

BIRD OBSERVER

OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS



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BIRD OBSERVER

OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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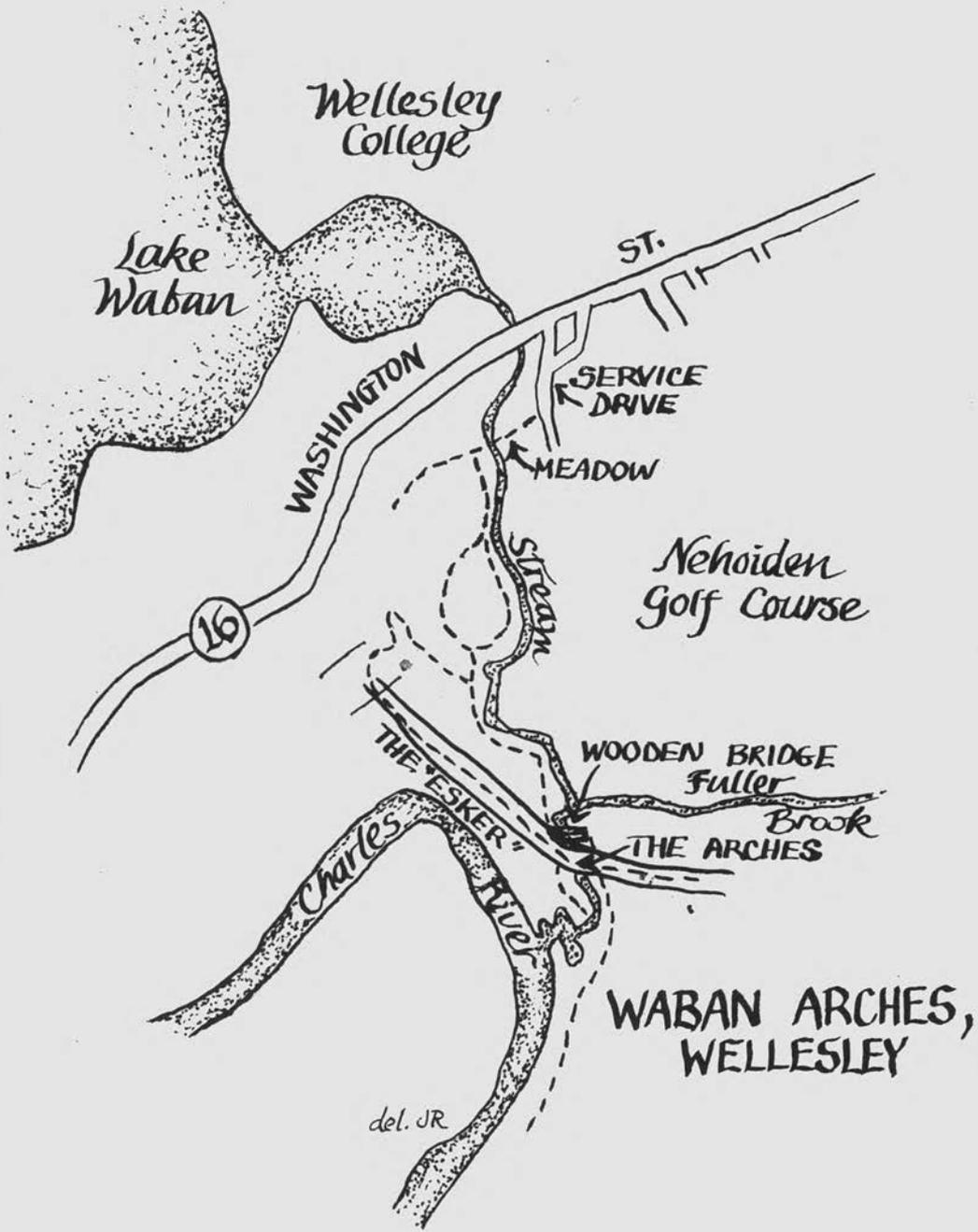
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WABAN ARCHES, WELLESLEY

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THE WABAN ARCHES, WELLESLEY

by Ken Winkler, Wellesley

Behind the Nehoiden Golf Course in Wellesley there is a piece of the Charles River dominated by an aqueduct rock-climbers call "the Waban Arches." It is joined to an old apple orchard by a streamside path. The whole area is excellent for birds, especially in spring and fall.

Park in the small lot at the intersection of Route 16 and Service Drive, almost directly across the road from the entrance to Wellesley College. Walk east on Service Drive and turn right on the path between the Cape Cods and the A-frames. On May 27, 1981 a Mourning Warbler skulked and sang in the bushes along the path, and in winter the feeder in back of the last Cape Cod is always worth a look. The path soon crosses a stream connecting Lake Waban (across Route 16 to the west) to the Charles. An Ash-throated Flycatcher, only the fourth ever recorded in Massachusetts, spent two days here in November 1980. Besides feeding on berries at the crossing, the bird was seen along the stream close to Route 16, and in the meadow in back of the A-frames, even perching for a while on a porch.

Once you cross the stream you are in the orchard. Before turning left and walking toward the Arches, you may want to walk down the path to your right. You may see flocks of robins, Cedar Waxwings, Evening Grosbeaks, and Pine Siskins in winter and spring, and Ruby-crowned Kinglets or Hermit Thrush in April. A Fox Sparrow spent the winter of 1979-80 around the garden near the yellow house further down the path, and there was a Boreal Chickadee in the spruces next to the house in March of 1981.

Return to the stream and walk toward the Arches. Yellow Warblers and yellowthroats are common in the streamside thickets in spring and summer, and I saw a Golden-winged Warbler here in May of 1981. On September 1, 1980 there were two Orange-crowned Warblers together in the thickets, but I haven't seen one since. In late spring and early summer a Rose-breasted Grosbeak may be singing high in the elms to your right. On September 1, 1980 I saw a Yellow-breasted Chat in the bushes at the base of the elms, and there was another Chat about 50 yards downstream on September 21, 1981. White-throated Sparrows can be seen and heard all along the path in winter and early spring, and a covey of bobwhite made a sudden appearance in the fall of 1981. In winter watch for Sharp-shinned Hawks.

Just after the elms the path forks. The forks join after circling around an open area with a mound of dirt and discarded plants in the middle of it. Before some bulldozing about a year ago the area was excellent for sparrows (mostly

White-throated and Song, but occasionally Field and Tree). The sparrows were joined by a female Dickcissel on October 7, 1979. The left fork around the mound, which follows the stream, takes you past thickets in which you may find a Philadelphia Vireo in fall, or a Blue-winged Warbler in spring. The right fork runs past thickets backed by tall trees. I have seen Lincoln's Sparrow in the thickets in spring, and Winter Wren and White-crowned Sparrow in fall. There was an adult Red-shouldered Hawk here in February 1980, and another in January 1982.

Other interesting birds seen or heard in the orchard or the nearby meadow include pheasant, both cuckoos, Bobolinks (in large flocks in spring, and in groups of 2 to 6 in fall), and Indigo Bunting. Fall warblers include Black-and-white, Canada, Nashville, Tennessee, Wilson's, Yellow-rumped, Palm, Redstart and Northern Waterthrush. On October 3, 1981, a Sharp-shinned Hawk and a Broad-wing circled overhead in a passing funnel of air.

Soon after the forks join you will pass under some trees and come to a golf tee. Walk around the tee to your right, and continue up the path as it runs along the stream. The path is heavily wooded here and usually rather quiet, though you may hear Great-crested Flycatcher, Eastern Wood Pewee and Black-throated Blue Warbler in spring. Kingfishers sometimes fish in the brook or rattle high overhead. In late summer you may see Green Heron or Black-crowned Night Heron. As the path bends to the right you will see the Waban Arches. A path goes under the Arches, but I usually cross the small wooden bridge to the left. Just north of the bridge the stream you have been following joins Fuller Brook, which flows in from the east. They run together under the wooden bridge and the aqueduct, then curve through a marsh before they meet the Charles, which bends toward the Arches like a horseshoe. While you are on the bridge listen for phoebes in late March, catbirds in April, and cuckoos in May and June. This is a good spot for Rusty Blackbirds in March and September.

After you cross the bridge a path to your right takes you under the Arches. Follow the path along the river. A Red-bellied Woodpecker called and hammered along this path from February 14 to April 12, 1981, and a Western Kingbird was seen here on September 14, 1980. In fall and winter you may flush Ruffed Grouse, and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers can be seen in summer. Wood Ducks are often on the river in spring, summer, and early fall (in October 1980 I saw a flock of 16), and in winter, farther down the path, there is usually a large flock of Mallards and Black Ducks. A male Green-winged Teal was with the Mallards and Blacks the winter of 1979-80, a female of the same species in 1980-81, and a female Common Goldeneye in January 1982. Large flocks of gulls, Common Crows, and sometimes Fish Crows fly over the river in winter.

(One flock of Fish Crows numbered 50.) Flickers, House Wrens, Red-eyed Vireos, and Northern Orioles all nest along the river, and Warbling Vireos, scarce before, became common in the spring and early summer of 1981.

Turn around and walk back to the Arches. Climb the steep path to your right and walk out to the middle of the aqueduct. I was looking for hawks here in April 1981 when a Pileated Woodpecker flew over my head. Another Pileated flew over the aqueduct in January 1982. You may see migrating flocks of Double-crested Cormorant or Canada Goose, but the only raptors I have seen here are Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, and kestrel -- and always single birds. For the last year or so kestrels have been very rare, and migrating Ospreys are more common over Lake Waban, where single birds may linger for several weeks, in the fall.

Walk west to the other end of the aqueduct and continue along the esker. Study the holes in the trees for roosting owls. A red phase Screech Owl spends part of each fall and winter in a tall stump north of the esker (to your right). (The spot is marked by a yellow ribbon tied to a small tree on the south side of the esker (to your left).) On sunny mornings the owl may be sitting outside with its face tilted toward the sun. Late one afternoon, when the bird was sitting, squint-eyed, on the edge of its hole, I tried to perk it up by imitating a Great Horned Owl. The Screech Owl ignored me, but I did hear a faint imitation of my call, as if someone far away were blowing air into a coke bottle. I followed the sound and in a tall pine next to the river found a hooting Great Horned Owl. It showed only the mildest interest when I repeated my imitation.

The trees along the esker are good for warblers in spring. I have seen Black-and-white, Blackpoll, Parula, Blackburnian, Canada, Tennessee, Yellow-rumped and Redstart. Listen for Scarlet Tanager in summer. In the conifers where the esker comes to a 'T' I have seen Pine Warblers in the second week of April.

A hairpin turn to the right will take you down a path that leads to a small swamp. I saw an immature goshawk in the swamp in January 1982. Turn right at the swamp and follow the path through the woods, where you may see Ruffed Grouse. I watched a Pileated Woodpecker for about 20 minutes here in March of 1979, but the tree he worked on is now lying on the ground in neatly sawed-off pieces. The path will return you to the streamside path that took you to the Arches.

There are more than 100 visits to the Waban Arches recorded in my notebooks. I have seen 133 species, and another 16 on the Wellesley College campus. You won't see an unusual bird on every visit, but the area is a persuasive illustration of what philosophers call the principle of plenitude: given

enough time, if something can happen, it will. As Gilbert White wrote, "It is, I find, in zoology as it is in botany: all nature is so full, that that district produces the greatest variety, which is the most examined."

KEN WINKLER teaches philosophy at Wellesley College. His life list is nearly three times as long as Aristotle.

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THE CORMORANTS OF BOSTON HARBOR AND MASSACHUSETTS BAY

by Jeremy Hatch, Boston

Cormorants are now such familiar sights in the coastal waters of Massachusetts and their roosts and nesting colonies on rocky islands are so conspicuous to both eye and nose of a passer-by that it is sometimes hard to realize that this has not always been the case. In recent years the numbers have increased rapidly, the breeding birds doubling about every three years, the wintering birds at a somewhat less hectic pace. The purpose of this paper is to document those explosive increases and to present a short account of some relevant aspects of the history, distribution, and present biology of the two species with some limited speculation about what the future may hold.

Distribution of the two species

There is little overlap between the two species' occurrence in Massachusetts: the Double-crested Cormorant (Phalacrocorax auritus) is the breeding species and is replaced in winter by the Great Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo). The present breeding range of the Double-crested Cormorant along the east coast of North America extends from the north shore of the St. Lawrence south to the north shore of Long Island Sound, where nests on Fishers Island were first confirmed in 1977 (Bull 1981; Erwin 1979). Elsewhere, the species is quite widely distributed within North America with four subspecies breeding from the Alaskan peninsula and the prairie provinces of Canada south to Baja California and Cuba. The Great Cor-

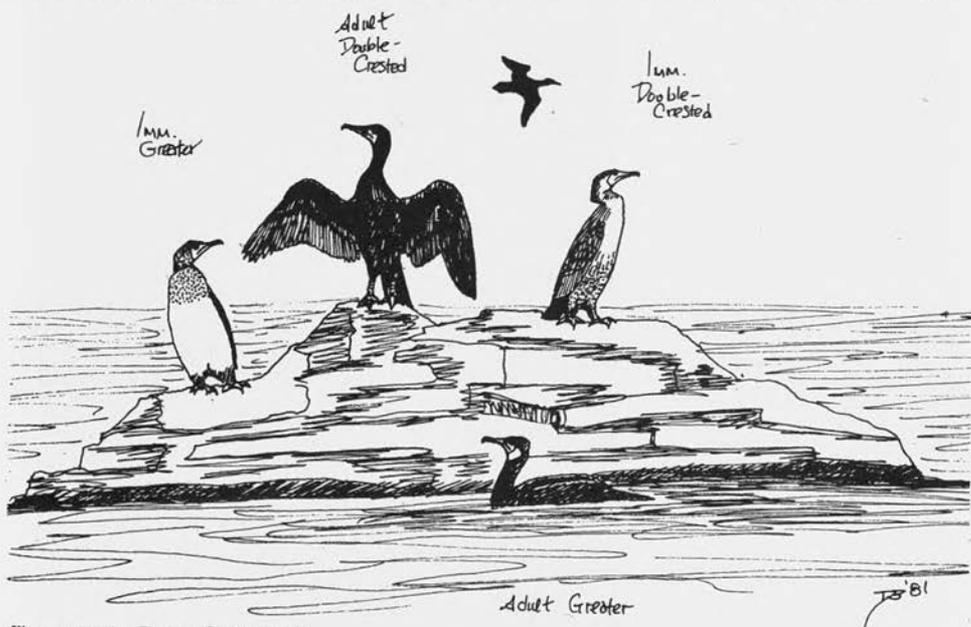


Illustration by Denise Braunhardt

morant, on the other hand, has a rather restricted New World distribution but is otherwise found world-wide. The North American population is centered on the St. Lawrence. In 1972 there were breeding colonies as far north as St. Mary Islands (50° 19'N), and south to southern Nova Scotia; a disjunct population breeds in West Greenland (Brown et al., 1975). In breeding plumage (Definitive Alternate) the Great Cormorant has several distinguishing marks, including conspicuous and unmistakable white thigh-patches. However, the one-year-old birds (despite differences in size and shape) can easily be overlooked amongst similar young congeners.

The wintering ranges of the two species overlap little: Greats are commonly reported in Christmas Counts as far south as New Jersey and the great majority of Double-crested winter south of that. Many of the breeders from Massachusetts are thought to migrate as far as Florida. Thus, although the breeding ranges of the two species overlap (in Canada), they scarcely overlap in the winter.

History of Cormorants in Massachusetts

Cormorants are mentioned in some of the earliest written reports from New England, e.g. Josselyn (1674) who alludes to their capture and consumption by the Indians (although it is not clear which species was involved). In 1976 the bones of both Double-crested and Great cormorants were found at an Indian midden dating from about 1500 A.D. on Calf Island in Boston Harbor (Luedtke, 1980). Cormorant bones were the most numerous avian remains at the site. The Great Cormorants (2-5 of them) were all at least one year old, but the much more numerous Double-crested Cormorants included both old birds and many hatching-year birds. The young birds were all about fledging age and it was not possible to distinguish pre- and post-fledging individuals (Houde, pers. comm.). It seems most likely that breeding occurred nearby at the time.

