont#, P. Trimble	
25	Belmont	2	L. Taylor	
Bay-breasted Warbler				
12	Quabbin (G40)	1	S. Carroll#	
Blackpoll Warbler				
3	Watertown, Ipswich	12, 15	M. Hall, J. Berry	
9, 26	Nantucket, Falmouth	5, 1	M. Litchfield, P. Trimble	
American Redstart				
7	Nantucket	4	M. Litchfield	
Common Yellowthroat				
11, 17	Quab. (G40), Lancaster	1, 1	E. Nielsen, M. Kasprzyk	
Wilson's Warbler				
7	Nantucket	1 f	M. Litchfield	
Yellow-breasted Chat				
24	Cambridge (F. P.)	1	R. Stymeist#	
Northern Cardinal				
thr, 25	Brookline, S. Monomoy	6, 1	H. Wiggin#, B. Nikula	
Blue Grosbeak				
5	Nantucket	1	F. Bouchard	
Indigo Bunting				
7, 13	Nantucket, Harwich	3, 1	M. Litchfield, P. Trimble	
Dickcissel				
1-3	WBWS	1	P. Trimble#	
Rufous-sided Towhee				
3, 11	Ipswich, Nantucket	3, 2	J. Berry, M. Litchfield	
American Tree Sparrow				
25	Belmont, Milford	1, 2	L. Taylor, R. Hildreth	
31	Salisbury	6	G. Wood	
Chipping Sparrow				
10, 13	Worcester, P.I.	20, 15	M. Lynch#, W. Petersen#	
Clay-colored Sparrow				
5	Nantucket, Chatham	1, 1	F. Bouchard, J. Cumming	
22-31	Wayland	1	B. Howell#	
Field Sparrow				
5, 13	Nantucket, Lexington	2, 25	F. Bouchard, J. Carter	
19	Holliston, Cuttyhunk	4, 6	R. Hildreth, P. Trimble	
Vesper Sparrow				
3, 17; 3	Lancaster; ONWR	2, 2; 2	v.o.; S. Carroll#	
11	Quabbin (G40)	1	E. Nielsen	
Lark Sparrow				
11	Lancaster	1	E. Nielsen	
Savannah Sparrow				
9, 17	Ipswich, Lancaster	40, 30	J. Berry, M. Kasprzyk	
Henslow's Sparrow (details submitted)				
3	Lancaster	1	M. Lynch#	
Sharp-tailed Sparrow				
13, 19-29	Newburyport, GMNWR	15, 1	W. Petersen, v.o.	
Seaside Sparrow				
13, 19	Newburyport	2, 1	v.o.	
Fox Sparrow				
18, 25	Worcester, S. Monomoy	1, 1	S. Carroll#, B. Nikula	
26, 27	Lexington, Duxbury	2, 1	L. Taylor, D. Clapp	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCTOBER 1986
Lincoln's Sparrow				
3, 13-26	Lancaster, 3 loc	3, 3 total	M. Lynch#, v.o.	
26, 28	Falmouth, Ipswich	1, 1	P. Trimble, J. Berry	
Swamp Sparrow				
3, 28	Lancaster, Ipswich	90, 2	M. Lynch#, J. Berry	
White-throated Sparrow				
2, 11	Watertown, Quabbin (G40)	6, 35	R. Stymeist, E. Nielsen	
White-crowned Sparrow				
3, 4	Lancaster, ONWR	3, 3	S. Carroll#	
4-18, 26	4 loc, Falmouth	8 total, 1	v.o., P. Trimble	
Dark-eyed Junco				
2, 19	Watertown, Quab. (G40)	4, 75	R. Stymeist, E. Nielsen	
Lapland Longspur				
7, 13	Nantucket, P.I.	1, 7	T. Carrolan, W. Petersen#	
18, 21-31	E. Quabbin, Salisbury	1, 4 max	B. Blodget, v.o.	
Snow Bunting				
16-31, 25	P.I., Nantucket	200 max 10/28, 10	v.o., M. Litchfield	
25, 26	Monomoy, P'town	145, 20	B. Nikula, M. Lynch#	
26, 27	Plymouth, Duxbury Beach	25, 370	S. Carroll#, D. Clapp	
Bobolink				
3, 11	Watertown, Nantucket	1, 1	M. Hall, M. Litchfield	
Eastern Meadowlark				
5, 28	Newbypt, Ipswich	12, 6	G. d'Entremont, J. Berry	
Rusty Blackbird				
3, 5	Lancaster, Nant.	70, 4	M. Lynch#, F. Bouchard	
13-20	4 locations	8 total	v.o.	
20-30	Brookline	3	H. Wiggin	
Common Grackle				
11, 25	GMNWR, Milford	25, 6	S. Carroll#, R. Hildreth	
Purple Finch				
18, 19	Ipswich, Quabbin (G40)	2, 16	J. Berry, E. Nielsen	
Common Redpoll				
19	Quabbin (G40)	4	E. Nielsen	
Pine Siskin				
9-31	many locations	flocks up to 60	v.o.	
12, 26	Lancaster, M.V.	80, 100+	D. Dillavou#, I. Giriunas	
Evening Grosbeak				
19, 22	Salisbury, Lincoln	1, 3	M. Lynch#, R. Forster	
25, 31	Cambridge, Easton	1, 3	S. Carroll#, K. Ryan	
House Sparrow				
25	S. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula	



*Immature Goshawk eating Herring Gull
Gay Head, Martha's Vineyard, MA
October 12, 1986*

Photo by Jana Bergins-Laiz

FIELD RECORDS

NOVEMBER 1986



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

November was very cool, wet, snowy, and cloudy. The temperature averaged 42.3 degrees, 2.9 degrees below normal. The high was 72 degrees on the ninth,; the low was 19 degrees on November 14 and 20. Precipitation totaled 6.01 inches, 1.80 inches more than normal. Three days recorded more than an inch. This ranked as the twenty-second wettest November in 116 years. Snowfall totaled 3.5 inches, 2.3 inches more than average. The most in any day was 3.0 inches on November 19. This was the second greatest so early in the season in ninety-six years, the greatest early snowfall being 3.5 inches on November 6, 1894. The fastest minute of wind was clocked at 38 mph ENE on November 19. The peak gust was 51 mph NW on November 21, and this was the strongest gust since Hurricane Gloria in September 1985.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

A northeast wind and some fog on November 6 produced a good flight of Red-throated Loons and Northern Gannets, flying past Corporation Beach in Dennis. Similar situations occurred on November 19, 22, and 30, and good numbers of seabirds were seen along the coast. At First Encounter Beach in Eastham, over 10,000 Northern Gannets (approximately 85 percent of them adults) were counted in two hours of observation. At one point the birds were going by at the rate of 475 per minute.

