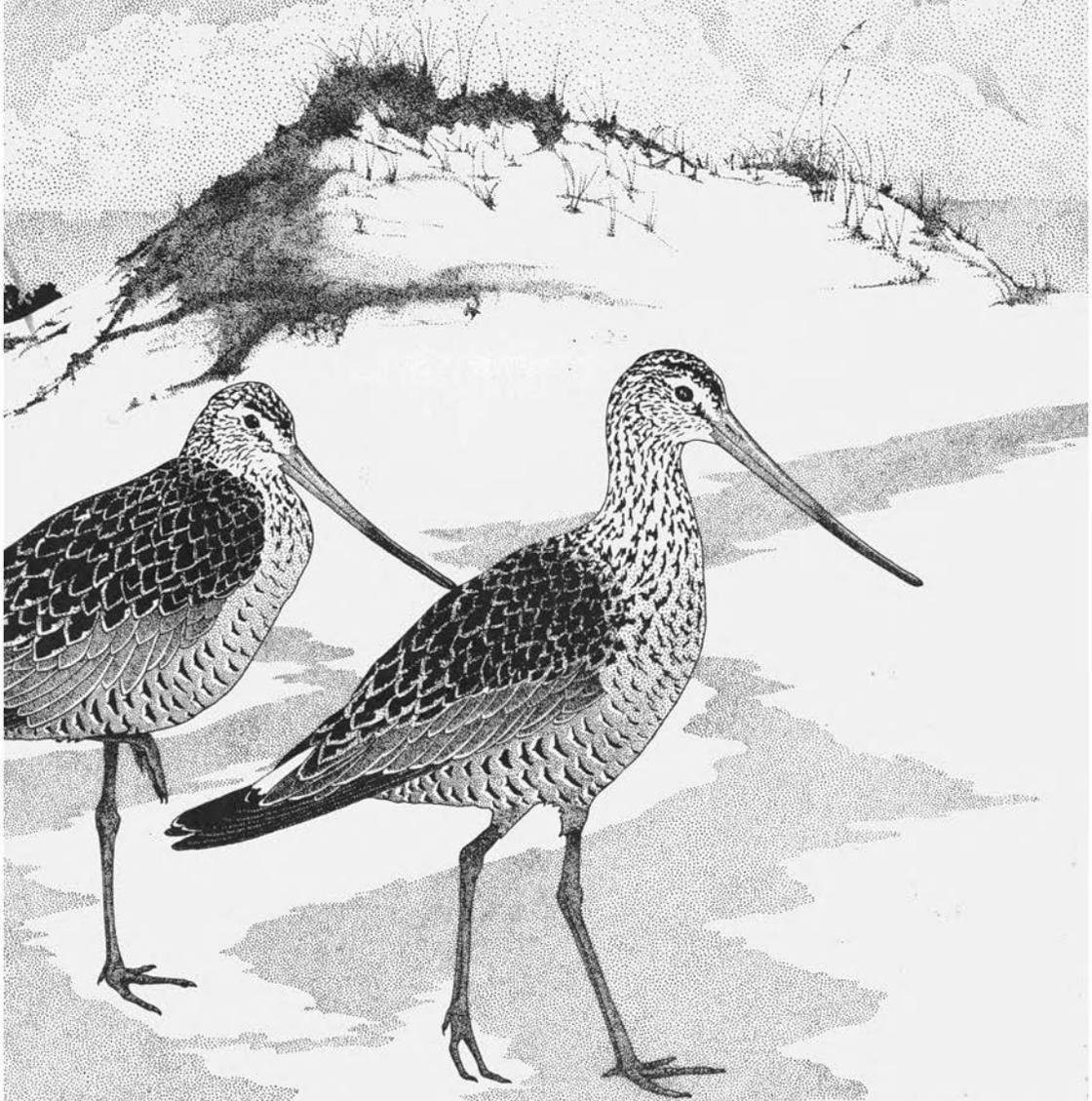


BIRD OBSERVER

OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS



JUNE 1984

VOL. 12 NO. 3



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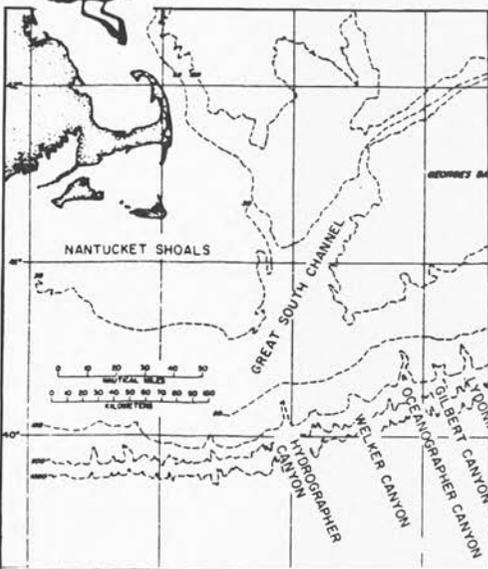
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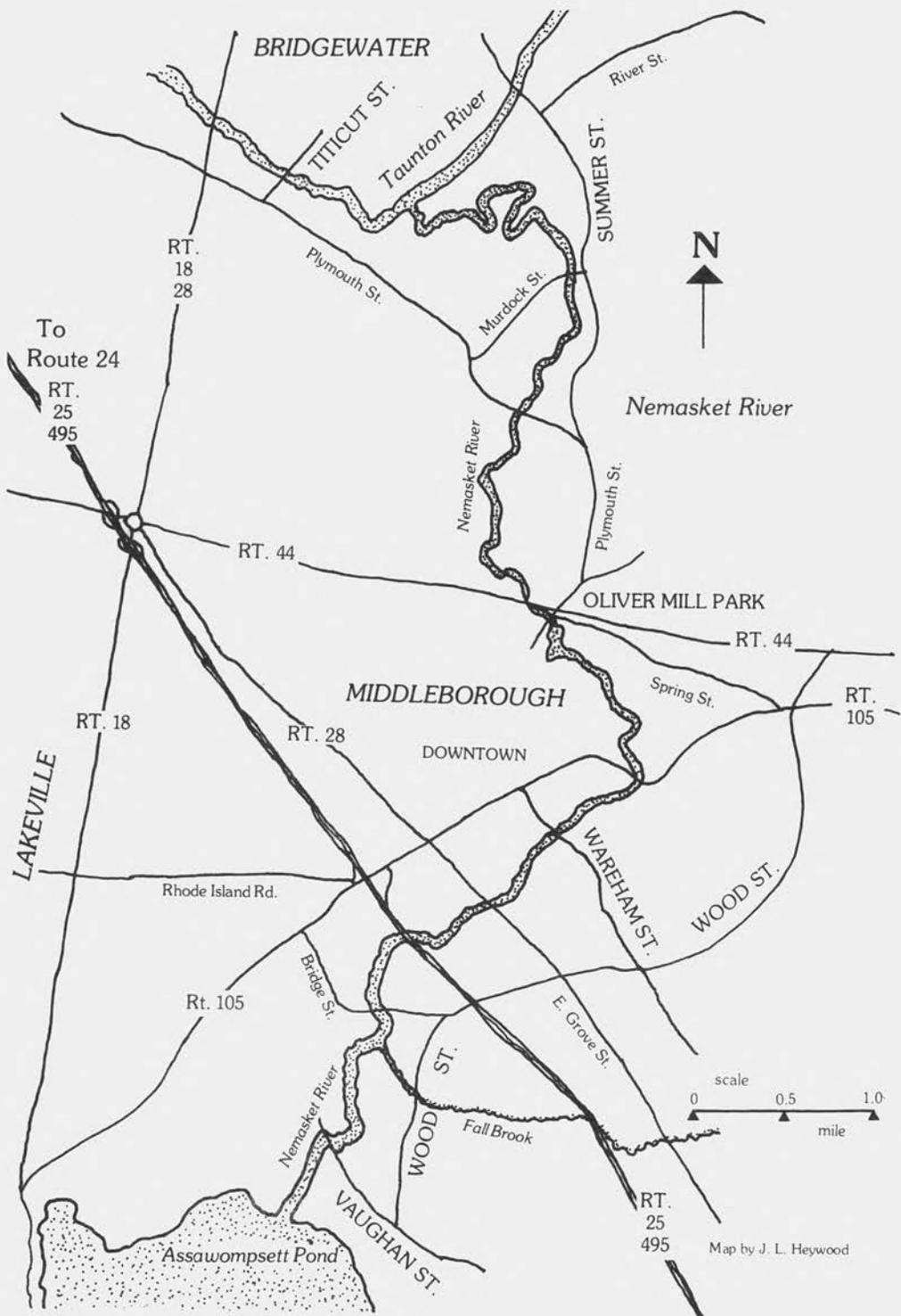
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Map by J. L. Heywood

BIRDING BY CANOE ON THE NEMASKET RIVER

by Kathleen S. Anderson, Middleborough

The winding, slow-moving rivers of eastern Massachusetts are seldom travelled by today's birders, yet they were major highways for the region's original Indian residents and were more often explored by earlier ornithologists when travel by road was slower and less comfortable. A canoe remains one of the best means of exploring natural areas that can be reached in no other way, and it continually surprises the paddler to find how wild and unsettled southeastern Massachusetts can seem as one glides silently between the wooded banks of a quiet stream.

For the novice at canoeing, a few words of advice may be in order. If you don't own a canoe, they may be borrowed or rented. Expert canoeing can be an art form; however, the neophyte can make satisfactory progress in slow waters at a first attempt. Aluminum canoes are far noisier than are fiberglass or canvas, but they can be used quietly if one is very careful not to hit the sides with the paddle. And silence is the key to seeing wildlife.

If your car does not have a roof rack, detachable racks (such as those that carry skis) are available. The easy method is to arrive at your river in a caravan of two cars, leaving one downstream where you plan to take-out, and the other at your put-in. Otherwise, remember that every mile of drifting leisurely downstream requires a harder paddle back to your car.

Always bring three paddles (we learned the hard way) and life preservers (a state law) - good insurance, even on a shallow, sluggish stream. My own list of equipment includes an extra sweater, notebook and pencil, field guides for plants and birds, a topo map (all best carried in a waterproof or plastic bag), and a lunch or snacks. Thirst and hunger can take your mind off the scenery and the birds, and it is unsafe, even though you may be desperate and some distance out on the river, to assuage that thirst by dipping up river water of uncertain quality.

Plymouth County's Nemasket River, which drains a large area of ponds and swamps in Middleborough, Lakeville, Rochester, and Freetown, is one of my favorites. It is only minutes from my home, it has a long history of human usage, and it provides good birding.

"Namasket" (present-day Middleborough) was Indian territory long after the coastal areas of Plymouth County had been settled. The Nemasket River was an important link in the system of waterways that connected Buzzards Bay (via the

Mattapoisett River rising in Great Quittacas Pond), Mount Hope Bay via the Taunton and Nemasket Rivers (originating in Assawompsett Pond) and Boston Harbor (via short portages between the headwaters of the Charles and tributaries of the Taunton River).

Human use of this region long predates the Algonquin Indians of the historic period. Excavations on the shores of Assawompsett Pond near the mouth of the Nemasket have unearthed an Indian village of the Archaic Period more than 4000 years old. A site along the Taunton River just below the Nemasket's mouth shows evidence of use some 20,000 years ago. Before that, the present Lakeville ponds were all part of one huge glacial lake, known to geologists as the Leverett Sea. Who knows what people hunted woolly mammoths by its shores?

From 1877 to 1897 a paddle-wheel steamboat ran up the Nemasket from the center of Middleborough to Assawompsett Pond, a favorite weekend excursion in a time when few people owned personal means of transportation. A few local old-timers still recall the excitement of taking the steamer (it cost 50¢) from Wareham Street in Middleborough up the river for four miles and thence around the largest natural pond in Massachusetts. Only Quabbin Reservoir is larger.

Although the days of dugout canoes and side-wheel steamers are long gone, in most places a strip of soggy floodplain protects the Nemasket from encroaching houses and one can paddle for a mile or more at a stretch with few signs of civilization, meeting only rarely another canoeist or fisherman. It is not difficult to imagine that ghosts from countless centuries paddle with us.

A straight line on a map between the Nemasket's origin at Assawompsett and its terminus at the Taunton River measures about five miles, but the twisting, meandering river channel provides about ten miles of paddling. There are only two dams and two stretches of rapids, all between Wareham Street and Oliver Mill Park on Route 44 in Middleborough. While it is possible to canoe the entire ten miles, portaging over Wareham Street and at Oliver Mill Park at the dams, we have found it easier to divide the river in half, sometimes choosing the upper four-mile stretch and sometimes the lower. Steady paddling can take one down either section in less than two hours, but that is not the way to enjoy this lovely river, nor the way to see the wildlife. Much better is to drift along, pausing here to watch a Red-tailed Hawk circling overhead, or there to listen to the pumping of an American Bittern, and occasionally pulling out to stretch the legs and explore a bit of the adjacent woodlands.

If you have two cars, the upper river can be reached by leaving one car at the dam on Wareham Street in Middleborough,



Tree Swallow

Illustration by William E. Davis

then putting the canoe in at Fall Brook on Wood Street or at Vaughan Street in Lakeville. There ~~is~~ is a fish ladder at Wareham Street to aid the alewives over the dam, as there is at Oliver Mill Park.

For me, the lower river begins at historic Oliver Mill along Route 44, with take-outs at either Titicut Street or Summer Street bridges in Bridgewater, near the Massachusetts Correctional Institution. Local street maps (readily available) or topographic sheets (the Bridgewater and Assawompsett Pond quadrangles) are invaluable for finding one's way about country roads to canoe access points, and tracing one's progress on the river past various landmarks.

It is possible to leave a car, well-locked, at almost any bridge by putting it well off to the side of the road. At the Summer Street bridge it is possible to back a car down almost to the point of take-out. A small detail, but important to weary paddlers at day's end.

In very dry years the water can be too low for canoes in July and August, but in recent years we have made it in all months between March and November. April through early June are best for water conditions, with late May through the summer being best for birds.

There are no rest-room facilities en route, but there are lots of secluded woodlands. Because Assawompsett Pond is a public water supply, swimming is forbidden, but one can swim in the river wherever the water is sufficiently deep.

Putting in at Fall Brook on Wood Street, we follow a narrow creek wandering through a broad grassy marsh, especially good for Marsh Wrens. After some twisting about, Fall Brook enters the wider, deeper channel of the Nemasket where one can turn left and paddle up to Assawompsett Pond. If time is short, turn right and drift down to your car at Wareham Street. There is a pleasant picnicking spot where the river enters the lake, and the prevailing southwest breeze across more than a mile of water guarantees a cool respite on hot days.