Subsequently, the cormorants declined rapidly and they had ceased to breed in New England by the early 19th century. Drury (1973) summarizes the changes thereafter, noting that in 1834 Nuttall alluded to breeding near Boston but it is not clear if this reflected contemporary knowledge. Nests of Double-crested Cormorants in Maine were first reported in 1893 and next in 1925, from then until 1945 the growth of the population was spectacular and the species extended its breeding range to Snag Rocks, Boston Harbor by 1941, or possibly as early as 1937 (Hagar, 1941) and to the Weepecket Islands in Buzzards Bay by 1946 (Griscom & Snyder, 1955). The complaints of fishermen led to an extensive official program of control (by spraying eggs) which lasted in Maine from 1944 to 1953. During this period and until perhaps the late 60's the numbers breeding in Maine and Massachusetts remained roughly constant or increased only slowly (the scanty information is summarized in Drury, 1973, Erwin, 1979, and Korschgen, 1979).

The present situation: breeding birds

To describe the present phenomenal growth of the population of Double-crested Cormorants I use the results of my seven counts of the Boston Harbor Islands since 1974, and three counts that included all or most of Massachusetts Bay in 1972, 1977, and 1981. In 1972 Drury and Kadlee counted cormorants during an aerial survey of the east coast, intended primarily for assessment of gull populations. The numbers of birds reported (Drury, personal communication) are divided by 1.7 to estimate numbers of nests on islands where the birds were known to be nesting. The 1977 survey of all colonial waterbirds (Erwin, 1979) used a mixture of ground and aerial counts. For the cormorants the measure was nest counts made in June. In June 1981, I visited all islands in the area between Manchester and the Brewsters (Boston Harbor) and counted nests.

In 1974, when I first counted nests on the Brewsters, the Double-crested Cormorants nested on Shag Rocks and Little Calf Island. Although birds roosted elsewhere, nests were confined to these two sites until 1981 when they appeared on each side of the narrow channel between Middle Brewster and Outer Brewster (Fig. 1). The number of pairs nesting on the

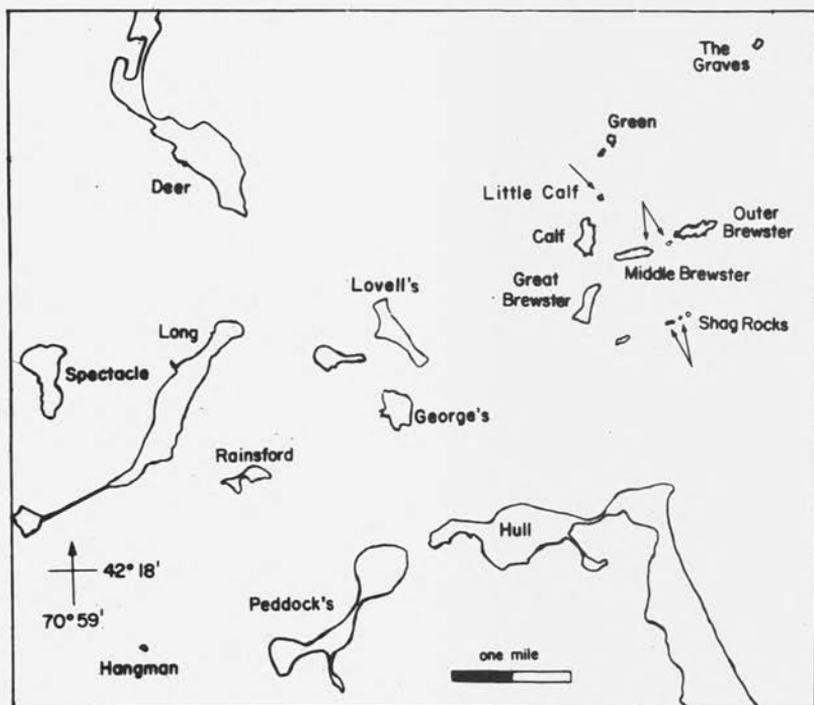


Fig. 1. Boston Harbor islands. The arrows indicate breeding colonies of Double-crested Cormorants in 1981.

Brewsters increased from about 200 in 1972 to nearly 1600 in 1981 (Fig. 2). The rate of increase (as per cent per year) is steady, with little sign of levelling off, and the annual increment in numbers is increasing rapidly. This is shown by the straight line (at least from 1976) on a semi-log plot.

The increase in numbers nesting on the Brewsters reflects growth throughout the Massachusetts population and there is no evidence that it is due to a shift of breeders from other colonies. The nearest of these colonies is at Egg Rock, Nahant and the others are between there and the Salvages off Cape Ann. The three censuses of islands in Massachusetts Bay show an increase from 6 nesting sites in 1972 to at least 13 in 1981 and of nesting pairs (or nests) from about 300 to more than 2000. Table 1 compares the 1977 and 1981 censuses. In the area surveyed in both years the population increased more than 2-1/2 times in four years and expanded to four new sites. It is likely that similar increases occurred on and

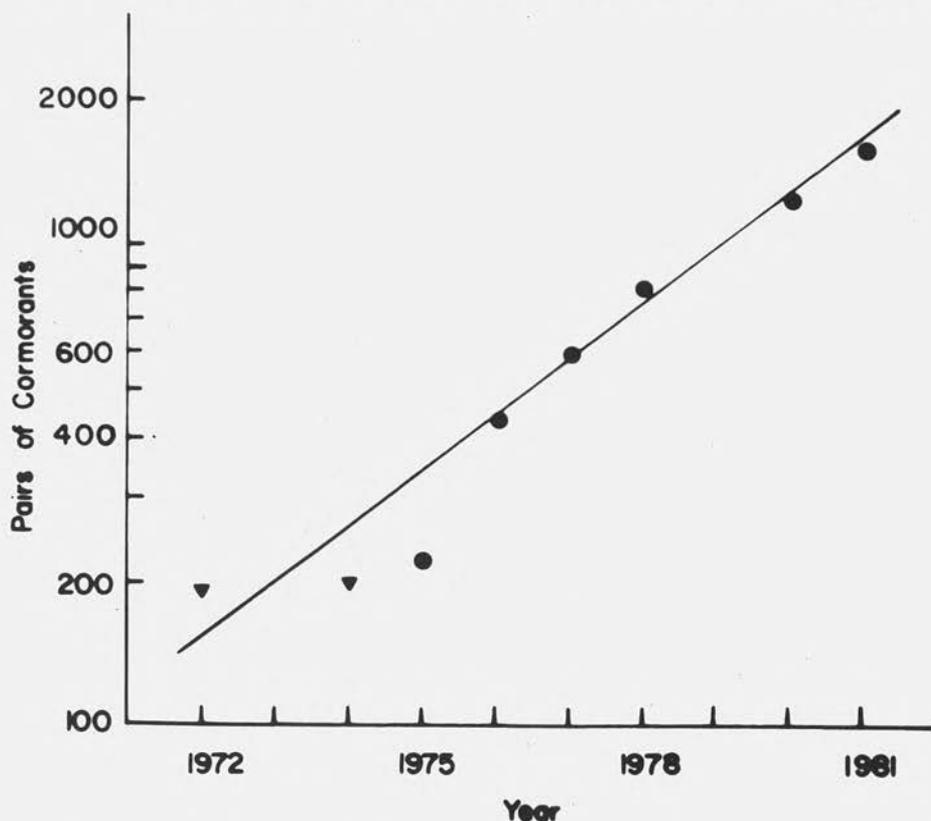


Fig. 2. Breeding pairs of Double-crested Cormorants in Boston Harbor, Massachusetts, 1972-81. Triangles refer to estimates from counts of adults; filled circles are nest counts. The straight line is fitted by eye.

near the eastern islands where breeding occurred in 1977 which were not counted in 1981 (Normans Woe, Milk and the Salvages). Similar rates of increase have been recorded for the cormorants nesting on the Weepecket islands in Buzzards Bay.

Table 1. Cormorant nests on islands in Massachusetts Bay: 1977 and 1981

	Both years	New in '81	Absent '81	used in '77 not counted '81
Number of islands	6	4	1	3
Number 1977 of nests	1000	0	50	275
1981	2510	116	0	---

Breeding Biology

Preferred nesting-sites in Massachusetts are rocky islands, typically within 2 miles of the mainland. This distribution is related to the depth of surrounding water. For example, there are no nests on Halfway Rock, an isolated pinnacle nearly 3 miles offshore from Marblehead, but cormorants nest more than six miles offshore on the Isles of Shoals, which are surrounded by large areas within the 10-fathom line. It is tempting to assume that this pattern relates to the food supply nearby, although cormorants will sometimes feed ten or more miles from their nests.

Some vegetation may exist within the colony during the early years of occupation but this is soon killed by the guano of the nesting birds if it has not already died from the earlier offerings of the roosting non-breeders. Throughout its range in the interior of the country, the Double-crested Cormorant commonly nests beside freshwater where the preferred sites are in trees, which are soon killed. It is interesting that Rick Heil found twenty tree-nests on House Island (off Manchester) on 4th July 1980, although none were found there (or elsewhere in Massachusetts) in 1977 or 1981.

The returning migrants arrive in Boston Harbor in late March or early in April and soon build their bulky nests of seaweed, twigs and a diverse array of flotsam and jetsam. These nests are closely spaced, so that there is not much room between them for wandering birds. In 1981 the first eggs on Shag Rocks were laid on or about 5 April, and new nests were being built at least into late May, by which time many young had hatched.

The eggs are initially pale blue in color, but are soon covered with a layer of dirty white guano, as is every other immobile thing in the colony. The most frequent clutch size on the Brewsters was 4, although 3's and 5's were common and elsewhere 2 to 7 and even up to 9 eggs have been reported (Palmer, 1962). The incubation period in Maine is reported to be 25 days (Mendall, 1936). The newly-hatched young are black and naked and appear quite hideous to most people. Thick black down soon covers the shiny black skin, but does little to improve the appearance. By the age of 3 to 4 weeks the young cormorants may wander within the colony, returning to the nest to be fed. They first fly at about six weeks and it is thought that parental care ceases when the young are about 10 weeks old.

Effects of disturbance

Visitors to cormorant colonies may have serious impacts, both through the actions of breeding birds dislodging eggs or young and through the opportunities provided for marauding gulls. When an intruder appears, the nesting cormorants first show anxious neck-stretching and often regurgitate fish before flying from the colony. Because incubating and brooding cormorants rest their eggs and small young on the webs of their feet, precipitate departure from the colony can result in these offspring being thrown out of the nest. Gulls are ever-present near the cormorant colonies, often nesting along the edges or even within them. On the Brewsters, both the Great Black-backed and Herring gulls are involved. These gulls usually keep their distance while a human visitor is present in the colony, but rapidly settle in to scavenge as the visitor moves on, and before the adult cormorants return. The gulls' first target seems to be the regurgitated fish left behind by the departing cormorants but they soon turn to the eggs and small young (in or out of nests). There may be some individual gulls that first take these in preference to the fish. The actual pattern of disturbance and the resulting impact of the gulls depends upon the relative wariness of the species and their different responses to intruders. Kury and Gochfeld (1975) report similar observations in other cormorant colonies and discuss management implications. At the colonies on the Brewsters, many of the cormorants leave their nests while an approaching boat is still seventy yards or so offshore and they do not all return until the intruder is well clear of the colony. Thus, the gulls have ample opportunity to wreak their havoc. Therefore visits to cormorant colonies are definitely not recommended. However, it is possible to see much of the activity in the colony on Little Calf Island without much disturbance by setting up a telescope on Calf Island.

Wintering birds

To assess the numbers of wintering birds I have analyzed Christmas counts. The weaknesses of such counts for monitoring population changes are well-known, but the recent changes these reveal in cormorant numbers are convincing. I have summed the total numbers seen for the various counts, because changes in counting effort (parties and party-hours) have very much less effect on the results for conspicuous sedentary seabirds than those for skulking landbirds.

Most of the Double-crested Cormorants seen on Christmas counts are stragglers because only a handful winter in New England (and New London, Connecticut seem to be the best spot for them). The increase in wintering Great Cormorants is shown in Fig. 3. The lower curve is the sum of Quincy and Greater Boston counts; the upper curve is for seven counts between Cape Ann and Montauk, Long Island. Both of these reveal considerable fluctuations but, overall, the population tripled between 1972 and 1979. The great fall in 1980 probably re-

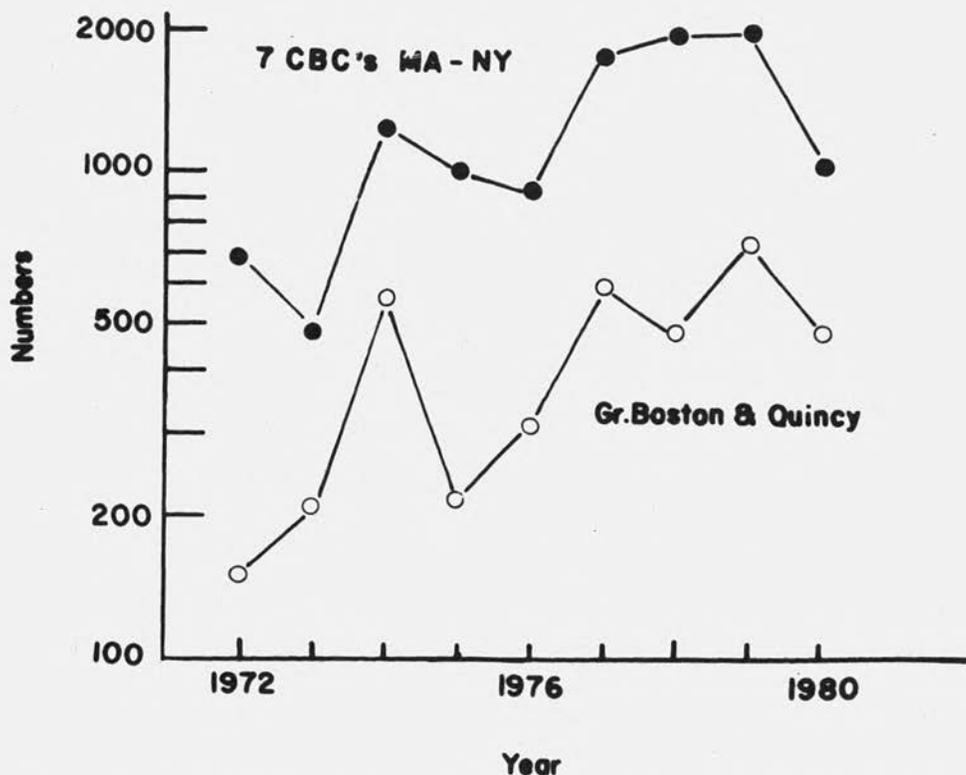


Fig. 3. Numbers of wintering Great Cormorants in New England. The numbers are derived from Christmas counts.

flects the prevalence of sea-ice that year rather than a real decline (but time will tell). This interpretation is supported by the results of the TASI census.

Relations with man

Although cormorants are the objects of a traditional vendetta by fishermen, there has not been much evidence that they are serious competitors. Analyses of the stomach contents of Double-crested Cormorants (for several states, summarized by Mendall, 1936) revealed a variety of fish, few of which are of much interest to fishermen. From more than a thousand records of marine foods (all from the Atlantic) Mendall concluded that the three most frequently eaten fish, comprising 70% of the total numbers, were sculpin, gunnel and cunner. Exceptions occur, of course, where cormorants feed on young salmon released from a hatchery, or interfere with the operation of fish-traps by driving many fish so that they entangle themselves in the netting.

