

BIRD OBSERVER

OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS



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MUD HEN



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

WHERE TO GO ON NANTUCKET.....	RICHARD R. VEIT	132
SEVENTY YEARS OF BREEDING BIRDS ON MILTON HILL.....	STEWART SANDERS	134
SIGHTING OF A EURASIAN CURLEW IN MASSACHUSETTS.....	RICHARD R. VEIT	138
BOOK REVIEW - ABA CHECKLIST.....	WAYNE R. PETERSEN	139
TO TRY SOMETHING NEW AND OLD.....	LEIF J. ROBINSON	140
A MASSACHUSETTS RECORD OF A DARK-PHASE GYRFALCON.....	HUGH WILLOUGHBY	141
BIRD OBSERVER SUMMARY FOR JULY 1976.....		143
BIRD OBSERVER SUMMARY FOR AUGUST 1976.....		148

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EDITOR'S PAGE

BIRD OBSERVER OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS has been declared a nonprofit tax exempt organization by the Internal Revenue Service. Any gifts to BIRD OBSERVER will be greatly appreciated and will be entirely tax deductible.

OSPREY REBOUND CONTINUES

According to the New York Times, a bumper crop of Ospreys was fledged this year from eastern Long Island, New York, and nearby areas. The 130 young birds represented the best reproduction success in 20 years, according to Paul Spitzer of Cornell University. For many years he has been instrumental in increasing Osprey reproduction, by transplanting pesticide-free eggs into nests of foster parents who could not lay viable eggs themselves.

In Massachusetts, the Ospreys also did well, with 25 young fledged from 22 nests. The output of young per nest was 1.24 in New York and 1.14 in Massachusetts. The U.S. Migratory Bird Station has cited 1.2 young per nest as the minimum necessary for a stable population (Bird Observer, 2, 2, 59).

MASSACHUSETTS BREEDING BIRD ATLAS UPDATE

According to Richard Forster, director of the atlas project, as of mid-summer 1976, "The most exciting discovery [in 1976] has been the confirmation of Willets breeding on Monomoy Island ... The most recent nesting of the Willet in Massachusetts was in the last century (date uncertain but prior to 1868)."

Though Common Eiders bred at Penikese Island in 1976, for the first state record, the nesting stemmed from introduced birds. A more natural first was the breeding of Louisiana Herons at House Island, Manchester. Finally, the first inland breeding of Common Terns occurred in the vicinity of Quabbin Reservoir.

During 1974 and 1975, the first two years of the breeding bird survey, 70 per cent of the nearly 200 blocks into which the state is divided had received "some" coverage. Massachusetts Audubon Society still needs workers statewide for this most worthwhile project, especially in western regions.

BRANT FUTURES

In a release dated August 13th the Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, proposed for the Atlantic flyway "the closure of brant hunting because of poor production and marginal population levels."

MAINE'S BALD EAGLES

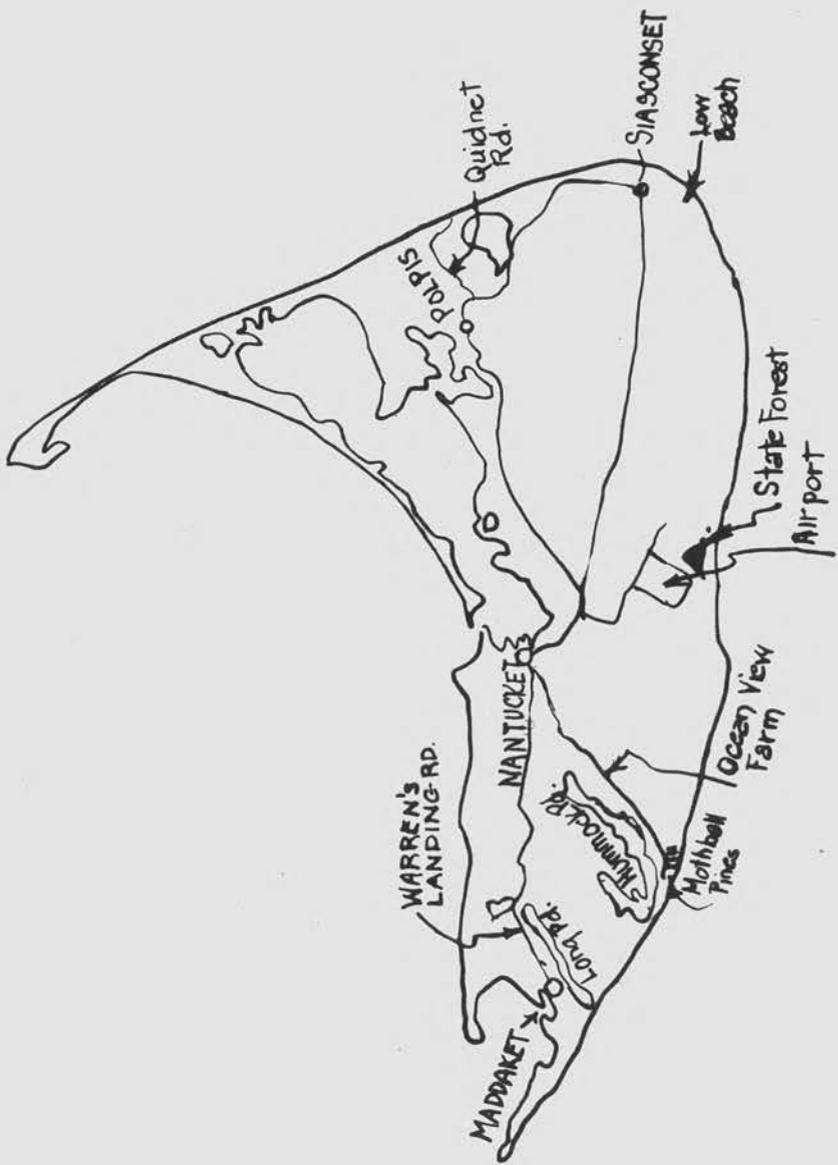
According to the New York Times for September 14th, Maine's 39 active Bald Eagle nests produced 21 fledglings in 1976. Placed in three nests were eggs from Minnesota and Wisconsin; two young were successfully incubated by the foster parents.

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WHERE TO GO ON NANTUCKET

by Richard R. Veit, Hull

Nantucket is an island of roughly 32 square miles, situated 20 miles to the south of Cape Cod. It, along with Long Island, Block Island, the Vineyard and the Cape represent the southernmost extent of the most recent Ice Age. Characteristic of this region, known as the glacial moraine, Nantucket's soil is predominately sandy. Consequently, the island vegetation, forced to compete in a rugged environment of acid soil, high winds and continuous salt spray, has become quite specialized. The southern third of the island is virtually entirely open moorland interspersed with ample patches of bayberry, blackberry and beachplum. The northern portions of the island are thickly wooded, both with scrub oak and Pitch/Japanese Black Pine forests. The outermost extremities of the island, such as Great Point, Coatue Beach and Eel point are entirely open sand dunes with sparse growths of *Rosa rugosa* and, on Great Point, an isolated patch of cedars. There are a number of fresh and brackish ponds, some of which contain cattail marshes in their northern extremities, which are protected from the sea.

Due to the nature of the island's vegetation, the number of breeding species is accordingly limited. Nantucket is therefore of most interest to the visiting ornithologist during the migration seasons, most particularly the fall. Its unique maritime location renders it an exceptional vantage point from which to observe oceanic species as well as an isolated stopover point for the multitude of migrant passerines, especially juveniles, which closely follow the immediate coastline during their protracted southward journey.

Cold fronts, usually accompanied by northwesterly winds, during the fall can drop literally hundreds of migrants upon the island. Following such weather conditions, the observer can frequently be overwhelmed by the abundance and variety of birds. Later in the fall, large numbers of waterfowl congregate in the various ponds on the island, which usually remain unfrozen late into the winter. In addition, Nantucket Sound harbors some of the largest concentrations of wintering scoters, eiders and oldsquaws in the northeast. A dawn or dusk flight of tens of thousands of oldsquaws between the sound and the ocean during December is an unforgettable spectacle. Northeasterly storms in late fall and early winter frequently sweep alcids (particularly Razorbills), gannets and Kittiwakes close to the eastern shore of the island, while southeasterly winds bring shearwaters and jaegers to the south shore.

As the migration in the spring is concentrated in the inland regions few birds reach Nantucket during this season, except during certain adverse weather conditions. Occasionally, following extended periods of fog, large numbers of warblers, vireos and other migrants do land on Nantucket. When this occurs, the birds concentrate in the planted shade trees in the town itself, to the virtual exclusion of all other areas. Apparently these trees offer the most readily available supply of food on the island.

When birding the island, one must bear in mind that the number of birds seen will be directly proportional to the amount of time spent on foot. In addition to the traditional localities which I will outline, unusual birds have turned up literally everywhere on Nantucket, from the elms of downtown Main Street to the outermost sandy reaches of Great Point. The author has frequently found it most productive to leave one's car as close to town as possible and to continue on foot to any of the localities, that have, over the years, proved continuously productive.

Most areas are accessible by conventional automobile, by bicycle, or on foot. The roads to Great and Eel Points are sand and limited to four wheel drive vehicles only although again, the author stresses the value of traversing even these remote areas on foot.

The following is a list of the most frequently visited areas on the island, and those which have been the most productive over the years. It is by no means an exhaustive list, as observers will doubtless find their own favorite thicket or cornfield, countless of which are scattered over the island.