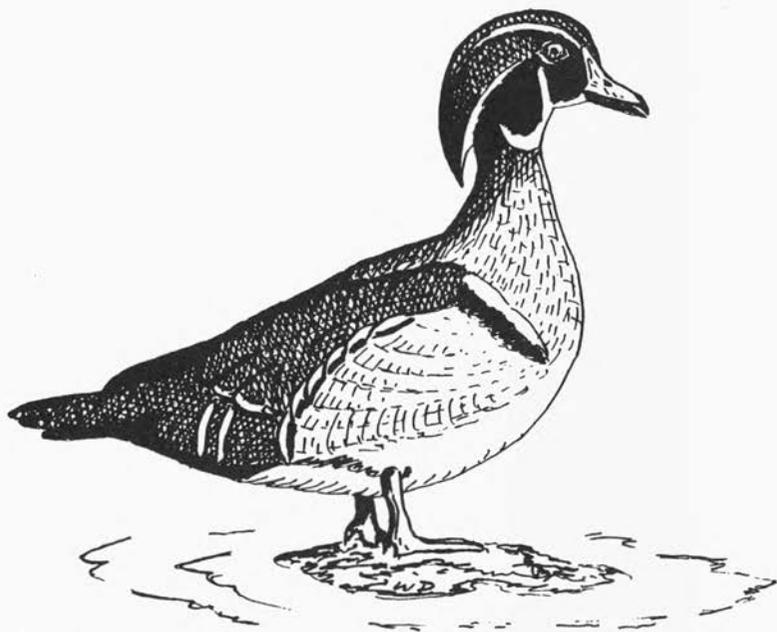
The birds to be seen will vary with the time of year. In April and early May, the herring are still running upsteam to lay their eggs on the sandy lake bottom, and the gulls that soar overhead are searching and scavenging for luckless fish or resting with full stomachs on rocks along the river. This upper reach of the Nemasket is the best area for American Bitterns (more often heard than seen) although we have flushed them downriver as well. Green-backed Herons are abundant, can appear anywhere, and I have recorded as many as twelve on a single trip. Great Egrets and Little Blue Herons have been seen and the Great Blue Heron, most often seen during migration, has also bred near Fall Brook. Black Ducks, Mallards and Wood Ducks are all common and, in May and early June, we often see females attracting attention with their flopping, broken-wing display ahead of the canoe while ducklings patter frantically across the water to disappear into brush or grasses. Blue-winged Teal are seen less often, but I suspect they also breed here; and this year, (1984) for the first time to my knowledge, Canada Geese are nesting along the river. On some trips, when there are many little flotillas of young or when flocks are gathering in early fall, I have recorded thirty to fifty ducks of several species.

Ospreys now breed on Assawompsett, and we regularly see them fishing in the lake. Like the bitterns, rails are more often heard than seen, but Virginia, Sora and King rails have all been recorded along the river. Purple Martins from a well-known colony on Cherry Street, established by the late Reginald Maxim, join Tree, Barn and the occasional Rough-winged Swallow over the upper Nemasket. Eastern Kingbird nests tend to be conspicuous, but the abundant Yellow Warblers, Common Yellowthroats, Song and Swamp sparrows do a better job of concealment. Red-winged Blackbirds are superabundant, and their nests are not hard to find in Buttonbush or Silky Dogwood along the channel's edge. An extensive patch of Wild Rice near Wareham Street draws hundreds (thousands?) of blackbirds, including Bobolinks, in late summer.

Easiest access to the lower Nemasket is at Oliver Mill Park along Route 44. This historic colonial industrial site has picnic tables, an easy put-in, and is a fine spot to see the alewives going up the fish ladder in early spring.

This lower section of the river has a somewhat different character but is just as interesting in its own way. The trees along the river are larger. There are more White Pines and Swamp White Oaks. We see more hawks - Red-tails, Red-shoulders and Broad-wings - and once, two young Great Horned Owls in a riverside pine in broad daylight. Bitterns and Green-backed Herons are seen less often, but broods of ducklings are common. Sand bars and muddy river banks are more frequent here, and they attract Spotted, Solitary and Least sandpipers as well as yellowlegs and Killdeer. Swallows and Redwings are fewer along this more wooded reach of the river. Of course, any species common to forested areas of southeastern Massachusetts can be looked for in the riverside trees as one drifts along, and I have regularly recorded woodpeckers, flycatchers, vireos, warblers and more, of many species.

I cannot think of the Nemasket without thinking of all the lovely flowers I have found along its banks. The large white Fragrant Water-lily and the smaller yellow Bullhead-lily are easily recognizable, and the Broad-leaved Arrowhead is widespread in wet places. But do you know the tiny white aquatic gentian known as Floating Heart? Or the small White



Wood Duck

Illustration by William E. Davis

Water-Buttercups? The minute yellow blossoms of the bladder-worts? And what of that rarer aquatic primrose, with its floating rosettes of thread-like leaves surmounted by a strange inflated flower stalk, the Featherfoil? All of these, and more, I first met while paddling on the Nemasket.

And then there are the shrubby plants that form thickets in shallow water - the lovely little Swamp Sweet Bells, the fragrant pink Swamp Rose, and the abundant Buttonbush which, when in bloom, can look as if it has been hung with small ping-pong balls. Leatherleaf, Sweetgale, and Silvery Dogwood are not so flashy but typically found in standing water.

Flowers of the water's edge seem to be more colorful and more robust than the "floaters," and their florets are often in spikes. Pickerelweed has blue spikes, Steeplebush, pink spikes, Turtlehead, a droopy white spike, and the Yellow Loosestrife has lovely, tall yellow spikes, aptly called "Swamp Candles." Showiest of all are the flaming scarlet spikes of the wetland lobelia, the Cardinal-flower. But not all are spikes. Water-parson (white), Joe-Pye weed (dusky pink), and New York Ironweed (lavender) all have flat-topped clusters of florets.

Some of the conspicuous blossoms are on flowering shrubs, rather than true flowers. The Swamp-honeysuckle (actually an azalea) which blooms in June and July, is followed later in July by Sweet Pepperbush, or Clethra, and both have white blossoms with almost overpoweringly sweet fragrances. Less common, but even more showy, is a northern hibiscus with large pink blossoms, known as Swamp Rose-mallow. Taking a flower guide when canoeing can add greatly to your appreciation of the natural beauty of a river trip.

Canoeing on the Nemasket, and on other rivers in southeastern Massachusetts, may not add many rare species to the annual list, but it does provide an entirely different experience in birdwatching. The sheer pleasure of drifting down a quiet stream, slipping up on a muskrat or a brood of ducklings, the sense of seeing this long-settled part of New England much as it was a century or more ago, and always the chance that around the next bend there will be a surprise, make canoeing my favorite way to explore the little known waterways of my part of the Commonwealth.

CANOE DEALERS

Listed below are canoe dealers, addresses, and telephone numbers. Four were contacted to obtain a representative sample of costs and services. Rental prices range from \$4 to \$5 per hour and \$15 to \$25 per day. Paddles and life jackets are included and roof racks for transportation where necessary.

AA Rental Center
1053 Belmont St., Watertown
(617) 484-1554

South Bridge Boat House
46 Main St., Concord
(617) 369-9438

Capeway Canoe Rental
1009 Washington St., Weymouth
(617) 331-5177

Treeline, Inc.
12 Central Square, Middleton
(617) 774-6536

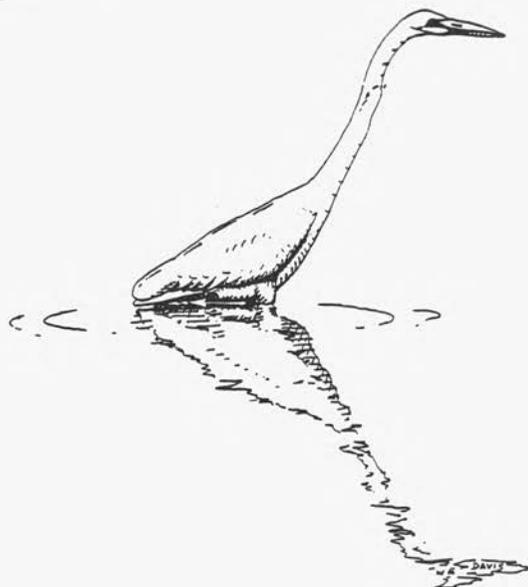
Carroll's Bait & Sporting Goods
Route 1A, Norfolk
(617) 384-8322

Tropicland Marine & Tackle
100 Bridge St., Dedham
(617) 329-3777

Charles River Canoe Service
2401 Commonwealth Ave., Newton
(617) 965-5110

Tucker's
80 Lincoln Road, Sudbury
(617) 443-2277

Foote Bros.
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Great Egret

Illustration by William E. Davis



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KNOW YOUR NEW ENGLAND NATURALISTS: KATHLEEN ANDERSON

by Dr. W. Timothy Anderson

[Editor's note: Some years ago, an ornithologist friend from Wisconsin asked me if I ever visited the bird station near Plymouth. "Kathleen Anderson's outfit - a fine woman, fine scientist" are the words that I remember. Since its founding in 1969, Manomet Bird Observatory has been for many people - essentially - Kathleen Anderson. So that our readers may learn more about that fine woman, the following paragraphs have been written, in response to Bird Observer's request, by her son, Tim.]

Kathleen Shaw Anderson was born in Livingston, Montana, where her father was Supervisor of the Absaroka National Forest (at that time America's largest, forming the northern border of Yellowstone National Park). Her mother is also Montana-born, daughter of pioneer cattle ranchers. This western frontier heritage has remained an influence throughout Kathleen's life. Her early love for the outdoors has remained a constant and abiding one, for she cannot remember a time when she was not either outdoors or wishing that she could be.

Although brought up in Massachusetts (her father's birthplace), frequent visits to her grandparents' ranch, and a wide circle of family and friends in Montana have made the "Big Sky Country" as much her home as New England. Kathleen and her husband Paul lived in Montana for a time after their marriage but returned to Massachusetts and, in 1950, bought Wolf Trap Hill Farm in Middleborough. The old farmhouse (built in 1735) and acres of fields and woodland are well-known to local birders for the variety of raptors centered there - goshawks, Redtails, Redshoulders, Broadwings, most of the owls (including Saw-whet and, on occasion, Long-eared).

Kathleen's interest in the systematic study of birds had an early start. A carefully crayoned copy of Chester Reed's first field guide (with black and white drawings) and a notebook of bird records begun at about age eight are still on her bookshelves. The detail with which she recorded first arrival dates and birdhouse occupants set a pattern of note-taking that has persisted. As her friends know, Betty, as she is called by family and friends, is seldom without her notebook, and the records begun in South Carver now include innumerable notebooks filled with observations from places as distant as James Bay, Peru, Czechoslovakia, and points between.

The first years at Wolf Trap Hill were busy with children, garden, Scouts, and 4-H, and other activities typical of a young mother; but bird study and note-taking never ceased. Family camping trips took the Andersons across much of the United States and into Canada, binoculars and notebook always at hand.

The 1956 outbreak of Eastern Equine Encephalitis in south-

eastern Massachusetts and the recovery of several isolations of virus from mosquitoes collected in the Anderson backyard led to a job as ornithologist at the Taunton Field Station, established in 1957 by the U. S. Public Health Service. Here Kathleen was responsible for capturing, banding, and blood-sampling birds in the Hockomock Swamp and surrounding areas, as well as training each spring a fresh crop of medical students as assistants. This work continued for eleven years, during which time the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) took over the project, and it became the Encephalitis Field Station.

During the fall of 1964, and again in 1965, Kathleen organized a group of volunteers to assist the MDPH in capturing and blood-sampling birds on Duxbury Beach in an effort to determine the possibility that encephalitis virus was being brought into the state by migrants from the north. The nucleus of enthusiastic volunteers assembled at High Pines on Duxbury Beach in 1964 and 1965 led to the establishment, in 1966, of the Manomet Operation Recovery Station on the Roger Ernst estate on the bluff at Manomet, which would become the Manomet Bird Observatory (MBO).

Manomet "OR", under Mrs. Anderson's direction, operated during September and October from 1966 through 1968. During this time Kathleen commuted between the Encephalitis Field Station and Manomet, keeping a sleeping bag at Manomet and somehow managing the household at Wolf Trap Hill as she passed through Middleborough. Fortunately those seven-day weeks and sixteen- and eighteen-hour days lasted only two months each fall.

The sudden death of Emily Goode in December of 1966, Massachusetts Audubon Society's (MAS) beloved natural history teacher in southeastern Massachusetts, brought a desperate plea from the MAS Education Department and a new career as a teacher there that began on less than a week's notice and lasted two years. Somehow, this was sandwiched in with seven months of field work each year at the Encephalitis Field Station and two months each fall as director of Manomet OR.

The establishment of the Manomet Bird Observatory in 1969 and Kathleen's appointment as its first director led to yet another role that absorbed her considerable energies for nearly fifteen years. Under her direction, MBO flourished and is now internationally known for its research and educational programs. In addition, MBO has provided an invaluable opportunity for many volunteers and student interns to participate in all phases of research activities. These young people who have worked and studied with Kathleen Anderson are now spread across the nation and, indeed, throughout the world.

During the busy years at MBO, Mrs. Anderson managed to maintain her broad interests in research and conservation. She served several terms as a Councilor of the Northeastern and

Eastern Bird-Banding associations, as secretary of the Nuttall Ornithological Club and as president of the South Shore Bird Club. Further, she was a founder, trustee, and first president (for eight years) of the Plymouth County Wildlands Trust. She is listed in Who's Who of American Women and was recently elected to membership in The Society of Women Geographers, an affiliate of the Explorer's Club.

The tremendous enthusiasm and drive which characterized all of her work at MBO were not, however, without their cost. Family life, which means so much to Betty (she apparently has cousins in half the fifty states and friends, worldwide), personal research, organic farming, and time for writing too often seemed to come off second-best when priorities were being sorted out. Kathleen left MBO at the end of 1983, believing she had done as much as she could for this first East Coast bird observatory, now firmly established in the forefront of ornithological research. It was time to turn her attention to other projects which had been "on hold" for so many years.

She tells us that the past five months have been some of the happiest and most satisfying she has ever known, busy as ever, but with a bit more time to "sniff the flowers and watch the clouds." Her lifelong concern for the importance of sustainable agriculture in New England has now found an outlet in "hands-on" activities at Wolf Trap Hill; but as she works with the gardens and livestock, notebook and pencil in her pocket, binoculars within reach, ideas for future writing, and plans for the growing farm vie for attention with the scream of a Red-shouldered Hawk over the hill.

A variety of professional commitments still crowds the hours she wants to spend outdoors. She has rotated off the board of the New England Wildflower Society and resigned from the Trails Advisory Committee of the Massachusetts Department of Natural Resources, but continues on the board of the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association in Pennsylvania, and her committee assignments for the American Ornithologists Union and the Wilson Ornithological Society. Most time-consuming, and also most interesting, are her responsibilities as secretary to the U. S. Section of the International Council for Bird Preservation, and as one of the seven-member Non-Game Advisory Committee for the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, where she chairs the Sub-committee on Research and Management Priorities. With the passage of the state's Non-Game Check-off Bill, both opportunities and budget for this program are expanding rapidly. Her carefully recorded observations of birds, plants, turtles, etc., are now being funneled into the state's Natural Heritage Program files as she searches back through years of field notes.

