

BIRD OBSERVER

OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS



FEBRUARY 1986

VOL. 14 NO. 1



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CORRIGENDA TO THE DECEMBER 1985 ISSUE A Confusion of Tails and Bills and Names in General

- Page 288: The caption under Rick Cech's photo should read
"Magnificent Frigatebirds with Brown *Booby*."
- Page 333: The second line in the last paragraph should read
". . . the writer has seen Red-billed Tropicbird in . . ."
- Page 334: The first line in the third paragraph should read
". . . had been identified as an immature *White-tailed* . . ."
- Page 335: The caption under the photo should read
"*Laurel Abusamra* and David Wingate release the . . ."

Spring Migration Watch Planned

For the seventh consecutive year, Bird Observer will sponsor a Spring Migration Watch (SMW) for volunteer observers. Participants will visit their selected sites periodically from April 12 through June 8. The data they collect will be incorporated into the SMW computer database. Anyone who returned a data form last year will automatically receive forms for 1986. New participants should contact John Andrews (22 Kendall Road, Lexington, MA 02173, telephone 862-6498) for instructions.

— Bird Observer Workshops of the Coming Season —

MARSH GRUNTS AND SWAMP SONGS - a workshop on spring birds and wetland habitats



Freshwater wetlands are represented by a diversity of habitats, ranging from cattail marshes and sedge meadows to Red Maple swamps and White Cedar bogs. Each ecosystem has distinctive floral and faunal components, and in early May, these environments are often alive with the activity of migrant and newly-arrived resident birds.

In this workshop participants will be introduced to several kinds of wetland communities. Attention will be directed toward recognizing the characteristic vocalizations of these birds - species as diverse as bitterns and rails, creepers and waterthrushes.

The indoor lecture will include demonstrations - slides, specimens, recordings - as well as printed handout materials. The field trip, which will begin at dawn, will visit several selected wetland habitats where a variety of the species described during the indoor session will be heard or seen in the field.

LECTURE: Wednesday, May 7, 1986, 7:30 - 9:30 P.M., Babson College
Tomasso Hall, Wellesley, MA

FIELD TRIP: Saturday, May 10 at DAWN. Exact time and location to be announced.
COST: \$25 per person. Limited to 20 participants.

BEARS, BOGS, BLACK-BACKS, AND BOREALS - a workshop on Canadian Zone birdlife

Spruce Grouse and Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay and Boreal Chickadee, and over twenty species of breeding warblers - these are just some of the birds that characterize the rich Canadian Life Zone. This zone approaches its New England zenith in northern New Hampshire. In the area known as the Connecticut Lakes, a rich mixture of spruce-fir and northern hardwood forest occurs offering spectacular semiwilderness birding, along with a marvelous opportunity to observe most of the breeding birds of northern New England on their nesting grounds. In late June, northern bird song is at its peak. In addition to birds, spring wildflowers, northern butterflies, and such Canadian Zone mammals as Beaver, Moose, and Black Bear can all occasionally be encountered.

In this workshop, an indoor introduction to the Canadian Zone fauna and flora will preface a two-day field trip in Pittsburg, New Hampshire. The field trip will concentrate on locating the characteristic breeding birds of northern New England and at the same time will focus on the biological and ecological features that make the Canadian Zone such a fascinating area. Comfortable accommodations are available and will be recommended. Early reservations are advised. Limited to 20 participants.



LECTURE: Wednesday, June 25, 1986, 7:30 - 9:30 P.M., Babson College,
Trimm Hall 201, Wellesley, MA

TWO-DAY FIELD TRIP: Saturday, June 28 and Sunday, June 29. The trip will begin in Pittsburg, NH, approximately six hours north of Boston.

COST: \$40 per person. (Food, lodging and transportation are the responsibility of the participant.)

Wayne R. Petersen will conduct both of these workshops.

For more information, call Wayne R. Petersen, 617-447-0332.

TO REGISTER, send your name, address, and phone number(s) along with a check made payable to BIRD OBSERVER to Martha Vaughan, 15 Elmwood Park, Newton, MA 02160. Telephone: 617-244-0166.

HAWK-WATCHING SITES IN THE NEWBURYPORT AREA

by Edward M. Mair, Newburyport

The Newburyport area, famous as a year-round mecca for bird-watchers, also boasts a number of potential sites for watching hawks in migration. Although not producing the quantity of raptors seen at magnet sites like Wachusett Mountain or Mount Tom, the area has quality and variety. The spring hawk movement through this region is about equal to that in fall. Starting in 1986, the Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch (EMHW) will test these sites both in the spring and in the fall and will be looking for hawkwatchers to volunteer to cover the areas described in this paper.

Because these places comprise locations less frequently visited by most birdwatchers, detailed directions for finding them are given, and the birding possibilities are only briefly summarized. Also, a few of my favorite birding spots are marked on the map though not discussed at all in the text. As the birder moves along from one place to another, a number of the roads (e.g., Scotland Road, Turkey Hill Road, and Hale Street) can be birded as well as traversed, and it is worthwhile to scan the sky for hawks anywhere in Newburyport.

The directions given here are intended to describe the easiest routes for persons unfamiliar with the area rather than the shortest or fastest routes. Not all streets are shown on the map, and many street signs are missing. Here are a few key locations that the birder should become familiar with:

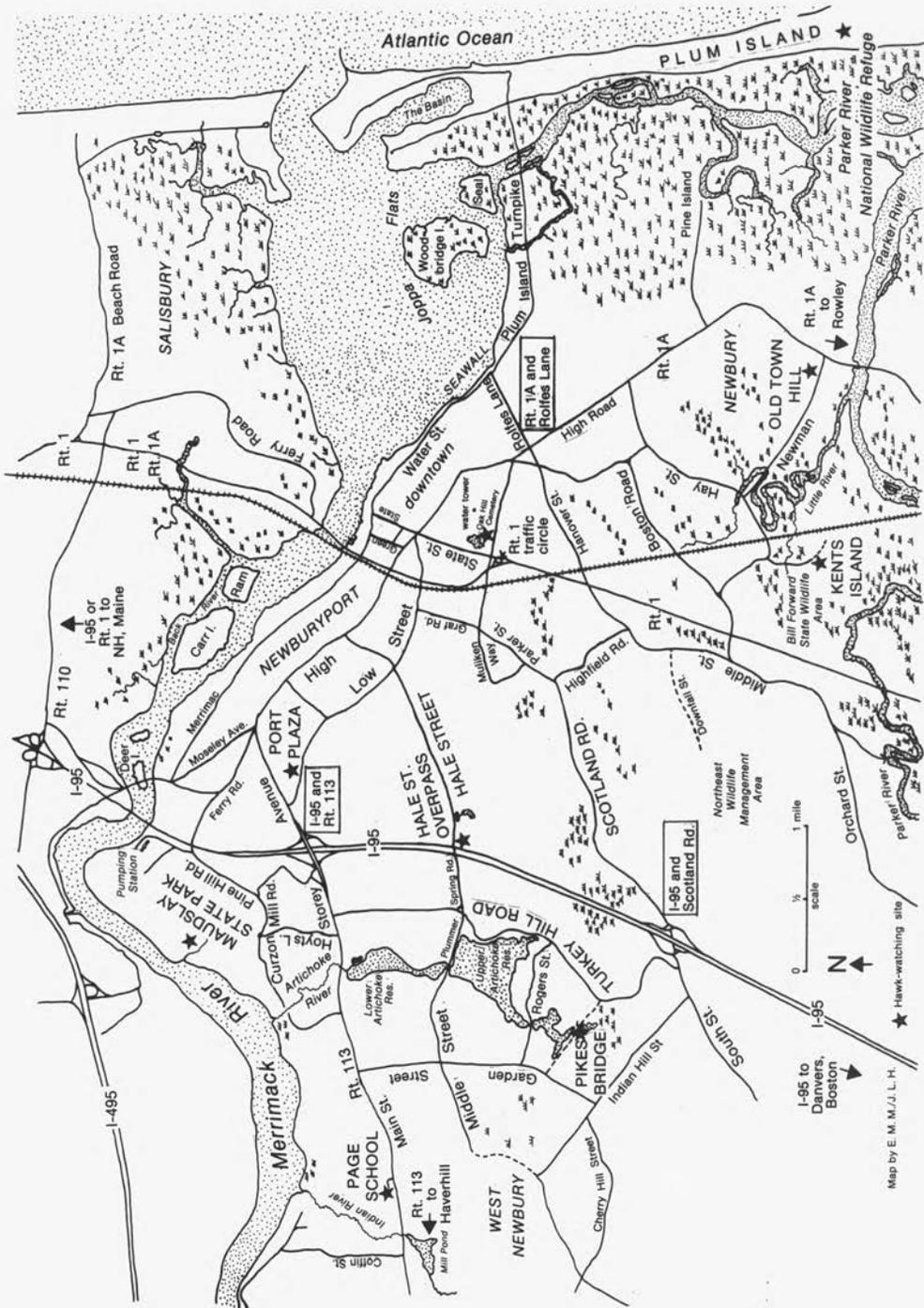
- 1) the intersection of Interstate 95 (I-95) and Scotland Road;
- 2) the intersection of I-95 and Route 113;
- 3) the Route 1 traffic circle;
- 4) the intersection of Route 1A and Rolfes Lane;
- 5) Pikes Bridge Road.

To avoid repetition, the following symbols are used after the name of each place:

- E = Exploratory site. Hawk migration has been observed at least once.
- C = Confirmed site. Hawk migration has been observed on many occasions, but there is no active organized hawk watch.
- A = Active site. EMHW hawk-watch site.
- S = Preferred site in spring.
- s = Hawks can be seen here in spring also.
- F = Preferred site in fall.
- f = Hawks can be seen here in fall also.

EAST OF INTERSTATE ROUTE 95 (I-95)

Plum Island (A,S). The Parker River National Wildlife Refuge is well-known to most New England birders for year-round birding.



Map by E. M. M./J. L. H.

In the spring, hawk-watching activity centers on the dune platform at Hellcat Swamp. The most abundant raptors are Sharpshinned Hawk and American Kestrel, but Merlin, Peregrine, Osprey, and several other species have been observed. Not much happens here in the fall. (Then, Page School is a better place for observing hawks.) The reader is referred to Richard Forster's excellent article, "Birding Plum Island," in *BOEM* 13 (June 1985): 116, for further information about the birdlife on the island.

Directions to Plum Island.

1. From the intersection of I-95 and Scotland Road, go east on Scotland Road 2.6 miles to the intersection with Muliken Way on the left and Parker Street on the right. Scotland Road becomes Graf Road at this point. Turn right onto Parker Street and proceed 0.3 mile to Route 1. You may cut straight across Route 1 and then shortly thereafter across State Street, or you may turn south on Route 1, go halfway around the traffic circle, and then turn right onto the continuation of Parker Street. You will pass the cemetery on the left 0.3 mile from the traffic circle and will come to Route 1A at 0.8 mile. Route 1A is the second of two immediate right turns. Follow Route 1A for 0.1 mile to the traffic light at Rolfes Lane.

Turn left on Rolfes Lane and drive to the end of it. Turn right onto Plum Island Turnpike and continue another 2.0 miles to the Parker River N.W.R. entrance road. Turn right and enter the refuge. Travel about 3.6 miles past the gate to the Hellcat Swamp parking lot on the right.

2. From the intersection of I-95 and Route 113, go east on Route 113 (Storey Avenue to High Street to High Road) 3.6 miles to Rolfes Lane. Follow directions above from Rolfes Lane.

3. To get to Plum Island from Pikes Bridge, turn right from the dirt parking area onto Turkey Hill Road. Go 0.8 mile to South Street and turn left. You will pass under I-95 at 1.0 mile. Follow directions above from I-95 and Scotland Road.

Park at Hellcat Swamp. To get to the platform, walk back up the road you came down about 0.1 mile to where a trail crosses the road. Follow the trail to the right, taking the right fork, and follow the boardwalk until you come up steps to the platform.

Old Town Hill (C,s,f).

This is a private reserve on a hill near the site where Newburyport's early settlers first built homes. The best vista is to the southeast. Most of the hawks observed from here are *Buteo* species.

Directions to Old Town Hill. Follow the Plum Island directions to Rolfes Lane. At the intersection of Route 1A and Rolfes Lane, travel south on Route 1A for 2.5 miles to Newman Road (there is a town green here.) Turn right, and park 0.1 mile farther at the entrance to the Old Town Hill Reservation. After parking here, follow the trail uphill until you come to a cleared area with a view to the southeast.

The Cemetery (E,S). This is an exciting place in the spring. There are mornings when this peaceful hillside drips warblers from its stately trees. Hawks have also been observed to the south.

Directions to the Cemetery.

1. From the intersection of I-95 and Scotland Road, follow the directions for Plum Island (1).
2. From the intersection of I-95 and Route 113, travel east towards Newburyport 0.2 mile to Low Street. Turn right. You will pass the back of Port Plaza on the left at 0.4 mile and Hale Street on the right at 1.5 miles. At 1.7 miles, turn south at a traffic light onto Route 1, and follow it to the traffic circle. Go halfway around the circle, and take a right onto Parker Street (between the doughnut shop and a hardware store). The entrance to the cemetery is on the left 0.3 mile from the traffic circle.

Hawkwatching will probably be best near the entrance, looking back across Parker Street, or take the right branch road inside the cemetery, find your way toward the big blue water tower on the hill, crawl through the fence (if you can) and look south.

Kents Island (E,F). This is a hill in the middle of a salt marsh in the Bill Forward State Wildlife Refuge. It is the former estate of author John Marquand and the place where he wrote many of his novels. It is a good raptor observation area throughout the year and provides a fine vista in the fall - a little known birding area well worth exploring.

Directions to Kents Island.

1. Follow Old Town Hill directions to Old Town Hill. Continue on Newman Road 1.0 mile until this road ends at Hay Street. Turn left and go 0.5 mile. Here, Hay Street takes a sharp bend to the right, but you should turn left out into the marsh. There is a parking area on the right at about 0.4 mile.
2. Follow Cemetery directions to the traffic circle. To get to Kents Island, head south on Route 1 from the traffic circle for 1.7 miles, when you will come to Boston Road. Turn left onto Boston Road, and travel 0.7 mile to the entrance to the Bill Forward S.W.R. (Just stay with the right forks in the road until you are clearly in the marsh.)

Park and walk 0.1 mile up the road to the house on the left. Go around to the front of the house.

Port Plaza (E,S). This is a shopping center located on Low Street, where you will see a Shaw's Supermarket and a K Mart. However, by chance last spring I found within half an hour fifty migrating hawks in the air over the parking lot. Then, I found many more, seen from across the road (Low Street) looking to the south.

Directions to Port Plaza. From the intersection of I-95 and Route 113, go east 0.2 mile to Low Street. There is a Shell Gas and Liquor Store on the corner. Turn right, and travel 0.2 mile to the back entrance of the shopping center on the left. The best hawkwatching is in this back area of the parking lot - near the K Mart garden shop.

WEST OF INTERSTATE ROUTE 95

Pikes Bridge (C,s,f). The best place for raptor observation is the "bridge" on this dirt road. This site, like the cemetery, is a good general birding spot that also happens often to have migrating hawks passing overhead.

Directions to Pikes Bridge.

1. From the intersection of I-95 and Scotland Road, travel west 0.1 mile to Turkey Hill Road. Turn right and go 0.8 mile to Pikes Bridge Road on the left.
2. From the intersection of I-95 and Route 113, go west on Route 113 toward West Newbury. At 0.7 mile, turn left on Turkey Hill Road. You will pass Plummer Spring Road on the right (called Hale Street on the left) at 1.6 miles and pass Rogers Street on the right at 2.3 miles. Continue onto Pikes Bridge Road on the right at 2.9 miles.

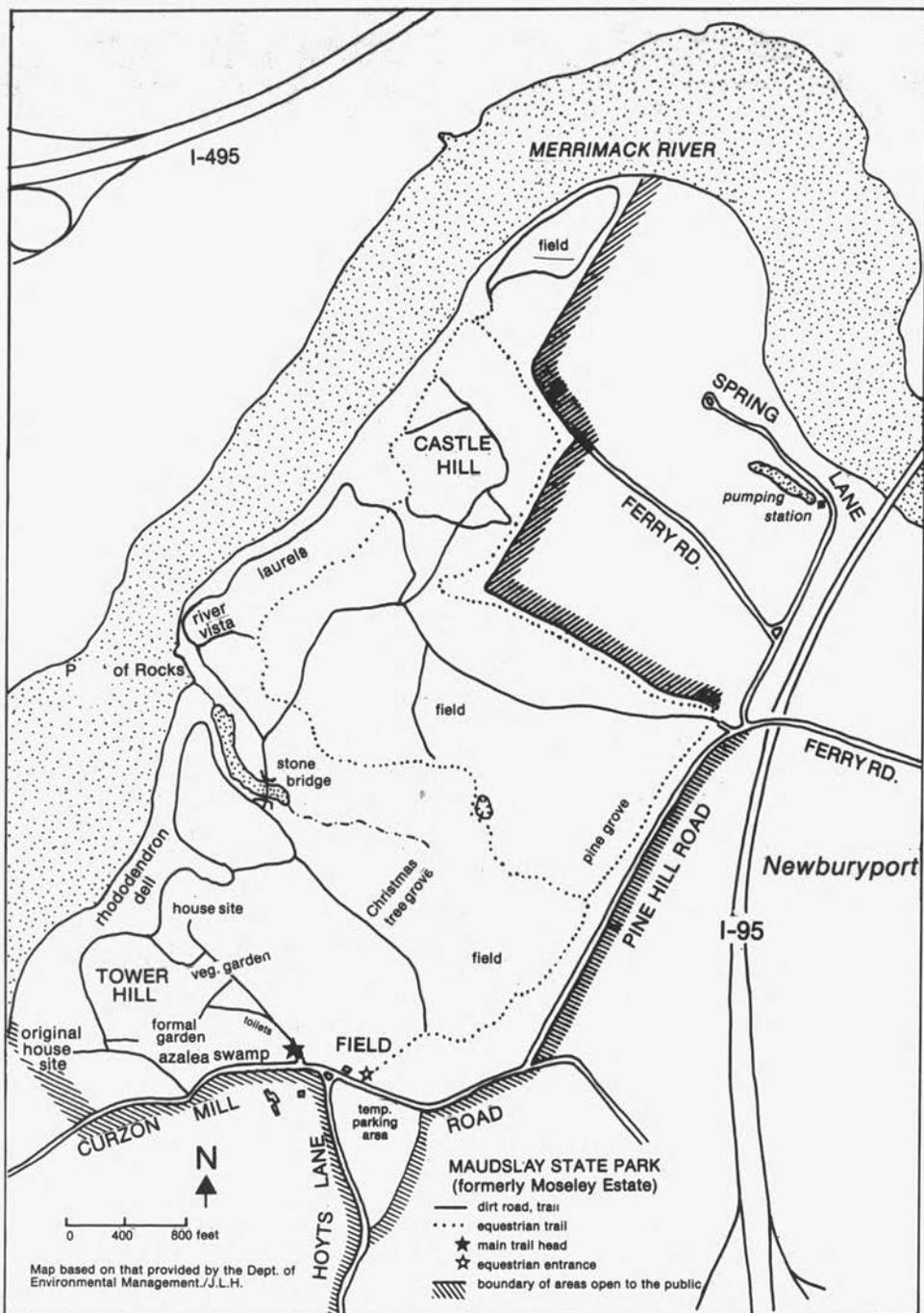
There is a dirt parking area at the entrance to Pikes Bridge Road but no street sign. Park here and walk 0.3 mile down the road to the "bridge."