MADAKET: To reach Madaket, follow the Madaket road from town for approximately six miles. This road is well marked and is easy to follow; it is simply a continuation of Main Street. The area is predominately open moorland, with several scattered thickets and small pine groves. These thickets should all be thoroughly checked for passerines and other migrants. At dawn, scan off the south shore at the end of the road for pelagic species during southeasterly winds. Eel Point, accessible via the Warren's Landing road (well marked right turn on the Madaket road) offers a good view of Madaket Harbor, in which terns with accompanying jaegers may be seen feeding. The sand flats at the end of

the point occasionally harbor shorebirds, including the resident Oystercatchers. Tucker-nuck and Muskeget Islands, located to the west of Nantucket, are privately owned and require special permission as well as an ample, seaworthy boat to visit. The North Head of Long Pond, clearly visible from the first bridge crossed coming from town, is the best place to observe waterfowl locally. European Wigeons, Whistling Swans and huge concentrations of Redheads are all regular here.

HUMMOCK POND ROAD: Follow Main Street to Milk Street, which becomes the Hummock Pond Road after 1/4 mile. Continue on this road until you see a road on the left marked Ocean View Farm, and turn left. The farmlands on either side of the road are reliable places for Western Kingbirds, Loggerhead Shrikes, Blue Grosbeaks, Lark and Clay-colored Sparrows. In August, these fields have, in the last five years, produced at least one, and as many as three Yellow-headed Blackbirds in one day each year. Go back and continue out the main road to the end (at the south shore). As well as offering another vantage point of the ocean, this spot is renowned for the grove of pines located immediately to your right, the Mothball pines, which serve as an isolated pocket for passerines as they come off the ocean. Warblers, vireos, thrushes and flycatchers form the bulk of the birds seen here during the fall.

TOWN OF NANTUCKET: Following a period of easterly winds and fog in May, the tall shade trees in town will frequently be productive. At this time, passerines will feed in these trees to the virtual exclusion of any other place on the island.

STATE FOREST: A large planted grove of White Pines amidst an extensive Pitch Pine forest. Follow the airport road from town until you reach the "This and That Shop". Turn right along a dirt road to the first dirt road on the right, and turn again. Proceed for 1/4 mile until you reach a clearing and the White Pines are clearly visible. Saw Whet Owls breed in this grove, and Barn, Long-eared and Saw Whet Owls may be found here in the winter.

SIASCONSET: Easily reached at the end of the 'Sconset Road. Turn right at the rotary in the center of town on Ocean Avenue and continue for 3/4 mile to the Coast Guard Loran Station. Park and walk out to the beach. After northeasterly winds, alcids, gannets and Kittiwakes may be seen in the late fall and winter. This is probably the best vantage point in the state to see Razorbilled Auks. Drive north along the road to the Sankaty Head Light, checking for shrikes and Western Kingbirds on the wires. Sankaty Head Golf Course is a good spot for flocks of Golden Plovers as well as Buff-breasted Sandpipers.

SQUAM HEAD: Follow the Quidnet Road from the Polpis Road to the end at a perpendicular dirt road. This road, which runs by Squam Head, is fine for migrants early in the morning.

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SEVENTY YEARS OF BREEDING BIRDS ON MILTON HILL

by Stewart Sanders, Belmont



VIEW LOOKING SOUTH

You may recognize the sketch above as the vista of green open space we see as we leave Boston, South Boston, and Dorchester on the Southeast Expressway. The "wooded hill" has remained privately owned by several families, who continue to reside in the same old homes along the top of the hill. A few new houses are close to Adams Street at the far side of 75 acres of land. From our highway view we see no houses, only woods.

The Massachusetts Map Down land-use map labels most of the area SH3A, which means mixed hardwood and softwood with the latter predominating. One spot, however, has just hardwood. The average height of the trees is 41 to 60 feet, and there is high density with 81-100% crown closure. There are also four small fields and two orchards. A brook originates in a spring; it flows first through a wet area with a dam that sometimes creates a pond, then down the hill through another wet area to the edge of a marsh at the edge of the Neponset River.

The resident families have watched birds here for generations, and one former resident, Dr. Stanley Cobb, kept records of the birds that sang consistently in the first week of June. He believed that these were breeding birds; species of which there were two or more pairs present he called "common birds", and he concerned himself primarily with these. He repeated his observations and updated his list 40 years later, and in 1945 he published the results in The Auk, Vol. 62, 606-610. In 1973 and 1974 I made a breeding bird survey of the 75 acres using the "mapping method".

This method (sometimes referred to as the "spot-map method", after A. B. Williams, 1936) is also described by George A. Hall in "Breeding-bird Censuses--Why and How", Audubon Field Notes, 1964, Vol. 18, 413-416. A discussion of the inaccuracies of the method is found in The Auk, July, 1975, 452-460, where Louis B. Best showed that four different surveys revealed eight to 12 Field Sparrow territories, whereas 13 were documented through the use of color bands, tail painting, and 133 visits.

After obtaining maps of my area from resident Dr. William Forbes and the Milton Town Hall, I divided the 75 acres into five parts and traced five stencils. Thus, each work sheet or "field map" covered 15 acres; incidentally, 20 acres is ideal size for woodland surveys. Then I added to the stencils a grid of one-acre squares and drew in at least one landmark in each square. Finally, copies of each map were made so that a fresh one could be used for each field trip.

I selected brief abbreviations for each species, which were plotted on the maps at the approximate position any bird was seen or heard. CHBC stood for Black-capped Chickadee; SPSO, for Song Sparrow; R, American Robin--as employed in the following examples. Different symbols were used for each of the following: singing male, CHBC ("In some species, females regularly sing, while in others they do so sporadically," wrote Margaret Morse Nice in her Studies in the Life History of the Song Sparrow, Vol. 2, 127). She lists species in each group on page 130: bird seen or heard chirping but not singing, SPSO; male, R♂ or female, R♀; birds carrying nesting material, MAT; carrying food, ~; aggressive behavior, R↗, with an arrow to show the movement of one or both birds upon breaking up; alarm call, CHBC; two males singing simultaneously, SPSO--SPSO; bird seen to take up a new position, CHBC----CHBC; nest location, R*; recently fledged young, FL.

After a number of census trips, I transposed the field data onto separate sheets for each species. By using a different color for each trip, I could see at one time all records for a given species. Clusters of data, especially concerning birds singing simultaneously, outlined the approximate territories within which each singing male was noted.

BEFORE 1903. For earliest records, I find interesting the notes of Thomas Morton, who lived in colonial times at Merrymount in Wollaston. His writings are at the Boston Public Library. They seem reliable, although he celebrated life with maypole dances, alcoholic beverages, and was deported twice (unsuccessfully). In those days there were Turkeys, Heath Hens, and Passenger Pigeons in the area. In the 19th century the House Sparrow was introduced, and its population boomed with the urban use of horses prior to 1903.

BETWEEN 1903 and 1943. The House Sparrow declined, Starlings arrived; Rufous-sided Towhees moved in from the Blue Hills; Ring-necked Pheasants arrived; Eastern Bluebirds, Eastern Kingbirds, Least Flycatchers, and all the warblers except Common Yellowthroats discontinued nesting; the House Wren appeared on the list; nesting Chipping Sparrows were fewer. Song Sparrows, American Goldfinches, Red-eyed Vireos, and Chimney Swifts stayed the same.

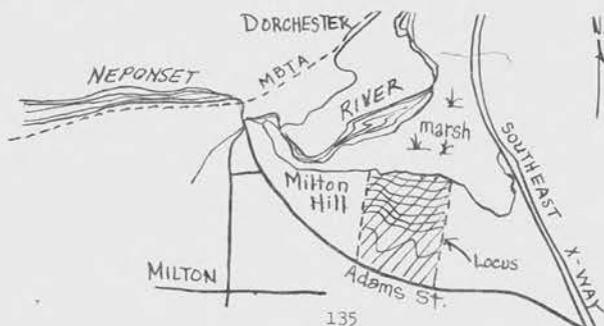
BETWEEN 1944 and 1973. The Cardinal and Tufted Titmouse arrived; Eastern Kingbirds came back; the Chimney Swifts declined; Barn Swallows nested in a big garage until the owner sealed up the openings; House Wrens declined; Chipping Sparrows continued to decline; the Red-eyed Vireos stopped nesting; Pheasants and Gray Catbirds increased. Common Crows, Rufous-sided Towhees, and Northern Orioles remained constant.

THROUGHOUT THE 70 YEARS. The number of nesting Song Sparrows remained the same; American Robins, Blue Jays, Black-capped Chickadees, Bobwhites, Eastern Phoebes, Great Crested Flycatchers, Wood Thrushes, Common Yellowthroats, Indigo Buntings, and Common Flickers remained nearly steady.

On June 8, 1902, Dr. Cobb found the nest and eggs of the Black-throated Green Warbler. I found nests as follows: Hairy Woodpecker, Cardinal, Gray Catbird, Starling, House Wren, House Sparrow, and American Robin; I found family parties of Tufted Titmouse, House Finch, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Common Crow, Ring-necked Pheasant, Downy Woodpecker, Rufous-sided Towhee, Blue Jay, Gray Catbird, and American Robin. In 1973-74 Brown-headed Cowbirds and Common Grackles used the area for breeding as did some chickens! Redwinged Blackbirds, Mourning Doves, Rock Doves, Barn Swallows, American Goldfinches, Purple Finches and Mockingbirds all nested nearby; Mallards, American Kestrels, Tree Swallows, Screech Owls, and Great Horned Owls visited the area during their breeding seasons.