A sighting of a **Pacific Loon** was reported from Plum Island on November 16. The bird was well seen and was compared with Red-throated Loons in the area. It was generally chunkier and heavier. Full details were received from two observers.

Unusual heron reports included late dates for Great Egret and Cattle Egret.

R.H.S.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	NOVEMBER 1986
Red-throated Loon				
1, 3	Duxbury Beach, Salisbury	76, 9	D. Clapp, D. Arvidson#	
6	Dennis (Corp. Beach)	395 (1 hr)	B. Nikula	
9, 16	Lakeville, Nant. (Low Beach)	1, 40+	W. Petersen#, M. Litchfield	
16	Salisbury, P.I.	27, 30	M. Lynch, S. Carroll	
26, 27	S.N., E. Orleans	100, 15+	P. Trimble, A. Williams	
Pacific Loon (details submitted)				
16	P.I.	1 ad	M. Lynch, M. Greenwald	
Common Loon				
thr	Nant. (Low Beach)	108 max 11/16	M. Litchfield	
2, 16	Lakeville	3, 7	W. Petersen	
22, 26	Plymouth Beach, S.N.	20, 60+	D. Donovan#, P. Trimble	
Pied-billed Grebe				
thr	Lakeville	18 max 11/1	W. Petersen + v.o.	
thr	Arlington, Cambridge	4 max, 1-2	L. Taylor, J. Barton	
4, 16	Canton, Plymouth	6, 7	K. Ryan, W. Petersen	
Horned Grebe				
thr	Revere (Short Beach)	32 max 11/1	J. Cumming	
thr	Lakeville	22 max 11/16	W. Petersen + v.o.	
26, 28	Barnstable (S.N.), P.I.	75, 8	P. Trimble, D. Chickering	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	NOVEMBER 1986
Red-necked Grebe				
1-16	Lakeville	1-2	W. Petersen	
22	Plymouth Beach, Duxbury	10, 4	D. Donovan, E. Salmela	
26, 30	Barnstable (S.N.), N. Scituate	4, 1	P. Trimble, W. Petersen	
Northern Fulmar				
19	Eastham (F.E.)	1	W. Petersen	
Greater Shearwater				
22, 30	Eastham (F.E.), N. Monomoy	6+, 1	B. Nikula, P. Bailey	
Northern Gannet				
1, 2	Ipswich, Winthrop	50+, 12	J. Berry, J Cumming	
6	Dennis (Corp. B.)	1200 in 1 hr	B. Nikula	
16	Nantucket (2 loc)	1500+	E. Andrews#	
19	Eastham (F.E.)	10,000+ in 2 hr	W. Petersen	
22,29	Plymouth, Stellw.	150, 80+	D. Donovan#, BBC (M. Blazis)	
Great Cormorant				
1, 22	Lakeville	3, 2	W. Petersen#, D. Donovan#	
23	Nahant (Egg Rock)	45	R. Forster	
Double-crested Cormorant				
1	Holliston, W. Yarmouth	1, 50	R. Hildreth, P. Trimble	
15, 23	Newbypt, Falmouth	10, 20	J. Berry, M. Lynch#	
23, 29	Waltham, Wayland	1, 1	R. Forster	
American Bittern				
thr, 2	P.I., Mashpee	1+, 1	v.o., P. Trimble	
10, 16	Nantucket (2 loc)	1, 1	R. Tate#, M. Litchfield	
28	Salisbury	1	D. Briggs#	
Great Blue Heron				
1-18	Saugus-Everett (train)	6 max 11/18	J. Berry	
8; 9, 15, 28	Wayland, P.I.	3; 2, 11	J. Cumming, D.	
Chickering				
18, 22	S. Dartmouth, Lakeville	11, 4	R. Marshall, D. Donovan#	
29, 30	Falmouth, E. Boston	14, 5	P. Trimble, J. Cumming	
Great Egret				
18, 26	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	R. Marshall	
Cattle Egret				
23	Falmouth	2	S. Carroll + M. Lynch	
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
2, 28	Plymouth, S. Monomoy	4, 3	W. Petersen#	

WATERFOWL

A Fulvous Whistling-Duck continued to be seen in the Nantucket area; it was first seen in October. Two adult Tundra Swans were found on Lake Assawompsett in the Middleboro-Lakeville area. In nearby Rochester, among a large flock of Canada Geese, a very small individual was seen, apparently a bird of the interior race *Branta canadensis hutchinsii* or "Richardson's" Goose. At Fresh Pond, the maximum number of Canvasbacks reached an astonishing 635 on November 17; the previous high was 337 on November 25, 1985. At Lakeville, Ring-necked Ducks totaled over 1200 on November 1, slightly less than last November's high count of 1650 birds. Also of note were the spectacular numbers in gigantic rafts of Common Eider, extending for nearly a mile to the east and southeast on the east side of Monomoy. Additional eiders constantly joined these flocks, flying in from the south. Three King Eiders were reported, and Harlequin Ducks were noted at two locations. The flight of both Common and Hooded mergansers as well as Ruddy Ducks was very good, and many of these birds were reported in exceptional numbers at traditional locations. R.H.S.

