

# BIRD OBSERVER

OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS



FEBRUARY, 1982

VOL. 10 NO. 1



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### POSTAL RATES INCREASE

On January 10, the Postal Service put into effect increases in the second-class rates charged to magazines and newspapers that may increase the mailing costs of BIRD OBSERVER as much as five-fold.

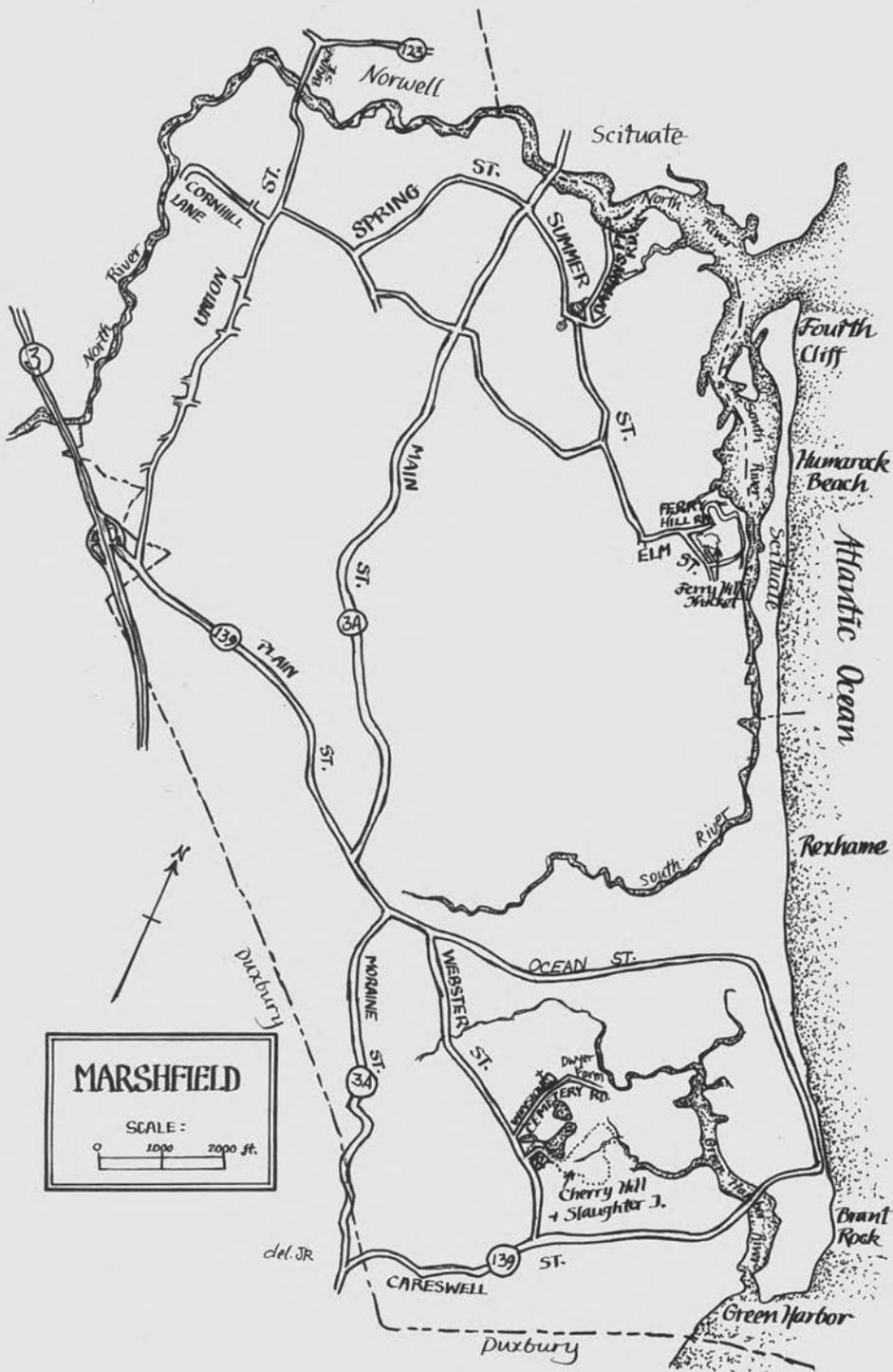
To offset these rate hikes, we are campaigning to raise the total circulation of the magazine. The actual unit cost of printing and mailing each copy decreases as the total number increases.

You can help by encouraging fellow birders to support and to subscribe to BIRD OBSERVER.

Remember gift subscriptions make excellent presents for occasions throughout the year. With each gift subscription, BIRD OBSERVER will send a special card notifying the recipient. Readers also might want to consider donating a gift subscription to their community library.

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**MARSHFIELD**

SCALE :  
 0 1000 2000 ft.

## MARSHFIELD: A BIRDER'S PERSPECTIVE

by Wayne R. Petersen, Whitman

The continuing encroachment of suburban sprawl throughout eastern Massachusetts places an increasing premium on prime local wildlife habitat. As woodlots are divided, as fields are built upon, as ponds are polluted, and as marshes are destroyed, the naturalist is forced either to be content with local habitats of secondary quality or to travel, often considerable distances, to more productive and unspoiled areas. Admittedly, describing a particular environment as being of "secondary quality" reflects a human perspective, since any number of organisms flourish abundantly in such environments. Nonetheless, who would not rather carry on field work in the most productive surroundings possible?

In spite of this steady decline of optimum habitats in many communities, there are always some areas in every town that, when properly examined, can yield no end of pleasure to the dedicated field ornithologist. There are several such areas in the coastal community of Marshfield on the Massachusetts south shore. Bounded on the north by the North River and the adjacent towns of Scituate and Norwell with Pembroke to the west and Duxbury on the south, Marshfield lies squarely on the coastal plain yet possesses something of an inland flavor in the northern and western parts of town. As its name would suggest, Marshfield has extensive wetland amounting to nearly 20% of its area. Much of this wetland is comprised of both tidal and brackish marshes bounding the North and South Rivers. There are also several ponds and old cranberry bog reservoirs that sustain modest but productive freshwater marshes. While many of the town's woodlands are a mixture of deciduous hardwoods, there are a few venerable stands of majestic White Pines and several patches of the typically coastal Pitch Pine. As one of the more progressive south shore communities from a conservation standpoint, Marshfield has over 1400 acres held as conservation land, many of which afford fine opportunities for the bird-finder. Perhaps the greatest natural treasure in the region is the 600-acre Dwyer Farm near the Green Harbor section of town. This magnificent property offers a fine array of productive habitat types in close proximity, thus making it ideal for a variety of wildlife species. Active efforts to preserve permanently the farmland and adjacent swampy woods and brushy meadows are being made by The Committee to Preserve Dwyer Farm. This group, representing a cross-section of the public sector, recognizes the value of maintaining working farmland within the community and is to be commended for its foresight as we see similar lands continually being turned over to industrial and residential development. The final major influence affecting Marshfield birdlife is the Atlantic Ocean which extends along the town's entire eastern boundary from the North River to Green Harbor. The mitigating effect of the sea is most obvious when one visits the coastal

thickets in the winter and regularly finds semi-hardy wintering birds that are uncommon or rare north of Boston.

With such a fine variety of habitats within a single town, the resident birder can easily find enough to look at throughout the year without ever leaving the community. Obviously, the resident birder will know many choice spots that are not readily covered by the occasional visitor. There are, however, a few exceptional areas that can profitably be checked by the transient observer.

The Ocean Beaches. Beginning with the ocean at Humarock and running southeastward, the Marshfield shore faces Cape Cod Bay. The upland is buffered by both rocky shingle and pure sand beaches, and the northernmost portion includes a steep scarp at Fourth Cliff which gradually flattens out to a low line of dunes in the Humarock section. Offshore lie a few glacial erratic rock piles, augmented by several artificial stone breakwaters off Brant Rock. In the winter these ocean waters harbor a variety of sea fowl including loons, grebes, Common Goldeneyes, Oldsquaws, Common Eiders, three species of scoters, and Red-breasted Mergansers. Purple Sandpipers are frequent feeders on the rocks along the beach at Brant Rock, while Red-necked Grebes are often numerous in late winter between Rexhame and Brant Rock. During the fall Gannets are a familiar sight offshore and, with migrating sea ducks, provide the sea-watcher with quite a spectacle from a vantage point on the headland at Fourth Cliff. The author has also seen pelagic species from these beaches including Manx Shearwater, Leach's Storm-Petrel, and even breaching Humpback Whales.

Unfortunately, the ocean beaches of Marshfield are eclipsed by the more favorable shorebird areas to the north at Scituate and to the south at Duxbury. There is, however, a splendid and flourishing Least Tern colony on the gravel beach behind Fourth Cliff at the mouth of the North River. The salt marshes in the vicinity of nearby Trouant Island abound with feeding herons and egrets in late summer. Unobtrusive, but equally regular, Whimbrels quietly feed in these same salt meadows.

Cherry Hill. One of the finest conservation lands in Marshfield is the area known as Cherry Hill and Slaughter Island, easily reached from Webster Street which runs south off Rte. 139 from Marshfield Center. Travel about 1.5 miles south on Webster Street until a sign for the Recreation Center is seen on the left. Turn here and park in the parking area. At the parking lot the trail head to Cherry Hill and Slaughter Island is clearly marked. This trail, with its several alternate routes, leads the hiker through 1.25 miles of a mixture of low wet woods, brushy thickets, dense cedar groves, and past a fine freshwater cattail marsh. A great number of interesting migrant and resident birds are regular in this area, each with its own specific seasonality and

habitat choice. Of the breeding landbirds, the sharp-eared and observant visitor can hardly fail to find Great Crested Flycatcher, Veery, Cedar Waxwing, White-eyed Vireo (brushy thickets), Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler (locally uncommon), American Redstart, and occasionally Orchard Oriole (near the pond). American Woodcocks and Screech Owls are regular, but reclusive, residents. In the early spring Red-shouldered Hawks often hunt for Wood Frogs around the marsh edge, and by May, herons and marsh birds become a feature. In fact, this small marsh complex is probably one of the finest such habitats on the south shore. Nine to ten species of long-legged waders occur here annually, and the Least Bittern is a regular summer resident. Most frequent are Green and Little Blue herons, Great and Snowy egrets, Black-crowned Night Herons, and Glossy Ibis. King (irregular), Virginia, and Sora rails are to be expected, and occasionally the Common Gallinule is present. There is a substantial colony of Marsh Wrens in the cattail areas. Besides the regular marsh dwellers, migrants of a great variety frequent the bordering alder thickets and Red Maples. An early morning visit in May can easily provide several hours of excellent birding. Some of the best views of the marsh and neighboring thickets can be obtained from Cherry Hill, which happens to be the site of Daniel Webster's last speech. Be sure to notice the fine old Tulip Trees and Basswoods near this spot as these plantings seldom are seen reaching such proportions locally.

Dwyer Farm. Leaving the Cherry Hill area, one can easily return to Webster Street, drive several hundred feet north, and then turn right on Winslow Cemetery Road. Drive to the end and discreetly park in the small cemetery on the left. Walk to the end of the road where you will see Dwyer Farm. Visitors are welcome to go birding on the property as long as gates are carefully closed and the grazing Holstein cattle are not disturbed. Enter the fields beside the cow barn, but first check the manure heaps near the barn for Savannah and White-crowned sparrows during migration and the barn itself for nesting Barn and Cliff swallows. The rare Brewer's Blackbird has also been recorded in this farmyard in late fall.

As one proceeds down the cart path through the fields, the small wet depression on the right, as well as the edge of the pond beyond, should be watched closely in early spring for Common Snipe and Pectoral Sandpipers, both of which can be surprisingly numerous. In April, especially in years of good rainfall, other shorebirds are regular in this pool, particularly Solitary Sandpipers, both yellowlegs species, and Least Sandpipers. The pond often holds Canada Geese and Blue-winged Teal, and a remarkable assortment of other waterfowl has occurred here as well including the state's second Garganey record.

At the far end of the field, a small knoll provides the best

vantage point for viewing the back pastures. These pastures, actually a polder of reclaimed land made possible by the dike at Green Harbor, are at their best in late March and early April when, in wet years, large numbers of Mallards, Black Ducks, Pintails, teal, American Wigeon, and an occasional Gadwall and Northern Shoveler use the rain pools for courtship and foraging. From time to time during rainy weather in spring, great flocks of shorebirds briefly visit these same rain pools. Most common are the species mentioned above, and Whimbrels and Stilt Sandpipers have been seen here as well.

The first warm, southwest winds of April are apt to generate small flights of Sharp-shinned Hawks and American Kestrels over the farm. In fall and winter these raptors are often replaced by Rough-legged Hawks, Northern Harriers, Short-eared Owls, and periodically a Northern Shrike. Red-tailed Hawks, kestrels, and Great Horned Owls are all known to nest on or near the farm property. The same winds that bring the hawks in April usher in Cattle Egrets, Glossy Ibis, Upland Sandpipers (irregular breeders), and an abundance of Bobolinks by May. Late spring also gives the patient observer a chance to see or hear Fish Crows, Carolina Wrens, and White-eyed Vireos in the bordering woodlands. The viburnum thickets along the meandering Green Harbor River usually contain nesting Willow Flycatchers by June; however, the species is very inconspicuous. An early evening visit to Dwyer Farm in the first part of summer can produce a fine flight of herons headed south to the Clark's Island rookery in Plymouth as well as the auditory stimulation provided by the vespers of Eastern Meadowlarks and Whip-poor-wills.

The combination of wet woods, old pastures, and open hay fields makes this an area worthy of repeated scrutiny at all times of the year. The list of casual and vagrant species seen here gives testimony to its ornithological worth.

Ferry Hill Thicket. Another of the Marshfield Conservation Commission properties is the area known as Ferry Hill Thicket. Only six acres in extent, this superb oasis can be an excellent spot to observe fall migrant warblers and sparrows. In addition to the regular appearance of certain of the more uncommon warblers, the Carolina Wren is an occasionally conspicuous permanent resident. To reach the thicket, turn left onto Summer Street off Rte. 3A, just south of the North River crossing. Summer Street divides two small ponds, both of which warrant examination for waders during the warmer months. A short side trip down Damons Point Road to the left will yield a good panorama of the North River and produces at low tide in proper season herons, egrets, feeding shorebirds, and gulls. Continuing along Summer Street will eventually bring one to Elm Street on the left. Follow Elm Street to a fork where Ferry Hill Street bears to the left. A few hundred feet on the right will be a sign marking Ferry Hill Thicket.

