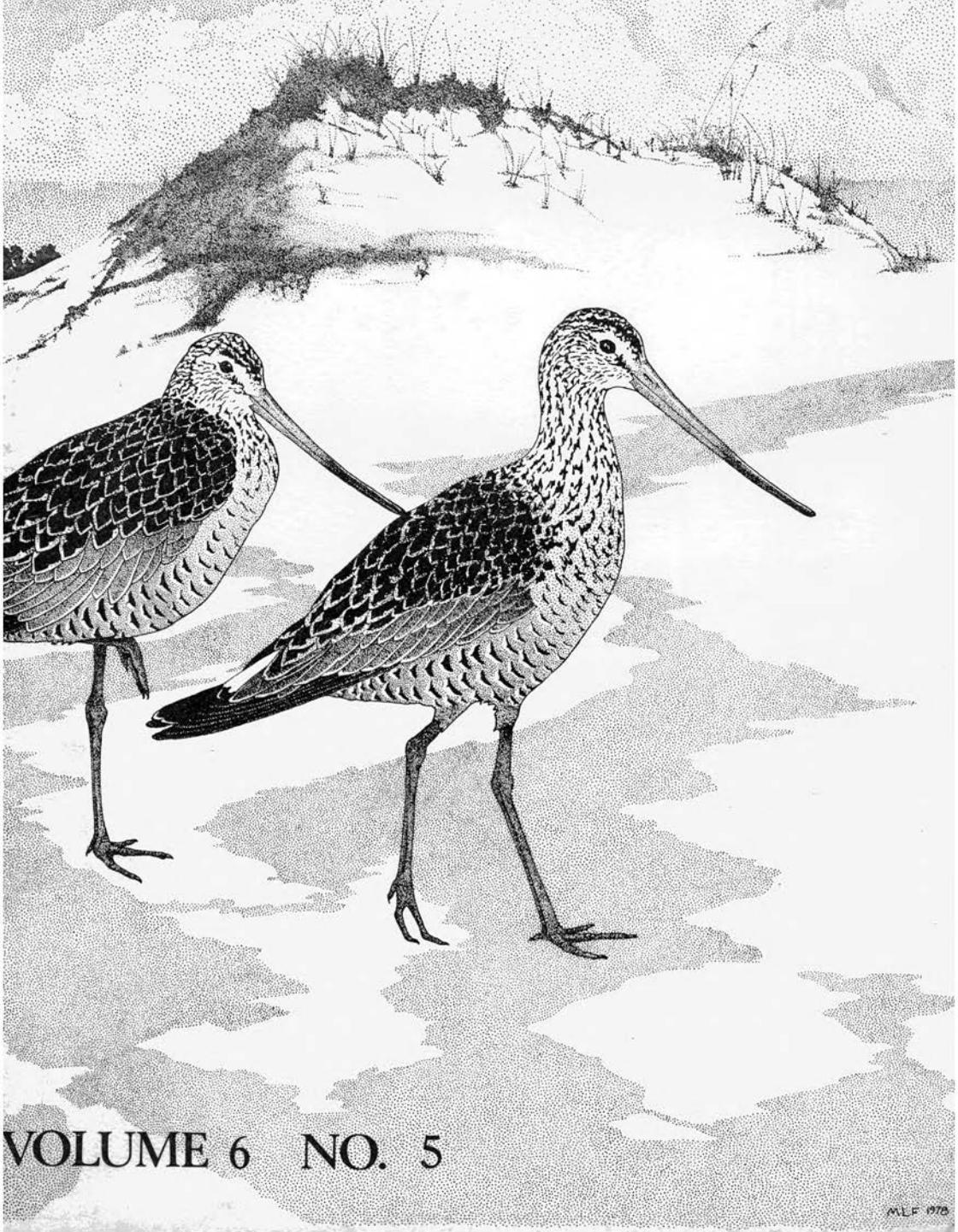
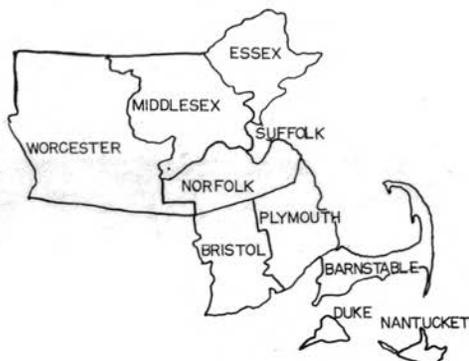


BIRD OBSERVER

OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS



VOLUME 6 NO. 5



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HAPPY BIRTHDAY, RUTH

by Paul M. Roberts, Editor

Inasmuch as Ruth Emery has now reached her eightieth birthday, I am sure she will make 110. There is no better way to preserve health and happiness than (through) good birding.

Roger Tory Peterson

There can be few active field birders in Massachusetts who are not familiar with the name Ruth P. Emery. Not only is Ruth statistical editor of the Bird Observer, she is field notes editor of the Massachusetts Audubon Society Newsletter and eastern Massachusetts field notes editor for the Birder's Kit. She also edits the eastern "Voice of Audubon" and is one of the most respected field birders in the state.

Some months ago, staff members of the Bird Observer realized that Ruth would be celebrating her eightieth birthday this past August. Without her knowledge, we decided to celebrate this event in a special way, by dedicating an issue of this magazine to her.

Many of Ruth's friends, including Arthur and Margaret Argue, James Baird, Wallace Bailey, Craig Jackson, Wayne Hanley, Wayne Petersen, Roger Tory Peterson and Henry T. Wiggin, have contributed material for this issue. Many other friends would have, if only they had been privy to our plans. But, alas, even now we have much more material than we can publish. That in itself is quite a tribute to Ruth.

We originally intended to dedicate our previous issue, which came out shortly after her birthday, to Ruth. However, when friends planned a belated birthday party for her in mid-September, we decided to delay this special issue in order that we might gather additional material at that event.

Anyone who has worked with field records understands the significance of Ruth P. Emery's contributions in this field. I vividly recall my first impressions when I began to peruse Records of New England Birds in search of hawk reports. All published field records have certain inherent limitations, but RNEB had so much data, and it was so well-organized. Only when I examined published records for other states did I fully comprehend the magnitude of what Ruth has been doing these past thirty-three years. She has set a standard difficult to emulate. Roger Tory Peterson writes that her summaries, "will be used by researchers for years to come, and when publications on the birds of Massachusetts are updated, they will lean heavily on the data recorded by Ruth Emery and her many correspondents."

The published records, however, do not reflect the many facets of Ruth. Our contributors present an image which may not be evident to those who haven't worked or birded with her. In reading all of the material submitted to Bird Observer, including some not published here, I have been impressed by the recurrence of the same themes in piece after piece. Everyone mentions her adventurous spirit, her amazing vitality.

Referring to Ruth's activities on a birding trip in May of this year, Henry T. Wiggin writes that, "the energy she has boggles the mind!" Her patience and sense of humor impress everyone. Henry recalls the Massachusetts Audubon bus field trips of the 1950's:

There were some good birders on the bus trips in those days, but even then, there were many people who just went along for the ride. Ruth was oh so patient explaining to someone for the seventy-fifth time what a Common Goldeneye looked like. On one trip to Rockport, we were fortunate enough to run into a small alcid flight. Several people on the trip saw a dovekie for the first time in their life. I saw Ruth laughing shortly thereafter and asked her what was so funny. She replied that she had overheard the bus driver asking a woman what she had just seen. The woman had responded, "It was a small black and white thing that people were calling lifers."

Without exception, the contributors also marvel at Ruth's enthusiasm for listening to their reports of what birds they have seen. Anyone who has called her to report a sighting knows what they mean.

Personally, however, one theme particularly impresses me. In a following article, Wayne Petersen dips back into the 1950's to recall what Ruth meant to him as a beginning birder. He concludes with the wish that her influence will, "continue to hold a special place for yet another generation of wide-eyed, fledgling birders." Shortly after Wayne's manuscript arrived, we received a strikingly similar piece from Craig Jackson, who began birding in 1975. Craig's appreciation of Ruth indicates that her influence on beginning birders is as strong and important today as it was twenty years ago.

The staff of Bird Observer would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this issue, but most of all, we want to thank you, Ruth. Craig expressed sentiments which so many of us share with regard to you:

I hope that Ruth gains satisfaction from helping me to become a better birder, a better bird watcher, and most of all, a person more in touch with the world of nature. For my part, I will always consider it a great privilege to be able to call 472-7848 at almost any time to talk about, and to share our mutual love of, birds.

Ruth, we dedicate this issue to you in celebration of your eightieth! A belated Happy Birthday, and Many Happy Returns!

RUTH: A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

by Wayne Hanley, Lincoln

If you haven't developed an interest in birds by the age of 40, there's still hope for you.

For instance, Mrs. Ruth P. Emery, at the age of 42, began wondering why some neighbors on Belmont Street in Wollaston were feeding birds. She looked into the matter, became intrigued, and within two years she purchased a copy of Roger Tory Peterson's Field Guide to the Birds.

Surely any reader of this publication knows that from this late beginning, Mrs. Emery went on to become one of the best known field birders in America.

Many who know her well may not realize that Ruth Emery became 80 years old on August 5. She spent that day as she has spent so many others: afield on Monomoy with friends. And it was an active day because Mrs. Emery, despite a few hip fractures from jumping down off warehouse ladders or getting caught in bus doors, is still a challenge to keep up with in the field.

The first half of Mrs. Emery's life was free of feathers, except for the occasional fluffing of a pillow. She was born in Cambridge, lived there through school, and as a young woman moved with her family to Newport Avenue in Wollaston. In 1925, she was married to Maurice C. Emery, who was employed by the Cambridgeport Savings Bank. The Emerys moved to Arlington, but they moved back to Wollaston in 1927, buying a house at 225 Belmont Street, where Mrs. Emery still lives. Her husband died in 1950.

Before she became a collector of birding lore and an editor of field notes, Mrs. Emery worked at jobs as prosaic as those that most of us fill. She had been secretary to the president of a small bank, had worked for a wholesaler of British yarns (for whom she knitted sweaters and the like, which were used as displays to promote knitting yarns in retail stores), and had been secretary to a wool merchant.

In 1943, Mrs. Emery joined the Massachusetts Audubon Society. While her husband worked on Saturdays she made as many field trips as possible, so she could scout good birding places where they could go together on Sundays.

"I had no idea what a field trip involved," Mrs. Emery said. "So on my first trip to Moose Hill in Sharon I wore high heels and a veil. One of the women on the trip suggested to me that the coat I wore was of unusual quality for a field trip."

The next year, 1944, Mrs. Emery joined the Massachusetts Audubon Society staff as a secretary working three days a week. Mrs. Emery's duties at Audubon consisted primarily of answering letters sent either to the Society or to its executive secretary, Mr. C. Russell Mason. Some international unpleasantries were in progress at the time, and many young men interested in birds were gaining experience among the birds of Europe

or birds of the Pacific.

"These young men used to write Mr. Mason, reporting on birds that they had seen and asking how things were going in Massachusetts," Mrs. Emery recalls. "Mr. Mason dictated rather perfunctory replies. I was becoming an involved birder and one of the leaders of Audubon field trips, so I added more details to the letters, reporting on interesting birds which we had observed.

"Among the young men with whom I corresponded were Dr. Norman P. Hill, who later wrote The Birds of Cape Cod; Henry Parker, now a director of the Massachusetts Audubon Society; and James Baird, now director of Massachusetts Audubon's Natural History Services."

During the last two years of the war, Mrs. Emery often assisted Mrs. Margaret Argue in conducting Audubon field trips.

"Gasoline rationing, of course, kept us from operating a bus or using automobiles," she recalls. "So we would meet the field trip members at North Station, board a train to Newburyport, and walk from the Newburyport station to Plum Island. The round trip required all day.

"We also worked out an arrangement with a regular interstate bus line which we could ride to a stop near the Artichoke River, get off the bus, walk in the river country, and then catch another bus back to Boston."

Also working on the train or bus field trips were Frances Elkins, Cora Wellman and Arthur Argue, Margaret's husband.

It was during this period that Mrs. Emery met one of the great field birders of the era, Ludlow Griscom, research ornithologist at the Museum of Comparative Zoology and a director of Massachusetts Audubon. After Mrs. Emery had attained considerable renown as a birder and bird notes editor, Griscom used to say of her, with some fondness, "She's a great birder, especially considering that she didn't start until she was an old lady!"

Ruth also had the privilege to work with another famous birder, the late Dr. John B. May, a pioneer in the promotion of the appreciation of predatory birds, an associate of the great E. H. Forbush, and his successor as state ornithologist.