Much housing construction took place in Dorchester, across the Neponset River, between the Civil War and the end of the 19th century. During that period, that area changed from truck gardens to densely developed neighborhoods. In the 1940's and 1950's Milton changed from country estates to a suburb. That included dividing up part of Milton Hill, just west of the study area, and cutting it off from Hutchinson Field. Also during this period the Southeast Expressway was built across the Neponset River Marshes and insect spraying became common practice.

In the last 10 years Logan Airport has expanded, and when the wind is northerly every few minutes the roar of a jet airplane blocks out all sounds of birds on the hill. A bank built a large structure on the Neponset estuary, and river pollution continues. The 75 acres, however, remain an oasis in a desert of development, a sample of forest and old fields, where 70 years ago were pastures and woodland of smaller trees. They provide a welcomed view of woodland on leaving the city and remain the breeding habitat of a wonderful community of birds.



PAIRS OR TERRITORIES IN ORDER OF 1943-44 FREQUENCY

Species	1903-04	1943-44	1973-74
American Robin	6	6	5
Chimney Swift	5	5	1
Gray Catbird	4	5	6
Song Sparrow	5	5	5
Blue Jay	4	4	3
Red-eyed Vireo	4	4	0
Rufous-sided Towhee	1	4	2
Chipping Sparrow	6	4	1
Common Crow	5	3	2
Black-capped Chickadee	3	3	4
House Wren	0	3	1
Starling	0	3	7
Bobwhite	1	2	1
Ring-necked Pheasant	0	2	3
Great Crested Flycatcher	2	2	1
Eastern Phoebe	2	2	1
Wood Thrush	2	2	1
Ovenbird	3	2	0
Common Yellowthroat	3	2	2
House Sparrow	10	2	2
Northern Oriole	4	2	2
Indigo Bunting	1	2	2
American Goldfinch	2	2	0
Common Flicker	2	1	1
Eastern Kingbird	3	0	2
Least Flycatcher	2	0	0
Tufted Titmouse	0	0	1
Eastern Bluebird	3	0	0
Black-and-white Warbler	2	0	0
Yellow Warbler	4	0	0
Black-throated Green Warbler	4	0	0
Chestnut-sided Warbler	2	0	0
American Redstart	4	0	0
Cardinal	0	0	4

APPENDIX
PESTICIDE PROGRAMS, MILTON, MA.

Years	Treatment	Objective
1903-4	large sewers put in	mosquito control
1930's and '40's	marsh drainage with ditches	mosquitoes
	arsenate of lead	elm tree pests
1930's to 1956	probably nicotine sulphate	
1930's to present	Bordeaux mixture, (copper sulphate) fungicide	Horse Chestnut and Sycamore blight
1947-48 to about 1965	DDT	gypsy moth, aphids, elm leaf beetles, and canker worms
1956 to about 1965	DDT	mosquito (Eastern Equine Encephalitis)
1965	Sevin	gypsy moth, elm leaf beetle
	Malathion	aphids, canker worms
	larvacide	mosquitoes
	cleaned culverts, treated catch basins	mosquitoes
	maintained drainage ditches	mosquitoes
1969	opened dredge brims for water circulation on the marsh	
1968-73	Malathion	adult mosquitoes
	Flit MLO, mineral oil in catch basins	adult mosquitoes
1967-74	Abate 4-E larvicide (organic phosphate)	mosquito larvae

STEEL SHOT: A RESPONSE TO LEAD POISONING

Steel shot will be required for hunting of ducks, geese, and coots with 12 guage shotguns in portions of nine Atlantic seaboard states this fall, according to the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Next year, steel will be required for 16, 20, 28 and 410 guages as well.

The purpose of setting up steel shot zones is to prevent further exposure of waterfowl to lead poisoning from high annual deposits of lead shot.

Coastal Essex County in Massachusetts will have steel shot zones this year because its harvest rate is 25 or more ducks per square mile each year, and it produces a total annual yield of 12,000 ducks. Such a harvest drops more than 3 tons of lead shot into its waterfowl habitats.

The program next year will be expanded to cover areas worst hit by lead poisoning in the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyways.

SIGHTING OF A EURASIAN CURLEW (NUMENIUS ARQUATA) IN MASSACHUSETTS

by Richard R. Veit, Hull

On Sunday, September 19th, Simon Perkins and I were birding on the north end of Monomoy Island. The weather was clear and warm with a gentle breeze blowing from the southwest.

At approximately 10:00 a.m., as we approached the midway point between the northern end of the island and Inward Point, I spotted a distinctly white-rumped curlew flying south roughly 150 yards to the east of us. It continued south for about one mile, and then landed. I tentatively had identified the bird as being the Eurasian race of the Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*), as my view of the bird was not sufficiently good to judge its size.

Some three hours later, on our return trip from Inward Point, we were fortunate to flush the bird from the marsh grass, and were immediately struck by the tremendous size of the bird. During the next hour, we flushed the bird a number of times, and were able to scrutinize it in flight and at rest, both in the marsh and amongst other shorebirds on the tidal flats.

The bird was clearly larger than a Marbled Godwit, and seemed to approach the bulk and proportions of a Long-billed Curlew. The bill was exceedingly long and decurved, again closely resembling that of a Long-bill. The general coloration of the bird was a pale gray-brown; the breast was finely streaked and the belly whitish. The crown was finely streaked, but without any bold markings, as on a Whimbrel. There was an indistinct superciliary stripe as well as a suggestion of an eye-ring. Finally, in flight the bird displayed a striking white lower back, similar to the corresponding patch on either of the North American dowitchers. On flushing, the bird emitted a mournful, plaintive "cur-lee" call, as well as several shorter whistled notes with the same quality.

After examining the literature, we concluded that the bird could only be the Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*).

This record represents the second for the continent of North America, the first being a bird shot by a hunter on Long Island, New York, in 1853. That specimen is now in the state museum in Albany.

On September 20th and 21st, I was able to return to Monomoy and to identifiably photograph the bird despite its wariness. (It generally could not be approached closer than 300 yards when on the ground.) In addition, numerous experienced and competent observers were able to visit Monomoy and to observe this bird, which remained until at least the 12th of October.



Eurasian Curlew photographed in Scotland by Chris Leahy, Massachusetts Audubon Society

BOOK REVIEW

A.B.A. Checklist: Birds of Continental United States and Canada, prepared by the Checklist Committee of the American Birding Association, distributed by the American Birding Association, Inc., Box 4335, Austin, Texas 78765, 64 pages, \$3.50.

With the ever-increasing interest in North American birdlife, it is appropriate that birders have access to a current and taxonomically accurate checklist for the 49 continental United States and Canada. The recent A.B.A. Checklist provides not only an up-to-date listing of 794 species which are native breeding species, regular visitors, naturally occurring accidentals (without the aid of man) and well established introductions, but it also pulls together the most recent "lumps", "splits" and name changes in North American bird taxonomy. The geographic area covered by the present checklist differs from that of the A.O.U. Checklist in that Greenland, Bermuda and Baja California are excluded. For each species listed, one of six symbols indicates the status within the area covered.

The taxonomy essentially follows that of the A.O.U. Checklist of North American Birds (5th edition) and its 32nd Supplement published in April 1973 (Auk 90, 411-419). Nonetheless, readers will find two areas of change. The first is that the order of the shorebirds follows that proposed by Jehl in 1968 (Relationships in the Charadrii, San Diego Society of Natural History, Memoir 3). The other changes concern some modifications in English nomenclature. Most of these changes involve the use of modifiers for the sake of international clarification (e.g. American Black Duck). Other related changes are those likely to be adopted in future supplements of the A.O.U. Checklist (e.g. Sedge Wren for Short-billed Marsh Wren).

Of particular interest is a section summarizing accidental species records during the 20th century. This list includes forms recorded fewer than ten times in the A.B.A. area and provides sources of documentation for each. This list, along with new taxonomic changes, promises to be periodically revised by the A.B.A. Checklist Committee.

The present work should appeal to many birders in that it is available at a price more reasonable than that of the A.O.U. Checklist. Perhaps its only drawback lies in the fact that little space is provided for the lister to record the date, place or details of sighting for species recorded in North America. It does, however, provide ample space at the end of the booklet for notes and supplemental additions in future years. This writer will conclude by highly recommending the A.B.A. Checklist to anyone with a serious interest in North American birdlife and its species taxa.

Wayne R. Petersen, Abington

STRANGE BEDFELLOWS!

This past spring for a couple of weeks a pair of Common Flickers had been excavating a new nesting cavity at Linwood Cemetery, Weston. By May 5th its depth was such that a flicker could easily disappear inside. While checking the hole on the 9th, I closed in too abruptly, for one of the birds flushed. Immediately, it was followed out of the hole by a Starling! Both birds flew to nearby branches from which they scolded me.

Was this an incident of competition for the nesting cavity? Probably not, for four reasons. First, it is difficult to imagine a Starling challenging the much larger flicker. Second, the flicker's mate was nearby but did not aid in defending the territory. Third, there was no squabbling as I approached the tree. Fourth, there is an abundance of unoccupied nesting sites in the immediate vicinity.

Yet, what is the answer? In his Life Histories Bent notes that flicker eggs have been found in the nests of several other species of birds. But my experience was different--the Starling was in the flicker's nest, not vice versa. I presume a freak happenstance.