Go back to Rte. 3A, then down Spring Street, directly across from Summer Street, to an old fish hatchery within about 1.25 miles. In the winter, species such as Virginia Rail, Common Snipe, Winter Wren, and Swamp Sparrow are to be looked for around the open pools. During early spring the author has called both Barred and Saw-whet owls from the adjacent woodlands.

The North and South Rivers. The two major rivers in Marshfield, the North River and the South River, offer some of the most aesthetic birding opportunities available on the south shore. Each has its own merits and both are best explored by canoe. The North River can easily be entered by canoe off Cornhill Lane near the northern end of Union Street. Once on the river, be aware of the tide as the river is tidal all the way upstream to its headwaters in Hanover. There is about a two-hour tidal difference between the river mouth and the headwaters. Best canoeing from the Cornhill Lane area is upstream.

In a canoe one sees things otherwise impossible to notice from shore. From the gradual disappearance of saltwater mollusks to the subtle appearance of brackish and freshwater aquatic grasses, sedges, and pondweeds, the river displays a spectrum of change as one paddles upstream. Birds along the river include Green Herons, Black Ducks, Red-tailed Hawks, Spotted Sandpipers, Belted Kingfishers, swallows, Marsh Wrens (locally abundant), and Swamp Sparrows. Some grand old White Pines along this stretch of the North River have perhaps looked upon the days when ships were built along the river banks or when the meadows were mowed for salt hay. These same groves today provide habitat for breeding Pine Warblers and Scarlet Tanagers, and Plymouth County's first Goshawk nesting record was established in this area. It is with a just sense of local pride that the writer invites the visiting naturalist to explore one of the state's most beautiful and scenic rivers.

The South River, while perhaps not quite as spectacular as the larger North River, nonetheless provides some interesting birding. Either by using a canoe or by walking with rubber boots, fall birding on the South River marshes can afford a chance to see Marsh Wrens, Water Pipits, Sharp-tailed and Swamp sparrows, and occasional Lapland Longspurs, all from a somewhat different than usual perspective. Perhaps of still greater interest is the chance of flushing Virginia, Sora, and even Yellow rails in the short grass of the upper marsh during flood tides in September and October. The birds are elusive, but hard work with a dragged rope or a good bird dog can sometimes jump rails at close range from the grass bordering the mosquito ditches. This area historically saw the capture and collection of many Yellow Rails, and the species has been taken there within the decade. Sharing these same meadows are the more conspicuous Northern Harrier and Short-eared Owl. Botanically, the South River

marshes contain some lowly but interesting grass and sedge species, while the adjacent upland has a few stands of the rare Elliott's Goldenrod.

If this description of Marshfield seems cursory, the writer invites the curious naturalist to come to the area and discover for himself the details of the local ornithology, for a region so richly diversified in habitat must have many other birding secrets yet to be revealed. Whatever the season, the town of Marshfield is certain to produce some fine birding and natural history exploration.

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

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#### SCREECH OWL SURVEY

The Screech Owl is a surprisingly common bird of prey in suburban and urban environments. Yet it is severely underrepresented on most bird censuses. This project will involve a roadside survey of Screech Owl populations conducted in pre-dawn hours in late March and early April. At periodic stops along a given route, tape recordings of Screech Owl vocalizations will be used to detect the presence of Screech Owls. The type of habitat at each stop will be recorded so that habitat analysis can be carried out during compilation. Persons who would like to join a survey party on one or more mornings should contact the compilers before March 17:

Nick and Ollie Komar  
61 Wade Street  
Newton Highlands, MA 02161  
Telephone: 332-5509



#### SPRING MIGRATION WATCH

This project is an extension of the spring warbler study which was organized by John Andrews and Lee Taylor in 1980 and 1981. Participants will be asked to visit their selected spring birding sites about twice a week from mid-April to the end of May. The numbers of all migrants recorded on each visit will be recorded. The compilation will reveal how the observations at your favorite site compare with other sites in eastern Massachusetts. Persons who would like to participate in this project should contact the compiler before April 1:

Lee Taylor  
92 Brooks Avenue  
Arlington, MA 02174  
Telephone: 646-2529

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## BIRD OBSERVER OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

### FORMS FIELD STUDIES COMMITTEE

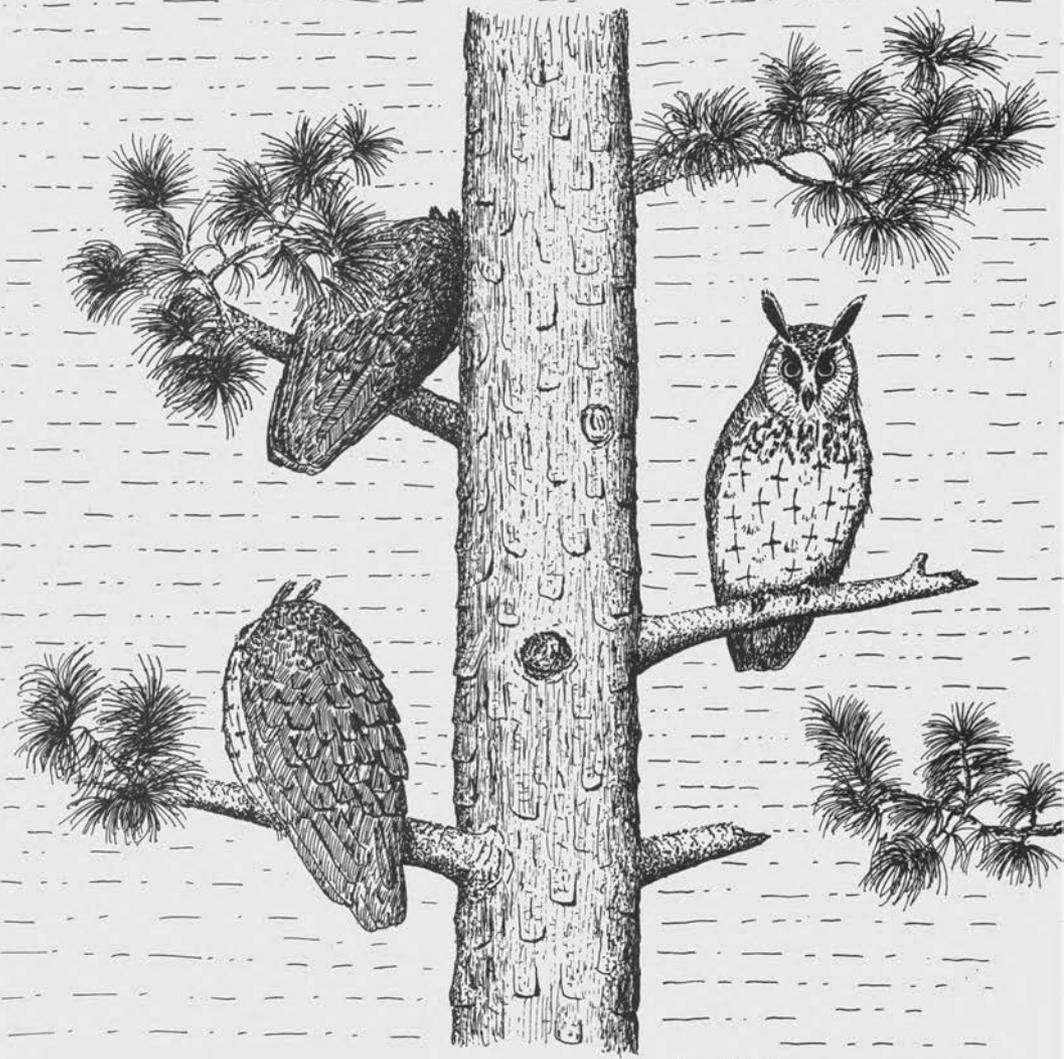
This year BIRD OBSERVER is sponsoring a series of field study projects which will allow active observers to learn more about our Massachusetts birdlife while contributing to worthwhile ornithological research efforts. The studies are being coordinated by a BOEM Field Studies Committee (FSC) which was formed as a result of a BIRD OBSERVER-sponsored meeting of active birders last spring. The Field Studies Committee was asked to address the problem of making BOEM field records more useful with regard to the more common species of birds. The current monthly summaries are of clear value in noting unusual events such as the occurrence of rarities, extreme early or late dates, unusual high counts, or unusual nesting records. But changes in the distribution or relative abundance of the more common species are difficult to deduce from these records. Although many individual birders keep careful notes which could be useful in this regard, their efforts diverge greatly in terms of methodology and recording format. Furthermore, these individual efforts are seldom published in any useful form.

Are amateur birders willing to join together in conducting meaningful data collection efforts? BIRD OBSERVER believes that they are. Participation in organized studies such as the Christmas Bird Counts and the New England Hawk Watch has grown steadily over the years. BOEM has sponsored the Take a Second Look (TASL) series which has conducted a number of surveys focusing on coastal birdlife. Several other efforts have been reported in BOEM such as the spring warbler studies (Andrews and Taylor), the autumn sparrow census (Komar), the lake and pond waterfowl census (Andrews) and the winter raptor survey (Petersen).

The FSC will focus upon those projects for which BOEM will serve as the primary medium for the publication of results. The FSC will attempt to ensure that all such projects are ornithologically useful, well-planned and well-coordinated with other efforts. Each project will have a compiler (or compilers) who will be responsible for defining methodology, directing the study, compiling the data and writing a summary of the results.

Two projects (Screech Owl Survey and Spring Migration Watch) are being organized for this spring. For details, see FSC Announcements on the previous page.

Anyone who would like to suggest additional projects for FSC consideration or would like to assist in the compilation of a project should contact the FSC chairman:  
John Andrews, 22 Kendall Road, Lexington, MA 02173 (862-6498)



JWA

*Three Long-eared Owls on Roost*

*Illustration by J. W. Andrews*

## A WINTER ROOST OF LONG-EARED OWLS

by John W. Andrews, Lexington

### Introduction

During the winter of 1980-81 a remarkable roost of approximately 21 Long-eared Owls (Asio otus) assembled at the Dunback Meadow Conservation Area (see reference 1) in Lexington. Because the Long-eared Owl is seldom seen by birders, the roost attracted considerable attention. During January and February approximately 400 persons visited the highly accessible site to see these owls, and most were curious about the reasons for the unusual assemblage. Some returned several times, and three (myself together with Don and Lillian Stokes) undertook a study of the roost to learn as much as possible about the behavior of the owls. We soon found that we were recording information that had never been reported in the ornithological literature. The following summarizes our findings.

### Basic facts about the Long-eared Owl

The Long-eared Owl is a medium-sized owl\* which hunts open fields by night, often by coursing back and forth at low altitude. Its primary prey species is the Meadow Vole (Microtus pennsylvanicus), which constitutes 75 to 95 per cent of the winter diet (refs. 2 and 3). A Long-eared Owl must catch two or three of these meadow mice per night in order to survive.

Wintering Long-eared Owls in Massachusetts roost almost exclusively in coniferous woodlots. Communal winter roosts often occur in which individuals retire in close proximity during the day and fan out at night to hunt nearby fields. Bent (ref. 4) reports one such roost in Pennsylvania that contained over 50 birds, but 6 to 20 individuals seem to be more common.

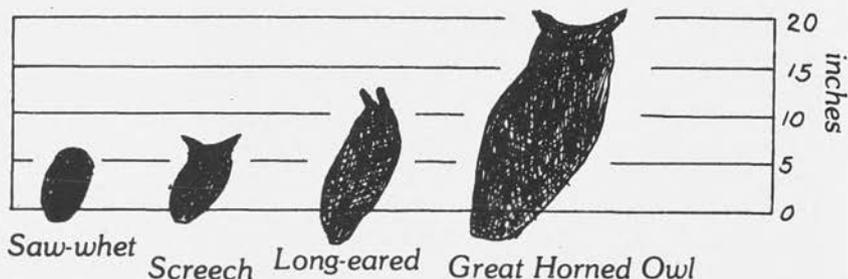
Communal roosting is not typical of birds of prey, but it has been reported for the Short-eared Owl (Asio flammeus) and the Marsh Hawk (Circus cyaneus). These two species, like the Long-eared Owl, specialize in hunting small rodents in open areas. The prey species exhibit pronounced yearly fluctuations in population density. Furthermore, prey vulnerability can change rapidly with depth of snow or flooding of meadows. One theoretical explanation for the existence of communal roosts is that

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\* A Long-eared Owl typically weighs about 245 grams (with females heavier than males on average). In comparison, a Screech Owl (Otus asio) weighs about 172 grams and a Great Horned Owl (Bubo virginianus) about 1,500 grams.

they facilitate communication between individuals concerning the location of vulnerable prey populations (ref. 5). It seems likely that this is the evolutionary basis for the roosting behavior of the Long-eared Owl, but no one has verified this hypothesis.

### Size Comparison



#### Census techniques and results

The pine grove at Dunback Meadow was visited several times by myself and others during November and early December without a Long-eared Owl being noted. But on December 14th I was delighted to discover three of these birds roosting in one of the pines. Their presence was not especially surprising since Long-eared Owls have been found at the site on several other occasions between October and March. However over the next few weeks the number of owls at the roost increased steadily. Census results are shown in Figure 1. The most striking feature of this plot is the rapidity with which the roost built up and stabilized its ultimate maximum size. The build-up occurred without any indication of a significant area-wide invasion of Long-eared Owls in eastern Massachusetts.

The roost seemed to act as a powerful magnet that drew birds despite a quite low overall population density of owls. The rapidity of the increase seemed to be much too rapid to be attributed to birds independently finding the pine grove and remaining due to its attractive physical attributes. It is much more likely that owls were attracted to the site by the presence of other owls.

Another interesting aspect of this plot is that the roost did not break up gradually, with owls drifting away over a period of time. Instead, they seem to have left in groups of about 7 birds, giving a stepped appearance to the declining portion of the curve.