In 1945, when William and Annette Cottrell revived the Records of New England Birds, Mrs. Emery became their typist and Donald Alexander their compiler. Two things happened quite promptly: Ruth found that the Records required more time than a three-day-a-week secretary could handle, and because the raw material kept pouring into the Audubon office, she had to make many on-the-spot decisions.

In July, 1945, Ruth Emery became assistant editor of the Records. The August issue, which was the first to bear her name, featured a front-page photograph of two Marbled Godwits taken by her husband, Maurice.

From that August, 1945, issue right up to the present, Mrs. Emery's name always has been associated with Massachusetts Audubon field notes. Her

name now appears as editor on the field notes page of the Massachusetts Audubon Newsletter and her field notes of eastern Massachusetts are a valued feature of the Birder's Kit.



Ruth Emery at her eightieth birthday party.
Photo by Pat Fox.

Ruth's achievements are even more impressive when one considers that she has never owned an automobile and does not know how to drive. These supposed handicaps failed to keep her from becoming a pioneer member of the 600 club in the early 1950's. (Members have life lists of 600 or more species seen in the United States.) This was quite an accomplishment in the era before interstate highway systems and relatively inexpensive airline travel.

Due to the vagaries of taxonomy, Mrs. Emery has broken the 600-species barrier twice. Changes in species designation among birds have cost her 18 species which were recognized as valid when she entered them on her list but which were later declared void. Her present U.S. list totals 619 species.

Her global life list exceeds 1500, with her best single field trip to Africa in 1967 when she added 475 species. Her greatest handicap in accumulating a world list lies in the fact that she has never visited the New World tropics, an area exceptionally rich in species.

Ruth's Massachusetts list is 381, one of the better totals ever logged in this state. Local birders are well aware that her enormous success here not only has depended on her **great** skill and **knowledge**, but also has benefitted from phenomenal luck. She is renowned for "being there," either when or immediately after a rarity has been spotted.

When Dr. May discovered two White-winged Black Terns in North Scituate in 1954, Mrs. Emery alerted a friendly birder who had her in Scituate within an hour.

When a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper from Siberia appeared in Newburyport Harbor on November 3, 1973, Mrs. Emery and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Argue, suddenly appeared on the seawall while Richard Forster and Wayne Petersen were making a positive identification of the bird, which they had been pursuing.

In July 1966, when an excellent specimen of the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was found in Dennis, Mrs. Emery happened to be vacationing there with friends.

It goes without saying that she didn't miss that ultimate in rarities, the Ross's Gull.

Next time you come upon a rarity, look around. Chances are that Ruth is nearby. If you don't see her, remember to call her with your report, but don't be surprised if she says, "Oh, yes, I saw that bird this morning ... "



The quintessential birder.

A SPECIAL PERSON

by Wayne R. Petersen, Whitman

Every youth has some one very special person who, at some point in his or her life, represents a pinnacle of excellence or prestige. For many, these figures must forever remain as poster pictures on a bedroom wall, as an autograph on a wrinkled baseball program, or as a distant glimpse in a large auditorium. Some youths, however, are fortunate enough to make personal contact with their esteemed elders, with these contacts often resulting in a lifetime of friendship and productive experience. Such has been my association with Ruth Emery.

On a crisp autumn day in 1956, a budding ornithologist (7th grade vintage, I believe) noticed a strange woodpecker hammering upon an old, diseased elm tree in his hometown of Wellesley. Running home with excitement, Gilbert Pearson's Birds of America promptly showed the bird in question to be the rare and locally unusual "Arctic" Three-toed Woodpecker (now known as the Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker). As a new member of the Massachusetts Audubon Society at the time, logic dictated a call to report such a rarity to Ruth Emery, field note editor for the Massachusetts Audubon Magazine. With heart in throat, the call to the Boston Audubon House was made. After politely listening to the description of my prize, Ruth allowed that it sounded likely and then put me in touch with several local experts who were to be notified for final verification. A brief conversation followed and my personal acquaintance with Ruth Emery was launched. Many similar phone calls followed, more often with questions than with rare bird reports, and the relationship grew.

Two years later I saw Ruth in person for the first time. She was smartly dressed in field clothes in the lobby of Chatham's Wayside Inn. I was a participant in the annual Audubon Cape Cod Campout; Ruth was a leader. After introducing myself, I enjoyed the ego-lifting experience of talking birds with Ruth for a full 15 minutes, right in the very parlor of many other well-known birders of the day. What a thrill for a lad of fourteen!

As annual gift-giving occasions rolled around, my family came to know Ruth (for years only a voice on the telephone) as the person to consult about what new bird book to buy for their insatiable son. Today, Ruth knows my library nearly as well as I do, since she helped lay the still-existing corner stones. Along with birthdays came increased mobility and regular pilgrimages to Audubon House. These visits often ended with several hours of Ruth's valuable time being spent chatting with a young man who absorbed every word as gospel. Many valuable lessons came from those discussions (I especially recall a fine exposition on Snowy Owl migration) and I remember being particularly impressed by her systematic approach to bird record-keeping. She immortalized the concept for me to this day.

As the years passed, our friendship strengthened. From casual encounters in the field to planned excursions together, I became increasingly aware of Ruth's tremendous enthusiasm not only for birds, but for people as well. Her myriad bird Christmas cards filling her house at holiday

time or the number of inquiries from out-of-state visiting birders stand as ample testimony to her generosity and interest in other people, many of whom Ruth admits hardly knowing herself.

Initially our friendship was always tied to the commonality of our interest in birds. This often involved late hours in Ruth's study working on field records for either the Records of New England Birds or American Birds, or else long talks reminiscing about Ruth's experiences with Ludlow Griscom. In time, however, the friendship evolved into more than one between mere birding colleagues. Ruth was an honored guest at my wedding, a welcome visitor at my Thanksgiving table and I enjoyed the privilege of being the youngest invited guest at her Audubon retirement party.

Her spirit through the years brings to mind numerous amusing situations or similarly memorable events. The flat tire in West Newbury during a searing heat wave, a piggy-back ride across a corn field in 3 feet of snow, a midnight cocktail in Ruth's kitchen following a late Nuttall Club meeting, and most recently, an eightieth birthday celebration in which Ruth was surrounded by friends transcending several generations of the birding fraternity.

While these reflections of a special person could be mirrored a hundred different ways by a hundred different people, they represent some of the things that Ruth Emery has meant to me in the nearly 25 years of our continuous acquaintance. May Ruth Emery's influence continue to hold a special place for yet another generation of wide-eyed fledgling birders.



Ruth and friends on Monomoy in November.
(Ludlow Griscom is holding the scope.)

BIRDING WITH RUTH

by Wallace Bailey, Wellfleet

I've been birding with Ruth Emery for more years than I like to remember. Sounds ungallant, doesn't it? Truth is, those well-remembered years have brought a crick to my back, a squint to my eye, and more than a bit of sludge to my overdrive. Those same years have left Ruth unscathed -- as eager and enthusiastic a birding companion as ever. If I had her gumption, I wouldn't hesitate to count the years!

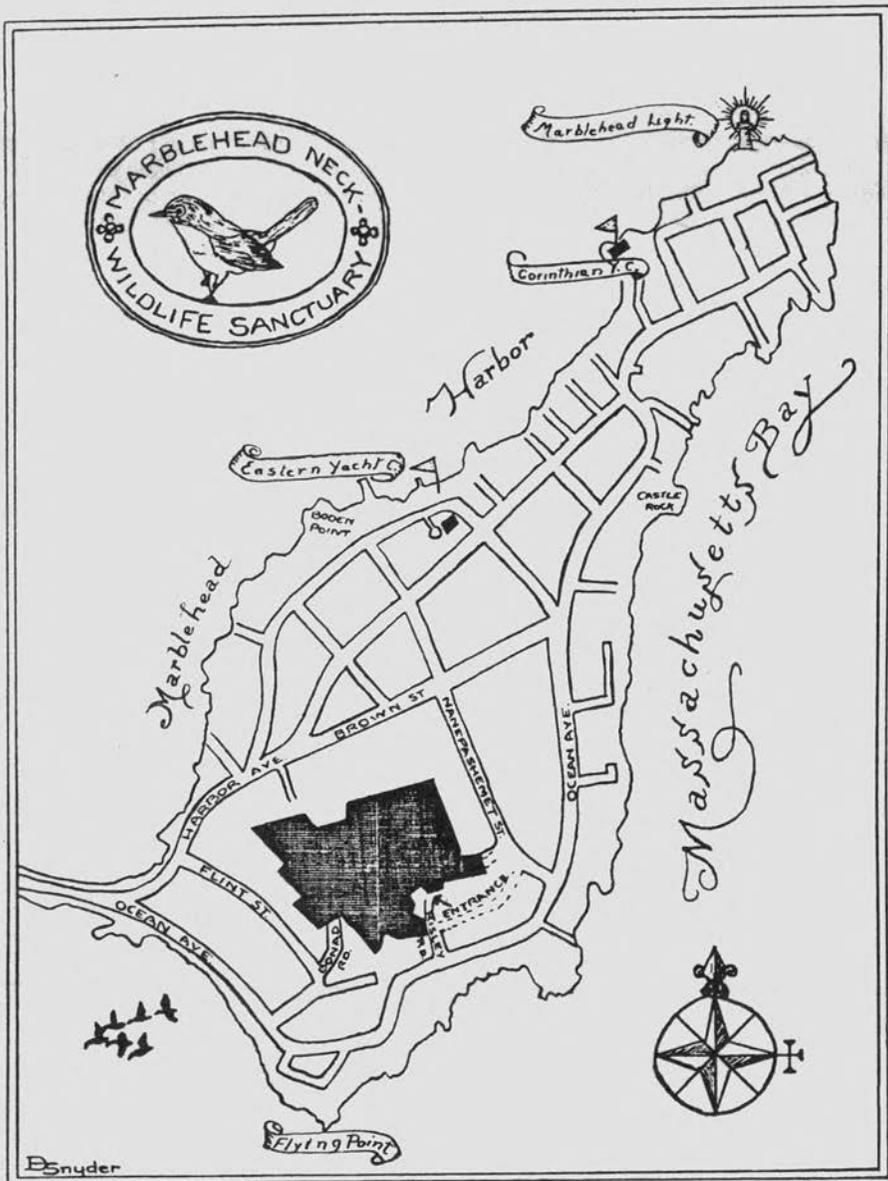
In fact, I do get a lift from Ruth's spirit. It comes from her enthusiasm about my birds. I never knew anyone else so honestly, generously, and unfailingly excited about somebody else's records. It is a rare gift, and it has won a flock of converts to bird study and warmed the hearts of a host of friends.

Indeed, we have shared some exciting birding during the last thirty years: an Ivory Gull on a bus trip in 1946; a European Whimbrel on Monomoy; a Great Gray Owl reputed to be somewhere among the snowbound mini-Himalayas of Gill. I remember that I panted and griped and clutched my two mending broken ribs as I slogged thigh-deep in wet snow. Right beside me slogged Ruth -- with five mending ribs and legs only half as long as mine! The Great Gray was worth the effort, but my cheers were wheezy compared to hers.

We have watched shearwaters with L.G. in a heaving cockleshell off Chatham and alcids from the arctic wastes of Andrews Point. We have tallied the specialties from Newburyport's Ross' Gull to Texas' Black-capped Vireo. Given Ruth's knowledge and long experience, it is easy to have enthusiasm for the likes of these.

But what about all those ho-hum days afield? The century run that bombed at eighty; the Christmas Census in the rain; the hours and miles lost to the vagrant that vanished? Those are the days we see Ruth's zest for living challenged and proved and her professionalism rated A+.

How many times in these thirty-plus years have I called Ruth (don't ask, she can probably look in the records and tell you!) to report today's list, propose tomorrow's trip, or ask the low-down on what's around. The voice on the 'phone is unfailingly cheerful, knowing, ready to share. Hey, Ruth -- how about the Cape tomorrow . . . ?



MARBLEHEAD NECK SANCTUARY

by Dorothy E. Snyder, Salem

The former Marblehead Neck post office bore the official name of Nanepashemet, an Indian name for the old Marble Harbor or Marble Necke. In 1629 Rev. John Higginson described the rocky headlands which line the shore thus: "Marble stone. . . we have great rocks of it and a harbor hard by. Our plantation is from thence called Marble-Harbor." Actually the rocks of the Neck are a jumbled mixture of metamorphics with later inclusions and some older sedimentaries, which led someone to call this area the "glory-hole" of Essex County rocks.

Originally a heavily wooded island ("bee as it were a thicke wood"), the Neck is about a mile in length, half as wide, and contains roughly 300 acres of land connected to the mainland by a sand bar that is awash at high tide. The trees were probably mainly oak and hickory with some hemlock, pitch and white pine, chestnut, maple and beech. The building of houses and ships drew heavily upon this supply of wood so that as early as 1678 there were laws concerning its use.