Hale Street Overpass (C,f,s). This is a bridge over I-95 with good views of the sky in all directions. Hale Street is a handy connecting street to know when birding in the Newburyport area. Starting from Low Street (see Port Plaza), Hale street runs west, crossing Turkey Hill Road, the Artichoke Reservoir, and Garden Street. The name of the road changes within each town - to Plummer Spring Road, to Middle Street, etc., and the surface varies from dirt to paved. Hale Street eventually comes out on Route 133 in North Andover.

Directions to Hale Street Overpass.

1. From the intersection of I-95 and Scotland Road, follow Pikes Bridge directions to Pikes Bridge Road. Go north on Turkey Hill Road. You will pass Rogers Street 0.5 mile from Pikes Bridge Road and come to Hale Street on the right at 1.2 miles. Turn right. The overpass is obvious about 0.5 mile after the turn.
2. From the intersection of I-95 and Route 113, follow the directions given for Pikes Bridge to reach Hale Street. Turn left onto Hale Street, and go 0.5 mile to the overpass.

Parking is probably best along the street to the east of the overpass.



I-495

MERRIMACK RIVER

CASTLE HILL

SPRING

FERRY RD.

pumping station

laurels

River Vista

P of Rocks

field

stone bridge

mobodendron dell

house site

Christmas tree grove

pine grove

FERRY RD.

Newburyport

I-95

TOWER HILL

veg. garden

FIELD

original house site

formal garden

toilets

azalea swamp

temp. parking area

ROAD

CURZON MILL

N

0 400 800 feet

HOYTS LANE

PINE HILL ROAD

Page School (A,F,S). This is now a public elementary school and was formerly the private Cushing Academy. The school sits atop a hill with its rear in the direction of the Merrimack River. The best hawk-watching location, both in spring and in fall, is behind the school. Broad-winged Hawk flights of two thousand and more have been observed here in the fall. Osprey migration is another highlight.

Directions to Page School.

1. From the intersection of I-95 and Scotland Road, follow the directions to Pikes Bridge Road. Drive down this dirt road across the "bridge," west to Garden Street. Turn right on Garden Street, and go 1.4 miles to Route 113. Turn left and travel another 0.8 mile to the Page School entrance on the right.

2. From the intersection of I-95 and Route 113, go west on 113 towards West Newbury. You will pass Turkey Hill Road on the left at 0.7 mile, pass Hoyts Lane (also called Gypsy Lane) on the right at 0.8 mile, and pass Garden Street on the left at 1.8 miles. The entrance to Page School is at the peak of a hill on the right at 2.6 miles.

Follow the school drive up, around, and in back of the school. Walk across the playing fields to where you can see the river below. This is the best place for hawkwatching in both the spring and the fall.

Moseley Estate (Maudslay State Park). This 467-acre estate, in the Moseley family since the 1860s, is now a beautiful new state park opened to the public in the fall of 1985 and renamed Maudslay State Park in honor of the family's original estate in England. The grounds were planted with dogwoods, laurels, azaleas, and ornamentals under the supervision of Charles Sprague Sargent, the designer of the Arnold Arboretum. Situated on a bend of the Merrimack River, these grounds are still unexplored for hawk-watching sites, and they may prove to be excellent. I have seen Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Osprey, Rough-legged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, and American Kestrel on the property, although these birds were not necessarily migrants. There are maps posted throughout the park, and some potential sites, shown on the map on page 10, are Tower Hill, Point of Rocks, and Castle Hill. The fields directly across from the parking lot also hold promise.

Directions to Maudslay State Park. From the intersection of I-95 and Route 113, go west towards West Newbury. At 0.8 mile, turn right onto Hoyts (or Gypsy) Lane. Go 0.5 mile to Curzon Mill Road. Turn right, and you will find the parking lot on the right.

I have come to love the places described here for their beauty and solitude as well as for the wonderful hawk migration shows to be seen there. I feel the inclination to keep these places secret or, at least, unpublicized. Yet, I also see the pressures

of development encroaching on the areas that are not yet protected. One defense of these natural areas is their continued recreational use by birders and others. We welcome all to join us in enjoyment of these special pieces of land and of the raptor flights in the skies above them.

Beginning this year, 1986, the EMHW is seeking volunteers to test these sites for hawkwatching, both this spring on April 26 and 27 and in the fall. If you are interested in participating, please contact the author at 31 Plummer Avenue, Newburyport, MA 01950 (telephone 617-462-4796).

EDWARD M. MAIR, coordinator of the Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch for the north shore region, is a small-computer systems analyst who has conducted many training sessions for nonprofit organizations. He is president and founder of the Newburyport Birder's Exchange, author of *A Field Guide to Personal Computers for Bird Watchers and Other Naturalists* (Prentice-Hall, 1985), and father of a new daughter, Alexandra (first child), born in mid-January.

Are you interested in HAWKWATCHING this spring?

Some hawkwatchers will be out in March and early April, but the prime spring migration period is late April and early May. This year, the Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch will conduct coordinated hawkwatches on three weekends, April 19 and 20, April 26 and 27, and May 3 and 4, as part of a study throughout the New England area. The first weekend watch will focus on broadly based coverage across the region. Although we seek inland coverage on all three weekends, the watches on April 26 and 27 and on May 3 and 4 will focus on the coast, where observers may see numbers of American Kestrels, Sharp-shinned Hawks, and Merlins.

FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT HAWKS AND HAWK MIGRATION, the weekend watches on April 26 and 27 will have experienced leaders posted at specific sites in three areas: Newburyport, Greater Boston (including the South Shore), and Cape Cod. For further information on these special watches for birders new to hawkwatching, on the other weekend watches, or on hawkwatching in general, please write: EMHW, Paul M. Roberts, 254 Arlington Street, Medford, MA 02155 - telephone: 617-483-4263 after 8 P.M.



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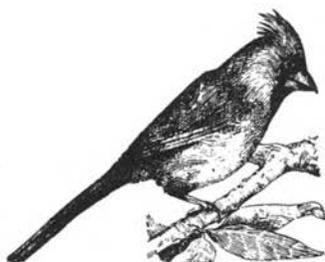
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IDENTIFICATION OF JUVENILE LONG-TAILED JAEGER FROM PHOTOGRAPHS¹

by Richard B. Cech, New York City

As one who enjoys pelagic bird photography, I have often reflected on the implications of Wayne Petersen's thoughtful article printed in these pages in 1982, which addressed, among other things, the difficulty of using photographs to identify small shearwaters. The pictures reprinted in that article were taken on a Bird Observer trip to offshore waters south of Martha's Vineyard. They succeeded in placing the identity of one particular small shearwater, believed at the time to be an Audubon's (*Puffinus lherminieri*), in more or less perpetual limbo.² The debate that centered on these photographs was a catalyst for close study of small shearwater identification, and thus they did serve a useful purpose. On the other hand, the photographs did not resolve the question of species identification that they had raised, and their failure to do so pointed up significant limitations in the use of photographs for field verification, a shortcoming noted in Petersen's article.

As a photographer, what I found disturbing was the thought that pelagic photographs - taken as they often are from pitching decks under deplorable lighting conditions - might actually cloud the question of a bird's identity more often than clarify it. This possibility looms especially large in the case of juvenile jaegers, a group that can be as forbidding to identify in the field as any pelagic birds, and whose distinguishing field characteristics, discussed more fully below, seem especially elusive to the camera. It is satisfying, then, to report here a situation in which a juvenile jaeger identification was made using photographs. The individual in question, originally thought to be a Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*), now seems clearly to have been an intermediate-morph juvenile Long-tailed (*S. longicaudus*). Especially encouraging is the fact that the photographs were useful in isolating field marks that may assist in future observations of the species. (The correct identification of the photos presented here was first pointed out by Wayne Petersen. The identification has since been corroborated by Benton Basham, Noble Proctor and Tom Davis.

The Sighting.

The jaeger photographed was one of a small flock of three to five individuals sighted on September 7, 1985, on the continental

¹The author wishes to thank Peter Joost of New York and Wayne Petersen and Noble Proctor for their comments on the draft of this paper.

²Even three and a half years later, it is difficult to make a conclusive case regarding the mystery shearwater of 1982. With the passage of time, the argument for Audubon's has gained ground in this author's mind.

shelf near an underwater feature known as Hydrographer Canyon.³ The sighting took place during a 48-hour Bird Observer trip to offshore waters southeast of Nantucket. The jaegers in the flock were smaller than a nearby Pomarine Jaeger and flew in ternlike style with uneven wing motions, in contrast with the more even, direct flight of the Pomarine. As the flock approached the Pomarine, one of the small jaegers broke off and began harassing its larger congener. The Pomarine took evasive action, and the two birds made several passes across the bow before the smaller jaeger dropped down rather suddenly and flew off at low altitude. None of the small jaeger flock were seen after this encounter.

The small jaegers at the time were identified as Parasitic, even though the sighting took place far offshore, where the Parasitic is a comparatively scarce bird. Although several observers initially considered the possibility of Long-tailed Jaeger, the overall brownish cast of the bird described above (as compared with the grayish coloration generally ascribed to Long-tailed Jaegers in the field guides) influenced the final consensus identification.

Photographs taken at the time (Figures 1 and 2) show a dark, slender jaeger with a delicate bill and strong, evenly spaced barring on the upper and lower tail coverts and underwing. The crown is indistinctly marked with dark brown feathering, and the nape is surrounded by a broad, buff yellow band. The back is blackish brown and the flight feathers a dull black. The tail and wings appear long and thin, and the central rectrices are rounded at the end, rather than pointed. The white patch at the base of the primaries, seen from below, is slight and crescent-shaped; from above, only the shafts of the two outer primaries show white.

The photographs also provide some evidence as to the behavior of the small jaeger - its jizz, to use the British term describing the overall impression that a bird conveys in the field (see Harrison 1983, p. 20). Several of the chase shots (Figure 1 is representative) show a slight and highly agile pursuer that characteristically flew with bent wings and demonstrated a high degree of maneuverability. The dorsal shot (Figure 2) shows the bird having just dropped abruptly toward the water surface after breaking off its chase, gliding in shearwater style, on stiff wings, into the wind.

In concluding that the small jaeger photographed at Hydrographer Canyon was a Long-tailed, several pieces of evidence were taken into account, including behavioral characteristics noted in the

³Hydrographer Canyon is located southwest of Georges Bank at approximately 69 degrees longitude, 40 degrees latitude. It is close to the "front line" between cooler shelf waters and the continental slope waters warmed by the Gulf Stream. Its configuration creates upwellings of nutrients from deep waters, which support a rich pelagic ecosystem, including cetaceans as well as pelagic birds.

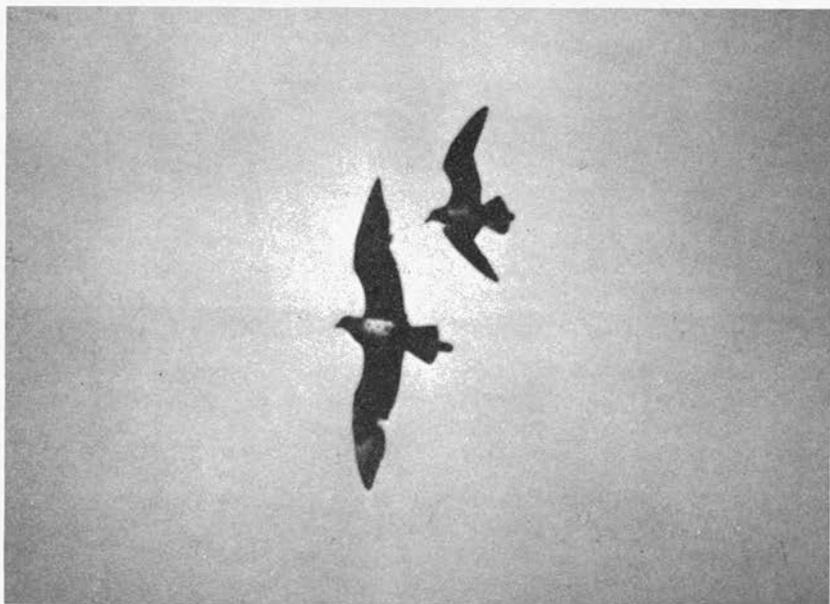


Figure 1. *Juvenile Long-tailed Jaeger (right) harassing Pomarine Jaeger*
Hydrographer Canyon, September 7, 1985
Photo by Rick Cech



Figure 2. *Dorsal view of juvenile Long-tailed Jaeger*
Photo by Rick Cech

field and the date and location of the sighting, as well as the photographic evidence described above. A more fully detailed discussion of the identification of juvenile Long-tailed Jaegers is set forth below.

Ecology of the Long-tailed Jaeger.⁴

The Long-tailed Jaeger is among the most northerly breeding of bird species, with a circumpolar nesting range that extends along the entire marine coastline of the Arctic Ocean. The species typically nests on dry tundra patches and on rocky ground, often farther inland than other jaegers. Conspicuous residents of the arctic summer, breeding Long-tailed Jaegers are noted for hovering in flight over the tundra while hunting lemmings, the staple item in their diet. Although lemmings, in peak concentration years, make up as much as 99 percent of the jaegers' summer food, songbirds, fish, insects, and crowberries (*Empetrum nigrum*) are also taken, especially when rodent populations are thin.

Long-tailed Jaegers arrive on the nesting ground in late May or in June, often in pairs or small groups. The Atlantic spring migration is relatively brief and concentrated, with large flocks sometimes observed (Wynne-Edwards 1935). Nesting takes place in June and July. Typical clutch size is one to three eggs, varying with the availability of prey. Adults defend the nesting territory energetically, especially when downy young are present, attacking even falcons and predatory mammals such as foxes.

Adult and juvenile Long-tailed Jaegers begin to depart the breeding grounds in late July and August, often migrating southward in small groups of three to five individuals. Most sightings in the North Atlantic occur in late August and early September (Cramp 1983). The migration route in the Pacific lies within a narrower corridor and runs closer to shore than the Atlantic path; this may account, at least in part, for the relative frequency of sightings off the Pacific coast. Of all the jaegers, the Long-tailed is the most pelagic during migration. Originally it was believed that this jaeger migrated overland, but this view had been discredited by the mid-1930s.⁵

The winter range of the Long-tailed Jaeger is not as yet perfectly known, although the primary wintering grounds appear to be off the east and west coasts of South America and the east coast of Africa, especially near Namibia. On arriving at the wintering grounds in late September and October, adult jaegers undergo a complete molt.⁶ A partial prenuptial molt of only the body feathers occurs in March and April to produce the adult breeding plumage, including new tail streamers.

⁴Sources for this discussion include Bent (1921), Cramp (1983), Harrison (1983), Terres (1980), and Wynne-Edwards (1935).

⁵Wynne-Edwards (1935) presented early evidence that Long-tailed Jaegers migrate far out at sea, noting that "the current opinion that 'the main migration route is overland rather than coast-wise (Bent 1921, p. 27). . . is doubly mistaken."

While full adult plumage does not occur until the fourth calendar summer (after three winter migrations), immature birds closely resemble the adult by the third calendar summer, except for traces of juvenile plumage such as faint barring on the underparts. The adult bird is unmistakable on a close view, although the diagnostic long tail streamers are often broken or difficult to discern, especially against dark backgrounds. There is a rare dark morph in the adult, but it appears that only the juvenile is regularly polymorphic. This contrasts notably with the plumages of Pomarine and Parasitic jaegers, both of which are polymorphic in adult as well as juvenile plumage.

Like all jaegers, the Long-tailed obtains a portion of its food by harassing other birds, inducing them to disgorge their catch in midair. This practice of piracy is called kleptoparasitism. The Long-tailed is often said to be less piratical than other jaegers. Whether or not this is true (Harrison 1983), the bird is noted for a prolonged chasing behavior, which observers have labeled as "playful":

[Long-tailed Jaegers] appear to be much more playful than the other jaegers, and parties of six or eight may be seen pursuing one another back and forth over the marsh [during the summer]. (Bent 1921)

At other times it will chase and scrap with its companions or any bird at hand, swooping and swerving and turning on its back as if it had no joints at all. (Wynne-Edwards 1935: observation at sea)

Identification of Juvenile Long-tailed Jaegers.⁷

Defining criteria for the differentiation of juvenile Parasitic and Long-tailed Jaegers in the field has been an item of despair in much of the field guide literature:

The smallest of the [jaegers, the Long-tailed is] readily distinguished when an adult by its long central tail feathers, but [is] not recognisable in life in immature plumage. (Alexander 1954)

Immature jaegers . . . must be given up as nigh hopeless to distinguish in the field. . . . You will have to let many of them go by as 'just Jaegers.' Even experts do. (Peterson 1947)

⁶Nonbreeding birds may begin the postnuptial molt as early as July. The plumage sequence in young Long-tailed Jaegers is not fully understood (Harrison 1983).

⁷The juvenile plumage discussed here is that worn in the first southward migration (first calendar year). Second calendar summer birds still apparently retain most aspects of juvenile plumage, though the literature is somewhat tentative on the exact sequence at this point. By the third calendar year, a subadult plumage is worn that is largely similar to adult plumage (Cramp 1983; Harrison 1983). Many field guides refer to all subadult birds as immatures.

There do not appear to be any simple ways of identifying non-adults [Parasitic and Pomarine] except by manner of flight. . . . The separation of non-adult Parasitic and Long-tailed Jaegers is more difficult. (Finch et al. 1978)

Field guides frequently rely on vaguely worded or subjective criteria in the identification of juvenile Long-tailed Jaegers. Size, heaviness of the bill, smallness of the white flash at the base of the primaries, flight characteristics, and overall gray color are mentioned as distinguishing field marks. In the *Audubon Master Guide* (1983), Naveen writes that "[s]ubadults are best distinguished by flight characteristics and shape, although distinguishing them from young Parasitics may be quite difficult Under some conditions, the immature Long-tailed can be recognized by its overall gray color, its narrow wings, and rather even mottling on the underwing."