In order to provide an accurate count of roosting birds, a diagram was made that indicated the locations of the

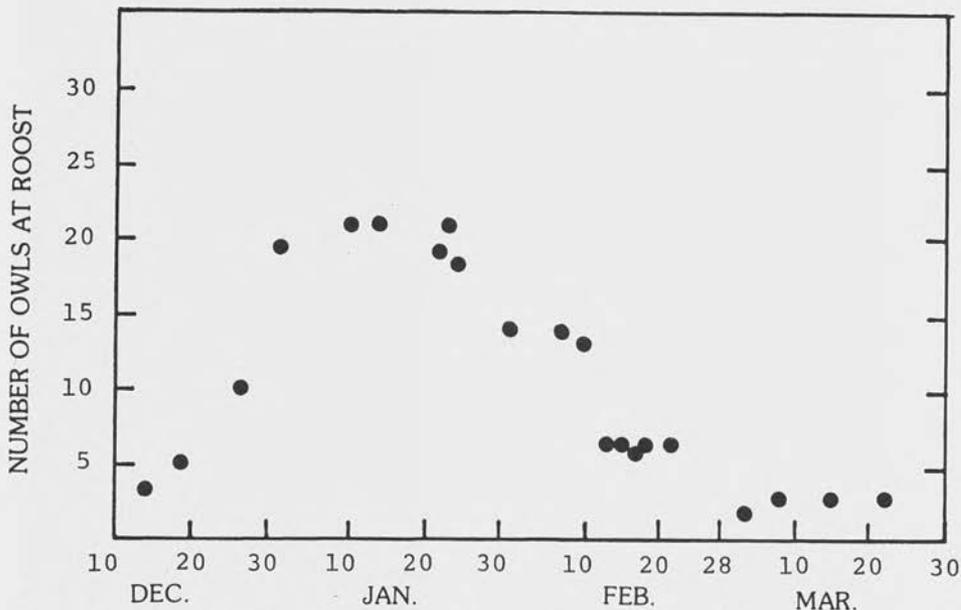


Figure 1. Number of Long-eared Owls counted at the roost at Dunback Meadow, Lexington, during the winter of 1980-81.

trees in the principal roost area. The owls in each tree were then counted and summed. This allowed each tree to be scrutinized from several viewing angles without missing a tree or counting the same tree twice. After censusing the principal roost area, trees in adjacent areas were searched for owls that were roosting apart from the main group. The consistent results of this census technique increased our confidence in its accuracy.

#### Perch selection

Long-eared Owls are well known for their tendency to return to the same tree (often the same perch) day after day. Peitzmeier reported (ref. 6) that Long-eared Owls in Germany roosted in fixed tree groups consisting of two or three closely spaced trees. Other seemingly equivalent trees nearby were ignored. He called the chosen tree groups *Schlafbaumgruppen* (schlaf=sleep, baum=tree, gruppen=groups). This aspect of Long-eared Owl behavior was quite evident in the Lexington roost. In censuses conducted on 14 separate days after January 24th, 91 per cent of all owl perches were in a group of four trees located within a circle of less than 7 meters in diameter. In fact, 68 per cent of the perches were in two favored trees located about 3 meters apart. Occasionally as many as 10 owls were found in the same tree.

Peitzmeier also reported that the owls preferred trees located 3 to 10 meters from the southern edge of a grove.

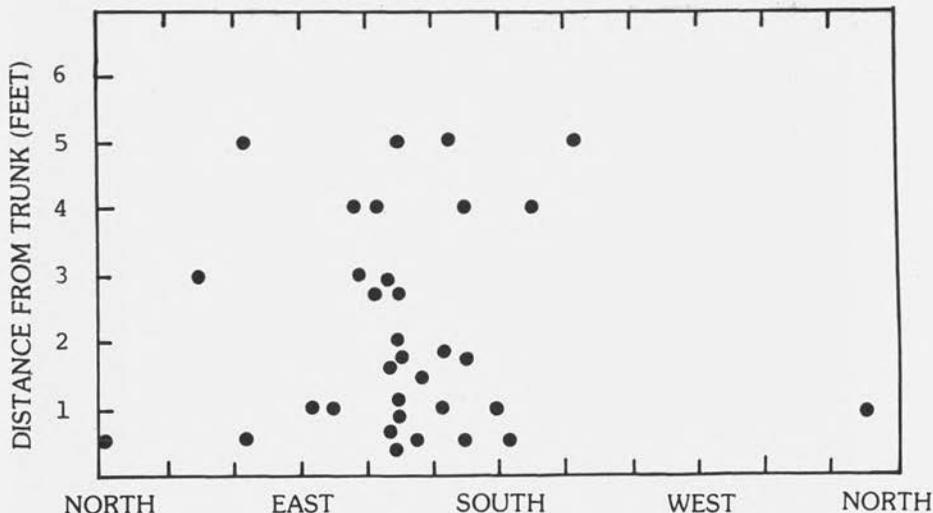


Figure 2. Position within tree at which Long-eared Owls perched. Data was gathered on five separate days in February and March. Perches tended to be near the trunk on the south or southeast side of the tree.

He speculated that this assisted them in taking advantage of the winter sun in the southern sky. The Lexington roost was actually located closer to the western side of the grove, but there was a break in the woodlot canopy immediately south of the favored roost trees. This break allowed the southern sunlight to strike the roost trees.

On several days the positions of owls were recorded in terms of distance from top of tree, distance from trunk, and bearing from true north. This data (Figure 2) revealed that 70 per cent of the perches were on branches extending to the south and southeast. The owls certainly seem to recognize the warm side of a tree!

#### Behavior upon return to roost

We were aware that significant social interactions are often associated with birds returning to a roost and we resolved to observe these as carefully as possible. From vantage points outside the pine grove, it proved extremely difficult to see the owls returning. The most fruitful method for observing the arrival was for an observer to take up position inside the pine grove under the known roost trees some minutes before the arrival of the owls. In this manner, arriving owls could be seen outlined against the sky and their vocalizations could be heard.

During the first morning of observation, the observers were overwhelmed with the variety of activities. They found it impossible to take coherent and complete notes. As a result, we sat down and carefully defined a list of

observables to be recorded. We decided that the following discrete events could be observed with some reliability: owl circling over the roost trees, owl landing in a tree, owl changing perch within a tree, owl changing trees, and owl emitting any one of several distinct vocalizations. To facilitate note-taking, a shorthand notation was devised in which a specific letter symbol indicated a single occurrence of each observable. Intensity of vocalization was indicated by underlining the symbol for the particular vocalization. For each occurrence, the time was noted. In order to analyze this data, plots were made in which the occurrence of each observable was plotted versus time before sunrise. This plotting soon revealed trends and correlations in the timing of activities.

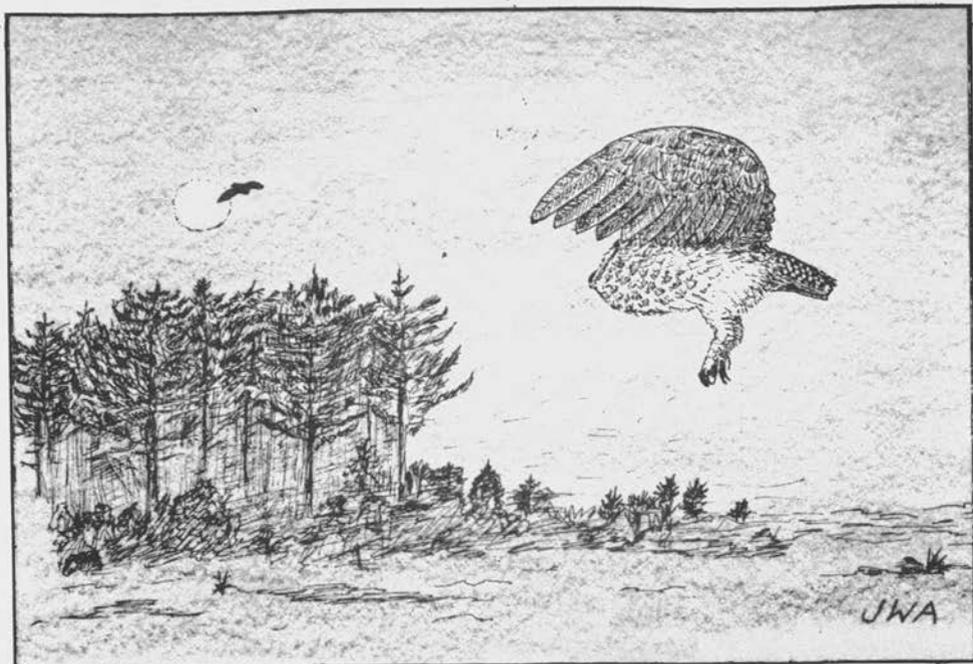
The following narrative from January 24th describes a typical arrival sequence:

We arrived at the roost about an hour and a half before sunrise. At intervals, one or two owls could be heard calling some distance from the roost. The vocalizations consisted of somewhat wheezy catlike mews. One call was composed of two short mews: "whee-whēēh." Another consisted of a short barklike mew followed by a more drawn out mew: "whih-wheerrrrrh." These calls were heard at 10-minute intervals or more and did not seem to elicit an answer from other owls.

The first arrival appeared at 80 minutes before sunrise. It circled silently over the roost trees and landed in the top of a pine. After a minute or two another dark form circled the area and came to rest in the same tree as the first. For the next few minutes owls arrived regularly every three minutes or so. Seven arrived in the first twenty minutes and four perched in the top of the same tree. The only sounds to be heard were the beat of a wing against the pine needles as an arrival landed or the faint scratching sound of talons grasping a branch.

About an hour before sunrise the arrival rate suddenly increased. An owl came in about every minute. At this time the first vocalizations began, and a soft twittering filtered down through the pines. It reminded us of a Mourning Dove's (Zenaida macroura) whistling wings, though it was somewhat faster. Occasionally the opening notes were chirped, with a tonal quality similar to that of the chirpy notes of an American Woodcock (Philohela minor) descending to earth after his courtship flight. The calls were unlike anything we would have expected from an owl.

About 15 minutes after the onset of this gentle twittering, a new activity began. An owl left its perch, made a half-circle over the roost, and pitched back into a tree. A



*Owl in Flight at Dunback Meadow*

*Illustration by J. W. Andrews*

few seconds later another owl did the same. In the next 20 minutes there were 22 such perch changes. A perch change was often followed by an intense outbreak of twittering. The new perches tended to be lower and more interior than the old ones. As the owls changed perches, the roost gradually coalesced toward the favored roost trees.

Suddenly, only 20 minutes before sunrise, the perch changing halted. One owl gave a final songlike twitter with much modulation. It sounded remarkably similar to the song of a House Wren. Then quiet reigned once more. The parliament of owls sat silent and unmoving upon their perches as the morning sun rose to warm them.

Figure 3 indicates the timing of the principal behaviors associated with the return to the roost on four separate mornings. Note the strong correlation between the perch changing activity and the twittering.

Don Stokes reviewed the ornithological literature on the Long-eared Owl. He found that practically nothing has been written in English concerning winter roosting behavior. Most investigators of winter roosts have been content merely to analyze pellets by the thousands. Two German papers on winter roosting were found (and trans-

1=JAN 23  
 2=JAN 24  
 3=JAN 30  
 4=FEB 10

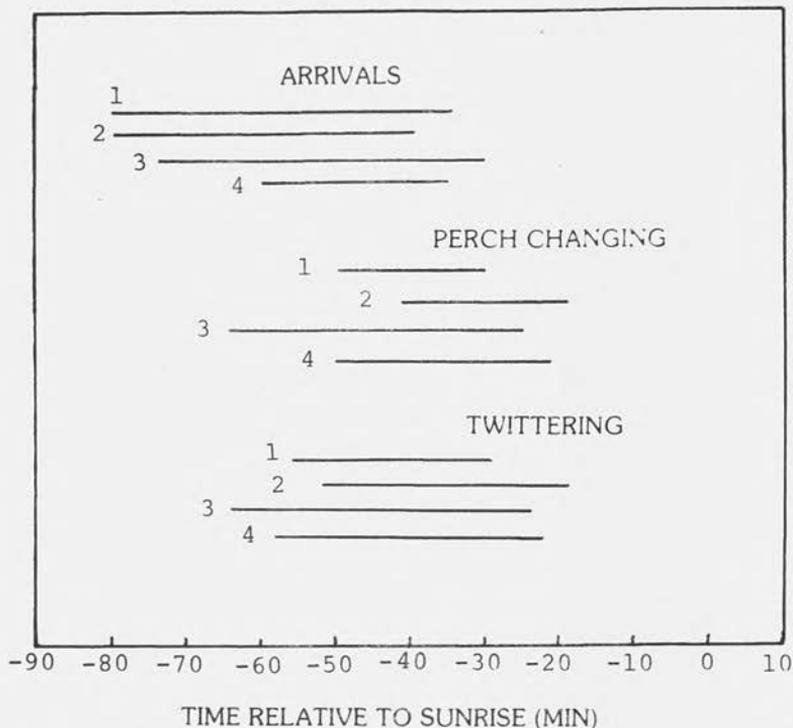


Figure 3. Timing of principal activities associated with arrival at roost. Data was collected on four separate mornings. The sky was clear on all mornings except January 24, which was overcast.

lated) and we have a partial translation of a Danish paper. Thus far it appears that the twittering and perch-changing behavior has never been described.

#### Behavior at roost departure

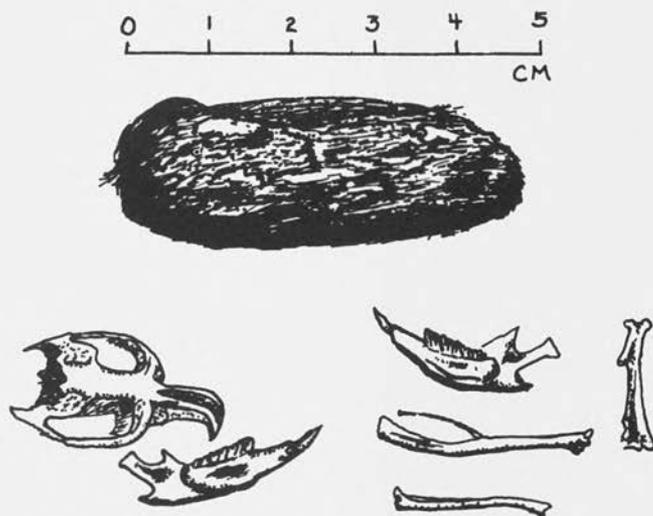
During the day the owls sat motionless, seemingly oblivious to human or avian visitors in their vicinity. Their rare movements were slow and cautious, giving the impression of parrotlike deliberateness. Although they sometimes preened, they could be watched for several hours without a change of perch being observed. But as the light of day began to fade, their demeanor gradually changed. The first evidence of altered behavior was an increase in the amount of preening activity. At this time, one often heard the sound of a cast pellet falling to the forest floor. Occasionally an owl changed its perch by a few feet. A subdued twittering was sometimes heard at this time, but the vocalization was much less intense and prolonged than at roost arrival. The first actual departure from the roost trees occurred without warning 10 to 20 minutes after sunset. Sometimes the early departees from the roost trees flew only 50 to 100 meters and

perched again. These owls seemed to wait until a later departee flew past their position, then the two left the area. Usually all owls departed within an interval of 20 to 35 minutes.