The ancient highway to the Neck, a sand road often washed out by tide and storm, was laid out in 1670 through the Devereux farm. In the latter part of the 17th century the Neck was principally used for pasturage and fish-yards where fish was dried on flakes. By 1835 Marblehead Neck was advertising that locations for summer cottages were equal to those at Nahant! However, in the decade between 1850 and 1860, most of the Neck was a 240-acre farm owned by Ephraim Brown.

The first summer residents came from Nashua, New Hampshire, arriving in 1867; six families bought land and built cottages on the harbor side. The Brown farm was sold in 1872 to a development company but was repossessed by the Brown heirs when the company failed. The delights of summering on the Neck were becoming better known, and in a few years the shores were said to present the appearance of an army encampment, with hundreds of tents set up along the water.

The only mention of birds in early history is in 1854 when an inn, the Manataug House, advertised in the People's Advocate that "the Neck lands are the favorite resort of Plover and Curlew and afford sport for Gunners during the season," a testimony to the disappearance of the "thicke wood" and its replacement by fields.

Until 1910 it was necessary for the inhabitants to use boats to reach the mainland during high tides; the road to the Neck was passable for horse and buggy only part of the time. The present causeway was constructed then; battered by many a storm and hurricane, it was patched here and there until it was largely rebuilt in 1953. With the addition of two well-known yacht clubs, the Corinthian and Eastern Point, the Neck became a yachting center. Houses were first built along the entire shore line, then inland. By 1952 there was only one naturally wild area left. A real estate company was negotiating for this land and planned to erect a large number of dwellings.

Since Essex County is on the Atlantic Coast Flyway, its outlying points have always had a concentration of birds during migration. Plum Island,

Marblehead Neck, and Nahant are natural stopovers for passerine birds in spring and fall and are flooded with migrants in favorable weather. The Neck is the least famed of the three locations, but with the rapid build-up of the other areas, birders visited it in increasing numbers during the 1950s and 1960s.

The late Mrs. David Searle, who had been observing birds at the Neck for several years, in 1947 first suggested to Walter M. McKim, then president of the Marblehead Neck Improvement Association, that the area should be a sanctuary. This idea met with his instant approval, and for two years he worked untiringly to make it a reality. Part of the land was donated and the rest purchased with money given by the association and some 35 private donors. Mr. McKim raised an endowment of \$10,000 to insure the acceptance of this 15- to 16-acre sanctuary by the Massachusetts Audubon Society which occurred in October, 1953. The entrance to the sanctuary is on Risley Road, off Ocean Avenue (a SANCTUARY sign points to it), and parking area is available. The sanctuary was opened to the public in the summer of 1954.

Actually, this area has been a sanctuary for migrating birds for untold years. They come by the hundreds when the wind is favorable, and many stay for days or even weeks to nest in this wooded area which includes a man-made pond and some open spaces. Birders and others can wander through its lanes and paths as I have done for 30 years.

The flora, as well as the birds it attracts, is interesting. Some of the plants of years ago have disappeared as the areas became overgrown by trees and shrubs. Gone, for example, is the wool grass in a swampy area that provided good cover for birds. Edges of paths are apt to be lined with clethra whose flowers scent the air in late summer. Winterberry, Tartarian honeysuckle, arrowwood and elderberry, with the prevalent staghorn sumac, still provide good food for birds, together with the tangles of blackberry, Virginia Creeper and wild rose. The swampy areas have a luxuriant growth of poison sumac, and the Yellow-breasted Chat often sits in such a bush, quite immune to its ill effects. There is a small colony of English oaks, escapees from trees planted on Neck estates, near the center of the area. Most of the smaller trees are gray birch and aspen which attract warblers and other insectivorous birds. There are few of the fine old maples left on the edges of paths. These provided lookouts for hawks, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and other high-perching birds. North of the pond and swamp area, there is a dry gravel opening where Lapland Longspur and Eastern Meadowlark have been found. Edging this is an abundant growth of goldenrod; in October its seeds attract both warblers and finches. With patience, an Orange-crowned Warbler or Indigo Bunting may be coaxed into view.

Birds tend to stay in the area for several days; thus, especially during September and October, at least a few may be found almost any time. One memorable May day, as a party of us entered the alder swamp area, out flew an adult Little Blue Heron in the soft blue plumage. Black-crowned Night Heron are often seen, and I have been told that they used to nest in the upper maple swamp near the south gate.

In the first decades of the sanctuary, hawks were often seen perched on the tall old maples; Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Red-tailed, Cooper's, and Sharp-shinned Hawks, and American Kestrel were seen each year.

American Woodcock were flushed from the neighboring aspens and great skeins of cormorants flew overhead accompanied by an occasional Osprey. Chester Elaszczak recently had over 22 Sharpshinned Hawks in view at once, an encouraging sign.

Flycatchers frequent the sanctuary during spring and fall; never a year passes without our seeing all the species on the state checklist except the Western Kingbird (there are not enough open field areas to attract this species). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers perch low in small bushes by the edge of lanes in September while the Olive-sided is seen silhouetted high against the sky. Late in migration, the last of May and first week of June, we hear the "way-bee-o" and occasionally the "fitz-bew" which distinguish the similar Alder and Willow species. In recent years, the Acadian Flycatcher has also been heard--as many as four in a single day.

The undergrowth is well-suited to wrens; Winter and House Wrens stay late, and a stray Long-billed Marsh Wren turns up in some years. In 1953 Mrs. Searle added Carolina Wren to our list when she found one in a moist tangle. I once had a Short-billed very close and calling by the pond (September 29, 1958). Of the swallows we have had the six species, but in the 1970s the Cliff Swallow and Purple Martin are seldom seen.

Blue Jay, Common Crow, and Black-capped Chickadee are common and nest here. Once I was lucky enough to catch a fine look at a Boreal Chickadee. A Tufted Titmouse first came from the sanctuary across the road to Mrs. Priscilla Lord's feeder in February, 1963; it has fed there yearly since but is not so often seen in the sanctuary. The two nut-hatches are found yearly and the White-breasted may nest. The Mockingbird was first recorded by me on October 19, 1959 and has become increasingly common as it feeds on the plentiful rose hips.

We see all the thrushes, usually feeding in the deep shade of narrow lanes, but they are never as common as at Nahant. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers turn up each year, usually in spring, but there are two fall records. There are good flights of both kinglets lispings and singing in the trees, the Ruby-crowned being common.

Among the vireos, the sanctuary is now an excellent place for the White-eyed, with many May records. However, the Warbling Vireo is seldom found and the Yellow-throated not much more often; even the Red-eyed seems to be less abundant than in early years. Though the Philadelphia Vireo is more often recorded in the fall, I have four spring records.

Among the warblers, 38 forms have been recorded including the hybrids, Brewster's and Lawrence's. A total of 235+ species have been recorded on the sanctuary grounds. The following list is of course incomplete. It includes my own records from 1948 to 1976 and all others I knew of who were considered reliable and had the data. Mrs. Ruth Emery gave me a few others. I should be very glad to hear of any omissions with the details of the observations.

The following abbreviations have been used: Y - yearly, m - migrant, s and f - spring and fall, B or B? - breeds, and # - various observers.

Dates are given for some birds and the initials indicate the observers whose full names appear at the end of the list.

Birds at Marblehead Neck Sanctuary, 1948 - 1977

- Common Loon: Y m (flock of 15 flying over once) to 10/8/67, CL
Horned Grebe: in pond 5/7/66, DS
Pied-billed Grebe: 8/23/63 (later found killed), DS; 8/31/72, BS;
9/13/73, JS
Gannet: flying over 5/21/69, DS
Great Cormorant: 10/3/63 and 11/4/63, DS
Double-crested Cormorant: Y m s and f, #
Great Blue Heron: Y m s and f, # Feeds on fish in pond as do other
herons.
Green Heron: Y m s and f Has bred.
Little Blue Heron: blue phase 5/7/50, DS; "pied" phase 5/6/72, DS
Cattle Egret: 5/20/64, MS, BP
Great Egret: 5/23/76, CB; spring of 1978, SI
Snowy Egret: 8/29/68, 9/22/72, JS; 5/2/76, CB
Black-crowned Night Heron: Y m s and f, # A few pairs formerly bred
in Upper Maple Swamp.
Yellow-crowned Night Heron: 8/10/59, DS; 8/26/68, DS, DM; 9/22/72, JS
Least Bittern: near pond in swamp now overgrown 7/4/61, DS
American Bittern: 6/4/61, DS; 8 of the 15 years from 1961-75, #
Glossy Ibis: 5/31/76, CB, LM
Canada Goose: Y? (10 years of 15), #; chevron overhead 10/13/75, CB
Mallard: flock flying south over pond 10/8/68, DS Others tame.
Black Duck: Y m in pond or over, #
Pintail: 9/7/60, DS
Green-winged Teal: 4/22/61, Searle; in pond 10/17/61, DS
Blue-winged Teal: 8/31/63, 5/26/71, DS; 5/22/72, #, DS
Wood Duck: y s and f m until 1970s, 8/28/75, MK (only record)
Greater Scaup: on pond 9/17/61, DS
Common Goldeneye: on pond 3/5/59, CL, DS
Bufflehead: pair on pond 1972, DS
White-winged Scoter: flock over pond 10/10/59, DS
Hooded Merganser: flock flying over 9/30/73, SI, #
Common Merganser: flying over 9/24/54, DS
Red-breasted Merganser: 4/9/67, DS
Black Vulture: 1/26, 27/55 Searle Well seen on two days.
Goshawk: two in 1950s, DS, #; 8/19/50, DS, Searle; 9/11/58, DS, SI;
5/12/66, 1/3/67, DS, #
Cooper's Hawk: Y s and f in 1950s; 7 of 10 years, 1960s; 9/27/77, CB
Sharp-shinned Hawk: Y from 1950s on s and f; 22 migrants observed 9/22/77 CB
Red-tailed Hawk: Y m in 1950s, 6 of 10 years in 1960s, 1970s?, #
Red-shouldered Hawk: Y in 1950s, DS, #: 6 of 10 years in 1960s;
1970s?, #
Broad-winged Hawk: 8/19/58, DS; 5/14/59, Griscom, #; 4 of 10 years in
1970s, MK, #
Rough-legged Hawk: 9/6/62, DS; 10/21/68, CL
Golden Eagle: 10/1/68, CL
Bald Eagle: 9/6/61, 9/5/62, 10/4/62, DS; 10/21/68 CL
Marsh Hawk: Y m 1956-70, then 1 year of 5, CB
Osprey: Y m 1950s to 9/7/71, CL None later?
Peregrine Falcon: Y m 1950s through 1968, DS, #; 1 in 1977, CB

Merlin: Y m in 1950s, DS, Searle, #; s and f 1960s, #; 9/70, BS, #;
 9/71, 9/21/72, #; 9/22/74, JS
 American Kestrel: Y m s and f B? 1950s, 60s, 70s
 Ruffed Grouse: 1965, T. and C. Banes; B? May, June, September 1966,
 5/25/69, #
 Bobwhite: 5/12/62, NS
 Ring-necked Pheasant: Y B, #
 King Rail: 5/12/62, NS, #; 5/15/71, Iarrobino
 Virginia Rail: 10/2/48, DS; 1960, DS
 Sora Rail: 9/28/58, 9/11/65. DS No rails later with marsh pond over-
 grown.
 Semipalmated Plover: 8/4/60, 8/26/63, DS; 9/13/64, CL
 Killdeer: 5 years out of 10 1950s, 1960s, #
 Black-bellied Plover: 9/22/62, DS; 8 in 1960s; 2 in 1972, flock of 7
 5/22/76, MK
 Ruddy Turnstone: 5/9/61, BP; 3/13/61, DS; 9/4/69, CL
 Whimbrel: flying over 9/9/65, CL
 Greater Yellowlegs: Y m 1950s through 1970s, #
 Lesser Yellowlegs: at side of pond 9/22/63, DS; 5/15/77, MK
 Solitary Sandpiper: beside pond Y 1960s, 1970s, #
 Spotted Sandpiper: Y m since pond was built, #
 Willet: flew over pond calling 5/21/75, DS
 American Woodcock: 10/6/61, 11 of 15 years, DS, BP, MK, #
 Common Snipe: 7 of 10 years 1950s, 1960s; 1 in 1970s, MK
 Short-billed Dowitcher: m 9/1/63, DS
 Sanderling: m 4/3/60, CL; 8/14/73, JS; 6 on 9/6/76, CB
 Semipalmated Sandpiper: 5/4/58, DS; 10 of 16 years by 1969; 5 more.
 records to 8/27/75, MK
 Least Sandpiper: 5/20/62, 1963, 1968, 5 on 5/26/71, D
 "white-winged" gull: "smaller or size of Herring with it, probably
 Glaucous" MK
 Great Black-backed Gull: Y over pond, #
 Herring Gull: Y w and s Common, especially when hawks are migrating.
 Ring-billed Gull: over pond 10/8/62, DS; 10/22/64 CL
 Laughing Gull: 1962, CL, SI; 8/14/64, CL; 8/25/65, CL, SI
 Bonaparte's Gull: m 8/1/61, 8/27/63, 8/14/64, CL
 Common Tern: 1957, Y m 13 of 17 years in 1960s, 1970s, DS
 Least Tern: 2 on 8/20/76, MK
 Rock Dove: Y, # Probably every month.
 Mourning Dove: Y B
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo: m 8 records in 1950s - 1970s, #
 Black-billed Cuckoo: Y m through 1970s, #
 Screech Owl: probably Y 12/20/60, CL and D. Strickland; 9/1/65,
 9/7/71, DS
 Snowy Owl: January 1954, PL, Walter McKim
 Barred Owl: 10/15/68, CL
 Long-eared Owl: 3/31/58, 4/19/64, 9/26/65?, DS; 10/15/68, CL
 Short-eared Owl: 10/7/54, 10/4/60, DS; 10/20/62 ? More open country
 then.
 Saw-whet Owl: 10/3/65, JD, DS, #; 4/16/68, JS; 10/2/68, CL; 10/15/76,
 MK; 10/30/77, J. Connor
 Whip-poor-will: 5/8/51, DS; heard in spring, most calls in May, BP;
 4/29/72, #
 Common Nighthawk: probably Y 1940s on, BP; 9/1/66 through 1970s, DS
 Chimney Swift: Y m most often May, #
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Y m s and f some high counts, 4/26/63, SI;