Leif J. Robinson, Wellesley

TO TRY SOMETHING NEW--AND OLD

by Leif J. Robinson, Wellesley

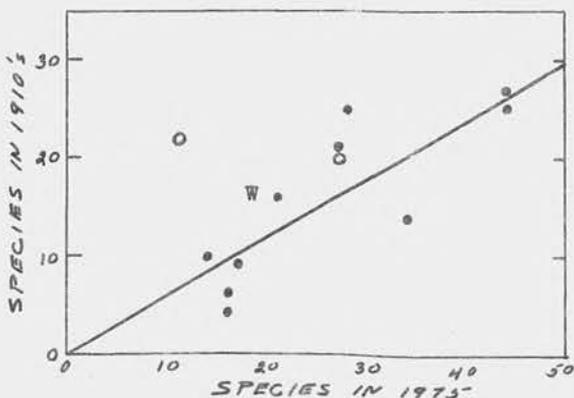
The October, 1975, issue of American Birds carried this announcement: "Wanted--Antique Christmas Counts." It asked that birders duplicate as nearly as possible Christmas Bird Counts (CBC's) taken six or seven decades earlier--date, route, and hours afield. Of course, the use of modern binoculars was prohibited, as were telescopes, field guides, tape recorders, and even "pishing".

The results were published in the April, 1976, issue of that journal. A dozen counts were taken, all in the Northeast where the CBC first gained a foothold. In the accompanying graph I have plotted the number of species recorded on the original CBC and the number found in 1975. The two open circles indicate a 1975 count that was too brief to be compatible with its 1915 counterpart, and a 1975 count that repeated one made as recently as 1934, hence not equivalent in time span.

The line was eye-fitted to the dots, for there seemed to be a trend. Surprisingly, observers in 1975 recorded roughly 1.7 times as many species within the same CBC areas as their predecessors did. Why?

Are more species present today, possibly because the habitat is more diverse? Perhaps, but I doubt by a factor of 1.7, which, on the average, adds 11 species to every count. Or are birders more knowledgeable today? Possibly, though the vast bulk of the sightings at both epochs is of very common species. Perhaps some senior readers would like to comment on this apparent enigma.

I wish there were more data--10 valid counts are too few on which to draw conclusions. If American Birds tries this experiment again, I hope birders in the Greater Boston area will take a large part, for here we have seen a child grow into adulthood.



The count marked with a "W" was taken by the author in Weston, following a 1915 CBC by Warren F. Eaton and Charles Brewer, Jr. The probable route of the original CBC was reconstructed by Charlotte E. Smith, who possesses Eaton's diaries.

A MASSACHUSETTS RECORD OF A DARK-PHASE GYRFALCON

by Hugh Willoughby, Riverside, R.I.

On Sunday, October 3, 1976, at approximately 9:30 A.M., Robert Pease and I were birding in a section of West Barnstable, Cape Cod, Massachusetts. This area overlooks the western end of the great salt-marshes behind Sandy Neck; we had traversed overgrown fields with scattered junipers, thickets of stunted cherry, arrowwood, etc., to reach the edge of the marsh. Upon arriving there, Pease called attention to the large flock of Starlings which was harassing a very large hawk. Both of us almost immediately said "Peregrine!"--but it was quickly obvious that the bird was too massive to be of that species. (We are very familiar with all of the regular North American falcons, and indeed each had seen all of the normal New England species within a few days.) Pease saw the bird with 10-power binoculars, while I watched through 7-power glasses as the group of Starlings and their huge target came closer. I also had the bird in my 20 x 60 mm gunstock-mounted telescope when it was about 50 yards away and about 45 degrees above the horizon; by this time the bird was over an abandoned field. The light conditions were only moderately good, and viewing quality rapidly deteriorated as the bird flew from left to right and into the hazy, glarey sunlight southeast of our station. The hawk moved deliberately and steadily, passing beyond our range of vision heading southeast. It had been under observation a total of perhaps three minutes.

This hawk was clearly a falcon: it had pointed wings, a long tail, and a large head on a stubby neck. It did not resemble an Accipiter, a Buteo, nor a harrier. It lacked the broad, rectangular wings of an eagle. It was far too heavy-bodied and far too big to be any sort of kite, nor did it fly in their light and airy manner. It was much bigger than a Peregrine; not only was this the general impression, but also we had direct comparison with Starlings.

This bird was puzzling in the manner of its flight, which was unfalconlike: it was moving rapidly by soaring in looping ellipses, keeping its wings in a very flat plane as an eagle does. The ample tail was frequently spread out in a fan, while the almost-triangular wings remained pointed and without "fingers" as they felt the air. The wings were conspicuously wide from front to rear, especially near the body; the "fuselage" was broad, thick, and heavy. Although the bird was soaring, it was moving very rapidly and with a look of power--just as Peregrines do when they are soaring, which they do frequently when the wind is strong. During this sighting a three-day northeast storm was just breaking up; the wind was backing to northerly, but it was still blowing at about 15 to 20 knots at the surface.

When I first got the bird in my telescope, I experienced my only moment of doubt as to its identity, for the falcon showed clearly a facial pattern similar to that of a Peregrine, but less well defined. We had erroneously thought that the Gyr lacks this mark, as Peterson mentions, but other field-guides describe it and all of them picture it; a recent reading of page 75 in Peterson's Birds of Britain and Europe was responsible for the temporary concern. Fortunately, other features were also noted: there was indistinct but definite brown streaking (longitudinally) on the lower portion of the underparts; the chest area was uniformly dark gray. The top of the wings, the back, the rump, and the tail all appeared to be a very dark gray, with no patterns visible. The underwing was in shadow and was not so clearly seen, but it too appeared as a gray tone. There was little contrast between the upper and lower parts of the bird. Leg color was not seen. The only lighter parts were the face and throat areas and the lower belly (against which the brown streaking was visible). This was, in fact, the darkest of the five Gyrfalcons that I have seen, and the darker of the two which Pease has seen. The illustration which comes closest to delineating this individual is the one in Pough's Audubon Water Bird Guide, Plate 40--the black-phase bird. The literature indicates that the streaking of the underparts is a characteristic of young birds, so perhaps this individual is a wandering immature. Its occurrence at this early date is not unprecedented; one was seen, for example, at Block Island, Rhode Island, by several observers on October 5, 1963.

BIRD CHOIR TOPS SOVIET TV

MOSCOW, May 5 (Reuters)--A choir of 60 trained songbirds led by a blackbird and a nightingale has overtaken ice hockey as favorite television viewing in the Soviet Republic of Byelorussia, the Tass press agency said. The birds have a repertoire of Russian folksongs and specialize in Strauss waltzes.

N.Y. Times, May 11, 1976

1976 CHRISTMAS CENSUS

The 77th annual Christmas Bird Counts sponsored by the National Audubon Society will be held this year from Saturday, December 18 - Sunday, January 2, 1976. Last year 28,688 participants in 1,141 counts reported an amazing 124,651,593 birds! There were 23 counts in Massachusetts including the Westport census. A total of 199 species were seen during the count period. Cape Cod always takes the prize for the most species seen--133. Other counts with over 100 species included Buzzards Bay 110, Greater Boston 106, Martha's Vineyard 110, Nantucket 113 and Plymouth 107.

Any birders interested in working the Greater Boston census are welcome. The date is SUNDAY, December 19, 1976. There is a \$1.00 participation fee for all observers. If you live within the count circle, that is, within Rte. 128, and feed birds, we would also like to have the number of individuals visiting your feeder that day. Contact Robert Stymeist, 46 Beaver St., Waltham, Mass. 02154, for further details.



As a breeding species, the Goshawk has increased in Massachusetts during recent years. In Weston nesting has been confirmed in 1975 and 1976 and probably occurred earlier. This photograph of the angry female was taken in May, 1975, by Leif J. Robinson with a 400-mm. lens. Note the fine barring on the breast and the prominent fluffy white feathers on the flanks.

MBO BANDING STATISTICS FOR 1975

In its annual report for 1975, the Manomet Bird Observatory reports the following:

"A total of 12,559 birds of 137 species were banded in 1975 (8,634 of these banded at MBO headquarters). Thirty birds of 20 species were reported as having been recovered elsewhere during the year, the most distant recoveries being a Red Knot from Guyana and a Pine Siskin from British Columbia. Six birds banded by other stations were recovered by MBO personnel. A summary of the first ten years of banding by the Manomet Bird Observatory (102,634 birds of 189 species!) was completed by Trevor Lloyd-Evans and is available for 75¢ in stamps upon request."

Write to Manomet Bird Observatory, Box 0, Manomet, Massachusetts, 02345. This observatory is a valuable asset and deserves the support of bird enthusiasts. For further information, write to the address above.

THE BIRD OBSERVER SUMMARY FOR JULY, 1976

The month of July was generally cool, clear and sunny, with an overall average temperature of 72°. Precipitation totaled 4.3 inches, 1.5 inches above normal. The greater part of this total fell during a series of squalls on the 29th-30th.

Following the recent trend of occurrences of albatrosses in the North Atlantic, a Black-browed Albatross was carefully studied on Jeffries Ledge on the 11th, and presumably the same bird was noted flying over the Plum Island marshes(!) harrassed by numerous gulls. Of the other pelagic species noted on offshore trips, a Leach's Storm-Petrel off Rockport on the 11th was noteworthy.

Many of the herons that arrived in such large numbers in April remained at traditional localities in the state: Glossy Ibis numbered 80 at Plum Island, and 9 Little Blue and 5 Louisiana Herons were found.

Ospreys continue their slow comeback as a nesting bird in the state; in addition to the re-activated nests found in May and June, active nests were found on Martha's Vineyard and Naushon.

In addition to the more regular species of shorebirds arriving during the month, Golden Plover and Baird's Sandpiper were found. Note particularly the two early dates for the latter species. A Curlew Sandpiper in fall alternate plumage was present in Newburyport Harbor.

An Iceland Gull in Newburyport Harbor on the 24th was most likely a straggler from the heavy flight of this species last winter.