A striking transformation in the overall demeanor of the birds occurred during this period. Once an owl abandoned the roosting perch, its somnolent daytime behavior was cast aside. It became an alert and almost nervous creature. Its head would swivel from side to side, following each faint sound from below. Upon hearing a rustle in the leaves, it would lean forward, concentrating with impatient intensity. It is clear that the Long-eared Owl has two sharply distinct behavioral modes - one somnolent and one active. It is the active mode, the hunting mode of the predator, which is often hidden in darkness and which is least known. Yet once seen, this mode remains in one's mind the most essential characteristic of the owl.

#### Habitat analysis

Although a few owls were sometimes observed hunting in the meadow adjacent to the pine grove, most flew purposefully away from the roost. On several nights a tabulation was made of the directions of departure. The direction in which a bird left the pine grove was not necessarily the direction in which it ultimately left the area (several times right-angle turns were observed after an owl had left). Hence, only departures observed from outside the pine grove could be used for determination of departure directions. The predominate direction of departure thus



*Pellet of Long-eared Owl with Microtus Remains*

determined was south (16 of 21 owls present on one night, 7 of 7 owls present on another). A smaller fraction departed to the east and west; there were no departures to the north. A study of the potential hunting habitat in the vicinity of the roost was conducted using land use and vegetative cover maps developed in 1971 by the Map Massachusetts Map Down Project at the University of Massachusetts. This study revealed that the principal areas of unforested open space within 3 miles of the roost were associated with the Metropolitan State Hospital land to the south of the site. To the east of the site lay a large open wetland in Lexington known as the Great Meadows. No comparable open areas were found within 3 miles to the north of the roost. These results suggest that the owls hunted open areas within 3 miles of the roost.

### Conclusion

From a behavioral point of view, the roost of Long-eared Owls turned out to be more complex and interesting than we had envisioned. We learned much, yet some of the more important questions about the roosting behavior of this owl remain unanswered. How were migrating owls attracted to the roost (were they recruited on the hunting fields)? Why did the size of the roost stabilize suddenly after rising so rapidly (was it habitat limited, or did migratory movement suddenly cease)? Did the owls recognize each other as individuals? Did the same owls sit together night after night? Did the same owls hunt the same outlying fields? Did the perch groupings represent family relationships? Pair bonds? Social dominance? What is the significance of the various vocalizations (appeasement, aggression, individual recognition)?

We now know enough about the winter roosting behavior of Long-eared Owls to sustain a 30 minute lecture. After that, we are left only with intriguing speculations. A similar state of challenging ignorance exists with respect to the behavior of most common species. (I would wager, for instance, that practically nothing is known of how chickadees select their winter roost perches.) Studies of bird behavior by non-professional enthusiasts can be both scientifically worthwhile and personally rewarding. That may well be the most important lesson taught to us by that solemn parliament of owls at Dunback Meadow.

### Acknowledgements

The principal investigators in this study were Don Stokes, Lillian Stokes, and the author. Additional pieces of information were provided by various persons including Oliver Komar, Craig Jackson, Paul Roberts, Robert Stymeist, and Lee Taylor. The cooperation of the Lexington Conservation Commission and bird banders Norman Smith and Mike Olmstead was appreciated.

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

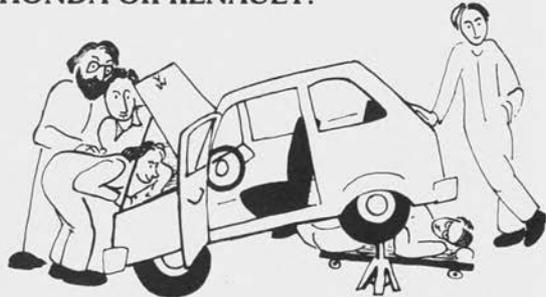
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## BEHAVIOR-WATCHING FIELD NOTES

by Donald and Lillian Stokes, Carlisle

In order to encourage as much participation as possible, the authors would be glad to have you call in your observations of bird behavior. We are interested in all interactions between birds. Whatever you see is important. It may never have been recorded before or even if it has, it is important to hear about it again, for additional observations always create additional information. So, Bird Observer now has a "Behavior Hot-line." Call 369-8488 and ask for Don or Lillian Stokes, or send your observations on 3 x 5 cards to Behavior Field Notes, 52 Nowell Farm Road, Carlisle, MA 01741.

### FIELD NOTES ON BEHAVIOR

Since our last issue we have received some behavior observations from John Andrews, and they are fine examples of the type of behavior that we all see but rarely take the time to observe carefully and record. The first two observations describe wing-quiver displays; the second two describe tail-spreading displays.

3/22/81 Tufted Titmouse

Female gave very high "teeteetee" call while quivering wing-tips and remaining in a horizontal posture. After displaying like this for about ten seconds, it flew a few feet and sang normal song, "peer, peer," four times. Another titmouse a short distance away seemed to answer with the "peer, peer" song. The first bird flew down into a thicket, and the second bird was never seen.

4/30/81 Purple Finch

A female was with a larger flock in maples. She fluttered her wings with primaries extended and simultaneously gave high-pitched thin notes, about four per second. She was perched above another female that seemed to be the object of her display, but there may have been a male hidden nearby in the foliage.

Comment: Wing-quivering is a common display in the repertoire of many of our smaller species, and it is always fascinating to see. Two common circumstances under which it is given are the following: by fledglings when they are being fed by their parents and by adult females when they are being fed by their mates during courtship and during the early stages of breeding. It can also be done by either male or female in aggressive encounters and in pre-copulatory displays. Wing-quivering is usually accompanied by high, thin calls as in both of the above examples. This association may be due to the visual display being conspicuous and therefore needing a call that is harder for predators to locate, a characteristic of high, thin calls.

In the example of the Tufted Titmouse, the displaying bird was probably a female (there is no way to tell from appearance), and she was probably in a stage of courtship where mate-feeding takes place. Her mate may well have been the bird that seemed to answer her "peer, peer" song, for tit-mice pairs keep in close contact during courtship. We know less about the behavior of Purple Finches, but since the displaying bird was in a flock, the wing-quivering may have been an aggressive display used to express dominance during feeding.

It used to be assumed that since fledglings did this display when getting food, it reflected begging and subordination. But a new interpretation by Smith (1980) points out that wing-quivering can also be a display of dominance and intimidation. She suggests that in many species females dominate males during breeding, when they are fed by the male, and that fledglings in fact may dominate parents. Clearly, we need more observations of wing-quivering and the circumstances surrounding it to obtain a better understanding of the uses of the display.

5/20/81 Song Sparrow

Bird flew up into shrub, gave quick energetic song with tail widely spread, then flew across and attacked another sparrow in the same bush.

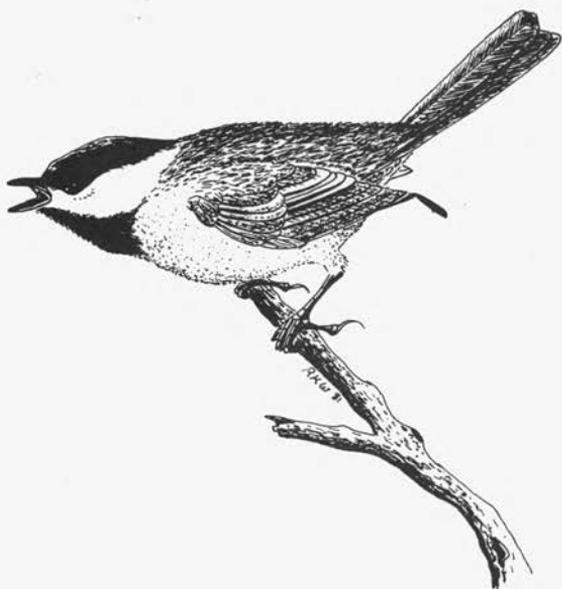
6/21/81 Common Grackle

Bird sitting in a tree gave occasional spread-tail display. Body feathers may have been slightly ruffled. No vocalization heard. Tail was held spread for 1/2 to 3/4 second. There were about four seconds between displays.

Comment: Tail-spreading is another important and widely-used display. In many cases the colors on tail feathers have evolved to heighten the effect of this display such as the white band at the tip of the Eastern Kingbird's tail. In the case of the Song Sparrow observation above, the tail-spread is held and seems to be associated with aggression. For the grackle, the tail was only flicked open. This is often associated with uneasiness on the part of the displaying bird as when a ground predator (as opposed to aerial) is in the area. Tail-spreading and tail-flicking at times may not be communicative and thus are not displays, as when birds use their spread tails to balance on a perch or when they preen or sunbathe. It is always interesting to question what part of a bird's actions is part of its "language." This is not an easy question to answer but an essential one to ask as you begin to be more sensitive to the behavior of birds around you.

#### BEHAVIOR-WATCHING IN THE MONTHS AHEAD

Undoubtedly the most common and welcome calls to pierce the cold silence of our winter woods are those of the Black-



*Black-capped Chickadee*

*Illustration by Richard Walton*

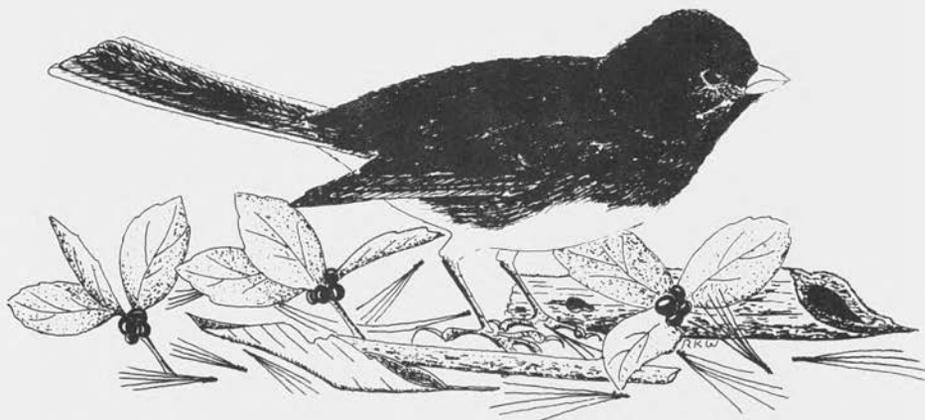
capped Chickadee. The chickadee is always enjoyed by northern birders who appreciate its conspicuousness and endless activity as it seems to get four or five meals off twigs that look absolutely bare to us. But as with most common birds, chickadees, after initial glances of recognition by birders, are largely ignored. We would like to suggest a new winter activity with chickadees. It is this: locate a flock of chickadees in a fairly open woods and follow it for ten to twenty minutes. In doing this you will see that chickadees have some fascinating features of social behavior that make them unique among our winter birds.

Chickadees remain in fixed flocks throughout winter. They are not only fixed in membership but also in hierarchy, there being both a male and a female that are dominant over all others of their sex. As you follow a flock, the most common call you will hear is the quiet "tseet" call. This call probably functions to keep the flock together by keeping them in aural contact as they look for food. If one bird gets too far from the flock to hear this note, it may give a "chickadee-dee" call that will then be answered by another member of the flock. This call may be a long distance contact call enabling the bird that is far away to join the others. If you stay with the flock long enough, you will find that they remain in an area of about twenty acres and that they have preferred feeding spots within that area. This results in the flock repeatedly feeding in a spot, moving twenty to thirty yards, and then stopping to feed again.

So, for the most part, chickadee flocks move about quietly, most giving the "tseet" call. But as you follow a flock, you may suddenly notice other louder calls being given and then begin to see about twice the number of chickadees in the area. The calls will include the "dee-dee" call, the "tseedeleedeet" call, and various other short, harsh calls. This is an indication that two chickadee flocks have met and that one flock has encroached on the winter feeding territory of the other. During these encounters the birds continue to feed but also give the louder calls and participate in brief chases. After five to ten minutes of this behavior, the flocks separate, and each continues to feed quietly within its own territory. We would welcome notes about any interesting behavior you observe while following a chickadee flock. There is still a great deal about these birds that is unknown.

#### BEHAVIOR RESEARCH ARTICLES

Winifred Sabine (1949, 1956) extensively studied winter flocks of Dark-eyed Juncos and Tree Sparrows, and her work gives some unique insights into their lives. Sabine discovered that winter flocks of juncos were generally stable and that members of a flock remained in a given area. Within the area the birds move about among favorite feeding spots; they may move as a whole flock, as sub-flocks, or as individuals. Birds return to the same winter feeding areas year after year, and generally the first to arrive are the ones that have been there before. Newcomers arrive with or after the more experienced birds and follow them about to learn the best places to feed and roost. There is no hostility between flocks in adjacent feeding areas, and in times of food shortage such as during a big snowfall, birds from one flock may temporarily join another flock in their area.



*Dark-eyed Junco*

*Illustration by Richard Walton*

Through observing the interactions between banded birds at her feeding station, Sabine discovered that the flocks of juncos were organized into a straight line pecking order where A is dominant over B, B over C, C over D, etc. These relationships were the same throughout the winter; no bird changed its status. The same was true for a group of Tree Sparrows that she observed. Sabine ranked the birds in their pecking order based on behavioral interactions in which one bird was determined to be dominant over another. Four types of dominance-subordination behavior were observed. (1) A dominant bird would peck at another causing it to retreat. These pecks were gestures, not hard attacks, and varied from a bill thrust toward another to a run or flight over to the other bird. (2) A subordinate bird might hover but not land near a more dominant bird, and it might fly off immediately when a more dominant bird landed nearby. (3) In a threat display a dominant junco elevates its body and with bill closed "throws its head up repeatedly." A Tree Sparrow threatens by fanning its tail, opening its bill, and lunging toward another bird. If two juncos gave the threat display and one of them left, the remaining bird was considered the more dominant. Sometimes while feeding, a subordinate bird would approach a more dominant bird and give the threat display. The dominant bird would respond in kind, but then, both birds would remain and feed together. (4) Fighting occurred infrequently and might appear as a brief skirmish near the ground or as a vertical flight ten to twenty feet up with both birds facing each other. Fights were not always conclusive, and after one, both birds might return and eat peaceably.