to 10/1/71, DS

Belted Kingfisher: Y m usually s 1/1/ , BS
Common Flicker: Y most months B often winters
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 11/20/71, DS Flew in front of me and landed
on dead birch
Red-headed Woodpecker: 10/22/62, SI; 4/20/63, DS; 2 on 9/24/67, #
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Y m s and f
Hairy Woodpecker: Y m s and f 8 of 15 years in winter
Downy Woodpecker: Y B resident
Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: 11/11/59, Ian Nesbit
Eastern Kingbird: Y s and f B, #
Western Kingbird 9/2/61, 9/25/62, DS; 9/25/63, DS, SI
Great Crested Flycatcher: Y s and f B (a few)
Eastern Phoebe: Y s m B (a few) f to 10/23/68, #
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Y m late s and f
Acadian Flycatcher: 6/8/62, DS; 5/30/63, JS; 5/30, 31/72, Ingalls, DS,
Jodrey, #; 6/3/77, MK, CB, SI; 6/6/77, 2 of spe-
cies at north and south gates, MK, CB; to 6/26/77,
MK, GS
Willow Flycatcher: m A few heard, DS
Alder Flycatcher: Y m late spring Many heard, DS
Least Flycatcher: Y m s and f (only twice) 9/14/69, 9/7/70 Now less
common.
Eastern Wood Pewee: Y s m a few f B?
Olive-sided Flycatcher: Y m s and a few f 10/6/53 to 11/12/63, DS
Horned Lark: 10/25/60, DS; 4/10/77, MK
Tree Swallow: Y m early s to 11/1/68, DS
Bank Swallow: Y in early 1950s, then only 4 of 12 years, #
Rough-winged Swallow: Y m in April B
Barn Swallow: Y m Feeds over pond.
Cliff Swallow: Y 1950s, Searle, DS; 6/2/63, 9/2/63, DS; 5/24/75 CB
Purple Martin: m 5/31/58, 4/29/60, 5/11/62, DS; 5/3/70, SI; 5/21/71,
BP; 6/3/77, MK
Blue Jay: Y B winters
Common Crow: Y B winters
Black-capped Chickadee: Y B winters
Boreal Chickadee: 10/25/61, DS
Tufted Titmouse: Y (now) 2/63, PL At feeder in winter.
White-breasted Nuthatch: Y B
Red-breasted Nuthatch: Y m winters
Brown Creeper: Y m B? winters
House Wren: Y m B
Winter Wren: Y m s and f 3 winter records, 12/31/68, 1/3/69, #
Carolina Wren: m s and f 8 records in 1960s, 2 on 8/29/60, Snows;
16 records to 5/10/75, MK
Long-billed Marsh Wren: 9/21/54, s and f m 5 records to 10/23/68, DS;
16 records to 5/10/75, MK; none later as
marsh near pond overgrown.
Short-billed Marsh Wren: 9/29/58, DS Seen and heard very close.
Mockingbird: 10/9/59, DS; then Y B? winters
Gray Catbird: Y m s and f B
Brown Thrasher: Y m B often winters
American Robin: Y m B often winters
Wood Thrush: Y m s and fewer f B?
Hermit Thrush: Y early m s and f a few winter records
Swainson's Thrush: Y m s and f

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Y m s and f less common
 Veery: Y m s and f B?
 Eastern Bluebird: 8/28/54, Searle and DS; 10/12/64, WP #
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Y m s and f 3 to 5 a day sometimes.
 Golden-crowned Kinglet: Y m s and f winters
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Y m s and f to 11/21/68 More common than other.
 Water Pipit: m rare 2/20/60, 10/5/60, 10/25/62, DS
 Cedar Waxwing: Y m s and f Feeds over pond.
 Northern Shrike: 10/19/60, 12/23/60, DS
 Loggerhead Shrike: 10/16/53, 9/18/64, DS
 Starling: all year, taking over nesting holes from native species
 White-eyed Vireo: Y m s and f B occasionally Records all one summer.
 Yellow-throated Vireo: 9/16/49, DS; m 14 of 18 years, usually f, #
 Solitary Vireo: Y s and f m to 10/27/68, CL
 Red-eyed Vireo: Y s and f m to 11/8/69, DS
 Philadelphia Vireo: Y m few s common f to 10/22/68, DS, #
 Warbling Vireo: Y m (1 or 2) 5/26/54, a number to 10/3/62, DS; 13 of
 15 years, #
 Black-and-white Warbler: Y m s and f B, #
 Prothonotary Warbler: 5/23/61, Stricklands; 8/30/62, CL; 6/3/67, DS;
 5/17 to 8/30/62, CL; 6/3/67, DS; 5/17/72 female, J. Kelly, DS;
 8/6/75; 5/19/77, A. Murphy; 5/20/77, CB, LM; 5/21, 22, 23/77, JS, BS,
 SI, MK, #; 5/26/77, #
 Worm-eating Warbler: 5/25, 26/54, DS; 7 records in 1960s, 1970s to
 8/16/75, #
 Golden-winged Warbler: Y m s and f to 9/16/68, CL; 1970s
 Blue-winged Warbler: Y m since 1960s s and f to 9/16/68, CL
 "Brewster's" Warbler: 5/21/62, SI, BP; 9/25/64, SI; 5/21/67, 10/5/67,
 DS, T. and C. Banes; 1970s?
 "Lawrence's" Warbler: 1956, D. Searle, DS
 Tennessee Warbler: Y m s and f to 10/6/68, CL
 Orange-crowned Warbler: Y m s and f (5 s, 11 f to 11/13/60), DS, SI
 Nashville Warbler: Y m from late 1940s - 1970s
 Northern Parula: y m s and f to 10/26/74
 Yellow Warbler: Y m s and f to 10/21/69, CL; B?
 Magnolia Warbler: Y m s and f to 10/17/68, #
 Cape May Warbler: Y m s and f to 10/13/68, #
 Black-throated Blue Warbler: s and f to 10/19/68; CL
 Yellow-rumped Warbler: Y m sometimes winters
 Black-throated Green Warbler: Y m to 10/31, #
 Cerulean Warbler: 5/?/65, WP, SI; 5/31/72, JS, DS
 Blackburnian Warbler: Y m s and f to 10/6/68, CL
 Yellow-throated Warbler: 5/18/54, DS, Searle; 9/13/66, WN
 Chestnut-sided Warbler: Y m s and f to 10/12/69
 Bay-breasted Warbler: Y m s and f (flock of 5 once, DS, #); to 10/5/68,
 CL
 Blackpoll Warbler: Y m s and f to 11/18/67, BS
 Pine Warbler: 1950s, DS; 1960, 61, 67, 68 (10/31/68), CL; 4/20/77,
 CB; 5 in 15 years after 1950s, RH
 Prairie Warbler: Y m s and f to 11/29/68 CL
 Palm Warbler: Y m s (Yellow) f (Western) to 10/31/68 CL
 Ovenbird: Y m s and f B?, #
 Northern Waterthrush: Y m s and f to 10/3/69 B?
 Louisiana Waterthrush: m 10/9/61, DS; 4/28/74, CB, MK
 Kentucky Warbler: 10/9/61, DS, SI; 5/9/64, Howard Rich; 5/9/75, MK;
 5/11/75, SI; 5/18/77 (adult female) MK; 5/22/77,

same bird, GS
 Connecticut Warbler: Y m f 1950s - 1977 Late date 10/6/73
 Mourning Warbler: Y m s and f Late date 10/14/71, DS
 Common Yellowthroat: Y m s and f Late date 11/30/69, CL
 Yellow-breasted Chat: Y m s and f; probably nested once, D. Searle
 Late dates 10/23/68, CL; 2/6/73, JS
 Hooded Warbler: m s and f 12 of 16 years, #; Late date 10/26/68, DS
 Wilson's Warbler: Y m, s & f Late date 10/6/68, CL
 Canada Warbler: Y m s & f Late date 10/17/71, DS
 American Redstart: Y m, s & f. Breeds. Late date 11/1/69, DS
 House Sparrow: in sanctuary all year.
 Bobolink: 9/4/58, DS and Y m calling over pond DS # Late date 9/24/72, DS
 Eastern Meadowlark: 3 of 12 years to 1971, CL, BP
 Red-Winged Blackbird: Y m, early s, and f; B in upper Maple Swamp
 Orchard Oriole: Y m s & f, pair 5/18-26/69, # DS
 Northern Oriole: Y m, s & f to 11/27/69, DS, B
 Rusty Blackbird: Y m, s & f to 10/12/69, CL
 Common Grackle: M s & f, B, winters
 Brown-headed Cowbird: Y m, s & f, B
 Western Tanager: 8/20, 9/1, 11/9/57, BP, DS, Searle; 8/14/60, DS,
 9/5/66 WP; 5/12/69 Cyr & Garrett; 8/16/72 J.S., DS,
 SI; pair in 68 # DS
 Scarlet Tanager: Y m, s & f to 10/23/68 CL. B?
 Summer Tanager: 11/9/57, BP & DS, 5/21/62 DS, SI; 5/19 & 8/18/63 DS
 10/7/67 DS 8/6/72 J.S.
 Cardinal: 11/16/57, P. Lord Y from 60's on, winters, 2-3 pairs B
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak; Y m, s & f. B
 Indigo Bunting: M, s & f. Not common
 Dickcissel: 9/2/54 DS, 9/28/63 DS, 10/12/64; only 5 records in 60's
 Evening Grosbeak: 13 of 15 years, s and winter; flock of 17 on
 4/21/77 MK
 Purple Finch: Y, s m; 15 records on 14 years. Winters
 House Finch: Every year since Feb. '63, P. Lord
 Pine Grosbeak: 10/13/57 DS, 10/19/60 DS, s & f m 64-69 incl.;
 11/9/70 DS, 1973; 5/29/73 CB#, and 10/18/73 DS
 Common Redpoll; M s & f, 12 of 17 years
 Pine Siskin: 50's DS, M s & f, 12 of 17 years, 3 January records #
 American Goldfinch: Y m s f, Winters
 Red Crossbill: M s f, Winters, 10 of 15 years, and 10/1/72 (striped
 young, DS)
 White-winged Crossbill: 50's, DS, and s, f, winter, 9 of 16 years in
 60's, 2-70's
 Rufous-sided Towhee: Y m s f winters, B
 Savannah Sparrow: Y m, s & f, to 10/15/62 DS
 Grasshopper Sparrow: M 5/15/61 Searles; 10/11/62, SI
 Henslow's Sparrow: 8/10/60, DS
 Sharptailed Sparrow: 9/29/61 DS#, 5/23/66 BP
 Seaside Sparrow: 9/21/68, CL
 Vesper Sparrow: M 50's, DS#; '62 DS & Searles, 4/26/70, SI; None reported
 since
 Lark Sparrow: 9/28/54 DS & Searles; 5/5/68, Tom Martin
 Dark-eyed Junco; Y m, s & f, winters
 Tree Sparrow: Y s & f m; winters
 Chipping Sparrow: Y m, s & f; 12 found on 10/13/68 CL
 Clay-colored Sparrow: 9/23/59, DS, seen and heard; 9/29/61, DS
 Field Sparrow: Y s f m, 1 winter record, 1/19/63, DS

White-crowned Sparrow: Y m, s & f to 11/11/70, B. Skinner #
White-throated Sparrow: Y m, s & f, winters
Fox Sparrow: Y m s & f, 5 winter records
Lincoln's Sparrow: Y m s & f; not uncommon
Swamp Sparrow: Y m, s & f, wintered twice
Song Sparrow: Y m s & f, often winters, B?
Lapland Longspur: 10/10/53, Searle
Snow Bunting: Flock 10/30/68 DS; 11/29/69 CL; PL 12/31/73 and
1/4/74

OBSERVERS:

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CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

The Greater Boston Christmas Count will be held on Sunday, December 17th. Anyone interested in participating in this count can contact Bob Stymeist, 46 Beaver Street, Waltham, MA 02154 (891-7313).