When asked about her plans for the future, Betty told us,

The days aren't long enough. I'm working on one book, with two others in the planning stage. Paul Donahue and I have plans to

lead one or two small private tours each year to some special places in the neotropics. Paul Anderson and I also have some plans, which include a return to Montana, probably next summer. Having time with my family and friends is precious to me, and the latch string's out at Wolf Trap Hill. In the most immediate future I am trying to confirm the breeding of Upland Sandpipers in nearby farmland, and then I'm off to Algonquin Park to participate in the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas Project. I really want to hear those wolves howl. And as soon as I am back, Paul and I are going camping with our son and his family."

As if these enthusiasms are not enough, Betty confides that she does a lot of lecturing, she loves to dance a fast polka, and she is teaching her granddaughter to knead bread - "That Sara Elizabeth is really something!" So's her grandmother.



Kathleen Anderson holds a Northern Parula that shows partial albinism. The bird was banded by Elise Lapham on Block Island in September 1977.

A SUMMER BIRD CENSUS IN MILLIS

by Brian E. Cassie, Millis

Eighteen miles southwest of Boston, in a corner of Norfolk County, lies the town of Millis. Roughly square in outline, the town comprises 7845 acres and is entirely within the Charles River watershed, the river itself forming the eastern and southern town boundaries. Table 1, from the 1973 "Millis Master Plan," shows existing land use in Millis. This will help the reader to understand just how much good bird habitat still remains; over three-fourths of the town land is unpopulated!

Table 1. Existing Land Use in Millis.

	ACRES	PERCENT OF TOTAL LAND
UPLANDS: Agriculture	877	11
Woodland	3100	40
Urbanized	1328	17
Open Space	345	4
WATER SURFACE	100	1
WETLANDS: Charles River Floodplain and Tributaries	1085	14
Great Black Swamp	1010	13

The data presented in Table 2 are the result of seventy-seven hours of field work, carried out between 1 June and 9 July 1983. Counts were made on twenty-six mornings between 5:00 A.M. and 9:30 A.M., the time varying with the weather conditions. I divided the town into manageable sections and gave thorough enough coverage so that I was within hearing range of any bird breeding in the town. It was not possible to count accurately certain species because of their gregariousness and/or wandering natures. For these birds, I have presented estimates of their populations, based on counts made in this census and tempered by several years of field experience.

The categories in Table 2, Pairs, Males, Females, and Unsexed Adults, are not overlapping, and the numbers in each have been added to give the total number of territories held by the species. For example, pairs of House Wrens were found in thirty-nine areas; in forty-seven other spots, males only were recorded; and in a further three places, non-singing adults were present. This totals eighty-nine House Wren territories, each of which probably represents a breeding pair. Although the presence of females, singing males, or unsexed adults does not always indicate the presence of a

breeding pair, the fact that only a single coverage was afforded each area suggests that the totals presented here are conservative.

The bird species listed in Table 2 are all thought to be summer residents. Great Blue Heron, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Herring Gull, White-eyed Vireo, and Blackpoll and Mourning warblers were identified during the count period, but all were almost certainly migrants or fly-overs. A plus (+) in the column headed Young represents the presence of nestlings or fledged young.

Table 2. Species List of Summer Birds in Millis, 1983.

SPECIES	PAIRS	MALES	FEMALES	YOUNG	UNSEXED ADULTS	TOTAL NUMBER TERRITORIES
Green-backed Heron					5	5
Canada Goose	10					10
Wood Duck	3	1	2	+	3	6
American Black Duck	1					1
Mallard	1	5	5	+	1	6
Broad-winged Hawk					3	3
Red-tailed Hawk	3				2	5
American Kestrel	1	5	2	+	1	9
Ring-necked Pheasant		17	1	+		18
Ruffed Grouse					5	5
Northern Bobwhite	4	6				10
Killdeer	5			+	6	11
Upland Sandpiper					1 (+1)	1
American Woodcock		6				6
Rock Dove		(est. 160 adults) +				80
Mourning Dove		(est. 250 adults) +				125
Black-billed Cuckoo					13	13
Yellow-billed Cuckoo					10	10
Eastern Screech-Owl					1	1
Great Horned Owl					3	3
Chimney Swift		(est. 80 adults) +				40
Ruby-throated Hummingbird					1	1
Belted Kingfisher	2				4	6
Downy Woodpecker	24			+	50	74
Hairy Woodpecker	10			+	12	22
Northern Flicker	16			+	45	61
Eastern Wood-Pewee	1	50				51
Alder Flycatcher	1	1				2
Willow Flycatcher		3				3
Least Flycatcher	1	1				2
Eastern Phoebe	15			+	20	35
Great Crested Flyc.	3				30	33
Eastern Kingbird	72			+	9	81

Table 2. (continued)

SPECIES	PAIRS	MALES	FEMALES	YOUNG	UNSEXED ADULTS	TOTAL NUMBER TERRITORIES
Tree Swallow	6				2	8
No. Rough-winged Sw.	1				1	2
Bank Swallow	223			+		223
Barn Swallow	40			+	10	50
Blue Jay			(est. 280 adults)	+		140
American Crow			(est. 130 adults)	+		65
Bl.-capped Chickadee	137			+	80	217
Tufted Titmouse	38			+	76	114
Wh.-breasted Nuthatch	16			+	39	55
Brown Creeper	12	7		+	2	21
House Wren	39	47		+	3	89
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1				1	2
Veery	12	63		+	19	94
Hermit Thrush		1				1
Wood Thrush	3	47			3	53
American Robin	95			+	68	163
Gray Catbird	113			+	121	234
Northern Mockingbird	30			+	26	56
Brown Thrasher	4				20	24
Cedar Waxwing			(est. 100 adults)	+		50
European Starling			(est. 1200 adults)	+		600
Yellow-throated Vireo		1				1
Warbling Vireo	3	13		+		16
Red-eyed Vireo	4	108		+		112
Blue-winged Warbler	3	43				46
Golden-winged Warbler			1			1
Yellow Warbler	28	95				123
Black-throated Green W.		2				2
Pine Warbler		1				1
Prairie Warbler	1	15				16
Black-and-white Warbler	3	37		+		40
American Redstart		11	(one-year-olds)			11
Ovenbird	5	97				102
Northern Waterthrush		16				16
Common Yellowthroat	21	402	1	+		424
Canada Warbler		2				2
Scarlet Tanager	8	50			3	61
Northern Cardinal	14	67	1	+		82
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5	31	1	+		37
Indigo Bunting	6	33		+		39
Rufous-sided Towhee	55	32		+	26	113
Chipping Sparrow	30	42		+	3	75
Field Sparrow	10	8				18
Song Sparrow	81	138		+		219
Swamp Sparrow	3	49			1	53
White-throated Sparrow	2			+		2

Table 2. (continued)

SPECIES	PAIRS	MALES	FEMALES	YOUNG	UNSEXED ADULTS	TOTAL NUMBER TERRITORIES
Bobolink	8	16		+		24
Red-winged Blackbird		(est. 400 adults)				200
Eastern Meadowlark	3	11		+	2	16
Common Grackle		(est. 600 adults)				300
Brown-headed Cowbird		(est. 80 adults)		+		(40)
Orchard Oriole		1				1
Northern Oriole	52	36		+		88
Purple Finch	1	5				6
House Finch	6	3		+	6	15
American Goldfinch		(est. 70 adults)				(35)
House Sparrow		(est. 250 adults)				125

Notes on Selected Species.

Ruffed Grouse. This was an off year for this species in Millis. Usually they are common.

Upland Sandpiper. Ken Winkler and I observed a bird in farmland on 21 June. The owner of the property saw one or two birds in July.

Eastern Screech-Owl. There was not enough time to conduct a worthwhile owl survey, but certainly this species is very common in Millis. I have found as many as thirty-nine in a single evening.

Brown Creeper. This bird was much more common than I had thought. The males continued to sing throughout June.

Golden-winged Warbler. One female was observed, giving distraction display from a roadside thicket. Ten feet away was a young Blue-winged Warbler, probably the offspring of this bird and a male Blue-winged. The male parent was not seen.

White-throated Sparrow. Two pairs, each with fledged young, were discovered in cut-over areas which had grown up with shrubs and small saplings. The males sang until early July.

The author is indebted to Ro Bloom and Ken Winkler for help with the censusing and to William E. Davis for advice on this paper.

BRIAN E. CASSIE does most of his birdwatching in Millis, where he lives and runs a natural history book business (Ibis Books). Occasionally, he gets farther afield and has co-lead natural history tours to Mexico and the Great Smoky Mountains for Massachusetts Audubon Society. Brian says he works one day a week and spends the rest of his time with his family or looking for birds, shells, butterflies, and books. He is trying to figure out how he can work less often.

E. B. WHITE, FORBUSH, AND THE BIRDS OF MASSACHUSETTS

by Barbara Phillips and Dorothy Arvidson, Staff

Edward Howe Forbush's Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States, a classic of ornithological literature, was the culmination of a career that began in early boyhood in the woods and fields of West Roxbury. E. H. Forbush gave up school at fifteen to devote himself to birds and one year later became Curator of Ornithology at the Worcester Natural History Society's museum. In the early years of his career, he studied birds chiefly by "collecting" and taxidermy as was the custom of the time but ultimately realized . . . "that an examination of the dead was merely a preliminary to a study of the living, and that it was more essential to preserve the living than the dead." During his middle years, he was in the forefront of the conservation movement, working in the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture and ultimately, as the state ornithologist. A prolific writer, he published a number of books that are now collector's items in the birding community. He died in 1929 leaving the third volume of his most famous work within a few pages of completion.

Volume I (1925) covers waterbirds, marsh birds, and shore birds; Volume II (1927), generally the most sought after volume, deals with land birds from bobwhites to grackles, and Volume III (1929) with land birds from sparrows to thrushes. Volumes I, II, and a small portion of III are beautifully illustrated with Louis Agassiz Fuertes' full color drawings, and at Fuertes' death, Allan Brooks very ably completed the illustrations for Volume III. The three volumes can often be picked up from dealers in old books or from estates for prices of one hundred to one hundred and fifty dollars per set or occasionally at library or flea market sales for as little as twenty-five cents per volume.

This three-volume work and its author are the subject of a long and appreciative essay by E. B. White ("Mr. Forbush's Friends") that appeared in the February 26, 1966 issue of the The New Yorker. E. B. White, well-known for his work as a staff member of that magazine and for his books for children (Stuart Little, Charlotte's Web), admits, "Although not a student of birds, I am thrown with them a good bit . . . [and] when I encounter a new face or renew my acquaintance with an old one, I turn to Forbush for help in comprehending what I have been looking at." And Forbush is more than equal to the task. In these volumes, every aspect of the bird is considered from its physical description to voice, breeding range, distribution in New England, and season in Massachusetts as well as its economic status and the species' "Haunts and Habits." In his discussions of the latter subject, Forbush drew freely on the communications he received from friends and acquaintances throughout the country, and it is this part of Forbush's writing, the reporting of unusual and

amusing encounters with birds, that particularly delighted E. B. White. Much of White's essay contains shortened versions of these encounters, translated into The New Yorker style made famous by him during the years he was in charge of "news-breaks" (fillers used to justify the columns). This creates a double delight for the reader - field notes from Forbush presented in the lighthearted fashion of one of modern literature's great stylists. The following selections are quoted from E. B. White's essay, "Mr. Forbush's Friends."

Dr. Joseph Grinnell. Passed night on island of St. Lazaria, Alaska. Found it impossible to keep campfire alight because Leach's petrels, who stay out all night, flew into fire in such numbers as to extinguish it. June, 1896.

Reverend J. H. Linsley. Opened the stomach of a gannet, found bird. Opened stomach of that bird, found another bird. Bird within bird within bird. No date.

Mr. Stanley C. Jewett. Asserts that wounded red-breasted merganser at Netarts Bay, Oregon, dived to submerged root in three feet of water and died while clinging there. Apparent suicide. May, 1915.

Mr. W. L. Bishop. Found ruffed grouse submerged in brook, except for head, to escape goshawk. No date.

Mr. Charles Hayward. Examined crop of a ruffed grouse. Found 140 apple buds, 134 pieces of laurel leaves, 28 wintergreen leaves, 69 birch buds, 205 blueberry buds, 201 cherry buds, and 109 blueberry stems. Splendid appetite. No date.

Mr. T. Gilbert Pearson. Lady of his acquaintance, while sitting alone in her room, was startled when beef bone fell out onto hearth. Went outside, discovered turkey buzzard peering down chimney. Carelessness on part of bird. No date.

Mr. William Brewster, of Concord. Was standing by corner of one of his barns. Phoebe pursued by sharp-shinned hawk used Brewster's body as shield in eluding hawk. No date.

Mr. H. H. Waterman, of Auburn, Maine. Saw Cooper's hawk plunge flicker in roadside ditch containing one foot of water, hold it under for three minutes. May 15, 1921.

Mr. William Brewster again. Saw sparrow hawk amusing himself at expense of two flickers. No malice involved. September 12, 1888.

Mr. Aretas A. Saunders. Heard sparrow hawk, while hovering, squeal like a mouse. Hawk possibly trying to entice mouse from concealment. No date.

Friend of Mr. Forbush's, no name. Bought farm in Touisset, found osprey's nest atop chimney. Ospreys in charge of premises. Owner removed nest. Birds immediately began rebuilding, using sticks, clods, and stones. Owner, now desperate, shot female. Male went off, returned a few hours later with another mate. Pair went on with rebuilding operations. Filled chimney from bottom to top with sticks, stones, and rubbish. Owner accepted challenge, shot both birds. Large section of chimney had to be removed on one side, for removal of material choking flue. Perseverance. No date.

- Mr. Joseph B. Underhill. Caught and confined male great horned owl. In return was struck and injured by female owl. Much blood spilled. 1885.
- Mr. F. H. Mosher ("a competent observer"). Watched yellow-billed cuckoo eat 41 gypsy caterpillars in fifteen minutes. Later saw another cuckoo eat 47 forest tent caterpillars in six minutes.
- Mr. J. L. Davison, of Lockport, New York. Found a black-billed cuckoo and a mourning dove sitting together in a robin's nest. Nest contained two eggs of cuckoo, two of dove, one of robin. Bad management. June 17, 1882.
- Mrs. Gene Stratton Porter. Examined food remains in nest of kingfisher, found one-tenth of them to be nearly equally divided between berry seeds and the hard parts of grasshoppers. Exacting work but easier than writing. No date.
- Mr. Harry E. Woods, of Huntington. Watched pair of yellow-bellied sapsuckers feeding their young on insects. Each insect was taken by the bird to a tree in which was a hole the size of a quarter; insect was soaked in sap, then fed to young. Principle of the cocktail-hour dip. No date.
- Mr. E. O. Grant again. Saw farmer near Patten, Maine, sitting on a snowdrift about fifteen feet high, surrounded by a hundred redpolls. Birds perched on farmer's head and shoulders. One sat on knee. Farmer told Grant he had enjoyed the previous half hour more than any other period in his life. March 23, 1926.
- Mr. H. C. Denslow. Timed the chirps of a Henslow's sparrow, which sings in its sleep. Found they came eight to the minute.
- Mrs. Chester Bancroft, of Tyngsborough. Reported to Thornton Burgess she saw large bullfrog with barn swallow in mouth. Mr. Burgess relayed information to Mr. Forbush. Summer of 1927.
- Miss Dorothy A. Baldwin, of Hardwick. Observed inconstancy in female tree swallow. Entertained young male when husband off somewhere. Happened again and again. One day, female left with interloper. Mate mourned for day, then disappeared, leaving eggs cold in deserted nest. Broken home. No date.
- Mr. John Willison. In woods behind Mayflower Inn, at Manomet Point, came upon gay crowd of cedar waxwings swigging ripe chokecherry juice. All birds had had one too many, were falling-down drunk. (Social drinking a common failing of waxwings.) No date.
- Mr. Neil F. Posson. Credits yellow warbler with 3,240 songs a day, or 22,680 a week. 1892.
- Owner of a bar in Fairhaven (no name given). Had pair of Carolina wrens build nest in basket containing sticks of dynamite. No untoward results. No date.
- Mrs. Daisy Dill Norton. Found female house wren nesting in bluebird nest box, with no mate. Little wren busy and happy with domestic chores, allowed no other bird near, male or female; whiled away time by laying eggs. Laid, it turned out later, twelve. No date.
- Mr. Fred G. Knaub, of New Haven. Male bluebird neglected own family in order to tend young house wrens in nest box nearby. Fought wren parents to a fare-thee-well. No date.