Fulvous Whistling-Duck				
7	Nant. (Quaise Marsh)	1	D. Beattie	
Mute Swan				
15, 23	Plymouth, Falmouth	67, 20	G. d'Entremont, M. Lynch#	
Tundra Swan				
16-23	Middleboro)	2 ad	W. Petersen + v.o.	
Snow Goose				
1-24	P.I.	25 max 11/9	D. Chickering + v.o.	
11	S. Dartmouth	1	LCES (R. Maker)	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	NOVEMBER 1986
Brant				
16, 18-20	Plymouth, Boston	1500, 300	W. Petersen, K. Anderson	
26	Barnstable (S.N.)	35	P. Trimble	
Canada Goose				
thr	Quabbin (G40)	280 max	M. Lynch#	
1, 8	Easton, Rochester	160, 600	K. Ryan, W. Petersen	
16	P.I., W. Newbury	290, 122	M. Lynch, S. Carroll	
Wood Duck				
2, 9	Quab. (G40), Lakeville	2, 4	M Lynch#, W. Petersen	
15	Plymouth (Billington Sea)	1	G. d'Entremont	
Green-winged Teal				
thr	P.I.	200+ max 11/9	D. Chickering + v.o.	
1. 8	Ipswich, GMNWR	60, 90	BBC (J. Berry), R. Walton	
15, 23	E. Boston (B.I.)	40+, 70	J. Cumming	
American Black Duck				
1	Easton, W. Yarmouth	80, 150	K. Ryan, P. Trimble	
16, 18	Plymouth, Allens Pond	600+, 497	W. Petersen, LCES (R. Marshall)	
23	S. Monomoy, N. Monomoy	50, 400	B. Nikula	
Mallard				
3, 10, 17	Cambr. (Charles R. Basin)	86, 195, 267	F. Bouchard	
Northern Pintail				
1	Ipswich, W. Yarmouth	20+, 5	BBC (J. Berry), P. Trimble	
8, 23	GMNWR, S. Monomoy	41, 30	R. Walton, B. Nikula	
Northern Shoveler				
3, 8	P.I., GMNWR	23, 11	D. Arvidson#, R. Walton	
23, 28	S. Monomoy	30, 14	B. Nikula, W. Petersen#	
Gadwall				
1	Ipswich, Plymouth	15+, 12	BBC (J. Berry), W. Petersen#	
2-23, 2	Cambridge, Waltham	1, 1	R. Stymeist#	
9, 16	P.I., Plymouth	11, 25	D. Chickering, W. Petersen	
23, 26	S. Monomoy, S. Dart.	4, 4	B. Nikula, LCES (R. Marshall)	
Eurasian Wigeon				
1, 2-30	Ipswich, Plymouth	1, 1	BBC (J. Berry), W. Petersen + v.o.	
23, 28	S. Monomoy	2, 1	B. Nikula, W. Petersen#	
30	Nant. (Hummock Pd)	1	M. Litchfield	
American Wigeon				
thr, 1	Cambridge, Ipswich	36 max, 105	J. Barton, BBC (J. Berry)	
2	Waltham (Hardy Pd)	88	R. Stymeist	
8, 16	GMNWR, Arlington	47, 45	R. Walton, L. Taylor	
23, 28	S. Monomoy	80, 70	B. Nikula, W. Petersen#	
Canvasback				
thr	Cambridge (F.P.)	635 max 11/17	J. Barton + v.o.	
thr.	Lakeville	120+ max 11/23	M. Lynch + v.o.	
Redhead				
1-16, 3-30	Plymouth, Cambridge	1, 1-3	W. Petersen#, J. Barton	
8-9, 15	Lakeville, Braintree	1, 6	W. Petersen, G. d'Entremont#	
15, 30	Falmouth	6, 19	P. Trimble	
Ring-necked Duck				
thr	Lakeville	1200 max 11/1	W. Petersen + v.o.	
thr	Cambridge (F.P.)	128 max 11/9	R. Stymeist + v.o.	
thr	W. Newbury	400 max 11/9	L. Taylor + v.o.	
9, 28	Quab. (G40), S. Monomoy	70, 75	M. Lynch#, W. Petersen#	
Greater Scaup				
1, 13	Ipswich, Cambridge	1, 20	BBC (J. Berry), J. Barton	
Lesser Scaup				
thr	Lakeville	375+ max 11/16	W. Petersen + v.o.	
5	Cambr., Boston Harbor	12, 1	J. Barton, M. Kasprzyk	
Common Eider				
thr	Nantucket Harbor	700 max 11/30	M. Litchfield	
2, 23	Nahant, Revere	2000+, 3000	J. Cumming, R. Forster	
28	S. Monomoy	50,000-75,000+	W. Petersen#	
King Eider				
1-9	Winthrop	1 imm m	J. Cumming + v.o.	
9, 21	A.P., Scituate	1 f, 1 m	C. Leahy + v.o., D. Clapp	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	NOVEMBER 1986
Harlequin Duck				
thr	Winthrop	pr	J. Cumming + v.o.	
30	Nauset Inlet	3	R. Prescott	
Oldsquaw				
28	S. Monomoy	800+	W. Petersen#	
Black Scoter				
29	Nauset	30	P. Trimble	
Surf Scoter				
23	Nahant	300	R. Forster	
White-winged Scoter				
23	Nahant	1000	R. Forster	
Common Goldeneye				
thr, 5-30	Quabbin (G40), Cambr.	48 max, 6 max	M. Lynch#, J. Barton	
5, 18	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1, 10	LCES (R. Marshall)	
Barrow's Goldeneye				
30	N. Scituate	1 m	W. Petersen	
Bufflehead				
1, 11	W. Yarmouth, S. Dart.	150, 92	P. Trimble, LCES (R. Marshall)	
16, 23	Lakeville, Nahant	200, 450	W. Petersen, R. Forster	
Hooded Merganser				
thr	Lakeville	70 max 11/23	M. Lynch + v.o.	
thr	Arlington	19 max 11/30	L. Taylor	
thr	Quabbin (G40)	51 max 11/15	M. Lynch#	
23	Waltham (Cambr. Res.)	41	R. Forster	
23	Falmouth	81	M. Lynch#	
Reports of 1-8 individuals noted from many locations.				
Common Merganser				
8, 20	Lakeville	30, 70	W. Petersen, K. Ryan	
8, 23	Waltham (Cambr. Res.)	20, 100	J. Cumming, R. Forster	
8, 9	GMNWR, Quabbin (G40)	12, 43	R. Walton, M. Lynch#	
23	S. Monomoy, Cambridge	3, 16	B. Nikula, J. Barton	
28	W. Newbury	27	R. Forster	
30	Arlington (Spy Pd)	13	L. Taylor	
Red-breasted Merganser				
11, 23	S. Dart., Falmouth	66, 54	LCES (R. Marshall), M. Lynch#	
22, 23	N. Monomoy, S. Monomoy	1000, 1200	B. Nikula	
Ruddy Duck				
thr	Arlington	35 max 11/2	L. Taylor + v.o.	
thr	Lakeville	200+ max 11/16	W. Petersen + v.o.	
thr	Waltham (Cambr. Res.)	128 max 11/23	R. Forster+ v.o.	
16	Plymouth, W. Newbury	26, 12	W. Petersen, M. Lynch#	
23	S. Monomoy, Braintree	65, 55	B. Nikula, G. d'Entremont	

RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS

Turkey Vultures and Ospreys lingered into early November. Of special note was a kettle of 19 Turkey Vultures reported from Still River on November 2. At Quabbin, at least 2 adult and 3 immature Bald Eagles were seen, and other eagles were noted from East Boston, Gloucester, and South Wellfleet. Red-tailed Hawks were in evidence with as many as 5 individuals, including one of the dark western race, at a small site on the Cambridge-Belmont line. On the Boston Common, a Red-tailed Hawk was observed on several occasions dining on gray squirrel and Rock Dove.