The Newburyport Christmas Count will be held on Saturday, December 23rd. Anyone interested in participating in this count can contact Rick Heil, 20 MacArthur Circle, Peabody, MA 01960 (531-7790).

It should be noted that there is a mandatory participant fee of \$1.50 per count.

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By Appointment

SCAUP IDENTIFICATION

by Tad Lawrence, Cambridge

The following is a collection of some points of scaup identification, which for many people, including myself, is often difficult in the field. Much, if not all, of the information will not be new, but together may help alleviate this nagging field problem.

Scaup breed and raise their seven to 11 young from Alaska southeasterly across western Canada and southward into the Dakotas. Within this area the Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*) is restricted to Alaska and northwestern Canada, while the Lesser Scaup's (*Aythya affinis*) range covers the southern area and overlaps in part of northwestern Canada and central Alaska.

In New England both species generally arrive in September and remain into April. In addition to wintering from Maine to North Carolina, the Greater Scaup is also present along the Pacific coast. The Lesser Scaup winters along all the coasts of the United States from Massachusetts south, including Mexico and much of Central America. As a result, the Greater Scaup is the more common species in New England waters, but both occur and a diligent search can often produce a Lesser. Sider's Pond behind the Falmouth Town Hall is a good place to see and to compare both species.

The field mark that I find most helpful is the extent of white in the wing, although not a certain indicator of species, a highly reliable clue. In the Greater Scaup, the white of the speculum extends along the first six or seven primaries. The Lesser Scaup, on the other hand, has no white on the primaries even though the inner three may appear pale gray. I feel that this field mark is reliable, but unfortunately only in flight.

When the birds are sitting on the water, the best field mark is the relatively strongly vermiculated sides of the Lesser, which give the bird a much grayer appearance than the Greater. Another helpful mark is the shape and color of the head. The Greater has a rounded head, while the Lesser's head often appears squarer and is much more like that of a Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*). As for the head color, both species appear dark, almost blackish. However, in proper light, the head of the Greater will have a greenish sheen and the Lesser a purplish one. From my experience, a bird with a green sheen is always a Greater, but one with a purple sheen is not always a Lesser. Some excellent birders, however, will contend that the head color is readily observable and diagnostic.

One of the best field identification aids is the larger size of the Greater, assuming that comparisons are available. In addition, the bill size and character (a good specimen identification aid) can also be helpful occasionally. The Greater's bill is thicker and larger, particularly at the base. The nail shows similar proportions. Some say that the Greater has a thicker neck, but I have never found this useful.

Another often mentioned identification aid that I find misleading is that Greater Scaups frequent large lakes and salt water, while the Lessers use small ponds. This seems to be the case on the breeding grounds, but in New England both can be found on small ponds until they freeze and then both can be found on salt water. As a result, location is not very helpful.

The following list summarizes the primary field marks in the order that I consider most useful:

Greater Scaup

More white in wing

Slightly vermiculated,
whitish sides

Greenish head sheen and
roundish head

Larger size

Heavier bill

Lesser Scaup

Less white in wing

Vermiculated, grayer appearing
sides

Purplish and squarer head

Smaller size

Lighter bill

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ANNOUNCING:

WHERE TO FIND BIRDS IN EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

Bird Observer announces the forthcoming publication of the first book of its kind for Massachusetts. This 160-page, soft-cover volume contains 34 articles, most of which have previously appeared in Bird Observer. All articles have been revised and updated, however, and many are accompanied by new, more-detailed maps.

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Provincetown
Westport-Dartmouth

Compiled, revised and edited by Leif J. Robinson and Robert H. Stymeist, with the assistance of the staff of Bird Observer, this book will be a valuable addition to any birder's library. If you've subscribed to Bird Observer since its inception, the book will update your knowledge and, conveniently kept in the glove compartment of your car, will prove a handy reference on birding trips. If you're a recent subscriber to Bird Observer, the book will introduce you to a number of birding areas in the eastern half of the state. This volume will also make an excellent gift for anyone interested in birds.

Where to Find Birds in Eastern Massachusetts will be available in early December. It will retail for \$4.00, but until February 15, 1979, Bird Observer subscribers may order as many as they wish for only \$3.00 per copy, plus 5% sales tax for Massachusetts residents.

Orders placed now will be mailed in early December. Use the handy order form inserted in this issue.

LESS CONFUSING FALL WARBLERS

THE ANSWERS

See Vol. 6, No. 4, pg. 121 for the quiz submitted by Pat Fox, and Charlotte Wyman.

- 1) Nashville
- 2) Yellowthroat
- 3) Connecticut
- 4) Yellow
- 5) Magnolia
- 6) Chestnut-sided
- 7) Black-throated Green
- 8) Blackburnian
- 9) Palm
- 10) Bay-breasted
- 11) Tennessee
- 12) Cape May
- 13) Pine
- 14) Canada
- 15) Blackpoll
- 16) Kentucky
- 17) Parula
- 18) Wilson's
- 19) Black-throated Green and Blackburnian
- 20) Black-throated Blue



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THE BREEDING BIRD SEASON, 1978

June was delightfully sunny and dry with comfortable, near normal temperatures. The highest temperature was 89° on the 28th, with the lowest temperature of 52° on the 14th and 15th. Rain totaled only 1.53". Fog was frequent early in the month and again in the latter part, with heavy fog on the 20th and 21st.

July weather was nearly a carbon copy of June, being sunny and dry with cool comfortable temperatures. The mercury averaged 72.1°, 1.2° below normal and 2.8° lower than the hot July of 1977. The 19th-23rd was a five-day stretch with 90° or higher each day, culminating with a high 99° on the 23rd. July 4, or Independence Day, was truly remarkable weather-wise. Rain fell each hour; this was the first 4th with no sunshine since 1941. The temperature rose only to 60°, the lowest maximum on this holiday in 107 years on record. Rain totaled only 1.48", with .81" on the 4th.

On June 17, the 2nd Greater Boston Breeding Bird Count (GBBBC) was held. The area covered is the same as the annual Christmas Bird Count. More on this will follow in an upcoming Bird Observer.

LOONS

Common Loon:

6/4,16	Off Chatham, Mamomet	10,11	BBC(HD'E)
			RSH
7/3,18	P.I., Barnstable(S.N.)	5,12	JWB, MFL, BAL

Red-throated Loon:

6/4	Off Chatham	3	BBC(HD'E)
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TUBENOSES

Once again, as last year, huge concentrations of tubenoses were noted on Georges Bank during June, this time closely affiliated with local American and Canadian cod and haddock fishing operations present on the northern edge. Because of these enormous but local gatherings around such easily obtainable food, pelagics can seem quite uncommon elsewhere on Georges. The question as to whether these concentrations would occur in the absence of a fishing fleet remains unsolved. Note the estimate of 8000+ Northern Fulmar from the northern edge of Georges on June 11th (95% light phase), as this species continues to increase in the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank. Sooty Shearwaters were unusually abundant in inshore waters during early June. A count of 1450 made off Chatham from a BBC boat trip June 14th may be the largest number ever recorded from New England coastal waters. North-east winds and rain on July 4th brought numbers of shearwaters and Gannets to Cape Cod Bay, and smaller numbers were observed streaming east past Race Pt., Provincetown, under northwest winds on the 5th. Wilson's Storm-Petrels were particularly scarce this year, with no large concentrations noted.

Northern Fulmar:

6/4,9	Off Chatham, Stellwagen Bank	5,3	BBC(HD'E)
			JG
6/11	Off Gloucester, Georges Bank (N.edge)	2, <u>8000+</u>	MJK#, RRV

Cory's Shearwater:				
6/14	75 mi.s.of Nantucket	4		RRV
Greater Shearwater:				
6/4,9	Off Chatham,Stellwagen Bank	500,3		BBC(HD'E),JG
6/7,11	N.edge of Georges Bank	<u>21,600,</u>		RRV
		<u>50,000+</u>		
7/4,5	Barnstable(S.N.),Province	<u>2000+</u> ,		RFP,RSH & B.A.
	Provincetown	500+		Shockey
7/1,9,16	Off Gloucester	35,40,166		JG,EP#,HD'E
Sooty Shearwater:				
6/4,4,7	Off Chatham;Monomoy,Georges	<u>1450;15,</u>		BBC(HD'E)
	Bank	<u>14,400</u>		RRV
6/9,11	Stellwagen Bank,off Glou-	15,8		JG#,MJK#
	cester			
6/10,24	Barnstable(S.N.)	40,7		MFL,BAL
7/4,5	Barnstable(S.N.),Province-	100,35		RFP,RSH & MPS
	town (Race Pt.)			
7/9,16	Off Gloucester	3,25		EP#,HD'E
Manx Shearwater:				
6/4,7-10	Off Chatham,Georges Bank	3,1-3		BBC(HD'E),RRV
	(north edge)			
6/11	Off Gloucester	1		MJK,SG#
7/4	Manomet Pt.,Rockport,Barn-	2,3,5+		WRP,GLS#,RFP
	stable (S.N.)			
7/5,9	Provincetown(Race Pt.),off	2,4		RSH#,EP & SG
	Gloucester			
7/16,30	Off Gloucester,P.I.	1,2		HD'E,GLS#
Leach's Storm Petrel:				
6/7-11	N.edge Georges Bank	4-5		RRV
Wilson's Storm Petrel:				
6/4,7-11	Off Chatham,Georges Bank	100,1000		BBC(HD'E),RRV
	(N.edge)			
7/1,4	Off Gloucester,Barnstable	3,4		JG,GAW#
	(S.N.)			
7/5,16	Provincetown(Race Pt.),off	6,50		RSH#,HD'E
	Gloucester			
Gannet:				
6/4	Off Chatham	30		BBC(HD'E)
7/4	Manomet Pt.,Barnstable	15,50+,35		WRP,RFP,GLS#
	(S.N.),Rockport			
7/5	Eastham,Provincetown(Race	19 sub-ads,		
	Pt.)	3		RSH & MPS
Double-crested Cormorant:				
6/17,21	Greater Boston,Woods Hole	71,70+		GBBBC,RSH
7/10	P.I.	70		BBC(GLS)

HERONS

The following table reports the estimates of nesting pairs of herons on House Is., Manchester (R,A,Forster), and an actual count of nests by Dr. William Davis and Link Smith, in their study of the heronry on Clark's Is., Duxbury:

	House Is.	Clark's Is.
Little Blue Heron	10	2
Cattle Egret	10	0 (approx.6 pair last year)
Great Egret	1	10
Snowy Egret	250	241
Black-crowned Night Heron	400	203
Glossy Ibis	65	20

Apparently Cattle Egrets did not return to nest at Clark's Island this year, as they have done annually in recent breeding seasons. Likewise, Louisiana Herons were not found nesting at House Is. this year, the site of the first state nesting record in 1976. However, Louisianas frequenting some of the Boston Harbor islands were suspected of nesting in the vicinity. Stage Is. Pool, near the south end of P.I., appears to be a staging area for Snowy Egrets at dusk, after which the birds fly 10 miles south to the House Is. colony. Last summer postbreeding birds and young of the year gathered in large numbers each evening to roost in the Hellcat North Pool, P.I., where they apparently spend the night.

Great Blue Heron:

June	5 localities	13 individuals	v.o.
July	4 localities	6 individuals	v.o.