Future prospects

So little is known about factors that regulate the numbers of these cormorants, or of any cormorants, that no firm predictions are possible. There is some evidence from England that local populations of the Shag (P. aristotelis) can be limited by shortage of suitable nest-sites. However, there is no reason to suspect that such a shortage is imminent in the Boston area because there are several apparently suitable sites to which the nesting cormorants can readily spread. If the population continues to grow, the Double-crested Cormorants are likely to occupy more sites in the Brewsters and some undisturbed, predator-free islets or rocks further into the harbor (Hangman Island, for example). There is no sign that the cormorant population is limited (yet?) by its food supply, at least during the breeding season, because the adults appear to spend very little time actively fishing. Overall abundance can be greatly influenced by outbreaks of disease or similar events. For example, in 1968 many shags and other seabirds died in northeast England from Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) as a result of eating fish that had accumulated the toxins produced by Gonyaulax or other dinoflagellates (the Red Tide organisms). Such mortality has not been reported in Massachusetts, at least not on a massive scale, but the possibility certainly exists for a population crash from this or another cause. However, at present, the unavoidable conclusion is that the increase of the population is likely to continue and that the likely impact of this growth on other species has not been explored.

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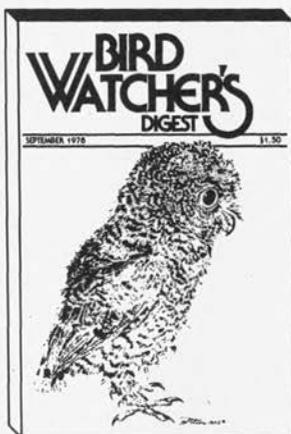


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FIRST AND SECOND RECORDS OF RUFIOUS-NECKED SANDPIPER
(Calidris ruficollis) FOR MASSACHUSETTS

by Richard R. Veit, Boston, and Wayne R. Petersen, Whitman

On June 24, 1980, eight observers including the senior author identified a Rufous-necked Sandpiper at the north end of Monomoy Island, Massachusetts. The group had travelled to Monomoy with the intention of studying a Little Stint (Calidris minuta) which had been discovered there the previous week by Blair Nikula (Nikula, 1980). Because the Little Stint was still present, and at times associated closely with the Rufous-necked Sandpiper, we had the unusual and invaluable opportunity to study these two Palearctic species together.

The Rufous-necked Sandpiper bore a superficial resemblance to the approximately 15 Semipalmated Sandpipers (C. pusilla) that were also present in the area in that the bird possessed essentially gray and blackish upperparts and a short and stubby bill. Closer inspection revealed a uniformly pale cinnamon/rufous throat and upper breast, which was bordered below by a diffuse necklace of dark neutral gray speckles, broadest at the base and tapering to a fine line at the center. The throat was not nearly as brightly colored as that of an alternate-plumaged adult, and in certain lights it was practically invisible. The rest of the underparts were snowy white. The forecrown was conspicuously whitish, yielding a "white-nosed" effect, with two broad and sharply-defined whitish supercilia extending from the lores to the auriculars. The crown and back contained a mixture of fresh alternate plumage and abraded basic-plumage feathers, the former being neutral gray, while the latter had blackish centers and buff or grayish fringes. The upper wing coverts were a dark neutral gray and appeared to be heavily worn.

The legs were blackish, and the feet lacked any webbing. This effect, which was shared by the Little Stint, was distinctly different from the clubfooted impression conveyed by the partial webbing on the feet of the Semipalmated Sandpipers.

On several occasions, the Rufous-necked Sandpiper and the Little Stint stood close enough to one another that the structure of their bills could be critically compared within the same telescope field. There was a perceptible gradation in bill size from Semipalmated to Rufous-necked to Little. The Semipalmated Sandpipers had the longest, deepest bills, with the most prominently expanded tips when viewed from above, while the bill of the Little Stint was finely pointed, slender, and short. That of the Rufous-necked Sandpiper appeared to be intermediate with respect to length and depth at the base, with a drooping tip which expanded slightly. Thus, the bill of the Rufous-necked Sandpiper most closely resembled a diminutive version of that of the Semipalmated Sandpipers.

The Little Stint was an adult in alternate plumage. Although the age of the Rufous-necked Sandpiper could not be ascertained without studying differential primary wear in the hand, this individual appeared to have attained a partial alternate plumage, thus resembling several unambiguous one-year-old birds that the senior author examined in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

On July 17, 1980, an adult Rufous-necked Sandpiper in alternate plumage was identified at Third Cliff, Scituate, Massachusetts by Wayne Petersen where it was studied at leisure by numerous observers. The Scituate bird remained for one week, during which time Petersen was able to make detailed observations of its plumage and structural characters, a summary of which follows. The bird's throat and sides of face were rich cinnamon/rufous, while a suffusion of this same color was noticeable on the nape and crown. The crown was finely streaked with dark gray, and there was a prominent pale "V" extending from the base of the bill to the eyes, but not beyond. The chin, as well as the underparts below the upper breast, was whitish. Just below the cinnamon gorget, there was an obvious band of dusky spots which extended to the sides of the breast, but did not continue down the flanks. Close observation also revealed a distinct eye-ring, similar to that of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper (Tryngites subruficollis).

The bill and legs were black, and the feet were plainly seen to be unwebbed when the bird walked about on the rocks. In shape and size the bill was very similar to that of the Semipalmated Sandpipers; however, it was not as thick, especially at the base.

The dorsal coloration was a brownish gray with a slight trace of rusty margination to the feathers, but not nearly as colorful as in the Little Stint. The prominent large black centers to the tertials that are so characteristic of Little Stints were conspicuously absent. Several (1-2?) of the longest upper wing coverts were rusty, and there appeared to be two faint lines running down the edges of the mid-back, apparently due to off-white feather edgings of the mantle feathers. These marks, nonetheless, gave a very different effect from the similarly described "V" of the Little Stint.

Contrary to the information given in Wallace (1974), the wing tips on this bird extended beyond the tail, thus giving the bird a rather elongated appearance, suggesting the similarly structured White-rumped Sandpiper (C. fuscicollis). In flight the outer tail feathers appeared distinctly paler than those on Semipalmated Sandpipers; however, the wing stripe was comparable in length and prominence to that of that species. While feeding, the bird seemed to use its wings much more for balance than the adjacent Semipalmated Sandpipers as it fed amongst the rocks at the tide line.

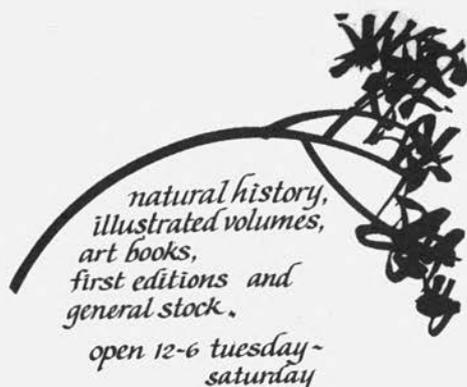
The Monomoy bird remained until June 28, and the Scituate bird stayed until July 24; each was identifiably photographed in color. These observations constitute the first and second records for Massachusetts, and the fourth and fifth records for eastern North America. This species was previously recorded at Ashtabula, Ohio, on July 21, 1962 (Ahlquist, 1964), at Guilford, Connecticut, on August 25, 1975 (Finch, 1976), and at Biddeford Pool, Maine, on July 16-21, 1977 (Vickery, 1978). All except the Monomoy bird were adults in alternate plumage, which immediately raises the question of how many immatures have occurred and escaped detection.

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RICHARD R. VEIT, currently a graduate student at the University of Massachusetts at Boston, is working with Richard Forster on a new book, Birds of Massachusetts, which will be published by the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

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



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WARBLER MIGRATION STUDY: MAY 1981

John W. Andrews, Lexington, and
Lee E. Taylor, Arlington

Last year the authors reported on a study of the abundances of spring-migrant warblers in eastern Massachusetts.¹ Our report was based upon field data taken in May 1980. Field data for this study were again taken in May 1981. In this update, we report briefly on the second year of the study and draw comparisons between the results for the two years.

Some ornithologists feel that the next two or three decades will produce dramatic alterations in the relative abundances of many migrant species. The reason for this prediction is the accelerating pace at which wintering habitat in tropical forests is being destroyed by agricultural and timbering activities. Tropical forests are now disappearing at the rate of 4 percent per year, and some experts predict that within 40 years the world's closed tropical forests will be nothing but scattered remnants. Most of our warblers, thrushes, vireos, and flycatchers now winter in tropical forests. Some species may adapt to the disappearance of their usual habitat, but others will inevitably decline. Baseline data on both migrant and breeding populations should be gathered now in order to monitor these population changes. Our continuing warbler migration study can help to provide the needed data.

The 1981 data was collected by means of the same censusing technique used in 1980 (see section entitled "Methodology" in last year's report). Each of eight selected sites² was censused regularly throughout the month of May by its assigned observer. The cumulative abundance for each species was based upon the total numbers of bird-days recorded for migrants of that species (if one individual was seen on two consecutive days, that individual contributed two bird-days to the count). However, only four of

1
See "The 1980 Spring Warbler Migration Study: An Experiment in Cooperative Data Collection," J.W. Andrews and L.E. Taylor, BOEM, Vol. 9, No. 2, April 1981.

2
The 1981 sites were Marblehead (MNWS), Braintree/Weymouth (Pond Meadow Park), Cambridge (Mt. Auburn Cemetery- two sets of data), Belmont (Acorn Park), Winchester ("Army Camp"), Lexington (Whipple Hill), Waltham (Metropolitan State Hospital, and Wayland (Heard's Pond).

TABLE 1

SUMMARY OF RELATIVE ABUNDANCE DATA FOR MIGRANT WARBLERS
RECORDED IN MAY 1980 AND MAY 1981

SPECIES	RELATIVE ABUNDANCE			RANK ORDER		
	1980	1981	Combined	1980	1981	Combined
Yellow-rumped	21.21	29.80	24.57	1	1	1
Redstart	11.81	9.44	10.88	2	2	2
Black-and-white	7.87	8.01	7.92	3	3	3
C. Yellowthroat	4.17	7.19	5.35	9	4	7
N. Parula	7.57	5.10	6.60	4	5	4
Magnolia	6.69	5.50	6.05	5	6	5
Yellow	3.11	4.59	3.69	10	7	10
Canada	3.05	4.18	3.49	11	8	11
Blackpoll	6.36	4.13	5.49	6	9	6
Ovenbird	2.56	3.42	2.90	12	10	12
Tennessee	6.00	3.27	4.93	7	11	8
Black-thr. Green	5.64	3.16	4.67	8	12	9
Wilson's	2.20	2.24	2.22	14	13	13
Nashville	1.28	1.48	1.36	18	14	17
Blackburian	2.16	1.43	1.87	15	15	14
Palm	0.26	1.28	0.66	22	16	21
Chestnut-sided	1.70	1.28	1.54	16	17	16
N. Waterthrush	1.05	1.22	1.12	19	18	19
Black-thr. Blue	1.51	1.12	1.36	17	19	18
Cape May	0.58	0.87	0.69	20	20	20
Bay-breasted	2.49	0.82	1.84	13	21	15
Blue-winged	0.20	0.51	0.32	23	22	22
Prairie	0.30	0.20	0.26	21	23	23
Mourning	0.03	0.05	0.04	25	24	25
Worm-eating	0.00	0.05	0.02	28	25	28
Cerulean	0.00	0.05	0.02	26	26	26
Prothonotary	0.00	0.05	0.02	27	27	27
Pine	0.07	0.00	0.04	24	28	24

of the seven 1980 sites were covered again in 1981.³

Most observers felt that the 1982 spring migration was below average in terms of numbers of migrants.⁴ For the three sites in which the observer and the route were the same in both years (Winchester, Lexington, and Wayland), the birds-per-visit average declined 79%, 48%, and 57% (respectively). Birds-per-hour (BPH) values did not decline as sharply since observers tended to cover their routes more quickly when there were fewer birds present.

Table 1 presents the relative abundance of each species for both years separately and both years combined. Also provided is "rank order," which is generated by numbering each species in order of decreasing abundance (1 = most abundant, 2 = second most abundant, etc.). Comparison of the rank order for the two years reveals a high degree of stability. Of the 25 species which occurred in both years, 5 species maintained the same rank order and 7 species changed rank by only a single place. Only 3 species changed rank by more than 4 places. The most significant change occurred with the Bay-breasted Warbler (Dendroica castanea), which dropped in rank from 13 to 21.

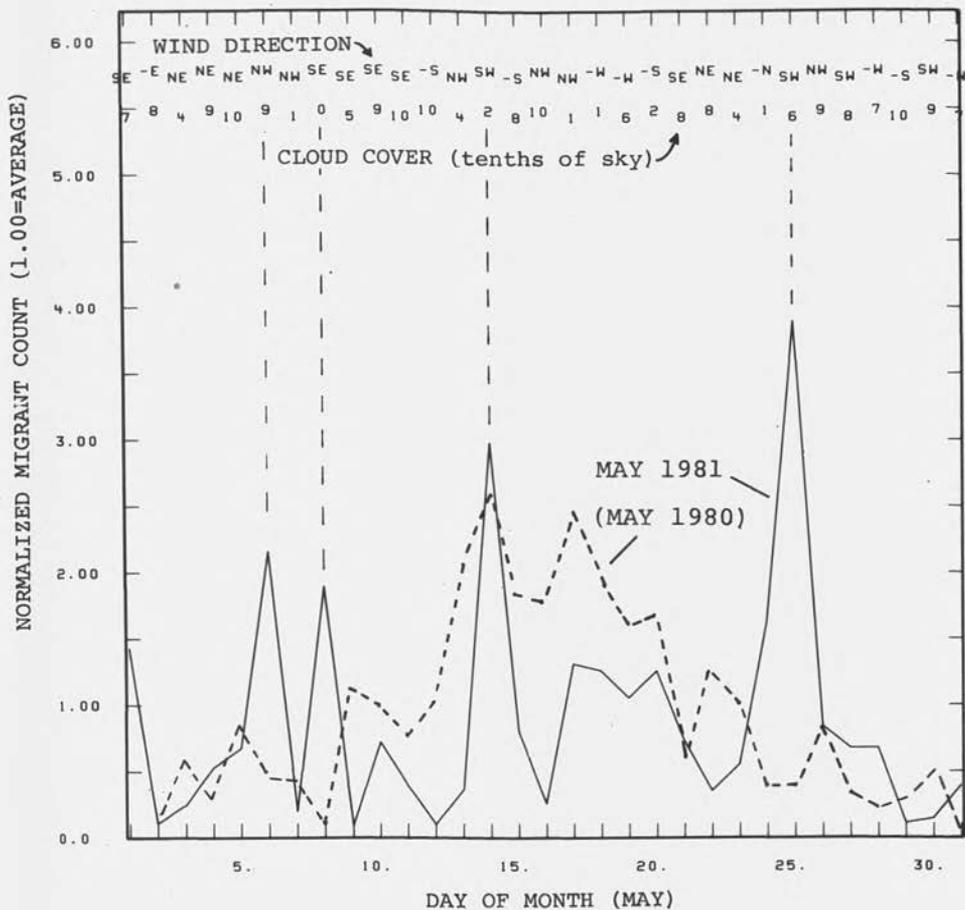
Two common breeding species of our area, Yellow Warbler (Dendroica petechia) and Common Yellowthroat (Geothlypis trichas), increased in relative abundance. This may have resulted from a migration in which the species which breed further north largely bypassed the census area by migrating further to the west. It is also possible that some breeding birds were mistakenly counted as migrants and that, in a lean year for migrants, these erroneous tallies were a more significant porportion of the total count.

3

The sites covered in both years were Cambridge, Winchester, Lexington, and Wayland. The 1980 sites not covered in 1981 were Plum Island (Hellcat Swamp), Weston (Linwood Cemetery), and Concord (GMNWR).