From the interior, a Purple Gallinule was found in Bolton on the 4th; the species has gone unrecorded there since 1888. Finally, a Brewster's Warbler was found in Foxboro on the 2nd, although no evidence of nesting was discovered.

R.R.V.

Common Loon:			
11,21	Marion,Clinton	1,1	R.Forster#,H.Merriman
Pied-billed Grebe:			
thr.	P.I.	2	v.o.
<u>Black-browed Albatross</u> : (good details on file on both sightings)			
11	Rockport(18 miles out)	1	R.Heil,M&A Kasprzyk,S.Garrett
24	Newburyport	1	R.Heil
Cory's Shearwater:			
16,31	off Rockport,Barnstable(S.N.)	1,1	L.Jodrey,K.Hamilton#
Greater Shearwater:			
11,16,20	off Rockport	55,25,15-20	R.Heil#,L.Jodrey,R.Heil#
31	Rockport(A.Pt.)	1	P.Parsons
31	Barnstable(S.N.)	"many"	K.Hamilton
Sooty Shearwater:			
11,16	off Rockport	4,15	R.Heil#,L.Jodrey
30	Rockport(A.Pt.)	1	P.Parsons
31	Barnstable(S.N.)	"many"	K.Hamilton
Manx Shearwater:			
9,13	off Cohasset,Revere	3,3	B.Smyth,V&S ZendeH
20,31	off Rockport,Barnstable(S.N.)	1,12	R.Heil#,K.Hamilton#
Leach's Storm-Petrel:			
11	off Rockport	1	R.Heil,S.Garrett#
Wilson's Storm-Petrel:			
11,16	off Rockport	800,80	M.Kasprzyk#,L.Jodrey
Gannet:			
7	Monomoy	1	R.Forster#
Double-crested Cormorant:			
31	Lakeville	1	W.Petersen
Great Blue Heron:			
thr.	5 locations	14 individuals	v.o.
Green Heron:			
5,18	P.I.,Weston	8,10	BBC(R.Heil),L.Robinson

Little Blue Heron:			
2,3	Falmouth, Concord (GMNWR)	1 imm., 1 ad.	A. Nickerson, R. Forster#
16, 26	Barnstable, P. I.	2, 1	R. Pease, BBC (H. Weissberg)
26, 28	Duxbury, Scituate	2 ad., 2 imm.	M. Moore
Cattle Egret:			
19-20	Dartmouth	10	B. Nolan
Great Egret:			
thr.	7 locations	12 individuals	v. o.
Snowy Egret:			
thr.	P. I.	max. 300 (July 26)	v. o.
Black-crowned Night Heron:			
1, 18	Watertown Square	201, 100	J. Luck#, R. Stymeist#
Yellow-crowned Night Heron:			
1-15, 20	P. I., Monomoy	1, 1	v. o., W. Bailey#
Louisiana Heron:			
5, 11	P. I., Rowley	2, 3	BBC (R. Heil), S. Zende#
Least Bittern:			
thr.	Bolton, P. I.	2, max. 7	H. Merriman, v. o.
11&23	Swampscott	1	S. Zende#
American Bittern:			
11&23, 31	Swampscott, Bolton	2&3, 1	S. Zende#, H. Merriman
Glossy Ibis:			
thr.	P. I.	max. 80 (July 4)	v. o.
22, 25	Belton, E. Boston	15, 17	H. Merriman, S. Zende#
Canada Goose:			
24	Concord (GMNWR)	65	BBC (E. Taylor)
Gadwall:			
24	Concord (GMNWR)	2	BBC (E. Taylor)
Wood Duck:			
thr.	Concord; Bolton, Lancaster	40; 10, 20	R. Clayton#; H. Merriman
<u>Bufflehead:</u>			
5	Chatham	1	C. Goodrich, B. Nikula
Common Eider:			
11	off Rockport	100	M. Kasprzyk#
Surf Scoter:			
31	Manomet	1	W. Petersen
Hooded Merganser:			
22	Princeton (WMWS)	1 f.	E. Taylor
Turkey Vulture:			
21	Leominster	1	H. Merriman
Goshawk:			
5	Baldwinville	1 ad.	J. O'Regan
Bald Eagle:			
midmonth	Provincetown-Harwich	1 imm.	B. Nikula & v. o.
Osprey:			
12	Lake Tashmoo (M. V.)	2 ad. & 2 yg.	P. Garrey
12	Naushon I.	2 nests	P. Garrey
<u>Peregrine Falcon:</u>			
17	Sandwich	1 (with orange wing tag)	P. Trull
Ruffed Grouse:			
3	Westwood	2 ad. & 4 yg.	J. Clancy
King Rail:			
17	Lakeville	1 ad. & 7 yg.	R. Turner#
Clapper Rail:			
thr.	Barnstable	2	R. Pease
Virginia Rail:			
thr.; 11	Bolton; Concord (GMNWR)	5+; 1 ad., 2 yg.	H. Merriman; R. Timberlake
Sora:			
1	P. I.	1 ad. & 4 yg.	P. Parsons
<u>Purple Gallinule:</u>			
4-17	Bolton	1 ad.	F. McMenemy & v. o.
	(first Worcester County record since May, 1888)		
Common Gallinule:			
11	Concord (GMNWR)	2 ad. & 9 yg.	BBC (R. Timberlake)
American Oystercatcher:			
thr.	Monomoy	max. 14	v. o.
14	Nantucket (Bel Pt.)	5	C. Jackson
Semipalmated Plover:			
25	Monomoy	150+	BBC (A. Clarke)

Piping Plover:				
19,31	Plymouth, Monomoy	7,25		M. Bates#, BBC (R. Stymeist)
Golden Plover:				
11,19 on	Duxbury, Plymouth	1,1		M. Moore, M. Bates# & v.o.
25	Monomoy	1		C. Goodrich & v.o.
Black-bellied Plover:				
16	Monomoy	500		W. Bailey#
Ruddy Turnstone:				
25,29	Monomoy, P.I.	35+,47		BBC (A. Clarke), R. Arnold#
American Woodcock:				
24	Chatham	1		T. Lawrence#
Common Snipe:				
8 on	Bolton	5		H. Merriman & v.o.
Whimbrel:				
12;15	Plymouth; Nantucket, P.I.	1;11,12		M. Moore#; C. Jackson, M. Gardler
16 on, 19	Monomoy, Plymouth	25,8		W. Bailey# & v.o., M. Bates#
28	S. Dartmouth, S. Wellfleet	5,80		C. Briggs, W. Bailey#
Upland Sandpiper:				
2,14	Bridgewater, Newburyport	2,1		W. Petersen, E. Taylor
Solitary Sandpiper:				
13 on, 16 on	Lancaster, Bolton	3,2-7		H. Merriman
17,23,31	Halifax, S. Hanson, Lakeville	1,1,2		W. Petersen
Willet:				
thr.	Monomoy	nesting, max. 20		v.o.
10,12	P.I., Plymouth	1 (Western), 1		W. Petersen, M. Moore
Lesser Yellowlegs:				
26	P.I.	50		BBC (H. Weissberg)
Red Knot:				
25,28	Monomoy, Scituate	3000, 900		C. Goodrich#, M. Moore
Pectoral Sandpiper:				
25	W. Newbury	2		W. Petersen
White-rumped Sandpiper:				
11,29,31	Duxbury, Scituate, Monomoy	1,1,1		M. Moore#, W. Petersen, R. Stymeist#
Baird's Sandpiper:				
8&30,13	Plymouth, Nauset	1&1,1		M. Moore#, B. Nikula
Least Sandpiper:				
11	Concord (GMNWR)	75+		BBC (R. Timberlake)
Curlew Sandpiper:				
9-12	P.I.	1 ad.		R. Heil & v.o.
Dunlin:				
25;31	Monomoy	3,2		BBC (A. Clarke, R. Stymeist)
Short-billed Dowitcher:				
5,25	Newburyport	600+, 1100+		R. Heil#, W. Petersen
7,16,25	Monomoy	400, 1500, 650		R. Forster, W. Bailey#, A. Clarke#
Stilt Sandpiper:				
thr., 7&20	P.I., Monomoy	1-10, 1&7		P. Parsons & v.o., R. Forster#
Semipalmated Sandpiper:				
25	Newburyport	9000+		W. Petersen
29	Plymouth, Scituate	6500+, 3000+		M. Moore, W. Petersen
Western Sandpiper:				
29	Scituate	1		W. Petersen
Marbled Godwit:				
5	Monomoy	1		C. Goodrich, B. Nikula
Hudsonian Godwit:				
thr.	Monomoy, Newburyport-P.I.	max. 100, max. 26		v.o.
Ruff:				
1	P.I.	1		P. Parsons
Wilson's Phalarope:				
1-5, 2-4	P.I., S. Dartmouth	1,1 f.		R. Heil# & v.o., A. Nickerson
19,31	Plymouth, Monomoy	1,1		M. Moore, R. Stymeist#
Northern Phalarope:				
11	off Rockport	2		M. Kasprzyk#
Pomarine Jaeger:				
7,16	Monomoy, off Rockport	1,1		R. Forster#, L. Jodrey
Parasitic Jaeger:				
31	Barnstable (S.N.)	7		K. Hamilton
Glaucous Gull:				
thr.	Nantucket	1 imm.		R. Veit