Green Heron:

7/2,23	Bolton, Concord (GMNWR)	4,2	BBC(HLM), BBC(GWG)
thr. July	P.I.	7	BBC(PA)#

Little Blue Heron:

6/23	P.I.	1 imm.	RMB#
7/10-31	P.I.	1 ad.	BBC(GLS)#
7/12,29	Scituate(Third Cliff), E. Boston	1 ad., 1 imm.	WRP, CJ & SZ

Cattle Egret:

6/17,30	Topsfield, Manchester	1-2,4	GD'E#, HTW
thr. June	Ipswich	max.10	JWB
7/4,7,14	Topsfield, Marshfield, Rehobeth	6,3,14	SZ, WRP, RMB
7/18,31	Topsfield, Marshfield	19,5	WRP, RKW

Great Egret:

6/3,17	P.I., Ipswich	1,2	EP, BBC(JWB)
7/1,2	Annisquam, Middleboro	1,1	HTW, WRP & KSA
7/10-29	P.I.	max.7	RPE#

Snowy Egret:

6/17	Ipswich	30+	BBC(JWB)
6/17,26	P.I.	20,24	GD'E, BBC(SDH)
7/3,10	P.I.	40,85	JWB, BBC(GLS)
7/17,18	P.I.(Stage Is. Pool)	250-300, 370	WRP#, GWG
7/29	E. Boston, Rowley	90,68	SZ, RHS#
7/30	Monomoy, W. Bridgewater	20,1	BBC(CJ), WRP
7/31	Brookfield	1 imm.	BB

Louisiana Heron:

6/3-17;20,26	Squantum; P.I.	1;1,1	JG#; S.Hockman, BBC(SDH)
7/3,20	Monomoy	1,2	J.Fisk, V.Laux

7/3-31,21	P.I.,Rowley	1-2,1	v.o.,HTW
Black-crowned Night Heron:			
6/3,17	Plymouth,Greater Boston	20,59	BBC(HD'E),GBBBC
7/10,24	P.I.	7,12	BBC(GLS),BBC(SDH)
7/15	Concord (GMNWR)	4	RKW
Yellow-crowned Night Heron:			
July	Eastham,Wellfleet(WBWS)	2 imm.,1	DF
7/3,5,17	Bernardston,Ipswich,P.I.	1,2 ad., 1 ad.	L.Mullen,Mr.&Mrs.RMc BBC(Olivers)
Least Bittern:			
6/17,23	P.I.	1,2	GD'E#,RMB#
7/3,9,15,31;24	P.I.	singles;2	v.o.;GWG
7/15	Concord(GMNWR)	1	RKW
American Bittern:			
6/12,25	W.Newbury,Ipswich	1,1	GLS#,MM
7/1,23	Brookfield,Milton(FM)	2,2	W.Kenney,BBC(MD)
Glossy Ibis:			
6/1,11,17	Marshfield,W.Bridgewater, P.I.	10,11,10	E.Mattie,WRP, BBC(GD'E)
6/12,26	Nantucket,P.I.	1,13	GC,HC,BBC(SDH)
7/16,21	P.I.	46,40-50	RRV,RSH
7/29;30	Rowley,E.Boston;Halifax	6,17;10	RHS#,CJ#;WRP

WATERFOWL

Brant:			
6/3,10	Plymouth,Marion(Bird Is.)	1,1	BBC(HD'E),RAF#
6/12	Monomoy	4	RSH
7/12,28	Plymouth,Duxbury	1,1	RSH
thr.July	Monomoy	1	v.o.
Gadwall:			
6/11,17,26	Concord(GMNWR),Ipswich,P.I.	4,6,20	BBC(MD),BBC(JWB), BBC(SDH)
7/10	P.I.	40	BBC(GLS)
Pintail:			
6/20	P.I.	2 m.	S.Hockman
Green-winged Teal:			
6/17,26	Concord(GMNWR),P.I.	2,7	BBC(AC),BBC(SDH)
7/10,31	P.I.	2,7	BBC(GLS)#
7/29	Concord(GMNWR)	6	BBC(EWT)
Blue-winged Teal:			
6/15,17	P.I.,Concord(GMNWR)	20,2	RSH,BBC(AC)
7/2;10,17	Middleboro;P.I.	1;10,20	WRP#;BBC(GLS), BBC(HLJ)
7/29,30	Concord(GMNWR),W.Bridgewater	4,1	BBC(EWT),WRP
American Wigeon:			
7/17	P.I.	1	GWG
Northern Shoveller:			
6/26	P.I.	2	BBC(SDH)
7/17	P,I,	2	GWG
Wood Duck:			
6/17	Concord(GMNWR)	6+ ads., 40 young	BBC(AC)
7/16,23	Concord(GMNWR)	14 ads. & 17 yg.	BBC(BC),BBC(GWG)

7/15,18	Lynnfield,Woburn(Horn Pond)	f. & 6 yg.,RHS,GWG f. & 7 yg.	
Oldsquaw:			
7/5,8	Scituate(Third Cliff)	1	WRP
thr. July	Chatham(Stage Harbor)	2	v.o.
Common Eider:			
7/6	Duxbury Beach	<u>250</u> sub-ads.	RSH
7/29	Winthrop,Gloucester	29,4	CJ & SZ,JWB
White-winged Scoter:			
6/4,17	Monomoy,Squantum	1,4	RRV & MJL,GBBBC
7/29	Gloucester	8-10	JWB
Surf Scoter:			
7/1,12	Buzzards Bay,Plymouth	6,8	WRP,RSH
Black Scoter:			
7/4,12,29	Rockport,Plymouth, Gloucester	2,9,20	GLS#,RSH,JWB
Ruddy Duck:			
thr. July	P.I.	3+ nesting prs.	v.o.
Red-breasted Merganser:			
6/11,17,23	Monomoy,Squantum,Ipswich	11,1,1	RSH#,DTB,JN
7/30	Monomoy	4 ad. & <u>1 downy yg.</u>	BBC(CJ)
	(first recent breeding record for Massachusetts)		

VULTURES, HAWKS, EAGLES

Turkey Vultures were much in evidence during June and July, when a total of 14 individuals was reported, this undoubtedly being a continuation of the excellent flight observed this spring. The discovery of two nesting pairs of Cooper's Hawks, one from Stow, and a nest with three young in Lancaster, was exceptional and represents the only recent confirmed breeding records for the state. Unlike Goshawks, Cooper's Hawks don't defend the nest site, but tend to be extremely shy and retiring, often slipping off the nest before they can be seen by an approaching observer. Considering this elusiveness around the nest site, it is quite likely that Cooper's Hawk nests may have gone undetected in Massachusetts in the past. Sightings of individual Cooper's of unreported age came from Horn Pond, Woburn, and Annisquam. Marsh Hawks are mostly restricted to offshore islands such as Nantucket, the Vineyard, Monomoy, Nomans Land, and the Elizabeth Islands, as breeders; however, a pair may be resident in W. Newbury, and a male harrier was seen engaging in aerial courtship display several times in S. Wellfleet (WBWS). Two immature Bald Eagles and an immature Golden Eagle, all at coastal localities, were sighted during June and July.

Turkey Vulture:			
6/1,10,11,14	Hingham,Webster,Princeton, Lincoln	singles	BT,JJC,HLM, F.Walkey
6/16,24	Marston's Mills,Manomet; Medfield	1,3,3	PT,MBO staff, JHM
7/2,11	Canton,Bolton;Norwell	singles	WRP,BBC(HLM),WRP
Goshawk:			
thr. June	Framingham,Boxford	nest w/2 yg., nesting pair	RAF,v.o.
6/11	Princeton	1	HLM
7/6,11	Concord(GMNWR),Concord	1 ad.,1	WRP,PRB

Cooper's Hawk:			
6/6 thr. July	Lancaster	<u>nest with 3 yg.</u>	HLM
June-July	Stow	<u>nesting pair</u>	M, Olmstead
7/11	Annisquam	1	HTW
Red-tailed Hawk:			
thr. June	14 localities	20 individuals	v.o.
Red-shouldered Hawk:			
6/4;10	Littleton; Webster, Annisquam	1 imm.; 1,2	JB:JJC,HTW
6/11	Plymouth, Princeton	1,2	JJC,HLM
7/2	Ipswich, E. Brimfield, Bolton	singles	JWB,RAF,BBC(HLM)
Broad-winged Hawk:			
6/17	Greater Boston	10	GBBBC
thr. June	6 localities	12 individuals	v.o.
7/2	<u>Monomoy</u>	1 imm.	BN,CAG,V.Laux
Golden Eagle:			
6/24	Yarmouthport dump	1 imm.	ICTN
Bald Eagle:			
6/7	Clark's Is., Duxbury	1 imm.	RSH
7/25	Wellfleet	1 imm.	CAG
Marsh Hawk:			
thr. July	S. Wellfleet (WBWS)	pair	WVB
7/19,30	Marshfield, Monomoy	1 f., 1	WRP,BBC(CJ)
Osprey:			
6/3,10	Plymouth, Saugus	1,1	BBC(HD'E),CJ
6/11,15,21	W. Bridgewater, Newburyport	singles	WRP,RSH,BB
	Boston		
7/15-16	Cohasset	1	AAT

GROUSE AND RAILS

Ruffed Grouse:			
6/17,24	Hingham, Lancaster	1 ad. + sev'1 yg., 1 f. + 5 yg.	R. Campbell, HLM
6/27	Foxboro	1 ad. + 8 yg.	RMB
Bobwhite:			
thr. June	Manomet, Westwood	6+, 4	RSH, JJC
6/13,17	Sharon, <u>Lancaster</u>	1,2	RMB, HLM
Virginia Rail:			
thr. June, 17	S. Wellfleet (WBWS), Concord (GMNWR)	1,3	DF#, BBC(AC & NC)
6/17,24	Rowley	1 dead, 1	JWB
7/5,16	Woburn (Horn Pond), P.I.	1, 3 calling	GWG, GLS#
7/29	Concord (GMNWR)	1 ad. & 3 yg.	BBC(EWT)
Sora:			
6/11	W. Bridgewater	3	WRP
7/7	P.I.	3 ads. & 1 juv. banded	JWB#
7/30	W. Bridgewater	2	WRP
Common Gallinule:			
7/3,17	P.I., Concord (GMNWR)	3-4 ads., 3-4 yg., 3	JWB; RKW
American Coot:			
7/29	P.I.	4 ads. + sev'1 yg.	RPE#

SHOREBIRDS

American Oystercatchers were noted in usual numbers at Monomoy, with at least 3-4 pairs having nested on the island. Although Oystercatchers were observed at several localities north of Monomoy (Nauset, S. Wellfleet, Duxbury), none were proven breeders. No reports were received concerning the populations at Nantucket, Tuckernuck, or Martha's Vineyard. Although last February's brutal storm played havoc with beach and coastal dwellings, it also provided ideal nesting habitat for Piping Plover and Least Tern. Broad, sandy, washed-over areas where much of the beach rose and dune grass vegetation has been killed can be found at Monomoy, many places on the Outer Cape, Duxbury, Plymouth, Scituate, and the south end of P.I., to name a few. As a result of this increased habitat these two species appeared to have had a successful breeding season this summer. Almost annual now is the appearance of Wilson's Plover in late May/early June. Two sightings occurred this year, both on June 3: one at Nauset, and another on Plymouth Beach which remained until the following day. Higher than usual numbers of basic plumaged Black-bellied Plover were present on Monomoy and P.I. in late June and during July, perhaps indicative of a successful breeding season last year. Willets continue to increase locally with three pairs defending territory on Monomoy, and one or two pairs again exhibiting territoriality at Plum Bush, Newburyport, as they did last year. Despite this, they are still unconfirmed as breeders at the latter location, even though their defensive behavior strongly suggests nesting. Willets built up to a maximum of 22 on Monomoy in late July. Lesser Yellowlegs and most Calidris shorebirds were generally a week or more behind schedule, possibly due to the late spring reported, and what was said to be a poor breeding season in some arctic regions this year. Relative counts of juveniles in August and September should confirm or disprove this belief. An excellent count of 2200 Short-billed Dowitchers was made at Newburyport on July 18, and sizeable flocks were also encountered at Plymouth and Monomoy, during what was considered to be one of the best flights in years. Birders are cautioned to use care in identifying July and early August Long-billed Dowitchers, since the L.g.hendersoni race of the Short-billed Dowitchers also has the orange color of the underparts extending fully to the undertail coverts. However, unlike Long-billeds, this race lacks barring on the sides of the upper breast, has a more golden-appearing dorsum, and has call notes identical to those of the nominate Short-billed Dowitchers. The hendersoni race represents 2-4% of our July dowitchers. Two authentic, early Long-billed Dowitchers were discovered at Hellcat, South Pool, P.I., on July 18, and 3 adults were present there on the 21st. Only one adult Western Sandpiper was found during the period, at Scituate July 22-24. Following the best spring flight ever, late, lingering White-rumped Sandpipers were found at several localities, and numbered 11 individuals. The shorebird highlight of the period was a Black-necked Stilt, which made a brief appearance on Nantucket on the 12th of June.