4

Reports in American Birds (Vol. 35, No. 5, Sept. 1981) indicate that low warbler numbers were noted all along the Atlantic coast. Comments on the migration from observers in the Maryland-Virginia area were "unanimously negative" and the complier from the Carolina/Georgia region noted that "numbers were very low, and most observers had a disappointing spring warblering."



Day-by-day plots of the normalized migrant counts⁵ for both census years are presented in the above figure. This figure also shows for each day the direction of the resultant wind and the average cloud cover (midnight to midnight) as reported by the National Weather Service in their monthly summary for Logan Airport, Boston, May 1981.

It is instructive to compare the shapes of these plots for the two census years. In 1980 the migration built up to a sustained movement during mid-May (from the 14th to the 19th). But in 1981, there were several days in mid-May with practically no migration. The migration which did occur resulted in sharp isolated peaks most notably on the 14th and 25th.⁶ These days were associated with south-westerly winds which were preceded by northerly winds on the day before - a classic pattern for heavy migration.

Differences among the data submitted from the various sites were again analyzed. As in 1980, there were notable site-to-site variations in relative abundances of individual species. These variations did not consistently match the 1980 variations. It seems that our data base is not yet adequate for drawing sound conclusions concerning site differences.

Our greatest success in the warbler migration study has been the demonstration that, given an adequate number of reporting sites, the overall abundances of migrants can be determined and the temporal variation of the observed migration can be well characterized. Also, participants in the study have been able to compare their favorite birding sites with other sites in a meaningful manner. Migration watching is a fascinating endeavor - one which we look forward to continuing.

5

The normalized migrant count for a given day expresses the magnitude of that day's daily migration count over the entire month (of the appropriate year). Thus, a normalized migration count of 1.00 indicates that the migrant count for the day was equal to the average daily count that year. See the section entitled "Time/Series Analysis" in last year's report for a complete description of the normalization procedure.

6

Reports in American Birds (Vol. 35, No. 5, Sept. 1981) indicate that the peak on May 25th was the culmination of a major migratory movement which began in the Southern Atlantic states on May 23 or 24. On May 24-25 extraordinary numbers of migrants were noted at all sites near the coast from New Jersey north to the Gaspé Peninsula.

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

LEE E. TAYLOR spends most weekdays developing computer-based communications systems at M.I.T. in Lexington. Some evenings, he sits as a member of the Arlington Conservation Commission. Otherwise he spends a lot of time in the field, as would be expected of any second-generation birder. He has been active in local bird study projects, and for the last year has been learning about the temporal distribution of Eastern Massachusetts passerines by compiling monthly records for Bird Observer.

BIRD OBSERVER WANTS BREEDING RECORDS

This year Bird Observer is sponsoring a series of field studies which seek to use the birding talents of its readers to further our knowledge of Massachusetts birds. A survey of Screech Owl populations was completed in early April and a spring migration watch is now underway at over a dozen sites. Project results will be reported in future issues.

A new project was recently announced by the Bird Observer Field Studies Committee (FSC): a Breeding Records Project that will compile data on the breeding habitat requirements of selected species in our area. Some readers may be familiar with the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology Nest Record Card program. Participants in the Cornell program are asked to complete a data card whenever they discover the nest of any species. This card asks for the type of habitat in which nesting occurred (forest, marsh, etc.), the location of the nest (tree branch, cavity, on the ground, etc.) and other basic information. The Cornell Nest Record Card will be the basic data form for the Bird Observer project; however the Cornell cards will be supplemented by a brief form which asks additional questions about the nesting habitat (such as the amount of human disturbance occurring at the site).

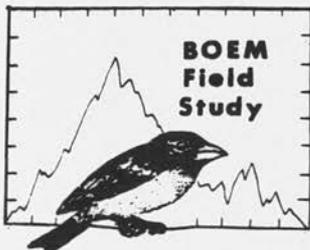
A number of target species have been selected. They are:

Red-tailed Hawk	Golden-winged Warbler	Field Sparrow
Red-shouldered Hawk	Blue-winged Warbler	
Broad-winged Hawk	Chestnut-sided Warbler	
American Kestrel	Prairie Warbler	

For these target species, records of breeding are desired even when nests are not found (other evidence of breeding, such as finding recently fledged young, is acceptable). The Project also welcomes nest record cards for non-target species; these will be passed on to Cornell for their records.

Compiler: Jim Berry, 136 County Road, Ipswich, MA 01938, Telephone: 356-5505. Data forms can be obtained from Jim (please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope).

The success of this project will be greatly aided by YOUR participation. If you discover a nesting site for any of the target species, please write for a data form or pass the information to a member of the Field Studies Committee. * Anyone who would like to make a special effort to study one or more of the target species (or who would like to suggest an addition to the target species) is invited to contact the FSC chairman: John Andrews, 22 Kendall Road, Lexington, MA 02173; Telephone: 862-6478).



*FSC members are John Andrews, Jim Berry, Craig Jackson, Oliver Komar, Nick Komar, Leif Robinson, Michael Sharpe, Robert Stymeist, Lee Taylor, Richard Walton and Soheil Zende.

Field Records:

December 1981



by George W. Gove, Lee E. Taylor

December was very wet, snowy and cloudy, but had near normal temperatures. The temperature averaged 33.2°, 4.6° warmer than December 1980. The high mark was 58° on the 2nd and the lowest was 14° on the 21st. Precipitation totaled 6.27 inches, 2.03 inches more than normal and the most in December since 7.20 inches in 1973. This was the wettest month only since last February (6.65 inches). This December was the 16th wettest in 164 years! Snow totaled 17.6 inches, 9.8 inches more than average and the most in December only since 1975 with 19.3 inches, yet this was the 7th snowiest December in 90 years. A tremendous early-season snowstorm on the 5-6th gave 12.9 inches, a new record storm total so early and the third largest for December in 90 years. The total accumulation at mid-month, 17.4 inches through the 18th, was the most so early since 1898.

In the records that follow, there are many records for the Greater Boston Christmas Bird Count, because this was the only count that was sent in to the compilers in its complete form. We will encourage more compilers to submit their results in future years.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

A Red-throated Loon was seen inland in Plymouth. Twenty-one Horned Grebes were counted in Falmouth and Pied-billed Grebes lingered through the month. Greater Shearwaters were seen on the Cape and Double-crested Cormorants were reported as late as the 20th. A Great Egret was in Harwich until year end and a Whistling Swan was seen on Martha's Vineyard where two were found on the CBC there, possibly the same birds seen at Acoaxet in November. A Black Brant was shot by a hunter in Chatham and the specimen, first for the state, is at Massachusetts Audubon Society in Lincoln. Black Ducks counted in the Newburyport-Plum Island area included 2500 in the harbor, 1100 north of Hellcat Swamp and 9900 south of Hellcat Swamp. Barrow's Goldeneyes were reported from five locations and Harlequin Ducks from four. The 25 Hooded Mergansers seen in Winchester in November had dwindled to 8 before the ponds iced over.

G.W.G.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Common Loon:			
1,10	P.I.	19, 2	R.Heil, D.Spencer
28	M.V.	<u>300</u>	W.Petersen#
Red-throated Loon:			
12,30	Rockport, Plymouth	1, 1	BBC, CBC
Red-necked Grebe:			
12,28	Rockport, M.V.	1, 4	BBC, W.Petersen#
Horned Grebe:			
19	No. Falmouth	21	R.Stymeist#
20,30	Boston Harbor, Wollaston	9, 2	CBC, C.Hubbard#
Pied-billed Grebe:			
22,31	Wayland, Lakeville	2, 4	R.Forster, W.Petersen
Greater Shearwater:			
4,10	Chatham	8+, 1	B.Nikula
7	Eastham	10+	B.Nikula
Great Cormorant:			
20	Boston Harbor	117	CBC

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Double-crested Cormorant:			
1,20	Newburyport, Boston	3, 1	R.Heil, CBC
12,19	Hyannis, E. Falmouth	1, 1	B.Nikula, R.Heil#
20	Chatham	1	C.Goodrich#
Great Blue Heron:			
2,12	Everett, Annisquam	1, 1	J.Berry, B.Blodget#
14	Rockport	1	K.Anderson
Great Egret:			
21-31	E.Harwich	1	B.Whitlock#
Black-crowned Night Heron:			
20,30	Eastham, Plymouth	28, 9	CBC
American Bittern:			
10,13,24	P.I., Newburyport, P.I.	1, 2, 1	J.Nove, R.Heil, M.Kasprzyk#
Mute Swan:			
12	Manchester	3	BBC
Whistling Swan:			
28	M.V.	1 ad.	W.Petersen#
Canada Goose:			
10,17	P.I.	2018, 5000	NWR personnel, P.Roberts
Brant:			
20	Boston Harbor	512	CBC
"Black Brant":			
23	Chatham	1 shot	W.Kinsella
Snow Goose:			
5-17	P.I.	17	v.o.
Mallard:			
10	P.I.	1053	NWR personnel
Black Duck:			
10	P.I.	7195	NWR personnel
13	Newburyport-P.I.	13,500	R.Heil
	(Harbor 2500, N of Hellcat 1100, S of Hellcat 9900)		
20	Boston	1406	CBC
Gadwall:			
10	P.I.	54	NWR personnel
Pintail:			
10,20	P.I., Boston	420, 5	NWR personnel, CBC
Green-winged Teal:			
10,13	P.I.	50, 110	NWR personnel, R.Heil
20	Boston	7	CBC
American Wigeon:			
10	P.I.	30	NWR personnel
9,20	Belmont, Boston	47, 48	L.Robinson, CBC
Northern Shoveler:			
10,28	P.I.	24, 12	NWR personnel, E.Morrier
20	E.Boston	1	CBC
Redhead:			
5,10	Framingham, P.I.	1, 1	C.Quinlan, NWR personnel
31	Plymouth	1	CBC
Ring-necked Duck:			
1,8	Cambridge, Weston	4, 1m.	J.Carter, J.Hines
12	Gloucester	1	BBC
Canvasback:			
1,10	Cambridge	80+, 88	J.Carter, F.Bouchard
13,20	Jamaica Pd., Boston	6m., 41	H.Ellis, CBC
Greater Scaup:			
5,20	Newburyport, Boston	10+, 2079	J.Berry, CBC
Lesser Scaup:			
12,20	Lynn, Boston	3 pair, 2	R.Heil, CBC
28,30	M.V., Plymouth	250, 2	W.Petersen, CBC
Common Goldeneye:			
20	Greater Boston	401	CBC
Barrow's Goldeneye:			
11,12	Quincy (Nut Island), Gloucester	3, 1m.	D.Brown#, O.Komar#
20,26	Boston, N.Scituate	1, 1	CBC, J.Bird
30	Plymouth	4	CBC
Bufflehead:			
3,20	Lincoln, Boston	10, 497	P.Roberts, CBC
Harlequin Duck:			
10-11,12	Rockport, Gloucester	1f., pair	R.Pease, B.Blodget#

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Harlequin Duck (continued): 12,28	Manchester, M.V.	3, 8	BBC, W.Petersen#
Common Eider: 20	Boston Harbor	6682	CBC
King Eider: 1	P.I., Rockport	1 imm. m., 1	R.Heil, N.Claflin
11	Quincy	1	D.Brown
White-winged Scoter: 10	P.I.	75	NWR personnel
Black Scoter: 28	M.V.	1400	W.Petersen#
Ruddy Duck: 10-13,10	Boston, Cambridge	9, 51	J.Patutseanos, F.Bouchard
Hooded Merganser: 3	Winchester, Lincoln	8 (1 m., 7 f.), 6	G.Gove, P.Roberts
3	Weston	4 (1 m.)	J.Hines
13,20	Boston	2 f., 19	H.Ellis, CBC
Common Merganser: 3,20	Lincoln, Boston	70, 46	P.Roberts, CBC
Red-breasted Merganser: 10,20	P.I., Boston	115, 876	NWR personnel, CBC

RAPTORS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Thirty-seven Red-tailed Hawks were noted on the Greater Boston CBC and a Red-shouldered Hawk was reported from Amesbury. Two immature Bald Eagles, one nearly in adult plumage, were seen on the Merrimac River in Newburyport and an immature was reported from Yarmouth. Three Peregrine Falcons were reported and 23 American Kestrels were found on the Greater Boston CBC. A Sora was found on the late date of the 20th in Orleans and Lesser Yellowlegs were reported present on the 5th. A Long-billed Dowitcher was noted in Eastham on the 26th and a small sandpiper was seen there on the 20th. Jaegers were seen on the cape as was a skua species. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen in three locations, all different from last month. The Plymouth gull was a second winter bird and the Lynn gull was in third winter plumage having a slate gray mantle, black primaries lacking white windows. The rest of the bird was heavily streaked with darkish feathering around the eyes, the bill was mostly black, tail white and the legs flesh colored according to the notes supplied by the observer. Only one report of Little Gull was received during the month of December. A Black Tern was reported from Nantucket on the 6th; as noted last month, Bailey reports a late date of October 12 and they have normally departed by the end of September.

Reports this month of Screech Owls probably bear out last month's comments that when a concentrated effort is made, these owls are found in good numbers. Twenty-nine were counted on the Greater Boston CBC and thirty-nine on the Millis CBC. A Red-bellied and a Red-headed Woodpecker were each seen throughout the month at the cemetery in Lanesville and Red-headed Woodpeckers continued in Woburn and on the Vineyard.

G.W.G.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Goshawk: 13,17	P.I.	1 imm.	R.Heil, P.Roberts
11,19	Lynn, Stow	1 imm., 1	R.Heil, P.Thayer
20,21	Boston, Chatham	2, 1 imm.	CBC, H.Rich
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 4	Wayland, Manomet	1, 1 m.(b.)	J.Hines, MBO staff
5,14	Belmont, Gloucester	1, 1	BBC, K.Anderson
Cooper's Hawk: 1,12	Manomet, Salem	1, 1	MBO staff, C.Blaszczak
26	Wilmington	1	P.Bovitz
Red-tailed Hawk: 13	P.I.-Salisbury	13	BBC
20	W.Bridgewater, Boston	2, 37	P.Anderson, CBC
Red-shouldered Hawk: 13	Amesbury	1	BBC
Rough-legged Hawk: 5,25	Sudbury River Valley	1 lt., 1 dark	R.Walton
1,5-10	Salisbury to P.I., P.I.	7, max. 7	R.Heil, v.o.
4;5,28,31	Saugus; Halifax, M.V., Middleboro	1;1,3,1	J.Berry; W.Petersen#

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Bald Eagle:			
13,27	Newburyport	1 imm., 1 nearly ad.	J. Berry, CBC(W. Petersen)
26	Yarmouth	1 imm.	J. Aylward
Marsh Hawk (Northern Harrier):			
10,13	P.I.	max. 3	v.o.
Peregrine Falcon:			
1,12	P.I., E. Boston	1 imm., 1 imm.	R. Heil, K. Norris
20	Eastham	1	W. Petersen
Merlin:			
5,20	P.I., Boston	1, 1	BBC, CBC
30,31	Plymouth, Falmouth	1, 1	CBC, W. & M. Harris
American Kestrel:			
20	Greater Boston	23	CBC
Ruffed Grouse:			
27,28	Ipswich	1, 1	M. Kasprzyk#
Bobwhite:			
6-13	E. Middleboro	13	K. Anderson
20,27	Boston, Newburyport	5, 3	CBC's
Ring-necked Pheasant:			
20	Greater Boston	188	CBC
Virginia Rail:			
20	Greater Boston	1	CBC
Sora Rail:			
20	Orleans	1	R. Heil, R. Comeau
American Coot:			
11	Ipswich	30	R. Heil
Killdeer:			
5	Newburyport	1	BBC
Black-bellied Plover:			
5,12	Newburyport, Rockport	3, 2	BBC, BBC
20	Greater Boston	20	CBC
Common Snipe:			
13	Rockport, Ipswich	1 b., 2	R. Norris, J. Berry
20	Boston	3	CBC
Greater Yellowlegs:			
1,27	Newburyport, Hyannis	1, 2	R. Heil, H. Stabins#
Lesser Yellowlegs:			
5	Newburyport	2	R. Heil
Red Knot:			
20,27	Greater Boston, Barnstable	11, 4	CBC, R. Comeau#
Purple Sandpiper:			
11,26	Cape Ann, N. Scituate	max. 5, 10+	v.o., J. Bird
Dunlin:			
1-10	Newburyport	max. 650	R. Heil + v.o.
20	Greater Boston	400	CBC
Long-billed Dowitcher:			
26	Eastham	1	B. Nikula
dowitcher species:			
1	Newburyport	1	R. Heil
Calidris species:			
20	Eastham	1	W. Petersen
Pomarine Jaeger:			
6,7;20	Eastham	6,3;1	B. Nikula; CBC(W. Petersen)
26	Nauset	1	B. Nikula
Parasitic Jaeger:			
6,30	Eastham, Nantucket Sound	1, 1	B. Nikula, W. Boyle
jaeger species:			
5;6,7	Chatham, Eastham	1; 4, 2	B. Nikula
skua species:			
6	Eastham	1	B. Nikula
Iceland Gull:			
1,12	P.I., Gloucester	1, max. 12	R. Heil, v.o.
Great Black-backed Gull:			
10	P.I.	126	NWR (D. Spencer)
Lesser Black-backed Gull:			
11,11-12	Lynn, Weymouth	1, 1	R. Heil, D. Brown
30	Plymouth	1	CBC (R. Heil)
Herring Gull:			
10	P.I.	456	NWR (D. Spencer)