Dr. Mary F. Hobart, of Needham. Male bluebird became infatuated with caged canary. Began flirtation on May 16th, continued it while own mate was busy incubating eggs. Frequently alighted on canary's cage, offered worms, caterpillars. July 1st, saw error of ways or tired of color yellow, returned to mate, resumed parental duties. No date.

To the above, Mr. White then adds some "eccentric bird experiences" of his own:

Of all Mr. Forbush's tipsters, the only one I am jealous of is Fred G. Floyd, of Hingham. Mr. Floyd beat me to a very fine niche in "Birds of Massachusetts" - he beat me by some thirty years. There is just one record of a Harris's sparrow in "Birds," and Mr. Floyd, along with his wife, gets the credit for it. The bird was seen in Hingham in April, 1929, shortly after Mr. Forbush's death but still in time to get into the unfinished Volume III. Five or six years ago ... a Harris's sparrow ... showed up at my home in Maine and hung around the feeding station for three days - a beautifully turned-out bird, reddish-brown, with a black face and throat and a white waistcoat.... The bird is almost unknown in New England, and this one was at least a thousand miles from where he belonged. We had a gale not long before, and he must have ridden it all the way from Nebraska or Kansas.

I have never watched a merganser commit suicide, but once, in Florida, I saw two flickers dancing at one end of a tin rain gutter to music supplied by a red-bellied woodpecker, who was drumming on the gutter at the other end. Mr. Forbush came instantly to mind. I have never seen a bullfrog with a swallow in its mouth, but the first cast I ever made with a spinning reel (it was a practice shot on a lawn) was taken by a mockingbird, who swept down out of a bush and grabbed the bob.

For more in this vein, we suggest you read Mr. White's essay. Lest the reader might feel that Forbush unadulterated is less a pleasure to read, we offer some of our favorite selections from the original source.

Some catbirds may even attempt to imitate the screams of hawks. Miss J. Olivia Crowell tells me that she is not sure that they have a sense of humor, but that one which makes its home near her dwelling seemed to find amusement by flying from the roof of the shed to that of the barn and there indulging in a series of whistles or squawks, to the utter bewilderment of four hens and a rooster, which eyed that Cat-bird with manifest disapproval and alarm, and cackled and craned their necks until the disturber flew away and left them in peace. He has even been known to attempt an imitation of a hand organ, keeping the time correctly, but having less success with the tune. (III: 325)

Some House Wrens may mate for life, others certainly do not. Mr. S. Prentiss Baldwin . . . says that one male mated with a certain female and while she was sitting on her eggs he left her and mated with another female, joining her in nesting in another box. The first female hatched her brood, fed them for awhile, and then apparently became enamored of another male, brought the first male back to attend her brood, and went away with her new lover and started another family while her first mate fed and reared her first brood. Such actions would constitute a scandal in polite society. (III: 343)

I once saw a Chickadee attempting to hold a monster caterpillar, which proved too strong for it. The great worm writhed out of the confining grasp and fell to the ground, but the little bird followed, caught it, whipped it over a twig, and, swinging underneath, caught each end of the caterpillar with a foot, and so held it fast over the twig by superior weight, and proceeded, while hanging back downward, to dissect its prey. (III: 371)

Like E. B. White, we recommend highly your "reading around in the books . . . for refreshment and instruction."

BARBARA PHILLIPS works at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. A former resident of Martha's Vineyard (her great-grandfather was a whaling captain there), Barbara spent some twenty years as the wife of a foreign service officer living in prime birding spots on six continents, only marginally aware that birds existed. A newspaper article on birding along the Massachusetts coast caught her attention several years ago, and she has pursued birds in a desultory fashion ever since.

DOROTHY ARVIDSON, editor of BOEM, wishes that she could have birded with E. H. Forbush and could write like E. B. White.

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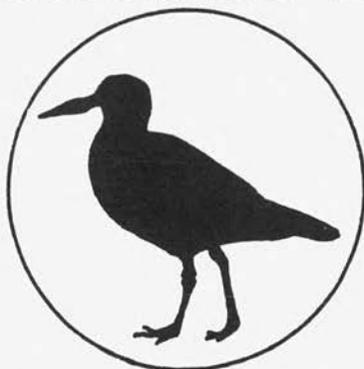
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THE SCREECH-OWL SURVEY PROJECT: PAST AND FUTURE

by Oliver Komar, Newton

The Eastern Screech-Owl (Otus asio) is a surprisingly abundant predator in eastern Massachusetts. It is extremely adaptable, nocturnally preying on mammals, birds, insects, reptiles, and amphibians. However, to find one without first attracting it through the aid of a tape recording or a whistled imitation of its calls (the playback technique) is an unusual event in Massachusetts. Furthermore, they do not fly over open fields at dusk as do other owl species, although they may be seen along the edges of the woods.

High levels of Christmas Count owling and participation on owl prowls conducted by local bird clubs indicated to Bird Observer's Field Studies Committee that many Massachusetts birders were venturing out at night to locate screech-owls using playback techniques. The Screech-Owl Survey Project was created in March of 1982 to convert this unorganized owling into a useful scientific data-collection effort. Over these past two years the effort has proved very successful, and a great quantity of data has been collected. Survey workers have gathered habitat information from 358 stations, and have located a total of 137 owls, producing a sizable data base. See BOEM 10(5):263 for a description of the survey project. Since that publication, the instructions for data collection have been modified to include any time of night and certain behavior details.

Past projects (five since March 1982) have been successful, although the two December projects attracted more participation than the three April projects combined. Certain comparisons of the two periods require more data, but others show very interesting differences, such as the ratio of red-phase to gray-phase owls. According to the data collected thus far, red-phase owls predominate in April, gray-phase in December! Pending further data collection, a complete analysis will appear in this journal. A copy of the current summary report (sent only to project participants) may be obtained by sending \$1.00 to Oliver Komar, 61 Wade St., Newton, Mass. 02161.

The Screech-Owl Survey Project is an example of using amateur birding to scientific advantage. The project utilizes techniques routinely practiced by birders to study an important and poorly understood member of our own ecosystem. Collecting the data can be rewarding for any birder or naturalist. In addition to screech-owls, participants have sighted or heard Great Horned, Barred, and Saw-whet owls, woodcocks, Red Foxes, and opossums during survey work. Many of the thirty-six participants have indicated that they enjoy the work and will contribute data again.

The Screech-Owl Survey Project will be continued regularly, at intervals of eight months, until enough data have been collected. Depending on the year, it will fall roughly on the first ten days of August and December, and the last ten days of April. The April period supplies breeding season data, and it is hoped that participation during that critical period will increase in future years. The next scheduled April survey is in 1985. The December survey, consistently successful because of its proximity to the Christmas Count, is also scheduled next for 1985. In 1984, only the new August survey is scheduled. This will be the first post-breeding season survey but may also be the most exciting and enjoyable, as temperatures will be warm and owls should be at the peak of their yearly population fluctuation. Many young owls should be about, as food supply is abundant during the summer months. It is hoped that participation in August will be the highest ever, since we have no data as yet for that time period. We encourage everyone who enjoys owling to contribute data or to learn the sport by joining other owlers. Simply contact the compiler (see announcement this issue) for information, instructions, and data forms. Past participants will find it easy to continue with the survey by returning to their previous stations, skirting the initial process of habitat classification at new locations.

Bird Observer's Screech-Owl Project is designed to determine the relative abundance of the Eastern Screech-Owl per habitat type. This information may be useful to environmental agencies to identify areas of ecological unbalance. For instance, a badly polluted watershed may be devoid of the owls, while a similar habitat in a healthy watershed may show an above average abundance for the species. Because the screech-owl is apparently the most abundant predator throughout much of its range in Massachusetts, it may be an excellent indicator species for the ecological well-being of an area. (Persons interested in analysing data, creating ways to use it, or publishing articles on the results of the survey, should contact the compiler, as volunteer workers are needed.)

Using survey data, we also may roughly estimate the total population of Eastern Screech-Owls in a given area. For example, April survey data indicate an average eastern Massachusetts breeding density of five pairs per square mile (provided all single owl responses represented a breeding pair). If each pair produces two young, an area the size of Newton (17.3 square miles) can be predicted to contain as many as 360 screech-owls in the month of August!! Please contact the compiler for data forms.

OLIVER KOMAR, active in BOEM's Field Studies Committee, began watching birds at age seven and in the twelve years since has birded across this country and in Mexico, Peru, Costa Rica, and Chile. His future plans include college with studies focused on ecology, but in the interim, he is busy with a

Newton Arts in the Parks production of West Side Story - acting, directing, singing, and dancing. He also works for a board-game company and is the assistant producer of a high school quiz tournament shown on broadcast television.



SCREECH-OWL SURVEY

August 3 - 13, 1984

SCREECH-OWL SURVEY: August 3-13, 1984, a new time period when temperatures are pleasant and screech-owls abundant. For current data forms, instructions, and information, contact: Oliver Komar, 61 Wade Street, Newton, MA 02161. Telephone: (617) 332-5509.

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Field Records

February 1984



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

February was extremely mild and wet; the temperature averaged 37.6°, 6.9° above normal. The only warmer February in 114 years of official records was that of 1925 when the average temperature was 38.0°. The highest temperature was a balmy 60° on February 23, and on the twelfth the mercury reached 58°, a new record high for that date. The month's low was 13° on February 8 and 10. A remarkable long stretch of warmer than normal days began on the eleventh and extended for eighteen days through February 28; this was one of the longest such runs on record. At Blue Hill Observatory in Milton, a new February mean record of 35.2° was set, 7.9° above normal.

Precipitation totaled 7.81 inches, 3.97 inches more than average and a new official record for the past 114 years, surpassing the old record of 7.08 inches set in 1969. Snowfall on the other hand totaled but 0.3 inch, 11.5 inches less than average. Fog was frequent and heavy and occurred on four days, twice the average number.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

A small loon was reported off Folly Cove, Rockport on February 8. The bird was beginning to show breeding plumage, and the observers were convinced they saw an Arctic Loon. A few Double-crested Cormorants were again noted with eight found in Squantum.

The Tundra Swan found in December continued in Plymouth. Other highlights included two Eurasian Wigeon, three King Eider, and twenty-two Harlequin Ducks at Chilmark, Martha's Vineyard. R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>FEBRUARY 1984</u>
Common Loon:				
5,10	Newbypt, C. Ann	6, 10	G.d'Entremont#(both)	
17-20	M.V.	200+	R.Sargent#	
Arctic Loon:				
8	Rockport(Folly Cove)	1	H.Wiggin,M.Argue	
Horned Grebe:				
3,5	P.I.,Boston Harbor	25, 29	N.King,TASL	
11,17-20	C. Ann,M.V.	10, 14	BBC,R.Sargent#	
Red-necked Grebe:				
12,20,21	Gloucester(Bass Rocks)	27, 39, 52	T.Walsh,G.d'Entremont#,W.Petersen#	
12,19	N.Scituate	11, 6	B.Sorrie#,R.Abrams	
14,21	Dennis,Rockport	14, 19	B.Nikula,W.Petersen	
Northern Gannet:				
5,26	C. Ann	7, 2	SSBC,BBC	
11,22	P'town	18, 50	D.Brown#,W.Petersen#	
29	Edgartown	150+	W.Manter,V.Laux	
Great Cormorant:				
5	Boston Harbor	346	TASL	
Double-crested Cormorant:				
5,12	Squantum,Falmouth	8, 1 imm.	TASL,R.Heil#	
20,21	Rockport,Falmouth	1, 3	D.Brown#,R.Walton	
American Bittern:				
5,10	P.I.	1, 1	G.d'Entremont,R.Coyle#	
Great Blue Heron:				
4	Squantum,E.Bridgewater	2, 1	G.d'Entremont,W.Petersen	
17-20,23	M.V.,Osterville	18, 5	R.Sargent#,J.Berry	
Black-crowned Night-Heron:				
5,17-20	Scituate,M.V.	1, 1	E.Cutler,R.Sargent	

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	FEBRUARY 1984
Tundra Swan: Feb.	Plymouth	1	D.Clapp, fide R.Forster	
Mute Swan: 18	Westport	158	H.Merriman	
Snow Goose: 26	Newbypt	1	P.Roberts	
Brant: 5	Boston Harbor	1596	TASL	
25,26	Newbypt, Scituate	35, 500	BBC, I.Giriunas	
Green-winged Teal: 22	E.Orleans, Wayland	1, 2	W.Petersen#, R.Forster	
American Black Duck: 5	Westport, Boston Harbor	500 ⁺ , 1512	T.Raymond, TASL	
7,25	Halifax, Newbypt-P.I.	2000 ⁻ , 500 ⁺	K.Anderson, BBC	
Northern Pintail: 24,26	Wayland, W.Bridgewater	3, 12	R.Walton, W. Petersen	
Northern Shoveler: 18-19,25	Squantum, P.I.	2, 1	R.Abrams+v.o., BBC	
Gadwall: 26	Ipswich	17	J.Berry	
Eurasian Wigeon: 4-22,26-29	E.Orleans, Chilmark	1 m., 1 m.	A.Williams+v.o., W.Manter#	
American Wigeon: 8,20	Cambridge, Braintree	6, 3	F.Bouchard, R.Abrams	
Canvasback: 5	Assonet, Westport	110, 130	T.Raymond(both)	
11	Falmouth, Lakeville	125, 4	SSBC, G.d'Entremont#	
18	Westport	115	H.Merriman	
Redhead: 5,18+20	Assonet, Lakeville	1, 1 m.	T.Raymond, W.Petersen#	
12,17-20	Falmouth, M.V.	2, 50	M.Lynch#, R.Sargent+v.o.	
Ring-necked Duck: 13,22	Lakeville, Millis	15, 5	D.Briggs, B.Cassie	
Greater Scaup: 5	Boston Harbor	3653	TASL	
Lesser Scaup: 17-20,20	M.V., Lakeville	11, 100+	R.Sargent#, W.Petersen	
Common Eider: 5	Boston Harbor	5319	TASL	
King Eider: 1-26	Scituate	1 ad. m.	R.Abrams+v.o.	
19,21	Newbypt, Magnolia	1 f., 1 f.	R.Heil, W.Petersen#	
Harlequin Duck: thr.	Chilmark, M.V.	max. 22 (2/2)	W.Manter	
thr.	Rockport, P'town	4-6, 1 imm. m.	v.o., v.o.	
11-26,21	N.Scituate, Gloucester	max. 8, 2 m.	W.Petersen#+v.o.(both)	
Common Goldeneye: 5,19	Boston Harbor, Newbypt	1622, 1900+	TASL, R.Heil	
21,25	Lakeville, GMNWR	150+, 34	D.Briggs, R.Walton	
Barrow's Goldeneye: thr.	Newbypt. Harbor	max., 8 (2/12, 2/19)	G.Gove#+v.o.	
5,11-26	Gloucester, N.Scituate	2, 1	SSBC, W.Petersen#+v.o.	
29	M.V., Squantum	2, 7	W.Manter#, D.Brown	
Bufflehead: 5	Boston Harbor	1497	TASL	
Hooded Merganser: 5	Boston Harbor, Assonet	3, 6	TASL, T.Raymond	
5,8	Brighton, Cambridge	3, 1	J.Paputseanos, F.Bouchard	
12,13	Watertown, Lakeville	2, 6	J.Heywood#, D.Briggs	
22,26	Wayland, Milton	3, 2	R.Forster, G.d'Entremont	
Common Merganser: 4,5	E.Orleans, Assonet	25, 15	A.Williams, T.Raymond	
18,20	Milton, Braintree	31, 188	R.Abrams(both)	
Red-breasted Merganser: 3,17-20	P.I., M.V.	500, 800	N.King#, R.Sargent#	
Ruddy Duck: 13	Lakeville	1	D.Briggs	