American Oystercatcher:

thr. June-July	Monomoy, Nauset	12+ads. & 3 chicks, max, 5	BN#
6/4, 30	Duxbury Beach, S. Wellfleet (WBWS)	2, 2	G. Wood, WWB
7/3, 30	Nantucket, Duxbury	2, 1	FB, RKW#

Semipalmated Plover:			
7/5,16,17	Scituate,Newburyport Barnstable(S.N.)	3,8,30	WRP,RRV,MFL,BAL
7/24,30	P.I.,Monomoy	25,200	BBC(SDH),BBC(CJ)
7/31	Duxbury;New Is.,Nauset	28;135	RKW;PT
Piping Plover;			
6/4,11,24	Plymouth,Monomoy,Ipswich	10,8 prs.	SSBC(MJB),RSH, BBC(JN)
		1 chick & 1 nest	
7/5,10	Scituate;P.I.	12;6+ads.,2 yg.	WRP;v.o.
thr.July	Monomoy	50	v.o.
7/18,24	Barnstable(S.N.),Ipswich	12,16	BAL,MFL,JWB
Wilson's Plover:			
6/3,3-4	Nauset,Plymouth Beach	1,1	BN & PT, WRP, HD'E#
Killdeer:			
6/17,29	Rowley,Westboro	2 ads.& nest,16-18 ads.	JWB,MD
7/10,17	P.I.	10,15	BBC(GLS),BBC(HLJ)
7/16,30	Concord(GMNWR),W.Bridgewater Halifax	20,66	BBC(BC),WRP
American Golden Plover:			
7/6,12	Duxbury,Plymouth	1,1(both basic)	RSH
7/23	Monomoy	1 (alt.plu.)	CJ
Black-bellied Plover:			
6/4,11,15	Monomoy,Newburyport	8,60 basic,4	RRV,RSH,RSH
7/22,23	Duxbury,Monomoy	45,200	RKW,CJ
7/31	New Is.,Nauset;Duxbury	25;31	PT;RKW
Ruddy Turnstone:			
6/3,4,23	Plymouth,Monomoy,Ipswich	8,30,4	BBC(HD'E),RRV,JN
7/3,30	Monomoy	25,25	GWG,BBC(CJ)
7/29	Winthrop,P.I.	10,5	CJ,RPE#
American Woodcock:			
7/1,2	Holliston,Bolton	1,1	J.Marshfield, BBC(HLM)
7/10,18	P.I.,Barnstable	2,1	GLS,GAW#
Common Snipe:			
6/3	Whitman	2	WRP
7/26,30	Concord(GMNWR),W.Bridgewater	1,1	MJL,WRP
Whimbrel:			
7/3,9,29	P.I.	24;1,2	BBC(GLS);RMB
7/23,30;24	Monomoy;Ipswich	3,3;1	BBC(CJ);JWB
Upland Sandpiper:			
6/17-25,19	Newburyport,Lancaster	2,1	NBK#,HLM
6/27-on	Marshfield	pair nesting	WRP
7/10-31	Newburyport	4 ads.& 5 juvs.	v.o.
7/30	Halifax,Framingham	2,1	WRP,RAF
Spotted Sandpiper:			
7/16;29	Concord(GMNWR);Woburn	9,7;5	BBC(BC),BBC(EWT); GWG
thr,July	7 localities	13 individuals	v.o.
Solitary Sandpiper:			
7/3,16,25	S.Peabody,Concord(GMNWR), Woburn	1,5,4	RSH,BBC(BC),GWG
7/29,30	Concord(GMNWR),W.Bridgewater	7,15	RAF,WRP

Willet:				
thr. June	Monomoy	max. 11		RSH#
		(3 territorial prs.)		
6/21,25	Barnstable(S.N.), Newburyport	2,3-4		RFP,HLM
7/2-24,16	Newburyport(Plum Bush), P.I.			
		1-2 territorial prs., 1		v.o., JG#
7/6;13,27	Duxbury; Monomoy	1;7,22		RSH;RRV,RSH
Greater Yellowlegs:				
6/20,26	S. Dartmouth, P.I.	1,8		RPE#,BBC(SDH)
7/23,30	Monomoy	1,20		RRV#,CJ#
7/10,16	Newburyport	15,20		GLS#,RRV#
Lesser Yellowlegs:				
6/26,29	P.I., Westboro	2,1		BBC(SDH),MD
7/13,18,30	Newburyport	740,500,850		RSH,WRP,RSH
7/14,29	Concord(GMNWR)	3,15		RKW,RAF
Red Knot:				
6/4	Monomoy	50		RRV,MJL
7/30,31	Monomoy, New Is., Nauset	220,2200		CJ,PT
7/30	P.I.	40		RSH
Pectoral Sandpiper:				
7/16-on,21	Concord(GMNWR), P.I.	2-9,2		v.o., RSH
White-rumped Sandpiper:				
6/4,10,15	Monomoy, Marion, P.I.	1,1,9		RRV#,RAF#,RSH
7/31	New Is., Nauset	3		PT
Least Sandpiper:				
7/14-on	Concord(GMNWR)	21-105		v.o.
7/16-on	Newburyport	200+		v.o.
Dunlin:				
7/18-30,27	P.I., Monomoy	2,1		WRP#,RSH
Short-billed Dowitcher:				
7/18;26,27	Newburyport; Plymouth, Monomoy	2200;870,1500		WRP;RSH
Long-billed Dowitcher:				
7/18,21	P.I.	2 alt. plu. ads., 3		WRP,RSH
Stilt Sandpiper:				
7/3-29	P.I.	max. 53 (7/23)		WRP,RAF#
7/16,29	Rowley, Concord(GMNWR)	3,1		RSH,RAF
Semipalmated Sandpiper:				
6/3,4	Plymouth, Monomoy	70,300		BBC(HD'E),RRV#
7/2,5	P.I., Scituate	1,1		RRV,WRP
7/30;31	Newburyport, Monomoy; New Is.	2000,500; 400		RSH,CJ;PT
Western Sandpiper:				
7/22,24	Scituate	1 ad.		WRP
Marbled Godwit:				
7/16,30	Monomoy	1		v.o.
Hudsonian Godwit:				
7/8-on	P.I., -Newburyport	max. 53 (7/31)		SG#
7/3-on,12	Monomoy, Scituate	max. 70+, 3		v.o., WRP#
Ruff:				
7/16,22	P.I., Duxbury	1 basic m., 1		RSH#,RKW
Sanderling:				
6/4	Monomoy	125		RRV,MJL
7/24,29	Ipswich, Concord(GMNWR)	250+, 1		JWB,RAF

Black-necked Stilt:

6/12	Nantucket(Quaise)	1	Wesley Tiffany
<u>Wilson's Phalarope:</u>			
7/3-21	P.I.	1-2	GLS
7/23-29	Concord(GMNWR)	1	BC#
<u>Northern Phalarope:</u>			
7/9	Off Gloucester	4	EP,SG

JAEGERS AND SKUAS

Fourteen Pomarine Jaegers were encountered on the BBC boat trip off Chatham on June 4, a surprising total for coastal waters. An adult Long-tailed Jaeger was carefully observed for thirty minutes, as it occasionally pursued a Wilson's Storm Petrel on the southeast part of Georges Bank June 7. During June, five or six South Polar Skuas (Catharacta maccormickii) were identified on Georges Bank; all were described as being uniformly colored (i.e., no pale edging or shaft streaks in body plumage) with pronounced pale nuchal collars, diagnostic in itself of C.maccormickii.

Pomarine Jaeger:

6/4,22	Off Chatham,9 mi.SW of Gay Head	<u>14</u> ,1 ad.	BBC(HD'E),RSH
7/4	Barnstable (S.N.)	3	RFP
<u>Parasitic Jaeger:</u>			
6/4,24	Off Chatham,Barnstable	3,1	BBC(HD'E),MFL,BAL
7/1	Barnstable(S.N.),Scusset	5,1	RRV#,WRP
7/4,31	P.I.(s.end)	1,3	RMB#,SG
7/11	Scituate	1	WRP
<u>Long-tailed Jaeger:</u>			
6/7	S.E.part of Georges Bank	1 ad.	RRV
<u>South Polar Skua: (Catharacta maccormickii)</u>			
6/7-13	Georges Bank	<u>5-6+</u>	RRV
<u>Skua sp.</u>			
6/7-13,27	Georges Bank,10 mi.S.W. of Martha's Vineyard	2-5,1	RRV,V.Laux

GULLS, TERNS, ALCIDS

The Laughing Gull colony at the north end of Monomoy Island has increased in number and extent in recent years, and was estimated to contain 300 nesting pairs this summer. The presence of summering, sub-adult Black-legged Kittiwakes on Monomoy is a recent phenomenon of the last four or five years. Many of these birds apparently don't survive the entire summer, as several mortalities in past years have indicated.

The following table contains estimates of breeding pairs of birds at two major ternaries in the state: Bird Island, Marion, and Monomoy Island, Chatham. Included are approximate figures for the number of young successfully fledged per pair (I.C.T.Nisbet).

Bird Island,Marion

Common Tern	500 pairs	1.9 yg./pair
Roseate Tern	1290 pairs	1.5 yg./pair

Monomoy Island, Chatham

Common Tern	1900 pairs	0.8 yg./pair
Roseate Tern	290 pairs	1.2 yg./pair
Arctic Tern	15 pairs	0.2 yg./pair

A portlandica (one-year-old) Common Tern was observed on Monomoy June 12; portlandica Commons normally summer in the winter quarters, so this is quite unusual to occur in the Northeast. Portlandica Arctic Terns, on the other hand, regularly summer in the vicinity of the adult breeding colonies. Numbers of Arctic Terns in this plumage were encountered during June at Monomoy and Plymouth. Nesting Arctic Terns have steadily decreased at Monomoy in recent years, and a mere three young were fledged this summer. The species' last "stronghold" in the state is Nomans Land, where there are about 30 pairs. The Roseate Tern colony at Bird Island, numbering nearly 1300 pairs, is the largest nesting colony of that species in the U.S. A sub-adult Sandwich Tern was discovered on the flats at Monomoy June 11; this species was last recorded July 11-28, 1976, also on Monomoy. A breeding-plumaged Black Guillemot at Rockport July 4 suggests the possibility of local breeding; Guillemots have bred at Biddeford Pool, Maine, less than 55 miles to the north. A breeding-plumaged guillemot was noted at Andrews Pt. June 10, 1977.

Iceland Gull:

7/2	Monomoy	1	BN, CAG, V. Laux
<u>Black-headed Gull:</u>			
6/4	Monomoy	1 (one-yr-old)	RRV, MJL
7/16, 31	P.I., Newburyport	1, 1	RRV#, BBC(PA)
<u>Laughing Gull:</u>			
6/4, 12	Monomoy, Beverly	150, 1	RRV, GLS
thr. June, July		300 nesting pairs	ICTN#
<u>Bonaparte's Gull:</u>			
6/5	Ipswich (Crane's Beach)	110	BBC (JWB)
7/16	P.I.	80	RRV#
<u>Little Gull:</u>			
6/26	P.I.	1 ad.	BBC (SDH)
7/22	Newburyport	1 ad.	RSH
<u>Black-legged Kittiwake:</u>			
6/4	Off Chatham, Monomoy (n. end)	132, 85	BBC (HD'E), RRV#
6/4, 10	Provincetown	400, 80+	CAG, BN
7/3, 27; 5	Monomoy; Provincetown	6, 2; 6	GWG, RSH; RSH
<u>Forster's Tern:</u>			
6/13, 14	Monomoy	1	P. Alden#
7/10, 29-30	P.I.	1, 1	BBC (GLS), GWG#
<u>Arctic Tern:</u>			
6/4	Plymouth	35 (10 portlandica)	RRV, MJL
6/12	Monomoy	22 portlandica	RSH, ICTN
7/16-30	P.I., (s, end)	1 ad.	RSH#
<u>Roseate Tern:</u>			
7/10-30	P.I.	1-6	v.o.
<u>Least Tern:</u>			
6/4	Monomoy, Plymouth	50, 30	RRV#, MFL
6/24	Ipswich (Crane's Beach)	80+	BBC (JN)
7/5, 10	Scituate, P.I.	30 pairs, 60	WRP, v.o.
7/30	Monomoy	100	CJ

Royal Tern:			
6/14;21	Barnstable;Woods Hole, Monomoy	2;2,2	RFP;RSH,BN
7/8,9-29; mid-July	P.I.;Sandwich	1,1-2;1	RMB#;PT
7/8	Nauset	1	BN,CAG
<u>Sandwich Tern:</u>			
6/11	Monomoy	1 sub-ad.	ICTN
Black Tern:			
6/4	Plymouth Beach	1	SH
7/11-24	Scituate	1-2	WRP
7/15-30,17	P.I.,Monomoy	1-2,1	SG#,HLM#
Black Skimmer:			
6/14-30,23 thr.July	Monomoy,Sampson's Is. Monomoy	1,1 max.3	v.o.,J.Grandpre' v.o.
7/20,29	Ipswich,P.I.	1,1	RMc,PP#
<u>large alcid sp.</u>			
7/4	Rockport(Andrews Pt.)	2	GLS#
<u>Black Guillemot:</u>			
7/4	Rockport(Andrews Pt.)	1(breeding plu.)	GLS#