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Ring-billed Gull:			
11-12,20	Lynn, Greater Boston	400, 1572	R.Heil, CBC
Black-headed Gull:			
12,20	Lynn, Greater Boston	1 imm., 4	R.Heil, CBC
26,29	P'town	1 imm., 2 ad.	B.Nikula, W.Boyle
Laughing Gull:			
4	Chatham	20	B.Nikula
Bonaparte's Gull:			
5,20	N.Scituate, Greater Boston	250, 152	W.Petersen, CBC
11-23	Lynn	max. 120	R.Heil
Little Gull:			
20	Greater Boston	1	CBC
Black-legged Kittiwake:			
12	Gloucester	1	v.o.
Common Tern:			
27,28	Dennis, M.V.	1, 1	R.Scott#, W.Petersen
Black Tern:			
6	Nantucket	1	S.Perkins
alcid species:			
7	Eastham	10+	B.Nikula
Dovekie:			
7	Eastham	3	B.Nikula
Black Guillemot:			
11,12,14	Cape Ann	1	v.o.
20;24,26	Eastham;N.Scituate	18; 6, 13	W.Petersen; J.Bird
Barn Owl:			
10,26	Chatham	1	B.Nikula
13	Salisbury	1	A.Altman#
Screech Owl:			
20	Greater Boston, Millis	29, 39	CBC's
Great Horned Owl:			
5,20	P.I., Greater Boston	2, 7	G.Gove + v.o., CBC
Snowy Owl:			
1;5,17	P.I.+Newburyport; P.I.	2, 2, 2	R.Heil;J.Berry,P.Roberts
7,30	Concord, Lynn	1, 1	C.Harris
Long-eared Owl:			
12;13,17	Cambridge; Salisbury	1; 1	L.Taylor; v.o.
19,26,29	Peabody, P.I., Lynn	1, 1, 1	S.Rodewicz,L.Robinson,P.McLaughlin
Short-eared Owl:			
thr.	P.I.-Salisbury	max. 8	v.o.
23,30	Squantum	max. 2	v.o.
13,20	Halifax, Greater Boston	1, 7	K.Anderson, CBC
23,28	Saugus, M.V.	3, 1	J.Nove, W.Petersen
Saw-whet Owl:			
2,13	Medfield, Orleans	1 dead, 1	J.Fitch, R.Comeau
Belted Kingfisher:			
3	Belmont	2	L.Robinson
Pileated Woodpecker:			
5,22	Framingham, Lincoln	1, 1	C.Ewer, D.Subsick
Red-bellied Woodpecker:			
thr.	Lanesville	1 imm.	v.o.
.20	Belmont	1 f.	J.Wissmann
Red-headed Woodpecker:			
thr.	Woburn, Lanesville, M.V.	1 imm.,1,1	G.Gove,N.Claflin#,V.Laux
Hairy Woodpecker:			
27	Ipswich	4	J.Berry
Downy Woodpecker:			
20	Greater Boston	128	CBC

HORNED LARK THROUGH SNOW BUNTING

The trend among land birds this fall and winter was towards early departure of migrants and low counts of winter residents. Typifying this phenomenon in December were the warblers as a group, with only one first-week report of Yellow-rumped Warbler and no Common Yellowthroats or Yellow-breasted Chats.

There were a very few contradictory late lingering species. Small numbers of Water Pipits were seen at three coastal sites, with the observation in the last week of the month being especially surprising. For late warblers, the 20th was the day, with a

Prairie discovered on Cape Cod and a Nashville spotted in Arlington during the Christmas Bird Count. There had been several November Nashville Warblers in the region, including one at another Arlington site. The December individual was of a most unusual plumage, with virtually no yellow on the throat. The initial observers were sufficiently cautious that they declared the bird to be only of the genus Vermivora, leading to much speculation as to species. The bird was ultimately identified conclusively, partly from good photographs and also through examination of museum skins, one of which matched quite well. Also counter to the seasonal trend was a high count of sixty Brown-headed Cowbirds seen in South Peabody during a three day period. Eight individual oriole reports, of which six were Northern (Baltimore) Orioles, was about average for a December. Observers should scrutinize all winter orioles, as the occurrence of "Bullock's" at this time is rather likely.

Rarities included a surprising count of two Varied Thrushes during the last week of the month, one each at inland and coastal sites. A remarkably sedentary Townsend's Solitaire remained on Martha's Vineyard for the whole month. The only waxwing reported during December was a Bohemian at Plum Island. At Manomet, the November Western Tanager stayed just barely long enough to make the December record.

December held very few surprises among birds of the finch order. Evening Grosbeak numbers were quite low, possibly due to lack of reporting rather than true scarcity. All of the irruptive winter finch species were present, though the numbers were unremarkable. A very late Vesper Sparrow was found during the Greater Boston CBC, and an unusually high count of fourteen Seaside Sparrows was achieved during a high tide excursion to Plum Island. Several other sparrow species normally less common in winter were observed in small numbers; included were Sharp-tailed, Chipping, Clay-colored, and White-crowned. The Fox Sparrow migration extended into the first week of December, and two were seen at CBC time. L.E.T.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
<u>Horned Lark:</u> 12;13,30	Concord; Salisbury	49; 40, 15+	R.Walton;BBC,W.&M.Harris
<u>Blue Jay:</u> 20	Greater Boston	544	CBC
<u>Common Crow:</u> 20	Greater Boston	1168	CBC
<u>Boreal Chickadee:</u> 13-31,20	Newburyport, Jamaica Plain 2 max., 1		J.Berry#, CBC
<u>Tufted Titmouse:</u> 11,20	Lynn Woods, Greater Boston	35, 202	R.Heil, CBC
<u>Red-breasted Nuthatch:</u> 5,12	P.I., Manchester	10, 1	J.Berry, BBC
<u>Brown Creeper:</u> 11,20	Lynn Woods, Greater Boston	12, 11	R.Heil, CBC
<u>Winter Wren:</u> 30	Plymouth	1	CBC
<u>Mockingbird:</u> 20	Greater Boston	143	CBC
<u>American Robin:</u> 5	P.I., Belmont Hill	5, 2	BBC
<u>Varied Thrush:</u> 24-31,28	Framingham, Manomet	1 m., 1	K.Hamilton, MBO
<u>Townsend's Solitaire:</u> thr.	M.V.	1	S.Whiting + v.o.
<u>Golden-crowned Kinglet:</u> 11,13	Lynn Woods, Newburyport	17, 3	R.Heil, J.Berry
<u>Water Pipit:</u> 5,13	P.I., Rockport	1, 4	BBC
27	Barnstable	2	J.Aylward#
<u>Bohemian Waxwing:</u> 26	P.I.	1	L.Robinson
<u>Northern Shrike:</u> 5,13	Halifax, P'town	1 ad., 1	W.Petersen#, B.Nikula
20,28	Eastham, IRWS	1 imm., 1 imm.	CBC, M.Kasprzyk
<u>Orange-crowned Warbler:</u> 3,12	Belmont, Braintree	1, 1	L.Robinson, G.d'Entremont
<u>Nashville Warbler:</u> 20-21	Arlington (Spy Pond)	1 ph.	CBC (P.Alden#)
<u>Yellow-rumped Warbler:</u> 5	P.I.	3	BBC

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Pine Warbler: 8,11	Manomet, Ipswich	1, 1 at feeder	MBO staff, fide M.Kasperzyk
<u>Prairie Warbler</u> 20	Eastham	1 (good details)	K.Anderson#
Palm Warbler: 1,31;20	MBO; Greater Boston	1, 1; 1	staff, CBC
Eastern Meadowlark: 10,12	P.I., Randolph	3, 1	J.Nove, G.d'Entremont
10,13	E.Middleboro,W.Newbury	1, 6	K.Anderson, BBC
Red-winged Blackbird: 12	Belmont	1 f.	L.Taylor
Northern Oriole: 5,6	Salem, Ipswich	1, 1	C.Blasczak, J.Berry
7,8	Stoneham, MBO	1, 1 b.	M.Martinek, staff
14,17	Boston, MBO	1, 1 m. b.	S.Gottschlich,T.Lloyd-Evans#
Northern (Bullock's) Oriole: from Nov.-12, thr. Manchester, Westwood		1, 1 f.	v.o., A.Beale
Rusty Blackbird: 20	Greater Boston	1	CBC
Common Grackle: 5	Newburyport	1	BBC
Brown-headed Cowbird: 7-9	S.Peabody	60	R.Heil
<u>Western Tanager:</u> from Nov.-1	MBO	1	staff
Cardinal: 20	Greater Boston	116	CBC
Dickcissel: 19	E.Falmouth	1 imm.	CBC (B.Nikula#)
Evening Grosbeak: 8,12	Brookline, Salem	10, 8	N.+C.Hubbard, C.Blasczak
24,30	Baldwinville, Braintree	21, 16	J.O'Regan, B.Stradley
Purple Finch: 5	Halifax	5	W.Petersen#
Pine Grosbeak: 20,27	Greater Boston, Wayland	1, 8	CBC, W.Petersen#
Common Redpoll: 12,14	Gloucester, Belmont	20, 50	O.Komar#, L.Robinson#
19,20	Squantum, Greater Boston	52, 186	SSBC, CBC
Pine Siskin: 1-6,7	Randolph, Yarmouth	12, 50	R.Langley, J.Aylward
11,20	Lynn Woods, Greater Boston	2, 160	R.Heil, CBC
25	Wellesley	7	L.Robinson
American Goldfinch: 20	Greater Boston	254	CBC
Red Crossbill: thr.,11	P.I. Lynn Woods	15 max., 1	v.o., R.Heil
20	Greater Boston	9	CBC
White-winged Crossbill: 1,11	Braintree, Lynn Woods	4, 3	R.Langley, R.Heil
20	Greater Boston	10	CBC
Rufous-sided Towhee: 7,19	Stoneham, Cohasset	1, 1	M.Martinek, SSBC
"Ipswich" Sparrow: 1	P.I.	1	R.Heil
Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 13,20	P.I., Eastham	1, 1	R.Heil, CBC (W.Petersen)
Seaside Sparrow: 5,13	Newburyport, P.I.	5, 14	R.He 1
13	Eastham	2	B.Nikula
<u>Vesper Sparrow:</u> 20	Greater Boston	1	CBC (H.d'Entremont#)
Dark-eyed Junco: 20	Greater Boston	505	CBC
Tree Sparrow: 5-10,20	P.I., Greater Boston	70 max., 253	v.o., CBC
Chipping Sparrow: 7,19	Stoneham, Manomet	1, 1	M.Martinek, MBO staff

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
<u>Clay-colored Sparrow:</u>			
1,11-14	Rockport, M.V.	1, 1	N.Claflin, V.Laux
<u>White-crowned Sparrow:</u>			
7,7-9	Stoneham, S.Peabody	1, 1 imm.	M.Martinek, R.Heil
<u>Field Sparrow:</u>			
6,12	Kingston, Halifax	1, 6	B.Sorrie, W.Petersen
<u>Fox Sparrow:</u>			
3,7	Belmont, Stoneham	1, 4	L.Robinson, M.Martinek
9	MBO, E.Middleboro	1 b., 1	staff, K.Anderson
20	Greater Boston	2	CBC
<u>Song Sparrow:</u>			
20	Greater Boston	239	CBC
<u>Lapland Longspur:</u>			
11-13,20	Salisbury, Greater Boston	35 max., 9	v.o., CBC
<u>Snow Bunting:</u>			
11,20	Salisbury, Greater Boston	40, 53	D.Brown#, CBC
25,29	Concord, Needham	9, 29	R.Walton, W.Petersen

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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



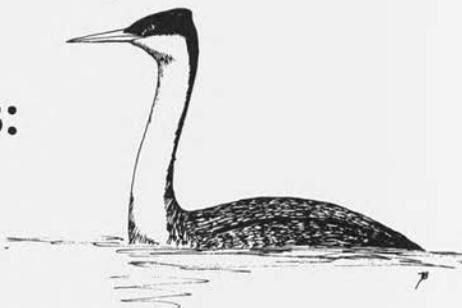
APRIL BLIZZARD OF 1982



Bird Observer would be very interested in any reports of unusual bird mortality or behavior subsequent to the April 6th severe weather. Please submit these items to Ruth Emery, 225 Belmont Street, Wollaston, MA 02170. Observations will be used either to help explain the monthly records, or if sufficient in quantity, as contributions to a feature article.

Field Records:

January 1982



by George W. Gove, Robert H. Stymeist

January was very cold, but began and ended on a mild and wet note. The heavy rain on New Year's Day certainly dampened birders' anticipations for a great new start on a brand new year of birding. The first week averaged 5° above normal, then came a 21 day siege of cold, averaging nearly 12° below normal, complete with a bitter cold windchill factor. This was the 10th coldest January in 112 years, the mercury dipped to below zero just once, with -2° on the 18th. The month's high was 56° on the 4th. Precipitation totaled 4.69 inches, 1.00 inch above normal. The most rain any day was 1.57 inches on the 4th, followed closely by 1.38 inches on New Year's Day. Snow-fall totaled 18.0 inches, 5.6 inches more than normal, the most in any 24 hours was 8.0 inches on the 13-14th. The winter 1981-1982 thus far measures 35.6 inches of snow, 14.2 inches more than average.

LOONS THROUGH GALLINULE

A dark-phased Western Grebe was found on the Nantucket CBC on the 2nd. Recent studies indicate that there may be two distinct phases of the Western Grebe (see A Closer Look, by Kimball Garrett, BOEM Vol. 9, No. 6 pgs 277-278 reprinted from the Western Tanager). There was an amazing concentration of Common (86), Red-throated Loons (178) and Red-necked Grebes (30) along the south side of Nantucket on the CBC. A Double-crested Cormorant was still present in Barnstable at the beginning of the month.

Twenty-six Great Blue Herons were counted on the Nantucket CBC where a Snowy Egret was also found. A Great Egret was found in East Harwich on the 3rd; both the latter two species lingering much longer than usual here in Massachusetts.

Waterfowl highlights include an increase in the number of Mute Swans on the North Shore, 800+ Brant along the Quincy Shore, good numbers of Pintail at Yarmouth and at Plum Island, a drake European Wigeon on Nantucket, 124 Redheads in Falmouth, 20+ Barrow's Goldeneyes, 8,204 Oldsquaw and 50,000 Common Eider on the Nantucket CBC and the usual scatterings of Harlequin Ducks and King Eiders.