It became clear to Sabine that individual birds recognize each other at least at short distances. If a bird came to the feeding station where primarily more dominant birds were feeding, it would move away slightly and feed near a more subordinate bird.

The interactions between the juncos and Tree Sparrows at the feeding station were interesting. In a flock of eleven juncos the four most dominant juncos were subordinate to the flock of Tree Sparrows, but the six subordinate juncos were dominant over the flock of Tree Sparrows.

In summary, Sabine found that juncos and Tree Sparrows winter in stable groups with a highly specific social organization and that these groups move about to favored feeding spots within a defined area. The birds have several stereotyped ways of communicating dominance and subordination within their groups.

There are many intriguing questions that spring to mind as a result of these studies. Why has this system of behavior evolved? Why do birds return to the same area each winter? Why do they spend so much time involved in aggressive interactions? Maybe through your own observations and musings you can come up with answers to these and other questions.

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Donald and Lillian Stokes are naturalists and authors. Don's works include A Guide to Nature in Winter, A Guide to the Behavior of Common Birds, and The Natural History of Wild Shrubs and Vines. He and Lillian are presently working on a second volume of the bird behavior book soon to be published.

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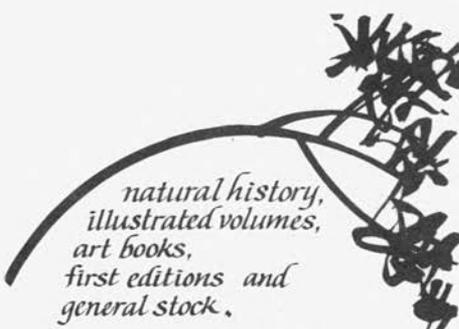


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## A NOTE ON WILDLIFE PROTECTION LAWS

by John M. Grugan, Boston

Readers may have noticed the recent media coverage(1) of the U. S. Fish & Wildlife's undercover operation based in Atlanta, Georgia, which netted a number of individuals involved in the business of trading in endangered species. There was a day, not that long ago, when such crimes were rarely covered by the print media, not to mention television, the main reason being that perpetrators were being turned out of the courtrooms with only the proverbial slap on the wrist. Fortunately for mankind and wildlife alike, law enforcement officials(2) involved with the investigation and prosecution of wildlife resource violations as well as the courts are now handling such cases with seriousness.

Presently, convictions of more serious violations of the wildlife protection statutes (3) can result in prolonged incarceration. As reported in the federal publication, WILDLIFE NEWSLETTER (4), one individual, convicted of smuggling 371 parrots (5) into Texas, was sentenced to five years in jail. In another case, a 16-count indictment was sought against a Florida pet dealer for, among other things, the illegal importation, possession and trading of falcons and owls.

Possession of even a feather from an endangered bird can place the possessor in jeopardy of governmental prosecution, while the handling of migratory birds without the proper permit is also grounds for prosecution. (Over-zealous birders beware!)

Prescinding from the enforcement aspect of wildlife laws, it is interesting to observe the substantial amount of cooperation which has surfaced between the United States and other nations in an effort to resolve wildlife issues. Nations from all corners of the world attended the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Covention On Trade In Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora held in New Delhi in February, 1981. The treaty itself ("CITES") was first signed in 1972. In June, 1980, the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. passed the "Law of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on Wildlife Protection" which was enthusiastically received by American wildlife officials.

Finally, one can hope that zoos and similar institutions, as well as pet shop dealers, will be more perspicacious about documentation concerning endangered wildlife.

1. Newsweek, "The Snakes Can Sting", July 27, 1981, p. 64, and at least one Boston TV station reported this case.
2. The U. S. Fish & Wildlife's Division of Law Enforcement in conjunction with the Land and Natural Resource Division of the Department of Justice prosecute violations of

wildlife and smuggling laws.

3. Some of the statutes involved include the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, (16 U.S.C. 702, et. seq.), the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531, et. seq.), and the Convention On Trade In Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (16 U.S.C. 1536, et. seq.) ("CITES")
4. Published by the U. S. Department of Justice, Division of Land and Natural Resources, Volume 2, No. 1, Jan.-Feb. 1981 reports on a host of such cases.
5. Except for Cockatiels (Nymphicus hollandicus), Budgerigars (Melopsittacus undulatus) and the Rose-ringed Parakeet (Psittacula krameri), all species of psittacids are afforded protection under "CITES".

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JOHN M. GRUGAN majored in wildlife biology as an undergraduate at the University of Colorado, Boulder, and is currently an attorney in Boston.

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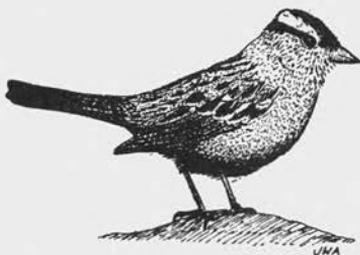
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# Field Records: October 1981

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

October 1981 was cold, cloudy and wet. The temperature averaged 51.2°, 4.2° below normal. This was the coldest October since 1974 (50.1°). The high was only 51° on the 1st which set a new record low for that date; the old mark was 52° in 1888. The first twenty days of October completed a twenty-three day stretch of continuously below normal temperatures. The high degree mark was 74° on the 23rd, unusually late for October. The low was 37° on the 11th and again on the 31st.

Rain totaled 3.43 inches, slightly above normal, making October the third month in 1981 with more than normal precipitation. Although Boston is dry, this is not typical of the whole state: Worcester stands ahead of normal in rainfall and nearby suburban Reading is near normal.

## LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

Common Loons were migrating between the 18th and the 25th with more than fifty seen over Plum Island on the latter date. Eighteen Red-throated Loons were seen there on the 18th, and the period of reports of them was also from the 18th through the 25th. Seventeen out of eighteen reports of Horned Grebes were from inland.

A pelagic trip to the southern edge of Stellwagen Bank on the 25th produced four Fulmars, 18000+ Greater Shearwaters, two Sooty Shearwaters, six Manx Shearwaters, and 1500 Gannets, among other birds. Two Greater Shearwaters were found on beaches, at Salisbury and Plum Island, on the 31st. Gannets in good numbers were seen from the outer cape on the 17th and from Plum Island on the 22nd. A petrel seen on the 12th in Barnstable was probably Leach's since Wilson's have usually departed by mid-September.

Two Green Herons were reported this month and though not constituting late dates, they could be classified as stragglers. Six American Bitterns were seen at Plum Island on a high tide when they were forced up into the marshes.

Snow Geese were at Plum Island throughout the month accompanied by at least one Blue Goose. A survey by the staff of the Parker River NWR produced the following count of waterfowl on the 9th:

Canada Geese	819	Gadwall	103	Northern Shoveler	84
Snow Goose	1	American Wigeon	83	Greater Scaup	3
Blue Goose	1	Pintail	378	Ruddy Duck	4
Mallard	529	Green-winged Teal	4869	Surf Scoter (ocean)	2
Black Duck	2288	Blue-winged Teal	7	Red-breasted Merganser	36

The count was confined to the island portion of the refuge only. The first Common Goldeneyes for the month were reported around the 24th and the first Harlequins reported from Cape Ann were on the 30th although they may have been there earlier. Surf Scoters were seen migrating around the 25th with an estimated 150 birds per hour at Plum Island.  
G.W.G.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Common Loon:			
18,25	P.I.	25, 52+ mig.	E.Nielsen, R.Heil
7,15;12	Lakeville; Westport	5, 7; 3	W.Petersen; BBC(T.Athearn)
2-27,25	Waltham, Scituate	1-3, 12	J.Hines, SSBC(B.Litchfield)
3	Rockport, Sterling	6, 5	R.Heil, S.Carroll+M.Lynch
Red-throated Loon:			
5,11,17,25	P'town	1, 9, 1, 1	B.Cornwell, R.Stymeist#, SSBC(W.Petersen), J.Grugan

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
<b>Red-necked Grebe:</b>			
3,17	Rockport, P.I.	1, 1	R.Heil, E.Nielsen
10	Nantucket	1	BBC (D.Davis)
<b>Horned Grebe:</b>			
9,17	Woburn, P.I.	1, 1	G.Gove, E.Nielsen
12,15,29	Lakeville	2, 8, 6	R.Heil, W.Petersen, D.Clapp
<b>Pied-billed Grebe:</b>			
11,12,28,31	GMNWR	7, 3, 6, 5	W.Petersen, O.Komar, J.Hines, G.Gove
7,15;29	Lakeville	5, 12; 6	W.Petersen; D.Clapp
9,31	Woburn	1, 1	G.Gove
15,16	Wayland, Cambridge	2, 3	R.Forster, F.Bouchard
10,11-12	Halifax, Nantucket	1, 4	W.Petersen, BBC(D.Davis)
<b>Northern Fulmar:</b>			
25	Stellwagen	3 lt. + 1 dk., 20	BBC(H.D'Entremont), R.Prescott#
18	Tuckernuck	7	R.Veit
<b>Cory's Shearwater:</b>			
11,18	Nantucket, Tuckernuck	1, 2200	BBC(D.Davis), R.Veit
17	Truro	1	SSBC(W.Petersen)
<b>Greater Shearwater:</b>			
11,18,25	Stellwagen	max. 18000	v.o.
18,31	Tuckernuck, E.Orleans	800, 50+	R.Veit, SSBC(W.Petersen)
31	Salisbury, P.I.	1, 1 (both found dead)	J.Berry, J.Grugan#
<b>Sooty Shearwater:</b>			
18,25	Tuckernuck, Stellwagen	1, 2	R.Veit, BBC(H.D'Entremont)
<b>Manx Shearwater:</b>			
20,25	Eastham, P'town	1, 1	M.McClellan, J.Grugan
25	Stellwagen	6	BBC (H.D'Entremont)
<b>Petrel sp.:</b>			
12	Barnstable	1	R.Pease, J.Aylward
<b>Gannet:</b>			
3,18	P.I.	5+ ad., 1	J.Berry, BBC(A.Blaisdell)
22	P.I.	2000+	E.Morrier
24	P.I.	20	BBC (S.Grinley)
17	Outer Cape Cod	2500+	SSBC
3,18	Rockport, Gloucester	35, 150	R.Heil, J.Grugan
18,25	Tuckernuck, Stellwagen	500, 1500	R.Veit, BBC(H.D'Entremont)
25	Scituate	25	SSBC (B.Litchfield)
<b>Great Cormorant:</b>			
2,3	Lynn, Weston	1 imm., 1 imm.	R.Heil, O.+ N Komar
22,25	Lynn, Scituate	1 imm., 75	R.Heil, SSBC(B.Litchfield)
<b>Double-crested Cormorant:</b>			
1-18	P.I.	max. 3000	v.o.
2,7-20	Waltham-Lexington	23, 1-2	J.Hines
10,11	Nantucket, Gloucester	500+, 300+	BBC(D.Davis), BBC(J.Nove)
<b>Great Blue Heron:</b>			
2-24	P.I.	max. 18	v.o.
17	Eastham, GMNWR	25, 3	SSBC(S.Higginbotham), BBC(R.Sommers)
10,29	Saugus	17, 7	J.Nove, J.Berry
18,29	Rockport, Halifax	9, 10, 5	J.Grugan, D.Clapp
31	Belmont	all mig.	L.Taylor
<b>Green Heron:</b>			
3-11	Gloucester	1	v.o.
1-6	Rowley	1	D.Alexander
<b>Great Egret:</b>			
3-24	P.I.	1	v.o.
1,2	Hanson, Rowley	1, 1	W.Petersen, D.Alexander
7,12	Wollaston, Westport	1, 1	G.Wilson, BBC(T.Athearn)
<b>Snowy Egret:</b>			
1-14	P.I.	max. 50+	v.o.
10,11	Scituate, Duxbury	1, 7	W.Petersen
4,10	Eastham, Orleans	1, 3	BBC(R.Timberlake), R.Stymeist#
7,12	Wollaston, Westport	3, 2	G.Wilson, BBC(T.Athearn)
7	Lexington	2	J.Hines
<b>Black-crowned Night Heron:</b>			
3-18	P.I.	max. 36	v.o.
6,17	Belmont, Eastham	1, 30	L.Robinson, SSBC(W.Petersen)
<b>American Bittern:</b>			
2-25	P.I.	max. 6	v.o.
10	Orleans	1	R.Stymeist