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

The first ground-nesting Common Nighthawks to be discovered in Massachusetts since 1908 (Griscom and Snyder) were found at Plymouth's Myles Standish State Forest. Two nests were found of the apparent three pairs that were on territory there. Nighthawks have probably been breeding at that locality for some time, but being infrequently birded, had gone undiscovered until this summer. No report was received concerning the Red-bellied Woodpeckers that bred last year in Adamsdale, but as mentioned in the previous issue, the Natick birds that established the first state nesting record in 1977 were usurped by Starlings. The first recent Essex Co. breeding record, and one of the few for the state, for Red-headed Woodpeckers, came from Lynn, where two food-carrying adults and several recently fledged young were observed in early July.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo:			
thr.June	8 localities	15 individuals	v.o.
thr.July	5 localities	singles	v.o.
Black-billed Cuckoo:			
thr.June	10 localities	11 individuals	v.o.
thr.July	7 localities	9 individuals	v.o.
Screech Owl:			
6/17	Belmont;Lexington	1 ad.,2yg.;3	RHS#;LET#
Barred Owl:			
6/3,9;17	Lancaster;Waltham	1 yg.,1 ad.;1	HLM;M,Curtis#
Common Nighthawk:			
thr.June	Cambridge,Waltham	5 pr.,1 pr,	RHS
thr.July	Plymouth(MSSF)	3 pr,-2 ground	MPS,AWH,v.o,
	nests found -- only recent ground-nesting Night- Hawks in the state		
Pileated Woodpecker:			
7/17,19,31	Millis,Dover,Lincoln	1,pr.,1	JHM,G,Pierce, C,Thissell

Red-headed Woodpecker:

6/13-16,17 Wellesley,Provincetown 1 ad.,1 imm. BC,BN#
 7/3 Lynn 2 ads, + 2-3 yg,RSH
 (only recent Essex Co, breeding record)

PASSERINES

The Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas, sponsored by the Massachusetts Audubon Society and the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife has been extended for another year. After the 1978 results are tabulated, 95% of the state will have had coverage, leaving about 50 blocks with no coverage to be worked on during 1979.

The two separate reports of singing Tennessee Warblers in less than ideal habitat of Canton and Lexington during July was most interesting. A number of lingering reports of both crossbills and Evening Grosbeaks were also remarkable, although no confirmed nesting was recorded. A pair of Evening Grosbeaks was observed in the process of building a nest, but unfortunately, that was all that became of it. The following noteworthy reports of the breeding season are:

Eastern Kingbird:

6/17,26 Greater Boston,P.I. 84,25 GBBBC,BBC(SDH)
 7/17 P.I. 50 BBC(LHJ)

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:

6/1,3 Middlesex Fells,Saugus 2,1 IG,CJ

Acadian Flycatcher:

6/4,7 Chatham,Sandwich 1,1 RRV#,RFP
 6/10 Provincetown,N.edge of Georges Bank 1,1 BN,RRV
 6/10-12,16 W.Newbury,Chatham 1,1 NBK# & v.o.,BN

Willow Flycatcher:

thr.June 10 localities 29 individuals v.o.
 6/17 Greater Boston 16 individuals GBBBC

Alder Flycatcher:

6/2,4 Lexington,Lancaster 2,1 JA,HLM
 6/8,22 Brookfield,Ashburnham 2,1 RAF,RAF

Least Flycatcher:

6/3 E.Middleboro,Halifax 3 m.,1 m. KSA
 (1 nest found in E.Middleboro)

Eastern Wood Pewee:

6/3 Boston(Copps'Hill,North End) 4 LET

Olive-sided Flycatcher:

6/3,10 P.I.,Provincetown 2,1 GWG,BN
 6/22 Ashburnham 1 RAF

Horned Lark:

6/13 Fitchburg(airport) 1 singing RAF,HLM

Tree Swallow:

7/17 P.I. 1000 BBC(HLJ)

Bank Swallow:

thr.June Rowley 100+ JWB,v.o.
 6/24 E.Middleboro 80 nesting holes, KSA
 most in use
 7/17 Concord(GMNWR) 150 BBC(BC)

Cliff Swallow:				
6/11,6/12-7/17	W.Bridgewater,P.I.	1,pr.nesting	WRP,v.o.	
7/16	Concord(GMNWR)	3	BBC(BC)	
Purple Martin:				
thr.June & July	P.I.	max.82+	v.o.	
7/29	S.Carver	80+	WRP#	
Blue Jay:				
6/4,17	Chatham,Greater Boston	250 migrating,	RRV#,GBBBC	
		200		
Fish Crow:				
6/17	Mt.Auburn,Cambridge	2 w/2 yg.	RHS	
thr.July	Plymouth	25+	RSH	
<u>Short-billed Marsh Wren:</u>				
6/27-28	Tewksbury	1	RRV,MJL	
American Robin:				
7/17	Hingham	1 pure albino fledged	<u>fide</u> WRP	
Hermit Thrush:				
thr.June-July	Plymouth(MSSF)	20+ singing	RSH	
Eastern Bluebird:				
<u>nesting pairs</u> in Annisquam with 4 yg.(HTW);E.Middleboro(KSA);Westboro,				
with 4 yg.(MD);Ashburnham (RAF);Woburn (GWG);Boxford,2 prs. (RHS#);				
Middleboro (KSA#)				
other reports:				
6/11,17	W.Bridgewater,Lancaster	1,1	WRP,HLM	
6/21	Framingham,Sudbury	1,4	RAF	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:				
6/1-3,17	Cambridge(Mt.A.),Groton	2,2	RHS,HLM	
6/17	Middlesex Fells	6	PMR,JSR	
6/18,29	Ipswich,Westboro	nesting pair,	JWB,MD	
		pr.feeding yg.		
Golden-crowned Kinglet:				
6/2	Mt.Watatic	3	HLM	
White-eyed Vireo:				
6/2,5+24	Lexington,Ipswich	2,1+1	JA,BBC(JWB,JN)	
6/12-7/13	Millis	2	RMB	
6/12-on,6/30	W.Newbury,Fairhaven	1-2,3	GLS#,RAF	
thr.June,July	Manomet	4	RSH	
Yellow-throated Vireo:				
6/4-on,6	Lincoln,Stow	1,1	WWH,RAF	
6/8+11	Holliston(Waseeka)	1,1	RMB,RAF	
6/21,23+24	Woods Hole,Sherborn	1,1+2	RSH,JHM	
6/24,27	Carlisle,Southbridge	1,1	RRV#,RAF	
7/7	Harvard	1	HLM	
Solitary Vireo:				
6/8,10-on	Boxboro,Lancaster	2,nesting pr.	RAF,HLM	
Red-eyed Vireo:				
6/17	Greater Boston	76	GBBBC	
<u>Warbling Vireo:</u>				
thr.June	Provincetown-Beech Forest	3	BN,CAG#	
	The Warbling Vireo has never been recorded nesting on Cape Cod, and previously there had been only one vague summer report.			
Worm-eating Warbler:				
6/10,7/8-15	Dover,E.Douglas	1,1	FRH,N.E.Muller# & v.o.	

Golden-winged Warbler:			
thr. June	Framingham, Ashland	1,1	RAF
6/1,4	Millbury, Lancaster	1,1	N, E, Muller, HLM
6/12+7/8, 6/18	W, Newbury, N, Andover	4+2,2	WCD & WRP, SDH#
Blue-winged Warbler:			
7/3	W. Newbury	1 ad. feeding 2 yg.	RHS#
<u>Tennessee Warbler:</u>			
7/2	Canton	1-2	BAL, MFL, WRP, KSA
		(male singing steadily)	
7/8	Lexington	1 male singing	MDB
Nashville Warbler:			
6/9, 19	Carver, Marlboro	3,1	RSH, RAF
Northern Parula:			
6/13-16	Mashpee	1	WRP
Yellow Warbler:			
6/5, 17	Ipswich, Greater Boston	20+, 95	BBC(JWB), GBBBC
Blackburnian Warbler:			
6/27	Charlton	1	RAF
Chestnut-sided Warbler:			
7/1	Framingham	pr. feeding cowbird	MD
Pine Warbler:			
6/6+21	Sudbury	1,3(territorial)	RAF
6/8, 17	Boxboro, Lancaster	1(territorial), 1	RAF, HLM
6/17, 20	Ipswich, Marlboro	5, 1(territorial)	BBC(JWB), RAF
7/1, 5	S. Natick, Holliston	1, 1	JHM, MD
7/15	Hopkinton	2	JHM
Prairie Warbler:			
6/3-11	Norfolk	nest w/3 yg.	RMB
Northern Waterthrush:			
6/24	E. Middleboro	1 singing	KSA
Louisiana Waterthrush:			
7/16	Barre (Cooks Canyon)	1	HLM
Mourning Warbler:			
6/2+3	P. I.; Middlesex Fells	1+2; 1+1	GWG, RPE; PMR#, NBK#
6/10	Sandwich	1	RFP
Canada Warbler:			
7/5	Holliston	2	MD
American Redstart:			
6/3	P. I.	25	RPE#
Bobolink:			
6/18	Hamilton	20, inc. nest w/ yg.	JWB
7/2, 21	Bolton	20, 120+	HIM
Orchard Oriole:			
thr. June	Woburn, Waltham	3-6(inc. yg.), 2	GWG + v.o., RHS
6/3	Whitman, Framingham	1, 1 im. m.	WRP, RAF
6/4, 6	S. Peabody, Stow	1 im. m., 1 im. m.	RSH, RAF
6/18, 24	W. Bridgewater, Rowley	1, 1	WRP#, JWB
7/1-16	Waltham	1 ad. m.	RHS#
7/2	Braintree (Great Pond)	pr. w/ yg.	KSA#
7/22	Rowley	2 ad. m., 1 f., 1 yg	EP#
Northern Oriole:			
6/17	Greater Boston	111	GBBBC
Scarlet Tanager:			
6/17	Greater Boston	19	GBBBC

Indigo Bunting:			
6/17	Greater Boston	32	GBBBC
Evening Grosbeak:			
6/1-11,29	Chatham (at feeder)	1 f,	BN
House Finch:			
6/14	Fitchburg(Burbank Hospital)	5+ pr.nesting in ivy	RAF
Pine Siskin:			
6/11,18	Sharon	2	RAF,DC
6/17,28,7/1	Wellesley	4-5,1,1	LJR
Red Crossbill:			
6/2	Lexington	9	JA
White-winged Crossbill:			
7/1	Fall River	1	EA,TA
	(well-observed for five minutes at close range)		
Rufous-sided Towhee:			
6/17	Greater Boston	107	GBBBC
Grasshopper Sparrow:			
7/15-on	Bolton	1	HLM
Sharp-tailed Sparrow:			
6/17	Squantum,Saugus	14,4	DTB#,SZ#
7/29	E.Boston	5	CJ
Seaside Sparrow:			
7/8	Newburyport	1	SG,EP
Vesper Sparrow:			
thr.July	Plymouth(Myles Standish)	<u>28</u>	MBO staff
	(includes nest with 4 yg.)		
White-throated Sparrow:			
6/24	E.Middleboro	1	KSA
7/30	Halifax	1	WRP
Song Sparrow:			
6/17	Greater Boston	205	GBBBC

ADDENDUM

Yellow-rumped Warbler:
 thr.6/78 Plymouth(MSSF) 2 adult males singing; MBO staff
 one seen carrying food
 on two occasions; no
 nest found

CORRIGENDUM

Vol.6,No.4(Spring):

Common Crow: date reads 5/11; should read 3/11.

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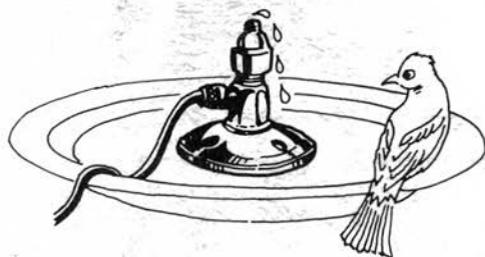
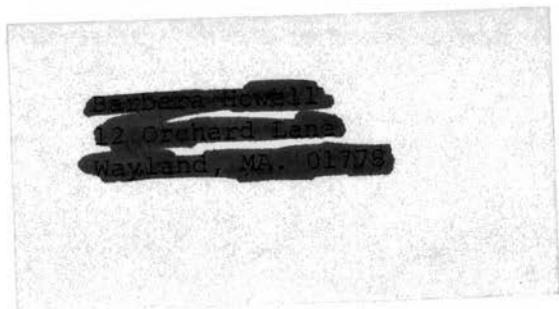
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