Such descriptions are not erroneous as such, but their incompleteness and generality limit their value in the field. By comparison, a more reliable profile of the juvenile Long-tailed Jaeger has emerged in recent years that should be of significant assistance in field identification.⁸ The following description includes both "hard" and "soft" field marks but emphasizes objectively verifiable characteristics wherever possible.

1. Size and build. The Long-tailed Jaeger is distinctly smaller than any other jaeger in body length, having only a slight overlap with the Parasitic (12-15 inches versus 14-22 inches).⁹ Size is particularly important when comparing the juvenile Long-tailed with the Pomarine. The body of the Long-tailed is slender, and the wings and tail are long and thin in proportion to the body. The wings are more rounded at the tip than those of Pomarines or Parasitics. In flight, the forewing is frequently carried in a bent position and is conspicuously long. The head is small and the bill is slim, with a proportionately longer "nail" than the Parasitic's. The relative narrowness of the wings can be seen best at the point of attachment to the body.

2. Coloration. It is generally reported that there are three variable color morphs of the juvenile Long-tailed Jaeger - light, intermediate, and dark. It may be more accurate to report a single morph with many intergrades and certain extreme individuals, but this debate is best left to morphologists - or perhaps to semanticists. Unless otherwise noted, the description here applies to the intermediate morph, which is most commonly seen.

⁸In the author's view, the best balanced and most comprehensive description of the plumage and behavioral characteristics of the Long-tailed Jaeger appears in Harrison (1983). Cramp also contains a wealth of information.

⁹These measurements exclude the tail streamers. Total length is misleading since the length of the Long-tailed Jaeger's rectrices greatly exceeds that of other jaegers. The figures are derived from Harrison (1983).

The back color of the juvenile Long-tailed ranges from grayish brown to blackish brown ("clove brown" according to Bent 1921). When fresh, the back feathers are edged with a cinnamon brown or a plumbeous color; with wear, this edging becomes white, creating a light dorsal barring (Bent 1921, p. 24; Cramp 1983, p. 683). See Figure 2. The Long-tailed Jaeger never shows tawny or rufous coloration on the back as is seen in the Parasitic Jaeger.¹⁰ As noted above, the bird in Figures 1 and 2 had blackish brown dorsal plumage, a feature misleading to several experienced observers who expected to see grayer tones in birds in juvenile plumage.

The flight feathers of the Long-tailed Jaeger are dull black, contrasting in many cases with the lighter plumage on the remainder of the upperparts. This is an important field mark when visible, but it is not especially helpful when applied to darker colored juvenile birds, since the degree of contrast between the back and the flight feathers in such individuals is lacking. The bird in the photographs illustrates this.

The forehead and crown of the juvenile Long-tailed is streaked with brownish gray feathers and is set off from the body feathers by a paler buff gray or yellowish collar extending around the entire nape. In the light (or "pale-headed") morph, the cap is extremely pale, barely distinguishable from the nuchal collar, which is yellowish white. In the dark phase, the head, neck, and chest are dusky, though still somewhat paler than the remainder of the plumage.

The underparts (not including the sides) of lighter-colored birds are an immaculate white on the lower chest and belly, with a grayish brown breast band in the intermediate phase. Dark morphs have uniformly dark brown underparts.

3. Plumage patterns. Juvenile Long-tailed Jaegers show a conspicuous, even barring of buff and black on the sides, underwings, and upper and under tail coverts. In this regard, they are more similar to the juvenile Pomarine Jaeger than to the Parasitic. The barred region of the upper tail coverts forms a pale, horseshoe-shaped pattern on the lower back.

The white patch at the base of the primaries is different in extent and in shape from that of other jaegers. On the underwing, the "white flash" is small and crescent shaped. See Figure 1 to compare the Pomarine and Long-tailed patterns. Even this small patch fades with maturity, virtually disappearing in the adult. On the upperwing, only the two outermost white primary shafts show white, in marked contrast with the pattern on other jaegers and skuas. When visible, the white pattern on the outer primary quills is distinctive, if not diagnostic.

¹⁰A similar plumage color difference has been noted between the Great Skua (*Catharacta skua*), the body feathers of which are streaked with rufous, and the South Polar Skua (*C. maccormicki*), which is brown or blackish brown in color (Balch 1981).

Another field mark that distinguishes the juvenile Long-tailed Jaeger from juvenile Parasitics is the configuration of the central tail feathers. In first-winter juvenile Long-taileds, the two middle rectrices, which project 1-4 centimeters beyond the rest of the tail, are rounded at the tip, whereas these feathers have pointed tips in juvenile Parasitic jaegers. Such rounding shows clearly in photographs of the bird seen at Hydrographer Canyon on September 7, 1985. In second-winter juveniles, the central tail feathers are longer (projecting 4-10 centimeters) - still shorter than the adult's - and are pointed at the tips as they are in the adult. Thus, roundedness of the two central rectrices is a useful field mark of the juvenile Long-tailed Jaeger at this stage, i.e., the first winter.

4. Behavioral features. Virtually all descriptions of the Long-tailed Jaeger emphasize its graceful, buoyant, ternlike flight, characterized by sudden changes in direction and altitude, especially when compared with the more cumbersome and direct flight of the Pomarine Jaeger. Commentators note the Long-tailed's relatively weak flight into the wind, when it often engages in a flap-and-glide, shearwaterlike pattern near the water surface.

The "playful" chasing of other jaegers, consistent with the behavior of the Hydrographer Canyon bird, was noted above. In the fall, birds in the North Atlantic often are seen in small flocks. Small jaeger sightings in late August and early September on continental shelf waters are especially likely to be Long-tailed. Although none of these secondary behavioral characteristics is diagnostic, each is useful in completing the pattern established by more objective features.

Summary.

Under favorable viewing conditions, it should be possible to arrive at a conclusive identification of many juvenile Long-tailed Jaegers by focusing on a range of diagnostic traits and behaviors. *Most important are size, flight style, gray or blackish brown back color, extent of barring on the tail coverts and underwings, buff yellow collar surrounding the nape, dull black flight feathers, narrow wings and tail, rounded ends on the wing tips and central tail feathers, a small, crescent-shaped white patch at the base of the primaries on the underwing, and white quill shafts limited to the two outermost primaries of the upperwing.* Secondary features such as small head and bill, light dorsal barring, long forewing, characteristic behaviors, and the date and location of the sighting also are material. Although there will always be situations where no identification is possible, better understanding of the relevant field characteristics should reduce the number of inconclusive instances in which a sighting must be relegated to the unsatisfying category of "juvenile jaeger (sp.)."

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RICHARD B. CECH. A regular participant in Bird Observer pelagic expeditions, Rick has been photographing birds since 1963. An investment banker by trade, he has led birding trips in the northeastern states and in Texas. Originally a member of the Hartford Audubon Society, Rick now lives in New York City, a mere ten miles from Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

AND THE NEXT DAY - BACK AT STELLWAGEN BANK
ANOTHER LONG-TAILED JAEGER

Coincidentally, the juvenile jaeger pictured here was observed on a Brookline Bird Club pelagic trip to Stellwagen Bank on September 8, 1985. Like the Hydrographer Canyon individual, this bird was not identified as a Long-tailed Jaeger at the time of the observation.

This jaeger approached rapidly from the stern of the boat, passing the port side, and was gone in a short time. As it approached head-on, the most striking feature was the pale-headed aspect contrasting with a grayish brown back. Rather than observe the bird any longer, I decided to attempt to photograph it because of the apparent abnormal (but what is abnormal when discussing jaegers?) plumage.

When the photograph was developed, the bird was identified as a Long-tailed Jaeger by several characteristics: *the pale-headed appearance; the short, rounded central rectrices (more narrow and pointed in juvenile Parasitics); the small, delicate bill; barred undertail coverts and hooded upper chest and throat; and the nearly white lower chest and belly.*

The bird was not observed in comparison with any other species; so such subjective marks as relative manner of flight and relative size could not be determined.

In retrospect, the individual in question was clearly an intermediate-morph juvenile Long-tailed Jaeger.

The comments set forth in Rick Cech's fine article should lead to a clearer understanding of immature jaeger plumages and more enlightened identification in the future.

Richard A. Forster, Massachusetts Audubon Society



*Juvenile Long-tailed Jaeger
Stellwagen Bank, September 8, 1985*

Photo by Richard A. Forster

BOOK VIEWS

by Brian E. Cassie, Millis

"Book Views" will be a regular feature in *Bird Observer*. My plan is to present short reviews of recent titles, news on upcoming publications, and tips on special book values. I am very interested in hearing from the readership. Let me know what you think of the books you are seeing.

HUMMINGBIRDS, THEIR LIFE AND BEHAVIOR: A Photographic Study of the North American Species. Text by Esther Quesada Tyrrell, photographs by Robert A. Tyrrell. Crown Publishers, New York, 1984. 224 pages; 235 color photos. \$35.

This is a dazzling book! Crown has produced a photographic work of uncompromised and almost unparalleled quality. The color, clarity, and composition of the photographs are as delightful as the subject matter. *HUMMINGBIRDS* begins with a "portfolio" of the North American hummingbirds. For each of the sixteen species discussed, there is a life history summary (too abbreviated), two color photographs (excellent), and a large line-drawing (rather heavy-handed and out of place in this book). Following are chapters on anatomy, feathers, flight, courtship and young, food, behavior, and flower pollination. All are engagingly illustrated with Robert Tyrrell's superb photographs. Esther Tyrrell wrote the text, which the blurb promises to be ". . . by far the most complete and up-to-date information on hummingbirds ever assembled . . . the definitive source for both scientists and general readers for years to come." Although it is no doubt true that this will become a standard for hummingbird enthusiasts, it is equally true that the text is neither complete nor entirely up-to-date. The distributional data, especially concerning wintering ranges, are in need of revision, and the main body of text, a broad synthesis of others' work, contains no original research and little of a scientifically "definitive" nature. Still, the text succeeds as a fine general introduction to hummingbirds, and, as such, is a worthwhile complement to the magnificent gallery of photographs. I recommend this book to anyone. Note: Robert Tyrrell is now working on a book on tropical hummingbirds.

A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF BRITAIN AND EUROPE by Roger Tory Peterson, Guy Mountfort, and P.A.S. Hollom. Fourth edition, revised and enlarged. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, 1983. 443 pages; 77 color plates. \$17.95.

The outstanding thing that sets this edition apart from the previous three is the quality of its production. The text is printed on lightweight, slightly yellowish paper and shows through to the overleaf. It reminds me of the books printed during World War II, when publishers were forced to use low-grade

paper. More disturbing, perhaps, than the paper is the color reproduction of the plates, which are badly washed out. It is interesting to note that the firm with the British rights to this book, William Collins Sons, had all of the plates reworked after the birdwatching public let its feelings be known. Perhaps Houghton Mifflin will do the same on future printings. In the meantime, if you want a good copy of this well-written, well-illustrated guide, order it from Britain. It will be hardcover (the American version has a flexible binding) and cheaper (about \$12).

GUIDE TO OWL WATCHING IN NORTH AMERICA by Donald S. Heintzelman. Winchester Press, Piscataway, 1984. 193 pages; 65 black-and-white photos, one plate of owl silhouettes. Paperback, \$8.95.

This is the latest in a long series of superficial bird books by this author. In the many years since *Autumn Hawk Flights* was published, Heintzelman has produced a bewildering array of "birdwatching" books that few persons (except publishers!) could take seriously. *GUIDE TO OWL WATCHING IN NORTH AMERICA* purports to be the "first full-scale owl watching guide ever published." Full-scale indeed! The species accounts are very brief (nineteen in twenty-five pages); only three pages are devoted to the unique features of the owl physique; and the bibliography comprises a mere seventeen titles, including two by the author. Furthermore, the photographs are poorly reproduced; the owl silhouettes are not drawn to scale; and the seventy-five-page section on owl watching sites has a bigger write-up on Gooseberry Neck than on Amherst Island. Unless you absolutely have to have every owl book on the market, I recommend against buying this one.

OVERSTOCK BIRD BOOKS. There are a lot of attractively priced publishers' overstocks out there in the retail shops. Here are three 1983 titles currently available.

BIRDS THAT CAME BACK by John Gooders. Tanager Books, 1983. 180 pages; photos. List price \$25, remainder price \$5.98. Rare and reestablished British breeding birds and their stories; not much of great interest to American birdwatchers.

BIRD MIGRATION by Chris Mead. Facts on File, 1983. 224 pages; 250 illustrations. List price \$19.95, remainder price \$7.98. This is a good overview of the subject at a good price.

BIRDS OVER AMERICA by Roger Tory Peterson. Dodd, Mead; 1983. 342 pages; photos. Paperback; list price \$12.95, remainder price \$2.98. The latest reprint of a Peterson standard. Peterson is a fine writer, and anyone interested in birds should enjoy this. The photos are poorly reproduced.

BRIAN E. CASSIE, who runs a natural history book enterprise, has joined our staff to write this feature. Other than books, "his passions" are marine mollusks, birds, and butterflies, and he has led natural history tours for Massachusetts Audubon Society in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

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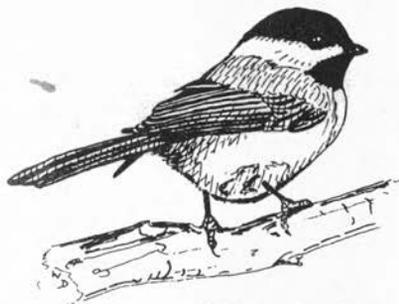
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OPEN YEAR ROUND



Field Records October 1985

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

October 1985 was warm, dry and sunny. The temperature averaged 55.4°, 0.6° above normal. No records were broken; the high was 78° on October 2, and the lowest was 35° on the twenty-ninth. In some suburbs, especially inland, freezing came as early as October 12, though no freezing occurred in the Boston area. Rain totaled 1.66 inches, 1.70 inches less than normal. Heavy fog was noted on five days, well over the normal two days.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS

A Brookline Bird Club pelagic trip out of Plymouth on the twenty-seventh reported two Northern Fulmars, five Cory's, about sixty Greater, three or so late Sooty Shearwaters, and a single Manx Shearwater. Great Cormorants were reported from two inland locations, and Double-Crested Cormorants were migrating.

R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>OCTOBER 1985</u>
Red-throated Loon:				
19,20	Marshfield, Duxbury	46, 12	W.Harrington, D.Clapp	
20-31	four locations	22+	v.o.	
Common Loon:				
6;13,19,31	E.Boston; Lakeville	13; 5, 7, 10	S.Zendeh; W.Petersen	
12-14	Outer Cape Cod	51 (total)	SSBC (Harrington)	
16,22	Waltham, Winthrop	1, 2-3	R.Forster, J.Cumming	
Pied-billed Grebe:				
5,6	GMNWR, Nantucket	2, 9	M.Lynch#, BBC (D.Davis)	
8-11,13	W.Peabody, Wakefield	1, 6	G.d'Entremont; D.Williams	
13,19;17	Lakeville; Millis	5, 13; 1	W.Petersen; B.Cassie#	
20,27	Arlington, Milford	7, 8	L.Taylor, R.Hildreth	
29	Weymouth	2	W.Petersen	
Horned Grebe:				
12,20	Wareham, Lakeville	3, 2	L.Robinson, K.Holmes	
26	Winthrop (Shore Drive only)	30	J.Cumming	
Red-necked Grebe:				
14,18	Outer Cape, Nauset Beach	1, 1	SSBC, R.Hall	
Northern Fulmar:				
20,27;25	Stellwagen; Nantucket Sound	3, 2+; 5+	J.Cumming, BBC; B.Nikula	
Cory's Shearwater:				
27	Stellwagen	5	BBC	
Greater Shearwater:				
20,27	Stellwagen	5, 60+	J.Cumming, BBC	
Sooty Shearwater:				
27	Stellwagen	3+	BBC	
Manx Shearwater:				
27	Stellwagen	1	BBC	
Northern Gannet:				
20;23,27	P.I.; Nantucket	7; 30+, 200+	BBC; M.Litchfield	
27	Stellwagen	50+	BBC	
Great Cormorant:				
4,20;29-30	Norton; Wayland	6, 2 imm.; 1 imm.	R.Forster, B.Cassie; R.Forster	
7,20	Jamaica Pond, Fresh Pond	1 imm., 1 imm.	R.Hall	
Double-crested Cormorant:				
1,17,21,30	Saugus	45, 25, 7, 6	J.Berry	
6	E.Boston, Ipswich	519, 200+	S.Zendeh, J.Berry	
12,22,26,31	Winthrop	210, 250+, 75, 9	J.Cumming	
14,20	Monomoy, P.I.	2000, 400	B.Nikula, BBC	

HERONS

A Least Bittern was seen at Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge on October 21, somewhat late, but well within the migration period, which extends through October. Little Blue Herons were found in two locations, and Tricolored Herons were noted in three places. At Hemenway Landing in Eastham as many as 139 Black-crowned Night Herons were tallied, another large roost of night herons was reported from Yarmouthport. A Glossy Ibis inland at a manure pile was very late.

R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>OCTOBER 1985</u>
American Bittern:				
1,5	Lancaster, GMNWR	1, 1	S.Carroll, M.Lynch	
6;14	Wayland; Squantum, Eastham	1; 1, 4	R.Forster;G.d'Entremont,SSBC	
16,21,31	GMNWR, P.I., Lakeville	1, 2, 1	R.Abrams,D.Arvidson#, K.Holmes	
Least Bittern:				
21	GMNWR	1	R.Walton	
Great Blue Heron:				
thr.	Saugus-Revere, E.Boston	max. 10 (10/18), 2+	J.Berry, J.Cumming#	
thr.	GMNWR	max. 15 (10/6)	J.Cumming + v.o.	
thr.	P.I.	max. 32 (10/6)	E.Nielsen + v.o.	
13	Eastham, Fort Hill	7, 40	G.d'Entremont#, SSBC	
Great Egret:				
1-6,1-20	M.V., P.I.	2, max. 10 (10/20)	T.Chase#, J.Nove# + v.o.	
12,14	Eastham, S.Monomoy	1, 2	B.Nikula	
Snowy Egret:				
1-20,4	P.I., Salem	max. 55 (10/1), 11	R.Forster+v.o., J.Berry	
6,14	E.Boston, Scituate	38, 3	S.Zendeh, W.Petersen	
Little Blue Heron:				
4,7	Nantucket, Manchester	1, 1 imm.	BBC (D.Davis), H.Carr	
Tricolored Heron:				
6,12,13	P.I., N.Monomoy, Eastham	1, 1, 1	E.Nielsen#+v.o.,B.Nikula,SSBC	
Cattle Egret:				
7,20	Essex, P.I.	1, 2	H.Carr, BBC (J.Nove)	
Green-backed Heron:				
1,14	Lexington	1, 1	R.Forster, J.Carter	
6	GMNWR, E.Boston	1, 1	J.Cumming	
Black-crowned Night Heron:				
1,7,11,18,30	Yarmouthport	130, 120, 84, 22, 3	J.Aylward	
1,12,24	Eastham (Hemenway)	139, 91, 36	B.Nikula	
12,14	Nantucket, Squantum	12, 5+	M.Litchfield, G.d'Entremont	
Glossy Ibis:				
20	Mansfield	1	K.Ryan	

WATERFOWL

At Stony Brook Wildlife Sanctuary in Norfolk the count of Wood Ducks continued to rise: 415 were counted there on October 21, and 130 were tallied on October 30. Last month 192 were counted. This count of 415 surpasses the previous *BOEM* high of 250 reported last October 19 at Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. Snow Geese were migrating, and a "Blue" Goose was found in Concord on October 14. The Ring-necked Duck concentration at Lakeville was over 900 individuals by month's end; other large flocks of Ring-necked Ducks were found in West Newbury and Littleton. Ruddy Ducks were reported in good numbers from seven locations.