<u>Iceland Gull:</u>				
24	Newburyport		1 imm.	J. Berry, P. Buckley
<u>Ring-billed Gull:</u>				
31	Plymouth Beach	450+(most adult migrants)		W. Petersen
<u>Black-headed Gull:</u>				
25	Newburyport		1 ad.	W. Petersen
<u>Bonaparte's Gull:</u>				
31	Concord (GMNWR)		1 ad.	R. Forster
<u>Laughing Gull:</u>				
thr.	Monomoy		180 prs.	v.o.
<u>Little Gull:</u>				
5-11, 10-24	Monomoy, Newburyport		1, 1	C. Goodrich#, R. Forster#
<u>Forster's Tern:</u>				
31	P. I.		1	G. Soucy#
<u>Common Tern:</u>				
5, 12	P. I.		40+, 75	BBC (R. Heil), BBC (G. Soucy)
31	Monomoy		1000+	R. Stymeist#
<u>Arctic Tern:</u>				
7, 20	Monomoy		275, 2	R. Forster#, W. Bailey#
24	P. I.		1	W. Petersen, R. Forster
<u>Roseate Tern:</u>				
19, 25	Plymouth, P. I.		4, 4	M. Bates#, W. Petersen
31	Monomoy, E. Boston		25, 2	R. Stymeist, S. Zende
<u>Least Tern:</u>				
12, 25	P. I., E. Boston		18, 2	BBC (G. Soucy), S. Zende
<u>Royal Tern:</u>				
thr.; 11	P. I.; Dartmouth		1; 1	v.o.; J. Barton, A. Nickerson
16, 31	Monomoy, Naushon Island		1, 1	W. Bailey, T. Raymond
<u>Sandwich Tern:</u>				
11-28	Monomoy		1	R. Forster, I. Nisbet#
<u>Black Tern:</u>				
1, 20	P. I., Monomoy		1, 1	P. Parsons#, W. Bailey
25, 26-31, 31	Monomoy, Plymouth, P. I.		2, 1, 1	BBC (A. Clarke), M. Moore, G. Soucy
<u>Black Skimmer:</u>				
thr.; 11	Monomoy; Marion		2; 2	v.o.; R. Forster, I. Nisbet
<u>Black Guillemot:</u>				
16	Stellwagen Bank		2	L. Jodrey
<u>Black-billed Cuckoo:</u>				
3-30	6 localities		singles	v.o.
"last week in July"	Middleboro		3	D. Briggs, L. Pratt#
<u>Screech Owl:</u>				
10	Dover		1	F. Hamlen
<u>Great Horned Owl:</u>				
9-11	Weston		1 yg.	L. Robinson
<u>Barred Owl:</u>				
15, 24	Weston		1 yg., 1 ad.	J. Hines, L. Robinson
<u>Chimney Swift:</u>				
4	Framingham		82	E. Taylor
<u>Ruby-throated Hummingbird:</u>				
12-17, 23-30	Nantucket, Sherborn		1, 1	C. Jackson, J. Willison
<u>Eastern Kingbird:</u>				
19, 26	P. I.		90, 57	BBC (L. Jodrey), BBC (H. Weissberg)
<u>Willow Flycatcher:</u>				
9 on, 25	Bolton, W. Newbury		4 prs., 3	J. Clancy#, W. Petersen
<u>Eastern Wood Pewee:</u>				
thr.	Sherborn, Weston		3, 2 ad. & 2 yg.	E. Taylor, L. Robinson
<u>Tree Swallow:</u>				
15, 26	Bolton, P. I.		450, 370	J. Clancy, BBC (H. Weissberg)
<u>Bank Swallow:</u>				
10, 14	Bolton, Rowley		125 prs., 120	J. Clancy, E. Taylor
19	P. I.		60	BBC (L. Jodrey)
<u>Rough-winged Swallow:</u>				
15	Scituate		250	M. Moore
<u>Barn Swallow:</u>				
26	P. I.		260	BBC (H. Weissberg)
<u>Cliff Swallow:</u>				
22	Princeton		20	E. Taylor
<u>Purple Martin:</u>				
26	P. I.		85	BBC (H. Weissberg)

Fish Crow:			
18	Abington	2	W.Petersen
Red-breasted Nuthatch:			
5	Weston	2 ad. & 2 yg.	L.Robinson
Brown Creeper:			
9	Weston	1	L.Robinson
Carolina Wren:			
thr.	S.Dartmouth	4+	A.Nickerson#
Winter Wren:			
thr.	5 localities	singles	v.o.
Long-billed Marsh Wren:			
12,17	P.I.,Concord	9,20	BBC(G.Soucy),BBC(R.Clayton)
Hermit Thrush:			
thr.,3	Sherborn,Westwood	6,4	E.Taylor,J.Clancy
Eastern Bluebird:			
thr.	Annisquam	1 pr. & 3 yg.	H.Wiggin
11,22	Leominster,Sherborn	1,1	H.Merriman,J.Willison
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:			
12	Falmouth	1 pr.	P.Garrey#
White-eyed Vireo:			
3	Ipswich	1 carrying food	J.Berry
3;17	S.Dartmouth	2 ad.;1 ad.,1 imm.	A.Nickerson#
Blue-winged Warbler:			
23	S.Hanson	1	W.Petersen
"Brewster's" Warbler:			
2	Foxboro	1	W.Davis,Jr.
Black-throated Blue Warbler:			
22	Wachuset Meadows	1 m.	E.Taylor
Black-throated Green Warbler:			
10	Dover	1	F.Hamlen
Pine Warbler:			
10	Weston	2 ad. & 1 yg.	E.Taylor
Northern Waterthrush:			
thr.;25	Carlisle,Sharon;P.I.	1 dead,1;2	fide R.Forster,D.Clapp;R.Forster
Yellow-breasted Chat:			
1-27	S.Dartmouth	1+	A.Nickerson#
Wilson's Warbler:			
20 on	Middleboro,N.Middleboro	2,1	D.Briggs,C.Corwin
American Redstart:			
19	P.I.	2	BBC(L.Jodrey)
Bobolink:			
22	Princeton	75+	E.Taylor
Indigo Bunting:			
thr.,3,10	Sherborn,Lexington,Dover	10,3,3	E.Taylor,J.Luck,F.Hamlen
House Finch:			
22	Westwood	3	J.Clancy
Grasshopper Sparrow:			
12-17	Nantucket	2-3	C.Jackson
Sharp-tailed Sparrow:			
5,12-17	Newburyport,Nantucket	14+,25	R.Heil,C.Jackson
25-31	Monomoy	15	BBC(A.Clarke & R.Stymeist)
Seaside Sparrow:			
thr.	Barnstable	25+ prs.	R.Pease
7	Monomoy	2 ad. & 2 yg.	R.Forster#
11,14-25	S.Dartmouth,Newburyport	5,4	J.Barton#,R.Forster
Vesper Sparrow:			
11 on	Leominster	10	H.Merriman
Dark-eyed Junco:			
22	Princeton	20	E.Taylor

THE BIRD OBSERVER SUMMARY FOR AUGUST 1976

Seasonal temperatures prevailed throughout August, with a lot of sunshine, but also frequent heavy rains and thunderstorms. The temperatures averaged 72.0°, 0.7° above normal, but nearly 1° cooler than August 1975. No daily records were broken. The highest temperature was 93° on the 21st, at the low mark was 49° on the 31st. Rain totalled 7.99 inches, 4.53 inches above normal and the most in August since 17.09 inches in 1955. The greatest accumulation fell in the two days prior to Hurricane Belle, when 2.27 inches fell in 24 hours on the 8th and 9th, with 3.42 inches total in the whole 2 days, causing considerable street flooding. Local street flooding also came with the heavy rainfall on the 28th and 29th. Thunder was heard on 7 days nearly double the average, and hail fell on the 14th. Hurricane Belle brought almost no rain itself, and the winds were very light during the several wet days prior to Belle. Winds from Belle reached a peak gust of 54 m.p.h. on the 10th. These winds stripped a few limbs from the Boston area trees, but did relatively little damage. In other sections of New England Belle rang at a different pitch. The center of lowest pressure passed northward through western Massachusetts and then curved more eastward through northern Maine. Winds were not excessive anywhere, but flooding was disastrous in parts of Vermont, New Hampshire and northern Maine. Thousands of acres of Aroostock County, Maine, potatoes were damaged.

A possible Magnificent Frigatebird was seen on the 11th, the day after Hurricane Belle; no details were received on this interesting record. Other pelagics included 2 Leach's Storm-Petrel and 29 Manx Shearwater were reported, 13 alone at Sandy Neck, Barnstable.

Cattle Egret totaled 44 at both Ipswich and Dartmouth, exceptionally high counts for this species. A Louisiana Heron was found at Plum Island and a Swainson's Hawk was seen at Monomoy on the 20th.

Shorebird highlights included a Curlew Sandpiper at Plum Island, 2 Ruffs and an American Avocet at Plum Island. Hudsonian Godwits peaked on the 11 at Monomoy when over 200 were counted, and 72 were seen on the 10th in Newburyport.

An adult Mew Gull was observed at Monomoy at mid month and a Sandwich Tern was found there on the 24th. A Gull-billed Tern was at Nauset and 6 Royal Tern and 15 Black Skimmer were noted.

Nighthawks were migrating in large numbers on the 21st. Other interesting birds were Red-bellied Woodpecker, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Hingham, and a Wheatear on Duxbury Beach.

Banding was well underway at Manomet where 25 Cape May and 57 Bay-breasted Warbler were netted.

R.H.S.