Raptors included 37! give or take Red-tailed Hawks on the little island of Nantucket, where 7 Sharp-shinned, 7 Rough-legged, 54 Marsh, 4 Merlins and 1 adult Peregrine were logged in on the CBC there. The second Winter Raptor Survey in the Bridgewater area netted 28 Red-tailed, 1 Red-shouldered, 3 Rough-legged hawks and 8 American Kestrels. Again this year, the Merrimac River played host to at least three Bald Eagles, and others were found at Lakeville and Hyannis. A Merlin was photographed in Brighton on the 14th, very unusual in winter away from the shore.

Seven Virginia Rails were found on the Nantucket CBC. A Common Gallinule was also found on Nantucket on the 3rd. The highlight of the month was the discovery of a half-alive Yellow Rail on North Beach, Chatham. Efforts to keep it alive failed; the bird subsequently died and the specimen is now at Massachusetts Audubon Society in Lincoln, Mass. R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Common Loon:			
2, 7	Nantucket, P.I.	86, 23	CBC, D.Spencer
Red-throated Loon:			
2	Nantucket	178	CBC

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Red-necked Grebe:			
2	Nantucket	30	CBC
2,16,31	Cape Ann	11, 11, 8	BBC
Horned Grebe:			
7,16	P.I., Gloucester	47, 30	D.Spencer, BBC
Western Grebe:			
2-3	Nantucket	1	O.Komar + v.o.
Pied-billed Grebe:			
3	Lakeville, Falmouth	2, 1	SSBC, BBC
Great Cormorant:			
3,31	Woods Hole, Cape Ann	100, 34	BBC
Double-crested Cormorant:			
1,2	Barnstable	1	J.Aylward, D.Arvidson
Great Blue Heron:			
2	Nantucket	26	CBC
thr.,1-23	Framingham, Belmont	1-2, 2-1	K.Hamilton, L.Taylor
1,3	Orleans, Buzzards Bay	5, 15	R.Barber#, SSBC
Great Egret:			
3	E.Harwich	1	R.Comeau
Snowy Egret:			
2	Nantucket	1	CBC
Mute Swan:			
thr.	Ipswich	max. 15	E.+D.Monnelly
Canada Goose:			
7	P.I.	2042	D.Spencer
Brant:			
2	Quincy	800+	T.Lawrence, L.Taylor
Black Duck:			
3,7	Newburyport, P.I.	2000+, 4262	J.Berry, D.Spencer
Gadwall:			
7,28,31	P.I.,Salem,Gloucester	8, 2, 8	D.Spencer, R.Heil, BBC
Pintail:			
1,7	Yarmouth, P.I.	100, 251	J.Alyward, D.Spencer
9-31,10	Lynn, Framingham	1-2, 1	R.Heil, R.Forster#
Green-winged Teal:			
7,9	P.I., Sandwich	25, 3	D.Spencer, J.Aylward
European Wigeon:			
2-3	Nantucket	1	CBC
American Wigeon:			
2	Belmont	21	R.Clayton
Northern Shoveler:			
11	Marshfield	1	D.Clapp
Wood Duck:			
2	Nantucket	8	CBC
3,9,23	Falmouth,Belmont,Framingham	1, 1, 1	BBC, L.Taylor, R.Forester
Redhead:			
2	Nantucket	46	CBC
2;16+23	Falmouth; Belmont	124; 1	R.Barber#, L.Taylor
Canvasback:			
1,3	Wareham, Falmouth	350+, 75	D.Briggs#, BBC
Greater Scaup:			
30	Winthrop	3000	BBC
Lesser Scaup:			
2	Nantucket	8	CBC
2-31,2	Framingham, Falmouth	1, 38	K.Hamilton#, R.Barber#
Common Goldeneye:			
2	Nantucket	939	CBC
7,13	P.I., Marshfield	48, 40	D.Spencer, D.Clapp
Barrow's Goldeneye:			
2	Nantucket	5	CBC
thr.	Chatham, Yarmouth	1, 1	B.Nikula, v.o.
7 on,10-12	Newburyport, S.Peabody	1-3, 1	J.Barton# + v.o., R.Heil
16+30,30	Quincy, Revere	3+1, 1	J.Barton#, J.Barton
31	Gloucester, Marshfield	3, 1	BBC, W.Petersen
Bufflehead:			
30	Wollaston	500	J.Barton#
Oldsquaw:			
2	Nantucket	8204	CBC
Harlequin Duck:			
thr.	Gloucester, E.Orleans	5, 2	v.o., v.o.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Common Eider:			
1	Nantucket (Low Beach)	50,000+	R.Heil, B.Nikula
30	Boston Harbor	7500	J.Barton#
King Eider:			
2	Rockport, Gloucester	2 f., 1 f.	H.Wiggin#
30,31	Rockport, Marshfield	1 f., 1 f.	v.o., W.Petersen
White-winged Scoter:			
2	Nantucket	427	CBC
Surf Scoter:			
2,31	Nantucket, N.Scituate	17, 40	CBC, W.Petersen
Black Scoter:			
2	Nantucket	610	CBC
Ruddy Duck:			
1	Lakeville	1	D.Briggs#
Hooded Merganser:			
thr.,1	Framingham, Lakeville	max. 6, 7	K.Hamilton, D.Briggs#
2,3	Nantucket, Buzzards Bay	20, 24	CBC, SSBC
10,30	Falmouth, Wollaston	27, 1	H.Wiggin#, J.Barton#
Common Merganser:			
2,3	Nantucket, Newburyport	31, 28	CBC, J.Berry
Red-breasted Merganser:			
2	Nantucket	5413	CBC
Goshawk:			
2,6	Framingham, IRWS	1 imm., 1 imm.	K.Hamilton, A.Kasprzyk
9,10,17	P.I., Wellesley, Chatham	1, 1 imm., 1 imm.	W.VanCor#, K.Winkler, B.Nikula
Sharp-shinned Hawk:			
2	Nantucket, Cape Ann	7, 1	CBC, BBC
3,11	Lakeville, Wayland	1, 1 ad.	SSBC, J.Hines
18,30	Chelmsford, Boston Harbor	1 1	W.Harris, J.Barton#
Red-tailed Hawk:			
2	Nantucket	37	CBC
1+3	Newburyport+Salisbury	9	P.Roberts + BBC
17	Whitman-Bridgewater	28	SSBC Winter Raptor Survey
17	Sudbury River Valley	17	R.Walton#
Red-shouldered Hawk:			
thr.,3+7	Orleans, Wellesley	1 ad., 1	fide B.Nikula, K.Winkler
12,16	Middleboro, IRWS	1, 1 ad.	D.Briggs, J.Berry
17	Bridgewater	1	fide W.Petersen
Rough-legged Hawk:			
thr.	P.I.-Salisbury area	max. 10 1/9	P.Roberts# + v.o.
thr.,2	Cape Cod, Nantucket	6+, 7	fide B.Nikula, CBC
17	Bridgewater, Sudbury	3, 1	Winter Raptor Survey
Bald Eagle:			
thr.	Newburyport area	max. 3, 1 ad., 2 imm.	v.o.
thr.	Lakeville	1 imm.	D.Davis# + v.o.
28	Hyannis	1	W.Bailey
Marsh Hawk:			
thr.	P.I.-Salisbury	max. 5	v.o.
2	Nantucket	<u>54</u>	CBC
Peregrine Falcon:			
2+3,18+20	Nantucket, Chatham	1 ad., 1	CBC, V.Saunders+B.Nikula
Merlin:			
2	Nantucket	4	CBC
14	<u>Brighton</u>	1 ph.	D.Gianniny
American Kestrel:			
1,2	P.I.-Newburyport, Nantucket	5, 11	BBC, CBC
17	Whitman-Bridgewater	8	SSBC Winter Raptor Survey
17	Sudbury River Valley	4	R.Walton + v.o.
Virginia Rail:			
2	Nantucket	7	CBC
16,23	Ipswich	1, 3	J.Berry
Yellow Rail:			
13	Chatham (North Beach)	1 found alive	fide R.Forster
		bird subsequently died, specimen at Mass. Audubon	
Common Gallinule:			
3	Nantucket	1 imm.	G.Gove#

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

How American Woodcock can make a living inland in Massachusetts in the dead of winter is a mystery; however one was seen flying across a street in Medford at dusk. A Long-billed Dowitcher was seen and heard in Eastham and a Marbled Godwit was found in the marshes of the North River in Scituate. Eleven Glaucous Gulls and 53 Iceland Gulls were counted on Nantucket where five Lesser Black-backed Gulls were also in residence. Nantucket seems to be the gull capital of the state with about 6500 Great Black-backed, 46,000 Herring Gulls and about 14,000 Black-legged Kittiwakes.

Four species of alcids were reported mostly in low numbers except for Razorbills off Nantucket. A maximum of 73 Mourning Doves frequented a feeder in Brookline. Two Pileated Woodpeckers were reported and the Red-bellied Woodpecker continued at Lanesville. Three Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen; the immature in Woburn has been present since November and has started developing its adult plumage.

G.W.G.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Killdeer:			
1,2	Barnstable, Newburyport; Cape Ann	4, 1, 1	J. Aylward, BBC; BBC
American Woodcock:			
2, 8, 15	Nantucket, Medford, Chatham	2, 1, 1	CBC, G. Gove, B. Nikula
Common Snipe:			
thr., 2	S. Peabody, Nantucket	3, 5	R. Heil, CBC
3, 23	Buzzards Bay, Ipswich	2, 1	SSBC, J. Berry
Purple Sandpiper:			
thr.	Rockport	max. 50	v.o.
16, 31	N. Scituate	max. 200	W. Petersen
Long-billed Dowitcher:			
18	Eastham	1	C. Goodrich
Marbled Godwit:			
31	Scituate	1	W. Petersen
Sanderling:			
2, 17	Nantucket, Salisbury	123, 35	CBC, BBC
Glaucous Gull:			
thr.	Cape Ann	max. 4	v.o.
1, 2	P.I., Nantucket	1, 11	BBC, CBC
27	S. Peabody	1 imm.	R. Heil
Iceland Gull:			
thr., 1,	Cape Ann, P.I.	max. 33, 2	BBC
2	Nantucket	53	CBC
Great Black-backed Gull:			
7, 2	P.I., Nantucket	646, 6462	NWR (D. Spencer), CBC
Lesser Black-backed Gull:			
2	Nantucket	<u>5</u>	CBC
Herring Gull:			
2	Nantucket	<u>46,078</u>	CBC
Ring-billed Gull:			
2	Nantucket	492	CBC
thr.	Lynn	max. 220	R. Heil
Black-headed Gull:			
1, 2, 3	Manomet, Nantucket, Salisbury	1, 1, 1 ad.	D. Briggs#, CBC, J. Berry#
10-24, 20	Chatham, Lynn	1 ad., 1 imm.	B. Nikula, R. Heil
Bonaparte's Gull:			
2, 5	Nantucket, Lynn	1256, 3000	CBC, C. Corley
Black-legged Kittiwake:			
2	Nauset, Nantucket	300, <u>13,650</u>	J. Aylward, CBC
Razorbill:			
4, 9	Nantucket, Sandwich	379, 1	C. Jackson#, J. Aylward
Thick-billed Murre:			
3	Nantucket	3	R. Stymeist#
Dovekie:			
1	Sagamore	1	N. Hill
Black Guillemot:			
thr.	Rockport	max. 4	v.o.
2, 4	Nantucket	4	CBC, C. Jackson#
Mourning Dove:			
thr.	Brookline	max. 73	H. Wiggin
Great Horned Owl:			
4, 20	Ipswich, Waltham	1, 1	J. Berry, M. Gardner

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Great Horned Owl (continued):			
8,17	Middleboro; S.Middleboro, Halifax	1; 2, 1	D.Briggs; S.MacDonald, W.Petersen
Snowy Owl:			
thr.	P.I.-Newburyport	max. 2	v.o.
Barred Owl:			
8,9,22	Quabbin, Newburyport	1, 1	R.Forster, W.Petersen#
22,17	Amesbury, Hamilton	1 (dead), 1	G.Gavutis, J.Berry
19	Littleton, W.Bridgewater	1, 1	J.Baird, J.Sweeney
Long-eared Owl:			
2-9	Cambridge	1	L.Taylor
thr.	W.Roxbury	max. 4	O.Komar
3,13	Nantucket, P.I.	2, 1	R.Stymeist#, NWR
21,24;26	Salisbury; Chatham	1 (dead), 1; 1	W.Byrne, G.Gove; R.Clem
Short-eared Owl:			
thr.	P.I.	max. 6	v.o.
9,17	Salisbury	max. 5	v.o.
thr.	W.Dennis, E.Orleans	2, 2	v.o., N.Meckling
6,27	Manomet, Middleboro	1, 1	MBO staff, D.Briggs
Saw-whet Owl:			
24	Wayland	1	B.Miller
Belted Kingfisher:			
3	Buzzard's Bay	5	SSBC
Common Flicker:			
3	Plymouth, Falmouth	5, 3	SSBC, BBC
Pileated Woodpecker:			
9,19	Wellesley, N.Reading	1, 1	K.Winkler, W.Gannon
Red-bellied Woodpecker:			
2-16	Lanesville	1	v.o.
Red-headed Woodpecker:			
thr.;3	Woburn, Lanesville; MV	1 imm., 1; 1	G.Gove, v.o.; BBC
	In Woburn since 11/27		

HORNED LARK THROUGH SNOW BUNTING

A roost of at least 4100 Common Crows were counted at Framingham on the 9th, included was a reported 40 Fish Crows coming to the same roost. Winter roost of crows are interesting to watch and monitor, there usually is an assembly point at which crows gather before moving onto the night-time roost. Other roosts in the past have been reported in West Roxbury and in Waltham. At least 4 Boreal Chickadees were reported during the month, all holdovers from December. A high count of 67 Red-breasted Nuthatches was reported on the Nantucket CBC, virtually the same as last year's CBC when 71 were noted.

Varied Thrushes were reported from Eastham and Dennis and the bird found in Framingham during December was last seen on New Year's Day. The Townsend's Solitaire continued throughout the month alone on Martha's Vineyard. The winter stronghold of Yellow-rumped Warblers in Massachusetts certainly must be Nantucket, where 3369 were counted by CBCer's. An adult male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was coming to a feeder in Wellesley, the bird was not a first-year male as one would expect during the winter.

For the first winter in several years, the traditional "winter finches" were reported in very good numbers. Common Redpolls, Pine Siskins, both species of crossbills were noted from the entire eastern Massachusetts area. Sparrow highlights included a Grasshopper Sparrow on Nantucket, a Lark Sparrow from Falmouth and 9 Chipping Sparrows.

A special note of thanks should be mentioned here to the Bigelow' of Holyoke, at whose feeder appeared an immature Golden-crowned Sparrow. Found by Rudd Stone, editor of Bird News of Western Massachusetts, the bird remained there throughout the month. The Bigelow's invited every birder into their house to see the bird at close range and provided a warm welcome to the many birders that came from all over New England to see the bird.