VULTURES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Turkey Vultures were moving into the region at month's end. A total of sixteen Bald Eagles was reported from four locations, and two-thirds of them were subadult birds. One subadult was marked with a blue plastic streamer attached to the wing. All of the accipiters were represented in this month's reports. A Red-shouldered Hawk was seen on a suet feeder in Concord, and Red-tailed Hawks were noted in abundance with ninety to a hundred reported. A large falcon was observed and photographed at Squantum in mid-month. Although the quality of the photographs is not good, they are sufficiently clear to create some question about the identity of the bird. Examination by experts may prove definitive. A covey of twelve Bobwhite was noted in Belmont, the first covey in four years that the observer had seen there in spite of intensive coverage of the area.

Shorebirds again produced no surprises with the usual winter types present but not in any impressive numbers. Woodcock were seen displaying at Chatham on February 15, however. There were four Common Black-headed Gulls reported this month and no little Gulls. An estimated 5000 gulls of three species - Great Black-backed, Herring, and Ring-billed - were seen sitting on the ice at Lake Assawampsett in Lakeville on the twelfth. Fifty or more Iceland (Kumlein's) Gulls were present at Cape Ann and at Nantucket with reports of others at various locations. Glaucous Gulls were reported from eight locations and Black-legged Kittiwakes were noted at coastal locations and in Boston Harbor.

Four species of alcids, not including Dovekie, were reported with 170 and 215 Black Guillemots at Provincetown on February 11 and 12 where an immature Atlantic Puffic was seen on the fifth.

A Mourning Dove was seen nest building in Concord on February 23 and Great Horned Owls were seen on nests in Marshfield and Middleboro.

Red-headed and Red-bellied woodpeckers were noted on Martha's Vineyard where thirty to forty Northern Flickers were counted also. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker continued from January at a feeder in Belmont but was seen only once this month. A male Downy Woodpecker was seen excavating a nest hole in Osterville.

G.W.G.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>FEBRUARY 1984</u>
Turkey Vulture:				
25,26	Quabbin,Milton	3, 1	SSBC,S.Higginbotham	
26,27	Holliston,Lincoln	1, 1	J.Baird,T.Urquhart	
29	Wayland,Worcester County	1, 5	R.Forster,R.Kleber	
Bald Eagle:				
thr.	Quabbin	max. 5 ad., 5 imm.	v.o.	
thr.	Newbypt-P.I.	max. 1 ad., 2 sub-ad., 1 imm.	v.o.	
5-26	Westport	1 imm.	v.o.	
12	Lakeville	1 ad.	D.Briggs	
Northern Harrier:				
thr.	P.I.	max. 7	v.o.	
5	Hingham	2	TASL	
3-20	Middleboro	max. 3 f., 2 m.	K.Anderson	
17-20	M.V.	4	R.Sargent#	
Sharp-shinned Hawk:				
1,11	E.Middleboro,Marshfield	1 m., 1	K.Anderson,W.Petersen#	
19,17-20	N.Scituate,M.V.	1, 2	R.Abrams,R.Sargent#	
22	Orleans	1	R.Walton	
Cooper's Hawk:				
19,21	Worcester,Weymouth	1, 1	T.Walsh,R.Campbell	
20-29	Chatham	1 ad.	P.Trull#	
27	Sudbury	1 ad.	R.Forster	
Northern Goshawk:				
10,13	E.Middleboro	1	K.Anderson	
11	Westminister	1	R.Stymeist#	
Red-shouldered Hawk:				
thr.	Orleans,Concord	1 ad., 1 ad.	v.o.,fide R.Walton	
Red-tailed Hawk:				
5,10	Randolph,Middlesex County	11, 12	H.Mallers,J.O'Regan#	
17-20	M.V.	15-18	R.Sargent#	
19	Newbypt-Salisbury	10	P.Roberts	
25	13 seen on a day trip from Bridgewater to Quabbin.			
thr.	25-30 seen at 14 locations.			

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	FEBRUARY 1984
Rough-legged Hawk:				
thr.	Newbypt-P.I.	max. 6 (2/10)	v.o.	
3-20	E.Middleboro	max. 4 (2/20)	K.Anderson	
5	Salisbury	5 (3 dk.)	G.d'Entremont#	
11,12	Marshfield,Truro	3, 1	W.Petersen#,B.Nikula	
Golden Eagle:				
25	Quabbin(Gate 43)	1 imm.	M.Lynch,S.Carroll	
American Kestrel:				
1,11	Newton,Quincy	1, 4	O.Komar,G.d'Entremont	
19,25	Newbypt,Salisbury	5, 8	P.Roberts,BBC	
Merlin:				
3,19	Newbypt	1, 1 ad. f.	N.King#,BbC	
Peregrine Falcon:				
28	M.V.	1	W.Manter	
Falco sp.:				
19	Squantum	1 (ph.)	BBC(D.Brown)	
Ruffed Grouse:				
5,27	Amesbury,Milton	1, 1	G.d'Entremont,D.Brown	
Northern Bobwhite:				
12,17	Belmont,Osterville	12, 15	L.Taylor,J.Berry#	
Sora:				
5	Ipswich	1	G.d'Entremont#	
Black-bellied Plover:				
17-20	M.V.	7	R.Sargent#	
Killdeer:				
11,22	Orleans,Millis	1, 1	B.Nikula,B.Cassie	
Ruddy Turnstone:				
1,19	N.Scituate	8, 25	R.Abrams	
Sanderling:				
5,17-20	Nahant,M.V.	30, 25-30	TASL,R.Sargent#	
Purple Sandpiper:				
thr.	N.Scituate	max. 300 (2/1)	R.Abrams	
5-11	C.Ann	max. 175	v.o.	
5,26	Nahant	85, 100	TASL,BBC	
6	Marshfield	50	S.Higginbotham	
Dunlin:				
5,6	Nahant,Marshfield	2, 30	TASL,S.Higginbotham	
17-20,26	M.V.,Westport	10, 60	R.Sargent#,C.Gove	
Common Snipe:				
19	Newbypt	1	BBC	
American Woodcock:				
15,20	Chatham,Lynn	2, 1	B.Nikula,C.Jackson	
Common Black-headed Gull:				
thr.	P'town	1 (1W)	v.o.	
5	Winthrop	1	TASL	
5-12	Gloucester	2 (1W)	v.o.	
Bonaparte's Gull:				
26	C.Ann	20	BBC	
Ring-billed Gull:				
17-20,22	M.V.,Osterville	50, 50	R.Sargent#,J.Berry	
Herring Gull:				
17-20	M.V.	1500+	R.Sargent#	
Iceland Gull:				
thr.	Gloucester,Newbypt	max. 40 (2/11),	max. 15 (2/5) v.o.	
1,5	Nant.,C.Ann	50, 50	W.Manter#,SSBC	
2	Cambridge	1	L.Robinson	
11-22	P'town	max. 12 (2/22)	v.o.	
Glaucous Gull:				
1,6	N.Scituate,Marshfield	1 (2W), 1	R.Abrams,S.Higginbotham	
5,8	Gloucester	2, 1	SSBC,M.Argue#	
5	Nahant,E.Boston	1, 1	TASL	
11	P'town	1	D.Brown#	
26	Salisbury,Plymouth	1 (1W), 1 (1W)	P.Roberts,B.Sorrie#	
Black-legged Kittiwake:				
5	Rockport,Boston Harbor	40, 15	SSBC,TASL	
17-20	M.V.	40-50	R.Sargent#	
22	P'town	1000	W.Petersen#	
Thick-billed Murre:				
11,12	P'town	3, 1	D.Brown#,B.Nikula	
19,25	Quincy,N.Scituate	1, 1	BBC,B.Sorrie#	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>FEBRUARY 1984</u>
Razorbill:				
17-20	M.V.	1	R.Sargent#	
Black Guillemot:				
thr.	C.Ann	max. 7 (2/5)	v.o.	
5-22	P'town	170 (2/11), 215 (2/12)	v.o.	
11-26	N.Scituate	max. 26 (2/12)	B.Sorrie#	
Atlantic Puffin:				
5	P'town	1 imm.	H.Merriman#	
Mourning Dove:				
thr.	Brookline	max. 59	B.Rielly#	
17-20	M.V.	60	R.Sargent#	
23	Concord	1 (building nest)	R.Walton	
Common Barn-Owl:				
17-20	M.V.	2	R.Sargent#	
Eastern Screech-Owl:				
17-20	M.V.	2	R.Sargent#	
Great Horned Owl:				
thr.	P.I.	1	v.o.	
11,20	Marshfield,Middleboro	1, 1	W.Petersen#	
	Both these birds were on nests.			
19	Milton	2	BBC	
	Reports of 6 from 6 locations.			
Snowy Owl:				
thr.	M.V.,P.I.	1, max. 2	v.o.	
5,10	E.Boston,Salisbury	1, 1 (dk.)	TASL, J.O'Regan#	
Barred Owl:				
3,23	IRWS,Cambridge	1, 1	R.Heil,F.Bouchard	
27	Boston	1	N.Weir	
Short-eared Owl:				
17,17-20	P.I.,M.V.	1, 1	NWR staff,R.Sargent#	
26	E.Boston	1	C.Jackson	
Northern Saw-whet Owl:				
6	Little Nahant	1	W.Crawford	
15,25	P.I.,Milton	1, 1	NWR staff,G.d'Entremont	
Belted Kingfisher:				
5,11	Newbury,Belmont	1, 1	G.d'Entremont,L.Taylor	
11,17-20	Marshfield,M.V.	2, 5	W.Petersen#,R.Sargent#	
Red-headed Woodpecker:				
17-20	M.V.	2	R.Sargent	
Red-bellied Woodpecker:				
17-20	M.V.	1	R.Sargent#	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:				
10	Belmont	1 ad. m. from Jan.	J.Wissman	
Downy Woodpecker:				
5,22	Newbypt, Osterville	15, 1 m.	G.d'Entremont,J.Berry	
Hairy Woodpecker:				
thr.	Easton	pr.	K.Ryan	
12,25	E.Middleboro,Milton	3, 3	K.Anderson,G.d'Entremont	
Northern Flicker:				
9	Squantum	4	R.Abrams	
17-20	M.V.	30-40	R.Sargent#	
Pileated Woodpecker:				
2,25	Worcester,Quabbin	2, 2	M.Lynch#,SSBC	

HORNED LARK THROUGH EVENING GROSBEAK

The end of February usually brings the first influx of spring migrants. This year by 22 February all four regularly-occurring blackbird species had reached the North Shore in numbers. In the same area, Ruby-crowned Kinglet successfully overwintered at least until late February. Inland, a small group of Tree Swallows in Baldwinville constituted arrivals early by about a month.

Several species were reported in impressive numbers on single days during February. The one hundred Fish Crows in Natick provided a good winter count, though at an expected location. Good counts of Carolina Wren were made at both Falmouth and the Marshfield/Scituate area, the latter count consisting mostly of birds singing due to the abnormally warm weather. Also in Falmouth, eighteen Rufous-sided Towhees represent a normal number for a winter count. This species is usually found in distinctly smaller numbers, early-on into the winter and Christmas Count time.