A Clapper Rail was seen at Belle Isle Marsh in East Boston. American Coot were reported in good numbers over a wide area.

R.H.S.

Turkey Vulture				
1, 2	Milton, Still River	1, 19	W. Davis, C. McElwain	
3	Easton	2	K. Ryan	
Osprey				
1	Westport, Plymouth	1, 1	R. Stymeist#, W. Petersen#	
2, 15	Lakeville, Groton	1, 1	W. Petersen#, L. Johnson	
Bald Eagle				
1, 4	E. Boston, Gloucester (E.P.)	1, 1 imm	S. Zende, E. Valentine	
25-30	Quabbin (G40)	2 ad, 3 imm	M. Lynch + v.o	
30	WBWS	2 imm	R. Prescott	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	NOVEMBER 1986
Northern Harrier				
thr	P.I.-Salisbury	10 max 11/15	P. Roberts + v.o.	
9, 15	Halifax, Eastham (F.H.)	4, 2	W. Petersen#, D. Arvidson#	
18, 30	Boston Harbor, Middleboro	2, 3	K. Anderson	
26, 28	S. Dart., S. Monomoy	3, 4	LCES (R. Marshall), W. Petersen#	
Sharp-shinned Hawk				
thr	P.I.-Salisbury	5 total	v.o.	
12, 18	S. Dartmouth	1, 1	LCES (R. Maker)	
16	Eastham (F.H.), Belmont	1, 1	P. Trimble, L. Taylor	
18, 22	Canton, Plymouth	1, 1	K. Ryan, D. Donovan#	
23, 28	Falmouth, Wakefield	1, 1	M. Lynch#, R. Forster	
Cooper's Hawk				
9, 15	Lakeville, P.I.	1, 1	W. Petersen, P. Roberts	
22, 27	Concord (2 loc)	1 imm, 1	K. + R. Forster, R. Walton	
Northern Goshawk				
1; 26, 28	Taunton; Halifax	1; 1	R. Stymeist; K. Anderson	
Red-shouldered Hawk				
15, 18	Quabbin (G40), Norwell	2 ad; 1	D. Johnson#, M. McSweeney	
Red-tailed Hawk				
thr	Cambr.-Belmont	5+ max 11/17	L. Robinson + v.o.	
10	Boston Common	1 eating squirrel	J. Codeno#	
30	Middleboro-Halifax	4	K. Anderson	
Rough-legged Hawk				
thr	P.I.-Salisbury	7 max 11/15 (5 dk + 2 lt)	P. Roberts + v.o.	
30	Marshfield	2	W. Petersen	
30	Halifax-Middleboro	4	K. Anderson	
Merlin				
1, 23, 25	Nantucket (3 loc)	1, 1, 1	M. Litchfield	
1	E. Boston, Rockport	1, 1	S. Zende, D. Chickering	
8, 15	Arlington, Eastham	1 ad, 1	L. Taylor, D. Arvidson#	
23, 29	N. Monomoy	1 ad	R. Prescott#	
Peregrine Falcon				
thr	Boston (State St.)	1 or 2	v.o.	
4, 12	Squantum	1 ad, 1	K. Ryan	
9; 16, 23	Quabbin (G40); S. Monomoy	1; 1 ad	M. Lynch#; B. Nikula#	
22, 23	P.I., N. Monomoy	1, 2	M. McClellan, R. Prescott	
29	N. Middleboro	1	K. Holmes	
Ruffed Grouse				
thr	Quabbin (G40)	9 max 11/25	M. Kasprzyk + v.o.	
Wild Turkey				
28	Petersham	4	G. d'Entremont#	
Northern Bobwhite				
11, 19	Waltham, Marion	13, 12	L. Taylor, K. Ryan	
24, 30	E. Orleans, Ipswich	8, 6-8	E. Williams, J. Berry	
Clapper Rail				
2	E. Boston (B.I.)	1	J. Cumming	
Virginia Rail				
29	Nant. (Quaise Marsh)	4	M. Litchfield	
Common Moorhen				
8	GMNWR	1	R. Walton	
American Coot				
thr	Arlington, Cambr.	14 max, 23 max	L. Taylor, J. Barton	
1	Plymouth, Lakeville	40, 50	W. Petersen#	
8, 16	GMNWR, Plymouth	57, 150	R. Walton, W. Petersen	
23, 28	Lynn, W. Newbury	11, 13	R. Forster	
28, 30	S. Monomoy, Sandwich	60, 16	W. Petersen#, P. Trimble	

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDS

The counts of Semipalmated Plover on November 1 are high counts for this date. Including this November, American Oystercatchers have been recorded in six of the last fourteen Novembers. The count of 30 White-rumped Sandpipers is a high November count but the reported numbers of Purple Sandpiper are lower than the usual November counts.

An immature Stilt Sandpiper was reported by a reliable observer from Henry's Pond in Rockport. November records of Stilt Sandpiper are few; only four out of the last fourteen Novembers have had this species recorded. An American Woodcock was found dead on a sidewalk in Boston but not near a tall building, and the reporter speculated that it may have been knocked down by a Peregrine Falcon.