R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Horned Lark:			
2	Nantucket, Middleboro	91, 20	CBC, D.Briggs#
3, 12	Ipswich, S.Peabody	20, 18	J.Berry#, R.Heil

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Common Crow:			
9	Framingham	4100+ (roost)	R.Forster, K.Hamilton
Fish Crow:			
9,18	Framingham, Boston	40, 1	R.Forster#, N.Osborne
Boreal Chickadee:			
thr.	Framingham, Newburyport	1, 1-2	K.Hamilton#, v.o.
31	Framingham (different locale)	1	E.Morrier
Red-breasted Nuthatch:			
2,30	Nantucket, P.I.	67, 6	CBC, P.Roberts
Winter Wren:			
19	Wayland	1	J.Hines
Carolina Wren:			
11,22	Marshfield, Dover	1, 1	D.Clapp, P.Hallowell
Long-billed Marsh Wren:			
2+3,9	Nantucket, Wayland	1 + 1, 1	CBC + J.Heywood#, J.Hines
Mockingbird:			
2	Nantucket	76	CBC
Gray Catbird:			
2,30	Nantucket, Manomet	4, 1	CBC, MBO staff
Brown Thrasher:			
15	Concord	1	R.Forster#
American Robin:			
2	Nantucket	458	CBC
<u>Varied Thrush:</u>			
1,17	Framingham, Eastham	1, 1	K.Hamilton#, H.Gassinger, fide B.Nikula
17-23	Dennis	1	Freeman, fide B.Nikula
Hermit Thrush:			
2	Nantucket	2	CBC
<u>Townsend's Solitaire:</u>			
thr.	W.Tisbury, M.V.	1	S.Whiting# + v.o.
Golden-crowned Kinglet:			
2,25-29	Nantucket, Westor	6, 9	CBC, J.Hines
Ruby-crowned Kinglet:			
3	M.V.	1	R.Timberlake#
Water Pipit:			
2,30	Nantucket, Barnstable	12, 1	CBC, J.Aylward
Cedar Waxwing:			
2,25	Nantucket, Wellesley	61, 30	CBC, J.Hines
31	Chatham	150 (1 flock)	B.Nikula
Northern Shrike:			
1,3	P.O., Nantucket	1, 1	BBC, H.D'Entremont#
6,13+30	IRWS, P.I.	1, 1	M.Kasprzyk, v.o.
Yellow-rumped Warbler:			
2	Nantucket	<u>3369</u>	CBC
Palm Warbler:			
2	Sandwich, Nantucket	4, 11	J.Aylward, CBC
Common Yellowthroat:			
3	Nantucket	1	J.Heywood#
Eastern Meadowlark:			
2	Nantucket	43	CBC
Red-winged Blackbird:			
1,20	Belmont, S.Peabody	6, 30+	L.Taylor, R.Heil
Rusty Blackbird:			
thr.	S.Peabody	max. 23 1/20	R.Heil
2	Yarmouth, Nantucket	6, 1	R.Scott, CBC
Common Grackle:			
thr.	Framingham	1-9	R.Forster
Rose-breasted Grosbeak:			
20-31	Wellesley	1 ad. m.	L.Cournoyer
Evening Grosbeak:			
thr.	Middleboro	150+	D.Briggs + v.o.
Purple Finch:			
7,25	Wayland, Weston	3, 2	J.Hines
Pine Grosbeak:			
thr., 7-10	Concord, Wellesley	max. 10, max. 15	R.Forster, K.Winkler
3,16	Wayland, Ipswich	20, 5	J.Hines, J.Berry
Common Redpoll:			
2+17,3	Belmont, Rowley	28 + 34, 100	L.Taylor, D.Alexander
3,20	Wayland, Lynn	22, 25	J.Hines, R.Heil

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Common Redpoll (continued):			
19,21	Cambridge, Salisbury	200, 150	J.Peputsiano, J.Carter
21,27	P.I., S.Peabody	25, 26	J.Carter, R.Heil
29,30	Newburyport, Salisbury	40+, 43	R.Heil, P.Roberts
Many other reports of 1-25 individuals			
Pine Siskin:			
thr.	Middleboro	100+	D.Briggs#
2,3	Manchester, Wayland	50+, 35	C.Corley, J.Hines
11,17	Westwood, Halifax	20+, 50	B.Wicks, W.Petersen
Red Crossbill:			
2,30	Nantucket, P.I.	30, 11	CBC, P.Roberts#
White-winged Crossbill:			
14,16	Cambridge, W.Newton	12, 23	L.Rosencrans, M.Murphy
17,19	Lexington, Framingham	4, 10	J.Carter, J.Hines
27	S.Peabody, Milton	20, 10	R.Heil, S.Higginbotham
30	Salisbury, Weston	4, 20	P.Roberts, J.Hines
Rufous-sided Towhee:			
1-7,2	Hyde Park, Nantucket	1, 1	F.Catarino, CBC
3,11	Wayland, Westwood	1, 1	J.Hines, B.Wicks
12,27	S.Peabody, Salem	1, 1	R.Heil
"Ipswich Sparrow"			
2,16	Nantucket, W.Dennis	1, 1	CBC, J.Alyward
Savannah Sparrow:			
2,17	Nantucket, Bridgewater	12, 4	CBC, M.Reinstein#
Grasshopper Sparrow:			
2	Nantucket	1	R.Heil
Lark Sparrow:			
thr.	Falmouth (from 12/25/81)	1	A.Nelson#
Chipping Sparrow:			
thr.,2	Framingham, Nantucket	2, 6	K.Hamilton, CBC
10	E.Harwich	1	B.Nikula
Field Sparrow:			
2,12	Nantucket, Wayland	5, 1	CBC, J.Hines
23,27	Whitman, S.Peabody	1, 5	W.Petersen, R.Heil
White-crowned Sparrow:			
2	Nantucket	3	CBC
Fox Sparrow:			
1-22,11	Dover, Westwood	2, 4	P.Hallowell, B.Wicks
19	Brookline	1	C.Hubbard
Swamp Sparrow:			
16,20	Ipswich, S.Peabody	2, 5	J.Berry, R.Heil
Lapland Longspur:			
thr.	Salisbury	max. 200+ 1/21	v.o.
Snow Bunting:			
3,7	Nantucket, P.I.	116, 9	CBC, D.Spencer
17	Bridgewater, Stoughton	80+, 100	G.Gove#, S.MacKerron
17,19	Sudbury, Salisbury	48, 150-200	K.Hamilton#, J.Carter
30	Quincy, Gloucester	60, 21	J.Barton#, H.Coolidge

CORRIGENDA

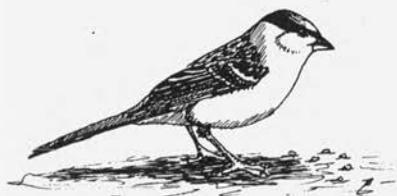
Field Records: November 1981

Red-breasted Merganser:			
7	Barnstable (S.N.)	60,000+	W.Petersen#
	should read		
7	Barnstable (S.N.)	6,000+	W.Petersen#

ADDENDA

Field Records: November 1981

Barn Swallow:			
1,3	P'town, Eastham	8, 8	B.Nikula
6,7	Barnstable, Truro	5, 3	J.Aylward, B.Nikula
22	Yarmouth	1	J.Aylward



Field Records: February 1982

by George W. Gove, Robert H. Stymeist

February was gloomy, a little on the mild side and somewhat dry. The temperature averaged 30.8°, 0.4° above normal; the first week averaged nearly 5° above normal, while the rest of February was on the cold side. The high mark was 54° on the 3rd, the low was 15° on both the 25 and 26th. Precipitation totaled 2.66 inches, 0.88 inch less than normal and well under half that of the very wet February of last year. Totals were near normal in some suburbs. Snowfall totaled 7.6 inches, 4.1 inches less than average; the most in any storm was 4.0 inches on the 9-10th. Winds were rather strong during several of the colder periods to produce prolonged intervals of very low wind-chill values, this was especially noticeable on the 25-26th.

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

An Arctic Loon was reported from Salisbury on the 20th but details on the sighting are not available. Only one Red-throated Loon was reported. A total of 59 Red-necked Grebes from six locations were reported with 22 seen at Cape Ann on the 12th. One Pied-billed Grebe was seen early on the month; most inland waters have been frozen and Pied-billed Grebes have little suitable habitat in which to winter this season. Several Great Blue Herons managed to sustain an existence inland with four individuals reported from locations away from the coast.

Five White-fronted Geese were found in the Newburyport area on the 8th and remained through the month. Details provided by R.Heil attributed these geese to the Western US race as opposed to the Greenland race. They had pink bills, orange legs, no eye ring, white around the base of the bill but not high onto the forehead and the underparts were darkly mottled. The plumage was fresh and unbraided and the birds were not banded. Thus they would appear to be valid vagrants.

G.W.G.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Common Loon:			
6,21	E.Gloucester,Manchester-Rockport	10, 30	J.Berry#, BBC
23,27	Salisbury, Ipswich	11, 2	J.Hines, BBC
Arctic Loon: (no details)			
20	Salisbury	1	D.Brown#
Red-throated Loon:			
7	P.I.	1	BBC
Red-necked Grebe:			
7,18;24	N.Scituate; Brant Rock	1, 4; 2	W.Petersen; S.Higginbotham
7,21	Gloucester	8, 10	SSEC, B. "
12	Cape Ann	22	J.Hines
7,21,28	P.I.	max. 3	BBC
21	Salisbury	9	R.Heil
Horned Grebe:			
15,19	Barnstable, P.I.	35, 15	J.Aylward, W.Petersen
21	Manchester-Rockport	12	BBC
Pied-billed Grebe:			
2	Framingham	1	R.Forster
Great Cormorant:			
6,12	Winthrop-Revere,Cape Ann	35, 40	BBC, J.Hines

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Great Blue Heron:			
2;4,16	Framingham; Marshfield	1; 1	R.Forster, W.Petersen
13,22;7	Belmont; Milton	1, 2; 2	L.Taylor,L.Robinson;C.Floyd#
5,21	Everett, Manchester	1, 1	J.Berry, BBC
Mute Swan:			
21,27	Manchester, Ipswich	3, 1	BBC, BBC
27	Westport	29	G.Gove
Canada Goose:			
19,26	Newburyport, Beverly	250, 200	W.Petersen, J.Berry
Brant:			
5,7	Scituate, Quincy	80, 1368	S.Higginbotham, TASL
14,20	Squantum	225, 210	BBC, L.Taylor#
23	Plymouth	50	K.Anderson
White-fronted Goose:			
8-28	Newburyport	5	A.Altman + v.o.
Black Duck:			
6,7	Winthrop, Quincy	303, 980	BBC, TASL
Gadwall:			
thr.,6	Weston,Marston's Mills	1 f., 3	J.Hines, J.Aylward
Pintail:			
26	Wayland	pair	J.Hines
American Wigeon:			
7	Gloucester, Boston Harbor	2, 1 m.	SSBC, L.Taylor
20	Belmont	13	F.Bouchard
Wood Duck:			
6,8	Marston's Mills,Wellesley	1, 1 m.	J.Aylward, K.Winkler
Ring-necked Duck:			
2,16	Framingham, Wayland	2, 1 m.	R.Forster, J.Hines
17;27	Lakeville	1; 25 m., 2 f.	W.Petersen, G.Gove
Canvasback:			
6,14	Cotuit, Wollaston	600, 8	J.Aylward, BBC
28	Newburyport	6	BBC
Greater Scaup:			
7	Quincy, Winthrop-Revere	1116, 1472	TASL
17	Wollaston	1200	G.Wilson#
Common Goldeneye:			
19-28	Newburyport	max. 1200	v.o.
7	Cape Ann, Quincy	250, 453	SSBC, TASL
Barrow's Goldeneye:			
7-20	Newburyport	max. 7(4 m., 3 f.)	v.o.
7,11	Quincy, Manomet	5, 1 f.	TASL, B.Harrington
24,28	Scituate, Chatham	1 f., 1	S.Higginbotham, B.Nikula
Bufflehead:			
19-28	Newburyport	max. 800	v.o.
Oldsquaw:			
21-28	Newburyport	max. 800	v.o.
Harlequin Duck:			
7-13	Gloucester (Bass Rocks)	max. 6	v.o.
5	N.Scituate	1 m., 1 f.	S.Higginbotham
Common Eider:			
7	Winthrop-Revere	5616	TASL
5,23	Marshfield, Salisbury	3000, 110	S.Higginbotham, J.Carter
King Eider:			
6,19	P.I.	1 f.	G.Gove#, W.Petersen
5,17	Marshfield, Scituate	1 f., 1 f.	S.Higginbotham
7,22	Quincy	1 imm. m., 1 ad. m.	TASL,S.Higginbotham
White-winged Scoter:			
23	Salisbury	80	J.Carter
Surf Scoter:			
12	Cape Ann	16	J.Hines
Ruddy Duck:			
23	Watertown	2	F.Bouchard
Hooded Merganser:			
4	Belmont	4	L.Robinson
17;27	Lakeville	1; 1 m., 1 f.	W.Petersen, M.Reinstein
Common Merganser:			
7-28	Newburyport	max. 115	v.o.
4;28	Weston; Wayland	2 m.; 3 m., 4 f.	J.Hines
7,28	Hingham, Lakeville	15, 7	TASL, D.+J.Briggs

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS
Red-breasted Merganser:			
19-28	Newburyport	max. 400	v.o.
7	Hingham	770	TASL

VULTURES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Turkey Vultures were seen moving late in the month. Two immature and one adult Golden Eagles were reported from Quabbin where a maximum of 18 Bald Eagles, with a ratio of about 3 immatures to one adult, were seen feeding on the many deer carcasses on the ice through the month. A maximum of 4 Bald Eagles wintered on the Merrimac with the age ratio being the same as above. Three Cyrfalcons were reported from as many locations; the one at Squantum having been tentatively identified on the 7th during the TASL harbor census and found again the following weekend when it was seen by many observers for those two days only. An adult Peregrine Falcon was seen at the North River in Scituate-Marshfield where a Marbled Godwit continued in the frozen marshes since January 31 through at least February 21st; two rare birds for Massachusetts particularly in the winter.

American Woodcock, probably winterers, were reported at the end of the month from two locations and Dunlin were seen moving along the coast.

G.W.G.

Turkey Vulture:

27,28	New Braintree, Quabbin	7, 1	W.Byrne,SSBC (W.Petersen)
20	Millbury	1	E.Morrier
Goshawk:			
6,19	P.I.	1 ad imm.	C.Floyd#, W.Petersen
7;17,21	Quabbin; Newbury	1 ad.; 1 imm.	R.Heil
Sharp-shinned Hawk:			
12,20	Rockport, Ipswich	1 imm., 1	J.Andrews, J.Berry#
23,28	Kingston, Quabbin	1, 1	K.Anderson, SSBC
Cooper's Hawk:			
7	Eastham	1 imm.	B.Nikula
Red-tailed Hawk:			
21	Whitman-Bridgewater	15	SSBC
thr.	reports of 1 to 4 from 14 locations		
Red-shouldered Hawk:			
thr.	Orleans	1 ad.	v.o.
15,28	Newburyport	1 ad., 1	R.Forster,BBC (E.Nielsen)
5;6,7	Belmont; Wellesley	1 ad., 1 ad.	L.Robinson, K.Winkler
21	Whitman-Bridgewater	1	SSBC (W.Petersen)
Rough-legged Hawk:			
8-28	Salisbury-Newburyport	max. 7	v.o.
4-17	E.Middleboro	max. 2	K.Anderson
27,15	Wellfleet, Orleans	2, 1	B.Nikula, J.Aylward
thr.	reports of 1-4 from 14 locations		
<u>Golden Eagle:</u>			
7,21;28	Quabbin	1, 1 imm.; 2 ad+ 1 imm	M.Lynch#,D.Brown#+v.o. §SSBC(W.Petersen)
<u>Bald Eagle:</u>			
thr.	Quabbin	max. 18	v.o.
7	Rochester	1 imm.	D.Briggs
thr.	Newburyport	max. 4	v.o.
<u>Marsh Hawk (Northern Harrier):</u>			
thr.	Newburyport-P.I.	max. 3	v.o.
12,13	Rockport, S.Peabody	1 f., 1 f.	J.Hines, R.Heil
3;6	Squantum;Duxbury;Marshfield	1 m, 1 f; 1 m,1 f	G.Wilson;W.Petersen#
<u>Cyrfalcon:</u>			
15-25	Quabbin	1	v.o.
13,14	Squantum	1 gray	D.Brown#
23	Middleboro	1 gray (details received)	D.Briggs
<u>Peregrine Falcon:</u>			
21	Scituate	1 ad.	S.Carroll + M.Lynch#
<u>Merlin:</u>			
7	Quincy	1	TASL
<u>American Kestrel:</u>			
21	Whitman-Bridgewater	29	SSBC
thr.	1-2 individuals from 5 locations		
<u>Ruffed Grouse:</u>			
1,27	Millis, Weston	10, 4	B.Cassie, J.Hines

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Ruffed Grouse (continued): 12;17,21;26	Rockland;Halifax;Abington	2; 1, 1; 1	W.Petersen
Bobwhite: thr. 21	Middleboro, E.Middleboro Halifax	7,7 27	F.Otto, E.+F.Cushman D.Briggs
American Coot: 20	Belmont	1	F.Bouchard
Killdeer: 28	Medfield	1	J.Marshall
American Woodcock: 28	Orleans, Dover	1, 1	R.Scott#, F.Brewer
Common Snipe: 2, thr.	Belmont, S.Peabody	1, 3	J.Damian, R.Heil
Purple Sandpiper: 7 12,18	Winthrop, Hingham Magnolia, N.Scituate	140, 300 90, 150	TASL J.Hines, W.Petersen
Dunlin: 18,27	Scituate, Westport	50, 100	W.Petersen, G.Gove#
Marbled Godwit: 18,21	Scituate	1	W.Petersen#

GULLS THROUGH OWLS

An immature Glaucous Gull was found far inland at Lakeville and two others were found at Wenham also an inland location. The Iceland Gulls along with about 200+ Herring Gulls were feeding upon crabs caught in the surf along the beach at the north end of Plum Island. It was interesting to note that virtually no Great Black-backed Gulls took part in this activity, could it be that they are not as agile in flight as the smaller gulls? An adult albino Herring Gull was described in detail by Rick Heil, who noted an adult whose head, underparts, back and most of the wing mantle was a solid, slightly off-white color. An adult Lesser Black-backed Gull was reported from Quincy early in the month.