Rarities for the month included upwards of twenty Bohemian Waxwings in the Athol area. This continued a 1983-84 winter trend of substantial Bohemian Waxwing counts. Lesser numbers of the Athol waxwings lingered for a few weeks. The Orleans Clay-colored Sparrow continued in place for yet another month.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>FEBRUARY 1984</u>
Horned Lark: 6,25	Duxbury,P.I.	12, 30	S.Higginbotham,BBC	
Tree Swallow: 26	Baldwinville	4	J.O'Regan	
American Crow: 3-22,20	Halifax,Sudbury	100 max., 150 ⁺	K.Anderson,F.Bouchard	
Fish Crow: 19,27	Natick,Newton	100, 1	T.Walsh,O.Komar	
Common Raven: 25	Hardwick	1-2	SSBC	
Black-capped Chickadee: 3,12	IRWS,Falmouth	110+, 185+	R.Heil	
Boreal Chickadee: 4,27	Newbypt,Milton	1, 1	BBC,D.Brown	
Red-breasted Nuthatch: 4-25,5	Newbypt,Ipswich	5 max., 1	v.o.,BBC	
17-20,22	M.V.,Osterville	3, 5	R.Sargent#,J.Berry	
Brown Creeper: 23,25	Osterville,Braintree	3, 7	J.Berry,G.d'Entremont	
Carolina Wren: 8,12	Marshfield/Scituate,Falmouth	10, 17	D.Clapp,R.Heil	
Winter Wren: 23	Cambridge (F.P.)	1	F.Bouchard	
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 17-20,22	M.V.,Osterville	25, 4	R.Sargent#,J.Berry	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 22	S.Peabody	1	R.Heil	
Eastern Bluebird: 10,29	M.V.	1	W.Manter#	
Hermit Thrush: 12	Falmouth	3	R.Heil	
American Robin: 4-13,27	Newton,Marshfield	15 max., 6	O.Komar,D.Clapp	
Gray Catbird: 4,12	Squantum,Falmouth	1, 2	R.Abrams,R.Heil	
17-20,22	M.V.,Salem	1, 1	R.Sargent#,R.Heil	
Brown Thrasher: 12,17-20	Rockport,M.V.	1, 1	T.Walsh,R.Sargent#	
Cedar Waxwing: thr.,11-12	Middleboro,Athol	150 max. (2/5), 56	D.Briggs,v.o.	
Bohemian Waxwing: 1-12	Athol	20 max.	m.ob.	
Northern Shrike: 1,5	Nant.,P'town	1, 1	V.Laux#,H.Stabins#	
7-25,19	P.I.,Chatham	1, 1	v.o.,P.Trull	
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 9,17-20	Squantum,M.V.	50 ⁺ , 45 ⁻	D.Brown,R.Sargent#	
Northern Cardinal: 12,17-20	Falmouth,M.V.	52 ⁺ , 12	R.Heil#,R.Sargent	
Rufous-sided Towhee: 3	Brookline,IRWS	1, 1	H.Wiggin,R.Heil	
12,17-20	Falmouth,M.V.	18, 1	R.Heil,R.Sargent	
American Tree Sparrow: 9,11	Squantum,Belmont	20, 35	R.Abrams,L.Taylor	
Clay-colored Sparrow: from Dec-22	Orleans	1	v.o.	
Field Sparrow: 20,22	Westport,Orleans	8, 13	R.Lanbach,R.Walton	
Savannah Sparrow: 17-20	M.V.	12	R.Sargent#	
Fox Sparrow: from Jan-12,thr.	Wayland,Watertown	1, 2	H.Parker,B.Phillips	
Swamp Sparrow: 11,20	Squantum,Westport	1, 1	G.d'Entremont,R.Lanbach	

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	FEBRUARY 1984
White-throated Sparrow: 17-20,26	M.V., Brookline	25 ⁺ , 10	R.Sargent#, B.Rielly#	
White-crowned Sparrow: from Jan. thr. Feb. M.V.		1 (feeder)	W.Manter	
Lapland Longspur: 19	Salisbury	1	BBC	
Snow Bunting: thr., 6	Fall River, Duxbury	10 ⁺ , 6	R.Caron, S.Higginbotham	
12-25, 17-20	Hardwick, M.V.	3 max., 8	v.o., R.Sargent#	
Red-winged Blackbird: 20, 22, 25	M.V., Millis, P.I.	general arrival	v.o.	
Eastern Meadowlark: 10	Westport	11	R.Lanbach	
Rusty Blackbird: 11, 29	Middleboro, Milton	6, 6	v.o., D.Brown	
Common Grackle: 20, 25	Middleboro, Newbypt	5, 40	K.Anderson, E.Nielsen#	
Brown-headed Cowbird: 5, 12	Lexington, Athol	15, 5	A.Williams, G.d'Entremont#	
22, 29	Millis, Concord	15, 100	B.Cassie, R.Forster	
Pine Grosbeak: 5, 12-18	Hamilton, Athol	1, 12	G.d'Entremont, v.o.	
21, 27	Hardwick, N.Weymouth	4, 3	R.Forster, D.Brown	
House Finch: 17-20, 18	M.V., Cohasset	65, 60	R.Sargent#, H.Mallers	
Purple Finch: 1, 18	Westport, Cohasset	7, 10	R.Lanbach, H.Mallers	
Common Redpoll: from Jan. thr. Feb. 29	Squantum, Milton	3 max., 4	v.o., D.Brown	
Pine Siskin: thr., 5	Middleboro, Salisbury	100 max. (2/11),	25 D.Briggs, R.Campbell#	
23	Lincoln	7	R.Forster	
Evening Grosbeak: thr.	Middleboro, S.Middleboro	85, 150 max.	D.Briggs, S.MacDonald	
11, 18	Athol, Cohasset	271, 28	R.Stymeist#, H.Mallers	

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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



Field Records:

March 1984

by George W. Gove and Robert H. Stymeist

March 1984 was more of a lion than a lamb. The temperature averaged 31.9 degrees, 6.5 degrees below normal, and it was the coldest March since 1916. Normally the temperature starts to rise in this month; however, this year was only the third time in 114 years of record-keeping that March was actually colder than the month of February. The highest temperature was just 54 degrees, the lowest March high since 52 degrees in 1956. The low was six degrees on the tenth and only two days were above normal all month.

Precipitation totaled 6.82 inches, 2.69 inches more than average; this was the eighth wettest March in 114 years. Measurable amounts fell on four days in a row on March 16-19 making a long wet, foggy, and gloomy period. Snowfall totaled 19.0 inches, 11.4 inches more than average and the most since 1967. The month's first major storm was on March 13 with 6.7 inches of heavy wet snow and sleet and considerable glazing the next day causing hazardous streets and sidewalks. The month's superstorm on March 29-30 dumped 9.4 inches of very heavy snow causing considerable damage to trees. Greater amounts fell in each of these storms in western and northern suburbs, with a foot or so common. The excessive snow brought the seasonal total up to 43.0 inches, 2.1 inches more than the past average. During the blizzard of March 29-30, gusts of wind of 63 mph were noted at Boston, the strongest winds since April 1, 1982. At Blue Hill in Canton, a gust reached 108 mph, the highest in many years. Thunderstorms were noted in several areas. The heavy wet snow clung to trees and limbs taking a tremendous toll. This was the most extensive damage since the visit of Hurricane Donna in September 1960.

R.H.S.

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

The many reports of large numbers of birds on March 30 and 31 are undoubtedly related to the storm. One hundred Common Loons were noted in Cape Cod Bay on March 31. Horned and Red-necked grebes were building in numbers along the coast, and one Red-necked Grebe was seen inland in Sterling. Large numbers of Northern Fulmar and Northern Gannet were seen off the Cape at month's end with 2000 Gannets counted on the thirty-first. Two storm-petrels were seen in Barnstable Harbor on March 30 and it was thought that they were Leach's Storm-Petrels.

An early Great Egret was noted in Eastham from the third through the twelfth, and Snowy Egrets appeared at month's end. Two Cattle Egrets were seen at Logan Airport on March 20 and one was present in Easton on the twenty-second. An immature Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was noted in Eastham on March 14, and Glossy Ibis were reported from four locations with the early date this year being March 15.

An adult Tundra Swan was reported from Plymouth on the fourth, and another, possibly the same bird, was seen in Lakeville from March 11 through the twenty-fifth. Only two reports of Snow Goose were received for the month. Brant were plentiful along the coast with 2559 counted on the TASL Boston Harbor Census. A Canada Goose with a yellow neck collar marked with P33F was noted in Newburyport Harbor; researchers from Cornell have been so marking geese. Wood Ducks were noted on the first of the month, and most of the species of dabbling ducks were increasing in numbers. The TASL census counted 7078 Common Eider in Boston Harbor, and 10,000 were estimated in Plymouth Harbor. King Eider were reported from at least five locations, and Harlequin Ducks were seen at four locations. Seventeen Barrow's Goldeneye were present in Newburyport Harbor; their numbers generally increase in early spring. Perhaps this species congregates at one location just prior to migrating to breeding grounds. A total of 15,000 Red-breasted Mergansers was estimated from Cape Cod Bay. The observer noted that this was a "spectacular concentration of spring-staging birds located along Cape Cod Bay from Wellfleet to Provincetown Harbor with an additional concentration of 5000 at Herring Cove Beach. Provincetown Harbor is a traditional spring staging area; however, these numbers far exceed anything recorded in Cape waters in the spring." G.W.G.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>MARCH 1984</u>
Red-throated Loon:				
3,17	P.I., Nantucket	2, 5	P.Roberts, BBC	
24	Newburyport, Manomet	2, 5	T.Walsh, K.Holmes	
Common Loon:				
3,17	P.I.+Salisbury, Nantucket	12, 20	P.Roberts, BBC	
31	Cape Cod Bay	100	W.Petersen#	
Pied-billed Grebe:				
4,7	Plymouth, Eastham	1, 1	W.Petersen, A.Williams	
25	Falmouth, Wayland	2, 2	BBC, K.Hamilton	
31	Eastham	3	D.+ R.Emerson	
Horned Grebe:				
3	Marion, Boston Harbor	56, 59	D.Briggs, TASL	
9,25	N.Scituate, Gloucester	25, 75	R.Abrams, L.Robinson	
Red-necked Grebe:				
3,21	Dennis	41, 31	B.Nikula	
3,10	Cape Ann, N.Scituate	20, 23	BBC, G.d'Entremont#	
17-18,25	Nantucket, <u>Sterling</u>	25, 1	BBC, H.Merriman	
31	Wellfleet, Manomet	50, 14	W.Petersen#	
Northern Fulmar:				
30	Eastham (F.E.)	120	B.Nikula	
storm-petrel sp.:				
30	Barnstable Harbor	2	J.Aylward	
Northern Gannet:				
3	N.Scituate, P.I.-Salisbury	6, 30	B.Cassie, P.Roberts	
31	Outer Cape Cod	2000	W.Petersen#	
Great Cormorant:				
3,10	Boston Harbor, N.Scituate	444, 25	TASL, G.d'Entremont	
17-18,25	Nantucket, S.Dartmouth	100, 100	BBC, R.Laubach	
Double-crested Cormorant:				
thr.	Falmouth	4	P.Trimble#	
24,31	Newburyport	1, 20	H.Merriman, BBC	
Great Blue Heron:				
thr.	E.Boston	1-2	S.Zendeh	
4,17	Milton, Westport	2, 2	R.Abrams, SSBC	
Great Egret:				
3-12	Chatham	1	B.Waters#	
Snowy Egret:				
22,23	N.Quincy	1	S.Higginbotham	
25	N.Quincy	4	G.Wilson#	
Cattle Egret:				
20,22	E.Boston (Logan AP), Easton	2, 1	I.Nisbet, K.Ryan	
Black-crowned Night-Heron:				
3,6	Cambridge, Eastham	1 imm., 1	J.Paputseanos, A.Williams	
31	Falmouth, Eastham	7 ad., 1 ad.+ 3 imm.	R.Stymeist#, H.Mallers#	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:				
14	Eastham (F.H.)	1 imm.	W.Bailey	
Glossy Ibis:				
15,22	Chatham, Quincy	1, 2	W.Bailey, S.Higginbotham	
24,31	Bridgewater, Middleboro	3, 1	W.Petersen#, D.Briggs	
Tundra Swan:				
4	Plymouth	1 ad.	W.Petersen#	
11-25	Lakeville	1 ad.	v.o.	
Mute Swan:				
17,25	Acoaxet, Falmouth	60, 81	SSBC, BBC	
Snow Goose:				
4,25	Salisbury, Newburyport	1, 1 ad.	BBC, W.Petersen	
Brant:				
3	Boston Harbor	2559	TASL	
22,24	WBWS, Newburyport	2500, 1000	P.Trull, BBC	
Canada Goose:				
thr.	Newburyport-Salisbury	max. 2000	v.o.	
Wood Duck:				
1,11	Dover, Lakeville	1, 3	W.Reagan, K.Ryan	
24,25	Wayland	11, 16	E.Morrier	
23	GMNWR	5	R.Walton	
	Many other reports.			
Green-winged Teal:				
3,4	Winchester, Truro	1, 6	BBC, S.Carroll#	
25	Ipswich, Wayland, S.Monomoy	8, 10, 12	J.Berry, K.Hamilton, J.Lortie#	
31	W.Bridgewater	9	K.Ryan	
American Black Duck:				
3,17	Boston Harbor, Newburyport	1476, 500	TASL, BBC	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>MARCH 1984</u>
Northern Pintail:				
1,22	W.Bridgewater, P.I.	20, 15	D.Emerson, M.McClellan	
25,27	Ipswich, W.Bridgewater	12, 16	J.Berry, S.Higginbotham	
Blue-winged Teal:				
24,25	Milton, Marshfield	pr., 2 m.	R.Vernon, T.Leverich#	
25,31	Orleans, P.I.	6, 2	M.Lynch#, W.Petersen	
Northern Shoveler:				
25	S.Monomoy	8	P.Trull#	
Gadwall:				
4,17	Plymouth, Westport	7, 5	W.Petersen, SSBC	
24,25	W.Harwich, S.Monomoy	4, 15	J.Aylward, J.Lortie#	
Eurasian Wigeon:				
thr.	E.Orleans	1 m.	A.Williams, S.Carroll#	
American Wigeon:				
18-30	Cambridge	max. 37(3/18)	D.Flood	
24,31	N.Scituate, Falmouth	11, 2	R.Titus#, H.Merriman	
Canvasback:				
2,3	Milton, Boston Harbor	16, 22	D.Brown#, TASL	
17	Westport, Yarmouth	200, 300	SSBC, J.Aylward	
25	Falmouth	25	P.Trimble	
Redhead:				
2,4	Lakeville, Plymouth	pr., 5	D.Briggs, W.Petersen	
24,25	Halifax, Falmouth	1, 7	W.Petersen#, P.Trimble#	
Ring-necked Duck:				
4,7	S.Hanson, Eastham	25, 18	W.Petersen, A.Williams	
11,24	Braintree, Middleboro	20, 50	R.Abrams, W.Petersen	
24,31	SRV, Carver	42, 36	R.Walton, D.Briggs	
Greater Scaup:				
3,10	Boston Harbor, Newburyport	2266, 400	TASL, BBC	
25	Falmouth	1065	BBC	
Lesser Scaup:				
11	Braintree, Newburyport	6, 3	R.Abrams, J.Berry	
26	Lakeville	50	D.Briggs	
Common Eider:				
3,24	Boston Harbor, Plymouth	7078, 10,000	TASL, H.Mallers#	
31	N.Scituate	300	R.Titus#	
King Eider:				
3	Boston Harbor	2	TASL	
3-16	Wollaston	1 ad. m.	L.Taylor + v.o.	
4	N.Scituate	1 m.	S.Higginbotham#	
31	Manomet, Sandwich, Eastham	1 f., 1 imm. m., 1 m.	W.Petersen#	
Harlequin Duck:				
3-18	Cape Ann	max. 7	v.o.	
3,6	Boston Harbor, E.Orleans	2, 3 m. + 1 f.	TASL, A.Williams	
4-18	N.Scituate	5 m. + 3 f.	v.o.	
Oldsquaw:				
4,28	Newburyport	50, 75	BBC	
25	Buzz. Bay - Falmouth	70	CCBC	
Black Scoter:				
17-18	Nantucket	200	BBC	
18,25	S.Dartmouth	25	R.Laubach	
Surf Scoter:				
4,9	Scituate, N.Scituate	14, 30	D.Clapp, R.Abrams	
17-18	Nantucket	100	BBC	
White-winged Scoter:				
3,17-18	Boston Harbor, Nantucket	220, 500	TASL, BBC	
11	Middleboro	1 m.	D.Briggs#	
Common Goldeneye:				
3,5	Boston Harbor, GMNWR	973, 10	TASL, R.Walton	
25	S.Dartmouth, Sterling	200, 43	R.Laubach, H.Merriman	
31	P.I.-Salisbury	300	BBC	
Barrow's Goldeneye:				
thr.	Newburyport	max. 11 m. + 6 f.	v.o.	
thr.	Dennis	1 m.	v.o.	
3,4	Chatham, Hull	pr., 8	B.Nikula, R.Abrams	
31	Falmouth	1 m.	G.Gove#	
Bufflehead:				
3	Boston Harbor	1196	TASL	
11,23	Lakeville, GMNWR	30, 7	K.Ryan#, R.Walton	
31	Falmouth	650	H.Merriman	
Hooded Merganser:				
3,5	Winchester, Wayland	4, 4	BBC, R.Walton	
9,24	GMNWR, Middleboro	10 m. + 2 f., 18	G.Gove, W.Petersen#	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBERS</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>MARCH 1984</u>
Common Merganser:				
4-16,11	Braintree, Newburyport	max. 125, 100	v.o., J.Berry	
4,18	Milton, Arlington	42, 44	R.Abrams, L.Taylor	
24,31	Waltham, Bourne	55, 120	R.Stymeist	
Red-breasted Merganser:				
3	Boston Harbor	1335	TASL	
31	Cape Cod Bay	15,000	W.Petersen#	
Ruddy Duck:				
24,25-31	S.Monomoy, P.I.	2, 1 m.	B.Nikula, v.o.	