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Mute Swan:			
10-12	Nantucket	max. 62	BBC (D.Davis)
31	Ipswich	6 ad. + 1 imm.	J.Berry
Canada Goose:			
9,25-31	P.I., Ipswich	819, max. 246	Parker RNWR staff, J.Berry
12,17	Nantucket, GMNWR	343, 150+	BBC(D.Davis), BBC(R.Sommers)
Brant:			
22,22;24	P.I., Newbypt	7, 14; 11	v.o.
24-30	Wollaston	50	G.Wilson
31	Eastham-Brewster	2000+	SSBC(W.Petersen)
Snow Goose:			
thr.	*P.I.	max. 65	v.o.
8	Newton	50 mig.	N.+ O.Komar
"Blue" Goose:			
9-24	P.I.	1	v.o.
Mallard:			
9	P.I.	529	Parker RNWR staff
Black Duck:			
9	P.I.	2288	Parker RNWR staff
31	Ipswich	500	J.Berry
Gadwall:			
9-18,29	P.I., GMNWR	max. 103, 23	Parker RNWR staff#, J.Hines
Pintail			
4-24	P.I.	max. 378	Parker RNWR staff#
29	GMNWR	28	J.Hines
Green-winged Teal:			
12-25	P.I.	max. 4869	Parker RNWR staff#
8;12,15,29	Hanson; GMNWR	75; max. 48	W.Petersen, v.o.
Blue-winged Teal:			
3,5	P.I.	50	BBC(McHale), SSBC(N.+S.Osborne)
9,18	P.I.	7, 2	Parker RNWR staff, E.Nielsen
8-10,12	Hanson, GMNWR	12, 1	W.Petersen, O.Komar
American Wigeon:			
2-24	P.I.	max. 200	v.o.
4,25	Lexington	16, 22	J.Andrews
12,28	GMNWR	max. 295	O.Komar, J.Hines
11,12	Gloucester, Westport	11, 1	BBC(J.Nove), BBC(T.Athearn)
12	Nantucket	100+	BBC (D.Davis)
Northern Shoveler:			
2-24	P.I.	max. 84 10/9	Parker RNWR staff + v.o.
11-29	GMNWR	max. 15	v.o.
Wood Duck:			
1-10	Hanson	max. 125	W.Petersen
12,29	GMNWR	35, 9	O.Komar, J.Hines
4,5	Newton, P'town	29, 11	O.+ N.Komar, W.Cornwell
11,18	Gloucester, Boston	1, 4	BBC(J.Nove), R.Stymeist#
Redhead:			
11-31	Eastham	5	R.Stymeist# + v.o.
24	Cambridge	1	BBC (J.Holman)
Ring-necked Duck:			
3,31	P.I., Ipswich	2 m., 9	G.Gove, J.Berry
7,15;17	Lakeville; GMNWR	max. 450; 7	W.Petersen; BBC(R.Sommers)
11,31	Nantucket, Eastham	3, 45	BBC(D.Davis), SSBC(W.Petersen)
24	Cambridge	44	BBC (J.Holman)
Canvasback:			
24	Cambridge	5	BBC (J.Holman)
Greater Scaup:			
9,11	P.I., Gloucester	3, 5	Parker RNWR staff, BBC(J.Nove)
24,25	Cambridge, Scituate	12, 3	BBC(J.Holman), SSBC(B.Litchfield)
Lesser Scaup:			
4;18	Gloucester; P.I.	1 m.; 1 m., 2 f.	R.Stymeist; E.Nielsen
7,9	Cambridge, Braintree	5, 2	F.Bouchard, R.Campbell
Common Goldeneye:			
24	Newbypt, Quincy	1 f., 1 (first)	G.Gove, D.Brown
25	Scituate, Waltham	1, 1 m.	SSBC(B.Litchfield), J.Hines
Bufflehead:			
17,22	Eastham, Hingham	6, 150	SSBC(W.Petersen), S.Higginbotham
20,24	Rowley, Newbypt	2 pr., 25	D.Alexander, G.Gove
Oldsquaw:			
18	Rockport, Newbypt	9, 13	J.Grugan, BBC(A.Blaisdell)

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Oldsquaw (continued):			
25	Manomet	25	SSBC(B.Litchfield)
Harlequin Duck:			
30	Rockport	1	R.+ D.Hale#
Common Eider:			
3,10;18	P.I.;Rockport	max. 100; 100	v.o.; J.Grugan
17,25	P'town, Stellwagen	500+, 750	SSBC; BBC(H.D'Entremont)
25	Scituate	300	SSBC (B.Litchfield)
26	Nahant	1500	M.Sharpe
King Eider:			
30	Manomet	1 f.	MBO staff
White-winged Scoter:			
10,18	P.I.	60, 100	E.Nielsen,BBC(A.Blaisdell)
18	Rockport	400	J.Grugan
12,17	Nantucket, P'town	75, 50	BBC(D.Davis),SSBC(WRP)
25	Chatham	300	W.Harrington#
25	Scituate	1500	SSBC (B.Litchfield)
Surf Scoter:			
9-25	P.I.	max. 50	v.o.
18,25	Rockport, Stellwagen	25, 500	J.Grugan,BBC(H.D'Entremont)
24	Lincoln, Marshfield	2, 14	R.Stymeist,BBC(Donovans)
25	N.Scituate	3000	SSBC (B.Litchfield)
Black Scoter:			
10,18	P.I.	5, 9	E.Nielsen,BBC(A.Blaisdell)
5,31	P'town, Outer Cape	26, 700	W.Cornwell, SSBC (WRP)
25	Scituate	600	SSBC(B.Litchfield)
Ruddy Duck:			
2-18	P.I.	max. 8	v.o.
28-31,31	GMNWR,Woburn	max. 5, 2	J.Hines, G.Gove
15-29,26	Lakeville, Wayland	max. 215, 79	v.o., J.Andrews
Hooded Merganser:			
5-31; 31	Woburn; Winchester	1 f.; 4 m. + 7 f.	G.Gove
24,27	Lincoln, Waltham	10, 19	R.Stymeist, J.Hines
29	Lakeville	1 m. + 2 f.	D.Clapp
Common Merganser:			
7, 31	Waltham	1 f., 31	J.Hines
Red-breasted Merganser:			
thr.	P.I.	max. 60	v.o.
12, 18	Waltham, Lakeville	4 f., 2	J.Hines, W.Petersen

#### RAPTORS THROUGH COOT

A Black Vulture, presumably the same bird seen at Truro on September 30, was observed at Eastham on the 4th and perhaps the same individual was noted on the 11th at Nantucket. Eight Goshawks were noted during the month, double the number reported in October 1980. An early Rough-legged Hawk was noted from Plum Island on the 3rd where it remained through October 9. At least eight Peregrine Falcons were observed during the month from coastal locations. Future reports of Peregrines should give age and sex if possible.

Bobwhites in Wellesley were unusual and no significant counts of Ruffed Grouse were reported. R.H.S.

Turkey Vulture:			
9,12	Minot, Westport	1, 1	B.Litchfield, BBC
Black Vulture:			
4,11	Eastham, Nantucket	1, 1	BBC(R.Timberlake),N.Gallagher
Goshawk:			
5,8	P'town, Minot	1, 1	W.Cornwell, B.Litchfield
10	Chatham, Weston	1, 1	R.Stymeist#, J.Hines
12,13	Lexington, Braintree	1, 1	J.Andrews, S.Higginbotham
18	E.Middleboro, Braintree	1, 1	K.Anderson, R.Campbell
Sharp-shinned Hawk:			
1-10,4	Weston, Naushon I.	20 total, 8	J.Hines, P.Hallowell
4,10-12	Lexington, Nantucket	8, 6	J.Andrews, BBC
17	Outer Cape	12	W.Petersen
	Other reports of 1-3 individuals totaling	13.	
Cooper's Hawk:			
3,4	P.I., Lexington	1 imm., 1 imm.	E.Nielsen, J.Andrews
5,31	Woburn, GMNWR	2, 1	M.Noland#, G.Gove

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Red-tailed Hawk:			
10-12	Nantucket	17 total	BBC (D.Davis)
Red-shouldered Hawk:			
2,18	Bridgewater, W.Newbury	2, 1	J.Flaherty, A.Blaisdell
24,25	E.Middleboro, Ipswich	1, 1	K.Anderson, J.Berry
Broad-winged Hawk:			
3,4	Wellesley, Wayland	1, 1	K.Winkler, J.Hines
Rough-legged Hawk:			
3-9,25	P.I., S.Boston	1, 1	v.o., H.D'Entremont#
Northern Harrier (Marsh Hawk):			
thr., 5	P.I., P'town	max. 7 10/9, 4	v.o., W.Cornwell
10-12	Nantucket	14 total	BBC (D.Davis)
	Many other reports of 1-3 individuals from various locations.		
Osprey:			
1-15	14 loc.	30 ind.	v.o.
16-31	5 loc.	9 ind.	v.o.
Peregrine Falcon:			
2,3,5	P.I.	1+	D.Alexander# + v.o.
6,11	Manomet, Truro	1, 1 ad.	MBO staff, R.Stymeist#
10-12,24	Nantucket, Marshfield	4, 1	BBC, BBC
Merlin:			
1-24	P.I.	7 total	v.o.
4, 10-12	Truro, Nantucket	2, 4	S.Carroll#, BBC
American Kestrel:			
10-12	Nantucket	9	BBC
Bobwhite:			
24	Wellesley	3	K.Wallace
Clapper Rail:			
4	Eastham (F.H.)	1	S.Carroll, M.Lynch
Virginia Rail:			
10,11	Nantucket, GMNWR	1, 1	BBC, W.Petersen
17,21	Eastham, Marshfield	1, 1	W.Petersen#
Sora:			
17	P.I.	1	E.Nielsen
Common Gallinule:			
12	GMNWR	1	O.Komar
American Coot:			
24,28	Cambridge, GMNWR	14, 32	BBC, J.Hines
31	Woburn	15	G.Gove

#### SHOREBIRDS

An American Oystercatcher was lingering on Nantucket through October 12. Other late records included Least Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, and Wilson's Phalarope. A Baird's Sandpiper was reported from Plum Island and two were noted from Orleans. A Ruff was observed in Squantum.

An unusual number of shorebirds were found in Lincoln at the Cambridge Reservoir including late records, especially for an inland location, of Semipalmated Plover, Least and Semipalmated sandpipers. R.H.S.

American Oystercatcher:			
12	Nantucket	1	BBC (D.Davis)
Semipalmated Plover:			
3,4	W.Newbury, P.I.	35, 20	R.Stymeist#, E.Nielsen
11,24	Duxbury, Marshfield	18, 14	W.Petersen#, BBC
25,31	N.Scituate, Lexington	2, 1	SSBC, J.Hines
Piping Plover:			
3	P.I.	2	E.Nielsen
Killdeer:			
1+4,4+22	Newbypt, Lynn	22 + 24, 42 + 22	D.Alexander#, R.Heil
7,12	Waltham, Rockland	18, 53	J.Hines, W.Petersen
Golden Plover:			
1-17	P.I.	max. 8 10/4	v.o.
5,10	P'town, Scituate	6, 1	W.Cornwell, W.Petersen
Black-bellied Plover:			
27,31	Scituate, Ipswich	185, 350+	D.Clapp, J.Berry
Ruddy Turnstone:			
3,10	Salisbury, Nantucket	1, 1	E.Nielsen, BBC

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
American Woodcock:			
18,28	Rockport, Millis	1, 1	J.Grugan, J.Marshall
30,31	E.Boston, Newbury	1, 1	fide J.Baird, J.Berry
Common Snipe:			
10	S.Hanson	6	W.Petersen
Spotted Sandpiper:			
11,12	Wellfleet, Woburn	1, 1	R.Stymeist#, G.Gove
12,17	Lakeville, Eastham	1, 1	R.Heil, W.Petersen
27	Lincoln	1	J.Hines
Solitary Sandpiper:			
1,14	S.Hanson, S.Peabody	1, 1	W.Petersen, R.Heil
Willet:			
12	Nantucket	1	BBC
Greater Yellowlegs:			
22,25	Lynn, Newbypt	54, 130+	R.Heil, R.Heil
31	Eastham, P.I.-Salisbury	75, 50+	W.Petersen, J.Berry
Lesser Yellowlegs:			
24,25	S.Peabody, Newbypt	5, 11	R.Heil
Purple Sandpiper:			
10	Scituate, Nantucket	15, 2	W.Petersen, BBC(D.Davis)
Pectoral Sandpiper:			
5,8,11	P.I., S.Hanson, P'town	20, 10, 6	N.Komar, W.Petersen, R.Stymeist
22,24	Lynn, Scituate	4, 3	R.Heil, D.Clapp
White-rumped Sandpiper:			
3-25	P.I.	20-10	G.Gove# + v.o.
14,27	Nauset, Scituate	15+, 12	B.Nikula, D.Clapp
Baird's Sandpiper:			
1-5,4+14	P.I., Orleans	1, 2	v.o., B.Nikula, I.Nisbet
Least Sandpiper:			
12,25	Lincoln, P.I.	1, 3	J.Hines, R.Heil
Dunlin:			
5,9,25,31	Newbypt-P.I.	250, 645, 2200+, 3000	v.o.
11,31	Duxbury, Eastham	700, 5000	W.Petersen
Short-billed Dowitcher:			
3,10	P.I.	1, 2	BBC
Long-billed Dowitcher:			
3,25,31	P.I.	4, 35+, 13	J.Berry, R.Heil, J.Grugan
Semipalmated Sandpiper:			
5,10,25	P.I.	150, 20, 12	O.+ N.Komar, E.Nielsen, R.Heil
12	Nantucket, Lincoln	42, 4	BBC, J.Hines
Western Sandpiper:			
3,18,25	P.I.	1, 2, 2	G.Gove, E.Nielsen, R.Heil
10,14	Scituate, Monomoy	1, 6	W.Petersen, B.Nikula
Hudsonian Godwit:			
3,10,17,24	Newbypt	1, 5, 8, 3	G.Gove#
17,22	Squantum, Lynn	1, 2	S.Abrams, R.Heil
30	E.Boston	2	S.Zendeh
Ruff: (details on file)			
4	Squantum	1	K.Ryan
Wilson's Phalarope:			
18	P.I.	1	BBC (A.Blaisdell)

#### JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS

Jaegers continued off the outer cape in good numbers especially near Provincetown where a skua was noted on the 17th. At least six Lesser Black-backed Gulls were noted during the month, none of which were reported from Nantucket. Over 70 birders aboard the Brookline Bird Club pelagic trip on the 25th were treated to a fantastic show of an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull following the boat. It was a life bird for 90% of those on board. A very large concentration of larger gulls was noted at Chatham during the month. The numbers were staggering: wing-to-wing gulls. At the very least, there must have been over 20,000 Herring and 800+ Laughing gulls. Over 18,000 Black-legged Kittiwakes were counted on the 31st from Eastham to Orleans. Two Black Skimmers at Squantum were seen through the 6th. They have been there since last August. R.H.S.