Jaegers, kittiwakes, and alcids seen at coastal locations during and after the stormy weather of November 20 and 21 included 700 large alcids at First Encounter beach. Lingering terns included Common and Forster's with counts of 20 and 22 of the latter. G.W.G.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	NOVEMBER 1986
Black-bellied Plover				
thr	N. Monomoy	600 max 11/1	B. Nikula	
1	Duxbury, Ipswich	210, 50	D. Clapp, BBC (J. Berry)	
9	Newburyport	40	G. Gove#	
12	Nantucket	21	M. Litchfield	
Lesser Golden-Plover				
1	Ipswich, N. Monomoy	2 imm, 1	BBC (J. Berry), B. Nikula	
8, 22	P.I.	3, 1	I. Giriunas#, M. McClellan#	
16	S. Monomoy	1	R. Prescott	
Semipalmated Plover				
1	S. Dartmouth, N. Monomoy	5, 10	G. Gove#, B. Nikula	
28, 29	P.I.	1, 1	R. Forster, W. Petersen#	
Killdeer				
8, 9	Lakeville, E. Bridgewater	5, 32	W. Petersen#	
8, 23	Concord, Newburyport	10, 5	J. Cumming, BBC (J. Detweiler)	
American Oystercatcher				
1, 11, 16	Chatham	6, 1, 1	B. Nikula	
Greater Yellowlegs				
1	P.I., W. Yarmouth	12, 20	BBC (I. Giriunas), P. Trimble	
2, 9	E. Boston, Newburyport	32, 40	J. Cumming, G. Gove#	
12, 15	Nantucket, Nauset	3, 4	M. Litchfield, D. Arvidson#	
Lesser Yellowlegs				
9, 15	Newburyport, E. Boston	3, 1	G. Gove#, J. Cumming	
Hudsonian Godwit				
1, 2	Newburyport, E. Boston	3, 1	BBC (I. Giriunas), J. Cumming	
5	S. Dartmouth	2	R. Marshall	
9	Newburyport	2	G. Gove#	
Marbled Godwit				
15	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula	
Ruddy Turnstone				
1, 2	Plymouth, Winthrop	2, 1-2	W. Petersen#, J. Cumming	
26, 30	Barnstable, N. Scituate	2, 1	P. Trimble, W. Petersen#	
Red Knot				
thr	N. Monomoy	100 max 11/1	B. Nikula	
30	N. Scituate	4	W. Petersen	
Sanderling				
thr	N. Monomoy	800 max 11/1	B. Nikula	
1	Westport, Duxbury	220, 240	R. Stymeist#, D. Clapp	
15, 23	Revere, P.I.	110, 20	J. Cumming, D. Chickering	
Semipalmated Sandpiper				
1; 2, 16	Plymouth; Mashpee	2; 1, 1	W. Petersen; P. Trimble	
Western Sandpiper				
9	Squantum	1	F. Bouchard	
White-rumped Sandpiper				
1-23	N. Monomoy	8 max 11/23	B. Nikula	
3, 17	P.I.	30, 11	D. Arvidson#, G. Gove	
8, 9	E. Bridgewater, Halifax	2, 8	W. Petersen#	
Pectoral Sandpiper				
1	N. Monomoy, W. Yarmouth	15, 2	B. Nikula, P. Trimble	
9, 16	Halifax, Lakeville	4, 2	W. Petersen#, D. Clapp	
Purple Sandpiper				
8, 15	Rockport, Cape Ann	42, 175	J. Berry, BBC (N. & S. Osborne)	
23, 30	Nahant, N. Scituate	300, 275	R. Forster, W. Petersen	
Dunlin				
thr	N. Monomoy	1800 max 11/1	B. Nikula	
1	Duxbury	4400	D. Clapp	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	NOVEMBER 1986
Dunlin (continued)				
9, 15	Newburyport, Nauset	550, 1200	G. Gove#, D. Arvidson#	
Stilt Sandpiper				
5	Rockport (Henry's Pond)	1 imm	C. Leahy	
Long-billed Dowitcher				
9, 17, 29	P.I.	3, 3, 2	v.o., G. Gove, W. Petersen#	
Common Snipe				
1, 8	W. Yarmouth, E. Bridgewater	1, 6	P. Trimble, W. Petersen	
8	Essex County	4	BBC (I. Giriunas)	
American Woodcock				
9; 17	Squantum; Groton, Boston	1; 1, 1 (dead)	F. Bouchard; L. Johnson, J. Berry	
jaeger species				
22	Eastham	7+	B. Nikula	
Pomarine Jaeger				
19	Eastham	10	W. Petersen	
Laughing Gull				
2, 13	Winthrop, Sandwich	37, 5	J. Cumming, P. Trimble	
Little Gull				
thr.	Newburyport	1-2	v.o.	
Common Black-headed Gull				
9-23	Winthrop-Revere	1-4	v.o.	
18	Nantucket	1(1W)	M. Litchfield	
Bonaparte's Gull				
15, 23	Revere, Lynn	200, 375	J. Cumming, R. Forster	
15	Nauset	300	D. Arvidson#	
Ring-billed Gull				
9	Ipswich, Winchester	200, 100	J. Berry, BBC (D. Oliver)	
17, 28	Halifax, Middleboro	600, 500	K. Anderson	
Iceland Gull				
22, 30	Rockport, Gloucester	2, 3	BBC (W. Drummond), S. Perkins	
28	P'town	2	R. Prescott	
Glaucous Gull				
2, 19	Nantucket	1(3W), 1(1W)	M. Litchfield	
28, 30	P'town, Gloucester	1, 1	R. Prescott, S. Perkins	
Black-legged Kittiwake				
19, 22	Eastham	75, 175	W. Petersen, B. Nikula	
28, 29	S. Monomoy, N. Monomoy	500, 75	W. Petersen, B. Nikula	
Common Tern				
1, 11	Chatham	75, 2	B. Nikula	
15	Marshfield	1	J. Hassett	
Forster's Tern				
1	Plymouth, Chatham	8, 8	W. Petersen#, B. Nikula	
1, 2	Westport, Duxbury	20, 22	R. Stymeist#, D. Clapp	
Large alcid species				
22	Eastham	700	B. Nikula	
Razorbill				
8, 28	Rockport, S. Monomoy	1, 2	J. Berry, W. Petersen	
19, 22	Eastham	46, 40	W. Petersen, B. Nikula	
Black Guillemot				
1, 22	Rockport	2, 4	D. Chickering, BBC (W. Drummond)	
30	N. Scituate	2	W. Petersen	

DOVES THROUGH SHRIKES

The highlight of the month was the abundance of Snowy Owl reports throughout the region with 18 individuals found at Logan Airport and the Boston Harbor Islands.

Red-bellied Woodpeckers were noted at four locations, and a single Red-headed Woodpecker was reported. A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was found on Nantucket and was still present at the end of the month along the Siasconset Road, where it was photographed. A Western Kingbird was found at Quabbin, establishing a first record for that area. Three others were found on Nantucket. Late reports included a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Wellesley on November 17.