R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>OCTOBER 1985</u>
Mute Swan:				
23,27	S.Carver, Plymouth	10, 64	K.Anderson, G.d'Entremont	
Snow Goose:				
17-27,20	Nant., Gloucester-Stellw.	2-1, 60	L.Loring#, J.Cumming	
20,25	P.I., Manomet	3, 25+	BBC, MBO	
26	Barnstable(S.N.), Nantucket(EelPt.)	250+, 27	H.Ferguson, M.Litchfield	
26	Rochester, off Plymouth	1, 10	R.Stymeist, BBC	
"Blue" Goose:				
14	Concord (Nine Acre Corner)	1	R.Walton	
Brant:				
21,27	Wollaston, Plymouth	45, 12+	G.Wilson, M.Lynch#	
Canada Goose:				
13	Lancaster (Bolton Flats)	500+	S. Carroll#	
14-31	Cambridge	max. 98 (10/28)	J.Barton	
26	Ipswich, Rochester	500+, 552	J.Berry, R.Stymeist	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>OCTOBER 1985</u>
Wood Duck				
2;6,12	Bourne(OtisAFB); Holliston	5; 8, 54	P.Trimble; R.Hildreth	
8,20	GMNWR, Easton	100, 6	R.Forster, K.Ryan	
21,30	Norfolk (Stony Brook)	415, 130	B.Cassie	
23,27	E.Freetown, Milford	20, 6	L.Kelley, R.Hildreth	
Green-winged Teal:				
5,6	GMNWR, P.I.	30+, 300+	M.Lynch#, E.Nielsen	
12,14	Manomet, S.Monomoy	52 migrants(2 hrs.)	300 W.Petersen,B.Nikula	
Mallard:				
thr.	Cambridge (Fresh Pond)	max. 230 (10/28)	J.Barton	
Northern Pintail:				
14,22	S.Monomoy, Yarmouthport	40+, 40	B.Nikula, J.Aylward	
Blue-winged Teal:				
8,12	GMNWR, P'town	5, 2	R.Forster, G.d'Entremont#	
Northern Shoveler:				
thr.	GMNWR	max. 18 (10/29)	R.Forster# + v.o.	
thr.	P.I.	max. 5 (10/6)	BBC + v.o.	
14	S.Monomoy	30	B.Nikula	
Gadwall:				
29	GMNWR	22	C.Floyd	
Eurasian Wigeon:				
6-31	Nantucket (Long Pond)	max. 3 m.	E.Andrews# + v.o.	
American Wigeon:				
thr.	GMNWR	max. 85 (10/8)	R.Forster + v.o.	
3-31,6	Cambridge, Nantucket	max. 22 (10/30), 100	J.Barton,BBC (D.Davis)	
10,14;29	Scituate; Wayland	14,22; 8	D.Clapp,W.Petersen;R.Forster	
Canvasback:				
12-31	Cambridge (Fresh Pond)	max. 273 (10/28)	J.Barton + v.o.	
26,31	W.Newbury, Lakeville	4, 20	R.Forster, W.Petersen	
Redhead:				
6,7	Nantucket, W.Newbury	1, 1 m.	BBC, R.Forster	
Ring-necked Duck:				
thr.	Cambridge (Fresh Pond)	max. 68 (10/23)	J.Barton + v.o.	
thr.	Lakeville	max. 900+ (10/31)	W.Petersen + v.o.	
thr., 28	W.Newbury, Littleton	max. 385(10/19), 125	J.Berry#+v.o.,J.Baird	
Greater Scaup:				
9-31,13	Cambridge, Lakeville	max. 29 (10/28), 10	J.Barton, W.Petersen	
Lesser Scaup:				
15-31	Cambridge (Fresh Pond)	max. 9 (10/29)	J.Barton	
Common Eider:				
19,20	Nantucket, Duxbury	45+, 85	M.Litchfield, D.Clapp	
Harlequin Duck:				
22-26	Winthrop	1 m.	J.Cumming	
Oldsquaw:				
12,28	Manomet, Nantucket	16, 50-75	W.Petersen, E.Andrews#	
Black Scoter:				
19,20	Nantucket Sound, P.I.	250, 50	M.Litchfield, BBC	
20	Norton, Quabbin (G. 40)	6, 21	B.Cassie, M.Lynch#	
29	Wayland (Heard's Pond)	3	R.Forster	
Surf Scoter:				
12	Manomet	1600+ (2 hrs.)	W.Petersen	
22	Scituate	720	M.Rosenfeld	
White-winged Scoter:				
22,26,31	Winthrop	190, 640+, 200+	J.Cumming	
Common Goldeneye:				
31	Lakeville	25	W.Petersen	
Bufflehead:				
12,24	Manomet, Waltham (Camb.Res.)	3, 4	W.Petersen, R.Forster	
Hooded Merganser:				
14;16,24	Scituate; Waltham (Camb.Res.)	1; 3, 7	W.Petersen; R.Forster	
20,21	Quabbin (G.40), P.I.	3 m., 1 f.	M.Lynch#, D.Arvidson#	
27	Braintree	2 m.	G.d'Entremont	
Common Merganser:				
30	Waltham (Camb. Res.)	10	R.Forster	
Red-breasted Merganser:				
12,22,26	Winthrop	55, 200, 200+	J.Cumming	
Ruddy Duck:				
4,27	Norton (Reservoir)	34, 166	R.Forster, B.Cassie	
13,19;14	Lakeville; S.Monomoy	27, 50; 130	W.Petersen; B.Nikula	
16,24,30	Waltham (Camb. Res.)	17, 34, 97	R.Forster	
16,17,19	Braintree,Framingham,Arlington	108,30,21	R.Abrams,J.Ashley,L.Taylor	

RAPTORS THROUGH NORTHERN BOBWHITE

A total of fifteen Turkey Vultures was reported during the month with the latest seen on October 27, when ten individuals were seen in three locations. Five immature Bald Eagles were reported from as many locations. Nine Cooper's Hawks were noted, compared with only four last October. Reports of Peregrine Falcon were mostly from coastal locations although four birds were found in Millis, Holliston, Whitman and Lynnfield. Northern Bobwhite were found in Belmont, and one was seen at Plum Island.

R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>OCTOBER 1985</u>
Turkey Vulture:				
25,26	Wayland, Quabbin (G. 40)	1, 4	H.Parker, M.Lynch#	
27	GMNWR, Westport	2, 5	J.Cumming, K.Anderson	
27	Sturbridge	3	R.Hall	
Osprey:				
6	Holliston	4	R.Hildreth	
25,26	Nantucket, Concord	1, 1	C.Andrews, G.Gove	
27,28	E.Boston, S.Dartmouth	1, 1	S.Zendeh, LCES (R.Maker)	
Bald Eagle:				
3,6	Nantucket, Quabbin (G. 40)	1 imm., 1 imm.	D.Beattie, S.Carroll#	
9,20	P.I., New Braintree	1 imm., 1 imm.	J.Barton, M.Lynch#	
28	N.Eastham	1 imm.	N.Waldron	
Northern Harrier:				
thr.	Newburyport-P.I.	max. 9 (10/20)	J.Nove# + v.o.	
12,21	Nantucket, Bridgewater	6, 3	M.Litchfield, K.Ryan	
other reports of single individuals from five locations				
Sharp-shinned Hawk:				
1-8	Katama-Chappaquiddick	30	T.Carrolan	
6,20,26	Quabbin (G. 40)	10, 7, 1	M.Lynch, S.Carroll	
6,20	P.I., Falmouth	3, 2	BBC, P.Trimble	
other reports of single individuals from ten locations				
Cooper's Hawk:				
1,6;9,22	P.I.; Halifax	1 imm., 1; 1 imm.	R.Forster,BBC;K.Anderson	
6,14	Quabbin (G.40), Marshfield	1, 1	M.Lynch#, D.Clapp	
22;24,28	Barnstable; Nantucket	1; 1	J.Aylward; E.Andrews	
26	Mt. Watatic, Winthrop	1, 1	W.Petersen#, J.Cumming	
Northern Goshawk:				
5,23	Boxford, Bolton Flats	1, 1 imm.	F.Bouchard#, R.Forster#	
Red-shouldered Hawk:				
6,20;26	Quabbin (G.40); Mt.Watatic	1, 1; 6	M.Lynch#; W.Petersen#	
Red-tailed Hawk:				
6,20,26	Quabbin (G.40)	5, 6, 2	M.Lynch, S. Carroll	
American Kestrel:				
6	P.I.-Newburyport	8	BBC	
Merlin:				
6	Nantucket (2 locations)	7+	D.Davis#, M.Litchfield#	
6	P.I. area, Holliston	4+, 1	BBC + v.o., R.Hildreth	
12-13,15	M.V., Concord	6, 1	R.Stymeist#, R.Forster	
other reports of single birds from coastal locations				
Peregrine Falcon:				
5,6;6	Nantucket; Millis	1, 2+; 1 ad.	E.Andrews#+v.o.; R.Forster	
6	Holliston, E.Boston	1, 1	R.Hildreth, S.Zendeh	
7,9,21	P.I.	1, 2, 1	R.Forster,J.Barton,D.Arvidson#	
9	Scituate, Eastham	2+, 6	D.Clapp#, B.Cassie#	
9,12	Whitman, Eastham	1, 6	K.Holmes, R.Clem	
12,13	Chilmark, Chappaquiddick	1 ad., 1 ad.	R.Stymeist#	
14	N.Monomoy, S.Monomoy	1, 1	B.Nikula	
22,23	Lynnfield, Squantum	1, 1	C.Leahy, K.Ryan	
Northern Bobwhite:				
5,17	Belmont, P.I.	1, 1	L.Taylor, R.Hall	

RAILS THROUGH RAZORBILL

A Yellow Rail was reported from Fort Hill in Eastham, seen by a group of South Shore Bird Club members at flood tide. Following is a excerpt of the details provided by the leader: "The bird was flying through the mist directly toward the group from about four hundred yards away. As the distance lessened, it could be determined that it was a rail with a small bill and white trailing-edge to the wing. The bird flew within twenty yards of the group and landed approximately thirty feet away at the confluence of two trails. It promptly scurried into the grasses and fluttered up into a bramble bush where, for three or four seconds, one wing was fully extended and held out by the brambles. This allowed the observers to notice that there was no light leading edge of

the wing and that the dark tail and the white wing patch were appropriate for a Yellow Rail. The dark overall appearance can be attributed to a juvenile bird. The general field marks of white wing patch, small bill, and small size were well-seen by the group."

A Sandhill Crane was reported from Westport and was described to the reporter as having a peculiar shape, erect neck, red crown patch, and stiff-legged gait. The bird was feeding in a corn field. The observer went to get a camera but found upon returning to the corn field that the bird was gone. The observer's description of the bird convinced the reporter of the authenticity of the sighting.

American Oystercatchers were present in higher than usual numbers for this month, reflecting the increase in the breeding population, and Greater Yellowlegs were reported in the highest numbers for October in *BOEM* records. The total numbers of Caspian and Royal terns reported were also significant. A Roseate Tern was seen at Monomoy on October 14, which is a late date for that species. G.W.G.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>OCTOBER 1985</u>
<u>Yellow Rail:</u>				
13	Eastham (F.H.)	1	SSBC (D.Clapp)	
<u>Clapper Rail:</u>				
1,14	Wellfleet, Nauset	1, 1	B.Nikula	
8,12	M.V., Eastham (F.H.)	1, 1	G.Daniels, G.d'Entremont#	
<u>Virginia Rail:</u>				
5,12	GMNWR, Eastham (F.H.)	2, 2	M.Lynch#, G.d'Entremont#	
13	Lancaster	1	BBC	
<u>Sora:</u>				
5,14	GMNWR, Eastham (F.H.)	3, 1	S.Carroll#, SSBC	
<u>Common Moorhen:</u>				
6	GMNWR	3	J.Cumming	
<u>American Coot:</u>				
6,19	Nantucket, Lakeville	1, 18	BBC, W.Petersen	
27,29	Plymouth, GMNWR	15, 32	G.d'Entremont, R.Forster	
<u>Sandhill Crane:</u>				
12	Westport	1	R.Caron (fide W.Petersen)	
<u>Black-bellied Plover:</u>				
thr.	N.Monomoy	max. 1300 (10/8)	B.Nikula + v.o.	
13,16	M.V., Wollaston	300+, 300	R.Stymeist#, R.Abrams	
20,31	Duxbury, Winthrop	117, 200+	D.Clapp, J.Cumming	
<u>Lesser Golden Plover:</u>				
1,6	Ipswich, M.V.	8, 8	R.Forster, T.Carrollan	
14,26	Concord(9 Acre),Nantucket	3, 6	R.Walton, M.Litchfield	
<u>Semipalmated Plover:</u>				
1,14	P.I., Outer Cape Cod	12, 10	R.Forster, SSBC	
27	Plymouth	12	M.Lynch#	
<u>Killdeer:</u>				
1	Newbury, Essex	25, 35	R.Forster	
21,26	Lexington, Concord(9 Acre)	41,93	J.Carter, R.Stymeist	
<u>American Oystercatcher:</u>				
1,6	Nantucket	19, 18	E.Andrews, BBC	
9,12	Chatham, M.V.	40, 12	B.Cassie#, G.Gove#	
<u>Greater Yellowlegs:</u>				
6,26	E.Boston	67, 91	S.Zendeh	
14,26	Outer Cape Cod, Nantucket	50, 12	SSBC, M.Litchfield	
<u>Lesser Yellowlegs:</u>				
6,7	E.Boston, Newbury	1, 8	J.Cumming, R.Forster	
19,21	Halifax, Newburyport	1, 1	W.Petersen, D.Arvidson#	
<u>Solitary Sandpiper:</u>				
1,2	Rowley, Ipswich	4, 2	R.Forster, J.Berry	
9,14	Wellfleet, Outer Cape Cod	1, 2	B.Cassie#, SSBC	
<u>Willet:</u>				
4,6	Nantucket	2	BBC	
<u>Spotted Sandpiper:</u>				
1,6	Lexington, Braintree	4, 3	J.Carter, G.d'Entremont	
<u>Whimbrel:</u>				
12;20,21	Eastham; P.I.	1; 2, 1	G.d'Entremont#; BBC, D.Arvidson#	
<u>Hudsonian Godwit:</u>				
11,12	Newburyport, Eastham	4, 1	J.Berry, B.Nikula	
<u>Marbled Godwit:</u>				
1-12,17	N.Monomoy	7, 2	B.Nikula + v.o.	
6	Nantucket	1	BBC	

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	OCTOBER 1985
Ruddy Turnstone: 20,27	Duxbury, Plymouth	5, 1	D.Clapp, L.Robinson	
Sanderling: 20	Duxbury	825	D.Clapp	
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 1,9-22	P.I., Halifax	40, max.10 (10/4)	R.Forster, K.Anderson#	
Western Sandpiper: 1	P.I.	3	R.Forster	
Least Sandpiper: 1	Essex, Lexington	4, 6	R.Forster	
9-19	Halifax	max. 3 (10/13)	W.Petersen#	
White-rumped Sandpiper: 21	GMNWR, Newburyport	1, 2	R.Walton, D.Arvidson#	
Pectoral Sandpiper: 1,14	Lexington, Concord(9 Acre)	2, 5	J.Carter, R.Walton	
9-26	Halifax	max. 56 (10/9)	K.Anderson	
26	Nantucket	25	M.Litchfield	
Purple Sandpiper: 22	Winthrop	4	J.Cumming	
Dunlin: thr.	N.Monomoy	max. 1500 (10/12)	B.Nikula	
1,20	P.I., Duxbury	500, 1035	R.Forster, D.Clapp	
Short-billed Dowitcher: 1,6	P.I., E.Boston	2, 4	R.Forster, S.Zendeh	
Long-billed Dowitcher: 1,21	P.I., Newburyport	41, 17	R.Forster, D.Arvidson#	
dowitcher sp. 11,12	Newburyport, Duxbury	30, 3	J.Berry, W.Petersen	
Common Snipe: 6,13	Belmont, Lancaster	2, 12	L.Taylor, S.Carroll#	
14,27	Concord(9 Acre),Nantucket	12, 2	R.Walton, M.Litchfield	
American Woodcock: 20,27	Ipswich, Medway	1, 1	J.+N.Berry, G.Gove#	
Wilson's Phalarope: 6	Newbury	1	E.Nielsen	
Pomarine Jaeger: 25,27	Nantucket, Stellwagen	1 ad., 1	B.Nikula, BBC	
Laughing Gull: 22,27	Winthrop, Nantucket	160, 20+	J.Cumming, M.Litchfield#	
Bonaparte's Gull: 7,19	Newburyport	450, 67	R.Forster, J.Berry	
24,31	Nantucket, Winthrop	10, 30	E.Andrews, J.Cumming	
Ring-billed Gull: thr.	Saugus	max. 150 (10/1)	J.Berry	
Iceland Gull: 13	Eastham	1	J.Aylward	
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 2,12	M.V., Nantucket	1, 2 (3d yr.)	V.Laux#, M.Litchfield	
Glaucous Gull: 7	Nantucket	1 (2W)	M.Litchfield	
Black-legged Kittiwake: 14,27	Scituate, Stellwagen	2, 80+	W.Petersen, BBC	
Caspian Tern: 4;5,17	M.V.; N.Monomoy	1+; 1, 2	T.Carrollan; B.Nikula	
7,12	Newburyport, P'town	1, 1	R.Forster, SSBC	
17,28	Manomet, P.I.	1, 4	MBO Staff, M.Schoene	
Royal Tern: 7,8	M.V.	2, 4	M.Pough, D.Minis#	
14,27	Nantucket, Plymouth	3, 1	E.Andrews#, BBC	
Roseate Tern: 14	Monomoy	1	B.Nikula	
Common Tern: 6;14,20	Nantucket; Monomoy	20; 350, 600	BBC; B.Nikula	
Forster's Tern: 7,27	Newburyport, Plymouth	1, 4	R.Forster, BBC	
14,20	Monomoy	45, 55	B.Nikula	
Black Skimmer: 5,6-12	Plymouth, Nantucket	8, max.5(10/12)	E.Gustafson, E.Andrews#	
8,13	N. Monomoy, M.V.	1, 3	B.Nikula, J.Heywood#	
25,27	Westport, Plymouth	2, 2	C.McElwain, R.Forster	
Razorbill: 8	Essex	1	W.Kinsella	