Three Common Murres, two of them oiled, were reported south of Boston and two Dovekies were seen off Scituate. Black Guillemots were reported from the standard localities in North Scituate, and Andrew's Point in Rockport.

R.H.S.

Glaucous Gull: 17 18,20 21	Lakeville, Newburyport Scituate, P.I. Gloucester, Wenham	1 imm., 1 ad. 2 (1 ad.), 1 ad. 1, 2	W.Petersen, R.Heil W.Petersen, R.Bowen# BBC, R.Heil#
Iceland Gull: 6,19 21,27	E.Gloucester, Newburyport-P.I. P.I., P'town	28, 16 60 (42 ads., 18 imm), 3	J.Berry, W.Petersen# R.Heil, B.Nikula
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull:</u> 7	Quincy	1 ad.	D.Brown
Herring Gull: 21	Wenham	<u>1 ad. albino</u>	R.Heil
Ring-billed Gull: 11,20	Weston, Belmont	56, 87	J.Hines, F.Bouchard
Black-headed Gull: 7-17,17-28	Squantum, Quincy	1, 1 ad.	v.o., v.o.
Little Gull: 21	Newburyport	1 ad.	J.Berry
Black-legged Kittiwake: 7	Hull, Rockport	1 (oiled), 10+	W.Petersen, SSBC
<u>Common Murre:</u> 17,26,27	Scituate;Orleans,P'town	1;1 oiled, 1 oiled	S.Higginbotham; fide D.Reynolds
Thick-billed Murre: 2,6 17,27	Duxbury, Marshfield N.Scituate, P'town	1 dead, 1 oiled 1, 1	W.Petersen# S.Higginbotham, B.Nikula
Dovekie: 17	N.Scituate	2	S.Higginbotham
Black Guillemot: 7,12	N.Scituate, Rockport	6, 2	W.Petersen#, J.Hines
Barn Owl: 23	Monomoy	1 dead some time	G.Gavutis

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Screech Owl: 20	Middleboro	4	W.Petersen#
Great Horned Owl: 4	Marshfield	pair copulating	W.Petersen
	other reports of 1-2 individuals	from 7 locations	
Snowy Owl: thr.	P.I.-Newburyport	1-2	v.o.
7	E.Boston, Quincy	1, 1	TASL
Barred Owl: thr., 24	Middleboro, Leominster	pr., 1	R.Protsik, W.Petersen#
Long-eared Owl: 7-28	Salisbury, S.Dartmouth	1-2, 2	v.o., J.Fernandez
7-13, 12	W.Roxbury, Newton	4-2, 1	O.Komar#, L.Tarbak
Short-eared Owl: thr.	Squantum, Salisbury, P.I.	max. 8, max. 4, max. 4	v.o.
thr., 6, 19	Cape Cod; Marshfield, W.Newbury	6+; 1, 1	v.o.; W.Petersen
Saw-whet Owl: 7-8, 11	Salisbury, E.Lexington	1, 1	L.Robinson#, J.Hines
12, ?	Chatham, Yarmouth	1, 1 (injured)	B.Nikula, fide D.Reynolds
14 on, 21	Wollaston, Nantucket	1, 2	D.Brown#, C.Jackson

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SNOW BUNTING

At Quabbin, 1-2 Common Ravens were reported from the baffle dams inside Gates 43, bringing hopes that Ravens may be breeding in eastern Massachusetts. Ravens were seen in courtship behavior two years ago near Mt. Watatic. The Townsend's Solitaire continued at West Tisbury at least until February 10th.

Winter Finches continued in good numbers with five convincing reports of Hoary Redpolls reported among the large flocks of Commons. A flock of over 450 Snow Buntings were reported from Bolton at month's end.

R.H.S.

Pileated Woodpecker: 6, 27	Wellesley, Weston	1, pr.	K.Winkler, J.Hines
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 1-7, 6	Rockport, Natick	1, 1	v.o., L.Robinson
Red-headed Woodpecker: thr., 7	Woburn, Lanesville	1 imm., 1	G.Gove, F.Bouchard
Horned Lark: 7	Salisbury	20	W.Drummond#
<u>Common Raven</u> : 21, 28	Quabbin	1-2	I.Giriunas + v.o.
Fish Crow: 15, 21 28	Natick, Cambridge Weston	5+, 2 4	J.Hines, F.Bouchard J.Hines
Boreal Chickadee: thr., 7 12, 14	Newburyport, Wayland Clinton, Milton	1, 1 2, 1	v.o., E.Morrier B.Blodget, D.Brown#
Red-breasted Nuthatch: thr.	Middleboro, P.I.	8+, 6+	D.Briggs#, v.o.
Brown Creeper: 4-28, 4-16	Weston, Wayland	11, 3	J.Hines
Carolina Wren: 1-20	Middleboro	1	S.MacDonald#
Hermit Thrush: 15	Newbury	1	G.Gavutis
<u>Townsend's Solitaire</u> : 1-10	W.Tisbury, M.V.	1	V.Laux + v.o.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: thr.	small numbers reported from various locations		
Northern Shrike: 9, 15 17-22, 20-21 19-20	Lincoln, Sudbury Littleton, P.I. Wayland	1, 1 1, 1 1 imm.	R.Forster, R.Walton J.Baird, R.Bowen J.Hines#
Pine Warbler: 13	Yarmouth	1 at feeder	C.Smith#
Red-winged Blackbird: 1-22	1-5 wintering individuals reported from 7 locations		

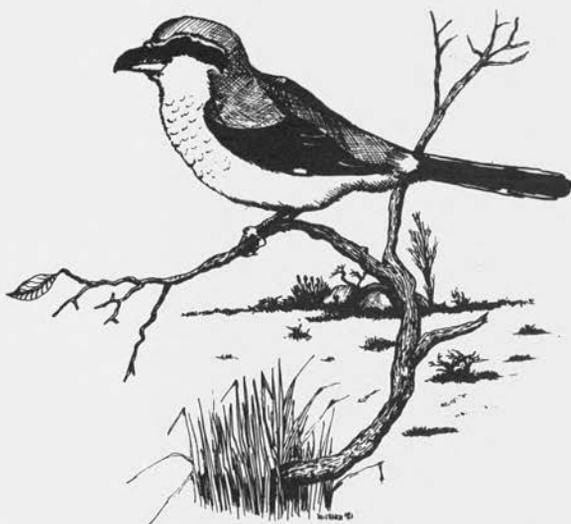
<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Red-winged Blackbird (continued):			
27	W.Bridgewater, Westport	100, 5	G.Gove
28	Woburn, Sudbury	3, 15	C.Gove, J.Hines
Rusty Blackbird:			
thr.	S.Peabody	max. 11 (2/11)	R.Heil
Dickcissel:			
17	Brookline	1	H.Wiggin
Evening Grosbeak:			
thr.	Middleboro (1 m E of town center)	35-85 daily	D.Briggs
thr.	Middleboro (5 m S of town center)	50-150 daily	S.MacDonald
Purple Finch:			
4,27	Weston	12, 15	J.Hines
Pine Grosbeak:			
5,6	Wayland, Newburyport	1, 6	J.Hines, G.Gove#
15,26	Newbury, Weston	7, 1	G.Gavutis, J.Hines
Hoary Redpoll:			
6	P.I., Duxbury Beach	1, 1	G.Gove#, W.Petersen#
13,22	Lancaster, Framingham	1, 1	H.Merriman, K.Hamilton#
19+21	P.I.	1	W.Petersen#, R.Howe#
All of the above records were accompanied with excellent convincing details			
Common Redpoll:			
thr. 5-22	P.I., Framingham	max. 40, 200-300 (max 2/22)	v.o., K.Hamilton
5,6	Hopkington, Duxbury	150, 150	B.Cassie, W.Petersen#
5,11	Haverhill, S.Peabody	40, 30	W.Drummond#, R.Heil
13,19	Lancaster, Dedham	60+, 20-60	H.Merriam, J.Marshall
20,21	Squantum, E.Bridgewater	50,60	L.Taylor#, W.Petersen
Many other reports of 1-25 individuals from many locations			
Pine Siskin:			
thr.	Middleboro (2 locales)	30+, 35+ daily	D.Briggs, S.MacDonald
thr.	Dedham	12-30	S.Marshall
Other reports of 2-10 individuals from many other locations			
Red Crossbill:			
7	Mt.A, Squantum	6, 8	J.Peputsiano, TASL
8,11	Truro, W.Boylston	75+, 8	C.Goodrich, B.Blodget
14,20	Milton, P.I.	3, 4	BBC
White-winged Crossbill:			
5,11	Wayland, Mt.A	12, 12	J.Hines, M.Purdy
22,28	Brookline, Weston	4, 24	A.Agush, J.Hines
Other reports of 1-3 individuals from many locations			
Rufous-sided Towhee:			
thr.	Middleboro, S.Peabody	1, 1	D.Elkin#, R.Heil
"Ipswich Sparrow":			
27	Orleans (North Beach)	1	R.Comeau#
Savannah Sparrow:			
23	Newburyport	1	J.Hines
Lark Sparrow:			
6	Falmouth	1	J.+A. Nelson
Field Sparrow:			
5	Weston	3	J.Hines
Fox Sparrow:			
thr., 22	Middleboro, Brookline	1, 1	D.Elkin#, A.Agush
Lapland Longspur:			
thr.	Salisbury, P.I.	max. 16 2/21, max. 17 2/20	v.o.
Snow Bunting:			
thr.	P.I.	max. 300 2/28	v.o.
6,14	Wellesley, Quincy	50, 28	K.Winkler, BBC
19,27	Wayland, Bolton	5, 450	J.Hines, H.Merriman

FEEDING BEHAVIOR OF A NORTHERN SHRIKE

by George W. Gavutis, Jr.

On January 13, 1982, at 9:15 a.m., Messrs. G. W. Gavutis, D. Spencer, and R. A. Zelle of the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge observed and photographed a hunting Northern Shrike (Lanius excubitor) for an hour or so. The bird (an adult) was between Cross Farm Hill and the Stage Island dike along the refuge road. The bird made numerous apparent hunting forays from hunting perches atop the tall shrubs and small trees (10'-20' high) near the road - seldom sitting still for more than a few moments.

Following one flight to the ground at the saltmarsh edge, the bird was seen to emerge from the grass and struggle into the air to a height of 20 feet or so and fly southeast with a strong northwest wind, carrying what appeared to be a medium to large field mouse (Microtus pennsylvanicus) in its feet. (We would estimate the mouse to be at least one-fourth the bulk and weight of the bird.) After flying and being blown 50-100 yards, the bird crossed the refuge road and parking lot #6 and then transferred the mouse to its bill in mid-air. It then continued flying another 75-100 yards and disappeared into a large clump of small trees and bushes in the dunes. After a couple moments at most, and while we were walking in the general direction, the bird flew from the clump 50 yards ahead of us and lit briefly on a perch in a small cherry tree. It then flew back near the site where it had captured the mouse and resumed hunting forays into the brush and grass along the marsh edge for at least another half hour, when we left. We looked for the missing mouse in the shrubbery where the bird had disappeared with it but found nothing.



Northern Shrike

Illustration by Mark Lynch

Atlantic Seabird and Marine Mammal Cruise

September 1 - 3, 1982

One-day trips off shore to watch seabirds and marine mammals have proliferated to an astonishing degree, but to the best of our knowledge, no one has yet attempted a multi-day cruise in the north-western North Atlantic.

Leaving from Gloucester, Mass. on the evening of Wednesday, September 1, we'll investigate such well-known concentration areas as Stellwagen Bank, Pollock Rip and the Great South Channel, and steam south along longitude 69°W to Hydrographer's Canyon on the edge of the Continental Shelf. En route we'll detour to visit fishing fleets or eddies of warm Gulf Stream water, the precise location of which cannot be determined until shortly before departure.

Early September is a time of great seabird abundance and by visiting both rich inshore and warm Continental Shelf waters we should see a wide variety of species including Cory's and Greater Shearwaters in large or possibly huge flocks, a few Sooty and Manx Shearwaters, Leach's and large numbers of Wilson's Storm-Petrels, scattered sub-adult Gannets, Red and Northern Phalaropes and Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers. Scarcer species which we'll probably encounter include Northern Fulmar, Black-legged Kittiwake, Arctic Tern and Common Puffin. One of the delights of birdwatching at sea is the anticipation—the hope that something really bizarre will appear. While such events are infrequent and unpredictable, the scope of our trip sharply increases our chances. Species like Audubon's Shearwater, Great and South Polar Skuas, Long-tailed Jaeger and Sabine's Gull are distinctly possible if not quite probable and in warm water areas species which might occur include White-faced Storm-Petrel and Bridled Tern.

Marine mammals are an equally important part of the trip and census work conducted during the last few years has shown all these areas to be frequented by Humpback, Finback and Minke Whales among others, while the warmer and offshore areas provide the chance of Pilot Whales, Risso's Dolphin and perhaps even a Sperm or Right Whale. Since the conditions which produce whale concentrations also attract birds, both objectives can be accomplished simultaneously.

The cruise will be operated as a workshop. Staff will include Dr. Steven Katona, Marine Biologist at College of the Atlantic, Bar Harbor, Maine and senior author of *A Field Guide to Whales and Seals of the Gulf of Maine*; Kevin Powers, Senior Biologist at Manomet Bird Observatory with responsibility for M.B.O.'s seabird and marine mammal research; Richard Veit, a graduate student at the University of Massachusetts and formerly at M.B.O. and Will Russell of WINGS. There will be informal lectures Wednesday and Thursday evenings on such topics as identification and the current status of marine mammal and bird populations in the northwestern North Atlantic.

Our trip begins at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 1 with dinner and informal discussions at a Gloucester restaurant. After dinner we'll depart aboard the *Yankee Capts.*, a fully-equipped 100-ft. vessel with experience in our target waters. The trip will conclude about 7 p.m. on Sept. 3.

Price per person will be \$295 and includes two breakfasts and three dinners, ship's berth, lectures and trip materials. We should note that accommodations will be simple, two and three-high bunks in an open dormitory setting.

Weather at this season is likely to be good. Fog is possible, especially from Pollock Rip north and, of course, in the event of a tropical storm, the trip will be canceled with all monies refunded.

Space can be reserved by forwarding a \$50 deposit. For more information, please write.



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