R.H.S.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	NOVEMBER 1986
Mourning Dove				
15	Brookline	21	H. Wiggin	
Eastern Screech-Owl				
thr; 10, 17	Lakeville; Ipswich	1; 1	K. Holmes; J. Berry#	
Great Horned Owl				
thr	E. Middleboro	1-2	K. Anderson	
2	Boston (Grape I.)	1	J. Hassett	
14	Stoneham	1	M. Martinek	
27	E. Orleans	2 calling	A. Williams	
Snowy Owl				
thr	Boston Harbor Islands	4+ max 11/29	E. Simmons + v.o.	
thr	Boston (Logan Airport)	18 max	N. Smith + v.o.	
8-30	P.I.-Salisbury	11 max 11/23	P. Roberts + v.o.	
15, 22	W. Yarmouth, Chatham	1, 1	fide R. Prescott	
22, 28-30	Nantucket, Revere	1, 1	F. Reed#, M. Curley	
23, 27, 29	N. Monomoy	2, 2, 1	R. Prescott#	
Barred Owl				
1, 2	Ipswich, Hamilton	1, 1	J. Berry, J. Heywood	
25	Quabbin (G40)	1	M. Kasprzyk	
Long-eared Owl				
2	Hamilton	1	J. Heywood	
Short-eared Owl				
2, 8	E. Boston, S.N.	1, 1	J. Cumming, D. Casoni	
15, 25	Eastham (New I.), Halifax	2, 3	D. Arvidson#, K. Anderson	
29	Lynn, N. Monomoy	1, 1	M. Lynch#, R. Prescott#	
Northern Saw-whet Owl				
3, 15	Woburn, Quabbin (G40)	1, 1	M. Lyons, D. Johnson#	
Belted Kingfisher				
8	Belmont (Little Pd)	2	L. Taylor	
Red-headed Woodpecker				
4	Rockport (H.P.)	1 imm	E. Valentine	
Red-bellied Woodpecker				
11, 24-30	W. Tisbury, Easton	2, 1	J. + A. Hassett, T. Kerchner	
21, 28	Georgetown, Lakeville	1, 1	J. Means, B. Cushman	
Pileated Woodpecker				
15	Wenham, Quabbin (G40)	1, 1	P. Roberts, M. Lynch#	
Western Kingbird				
1 or 2	Quabbin (G40)	1	A. Nelson + v.o.	
22, 25	Nantucket (2 loc)	1, 2	E. + J. Andrews, M. Litchfield	
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher				
9-30	Nant. (Siasconset)	1 ph	S. Fusoro + v.o.	
Horned Lark				
2, 9	Concord, Quabbin (G40)	12, 30+	R. Forster, M. Lynch#	
16, 28	Salisbury, Newbypt	12, 18	M. Lynch#, R. Forster	
Tree Swallow				
2	Mashpee	1	P. Trimble	
Barn Swallow				
2, 3	Mashpee, P.I.	3, 2	P. Trimble, D. Arvidson#	
29, 30	P.I., Rockport	1, 1	W. Petersen#, H. Allen	
swallow sp.				
30	Orleans (North Beach)	1	B. Nikula	
Fish Crow				
2, 3	Wayland, Millis	10, 1	R. Forster	
5, 19	Mansfield, Brookline	1, 1	B. Sorrie, H. Wiggin	
Common Raven				
thr	Quabbin (G40)	4 max 11/2	M. Lynch# + v.o.	
Red-breasted Nuthatch				
thr	Quabbin (G40)	29 max 11/15	M. Lynch# + v.o.	
Brown Creeper				
11	Waltham	5	L. Taylor	
Carolina Wren				
1, 2-30	S. Dart., Brookline	5, 1-2	R. Stymeist#, H. Wiggin	
4, 8	Canton, Easton	1, 1	K. Ryan	
19, 22	Littleton, Lakeville	2, 2	C. Roth, G. d'Entremont	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	NOVEMBER 1986
Winter Wren				
29	Nantucket, Nahant	1, 2-3	M. Litchfield, R. Heil	
Golden-crowned Kinglet				
thr	Quabbin (G40)	33 max 11/15	M. Lynch#	
1, 2	Ipswich, Nantucket	2, 3	J. Berry, M. Litchfield	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				
8, 9	Belmont, Camb.	1, 1	L. Taylor, R. Stymeist	
29	Nantucket	1	M. Litchfield	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				
17	Wellesley	1	C. Ewer	
Eastern Bluebird				
2-15	Quab. (G40)	5 max	M. Lynch#	
9	Mansfield	2	B. Sorrie	
Hermit Thrush				
9, 30	Middleboro, MNWS	1, 1	W. Petersen, R. Forster	
American Robin				
1, 2	Westport, Hardwick	60, 100+	R. Stymeist#, M. Lynch#	
16	Ipswich, W. Yarmouth	20, 60	J. Berry, P. Trimble	
Gray Catbird				
1, 30	S. Dart., Waltham	3, 1	R. Stymeist#, L. Taylor	
Water Pipit				
1-2, 23	Nantucket, P.I.	1, 12	M. Litchfield, D. Chickering	
Cedar Waxwing				
3, 12	Hardwick, Wellesley	3, 15	M. Lynch#, R. Forster	
Northern Shrike				
2, 4	Mashpee, Wayland	1, 1	P. Trimble, R. Forster#	
9, 13	Quabbin (G40), Nant.	1 ad, 1	M. Lynch#, E. Andrews	
15 on, 16	P.I., Fort Hill	1+, 1	v.o., P. Trimble	
23, 29	Bolton Flats, Concord	1, 1	C. Quinlan, R. Walton	
29	Salisbury	1	K. Forster#	

WARBLERS THROUGH GROSBEAKS

A few species of warblers lingered a month beyond their normal departure dates; these included Nashville, Black-throated Green, and especially late were a Black-throated Blue and an Ovenbird. Two Pine Warblers spent the month at a feeder in Mashpee, and other warbler highlights included reports of 4 Orange-crowned Warblers and 2 Yellow-breasted Chats.

The Clay-colored Sparrow was still present at the Wayland Community Garden through November 4, and two Chipping Sparrows lingered through November 12. The highlight of the month was the appearance of a male **Harris' Sparrow** at a feeder on Nantucket. Only one White-crowned Sparrow was noted during the month as compared with 6 birds reported last November.

Only one Dickcissel was observed, the same as last November. "Ipswich" Sparrows were well distributed with reports from four locations. Lapland Longspurs were scarce with reports only from Monomoy, whereas Snow Buntings appeared in many areas. Total winter finch numbers were low compared with last November with Pine Siskins comprising most of the birds reported. G.d'E.