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

The only Barn Owl report was from Martha's Vineyard, and a gray phase Eastern Screech-Owl was found as a road kill in Sherborn. Great Horned and Barred owls were calling simultaneously in East Middleboro. Eleven Short-eared Owls were flushed from a roost in the dunes on Nantucket. They were said to use the area for roosting year after year. Four hatching-year Northern Saw-whet Owls were banded at MBO. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird was seen on October 6, and another was seen on October 23. The latter bird was seen in flight and then perched within fifty feet of the observer. Noted on the bird were white tips on the outer tail feathers and an indistinct line through the eye. The observer said that it was a "probable" Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Hummingbirds, especially females, are difficult to identify even if you can get a good look. At this time of the year, one wonders just what hummingbird may appear. G.W.G.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>OCTOBER 1985</u>
Yellow-billed Cuckoo:				
8,17	Manomet, Millis	1 b., 1	MBO Staff, B.Cassie	
26	Salisbury	1	F.Bouchard	
Common Barn-Owl:				
12	M.V.	1	R.Stymeist	
Eastern Screech-Owl:				
8,14	N.Scituate	1, 2	D.Ludlow#, W.Petersen	
30,31	Sherborn, Arlington	1, 1	R.Forster#	
Great Horned Owl:				
13,26	E.Middleboro, Ipswich	pr., 1	K.Anderson, J.Berry	
Barred Owl:				
8,13	Medfield, E.Middleboro	2, 2	B.Cassie#,K.Anderson	
Long-eared Owl:				
26	Salisbury	2	R.Forster	
Short-eared Owl:				
12,26;21	Nantucket; P.I.	11, 4; 1	M.Litchfield; K.Goldsmith	
Northern Saw-whet Owl:				
1;9,10,21	M.V.; Manomet	1; 2 b., 1 b., 1 b.	T.Rivers; MBO Staff	
Whip-poor-will:				
12	East Boston	1	W.Drummond	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird:				
6, 23	Nantucket	1, 1 f.(?)	BBC, M.Litchfield	
Belted Kingfisher:				
4,20	S.Dartmouth, Falmouth	6,3	LCES, P.Trimble	
Red-headed Woodpecker:				
2	Millis	1	B.Cassie#	
Red-bellied Woodpecker:				
2;12,13	Millis; M.V.	1; 4, 1	B.Cassie#, R.Stymeist#	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:				
7,12-13	P'town, M.V.	9, 8	M.McClellan#, R.Stymeist#	
17	Nantucket	2 b.	E.Andrews	
Fourteen reports of 1-2 birds each, especially 10/11-13				
Northern Flicker:				
5,6	Nantucket, P.I.-Newbypt	15, 12	BBC	
14;6,20	Squantum; Quabbin (G.40)	15; 7, 11	G.d'Entremont; S.Carroll#	
Pileated Woodpecker:				
6,29	Quabbin (G.40), Millis	2, 1	S. Carroll#, B.Cassie	

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

A single Western Kingbird in Gloucester was the only report for the month and constitutes a light incursion for this species compared to counts of six to ten individuals in good Octobers. An Acadian Flycatcher banded at MBO was critically examined to determine the identity. This is the latest, and only October, record for the state. Twenty-six Common Ravens observed, mostly in one kettle, during a single day at Wachusett is an amazing number but is consistent with accounts published in *American Birds* of good numbers this past spring in New Hampshire. The flight of chickadees at MBO was the best ever, but, surprisingly, no Boreal Chickadees were netted. The Northern Shrike flight, consisting of a single individual at Plum Island, was consistent with data from recent years but should be compared to counts of seven to ten individuals in major flight years. Palm Warbler numbers were the second lowest in the last ten years. A Worm-eating Warbler on Nantucket was very late. Warbler diversity was down, with only twenty-three species reported in contrast to twenty-eight or twenty-nine in years when migration through our region is strong. A Northern Waterthrush was banded at Manomet on the notably late date of October 31. October 1985 treated us to a number of nice passerine rarities. A Say's Phoebe was well observed, unfortunately for only a single day, by a number of parties at Gate 40 in the Quabbin Reservation. Further tyrannid excitement was provided by a Fork-tailed Flycatcher found near the piers in East Boston. This individual proved very

elusive and was seen by only a few of the multitudes seeking it. A Varied Thrush was seen for two days in Chelmsford. The Eurasian Jackdaw continued on Nantucket. L.E.T.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>OCTOBER 1985</u>
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 5	Boxford	1	K.Griffis#	
Arcadian Flycatcher: 2	Manomet	1 b.	MBO Staff	
Eastern Phoebe: 6	Petersham, Belmont	7, 4	S.Carroll#, L.Taylor	
12-21, 23	6 Locations, Lancaster	11 total, 1	v.o., R.Forster	
Say's Phoebe: 20	Quabbin (G. 40)	1 (details)	M.Lynch#	
Western Kingbird: 14	Gloucester	1	K.Hartel	
Fork-tailed Flycatcher: 11-12	E.Boston	1	S.Thomas#	
Horned Lark: 23	Lancaster	4	R.Forster	
Tree Swallow: 8,12	N.Scituate, Millis	350+, 231	B.Litchfield, B.Cassie	
Cliff Swallow: 6	E.Boston	3	S.Zendeh	
Barn Swallow: 6-30,10	Wayland, Nantucket	3 max. (10/29), 2	R.Forster, M.Litchfield	
American Crow: 6,19	Ipswich, Belmont	130, 155	J.Berry, L.Taylor	
26	Sudbury, Bolton	850+, 200+	R.Stymeist	
Common Raven: 2,6	Mt.Wachusett, Quabbin (G.40)	26, 2	N.Claflin, S.Carroll#	
Eurasian Jackdaw: thr.	Nantucket	1	E.Andrews#	
Black-capped Chickadee: thr.,6	Manomet, Quabbin (G.40)	1227 b., 46	MBO Staff, M.Lynch#	
Red-breasted Nuthatch: 6,26	Quabbin (G.40), Nantucket	12, 40+	S.Carroll#, B.Nikula#	
Brown Creeper: 6,10	Quabbin (G.40), Norwell	5, 4	M.Lynch#, D.Clapp	
12	Wellfleet, Provincetown	5, 15	G.d'Entremont	
Carolina Wren: thr.,6-16	Winchester, 4 Locations	1, 4 total	M.McClellan#, v.o.	
12,20	W.Tisbury, Falmouth	8, 4	G.Gove#, P.Trimble	
27,31	Ipswich, N.Middleboro	1, 2	J.Berry, K.Holmes#	
House Wren: 6,10	P.I., Sudbury	1, 1	BBC, R.Forster	
Winter Wren: 1-26,6	P.I., Nantucket	2 max. (10/6), 3	v.o., BBC	
6,14	Quabbin (G.40), Manomet	2, 1 b.	S.Carroll#, MBO Staff	
Marsh Wren: 12,13	Eastham, Lancaster	1, 1	G.d'Entremont#, BBC	
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 1,2	Brookline, Manomet	5, 1 f.b. (first)	B.Hallett, MBO Staff	
6-21,6-26	P.I., Nantucket	8 max.(10/21), 50 max. (10/26)	v.o.	
11,14	Scituate, Carver	30+, 13	D.Clapp, L.Robinson	
13,20	Gloucester, Weston	15, 15	BBC, L.Robinson	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1,6-21	Manomet, P.I.	1 f.b.(first), 3	max.(10/20) MBOStaff,v.o.	
11,13	Scituate, Gloucester	100+, 15	D.Clapp, BBC	
14,17	Carver, Belmont	10, 3	L.Robinson, L.Taylor	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 8	Lakeville	1	R.Abrams	
Eastern Bluebird: 8,14	Plymouth, Carver	13, 6	R.Turner, L.Robinson	
17,27	Millis, Truro	1, 7	B.Cassie#, G.Gove#	
Veery: 12	W.Tisbury	1	R.Stymeist#	
Gray-checked Thrush: 6,8	Nantucket, Rockport	1, 1 b.	BBC, R.Norris	
Swainson's Thrush: 1-12,13	4 Locations, M.V.	5 total, 1	v.o., J.Heywood#	
Hermit Thrush: 12,14	Provincetown, Scituate	4, 8	G.d'Entremont#, W.Petersen	
22,30	E.Middleboro, E.Boston	4, 1	K.Anderson, S.Thomas	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>OCTOBER 1985</u>
American Robin:				
13,19	Lancaster, Rowley-Newbypt	200+, 50	S.Carroll#, J.Berry	
20,26	Quabbin (G.40), Belmont	198, 73	M.Lynch#, L.Taylor	
<u>Varied Thrush:</u>				
22-23	Chelmsford	1	H.Collins	
<u>Water Pipit:</u>				
1,6-29	Ipswich, Newbury	10, 200 max. (10/29)	R.Forster, v.o.	
8,25	Concord, Nantucket	38, 40	R.Forster, E.Andrews	
26,28	W.Concord, Lincoln	20, 65	W.Petersen, R.Forster	
<u>Cedar Waxwing:</u>				
11,27	Lincoln, Ipswich	20, 24	R.Forster, J.Berry	
<u>Northern Shrike:</u>				
26	P.I.	1 imm.	H.C.Floyd	
<u>Solitary Vireo:</u>				
2,6	Manomet, Quabbin (G.40)	1 b., 4	MBO Staff, S.Carroll#	
9-19,29	4 Locations, Lexington	4 total, 1	v.o., H.C.Floyd	
<u>Red-eyed Vireo:</u>				
1-11,6	P.I., Quabbin (G.40)	2 max. (10/6), 3	v.o., M.Lynch#	
13	M.V.	2	R.Stymeist#	
<u>Tennessee Warbler:</u>				
6,13	Belmont, Gloucester	1, 1	L.Taylor, BBC	
13,19	M.V., Belmont	1, 1	R.Stymeist#	
<u>Orange-crowned Warbler:</u>				
12,16-30	E.Boston, Manomet	1, 3 b.	S.Carroll#, MBO Staff	
19	Belmont	1	R.Stymeist	
<u>Nashville Warbler:</u>				
12,13	M.V., Gloucester	2, 1	G.Gove#, BBC	
<u>Northern Parula:</u>				
1	Brookline	1	B.Hallett	
<u>Yellow Warbler:</u>				
1,5	P.I., Nantucket	1, 1	R.Forster, BBC	
<u>Magnolia Warbler:</u>				
1	Brookline	1	B.Hallett	
<u>Cape May Warbler:</u>				
2,14	Millis, Scituate	6, 1	B.Cassie#, W.Petersen	
<u>Black-throated Blue Warbler:</u>				
1-6,4	P.I., Nantucket	6 max. (10/6), 2	v.o., BBC	
11,12	Norwell, Provincetown	1, 1	D.Clapp, G.d'Entremont	
<u>Yellow-rumped Warbler:</u>				
9,12	Cambridge, M.V.	100, 400	J.Barton, G.Gove#	
13	Gloucester, Middleboro	76, 100	BBC, W.Petersen	
<u>Black-throated Green Warbler:</u>				
14	Squantum, Scituate	1, 1	G.d'Entremont, W.Petersen#	
<u>Pine Warbler:</u>				
1,6	E.Middleboro, Quabbin (G.40)	1 m., 4	K.Anderson, M.Lynch#	
13,30	M.V., Nantucket	4, 1	R.Stymeist#, E.Andrews	
<u>Palm Warbler:</u>				
12,12-13	E.Boston, M.V.	5, 30	v.o., R.Stymeist#	
<u>Bay-breasted Warbler:</u>				
1,4	Brookline, Nantucket	1, 2	B.Hallett, BBC	
<u>Blackpoll Warbler:</u>				
6,7	Nantucket, Salisbury	2, 1	BBC, R.Forster	
11,12	E.Middleboro, Outer Cape	Cod 2, 1	K.Anderson, SSBC	
<u>Black-and-white Warbler:</u>				
4,6	Nantucket, Belmont	1, 2	BBC, L.Taylor	
<u>American Redstart:</u>				
1-6,6	P.I., Nantucket	2 max. (10/6), 3	v.o., BBC	
<u>Worm-eating Warbler:</u>				
6	Nantucket	1	E.Andrews	
<u>Ovenbird:</u>				
12	E.Boston	1	M.Lynch#	
<u>Northern Waterthrush:</u>				
31	Manomet	1 b.	MBO Staff	
<u>Common Yellowthroat:</u>				
4-13,20	5 Locations, Belmont	8 total, 1 m.	v.o., L.Taylor	
27	Nantucket	1	M.Litchfield	
<u>Wilson's Warbler:</u>				
12	Outer Cape Cod	2	SSBC	
<u>Canada Warbler:</u>				
4	Nantucket	1	BBC	

SPECIES/DATE LOCATION NUMBER OBSERVERS OCTOBER 1985

Yellow-breasted Chat:
 5,24 Nantucket, Lexington 1, 1 BBC, J.Detweiler
 30 Rockport 1 b. R.Norris

TANAGERS THROUGH EVENING GROSBEEK

Blue Grosbeak numbers were the lowest in the last ten Octobers, viz. three individuals total. A LeConte's Sparrow was reported on October 21 near Fresh Pond in Cambridge. This individual was described as having a gray check patch surrounded by orange and a definite light median crown stripe. Reports of Lincoln's Sparrows were notably low, whereas the White-crowned Sparrow flight was a good one, larger than most years and eclipsed only by the October 1980 phenomenon of over a thousand individuals. Twenty-five Lapland Longspurs at Great Meadows in Concord constituted a most unusually record for this inland location. A total of four Yellow-headed Blackbird individuals, all at extreme southeastern coastal locations, was the highest in the last ten years. Nantucket was the place to be to experience maximum diversity in the early winter finch flight, with Pine Grosbeak, White-winged Crossbill, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, and Evening Grosbeak all being reported there. Elsewhere, winter finch reports were generally light and scattered, though Common Redpolls staged a widespread arrival during the last week of the month.

Towards the end of October, a Western Tanager was frequently at a feeder on Nantucket. Also in the extra-regional rarity category was an adult Harris' Sparrow seen for a few days at Bolton Flats, Lancaster. Another late October treat was a Brewer's Blackbird seen and photographed at Nine Acre Corner in Concord. L.E.T.

SPECIES/DATE LOCATION NUMBER OBSERVERS OCTOBER 1985

Scarlet Tanager:
 5,6 Nantucket, P.I. 1, 1 BBC, E.Nielsen
Western Tanager:
 29-31 Nantucket 1 imm. m. E.Andrews
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak:
 6 Nantucket, P.I. 1, 1 BBC
 Blue Grosbeak:
 6-12,8-12 Nantucket, Truro 1 max., 1 max. v.o.
 24 Medfield 1 imm. m. B.Cassie#
 Indigo Bunting:
 6 Sudbury, Nantucket 1, 1 R.Forster, BBC
 12,17 Truro, Medfield 2, 1 SSBC, B.Cassie#
 Dickcissel:
 14,18-21 Marshfield, Nantucket 1, 1 D.Clapp, B.McLaughlin
 Rufous-sided Towhee:
 6,12-13 P.I., M.V. 4, 50 BBC, R.Stymeist#
 American Tree Sparrow:
 12,21 Wellfleet, Rockport 2, 1 b. G.d'Entremont#, R.Norris
 22,29 Cambridge, SRV 1, 48 J.Barton, R.Forster
 Chipping Sparrow:
 6,8 Wareham, Littleton 26, 15 L.Robinson, V.Sprong
 11-20,31 P.I., E.Boston 10 max. (10/11), 2 v.o., J.Cumming
 Clay-colored Sparrow:
 18,19 Sandwich, Wellfleet 1 imm. (details), 1 P.Trimble, B.Nikula
 Field Sparrow:
 6,21 Wareham, P.I. 10, 6 L.Robinson, D.Arvidson#
 Vesper Sparrow:
 9-12 S.Wellfleet (Marconi Sta.) 8 max. v.o.
 16 Marshfield, Belmont 1, 1 D.Clapp, L. Taylor
 Lark Sparrow:
 12 Nantucket 1 imm. M.Litchfield
 Savannah Sparrow:
 5,17,31 Nantucket, Belmont, E.Boston 73, 25, 4 BBC, L.Taylor, J.Cumming
 Grasshopper Sparrow:
 from Sept-1,6 Belmont, Newbury 1 ad., 1 L.Taylor, BBC
 LeConte's Sparrow:
 21 Cambridge 1 (details) J.Barton
 Sharp-tailed Sparrow:
 14,19 Squantum, Rowley 5, 5 G.d'Entremont, J.Berry
 Fox Sparrow:
 12,17 E.Boston, Manomet 1, 1 b. v.o., MBO Staff
 25,28 Middleboro, Nantucket 1, 2 K.Holmes, E.Andrews#
 Song Sparrow:
 10,20 Sudbury, Quabbin (G.40) 25, 27 R.Forster, M.Lynch#

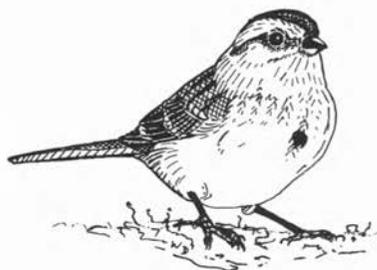
<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>OCTOBER 1985</u>
Lincoln's Sparrow:				
2-19,7	6 locations, Manomet	7 total, 2 b.	v.o., MBO Staff	
31	E.Boston	1	S.Thomas	
Swamp Sparrow:				
10,13	Sudbury, Lancaster	10, 30	R.Forster, BBC	
White-Throated Sparrow:				
8,13	Cambridge, Lancaster	24, 55	J.Barton, S.Carroll#	
14,19	Scituate, Belmont	100, 50+	W.Petersen#, R.Clayton	
White-crowned Sparrow:				
	Regional total 141 individuals			
7,12	Manomet, Truro	3 b., 45	MBO Staff, SSBC	
12,14	M.V., Marshfield	20, 20	R.Stymeist#, D.Clapp	
14,29	Salisbury, Concord	10, 1	J.Grugan, R.Forster	
Harris' Sparrow:				
19-22	Lancaster	1 ad.	C.Quinlan#	
Dark-eyed Junco:				
12,20	Outer Cape Cod, Duxbury	120, 200+	SSBC, D.Clapp	
21,26	P.I., Quabbin (G.40)	80, 113	D.Arvidson#, M.Lynch#	
Lapland Longspur:				
9,25	Scituate, GMNWR	1, 25	D.Clapp, G.Gove#	
Snow Bunting:				
17,21	Rockport, Lancaster	1, 1	M.McClellan#, J.Barton	
26	Ashburnham, Salisbury	3, 40	W.Petersen#, R.Forster	
27,29	Plymouth, Nantucket	18, 1	L.Robinson, M.Litchfield	
Bobolink:				
6,12	Rowley, Truro	6, 1	E.Nielsen, SSBC	
Red-winged Blackbird:				
19,26	Rowley, Concord	1000, 200+	J.Berry, S.Carroll#	
Eastern Meadowlark:				
6,14	Newbury, E.Boston	25, 8	E.Nielsen, v.o.	
14,25	Marshfield, Middleboro	9, 2	D.Clapp, K.Holmes	
Yellow-headed Blackbird:				
2,8	M.V., Nantucket	1, 1 f.	T.Carrolan#, D.Beattie	
11,12-13	Nantucket (town), Eastham	1 f., 1 imm. m.	H.McHugh, W.Swift	
Rusty Blackbird:				
8,12	GMNWR, Provincetown	25, 68	R.Forster, G.d'Entremont#	
21,29	Lexington, SRV	8, 80	J.Carter, R.Forster	
Brewer's Blackbird:				
25-26	Concord	1 imm. (ph.)	R.Forster#	
Brown-headed Cowbird:				
11,12	Bedford, M.V.	350, 350+	J.Berry, J.Heywood#	
Northern Oriole:				
12	Nantucket	2	M.Litchfield	
Pine Grosbeak:				
26,30	Ashburnham, Quabbin (G.40), Nant.	2, 6, 1	W.Petersen#, M.Lynch#, M.Litchfield	
Purple Finch:				
12-31,23	Nantucket, E.Middleboro	5 max. (10/31), 2	E.Andrews, K.Anderson	
White-winged Crossbill:				
23	Nantucket	1 f. b.	E.Andrews#	
Common Redpoll:				
24,26	Rockport, P.I.	1 imm. b., 15	R.Norris, R.Forster	
29,31	Nantucket, Newton	2 imm. b., 1	E.Andrews#, M.Vaughan	
Pine Siskin:				
26-31,29	Nantucket, Sudbury	8 max., 3	v.o., R.Forster	
Evening Grosbeak:				
6,14	P.I., Carver	4, 15	E.Nielsen, L.Robinson	
14-27,26	Nantucket, Belmont	30 max. (10/27), 55	v.o., L.Taylor	

CORRIGENDUM: June 1985 Field Records

Ruddy Turnstone:				
1-21	N.Monomoy	max. 200 (6/24)	R.Humphrey# + v.o.	
	should read			
1-21	N.Monomoy	max. 200 (6/2 + 6/4)	R.Humphrey# + v.o.	