Common Loon:			
8	Lynn	1	W.Drummond
Cory's Shearwater:			
6	Cape Cod Bay	1	S.Zendeh
Greater Shearwater:			
5,6	Jeffrey's Ledge, Cape Cod Bay	30, 200+	R.Veit, M.Moore; S.Zendeh
8	Stellwagen Bank	75	BBC(H.Weissberg)
Sooty Shearwater:			
5,6	Jeffrey's Ledge, Cape Cod Bay	2, 30+	R.Veit & M.Moore, S.Zendeh
8,11	Stellwagen Bank, Jeffrey's Ledge	8, 3-4	BBC(W.Drummond), M.Kasprzyk
21,11	Cape Cod Bay	2, 8	H. & G.D'Entremont, J.Andrews
Manx Shearwater:			
1,5	Rockport, Jeffrey's Ledge	2, 1	G.Soucy, R.Veit & M.Moore
6,10	Cape Cod Bay, Nahant	7, 2	S.Zendeh, S.Zendeh
11,18	Jeffrey's Ledge, Barnstable	3, 13	M.Kasprzyk#,
21	Provincetown	1	H. & G.D'Entremont
Leach's Storm Petrel:			
10,11	Chatham, P.I.	1, 1	fide W.Bailey, W.Davis
Wilson's Storm Petrel:			
5,6	Jeffrey's Ledge, Cape Cod Bay	2000+, 150+	R. Veit#, S.Zendeh
8,11	Stellwagen Bank, Jeffrey's Ledge	130, 150+	BBC(H.Weissberg), M.Kasprzyk
<u>Magnificent Frigatebird:</u>			
11	N. Chatham	1 imm. (no details)	fide W. Bailey
Gannet:			
5,6	Jeffrey's Ledge, Cape Cod Bay	4, 5	R.Veit & M.Moore, S.Zendeh
8,11	Stellwagen Bank, Jeffrey's Ledge	3, 6	BBC(W.Drummond), M.Kasprzyk

Double-crested Cormorant: 6,28	Boston Harbor, Squantum	400+, 175	S.Zendeh, BBC(E.Taylor)
Little Blue Heron: 2-26,5 6,14	P.I., E.Boston Squantum, Concord	5+ imm., 1 imm. 17, 1 imm.	v.o., S.Zendeh D.Franzeen, L. Robinson
Cattle Egret: 1,8 16,24	Ipswich, Dartmouth Topsfield	$\frac{44}{23}$, $\frac{44}{31}$	J.Berry, F.Hamlen K.Hamilton, M.Kasprzyk
Great Egret: 29	Westport	30+	R.O'Hara
Snowy Egret: 1,17	Ipswich, Barnstable	130, 170+	J.Berry, R.Pease
Louisiana Heron: 1-3	P.I.	1	v.o.
Glossy Ibis: 2	P.I.	18	BBC(W.Drummond)
American Wigeon: 1,15	Concord(GMNWR)	2	BBC(Claytons)
Northern Shoveler: 1,2	Concord(GMNWR), P.I.	2, 1	BBC(Claytons), BBC(W.Drummond)
Oldsquaw: 8	Stellwagen Bank	1	BBC(W.Drummond)
Common Eider: 6,11	Provincetown, Rockport	15, 25	S.Zendeh#, M.Kasprzyk
White-winged Scoter: 14	Monomoy	5	BBC(H.D'Entremont)
Surf Scoter: 1,10 11,14	Cotuit, Plymouth Rockport, Monomoy	1 f., 1 1, 1	M.Kasprzyk, BBC(H.D'Entremont)
Black Scoter: 3	Peddock's Island	1	W.Petersen
Hooded Merganser: 2,3	Cambridge, Newbury	1 f., 1 f.	R.Veit, M.Moore
Turkey Vulture: 24	Watatic Mt.	2	M.Patsaid
Goshawk: 8	P.I.	1 imm.	R.Emery#
Cooper's Hawk: 19	Weston	1	L.Robinson
Red-shouldered Hawk: 3,26	Peddock's Is., Manomet	1, 2	W.Petersen, MBO staff
<u>Swainson's Hawk:</u> 20	Monomoy	1 ad.	W.Bailey#
Osprey: 8,10 16,29	Dartmouth, Kingston, Westport	2, 1 1, 4	F.Hamlen, L.Day MBO staff, P. O'Hara
King Rail: 29	Bolton Flats	1	E.Salmela
Common Gallinule: 1	Concord(GMNWR)	10	BBC(Claytons)
American Oystercatcher: Thr., 26	Monomoy, Nantucket	8, 10	v.o.,
Semipalmated Plover: 10,21 28	P.I., Monomoy P.I.	80, 150+ 100	BBC(M.Kasprzyk), R.Stymeist# BBC(I.Giriunas)
Piping Plover: 14,16	Monomoy, P.I.	50, 2	BBC(H.D'Entremont),BBC(W. Drummond)
	21,25	40+, 37	BBC(R.Stymeist), Argues
Golden Plover: 14,18 23,24 25	Monomoy, Plymouth Manomet, Monomoy Plymouth	1, 1 1, 2 1 ad.	BBC(R.Stymeist), M.Moore MBO staff, W.Bailey# M.Moore#
Black-bellied Plover: 3 21, 21	Newburyport P.I. Monomoy	150 200, 200 1000	M.Moore & R.Veit BBC(V.Albce), BBC(I.Giriunas) BBC(R.Stymeist)
Ruddy Turnstone: 1-5,2 14,21	Winthrop, P.I. Monomoy	25-30, 60 30, 46	S.Zendeh, BBC(W.Drummond) BBC(H.D'Entremont), BBC (R.Stymeist)

Whimbrel:				
2,2-3	Wellfleet, Monomoy	80, 140		W.Bailey, C.Goodrich#
10	Westport-Dartmouth	45		J.Murphy
Upland Sandpiper:				
24,28	Monomoy, Newburyport	1, 1		W.Bailey#, M.Moore
Spotted Sandpiper:				
1,18	Concord, S.Peabody	10, 10		BBC(Claytons), M.Kasprzyk
Solitary Sandpiper:				
23,27	Concord(GMNWR), Worcester	1, 2		R.Forster, D.Crompton
Willet:				
3,4	Plymouth, Duxbury	1, 1		M.Moore, MBO staff
1-4,21	Monomoy	3, 14		BBC(H.D'Entremont), BBC (R.Stymeist)
Greater Yellowlegs:				
14,21	Monomoy, Newburyport	75, 40		BBC(H.D'Entremont), BBC(V.Albee)
28	P.I.	50		BBC(I.Giriuinas)
Lesser Yellowlegs:				
1,3	Concord(GMNWR), Newburyport	8, 1300		BBC(Claytons), R.Veit, M.Moore
5,21	E.Boston, Newburyport	40+, 80		S.Zendeh, BBC (V.Albee)
Red Knot:				
10,14	Ipswich, Monomoy	30, 50		J.Berry, BBC(H.D'Entremont)
21	Monomoy	383		BBC(R.Stymeist)
Pectoral Sandpiper:				
9,10	Bridgewater, Duxbury	3, 1 juv.		D.Briggs, MBO staff
15,18	Concord, Sandwich	2, 1		BBC(Claytons), R.Pease
21,28	P.I.	1, 4		BBC (V.Albee), R. Forster
White-rumped Sandpiper:				
21,24	Monomoy	9, 4-5		BBC(R.Stymeist), W.Bailey#
28	P.I.	6		R.Forster
Baird's Sandpiper:				
8,26	Dartmouth, Plymouth	1, 1 juv.		F.Hamlen, M.Moore
27,28-31	Worcester, Nauset	1, 1		D.Crompton, B.Nikula, C.Goodrich#
Least Sandpiper:				
7,14	Concord, Monomoy	25, 25		BBC(E.Cushman), BBC(H.D'Entremont)
16,27	P.I., Scituate	50, 1000		BBC(M.Kasprzyk), M.Moore
Curlew Sandpiper:				
3-31	Newburyport	1		R.Veit, M.Moore#
Dunlin:				
21,28-29	Monomoy, Newburyport	1, 1		BBC(R.Stymeist), R.Forster
Short-billed Dowitcher:				
1,3	E.Boston, Newburyport	40, 1500+		S.Zendeh, R.Veit#
7,14	Revere, Monomoy	40, 60		S.Zendeh, BBC(H.D'Entremont)
Long-billed Dowitcher:				
17,28	P.I.	1, 17		M.Moore, R.Forster
Stilt Sandpiper:				
10-28	P.I.	max. 70 Aug. 15		R.Forster & v.o.
24	Weston	1		L.Robinson
Semipalmated Sandpiper:				
3,4	Newburyport, Monomoy	6000+, 250		R.Veit#, H.D'Entremont#
13,28	Revere, Concord(GMNWR)	600+, 45		S.Zendeh, BBC(E.Taylor)
Western Sandpiper:				
2,4	Plymouth Beach	1, 1		MBO staff
5,14	Concord, Monomoy	1, 1		H.Ferris, BBC(H.D'Entremont)
24,26	Monomoy, Plymouth	4, 2 juv.		W.Bailey, M.Moore
Buff-breasted Sandpiper:				
28-31	P.I.	1		J.Berry#
Marbled Godwit:				
22,27	Monomoy, Scituate	1, 1		R.Clem#, M.Moore
29	P.I.	1		J.Cavanaugh
Hudsonian Godwit:				
thr.	Monomoy, P.I.	max. 200 Aug. 11		v.o., v.o.
5,29	E.Boston, Dartmouth	5, 6		S.Zendeh, R.O'Hara
Ruff:				
17,28	Rowley, Nauset	1 juv., 1		M.Moore, C.Goodrich
Sanderling:				
14,28	Monomoy, Revere	200, 800		BBC(H.D'Entremont), S.Zendeh
American Avocet:				
26 on	P.I.	1		H.Wiggin#