Pomarine Jaeger:			
18,25	Tuckernuck, Stellwagen	1, 8	R.Veit, BBC
Parasitic Jaeger:			
3+5,17	P.I., Truro	1, 1	v.o., W.Petersen
18,20,25	P'town	3+, 12+, 3+	B.Nikula

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Skua, sp. 17	P'town	1	R.Comeau
Iceland Gull: 3,31	P.I., Chatham	1, 2	E.Nielsen, SSBC
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull:</u>			
11,14	Barnstable, Monomoy	1 ad., 1 ad.	R.Pease, B.Nikula
25,27	Chatham, Scituate	1 ad., 1 ad.	W.Bailey#, D.Clapp
25	Stellwagen	1 ad., 1 2nd yr.	BBC (R.Veit)
Herring Gull: thr.	Chatham	20,000+	v.o.
Ring-billed Gull: 25	Weston	109	J.Hines
Black-headed Gull: 2,17	P.I., Nantucket	1, 1 imm.	D.Alexander, R.Heil
25,26	Chatham, E.Boston	1, 2	W.Bailey#, M.Sharpe
<u>Bonaparte's Gull:</u>			
7+29	Lakeville	2, 5	W.Petersen, D.Clapp
18, 22	Newbypt, Hingham	84, 30	BBC, S.Higginbotham
Laughing Gull: 5+25	P'town	225, 5	W.Cornwell, J.Grugan
14,31	Chatham	800, 70+	B.Nikula, J.Grugan + v.o.
Little Gull: 2,3	Newbypt	1, 1 imm.	D.Alexander, E.Nielsen
<u>Black-legged Kittiwake:</u>			
17,18	P'town, Tuckernuck	100+, 1300	W.Petersen#, R.Veit#
31	Eastham-Chatham	<u>18,000+</u>	SSBC (W.Petersen)
Forster's Tern: 5,25	P'town, Chatham	8, 7	I.Nisbet, W.Harrington
Common Tern: 17,18	Outer Cape, Newbypt	<u>2,000+</u> , 4	SSBC, BBC
Roseate Tern: 5	P'town	5	I.Nisbet
Caspian Tern: 3,6	P.I., Duxbury	1, 2	E.Nielsen, J.Lund
22	Hingham	1	S.Higginbotham
Black Tern: 25	off Chatham	1	W.Harrington#
<u>Black Skimmer:</u>			
6	Squantum	2	G.Wilson
Dovekie: 25,30	Stellwagen, S.Yarmouth	1, 1	W.Petersen, fide D.Reynolds
31	E.Orleans	2	W.Petersen#
Black Guillemot: 3	Rockport (A.P.)	1	R.Heil

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Two Saw-whet Owls were banded at Manomet during the month. It was a great year for Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers with at least 100+ individuals reported compared with only 22 last year. A Red-bellied Woodpecker was noted at Rockport beginning on the 19th.

R.H.S.

<u>Yellow-bellied Cuckoo:</u>			
4,5,10	P.I.	1, 1 (dead), 1	M.Schoene, M.Greenwalt, BBC
11,13	Concord, Rowley	1, 1	R.Walton, D.Alexander
<u>Black-billed Cuckoo:</u>			
4	P.I., Truro	1, 1	BBC(J.Nove), BBC(R.Timberlake)
10	Chatham	1	R.Stymeist, J.Heywood
Barn Owl: 1,31	Manomet, Topsfield	1, 1	MBO staff, J.Grugan
Short-eared Owl: 4,5	Eastham, P.I.	1, 1	S.Carroll#, N.+ O.Komar
Saw-whet Owl: 13,22	Manomet	1 b., 1 b.	MBO staff
Chimney Swift: 4,9	Wellesley, Norwell	23, 1	K.Winkler, B.Litchfield
<u>Ruby-throated Hummingbird:</u>			
1+2,4	Brookline, Truro	1 f., 1	D.Arvidson#, S.Carroll#
12	Rockport	1	R.Norris
Common Flicker: 2,3,4	P.I.	20, 20, 27	v.o.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Common Flicker (continued):			
3	Naushon	200	P.Hallowell
Red-bellied Woodpecker:			
19	Rockport	1	P.Stangel
Red-headed Woodpecker:			
5,13	M.V., Bedford	2, 1	V.Laux, P.Wade
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:			
1-22	19 loc.	93 ind.	v.o.
5-8	Manomet	7 b.	MBO staff
Hairy Woodpecker:			
17	P'town	1	W.Petersen

#### FLYCATCHERS THROUGH TANAGERS

The best single word description for the October segment of the fall migration is "early," probably a result of the unseasonably cold weather. The trend for the region's breeding passerines to depart early started to be noticeable in September among the warblers, especially Yellow. In October, families subject to most obvious early departure were the flycatchers and the mimids.

Major migratory movements occurred during the two periods of October 3-5 and 9-11. The first pulse involved good numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches and also the first arrivals of Golden-crowned Kinglets. Vireo species were generally well represented during that period which also saw the last significant numbers of Gray Catbirds. The banders at Manomet had their best days during the wave of October 9-11. Throughout the region at that time, Red-eyed and Solitary vireos were observed in numbers, and Tufted Titmice were on the move. On the lower part of Cape Cod, a remarkable count of 120 Ruby-crowned Kinglets was made on the 10th.

Counter to the general trend towards early migration, there were a few unusually late hangers-on. The single individual Bank and Cliff swallows at South Hanson on the 1st were a surprise as was the next day's report of two Cliff Swallows in Waltham. The Empidonax flycatcher seen at Salisbury on the 18th was late by close to a month. So was the White-eyed Vireo observed at Wellfleet during the last two days of October. The Worm-eating Warbler present on October 10 at Stage Island in Chatham was also unusually late.

The only migrant passerine species which occurred in notably high numbers was the Tennessee Warbler with good counts on the North Shore on the 2nd and 3rd. As in some past years, typically when food supplies are poor (see BOEM, vol. 8, 6), Blue Jays embarked on a wide-scale migration. Good numbers of migrant jays were observed throughout the first three weeks of the month.

October was not without its rarities, foremost of which was the occurrence of a Redwing (a European thrush) on Plum Island. This bird was initially heard and then seen twice during a 20-minute time span by two observers, one of whom is quite familiar with the species from years of birding in Europe. The call of the Redwing has been described as diagnostic in itself, and the wing plumage is also quite a distinctive field mark. Sadly for other observers, the bird did not linger and was not seen subsequently. A Bell's Vireo was reported from Truro on October 4 and as in the case of the Redwing was neither photographed nor observed again. This is most unfortunate since sight records of this species in the fall cannot be accepted. To quote Griscom's Birds of Massachusetts, "Sight records of so critical a species, difficult to identify in life, require a specimen for confirmation."

Somewhat less rare, but notable nonetheless, were a number of other sightings. These include the three Western Kingbirds found in Westport on the 12th by BBC birders and the similar count of Brewer's Blackbirds which were seen by many at Dwyer's Farm in Marshfield on the 24th and 25th. The two late migrant Sedge Wrens discovered about a week apart at different sites on Martha's Vineyard were probably different individuals though the possibility of a single bird cannot be ruled out. The first Boreal Chickadee for the season occurred in Ipswich on October 31. L.E.T.

Eastern Kingbird:			
10	P.I.	1	BBC (S.Wilson)
Western Kingbird:			
5-14,9-12	M.V., Truro	2, 1	V.Laux, B.Nikula#
12	Westport	3	BBC (T.Athearn)
Eastern Phoebe:			
2,17,3-12	Lynn, P'town, 8 loc.	12, 1, 23 ind.	R.Heil, SSBC, v.o.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Empidonax sp.:			
1,2	P'town, Lynn	1, 1	B.Nikula, R.Heil
8,18	Chatham, Salisbury	1, 1	B.Nikula, T.Raymond#
Wood Pewee:			
3,5	Salisbury, P.I.	1, 1	E.Nielsen, N.+ O.Komar#
12,13	Nantucket, Chatham	3, 1	BBC, B.Nikula
Horned Lark:			
3-18,12	Salisbury, Dartmouth	15 max., 15	v.o., BBC
Tree Swallow:			
1-5,3	P.I., Squantum	25 max., 3000	v.o., S.Higginbotham#
10,11-12	Chatham, Nantucket	12, 200+	R.Stymeist, BBC
24	P.I., Marshfield	1, 7	G.Gove, BBC
Bank Swallow:			
1	S.Hanson	1	W.Petersen
Barn Swallow:			
1-21	8 loc.	25 ind.	v.o.
2,24	Waltham, Scituate	40, 1	J.Hines, D.Clapp
Cliff Swallow:			
1,2	S.Hanson, Waltham	1, 4	W.Petersen, J.Hines
Blue Jay:			
1,2	P'town, Lynn	200, 200+	B.Nikula, R.Heil
4,20	Naushon I., Rockport	400, 120	P.Hallowell, P.Stangel
Fish Crow:			
13-31,29	Weston, Concord	4 max., 1	J.Hines
Black-capped Chickadee:			
3,6	Newbypt, Littleton	40+, 100	BBC, J.Baird
10,13	Belmont, Manomet	100+, 72 b.	BBC, MBO staff
Boreal Chickadee:			
31	Ipswich	1	J.Berry
Tufted Titmouse:			
2,10	Lynn, Chatham	28, 16	R.Heil, J.Heywood#
6,10	MBO, Scituate	40 b., 15	MBO staff, W.Petersen
31	Outer Cape	5	W.Petersen
Red-breasted Nuthatch:			
3,5	P.I.--Salisbury, P'town	3, 95	v.o., W.Cornwell
10-12,31	Nantucket, P.I.	100+, 40	BBC, J.Grugan
Brown Creeper:			
5,9	P'town, Manomet	5, 12 b.	W.Cornwell, MBO staff
10-12	Nantucket	20+	BBC
House Wren:			
5,22	M.V., S.Peabody	15, 1	V.Laux, R.Heil
Winter Wren:			
5,12	Belmont, P.I.	1, 4	L.Robinson, N.Komar#
10-24,31	7 loc., Lynn	12 ind., 2	v.o., R.Heil
Marsh Wren (Long-billed Marsh Wren):			
3,5	P.I., Wayland	2, 1	BBC, J.Hines
12,17	Concord, Eastham	1, 2	O.Komar, W.Petersen#
Sedge Wren (Short-billed Marsh Wren):			
10,16	M.V.(Katama), M.V.(Gay Head)	1, 1	V.Laux
Mockingbird:			
2,24	P.I., Marshfield	10, 24	R.Emery#, BBC
Gray Catbird:			
2-10,6	P.I., Belmont	30 max. 10/5, 5	v.o., L.Robinson
12,24	Wayland, P.I.	2, 1	J.Hines, BBC
Brown Thrasher:			
4-5,4-7	P.I., Wayland	3, 2	v.o., J.Hines
24,31	P.I., Eastham	1, 1	BBC, W.Petersen#
Redwing ( <u>Turdus iliacus</u> ):			
4	P.I.	1	E.Nielsen + H.C.Floyd
	Heard and seen twice by observer familiar with species.		
American Robin:			
9,18	IRWS, Brookline	800, 250+	F.Bouchard#, R.Stymeist
Wood Thrush:			
5,7	P.I., Lincoln	1, 1	N.Komar#, R.Forster
11	Weston	1	J.Hines
Hermit Thrush:			
1-24, 10	P.I., Scituate	12 max., 6	v.o., W.Petersen
11,24	Nantucket, E.Middleboro	4, 1	BBC, K.Anderson
Swainson's Thrush:			
3,5	P.I., P'town	2, 2	E.Nielsen, W.Cornwell

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Swainson's Thrush (continued):			
6,14	Belmont, Lincoln	2, 1	L.Robinson, R.Forster
18	S.Peabody	1	R.Heil
Gray-cheeked Thrush:			
3,4	P.I., Worcester	1, 1	E.Nielsen, S.Carroll#
10	Salisbury	1	E.Nielsen
Veery:			
3,11	Newton, Gloucester	2, 1	J.Hines#, BBC
E.Bluebird:			
3-7,5	Lincoln, P'town	9 ad. m., 6	v.o., W.Cornwell
9,14	E.Middleboro, Bourne	3, 1	K.Anderson, B.Sorrie
17,26	Truro, Nahant	2, 2	W.Petersen, M.Sharpe
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:			
8,22	Minot, Hingham	1, 1	B.Litchfield, S.Higginbotham
Golden-crowned Kinglet:			
3	4 coastal loc.	16 ind.	v.o.
4,5	Lexington, P'town	6, 35	J.Andrews, W.Cornwell
11-12,10	Nantucket, Lower Cape	40+, 70	BBC, R.Stymeist#
24,31	Cambridge, P.I.	5, 75	U.Marvin, J.Grugan
Ruby-crowned Kinglet:			
1,3	Lynn, Weston	35, 5	R.Heil, N.+ O.Komar
5,10	P'town, Concord	35, 2	W.Cornwell, R.Walton
10	Lower Cape, Scituate	120, 35	J.Heywood#, W.Petersen
24,30	Cambridge, Wayland	5, 1	U.Marvin, J.Hines
Water Pipit:			
3,5	Lincoln, P'town	50, 48	I.Nisbet, W.Cornwell
10,11-12	Halifax, Nantucket	100, 70	W.Petersen, BBC
12,25	Concord, P.I.	37, 22	O.Komar#, R.Heil
Cedar Waxwing:			
1, 4	P'town, P.I.	100+, 35	B.Nikula, E.Nielsen
15,24-25	Brookline, Marshfield	50+, 80+	M.Hubbard, v.o.
Northern Shrike:			
17-18	P.I.	1 imm.	E.Nielsen
White-eyed Vireo:			
1,5	P'town	1, 1	B.Nikula, W.Cornwell
10,12	Belmont, Nantucket	1, 1	BBC
30-31	WBWS	1	W.Bailey
Solitary Vireo:			
3,5	Weston, P'town	4, 4	N.+ O.Komar, W.Cornwell
6,9	Littleton, Chatham	4, 10	J.Baird, B.Nikula
17,18	P.I., S.Peabody	1, 1	E.Nielsen, R.Heil
Red-eyed Vireo:			
3-5	4 loc.	24 ind.	v.o.
9,18	Chatham, S.Peabody	25, 2	B.Nikula, R.Heil
31	Bridgewater	1	J.Flaherty
Philadelphia Vireo:			
3	Rockport, Gloucester	1, 1	R.Heil
4,5	Truro, Manomet	1, 1 b.	BBC, MBO staff
Warbling Vireo:			
3	Gloucester (E.P.)	1	R.Heil
Black-and-white Warbler:			
1,3	Lynn, Rockport	3, 4	R.Heil
15,18	Belmont, P.I.	1, 1	L.Robinson, BBC
Worm-eating Warbler:			
10	Chatham (Stage I.)	1	R.Stymeist
Blue-winged Warbler:			
8	Manomet	1 b.	K.Anderson
Tennessee Warbler:			
2,3	Lynn, Rockport	15, 14	R.Heil
6,12	Littleton, Nantucket	1, 1	J.Baird, BBC
Orange-crowned Warbler:			
2,3	Lynn, Rockport	2, 1	R.Heil
3,6	Harvard, Manomet	1, 1 b.	M.Lynch#, MBO staff
12,31	Newton, P.I.	1, 1	F.Bouchard#, A.Blaisdell#
Nashville Warbler:			
3,10	Rockport, Scituate	5, 1	R.Heil, W.Petersen
10,12	Orleans, Acoaxet	1, 1	R.Stymeist#, BBC
31	Lynn	1	R.Heil
Northern Parula:			
1,3	Lynn, Rockport	24, 7	R.Heil