CORRIGENDUM: July 1985 Field Records

Black Tern:				
thr.	Orleans (New Island)	1 pr. + 3 yg.	P.Trull	
	should read			
Black Skimmer:				
thr.	Orleans (New Island)	1 pr. + 3 yg.	P.Trull	



Field Records

November 1985

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

November was very wet, cloudy, and slightly on the mild side. The temperature fluctuated widely, reaching a high of 73° on the twentieth and a low of 25° on the sixteenth; the average temperature was 45.4° in Boston, just .2° above normal. The season's first freeze in Boston came on November 15 - a week later than average. Precipitation totaled 6.39 inches, 2.18 inches more than normal. It was the wettest November since 1983 when Boston recorded 8.89 inches; the record is 11.03 inches in 1876. The most in a 24-hour period was 2.24 inches on November 5, when heavy showers and the month's only thunderstorm brought some street flooding. Snow fall totaled 3.0 inches, 1.8 inches more than the November average. This was the most snow in November since 1979 (4.2 inches). The snow on the twenty-sixth and on Thanksgiving (November 28) caused very slippery road conditions. Fog was frequent and noted on most days during the month. Heavy fog was recorded on three days, one more than average. Sleet occurred on five days and glazing on three days.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

Northeast winds and fog on November 5 and again on November 11 produced a good flight of seabirds at Cape Ann. At Andrew's Point in Rockport on the fifth, the sky was filled with birds most of the day according to a number of observers. Over 300 Red-throated Loons, 200 Northern Fulmars, 50 Cory's and over 400 Greater shearwaters as well as over 1000 Northern Gannets were counted during just two and a half hours. On November 11 at Andrews Point, two observers (in two different periods) counted a total of 908 Red-throated Loons in four-plus hours. On November 12, other striking counts of this species were 590 in less than two hours tallied from Sandy Neck in Barnstable and 300 in one hour from Corporation Beach in Dennis. A Brookline Bird Club pelagic trip on the last day of the month recorded 42 Northern Fulmar, late dates for Greater and Manx shearwaters, and a very late date for Sooty Shearwater.

R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>NOVEMBER 1985</u>
Red-throated Loon:				
3,5	Lakeville, Rockport (A.P.)	2, 300+(in 2½ hr.)	SSBC(W.Peterson), R.McHale#	
6,10	Winthrop, outer Cape Cod	75, 20	D.Desmond#, SSBC (R.Fox)	
11	A.P.; Plymouth	400+(1.75 hr.), 508(2½ hr.); 50	W.Petersen, R.Forster; L.Robinson	
12	S.N., Dennis(Corp.Beach)	590 (1.75 hr.), 300 (1 hr.)	J.Aylward, B.Nikula	
24,28	Newbypt, Dennis(Corp.Beach)	25, 250 (2 hr.)	M.Lynch#, B.Nikula	
Common Loon:				
6,9	Winthrop, Sterling	5, 2	D.Desmond#, C.Quinlan	
10,11	Lakeville, Plymouth	12, 150	G.Gove, L.Robinson	
11	Rockport (A.P.)	60+ (2 ½ hr.)	W.Petersen#	
Pied-billed Grebe:				
3	Lakeville, GMNWR	10, 3	SSBC (W.Peterson), BBC (R.Vernon)	
3,8	Arlington, GMNWR	5, 6	L.Taylor, R.Walton	
9	Wareham, Quabbin (Gate 40)	3, 4	L.Robinson, S.Carroll#	
Other reports of one or two birds in many locations.				
Horned Grebe:				
2,3	Littleton, Lakeville	2, 5	J.Baird, SSBC (W.Peterson)	
8,10,26	Revere (Short Beach)	13, 18, 15+	J.Cumming	
10,14,20	Waltham (Camb. Res.)	2, 3, 1	R.Forster	
10,16	Marion, Quabbin (Gate 40)	20, 5	L.Robinson, M.Lynch#	
Red-necked Grebe:				
9,11	Salisbury, Rockport	2, 4	BBC (V.Albee), W.Peterson	
30	Dennis (Corp. Beach)	10	J.Aylward	
Northern Fulmar:				
5	Rockport (A.P.)	200+ (1 ½ hr.)	R.McHale#	
30	Stellwagen	42	BBC (M.Blazis)	

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	NOVEMBER 1985
Cory's Shearwater:				
5	Rockport (A.P.)	50+ (1½ hr.)	R.McHale#	
Greater Shearwater:				
2,5	P'town, Rockport (A.P.)	3, 400+	W.Petersen#, R.McHale#	
11	Rockport, Plymouth	1, 1	W.Petersen, L.Robinson	
23,30	N.Monomoy, Stellwagen	4+, 5+	B.Nikula, BBC (M.Blazis)	
Sooty Shearwater:				
30	Stellwagen	1	BBC (M.Blazis)	
Manx Shearwater:				
5	Rockport (A.P.)	1	R.McHale	
28,30	Barnstable(S.N.),Stellwagen	1, 1	R.Pease, BBC (M.Blazis)	
Northern Gannet:				
3	Rockport (A.P.) Truro	230 (3 hr.), 800+	R.Floyd, B.Nikula	
5,10	Rockport (A.P.), outer Cape Cod	1000+(2½hr.), 800+	R.McHale#,SSBC (R.Fox)	
11;12,28	Plymouth;Dennis(Corp.Beach)	200; 800(1 hr.), 500 (2 hr.)	L.Robinson;B.Nikula	
23,28	N.Monomoy, S.Monomoy	3000+, 2000+	B.Nikula	
29	Nantucket (Smith's Pt.)	2000	E.Andrews#	
Great Cormorant:				
3;9,16	Lakeville; Sterling, Southboro	2; 9, 3	SSBC (W.Petersen); C.Quinlan	
Double-crested Cormorant:				
3;10,16,30	Bridgewater; E.Boston	250 mig.; 40+,12,6	BBC(G.Gove); S.Thomas	
14,26;16-23	Waltham (Camb.Res.); Cambridge	4, 1; 1	R.Forster; J.Barton+v.o.	
American Bittern:				
9,10	P.I., Eastham (F.H.)	1, 2	J.Cumming, SSBC(R.Fox)	
Great Blue Heron:				
9;10	P.I.;Westport;outer C.Cod	4; 27, 40	J.Cumming; G.Gove#, SSBC (R.Fox)	
19,28	Saugus, Nant. (Polpis)	9, 14	J.Berry, M.Litchfield	
	Many other reports of one or two birds in many locations.			
Black-crowned Night-Heron:				
6,9	E.Boston, Squantum	1, 4	D.Desmond#, G.d'Entremont	

WATERFOWL

Seven Tundra Swans were found on Monomoy, and another was observed flying over Great Meadows NWR. The Greater White-fronted Goose returned to Rochester for the fourth consecutive year. A Blue-winged Teal was carefully observed in Rowley on November 11, and Eurasian Wigeon were found on Nantucket and on South Monomoy. Fresh Pond's population of Canvasbacks continues to rise each year; this year a maximum of 337 gathered there. A carefully-made count of 1650 Ring-necked Ducks in Lakeville represents an all-time high for this species in Massachusetts. The previous record was 1500 in Lakeville on November 1, 1981. Cold weather and northeast winds for several days prior undoubtedly contributed to this record count.

A drake Barrow's Goldeneye was found inland at Norton Reservoir, and Harlequin Ducks were reported in three places. There were good counts made of Hooded Mergansers and Ruddy Ducks from many locations. R.H.S.

Tundra Swan:				
9,17	GMNWR, N.Monomoy	1 (overhead), 7 (6 ad., 1 imm.)	S.Selesky#,B.Nikula#	
Mute Swan:				
10,24,25	Westport,S.Carver,Wellesley	75, 5, 3	G.Gove#, J.Ebert, C.Quinlan	
Greater White-fronted Goose:				
3-30	Rochester	1 (details)	J.Gordon# + v.o.	
Snow Goose:				
thr.	Rochester, P.I.	1, max. 14 (11/21)	v.o., D.Arvidson# + v.o.	
Brant:				
6,16	Winthrop	15, 135	D.Desmond, J.Cumming	
17,23	Newbypt, E.Boston	2, 320+	BBC (T.Prince), S.Thomas	
Canada Goose:				
1-20,3	Cambridge(Fresh P.),Lakeville	max.108 (11/7), 400	J.Barton+v.o.,W.Petersen#	
9,21;11	P.I.; Ipswich	500, 500; 1500+	BBC(V.Albee), M.Lynch#; W.Petersen	
16	Rochester, Concord (9 Acre)	300, 800	W.Petersen, R.Forster	
23	Hamilton	500+	J.Berry	
Wood Duck:				
3,10	GMNWR, E.Orleans	25, 2	BBC (R.Vernon), SSBC (R.Fox)	
Green-winged Teal:				
2	GMNWR	200+	R.Stymeist#	
3,9,21	P.I.	300, 325, 370	J.Cumming, BBC (V.Albee), D.Arvidson#	
11,30	S.Monomoy	300, 250	B.Nikula	
American Black Duck:				
thr.	Cambridge (Fresh P.)	max. 57 (11/4)	J.Barton + v.o.	
3,9,16	Quabbin (Gate 40)	15, 43, 48	M.Lynch, S.Carroll	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>NOVEMBER 1985</u>
American Black Duck (cont.):				
23	E.Boston	186	S.Thomas	
Mallard:				
thr.	Cambridge (Fresh P.)	max. 247 (11/4)	J.Barton	
Northern Pintail:				
3,9;21	P.I.	15, 50; 50	J.Cumming; D.Arvidson	
8;11,30	GMNWR; S.Monomoy	25; 125, 40+	R.Forster; B.Nikula#	
Blue-winged Teal:				
11	Rowley	1 (details)	R.Walton	
Northern Shoveler:				
8,9	GMNWR, P.I.	12, 7	R.Forster, BBC (V.Albee)	
11,30	S.Monomoy	35+, 25	B.Nikula#	
Gadwall:				
1,8	Ipswich, GMNWR	12, 43	BBC (J.Berry), R.Walton	
24	Plymouth	26	W.Petersen#	
Eurasian Wigeon:				
19;11,30	Nantucket; S.Monomoy	3 m.; 1	E.Andrews; B.Nikula#	
American Wigeon:				
thr.,3	Cambridge (Fresh P.),GMNWR	max. 24 (11/17),20	J.Barton+v.o., BBC(R.Vernon)	
1:11,30	Ipswich; S.Monomoy	130; 15+, 15	BBC (J.Berry); B.Nikula#	
23,24	Lexington, Plymouth	31, 28	L.Taylor, W.Petersen#	
Canvasback:				
thr.	Cambridge (Fresh P.)	max. 337 (11/25)	J.Barton + v.o.	
8:11,30	Lakeville; S.Monomoy	61; 20, 13	K.Anderson#; B.Nikula#	
24	Braintree	14	G.d'Entremont	
Redhead:				
9,19 on	Sterling, Nantucket	2 f., 75+	C.Quinlan, E.Andrews	
24,30	Plymouth, S.Monomoy	5, 40+	W.Petersen#, B.Nikula#	
Ring-necked Duck:				
thr.	Lakeville	max. 1650 (11/3)	SSBC (W.Petersen) + v.o.	
thr.	Cambridge (Fresh P.)	max. 141 (11/14)	J.Barton + v.o.	
3,11	Littleton, W.Newbury	225, 180	J.Baird, R.Forster	
15,30	Southboro, S.Monomoy	250, 70	C.Quinlan, B.Nikula#	
Greater Scaup:				
thr.	Cambridge (Fresh P.)	max. 41 (11/6)	J.Barton + v.o.	
6	Winthrop	150	D.Desmond#	
Lesser Scaup:				
thr.	Cambridge (Fresh P.)	max. 21 (11/7)	J.Barton + v.o.	
3	Lakeville	100+	SSBC (W.Petersen)	
10,14;25	Waltham (Camb. Res.); Lynn	9, 14; 2	R.Forster	
Common Eider:				
3,6	Rockport, Winthrop	2100 (3 hr.), 600	C.Floyd, D.Desmond#	
10,11	Winthrop, S.Monomoy	1300, 25000+	J.Cumming, B.Nikula#	
16,25	Nantucket Sound, Revere	3000+, 1000+	M.Litchfield, R.Forster	
King Eider:				
3	Dennis (Corp. Beach)	1 f.	B.Nikula#	
Harlequin Duck:				
10,22-23	Winthrop, S.Chatham	1 m., 1 m.	J.Cumming, P.Trull	
23	Rockport (A.P.)	1 f.	J.Cumming	
Oldsquaw:				
11	Rockport, Plymouth	350, 2000+	R.Forster, L.Robinson	
16	Nantucket Sound	1500+	M.Litchfield	
29	Nantucket (Smith Pt.)	10000+	E.Andrews	
Black Scoter:				
11	Rockport, Plymouth	50, 700	R.Forster, L.Robinson	
Surf Scoter:				
3,4	Lakeville, Cambridge (Fresh P.)	1 m., 1	G.Gove#, J.Barton	
11,17	Rockport, Marion	250, 350	R.Forster, G.Gove#	
White-winged Scoter:				
9,10	S.Monomoy, Revere-Winthrop	5000+, 750+	B.Nikula#, J.Cumming	
Common Goldeneye:				
3,10	Lakeville, Waltham (Camb. Res.)	16, 5	BBC (G.Gove), R.Forster	
Barrow's Goldeneye:				
6,9	Winthrop, Squantum	1, 1 f.	D.Desmond, G.d'Entremont#	
24	Norton (Reservoir)	1 m.	B.Cassie, J.Kricher	
Bufflehead:				
thr.	Lakeville, Waltham (Camb. Res)	max. 50(11/2),max. 47(11/10)	v.o., R.Forster	
6,10	Winthrop, E.Orleans	150, 250	D.Desmond, SSBC (R.Fox)	
Hooded Merganser:				
thr.	Lexington,Waltham(Camb. Res.)	max. 14(11/2),max. 16(11/14)	L.Taylor,R.Forster+v.o.	
3,9,16	Quabbin (Gate 40)	65+, 52, 69	M.Lynch, S.Carroll	
10	Petersham (Quabbin)	82	E.Nielsen	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>NOVEMBER 1985</u>
Hooded Merganser (cont.):				
11,30	S.Monomoy	25, 20+	B.Nikula#	
14,30	Eastham, Yarmouthport	46, 29	J.Aylward#	
Common Merganser:				
3;9,16	Lakeville; Quabbin (Gate 40)	12; 3, 36	SSBC (W.Petersen); M.Lynch#	
10,20	Waltham (Camb. Res.)	63, 123	R.Forster	
Red-breasted Merganser:				
9,30	N.Monomoy	4000+	B.Nikula	
10,16	Winthrop	250+, 300+	J.Cumming	
Ruddy Duck:				
thr.	Lakeville, Arlington	max. 225(11/3), max. 29(11/2)	SSBC(W.Petersen)+v.o., L.Taylor	
3,9	Littleton, Framingham	1, 45	J.Baird, J.Ashley	
10,14,20	Waltham (Camb. Res.)	107, 105, 106	R.Forster	
11,30;20,25	S.Monomoy; Norton	350, 200; 70, 160	B.Nikula#; K.Ryan	
Other reports of small flocks in many locations.				

RAPTORS THROUGH WILD TURKEY

Both Turkey Vultures and Ospreys were reported to be lingering about, later than usual. One or two Turkey Vultures were observed at Quabbin; none were sighted in November 1984. At least nine Ospreys (compared with five last November) and six Bald Eagles were reported during the month, with two adult eagles in the Quabbin area. There were sightings of as many as nine Peregrine Falcons, all from coastal locations.

R.H.S.