RAPTORS THROUGH BOBWHITE

Turkey Vultures moved north early with a report on March 1, though the average arrival was after March 15 with many reports mostly from western areas. Ospreys arrived early in Lakeville and another was noted in Falmouth on March 25. At least seven Bald Eagles were recorded from a wide area of locations. Seven Northern Goshawks were noted from as many locations and Red-shouldered Hawks were moving on schedule from mid-March on. A Red-tailed Hawk was noted on a nest in Lexington on March 15, while several were moving at Mt. Wachusett on the weekend of the 24-25. Early reports of Broad-winged Hawks were noted at Hamilton on the 13th and in Carver on the 24th. An immature Golden Eagle continued in the south Quabbin area from the previous month. Finally in Boston, a Peregrine Falcon was noted three times during the month, each time observed either in pursuit of or with a Rock Dove.

Fourteen Wild Turkeys were observed in Ware, though the majority of reports were from Western Massachusetts. R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBERS</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>MARCH 1984</u>
Turkey Vulture:				
1,15	Medway, W.Boylston	1, 1	K.Anderson, D.Emerson	
23	Lincoln, Concord	1, 2	W.Harrington, W.Wyman	
24	Sudbury, Mt. Wachusett	1, 3	R.Forster#, T.Lipsky#	
25	Hardwick, Mt. Wachusett	16 (one kettle), 5	M.Lynch#, T.Lipsky	
26;27	Bolton;Concord, Lexington	1; 1, 1	A.Williams;W.Davis,R.Forster#	
Osprey:				
17,25	Lakeville	1, 1	D.+ B.Kiel, D.Clapp	
25	Falmouth	1	BBC (J.Bryant)	
Bald Eagle:				
3	S.Quabbin	3 ad., 1 imm.	M.Lynch, S.Carroll	
3,10	P.I.	1 sub ad., 1 imm.	P.Roberts, G.Gove	
17-19,17-21	Westport, Lakeville	1 imm., 1 imm.	SSBC+ R.Laubach, D.Kiel#	
25	S.Monomoy	1 imm.	J.Lortie#	
Northern Harrier:				
thr.	Salisbury-P.I.	max. 5-6	v.o.	
		Other reports of 1-2 individuals from many locations.		
Sharp-shinned Hawk:				
thr.	Reports of just single individuals from eight locations.			
Cooper's Hawk:				
1+3,3	Chatham, P.I.	1, 1 ad.	B.Nikula, P.Roberts	
10,24	Marshfield, Sandwich	1, 1	D.Clapp, G.d'Entremont#	
Northern Goshawk:				
1;4	Franklin;Newburyport,Boxford	1; 1, 1	K.Anderson; BBC	
24,26	Mt. Wachusett, Chatham	1, 1 imm.	P.Roberts, D.Holt#	
28,30	Norton, Brookline	1, 1	K.Ryan, H.Wiggin	
Red-shouldered Hawk:				
3+11,16	Orleans, GMNWR	1 ad., 1	B.Nikula#, W.Trembley	
24	Millis, Mt. Wachusett	1, 2	B.Cassie#, T.Lipsky	
24,25	W.Newbury, Concord	2, 1	H.Wiggin#, R.Walton	
Broad-winged Hawk:				
13	Hamilton	1	R.Heil	
Red-tailed Hawk:				
3	P.I.	6	P.Roberts	
8	Rte 495 (Middleboro-Rte 9)	13	K.Anderson	
15,24	Lexington,Millis-Wollaston	on nest, 9	L.Taylor, W.Reagan	
24,25	Mt. Wachusett	4, 7	T.Lipsky	
Rough-legged Hawk:				
1-25	P.I.-Salisbury	max. 5 (3/10)	v.o.	
3-16	Middleboro	1 melanistic	K.Anderson# + v.o.	
24	Marshfield,Bridgewater-Halifax	1-2, 3	H.Mallers#, W.Petersen#	
Golden Eagle:				
3	S.Quabbin	1 imm.	M.Lynch, S.Carroll	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBERS</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>MARCH 1984</u>
American Kestrel: 24,31	Newburyport area	7, 8	P.Roberts, B.Cassie#	
Merlin: 17,26	S.Dartmouth, Kingston	1, 1	SSBC, B.Sorrie	
Peregrine Falcon: 7,14,23	Boston	1 imm.	K.Ryan,B.Hallett,W.Reagan	
	All three of these observations - bird was	seen w/pigeon.		
24-27	N.Monomoy	1 ad.	D.Holt#	
Ruffed Grouse: 24	Milton, IRWS	2, 4	G.d'Entremont#, R.Stymeist#	
26,31	GMNWR, Sandwich	2, 1	A.Williams, H.Mallers	
Wild Turkey: 10	Ware	14	W.Smith#	
Northern Bobwhite: 11,25	Middleboro, Medfield	5, 9	W.Petersen, W.Reagan	

COOT THROUGH ALCIDS

Piping Plover were right on schedule with reports from Plum Island on March 22 and from Monomoy on March 24. The general arrival of Killdeer was the twenty-fourth, and sixty were noted in Millis on March 27. Although oystercatchers were present on Nantucket through January, migrants arrived on the seventeenth at Dartmouth and on 20 March at Monomoy. Lesser Yellowlegs were early arriving on the fourteenth, and a report of a Least Sandpiper on March 31 constitutes the earliest reported date in the eleven years of BOEM records. The three previous early reports were April 2, 1982 from Bolton, April 11, 1981 from Newburyport and April 16, 1979 from Nantucket. A dowitcher species was noted at Plum Island on the twenty-eighth. The bird did not call and, thus, was not identified. Both species have been seen in March in previous years. The early Common Snipe reported may be wintering birds, and the end of the month reports probably are migrants. Two individual Red Phalaropes, one found dead on Nantucket on March 30 and one seen at Eastham on the thirty-first constitutes the only March BOEM records. Because this is a pelagic migrant, it is difficult to assess migration dates from BOEM records.

A dark-phase jaeger species was noted in Eastham, and a Mew Gull was seen in Falmouth at Salt Pond by about fifteen people from the Brookline and Cape Cod bird clubs. Details were provided by the observer, K. Griffis, who first noted the bird, and are quoted as follows:

Ring-billed Gulls were nearby for comparison, and the bird was slightly smaller and had a shorter, thinner, brighter yellow bill which was unmarked. The head was smaller and more rounded. Head, neck and body were white with some gray streaks on the head and neck. The mantle was similar to the Ring-billed's. Leg color was a brighter, more intense yellow. The orbital ring was red, and the eye color was a pale yellowish-tan. The spots on the primary tips of the folded wings were larger, and the area of white between the black of the tips and the gray of the back or coverts was wider.

A first-winter Lesser Black-backed Gull was noted in Salisbury and Glaucous Gulls were found inland at Clinton and at Lakeville. Five hundred Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen off Provincetown after the storm at month's end, and, the day of the storm, a Dovekie was found alive on the roof of the Barnstable elementary school! An early Forster's Tern was seen in West Dennis on the March 26. G.W.G.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>MARCH 1984</u>
American Coot: 24,25	Plymouth, Peabody	13, 5	H.Mallers#, D.Hill	
25	Falmouth	5	CCBC	
Black-bellied Plover: 3,28	Boston Harbor, Duxbury	4, 8	TASL, W.Smith	
Piping Plover: 22,24	P.I., Monomoy	1, 8	M.McClellan, D.Holt#	
Killdeer: 3,13	Bridgewater, Westport	2, 3	SSBC, R.Laubach	
22,24	P.I., SRV	7-15, 6	M.McClellan, R.Walton	
27,31	Millis, P.I.	60, 11	B.Cassie, BBC	
	Many other reports throughout the month.			
American Oystercatcher: 17,22-31	S.Dartmouth,N.Monomoy	1, max. 4	SSBC, J.Lortie#	
Greater Yellowlegs: 7,23	Orleans, WBWS	2, 3	H.Stabins#, P.Trull#	

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MARCH 1984
Greater Yellowlegs (cont.):				
24	P.I.	1	T.Walsh, H.Merriman#	
Lesser Yellowlegs:				
14,24,28	P.I.	1, 1, 1	T.Walsh, v.o., J.Smith	
Ruddy Turnstone:				
28	Duxbury	4	W.Smith	
Red Knot:				
25,31	S.Monomoy, Salisbury	2, 2	J.Lortie#, B.Cassie#	
Sanderling:				
4,31	Boston Harbor, Barnstable	48, 32	TASL, W.Smith	
Least Sandpiper:				
31	Eastham	1 (details)	R.Titus	
Purple Sandpiper:				
11,17	N.Scituate, Acoaxet	250+, 35	W.Petersen, SSBC	
31	N.Scituate	300	H.Mallers#	
Dunlin:				
4,17	Boston Harbor, Westport	92, 150	TASL, SSBC	
28	Duxbury	225	W.Smith	
dowitcher sp.:				
28	P.I. (Probably Short-billed - did not call when flushed.)	1	J.Smith	
Common Snipe:				
4,25	Marshfield	2, 3	W.Petersen, T.Leverich#	
28,31	Newburyport, Concord	2, 1	BBC, R.Walton	
American Woodcock:				
6	Cambridge, E.Orleans	1, 1	J.Paputseanos, A.Williams	
10,22	Marshfield, Millis	2, 3	D.Clapp, B.Cassie#	
25	Concord, Somerville	3, 1	R.Walton, N.King	
	Nine others seen in various locations.			
Red Phalarope:				
30,31	Nantucket, Eastham	1 (dead), 1	J.VanVorst, D.+ R.Emerson	
jaeger sp.:				
30	Eastham	1 (dark)	B.Nikula	
Little Gull:				
25	Newburyport, Falmouth	3 ad. + 1 imm., 1	W.Petersen, BBC	
31	Newburyport	1 ad.	T.Walsh	
Common Black-headed Gull:				
3,4	Gloucester, Annisquam	1, 1	BBC, G.d'Entremont#	
31	Newburyport	1 (2 S.)	T.Walsh	
Bonaparte's Gull:				
25	Falmouth	61	BBC	
Mew Gull:				
25	Falmouth	1 (details)	K.Griffis#	
Ring-billed Gull:				
31	Salisbury-Newburyport	150	B.Cassie#	
Iceland Gull:				
3	Boston Harbor, Hingham	8, 15	TASL, R.Abrams#	
17	P.I., Nantucket	40, 10	BBC	
25,31	Falmouth, Salisbury	2, 30	P.Trimble, B.Cassie#	
Lesser Black-backed Gull:				
24	Salisbury	1 (1 W.)	M.Lynch#	
Glaucous Gull:				
3,4	Boston Harbor, Annisquam	2, 1 (2 W.)	TASL, G.d'Entremont#	
21,25	Salisbury, Clinton	1 ad. + 1 imm., 1	(2 W.) T.Walsh, H.Merriman	
24	Lakeville	1 imm.	W.Petersen	
Black-legged Kittiwake:				
31	P'town	500	W.Petersen	
Forster's Tern:				
26	W.Dennis	1	J.Aylward	
Dovekie:				
30	Barnstable	1	fide R.Comeau	
	(Found alive on roof of Barnstable school.)			
Razorbill:				
17,18	Nantucket Sound	29, 29	BBC	
Black Guillemot:				
3,11	Rockport, N.Scituate	1, 4	BBC, W.Petersen	
22,31	Rockport, P'town	3, 5	V.Albee, W.Petersen	
	Three others from three locations.			

MOURNING DOVE THROUGH WOODPECKERS

On an owl-prowl from Weston to Sudbury, a total of five Eastern Screech-Owls and five Great Horned Owls were heard. Thirteen other reports of Great Horned Owls were noted

with five at Brewster alone. Two Snowy Owls continued to be seen at Logan Airport, and at least two were seen all month in the Plum Island area. Short-eared Owls were noted from four locations.

A Red-headed Woodpecker was found in Haverhill, and the Red-bellied Woodpecker continued to be seen in Carlisle all month. R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>MARCH 1984</u>
Mourning Dove:				
14	Brookline	26	B.Rielly#	
Eastern Screech-Owl:				
3,11	Halifax, Weston-Sudbury	4, 5	SSBC, BBC	
16,22	Bedford, Winchester	1, 1	G.Gove	
25,31	Rockport, Brewster	1, 2	V.Albee, W.Petersen#	
Great Horned Owl:				
2,3	Milton, E.Middleboro	1, 1	D.Brown, SSBC	
10,11	P.I., Weston-Sudbury	1, 5	BBC, BBC	
24,31	Millis, Brewster	1, 5	W.Reagan, W.Petersen	
	Other reports of single individuals from four other locations.			
Snowy Owl:				
3	Boston (Logan), P.I.	2, 2	TASL, P.Roberts	
4,10	Duxbury, P.I.	1, 1 dark	W.Petersen, G.Gove#	
24,31	Salisbury, Newburyport	1, 1	T.Walsh#, B.Cassie#	
Barred Owl:				
3,25	Middleboro, Wachusett	1, 1	SSBC, P.Roberts	
Short-eared Owl:				
24	Monomoy, Salisbury	1, 1	D.Holt#, H.Merriman#	
25+31	E.Boston (Belle Isle)	2 + 2	S.Zendeh#	
25	S.Dartmouth (Gooseberry Neck)	1	R.Laubach	
Northern Saw-whet Owl:				
10-11	E.Orleans	1	B.Tillotson	
Belted Kingfisher:				
31	Falmouth	7	R.Stymeist#	
Red-headed Woodpecker:				
21	Haverhill	1	J.Bishop	
Red-bellied Woodpecker:				
thr. Mar.	Carlisle	1 m.	K.Harte	
Pileated Woodpecker:				
10-31	Milton (Curry College)	1	J.Tonger	

EASTERN PHOEBE THROUGH EVENING GROSBEAK

The first spring southerly winds on March 22 brought Tree Swallows, though a south-easterly wind on the 25 and 27 sent several Eastern Phoebes, a few Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Palm Warblers, and many more Tree Swallows and larger numbers of blackbirds into our area.

Common Ravens were seen in their now standard locations - Quabbin and Mt. Wachusett - while another bird or birds was noted in Hingham and in the Blue Hill area of Milton.