Wilson's Phalarope:				
thr. 3-8	Outer Cape, P.I.	8-10, 3	v.o., R.Veit & M.Moore#	
27-28	Worcester	1	D.Crompton	
Northern Phalarope:				
8,11	Stellwagen Bank, Jeffrey'e Ledge	5, 90+	BBC(W.Drummond), M.Kasprzyk	
Pomarine Jaeger:				
21	Monomoy	1	C.Goodrich#	
<u>Mew Gull:</u>				
17 + 18	Monomoy	1 ad.	C.Goodrich#, B.Nikula#	
Laughing Gull:				
14,16	Monomoy, P.I.	80, 59	BBC(H.D'Entremont), K.Hamilton	
Bonaparte's Gull:				
thr.	Revere	40-200+	S.Zendeh	
Little Gull:				
10,13	Nahant, Revere	1, 1	S.Zendeh	
21,28	Newburyport, Nauset	1, 1	BBC(V.Albee), B.Nikula#	
<u>Gull-billed Tern:</u>				
14	Nauset	1	B.Nikula, C.Goodrich	
Forster's Tern:				
thr.	Outer Cape	8-10	v.o.	
29	Newburyport	1	H.Merriman	
Common Tern:				
14	Monomoy	400	BBC(H.D'Entremont)	
Arctic Tern:				
21	Monomoy	2	BBC(R.Stymeist)	
Roseate Tern:				
14,16	Monomoy, P.I.	100, 86	BBC(H.D'Entremont),K.Hamilton	
Royal Tern:				
1,3	Dartmouth, Peddock's I.	2, 1	T.Raymond, W.Petersen#	
12,14,16	Annisquam, Nauset, P.I.	1, 1, 1	H.Wiggin, C.Goodrich, K.Hamilton	
<u>Sandwich Tern:</u>				
24	Monomoy	1	W.Bailey#	
Caspian Tern:				
14	Wellfleet	1	B.Nikula & C.Goodrich	
Black Tern:				
thr.	Plymouth	1-3	M.Moore# & v.o.	
1-16	P.I., Ipswich	1-12	v.o.	
11,14	Sandwich, Monomoy	2, 2	R.Pease, BBC(H.D'Entremont)	
Black Skimmer:				
thr.	Monomoy	7	v.o.	
10,12	Acoaxet, Plymouth	1, 2	H.D'Entremont#, MBO staff	
15,16	Westport, Ipswich	4, 1	G.Briggs, J.Nove	
Mourning Dove:				
28	Weston	141	L.Robinson	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo:				
7,8	Rochester, Dartmouth	2, 3	G.Mock, F.Hamlen	
31	Gloucester	1	H.Wiggin	
Black-billed Cuckoo:				
2,22,23	P.I.	1, 5, 1	W.Drummond, H. & G.D'Entremont, M.Kasprzyk	
Great Horned Owl:				
1	Weston	2	L.Robinson	
Whip-poor-will:				
8,14	Dartmouth, Ipswich	1, 1	F.Hamlen, J.Berry	
Common Nighthawk:				
13	Littleton	11	J.Beird	
21	Fremingham, Wellesley	137, 76	K.Hamilton, R.Forster	
21	Weston, Waltham	90+, 36	L.Robinson, R.Stymeist	
30	Cambridge	1	R.Stymeist	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird:				
29,31	Rochester, Gloucester	1, 1	G.Mock,H.Wiggin	
Pileated Woodpecker:				
3	Westwood	1 ad., 1 yg.	J.Clancy	
<u>Red-bellied Woodpecker:</u>				
31	Chatham	1	O.Earle	
Eastern Kingbird:				
2,16,21,28	P.I.	80, 50, 40, 12	v.o.	
<u>Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:</u>				
2	Hingham(World's End)	1	Mrs.J.Sampson, P.Craig	
Great-crested Flycatcher:				
15	Westwood	6+	J.Clancy	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:				
15 + 16	S.Dartmouth	1	A.Nickerson	

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (cont'd):			
28,29	P.I., Marblehead	1, 1	R.Heil#, BBC(M.Kasprzyk)
Alder Flycatcher:			
26	Bolton	3+	H.Merriman
Tree Swallow:			
thr.	.I.	500+	v.o.
Cliff Swallow:			
7,8	Concord(GMNWR), Ipswich	10, 1	E.Cushman, J.Berry
21	Monomoy	2	R.Stymeist
Purple Martin:			
2,16,21	P.I.	60, 20, 6	v.o.
Carolina Wren:			
8,12	Dartmouth, Norwell	5, 1	F.Hamlen, M&B Litchfield
13	Sandwich	7	R.Pease
Mockingbird:			
thr.,9	Weston, Ipswich	21, 8	L.Robinson, J.Berry
Gray Catbird:			
29,31	Marblehead(MNWS)	37, 19	M.Kasprzyk
21,28	P.I.	40, 30	v.o.
Hermit Thrush:			
21	Rochester	1	G.Mock
Veery:			
29	Rochester	1	G.Mock
Eastern Bluebird:			
18	Chilmark(M.V.)	6	M.Hancock
Wheatear:			
23-30	Duxbury Beach	1	R.Walton, M.Moore, J.Clancy
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:			
15	S.Orleans	pr. nesting	O.Earle
16-31	Manomet Bird Observatory	5(b.)	MBO staff
Cedar Waxwing:			
28	P.I.	50	BBC(I.Giriunas)
Loggerhead Shrike:			
8,31	Ayer,Chatham	1, 1	S.Green, B.Nikula
White-eyed Vireo:			
25	Annisquam	1	H.Wiggin
Philadelphia Vireo:			
2	Cambridge(F.Pond)	20	R.Veit
Blue-winged Warbler:			
thr.	4 localities	6 individuals	v.o.
"Lawrence's Warbler" (hybrid):			
15,30	Sharon, Chatham	1, 1	fide R.Forster, B.Nikula
Tennessee Warbler:			
19	Manomet(MBO)	4(b.)	MBO staff
Yellow Warbler:			
12	Weston	2(last residents)	L.Robinson
Cape May Warbler:			
16on	Manomet	25(b.)	MBO staff
28,31	P.I., Gloucester	12, 25	R.Forster, H.Wiggin
Blackburnian Warbler:			
24,26,31	P.I., Littleton, Marblehead	1, 1, 2	M.Kasprzyk, J.Baird, M.Kas- przyk
Bay-breasted Warbler:			
18on	Manomet(MBO)	57(b.)	MBO staff
24	P.I.	20+	M.Kasprzyk
Prairie Warbler:			
13on	Manomet(MBO)	4(b.)	MBO staff
Northern Waterthrush:			
20	Marblehead	8	J.Clancy
Kentucky Warbler:			
21 + 27, 26	P.I., Marblehead	1+1, 1	BBC(V.Albee) & E.Pyburn,M.Kas- przyk
Mourning Warbler:			
13,25	Manomet(MBO)	1, 2	staff
31	Chatham, Truro	2, 2	B.Nikula
Yellow-breasted Chat:			
14,20	Westwood, Marblehead	1, 2	A & BBeale, J.Clancy
23-26	Manomet(MBO)	4	staff
26,31	Marblehead, Truro	1, 1	M.Kasprzyk, B.Nikula
Hooded Warbler:			
28	Lancaster	1	H.Merriman
Wilson's Warbler:			
24,25	P.I., Lancaster	1, 1	M.Kasprzyk, H.Merriman

Canada Warbler:			
1;13	Weston; Peabody, Manomet(MBO)	1; 1, 1	L.Robinson; M.Kasprzyk, Staff
American Redstart:			
21,29	P.I., Marblehead	15, 18	BBC(V.Albee), M.Kasprzyk
Bobolink:			
16	P.I.	8	BBC(W.Drummond)
Northern Oriole:			
13,31	Peabody, Marblehead	12, 10	M.Kasprzyk
Dickcissel:			
15	Annisquam	1	H.Wiggin
Pine Siskin:			
26-28	Lancaster	1	H.Merriman
Seaside Sparrow:			
14,28,30	Monomoy, P.I., Manomet(MBO)	2, 1, 1	BBC(H.D'Entremont), BBC(I.Giriunas), Staff
Dark-eyed Junco:			
26	Annisquam	1	H.Wiggin
Chipping Sparrow:			
14	Westwood	16+	J.Clancy
White-throated Sparrow:			
21	P.I.	4	BBC(V.Albee)

Abbreviations

ad.	adult	GMNWR	Great Meadows Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge
b.	banded	MBO	Manomet Bird Observatory
f.	female	MNWS	Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary
imm.	immature	WBWS	Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary
m.	male	WMWS	Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary
max.	maximum	A.A.	Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain
pr.	pair	A.Pt.	Andrews Point, Rockport
thr.	throughout	F.H.	Fort Hill, Eastham
v.o.	various observers	F.M.	Fowl Meadow, Milton
yg.	young	M.V.	Martha's Vineyard
#	additional observers	Mt.A.	Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge
BBC	Brookline Bird Club	P.I.	Plum Island
SSBC	South Shore Bird Club	S.N.	Sandy Neck, Barnstable

FRESH POND ALERT

So far this autumn, the water level at Fresh Pond has been ideal for migrant waterfowl. The flats at the rotary end (see *Bird Observer*, Vol. 3, No. 4, 1975) are partially exposed; even a few hundred feet out the water suits dabblers.

Redheads (four drakes and a duck) were seen at the astonishingly early date of September 24th. Furthermore, normally rare Green- and Blue-winged Teals have been present in good numbers, as have most other species that occur regularly. This could be a banner autumn for Fresh Pond birders!

Leif Robinson

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