Turkey Vulture:				
3,9	Quabbin (Gate 40)	1, 1	M.Lynch, S.Carroll	
Osprey:				
2;3,6,9	Lincoln; Wayland	1; 3, 2, 1	R.Forster	
6,9	S.Carver, Nantucket	1, 1	fide K.Anderson, J.Van Vorst#	
10,23	Westport, Nantucket	1, 1	J.Gordon#, A.McClune	
25	Cambridge (Fresh P.)	1	J.Barton	
Bald Eagle:				
3	Petersham	1 ad.	E.Nielsen	
13,16	Concord, Dedham	1 imm., 1 imm.	G.Bertrand, T.Raymond	
16,24	Quabbin (Gate 40), Lakeville	1 imm., 1 imm.	M.Lynch#, K.Holmes	
27	Chilmark	1 imm.	W.Manter	
Northern Harrier:				
thr.	P.I.	max. 7 (11/3 + 11/16)	P.Roberts# + v.o.	
2-3,10	GMNWR, outer Cape Cod	2, 4	R.Stymeist# + v.o., SSBC (R.Fox)	
Other reports of one or two birds in many locations.				
Sharp-shinned Hawk:				
2;3,16	Newbypt; Quabbin (Gate 40)	2; 2, 3	BBC (R.Hamburger); M.Lynch#	
10	outer Cape Cod	2	SSBC (R.Fox)	
Other reports of individual birds in many locations.				
Cooper's Hawk:				
9,15	Sterling, Milton	1, 1	C.Quinlan, K.Ryan	
Northern Goshawk:				
3,9	Quabbin (Gate 40)	1 imm., 2	M.Lynch, S.Carroll	
9,16	Ashburnham, P.I.	1, 1 imm.	P.Roberts	
16,17	Halifax, Newbypt	1 ad., 1	W.Petersen, BBC (T.Prince)	
29	Ipswich	1 imm.	J.Berry	
Red-shouldered Hawk:				
3	Petersham	1 ad.	E.Nielsen	
Red-tailed Hawk:				
3	Petersham	4	E.Nielsen	
9,14	Belmont, ONWR	3+, 4	L.Taylor, BBC (M.Lynch)	
14,15	Mt. Wachusett	2, 3	SSBC (K.Ryan), BBC (P.Roberts)	
17,24	Salisbury, Rowley	3, 2-3	J.Berry	
Rough-legged Hawk:				
3,16	P.I., P.I.-Salisbury	1, 5	P.Roberts, B.Basham#	
21,25	GMNWR, E.Middleboro	1, 1 (dark)	K.Harte, K.Anderson	
American Kestrel:				
17,21	Newbypt area, Salisbury	5, 3	BBC (T.Prince), P.Roberts	
Merlin:				
7-23	N.Monomoy	max. 2 (11/23)	B.Nikula#	
7-21	Eleven individuals reported from ten locations.			
Peregrine Falcon:				
7,30;11,30	N.Monomoy; S.Monomoy	1, 1; 1 imm.	B.Nikula#	
9,16	P.I.	1, 1 ad.	BBC (V.Albee), v.o.	
10-29	Four individuals reported from four locations.			

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	NOVEMBER 1985
Ruffed Grouse:				
7,9	E.Middleboro, Milton	1, 1	K.Anderson, G.d'Entremont	
29	Ipswich	2	J.Berry	
Wild Turkey:				
16	Quabbin (Gate 40)	1	M.Lynch, S.Carroll	

RAILS THROUGH ALCIDS

A Piping Plover was reported from Martha's Vineyard on November 6. This is a very late date for this species. Most Piping Plovers have departed from our area by mid-September, and there are only two other November records in BOEM for this species - November 11 and 18, 1979. Reflecting their recent establishment and increase as breeders, oystercatchers were present in their highest November numbers. They have been reported in November each year since 1980, but none were reported before then. Marbled Godwits were also present in unusual numbers for November. Only the second November Willet on record (previous report in 1977) was noted at Chatham this year, and it was attributed to the Western race, ornatus. Both Semipalmated and Western sandpipers were reported. Recent evidence indicates that most November peep are Westerns. All late sightings should be carefully described and voice, when heard, noted. Otherwise, they are best reported as "peep" species. White-rumped Sandpiper, not unusual in November, was also reported. Purple Sandpiper reports were few, and those reported were in low numbers.

The BBC pelagic trip on November 30 to Stellwagen produced the following highlights (of the species discussed here): Pomarine Jaeger (6), Glaucous Gull (1), Black-legged Kittiwake (1000), Razorbill (36), Black Guillemot (12), and Atlantic Puffin (3). A skua species was reported from Rockport but no details given. An immature Little Gull was seen in Dennis, and Common Black-headed Gulls were noted in East Boston and in Gloucester. Up to 875 Bonaparte's Gulls were counted in Revere, and two reports of this species came from inland locations. Approximately 1800 Ring-billed Gulls were noted roosting and feeding in fields in the Bridgewater - Halifax area. Iceland Gulls and Glaucous Gulls were seen in the usual areas in addition to one Iceland Gull in Milton. An adult Lesser Black-backed Gull was found in Scituate. In the stormy weather of November 5 and 11, hundreds of kittiwakes passed by Andrew's Point (1200 in two and a half hours). Royal Terns, notably late, lingered at Nantucket and Naushon I., remnants of Hurricane Gloria. Common and Forster's terns were also present, but they are more usual lingerers at this time of year. Dovekies were noted on two occasions at Rockport. The most common alcid was the Razorbill, with good numbers noted in Cape Cod Bay where three immature Atlantic Puffins were also observed. G.W.G.

Virginia Rail:				
10	outer Cape Cod	1	SSBC (R.Fox)	
American Coot:				
thr.	Cambridge	max. 7 (11/20)	BBC (J.Barton)	
3,20	GMNWR, Norton	35, 55	BBC (R.Vernon), K.Ryan	
24	Braintree, Plymouth	46, 70	G.d'Entremont, W.Petersen#	
Black-bellied Plover:				
2,10	Nantucket, Ipswich	5, 200	E.Andrews, BBC (W.Drummond)	
9,17	N.Monomoy	800, 400	B.Nikula	
24	Duxbury	100	W.Petersen#	
Semipalmated Plover:				
6,17	Nantucket, N.Monomoy	3, 1	E.Andrews, B.Nikula	
Piping Plover:				
6	M.V.	1	V.Laux	
Killdeer:				
3,9	Lakeville, Concord	12, 32	SSBC (W.Petersen), R.Forster	
23	Lexington	2	L.Taylor	
American Oystercatcher:				
thr.	Chatham	max. 14 (11/7)	B.Nikula	
Greater Yellowlegs:				
2-16	E.Boston	max. 42 (11/2)	J.Cumming	
24	Duxbury	2	W.Petersen#	
Lesser Yellowlegs:				
11	Rowley	1	R.Forster, W.Petersen	
Willet (Western):				
17	Chatham	1	B.Nikula	
Marbled Godwit:				
thr.	Chatham	max. 6 (11/11)	B.Nikula + v.o.	
Ruddy Turnstone:				
6	Winthrop	2	D.Desmond#	
Red Knot:				
9,24	N.Monomoy, Duxbury	80, 20	B.Nikula, W.Petersen#	

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	NOVEMBER 1985
Sanderling:				
thr.	N.Monomoy	max. 600+ (11/9)	B.Nikula	
6,24	Nantucket, Duxbury	200+, 400	E.Andrews, W.Petersen#	
Semipalmated Sandpiper:				
2,9;6	P.I.; Nantucket	2, 3; 1	BBC; E.Andrews	
Western Sandpiper:				
3,17	P.I., N.Monomoy	1, 1	J.Cumming, B.Nikula	
White-rumped Sandpiper:				
7,9	N.Monomoy	1	B.Nikula	
9,16	P.I.	1, 1	BBC (V.Albee), G.Gove#	
Pectoral Sandpiper:				
3,7	Halifax, N.Monomoy	5, 4+	BBC (G.Gove), B.Nikula	
17	Newbury	3	J.Berry	
Purple Sandpiper:				
6,10;16	Winthrop; Nantucket	50, 20; 6	D.Desmond#, J.Cumming; M.Litchfield	
Dunlin:				
thr.	N.Monomoy, P.I.	max. 1600 (11/9),	max. 350 (11/9)	B.Nikula, v.o.
6,24	Winthrop, Duxbury	600, 3000	D.Desmond, W.Petersen#	
Stilt Sandpiper (details):				
8	Nantucket Harbor flats	1 (molting)	M.Litchfield	
Long-billed Dowitcher:				
2-24	Newbypt-P.I.	max. 15 (11/2)	v.o.	
Common Snipe:				
9,17	Concord, Newbury	3, 16	R.Forster, J.Berry	
Pomarine Jaeger:				
30	Stellwagen	6	BBC (M.Blazis)	
skua species:				
5	Rockport	1 (no details)	R.McHale	
Laughing Gull:				
8,10	Nantucket, Winthrop	20, 210	M.Litchfield, J.Cumming	
Little Gull:				
11	Dennis	1 imm.	B.Nikula	
Common Black-headed Gull:				
6-26,23	E.Boston, Gloucester	1, 1 ad.	D.Desmond + J.Cumming, J.Cumming	
Bonaparte's Gull:				
3,10	Lakeville, Revere	9, 875+	SSBC (W.Petersen), J.Cumming	
23,25	Arlington, Newbypt.	1, 40	L.Taylor, M.Lynch#	
Ring-billed Gull:				
3,6	Halifax, Barnstable	1800, 300	W.Petersen#, J.Aylward	
Iceland Gull:				
3,4	Rockport, Milton	1, 1	C.Floyd, R.Abrams	
10,11	P'town, Rockport	1 ad., 1 (1W)	SSBC (R.Fox), R.Forster	
23	Gloucester	10	BBC (W.Drummond)	
Lesser Black-backed Gull:				
3	Scituate	1 ad.	D.Clapp	
Glaucous Gull:				
17,30	Nantucket, Boston	1 (2W), 1	M.Litchfield, BBC (M.Blazis)	
Black-legged Kittiwake:				
5,11	Rockport	1000+ (in 2½ hr.),	1200+ (in 2½ hr.)	R.McHale, W.Petersen
30	Stellwagen, S.Monomoy	1000+, 1500+	BBC (M.Blazis), B.Nikula#	
Royal Tern:				
2-6,10	Nantucket, Naushon	2-1, 2	E.Andrews#, J.Hatch	
Common Tern:				
10;11,17,23	Yarmouthport; Chatham	21; 75, 20+, 5+	J.Aylward; B.Nikula#	
Forster's Tern:				
17	Chatham	1	B.Nikula	
Dovekie:				
5,29	Rockport	1, 3	R.McHale, W.Drummond	
Thick-billed Murre:				
29	Rockport	3	W.Drummond	
Razorbill:				
3	Rockport, Dennis	2, 1	P.W.Smith, B.Nikula	
28,30	Dennis, Stellwagen	31, 36+	B.Nikula, BBC (M.Blazis)	
28,30	Barnstable, S.Monomoy	46, 5+	R.Pease, B.Nikula	
Black Guillemot:				
23,29	Gloucester, Rockport	3, 5	J.Cumming, W.Drummond	
30	Boston	12	BBC (M.Blazis)	
Atlantic Puffin:				
30	Stellwagen	3 imm.	BBC (M.Blazis)	

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Six hundred Mourning Doves were estimated in one field in Sudbury, and a Yellow-billed Cuckoo lingered on Martha's Vineyard. A Snowy Owl was found emaciated in Quincy where it was picked up, fed, banded, and released. (It was recaptured at Logan International Airport in December.) A goodly representation of Northern Saw-whet Owls was noted this month.

A Chimney Swift was reported seen on November 7 at Martha's Vineyard. This is a late date for that species, the latest date in BOEM records being of a bird seen feeding at a farm in Bridgewater on November 5 and 6, 1983. Two hummingbird species were reported this month, both on the seventh. The one from Arlington was said to be an immature and was feeding on *Nicotiana*. Vagrant hummingbirds have been well-documented east of the Mississippi, and two western species have occurred in Massachusetts. Most late hummers are immatures, and the potential for western vagrants at a late date is always there. Likely candidates for vagrancy are Black-chinned (virtually indistinguishable except in hand and even then difficult) and Rufous, which can be determined by subtle plumage characteristics. See the article by Bruce Sorrie in BOEM 8 (August 1980): 143 (and the useful references cited therein). The overwhelming likelihood is that most sightings are the Ruby-throated species. G.W.G.

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	NOVEMBER 1985
Mourning Dove:				
1,3	Sudbury, Lakeville-Bridgewater	600, 400	R.Forster#, SSBC (W.Petersen)	
28	Brookline	78 at feeder	H.Wiggin	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo:				
8	M.V.	1	V.Laux	
Eastern Screech-Owl:				
1;15,23	ONWR; P.I.	1; 1 (heard)	J.Berry; G.Gove	
24	Braintree	6	G.d'Entremont	
Great Horned Owl:				
11,19	Wareham, Brookline	1, 1	L.Robinson, B.Rielly#	
25	Middleboro	1	K.Holmes	
Snowy Owl:				
6	Quincy	1 b.	N.Smith	
Barred Owl:				
3,8	Lakeville, Norwood	1, 1	SSBC (W.Petersen), L.Robinson#	
23,30	Hamilton, E.Middleboro	1, 1	J.Berry, K.Anderson	
Short-eared Owl:				
1,17	Nantucket	5, 3	E.Andrews	
21,25	Salisbury, Middleboro	1, 1	P.Roberts, K.Holmes	
30	N.Monomoy, S.Monomoy	1, 1	R.Prescott#, B.Nikula#	
Northern Saw-whet Owl:				
3,13	Oakham, Chatham	1 dead, 1	M.Lynch#, B.Nikula	
16,17	Middleboro, W.Newbury	2, 1 imm.	K.Holmes, I.Giriunas + v.o.	
24	P.I.	1 ad.	L.Taylor#	
Chimney Swift:				
7	M.V.	1	V.Laux	
hummingbird species:				
7	Brookline, Arlington	1 imm., 1 imm.	M.Wilhelm, M. +. J.Rosenfeld	
Belted Kingfisher:				
3,9	Lakeville, Manchester	3, 3	SSBC (W.Petersen), BBC (G.Hotz)	
17,19	Winchester, Salem	1, 1	BBC (J.Holman), J.Berry	
Hairy Woodpecker:				
9,11	Quabbin (Gate 40)	5, 5	M.Lynch#	
Northern Flicker:				
3	Belmont	3	L.Taylor	
Pileated Woodpecker:				
5	Lincoln	1	P.Cook	

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was seen for one day and photographed on Martha's Vineyard, providing a very late vagrant record. The report of a Common Raven in Billerica is convincing, but is from a non-traditional locale. Only one individual raven was reported from the more expected Worcester County region. American Robins were notably absent this November, with only one report received. The Northern Shrike total of ten individuals constitutes of well-above-average number but pales in comparison to the twenties of individuals seen in the major flight years of 1978 and 1979. Two White-eyed Vireos were reported on widely different dates from North Shore sites. There is only one other November record for this species in the last ten years.

A ten species total for the month, warbler diversity continued the low trend set in

October. A few individuals of a number of species lingered, primarily on Nantucket, over a month beyond typical departure norms; included were Black-throated Blue, Prairie, Bay-breasted, Black-and-white, and Wilson's warblers. Southwesterly wind conditions on the ninth and tenth may have contributed to the occurrence of the Prairie Warbler and also the earlier one of the White-eyed Vireos. Similar conditions on and after the nineteenth may explain one of the Bay-breasted Warbler reports and the Black-and-white Warbler individual. Yellow-rumped Warbler counts were quite low in comparison with the numbers reported in recent Novembers. L.E.T.

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	NOVEMBER 1985
Eastern Phoebe:				
27	Nantucket	1	J.Van Vorst	
Western Kingbird:				
10-23,16-30	Eastham, Nantucket	1-2, 1	v.o.	
22	Nantucket (second site)	1	M.J. Litchfield	
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:				
14	M.V.	1 ph.	W.Manter#	
Horned Lark:				
10,11	Truro, Ipswich	75, 50	SSBC (R.Fox), v.o.	
16,17	Rochester, Newbypt.	200, 43	W.Petersen, BBC (T.Prince)	
Tree Swallow:				
9	P.I.	1	E.Nielsen	
Barn Swallow:				
1-3,2	Wayland, P'town	max. 2 (11/3), 1	R.Forster, W.Petersen#	
Eurasian Jackdaw:				
from 1982-thr.	Nantucket	1	E.Andrews#	
Fish Crow:				
9	Sudbury	20	R.Forster	
Common Raven:				
3-23, 18	Petersham, Billerica	max. 1, 1	v.o., K.Harte	
Red-breasted Nuthatch:				
thr.,3-16	8 locations, Quabbin (Gate 40)	11 total, max. 9 (11/16)	v.o.,M.Lynch#	
9	Ashburnham	3	P.Roberts	
Brown Creeper:				
3-16,10	Quabbin(Gate 40),Hamilton	max. 8 (11/16), 6	S.Carroll#, BBC (W.Drummond)	
24	Braintree	3	G.d'Entremont	
Carolina Wren:				
thr.	Winchester, E.Middleboro	1, 1	M.McClellan, K.Anderson	
1-19,3	Ipswich, Lakeville	1 m., 3	J.Berry, v.o.	
11-26,29	Weston, Millis	max. 2 (11/11), 1	E.Rondle, R.Forster	
Winter Wren:				
10	Framingham	1	R.Forster	
Marsh Wren:				
8	Nantucket	3	M.J.Litchfield	
Golden-crowned Kinglet:				
3,3-16	Lakeville, Quabbin (Gate 40)	3, max. 16 (11/16)	SSBC(W.Petersen),M.Lynch#	
9	Ashburnham	6	P.Roberts	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet:				
9-10,25	5 locations, Cambridge	5 total, 1	v.o., J.Barton	
Eastern Bluebird:				
3,11	Berkley, Nantucket	3, 1 f.	SSBC (W.Petersen), E.Andrews	
Hermit Thrush:				
8-14,22	3 locations, Nantucket	4 total, 1	v.o., M.J.Litchfield	
American Robin:				
10	Framingham	45	R.Forster	
Brown Thrasher:				
9,30	Sudbury, Groton	1, 1	R.Forster, F.Smith	
Water Pipit:				
1,3	Ipswich, Petersham	15, 100+	BBC (J.Berry), E.Nielsen	
9,9-19	Manchester, Concord	11, max. 11. (11/9)	BBC (G.Hotz), R.Forster	
11,17	Rowley, Lakeville	10, 12	R.Forster, K.Holmes	
Cedar Waxwing:				
10,16	Framingham, W.Newbury	85, 35	R.Forster, G.d'Entremont#	
17,28	Ipswich, Wellesley	24, 100+	J.Berry, R.Forster	
Northern Shrike:				
2-29,2	P.I., Middleboro	max. 2 (11/3), 1	v.o., K.Holmes	
3-21,9-23	Salisbury,Quabbin(Gate 40)	max. 1, max. 2 (11/16)	v.o., S.Carroll#	
11,16	Newbypt, Nantucket	1, 1	R.Forster, E.Andrews	
28,30	Framingham, M.V.	1, 1	K.Hamilton, W.Manter	
White-eyed Vireo:				
10,24	Ipswich, P.I.	1, 1 imm.	BBC (W.Drummond), M.Lynch#	
Solitary Vireo:				
1	Boston	1	B.Litchfield#	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>NOVEMBER 1985</u>
Orange-crowned Warbler: 9,23	Squantum, Nantucket	1, 1	G.d'Entremont, M.J.Litchfield	
Black-throated Blue Warbler: 4	Nantucket	1 m.	J.Husted	
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 3,9	Lakeville, Manchester	10, 13	BBC (G.Gove), BBC (G.Hotz)	
Pine Warbler: 12-13,16	Stoneham, P.I.	1, 1	M.Martinek, H. Weissberg#	
18-30,24	Nantucket, Plymouth	max. 4., 1	E.Andrews, W.Petersen#	
Prairie Warbler: 9	P.I.	1	E.Nielsen	
Palm Warbler: 3,6	Lakeville, E.Boston	1, 1	SSBC (W.Petersen), D.Desmond#	
10,27	outer Cape Cod, Nantucket	3, 10	SSBC (R.Fox), M.J.Litchfield	
Bay-breasted Warbler: 10,19-21	Nantucket (2 sites)	1 imm. m., 1 imm. m.	E.Andrews	
Black-and-white Warbler: 19	Nantucket	1	J.Van Vorst	
Wilson's Warbler: 21	Eastham	1	W.Swift	
Yellow-breasted Chat: 3,18	Salisbury, Weston	1, 1	J.Cumming, E.Randle	

TANAGERS THROUGH EVENING GROSBEAK

The Western Tanager continued at a Nantucket feeder from October through November 18. Fox Sparrow migration was relatively light, and reports were confined entirely to the first half of the month. Over the last decade, White-crowned Sparrow totals for November have generally ranged from zero to six individuals, the latter being the count this year. Lapland Longspurs continued notably scarce as in October, with only a single individual reported. Surprisingly, the highest count of Snow Bunting was from an inland, Worcester County site, though other large inland counts are in the record. A noteworthy total of close to 6000 blackbirds was observed in Littleton on November 3; the 5000 Red-winged Blackbirds in Concord a week later is similarly very large compared to recent November counts. An immature male "Bullocks" Oriole visited a feeding station in Watertown on November 10 only. Of the three "Baltimore" Orioles reported from Nantucket, one was unusual in that it was a male in full adult plumage. Total winter finch numbers were rather low, but species diversity and geographical distribution were good. L.E.T.