Orange-crowned Warbler				
11, 15	S. Dart., Nant.	1, 1	R. Deegan#, M. Litchfield	
17	Boston (Thompson's I.)	1	K. Anderson	
29	Nahant	1	R. Heil	
Nashville Warbler				
29	Nahant	1	R. Heil	
Black-throated Blue Warbler				
26	Lincoln (DFWS)	1 m	H. Roddis + v.o.	
Black-throated Green Warbler				
1	Belmont (Little Pd)	1	L. Taylor	
Pine Warbler				
thr	Mashpee	2 at feeder	P. Trimble	
13-30, 29	Nantucket, Falmouth	1, 1	E. Andrews, P. Trimble	
Palm Warbler				
2, 3	Rockport (H.P.), Lincoln	2, 1	I. Giriunas#, C. McElwain	
Ovenbird				
29	Nahant	1	R. Heil	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	NOVEMBER 1986
Yellow-breasted Chat				
2, 29	Cambridge, Nahant	1, 1	R. Stymeist, R. Heil	
Dickcissel				
2	Wayland	1	R. Abrams#	
Rufous-sided Towhee				
8	Manchester	1	BBC (G.Hotz)	
American Tree Sparrow				
12	Wayland	20	R. Forster	
Chipping Sparrow				
12	Sandwich, E. Middleboro	1, 1	P. Trimble, K. Anderson	
Clay-colored Sparrow				
1-4(from Oct.)	Wayland	1	R. Forster	
Field Sparrow				
7, 12	E. Middleboro, Sandwich	2, 10	K. Anderson, P. Trimble	
Savannah Sparrow				
2, 9	Arlington, Salisbury	5, 10	L. Taylor	
1, 23	Duxbury B., E. Boston (B.I.)	6+, 4 or 5	D. Clapp, J. Cumming	
"Ipswich" Sparrow				
1, 9	Duxbury B., Salisbury	6, 3	D. Clapp, L. Taylor	
11, 18; 28	S. Dartmouth; S. Monomoy	1, 1; 2	R. Marshall; W. Petersen#	
Sharp-tailed Sparrow				
2, 26	Mashpee, W. Yarmouth	7, 4	P. Trimble	
Seaside Sparrow				
29	N. Monomoy	1	B. Nikula	
Fox Sparrow				
10-30	Stoneham	1 or 2	M. Martinek	
2, 8, 16	Belmont	2, 3, 6	L. Taylor	
White-crowned Sparrow				
2	Nantucket	1 imm	M. Litchfield	
Harris' Sparrow				
12-21	Nantucket	1 ad	E. + C. Andrews	
Lapland Longspur				
thr	N. Monomoy	10+ max	B. Nikula	
Snow Bunting				
1, 27	Duxbury Beach, N. Monomoy	322, 300	D. Clapp, B. Nikula	
Widespread reports from various observers.				
Red-winged Blackbird				
2, 12	GMNWR, Sandwich	15, 12	BBC (Vernon), P. Trimble	
Eastern Meadowlark				
5, 18; 16	S. Dartmouth; Newbypt	14, 17; 3	R. Marshall; BBC (T. Prince)	
Rusty Blackbird				
1, 9	Holliston, Byfield	1, 1 m	R. Hildreth, G. Gove#	
Common Grackle				
4, 8	Cambridge, Essex	275, 50	F. Bouchard, I. Giriunas	
Brown-headed Cowbird				
9, 30	Byfield, Middleboro	200+, 10	L. Taylor, D. Briggs	
Purple Finch				
9; 11, 16	Bridgewater; Belmont	4; 4, 3	W. Petersen#; L. Taylor	
12	Wayland	4	R. Forster	
17	Boston (Thompson's I.)	1	K. Anderson	
White-winged Crossbill				
29	Rockport	8	D. Briggs + D. Davis	
Common Redpoll				
30	N. Scituate	3	W. Petersen	
Pine Siskin				
4, 7	Brookline, E. Middleboro	20, 10	H. Wiggin, K. Anderson	
8, 20-30	Ashland, Wayland	22, 24 max	G. Gove, T. Hart	
Evening Grosbeak				
4, 15-30	Canton, Middleboro	55, 36+	K. Ryan, D. Briggs	

CORRIGENDUM TO AUGUST RECORDS

Common Barn-Owl				
1, 21	N. Middleboro, Lakeville	1, 11	S. Peak, K. Holmes	
should read				
1, 21	N. Middleboro, Lakeville	1, 1	S. Peak, K. Holmes	



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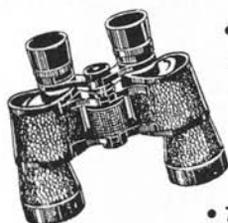
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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ad	adult	F.P.	Fresh Pond, Cambridge
b	banded	G40	Gate 40, Quabbin
br	breeding	H.P.	Halibut Point, Rockport
dk	dark (phase)	I.	Island
f	female	M.V.	Martha's Vineyard
imm	immature	Mt.A.	Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge
ind	individuals	Nant.	Nantucket
juv	juvenile	Newbypt	Newburyport
loc	location	P.I.	Plum Island
lt	light (phase)	Pd	Pond
m	male	P'town	Provincetown
max	maximum	Quab.	Quabbin
migr	migrating	Res.	Reservation
n	nesting	R.P.	Race Point, Provincetown
ph	photographed	S. Dart.	South Dartmouth
pl	plumage	S.N.	Sandy Neck, Barnstable
pr	pair	Stellw.	Stellwagen (Bank)
S	summer (1S = first summer)	BBC	Brookline Bird Club
thr	throughout	BOEM	Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts
v.o.	various observers	CBC	Christmas Bird Count
W	winter (2W = second winter)	CCBC	Cape Cod Bird Club
w/	with	DFWS	Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary
yg	young	DWWS	Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary
#	additional observers	FCBC	Felix Cutler Bird Club
A.A.	Arnold Arboretum	GMNWR	Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge
A.P.	Andrews Point, Rockport	IRWS	Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary
B.I.	Belle Isle, E. Boston	LCES	Lloyd Center for Environmental Studies
B.R.	Bass Rocks, Gloucester	MAS	Massachusetts Audubon Society
Buzz.	Buzzards Bay	MBO	Manomet Bird Observatory
C.	cape as in Cape Cod	MNWS	Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary
Cambr.	Cambridge	NEHW	New England Hawk Watch
Corp. B.	Corporation Beach, Dennis	ONWR	Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge
E.P.	Eastern Point, Gloucester	PRNWR	Parker River National Wildlife Refuge
F.E.	First Encounter Beach, Eastham	SRV	Sudbury River Valley
F.H.	Fort Hill, Eastham	SSBC	South Shore Bird Club
F.M.	Fowl Meadow	WBWS	Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary

ASIO OTUS ASIO OTUS ASIO

A few readers informed me that they had caught the mix-up in the scientific names of the Long-eared Owl and the Eastern Screech-Owl that occurred in *At a Glance* in the last issue. The Latin name of the Long-eared Owl is *Asio otus*, which means "owl with ears," whereas the Eastern Screech-Owl is *Otus asio* or "eared owl." The distinction escapes me. Both owls were formerly in the same genus (*Strix*), and the unfortunate similarity of the Latin names came about when they were assigned to different genera. The author, of course, has several excuses for the error: my wish to stress the similarity of the two names which led to my own confusion, a bad case of computer "bleeding greenies," and also my initial indecision about which owl species was really pictured in the photograph. It *was* a Long-ear!

The following helpful information about identifying Long-eared Owls (LEO) to distinguish them, in this instance, from Great Horned Owls (GHO) has been sent in by Denny Abbott, who has been observing the possible nesting of Long-ears on Plum Island. "LEO has a square facial pattern with the height equaling the width; GHO has a flattened facial pattern, the height about half the width. LEO's crown to the top of the beak is a dark narrow 'V' shape; GHO's crown is a light, widened, somewhat flattened 'V'. LEO's ear tufts are inside or equal to vertical lines drawn through the eyes; GHO's ear tufts are outside such lines. LEO has a relatively short, narrow bill; GHO has a longer (twice that of LEO), proportionately wider, heavy looking bill."

Dorothy R. Arvidson

SPRING HAWK WATCH

The Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch needs volunteer observers for the weekends of April 18 and 19, April 25 and 26, and May 2 and 3 for selected inland and coastal sites. We also need watchers to cover Wachusett Mountain, Plum Island, the Page School in West Newbury, and points on the Outer Cape on weekdays during the peak migration period from April 15 to May 10.

Whether you'd like to cover a new spot you think might be a good spring site, cover a more familiar site, or be teamed with a more experienced hawk-watcher, we need your help. For more information, write Paul M. Roberts, EMHW, 254 Arlington Street, Medford, MA 02155, or call 617-483-4263 after 8:00 P.M.

MEET OUR COVER ARTIST

SCOTT HECKER has been sketching wildlife since childhood in Olmsted Falls, Ohio. He studied natural history at Prescott College in Arizona and natural resource management at Antioch/New England Graduate School in New Hampshire. Scott and his wife (Ann Prince Hecker) have lived in Belize, Central America, where they worked on national park development and Scott conducted a doctoral study on the Aplomado Falcon. Copies of this artist's etchings and ink drawings can be purchased by writing to Scott Hecker, 7254 Alafia Ridge Loop, Riverview, FL 33569.

THE COVER ILLUSTRATION Great Horned Owl

Scott's cover illustration depicts a Great Horned Owl, a predator widely distributed in New England throughout a variety of habitats, ranging from dense, forested areas to suburban woodlands and city parks. During the day these owls roost in thick stands of evergreens that offer camouflage from the potential mobbing of crows and jays. Their resonant hooting (whoo-whoo, whooo, whoo-whooo) can be heard from late December to early February. Great Horned Owls normally begin egg-laying between late February and early March, usually selecting the abandoned nest of a Red-tailed Hawk, crow, or squirrel. A powerful and voracious predator, this owl's diet includes insects, reptiles, many species of birds (including other species of owls and hawks), and a variety of mammals from small rodents to foxes and even skunks! A regular (preferred) perch is used by the owl for feeding. The indigestible portions such as bones, fur, and feathers are eliminated in a pellet that is regurgitated, informing the alert birder who finds it of the presence of *B. virginianus* in the vicinity.

J. B. Hallett, Jr.

ATTENTION ARTISTS: CALL FOR COVER ILLUSTRATIONS

Bird Observer is using different art for the front cover of each issue. We would like to use illustrations from as many artists as possible, and we therefore welcome contributions for possible use on *Bird Observer* covers. A brief biographical sketch of the artist will be printed, including information about whether you accept commissions or have artwork available for sale. We are primarily interested in pen-and-ink and scratchboard drawings, but dark pencil work may also be acceptable.

If you wish more information about this or have pictures you would like to submit, please call or send photocopies of your work to William E. Davis, Jr., Chairman *Bird Observer* Cover Art Committee, 127 East Street, Foxboro, MA 02035 (tel. 617-543-8988). We welcome your submissions.

December's *At a Glance* photo gives us a dorsal view of a large, perched hawk, as seen from behind and below. Fortunately, the bird's head is turned, thus providing a profile that suggests that the bird is in the genus *Buteo*. A falcon would exhibit a rounded cranial appearance, whereas an accipiter would appear longer necked and smaller headed, especially in proportion to what is an obviously substantial body and a short tail. A Northern Harrier in this posture would plainly show its unique facial disks, a feature that would give the bird a flat-faced appearance.

Knowing that the bird is a *Buteo* narrows the possibilities considerably. Concentrating on the tail at this point, we can plainly see a distinct terminal band of white feather tips with a thin, dark subterminal band above the white tips. The rest of the tail is narrowly banded with dusky stripes. The fact that the tail is not uniformly colored suggests that the bird is not an adult Red-tailed Hawk. Likewise, the absence of a white or whitish base and a broad, dark subterminal band eliminates the Rough-legged Hawk. The lack of white bands, either broad or narrow, eliminates the adult Broad-winged and Red-shouldered hawks.

The remaining visible feature that best indicates the proper identification of the hawk is the conspicuous white edging to the scapulars, which produces a strikingly mottled appearance to the upperparts. When this feature is coupled with the obvious bulk of the bird and the rather stubby many-banded tail, the identity of the bird as an immature Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) is assured. None of the other Massachusetts *buteos* regularly combine these features in any plumage. The Red-tailed Hawk in the picture was photographed on Nantucket.

Wayne R. Petersen



Red-tailed Hawk

Photo by Roger Everett

AT A GLANCE _____

Photo by Wayne R. Petersen



Can you identify this bird?

Identification will be discussed in next issue's AT A GLANCE.



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