A Bohemian Waxwing was noted at the Worcester Airport and there were nine reports of Northern Shrikes. Fox Sparrows were noted from many locations but the maximum for any one location was just three individuals. A Dickcissel was seen for two days in Brewster. R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>MARCH 1-84</u>
Eastern Phoebe:				
25	Dedham, Concord, Halifax	1, 1, 1	J.Marshall, R.Forster, D.Clapp	
Horned Lark:				
17	Salisbury, Lexington	24, 17	BBC, J.Carter	
22,24	Lancaster, Bridgewater	30, 100	H.Merriman, R.Abrams	
25,31	Ipswich, Wellfleet	25, 20	J.Berry, H.Mallers#	
Tree Swallow:				
22	Lancaster, Norton	1, 30	H.Merriman, K.Ryan	
23,24	GMNWR, Wayland	8, 37	R.Walton (both)	
26,28	Millis, Wayland	33, 80	B.Cassie, T.Walsh	
American Crow:				
11	Newburyport (on Riverbank)	200+	J.Berry	
Fish Crow:				
thr.,5	Mt.A., Newton	pr., 1	v.o., O.Komar	
25	Lincoln, Lakeville	1, 1	R.Stymeist#, K.Holmes	
Common Raven:				
3	Hardwick, New Braintree	2, 1	M.Lynch, S.Carroll	

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MARCH 1984
Common Raven (cont.):				
23,24	Hingham, Milton (Blue Hill)	1, 1	E. Nielsen, G.d'Entremont	
25	Hardwick, Mt. Wachusett	5, 1	M. Lynch#, P. Roberts	
Red-breasted Nuthatch:				
24	Topsfield	8	C. Floyd#	
Brown Creeper:				
thr.	Norwell	1 feeding on ground	M.+ B. Litchfield	
Carolina Wren:				
4,17	Marchfield, Boxford	1, 1	D. Clapp, I. Giriunas#	
24,25	Milton, Lakeville	1, 1	R. Vernon, K. Holmes	
Golden-crowned Kinglet:				
4,24	Boxford, Lakeville	4, 6	BBC, W. Petersen	
25	Falmouth	10	CCBC (P. Trimble)	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet:				
23,25	Cambridge (F. Pond), Falmouth	1, 1	D. Flood, BBC (J. Bryant)	
Eastern Bluebird:				
13,24	Manchester; Middleboro, Bridgewater	1; 1, 1	R. Heil; W. Petersen, R. Abrams	
23-24	Chatham	1	P. Trull#	
Hermit Thrush:				
10,11	Norwell, E. Orleans	1, 1	G.d'Entremont, B. Nikula#	
25	E. Falmouth	1	BBC	
American Robin:				
18,20	Worcester (airport), Sudbury	20+, 1 (1st migrant)	M. Lynch#, R. Forster	
22,24	Sudbury Valley, W. Newbury	22, 8	R. Forster, H. Wiggin	
25	Lakeville, Marshfield	15-25, 15	K. Holmes, T. Leverich	
25,31	Medfield, P.I.	6, 75+	W. Reagan, BBC	
Gray Catbird:				
4,31	Marshfield, Falmouth	1, 1	D. Clapp, M. Lynch#	
Bohemian Waxwing:				
18	Worcester (airport)	1	M. Blazis, M. Lynch#, D. Bigwood#	
Cedar Waxwing:				
5,13	Westport, Marshfield	50+, 42	R. Laubach, D. Clapp	
25	Dover	40	J. Marshall	
Northern Shrike:				
3,6	Middleboro, Littleton	1, 1	SSBC, F. Meyers	
8,10,16	Barnstable, P.I., Concord	1, 1 ad., 1	D. Shifflet-fitton, BBC, J. Carter	
25	Gloucester, Chatham	1, 1	L. Robinson, B. Nikula#	
31	P.I., Sandwich	1, 1	B. Cassie, J. Aylward#	
Yellow-throated Vireo:				
25	Falmouth	1	P. Trimble, K. Griffis#	
Yellow-rumped Warbler:				
24	S. Hanson	1	W. Petersen#	
Palm Warbler:				
29	Wayland	2	R. Forster	
Dickcissel:				
7-8	Brewster	1	D. Ahlberg	
Rufous-sided Towhee:				
7,24	E. Orleans, Topsfield (IRWS)	1, 1	A. Williams, R. Stymeist#	
31	Westport, Falmouth	2, 5	R. Laubach#, R. Stymeist#	
American Tree Sparrow:				
10,16	Bridgewater, Braintree	30+, 25+	G.d'Entremont# (both)	
24,28	Halifax, Wayland	8, 50	W. Petersen, T. Walsh	
Chipping Sparrow:				
30	Taunton	1	D. Emerson	
Field Sparrow:				
10,26	Bridgewater, Cambridge	2, 3	G.d'Entremont, D. Flood	
Savannah Sparrow:				
10	Bridgewater, Scituate	6, 2	G.d'Entremont (both)	
Fox Sparrow:				
1,4	Littleton, Boxford	1, 1	V. Sprong, BBC	
13,17	Concord, Falmouth	1, 1	R. Walton, M. Lynch#	
24	Marshfield, IRWS	1, 1	H. Mallers#, J. Berry	
25,27	W. Newbury, Sharon	2, 3	I. Giriunas#, R. Titus	
29	Norwell, Belmont	1, 1	B. Litchfield, J. Benedek	
White-throated Sparrow:				
25	Brookline	11	B. Rielly#	
Lapland Longspur:				
17	Salisbury	4	BBC (I. Giriunas)	
Red-winged Blackbird:				
3,4	Woburn, Ipswich	6, 40	BBC, J. Berry	
24,25	IRWS, Peabody	75+, 250	J. Berry, D. Hill	
Eastern Meadowlark:				
1,24	Westport, Dennis	16, 12	R. Laubach, J. Aylward#	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>MARCH 1984</u>
Eastern Meadowlark (cont.):				
25	Ipswich	16	I.Giriunas#	
Rusty Blackbird:				
14,16	Middleboro, Milton	1, 3	D.Davis, G.d'Entremont	
22,23	Bolton, Needham	2, 2	H.Merriman, O.Komar	
24,26	Wayland, Sudbury	3, 5	E.Morrier, T.Walsh	
Common Grackle:				
17-18,26	Nantucket, Cambridge	75, 50-75	BBC, D.Flood	
Brown-headed Cowbird:				
24	Halifax	200+	W.Petersen#	
Purple Finch:				
16	Lexington	18+	J.Carter	
Pine Siskin:				
thr.	Middleboro, Lincoln (DFWS)	35+, 4+	D.Briggs, R.Forster	
10,16	Bridgewater, Milton	25, 5+	G.d'Entremont (both)	
28,31	Weston, Falmouth	20, 4	L.Robinson, R.Stymeist#	
Evening Grosbeak:				
6, 18	Carver, Easton	50+, 30	K.Anderson, K.Ryan	

WHERE AND WHEN TO SEND RECORDS

In order to be processed, all records for any given month must be submitted PROMPTLY and NOT LATER THAN the eighth of the following month to:

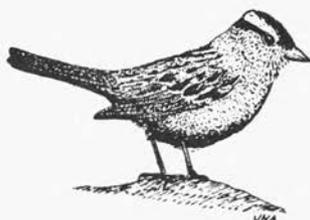
RUTH EMERY, 225 Belmont Street, Wollaston, MA 02170

INSTITUTE FOR FIELD ORNITHOLOGY

Shorebird Workshop by Wayne Petersen

August 5 - 11, 1984

The Institute for Field Ornithology, a new program for the study of birds in their natural habitats, has been established at the University of Maine at Machias under the direction of Dr. Charles D. Duncan of the Science/Mathematics faculty. From August 5 to 11 it will offer a Shorebird Workshop by Wayne Petersen, affiliated with the Manomet Bird Observatory, the International Shorebird Survey, and a staff member of BOEM. Topics to be covered are the biology of shorebirds, moult and plumage acquisition, migration, research, identification, aging, and censusing. Fieldwork will be done in the Machias area. Cost of the Workshop is \$210; dormitory room \$30; optional trip to Machias Seal Island \$45; limit 20 students. For more information and registration materials write to Dr. Charles D. Duncan, Science and Mathematics Division, University of Maine, O'Brien Avenue, Machias, ME 04654. Tel. (207) 255-3313.



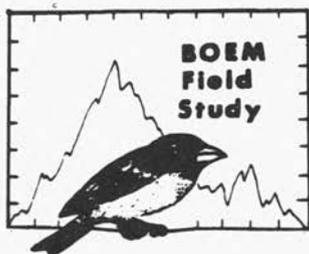
SPARROW MIGRATION STUDY

begins September 1984

Beginning September 15, 1984, BOEM's Field Studies Committee will conduct the third Fall Sparrow Migration Project. Participants make multiple visits (one every four days) to a well-defined site such as community gardens to count migrant sparrows during September and October.

For instructions, data forms, and information, contact:

Oliver Komar, 61 Wade Street
Newton, MA 02161,
Telephone: (617) 332-5509.



WANTED: Newton Records

NEWTON RECORDS WANTED: An up-to-date Newton checklist of birds (showing seasonal abundance, early and late arrival/ departure dates, and nesting information) will be compiled this summer. Please send all information about birds seen, including historical records or references, in the Newton area to Oliver Komar, 61 Wade Street, Newton, MA 02161, telephone 617-332-5509. Include your name, the numbers of birds, the date, and precise location, and the names of the observers.

FOR SALE: Birds of Concord, Ludlow Griscom. Excellent condition. Handbook of Birds of North America, Frank Chapman. Clothbound in good condition. \$10 each or best offer. Contact Jim Berry (617) 356-5505 (evenings or weekends, (617) 223-5786 (weekdays).

THE DECLINE AND FALL OF Tympanuchus cupido cupido

by Dorothy R. Arvidson, Arlington

We felt that the April issue's At-a-Glance bird was an appropriate choice for the month of foolery. The photo is a shot of a mounted specimen supplied from the files of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and is, of course, the Heath Hen, a subspecies of the Greater Prairie-Chicken.

So abundant was this grouse on the scrub-oak plains near Boston in the 1630s, Governor Winthrop reported that laborers and servants stipulated in agreements with their employers that it not be "brought to table oftener than a few times in the week" [Forbush, Birds of Massachusetts, II (1927): 41]. The clearing of forests and the planting of grain fields further enhanced the habitat of the Heath Hen which fed on berries, tender leaves and grasses, cultivated grains, scrub-oak acorns (swallowed whole), buds, small fruits, seeds, and insects. However, it was pursued, trapped, and shot at all seasons - the birds were so numerous that shot was seldom wasted on them - and the young were destroyed by dogs and cats until, two centuries later (between 1821 and 1840), the species had disappeared from mainland Massachusetts and from Connecticut and was very rare throughout the rest of its range. Mrs. Eliza Cabot reported to Brewster that she saw a "prairie grouse" in Newton in her youth and another on Cape Cod after her marriage (1812).



Heath Hen

Courtesy of Mass. Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

This decline of a valuable natural food source finally spurred the Massachusetts legislature to action. In 1831 a hunting ban effective during the breeding season was passed, with a two dollar fine for offenders. In 1837, this ban was extended throughout the year, but any town was permitted to suspend the law within its own limits. Of course, the only towns in which the bird existed took advantage of this loophole! Then, despite dwindling numbers, even this ineffectual protection was discontinued from 1855 to 1860, and a decade later (1870) the only remaining Heath Hens to be found were on Martha's Vineyard. One report of Heath Hens on the mainland (Falmouth) in 1888 (shot, of course) proved to be Greater Prairie-Chickens, probably introduced in the hope that they would interbreed with the Heath Hen. In 1902, three "Prairie Chickens" were released on Martha's Vineyard for the same purpose, but what happened to them is unknown.

So, the inexorable march toward extinction - inevitable when breeding populations fall below fifty to a hundred pairs and the gene pool becomes very limited - went forward, aided by

(continued on the next page)

For the diagnosis of our "set-up" photo, Peter Alden, Bird Observer's (and birding's) good friend, came through with the following instructive deductions, qualified by the statement that he "is marooned in Connecticut without ready access to any skin collections." His comments, with some editing, read approximately as follows.

Obviously a Tympanuchus with choices:

- (1) phasianellus (Sharp-tailed Grouse) - doesn't have such conspicuous neck feathers. Note: did not check all subspecies.
- (2) pallidicinctus (Lesser Prairie-Chicken) - Kansas to New Mexico. No; flanks are much more lightly barred.
- (3) cupido (Greater Prairie-Chicken with subspecies) - does have long neck feathers.

Therefore, subspecies:

- (a) pinnatus - SE Canada to NE Texas; flanks barred correctly; vegetation looks correct.
- (b) attwateri - coastal Texas and SW Louisiana; small, dark. [Ed. note: This subspecies is endangered; listed as rare in 1981.]
- (c) cupido - Martha's Vineyard, Mass. Bay Colony, Virginia; extinct, but this is from files of Mass. Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. [Ed. note: We had to credit the picture, thus providing a dead giveaway - no pun intended.]

Point by point: Coloration of neck stripe - the brilliant whiteness at center clearly indicates a strong white center (cf. L. A. Fuertes) vs. buffy center (cf. R. T. Peterson). Therefore: Heath Hen, cupido.

Note: cupido differs from other subspecies by (1) scapulars broadly tipped with buffy (photo looks buffy) [Ed.: Forbush (II:40) says white]; (b) feathers of neck tufts pointed; (c) less than ten neck tuft feathers (hard to count).

BRING BACK THE HEATH HEN!

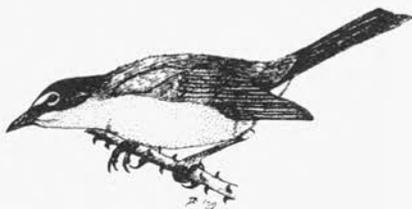
inept protection laws, the introduction of raccoons and foxes to the island in 1877, two fires throughout the breeding area (in 1894 and 1916), a large hawk migration, especially Goshawks, in the fall after the second fire, an epidemic of "blackhead," a disease spread from domestic turkeys (1920), and a succession of cold and rainy breeding seasons.

What is astonishing is that despite these calamities, the population of this hardy survivor rose by 1916 to a high count of two thousand! This was due in part to a determined effort by the Commission on Fisheries and Game which took the species under its aegis in 1907 when a count of the Vineyard birds on May 2 of that year revealed only twenty-one extant. The birds were fed and protected from poachers and predators by competent wardens on a sixteen-hundred-acre reservation. However, even with this care, the grouse were doomed. In 1925, only three broods were reported, and the heavy September rains wiped out all the young. At this point, the Federation of Bird Clubs of New England stepped forward with funds to continue the warden service to protect the fifty or so birds remaining. But after December 8, 1928, only one male was seen, and on March 11, 1932, this solitary remnant of the species expired on the James Green farm near Tisbury.

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At a Glance . . .

Photo by Hal H. Harrison

Courtesy of Massachusetts Audubon Society



Can you identify this bird? Identification will be discussed in next issue's *At a Glance*. Bird Observer will again award a PRIZE to the reader who submits the most correct answers in 1984. Please send your entry on a postcard to Bird Observer, 462 Trapelo Road, Belmont, MA 02178 before the answer is published in the next issue.



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