Western Tanager: from Oct.-18	Nantucket	1	E.Andrews#
Indigo Bunting: 9	Truro	2	J.Aylward#
Dickcissel: 6	Marshfield	1	D.Clapp
Rufous-sided Towhee: 10,22	outer Cape Cod, Wellesley	1, 1	SSBC (R.Fox), C.Quinlan
American Tree Sparrow: 3,17	Bridgewater, Newbypt	8, 50	W.Petersen#, BBC (T.Prince)
Field Sparrow: 2,3	Belmont, Lakeville	6, 10	L.Taylor, SSBC (W.Petersen)
17,24	Winchester, Holbrook	5, 1	BBC (J.Holman), G.d'Entremont
Vesper Sparrow: 3	GMNWR	1	BBC (R.Vernon)
"Ipswich" Sparrow: 4-24	3 coastal locations	3 total	v.o.
Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 10	Eastham	4	SSBC (R.Fox)
Seaside Sparrow: 10	Eastham	3	SSBC (R.Fox)
Fox Sparrow: 3-16,3-14	Bridgewater,Belmont	3, max. 3 (11/3)	W.Petersen#, L.Taylor
5,9-14	Easton, Waltham	2, max. 4 (11/14)	K.Ryan#, L.Taylor
9,16	Sudbury, Malden	5, 1	R.Forster, D.Gibson
Swamp Sparrow: 3,9	Lakeville, Belmont	14, 7	BBC (G.Gove), L.Taylor
White-throated Sparrow: thr.,3	Brookline, Lakeville	8, 9	H.Wiggin, BBC (G.Gove)
9,17	Manchester, Winchester	8, 7	BBC (G.Hotz), BBC (J.Holman)
White-crowned Sparrow: 2,3	Truro, Halifax	1, 3	W.Petersen#

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>NOVEMBER 1985</u>
White-crowned Sparrow (cont.):				
9,10	Squantum, outer Cape Cod	1 imm., 1	D.Brown#, SSBC (R.Fox)	
Dark-eyed Junco:				
3,8	Lakeville, Sudbury	200+, 75	SSBC (W.Petersen), R.Forster	
17	Newbytt	300	BBC (T.Prince)	
Lapland Longspur:				
11	Ipswich	1	R.Forster	
Snow Bunting:				
2-23,3	Salisbury-P.I., Petersham	max. 230 (11/9), 600+	v.o., E.Nielsen	
7,10	N.Monomoy, Truro	200+, 50	B.Nikula#, SSBC (R.Fox)	
10,30	E.Boston, S.Monomoy	40, 100	S.Thomas, B.Nikula#	
Red-winged Blackbird:				
1,3	Ipswich, Littleton	250, 1000	BBC (J.Berry), J.Baird	
10,23	Concord, Belmont	5000, 35	R.Forster, L.Taylor	
Eastern Meadowlark:				
9,10	P.I., outer Cape Cod	1, 1	BBC (V.Albee), SSBC (R.Fox)	
Rusty Blackbird:				
3	Bridgewater, GMNWR	2, 1	SSBC (W.Petersen), BBC (R.Vernon)	
9	Sudbury	2	R.Forster	
Common Grackle:				
3	Bridgewater, Littleton	1200, 3000	BBC (G.Gove), J.Baird	
22	Hopkinton	3	G.Gove#	
Brown-headed Cowbird:				
3	Littleton, Bridgewater	1750, 8	J.Baird, BBC (G.Gove)	
Northern Oriole:				
9-30,21	Nantucket, Millis	max. 3 (11/22), 1	E.Andrews, R.Forster	
27	Cohasset	1	T.Healy	
Northern ("Bullocks") Oriole:				
10	Watertown	1 imm. m.	R.Stymeist#	
Pine Grosbeak:				
1,9	Rockport, Ashburnham	1 m. b., 4	R.Norris, P.Roberts	
9,10	Lincoln, Nantucket	4, 5	C.Quinlan, E.Andrews#	
11-17,20	W.Newbury, Baldwinville	4, 25	v.o., J.O'Regan	
Purple Finch:				
3,16	Lakeville, Ipswich	2, 6	BBC (G.Gove), J.Berry	
Red Crossbill:				
24	P.I.	2 m. + 1 f.	v.o.	
White-winged Crossbill:				
2,9	Nantucket, Framingham	1 m., 2	M.J.Litchfield, R.Forster	
11,16	S.Monomoy, Wayland	1, 2	B.Nikula#, R.Forster	
16,24	Quabbin (Gate 40), Newbytt	17, 5	S.Carroll#, BBC (Dillavou)	
Common Redpoll:				
1,9	Chatham, Lancaster	1, 150	B.Nikula, C.Quinlan	
9,16	Squantum, Southboro	30, 35	D.Brown#, C.Quinlan	
18,24	GMNWR, Salisbury	40, 20	P.Roberts, M.Lynch#	
Pine Siskin:				
1,8	Chatham, Nantucket	15, 5	B.Nikula, E.Andrews	
9,11	E.Middleboro, Boston	15, 8	K.Anderson, K.Ryan	
16,25	Quabbin (Gate 40), Brookline	53, 5	S.Carroll#, H.Wiggin	
Evening Grosbeak:				
3,9	Nantucket, Quabbin (Gate 40)	20, 20	E.Andrews, M.Lynch#	
19,24	S.Lincoln, Ipswich	19, 25	R.Forster, J.Berry#	

BIRD OBSERVER NEEDS TYPISTS

BIRD OBSERVER NEEDS TYPISTS to produce camera-ready copy for this journal. (Such typing must be done on an IBM Correcting Selectric 12-pitch typewriter; so if you own or have access to such a machine, that would be a distinct plus.) If you are a GOOD OR EXPERT TYPIST - with or without a typewriter - and would like to join the BIRD OBSERVER staff, please call the editor at 641-2205 (anytime).

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ad.	adult	F.E.	First Encounter Beach, Eastham
alt.	alternate (plumage)	F.H.	Fort Hill, Eastham
b.	banded	F.M.	Fowl Meadow, Milton
br.	breeding	gr.	greater as in Gr. Boston area
dk.	dark (phase)	I.	Island
f.	female	M.V.	Martha's Vineyard
fl.	fledge	Mt.A.	Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge
imm.	immature	Nant.	Nantucket
ind.	individuals	Newbypt	Newburyport
loc.	locations	P.I.	Plum Island
lt.	light (phase)	P'town	Provincetown
m.	male	R.P.	Race Point, Provincetown
max.	maximum	S.N.	Sandy Neck, Barnstable
migr.	migrating	Stellw.	Stellwagen (Bank)
N.S.E.W.	direction	BBC	Brookline Bird Club
ph.	photographed	BOEM	Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts
pl.	plumage	CCBC	Cape Cod Bird Club
pr.	pair	DFWS	Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary
thr.	throughout	GMNWR	Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge
v.o.	various observers	IRWS	Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary
W	winter (2W = second winter)	LCES	Lloyd Center for Environmental Studies
w/	with	MAS	Massachusetts Audubon Society
yg.	young	MBO	Manomet Bird Observatory
#	additional observers	MNWS	Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary
A.A.	Arnold Arboretum	NEHW	New England Hawk Watch
A.P.	Andrews Point, Rockport	ONWR	Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge
Buzz.	Buzzards (Bay)	PRNWR	Parker River National Wildlife Refuge
C.	Cape as in C.Cod or C.Ann	SRV	Sudbury River Valley
E.P.	Eastern Point, Gloucester	SSBC	South Shore Bird Club
		WBWS	Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary

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FIELD NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE

The Varied Thrush of Moonpenny Drive.

[In the winter of 1984-85, Bernard and Joan Wasserman of Boxford discovered on the eve of their departure for a midwinter holiday that they had a beautiful vagrant visiting the feeding area of their backyard. Considerately, they arranged for food to be put out during their absence and were jubilant upon their return to find the visiting thrush still there. Bird Observer asked them for a picture and for any notes on behavior that they might observe. The following notes were what we received.]

Joan Wasserman: Early in the first week of January 1985 a Varied Thrush came to the back of our house, to eat cracked corn on the ground where we feed birds and small animals. It took two days for us to identify this male bird. A small head view of him can be found on page 221 of the Roger Tory Peterson *Field Guide*, 1980 edition. This [identification] we further reinforced in John James Audubon's plates.

The Varied Thrush came to eat the corn at first daylight - often the first bird to arrive. I offered sunflower seed but he seemed to prefer the corn and ate on the fringes [of the feeding area]. I observed him eating snow off the tree branches, and he methodically cleaned his beak after this. He settled in a favorite roost - enclosed in the evergreen (hemlock) tree (above the bird feed) and sat still for hours, observing and resting. When the temperature was below 20° F., he fluffed his feathers and became quite round in appearance. As time passed and he remained in our yard, I noticed his pattern of sitting, looking, and then going to the ground for a brief eating period, repeating this sequence over and over. He seemed wary of the larger birds (crows, etc.). Also, he was completely alone. On windy days, he remained mostly on one branch with his feathers fluffed. He continued to eat on the fringes of the ground feeding area. He liked to sit in the sunlight where the snow had melted away but also spent time in his sheltered roost - near the food.

When all the snow melted, the Varied Thrush began to pick among the leaves, much like a robin, searching the ground and eating less cracked corn. A few days of warmth and no snow, he ate a fairly large amount of corn, and the next day he was gone (February 28, 1985).

Bernard Wasserman: You will notice [from the pictures], he is very fluffed up while perching off the ground but is more robin-like while feeding. It was bitterly cold that weekend. . . [and] the light was relatively poor so the lens was generally wide open with a shutter speed of 1/125 or 1/60 [film speed: 200 ASA]. Most shots were taken through the rear kitchen window, as it turned out - an ideal blind.

We became very attached to our unusual visitor. We looked for him when we first arose in the morning, and our day was made when



Varied Thrush
Boxford, Massachusetts
February 1985

Photo by Bernard Wasserman

he was observed. We feel we significantly contributed to his survival during the two months he was with us and wish him god-speed to whatever his destination after he left us. In retrospect, it appears to have been a good decision not to publicly announce his whereabouts - not so much for our privacy - but for his welfare.

Joan and Bernard Wasserman, Boxford

Editor's Note: Although nearly a hundred years elapsed between the first (Ipswich in December 1864) and the second (Rockport in November 1961) reports of Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) in Massachusetts, this irregular vagrant who summers chiefly in the tall spruce forests of the Pacific Northwest and winters as far south as the lowlands of southern California, now appears at winter feeders in Massachusetts almost every year, sometime between the end of November and early April, with as many as eight birds reported in one season (March-April of 1978). What causes the appearance of this species in the east is uncertain, but heavy snows in the Rockies (certainly true in 1985-86) have been suggested (Keith, S. 1963. A Summary of the Extralimital Records of the Varied Thrush, 1848-1966. *Bird-Banding* 39: 245). There have been three reports so far this winter (1985-1986).

Unfortunately for Massachusetts birders (many of whom have never seen this lovely thrush), this elusive denizen of dense evergreen forests usually appears at feeders and, depending on the situation of the property, may not be accessible to viewing by large numbers of birders. Another interesting facet of this species is that the birds reported in Massachusetts, according to Richard Forster, ornithologist at Massachusetts Audubon Society, are usually adult males, and this provides an interesting puzzle, because such far-ranging strays from the west are usually immature birds and not adults - who presumably know their way around.

Bewildered Sharpshin.

In December, while standing by my sliding glass doors observing the birds at my feeders, I noticed out of the corner of my eye a large fall of feathers floating to the ground. Grabbing my binoculars, I went outside, started toward the spot, and then noticed movement in a Red Maple tree about fifty feet away from me - an adult Sharp-shinned Hawk.

As I watched, she (by her size I judged it to be a female) looked carefully all around and even, to my astonishment, went down on the ground, hunting for the meal that she - and I, too - thought she had. After about ten minutes of searching, she gave up and finally soared away over my house.

I went over to the spot where the feathers came down and found five primary and secondary feathers and a lot of body down - but no bird. After looking over the area, I decided that the lucky bird had apparently made it to the safety of an arborvitae hedge about ten feet away. The dropped feathers were later identified by Richard Forster of Massachusetts Audubon Society as those of a Mourning Dove! I've had many raptors in my yard, and they never fail to get my blood going, this bird being no exception!

Kevin M. Ryan, North Easton

A Singular Kettle.

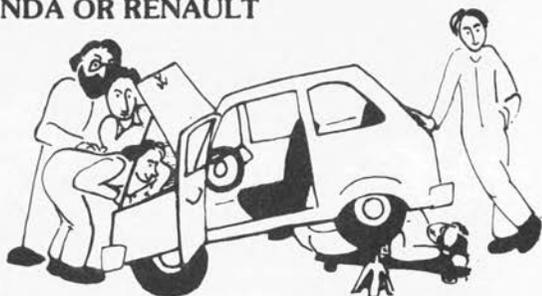
In early October I was sitting in my backyard in Dedham at lunch-time when I noticed a very large bird soaring in the distance. I picked up my binocs and made out a large heron soaring in tight circles. It continued soaring for another few moments, then headed south but now flapping its wings, losing some altitude. As it came closer, I could see that it was a Great Blue and watched it fly in a straight line until it suddenly went into a glide in another tight circle, having found another thermal. This time I was able to count the number of times it circled - six - until it peeled off the top heading south again. There were several Herring Gulls in weaker thermals nearby.

Ted Raymond, Dedham

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The *Friends of Mount Auburn* was organized in 1985 to present Mount Auburn Cemetery as an historical and natural history resource and to encourage its use and enjoyment as an outdoor museum and classroom. The Trustees of the cemetery have initiated the *Friends* in the hope that this will increase public awareness of the cemetery and thus promote the use of its diverse assets for the benefit of the surrounding community.

The benefits of membership in the *Friends* include invitations to special tours and lectures that draw upon a variety of experts on various aspects of Mount Auburn ranging from history and horticulture to birding, art, and architecture; the regular newsletter *Sweet Auburn*, Mount Auburn Cemetery's Annual Report, and a membership card and window decal that demonstrate to others that you are a *Friend* of this famous natural and historic resource.

To learn more about the *Friends of Mount Auburn* and to get a list of the upcoming programs, contact Eden F. Sizemore, Program and Membership Director, Mount Auburn Cemetery, 580 Mount Auburn Street, Cambridge, MA 02138, 547-7105.

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December's "At A Glance" bird is obviously a shorebird, and its short bill with swollen tip and its erect posture indicate that it is a member of the plover family, Charadriidae. The lack of horizontal breast bands and the strongly patterned back at once narrow the field to one of the larger plovers of the genus *Pluvialis* (Black-bellied Plover and Lesser Golden-Plover). The fact that the individual pictured shows no extensive dark coloration on the underparts means that the bird is either a juvenile or an adult in basic (winter) plumage.

Having thus narrowed the identification to one of two species, the final determination becomes more straightforward. Features to focus on are the head pattern of the bird, its bill size, and the appearance of the underparts. *The head appears relatively small, and the bill is correspondingly slender, not giving a thick, stout appearance. Additionally, there is a broad, pale eyebrow stripe that is highlighted by a contrasting dark crown. The underparts exhibit a distinctive marbled appearance that is not vertically streaked with fine pencil stripes.* The back pattern is prominently checkered, and the impression is of a generally darkish tone. A color photograph of the mystery bird would reveal golden yellow spots against a blackish background. A final clue, although not a definitive character, is the prominent dusky, postocular spot on the head.

Collectively, these field marks point to Lesser Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*). The Black-bellied Plover in corresponding plumage would normally appear paler in overall coloration, would have a more bullheaded aspect with a less clearly defined dusky cap, would show only a suggestion of an eyebrow stripe, and would have a longer and heavier bill. The underparts of a Blackbelly would also display fine, but obvious, vertical streaks extending at least to the lower breast. The plover in the picture is in juvenal plumage and was photographed in September at Monomoy Island.

Wayne R. Petersen



Lesser Golden-Plover

Photo by Wayne R. Petersen

At a Glance . . .

Photo by Wayne R. Petersen



Can you identify this bird? Identification will be discussed in next issue's *At a Glance*.



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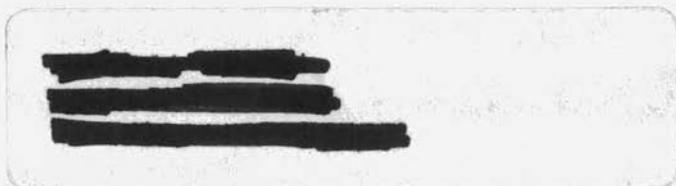
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