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Northern Parula (continued):			
10-11,18	Nantucket, P.I.	3, 1	BBC, E.Nielsen
Yellow Warbler:			
10	Scituate	1	W.Petersen
Magnolia Warbler:			
1,24	Lynn, Cambridge (Mt.A.)	2, 1	R.Heil, U.Marvin
3-10	2 loc.	4 ind.	v.o.
Cape May Warbler:			
10-12	Nantucket	4	BBC (D.Davis)
Black-throated Blue Warbler:			
3	Rockport	5	R.Heil
4-12	6 locations	12 ind.	v.o.
17,18	P.I.	1 m., 1	v.o., A.Blaisdell
Yellow-rumped Warbler:			
2,3	Wellesley, Harvard	400, 40+	C.Ewer, S.Carroll#
3-24	P.I.	300 max. 10/5	v.o.
5,10-12	P'town, Nantucket	450, 300	W.Cornwell, BBC
10,11	Orleans, P'town (R.P.)	350+, 300+	R.Stymeist#
Black-throated Green Warbler:			
2,3	Wellesley, Rockport	3, 11	C.Ewer, R.Heil
3-17	9 loc.	17 ind.	v.o.
18,22	Wayland, Lynn	1, 1	J.Hines, R.Heil
Blackburnian Warbler:			
4,11	Orleans, Gloucester	1, 1	BBC
Chestnut-sided Warbler:			
1-2	Lynn	1 juv.	R.Heil
Bay-breasted Warbler:			
1-2,3	Lynn, Rockport	1, 1	R.Heil
3,5	Weston, P.I.	1, 1	N.+ O.Komar
12,22	Nantucket, Lynn	3, 1	BBC, R.Heil
Blackpoll Warbler:			
1,2	Lynn, Wellesley	110+, 200	R.Heil, C.Ewer
22,25	Lynn, Waltham	8, 1	R.Heil, J.Hines
31	Lynn	1	R.Heil
Pine Warbler:			
3,10-11	Harvard, Nantucket	1, 3	M.Lynch#, BBC
30,31	Wayland, Lynn	1, 2	J.Hines, R.Heil
Prairie Warbler:			
4,5	Truro, Belmont	1, 1	BBC, L.Robinson
Palm Warbler:			
4,5	Orleans, P'town	6, 20	BBC, W.Cornwell
18,31	P.I., Orleans	15, 4	E.Nielsen, W.Petersen
31	Belmont	5	L.Taylor
Ovenbird:			
1,3	Lynn, Rockport	1, 1	R.Heil
11,17	Nantucket, P'town	1, 1	BBC, S.Higginbotham
Northern Waterthrush:			
4,10	P.I., Mattapoissett	1, 1	E.Nielsen, G.Mock
18,25	Salisbury, Wellesley	1, 1	F.Hamlen#, K.Winkler
Connecticut Warbler:			
18	Arlington	1	L.Taylor
Common Yellowthroat:			
5,10	Belmont, Scituate	4, 6	L.Robinson, W.Petersen
18,25	S.Hanson, Marshfield	1, 1	W.Petersen, B.Litchfield
Yellow-breasted Chat:			
2,4	P.I., Lexington	1, 1	R.Emery, J.Andrews
11,12	Orleans, P.I.	1, 2	D.Lange#, J.Heywood#
31	Arlington	1	L.Taylor
Wilson's Warbler:			
10-12,11	P.I., Gloucester	1, 1	v.o., BBC
11	Truro	2	R.Stymeist#
American Redstart:			
2,5	Wellesley, P'town	3, 6	C.Ewer, W.Cornwell
10,10-12	Scituate, Nantucket	1, 15	W.Petersen, BBC
Bobolink:			
3,10	Salisbury, Nantucket	4, 3	E.Nielsen, BBC
10,22	Concord, S.Peabody	3, 1	R.Walton, R.Heil
Rusty Blackbird:			
1,11	S.Hanson, Concord	150+, 300	W.Petersen
22,24	Millis, Marshfield	400, 8	B.Cassie, BBC

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
<u>Brewer's Blackbird:</u>			
24-25	Marshfield	3	A.Altman#
<u>Brown-headed Cowbird:</u>			
2,10	Rowley, Nantucket	20, 16	D.Alexander#, BBC
<u>Scarlet Tanager:</u>			
3,4	Rockport, Orleans	4, 3	R.Heil, BBC
5,10	M.V., P.I.	15, 2	V.Laux, BBC
10-12	Nantucket	3	BBC

GROSBEAKS THROUGH BUNTINGS

A major sparrow movement occurred beginning on the 10th with White-throated, Chipping, and Juncos very well represented. The count of over 350 White-crowned Sparrows for the month was nothing short of amazing. Large numbers of Pine Siskins were observed migrating at several locations on the 22nd.

Sparrow rarities included the Henslow's at Squantum and the Ipswich in Brookline. Both were observed during the October 18 sparrow census, results of which were tabulated in Bird Observer, Vol. 9, no. 5. Occurrence of Ipswich Sparrow at inland locations is most unusual. A Clay-colored Sparrow was seen on the October 10-12 BBC trip to Nantucket. L.E.T.

<u>Rose-breasted Grosbeak:</u>			
11,12	Truro, P.I.	4, 1	R.Stymeist#
<u>Blue Grosbeak:</u>			
3,11	Naushon I., Truro	1, 2	P.Hallowell, W.Bailey#
12	Nantucket	1	BBC (D.Davis)
<u>Indigo Bunting:</u>			
2,5	Medfield, M.V.	2, 3	J.Marshall, V.Laux
11, 10-12	Concord, Nantucket	2, 4	R.Walton, BBC
<u>Dickcissel:</u>			
11,12	P'town, Nantucket	1, 1	R.Stymeist, BBC
25	Beverly	1	v.o.
<u>Evening Grosbeak:</u>			
3-10,10	Rockport, Scituate	1 b., 1	v.o., W.Petersen
11, 31	P'town, Orange	20, 8	R.Stymeist, B.Miller
<u>Purple Finch:</u>			
1,6	Belmont, Littleton	8, 40	L.Robinson, J.Baird
18,24	Brookline, Lexington	15, 25+	R.Stymeist#, J.Andrews#
<u>House Finch:</u>			
4,10	P.I., Scituate	9, 150+	BBC, W.Petersen
<u>Pine Grosbeak:</u>			
12,17-25	P'town, P.I.	1, 1 f.	C.Smith, M.Noland#
31	Wellesley	6	C.Clement
<u>Pine Siskin:</u>			
5,10	P.I., Wayland	1, 5	N.+ O.Komar, J.Hines
22	S.Peabody, Weston	70+, 12	R.Heil, J.Hines
<u>White-winged Crossbill:</u>			
14,17	M.V., Wellfleet	1, 1	V.Laux, E.Cutler
31	P.I.	3	J.Grugan
<u>Rufous-sided Towhee:</u>			
5,10-12	P.I., Nantucket	20, 12	O.+ N.Komar, BBC
17,22	Truro, Weston	1, 2 f.	SSBC, J.Hines
<u>"Ipswich" Sparrow:</u>			
18,31	Brookline, Salisbury	1, 1	R.Stymeist#, J.Berry
<u>Savannah Sparrow:</u>			
2, 3-10	Medfield, P.I.	40, 30 max.	J.Marshall, v.o.
10,18	Concord, Brookline	45, 55	R.Walton, R.Stymeist
<u>Grasshopper Sparrow:</u>			
4,10	Eastham, Nantucket	1, 1	M.Lynch#, BBC
10,18	Framingham, Lexington	1, 1	K.Hamilton#, J.Andrews
18	Gloucester	1	J.Grugan
<u>Henslow's Sparrow:</u>			
18-19	Squantum	1	D.Brown
<u>Sharp-tailed Sparrow:</u>			
4,10	Eastham, P.I.	9, 12	S.Carroll#, G.Gove
12,25	Westport, Newbypt	1, 4	BBC, R.Heil
<u>Seaside Sparrow:</u>			
10,25	P.I., Newbypt	1, 10	G.Gove, R.Heil
31	Eastham	5	W.Petersen#

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Vesper Sparrow: 4,10-12	Wellfleet, Nantucket	2, 3	BBC
Lark Sparrow: 17,25	Salisbury, Beverly	1, 1	S.Carroll#, v.o.
Dark-eyed Junco: 1-10,5 10-12,22	P.I.-Salisbury, P'town Nantucket, Weston	100+ max., 75 92, 75+	v.o., W.Cornwell BBC, J.Hines
Tree Sparrow: 10-12,17-18 31	Nantucket, 4 loc. Belmont	2, 12 total 2	BBC, v.o. L.Taylor
Chipping Sparrow: 3-24,3 5,12 25	P.I.-Salisbury, Weston P'town, Scituate N.Scituate	50 max. 10/18, 104 60, 50+ 6	v.o., N.+ O.Komar# W.Cornwell, W.Peterson SSBC
Clay-colored Sparrow: 10	Nantucket	1	BBC (D.Davis)
Field Sparrow: 3-24, 4 10,25	P.I.-Salisbury, Truro Concord, Scituate	4 max., 3 3, 15	v.o., BBC R.Walton, SSBC
White-crowned Sparrow: 2-24 10-12, 10 11,24	various loc. Nantucket, P.I. Truro, Marshfield	233 total 54, 23 50+, 5	v.o. BBC, E.Nielsen R.Stymeist, BBC
White-throated Sparrow: 3,10 13,25	Rockport, Scituate MBO, Marshfield	120, 500 24 b., 30	R.Heil, W.Petersen MBO staff, SSBC
Fox Sparrow: 12	Salisbury, Nantucket	1, 1	N.Komar#, BBC
Lincoln's Sparrow: 1-6,3 4,24 1-21	Wayland, Newton S.Peabody, Dover various loc.	8, 5 8, 1 55 total	J.Hines, N.+ O.Komar# R.Heil, F.Hamlen v.o.
Swamp Sparrow: 2,5 18,22	Medfield, Wayland Concord, S.Peabody	22, 80+ 9, 55	J.Marshall, J.Hines R.Walton, R.Heil
Song Sparrow: 2,5 10-12,17-18	Medfield, Wayland Nantucket, Concord	35, 40+ 58, 20	J.Marshall, J.Hines BBC, v.o.
Lapland Longspur: 11 12	Duxbury Beach, Eastham Salisbury, S.Dartmouth	2, 1 3, 1	W.Petersen#, R.Stymeist R.Stymeist, BBC
Snow Bunting: 17,29 31	Salisbury, Lakeville Chatham, Salisbury	1, 16 2, 50	M.Lynch#, K.Ryan# SSBC, v.o.

CORRIGENDA

Field Records: September 1981

Tallies dated Sept. 18 from the Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch on Mt. Wachusett should be dated Sept. 17.

Entries should read

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 10,13,17,20	Mt. Wachusett	54, 5, 158, 48	E.MA Hawk Watch
Cooper's Hawk: 10,17,20	Mt. Wachusett	1, 1, 1	E. MA Hawk Watch(P.Roberts#)
Broad-winged Hawk: 10,13,17,20	Mt. Wachusett	121,39,1240,298	E. MA Hawk Watch
Northern Harrier (Marsh Hawk): 13-30,17	Newton, Mt. Wachusett	6, 9	N.+O.Komar,E.MA Hawk Watch
Osprey: 10,13,17,20	Mt. Wachusett	5, 4, 19, 9	E. MA Hawk Watch
American Kestrel: 17,20	Mt. Wachusett,GMNWR	53,5	E.MA Hawk Watch,P.Roberts#

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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

RHODE ISLAND BREEDING BIRD ATLAS

The Rhode Island Breeding Bird Atlas Project requests the help of Massachusetts birders. The R.I. Breeding Bird Atlas Project will cover a five-year period through 1985 and is a cooperative project of the R.I. Ornithological Club, R.I. Natural Heritage Program and the Audubon Society of R.I.

On May 22, 1982 the first R.I. Breeding Bird Atlas Workshop will be held at the Ruecker Wildlife Refuge, Tiverton at 10:00 A.M. This meeting will be an opportunity for atlas workers to come together and discuss techniques and possible problems. To register for this free workshop, contact the R.I. Audubon Society. (401-521-1670)

For more information, contact:

Rick Enser, Natural Heritage Program, 83 Park Street,  
 Providence, R.I. (401-277-2776) or  
 Hob Calhoun, Audubon Society of R.I., 40 Bowen Street,  
 Providence, R.I. (401-521-1670).

# Field Records: November 1981



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

November 1981 was cool with near normal rain and sun. The temperature averaged 43.9°, 1.3° below normal despite a warm first week. The high mark was 69° on the 2nd, and the low was 26° on the 25th and 26th. The first freeze of the season was on the 13th, six days later than average.

Rain totaled 4.78 inches, 0.27 inch more than normal and 1.74 inches more than November 1980. This was the wettest November since 5.13 inches in 1975. The third week was very wet with 4.45 inches and a period of fifty-nine consecutive hours with rain from the 14th to the 17th. Snow amounted to only a trace, 1.2 inches under normal. The first flakes came on the 27th, twenty days after the average date. Traces also fell during the next two days. At Boston, the total precipitation is 8.84 inches under normal for the year while many suburbs are nearer normal.

## LOONS THROUGH HERONS

The winter season brings headaches to the compilers especially when an Arctic Loon is reported; the winter season has come. Submitted reports should contain as much information as possible (see Leverich, BOEM, Vol. 7, no. 5, 1979, p. 186-189). Some observers rely on the presence of the white thigh patch as described by Leverich. However, photos of winter-plumaged Red-throated Loons published in the Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds: Western Region (by Udvardy, Knopf, New York, 1977) exhibit white or whitish flank patches. This is also true of the photo of the Yellow-billed Loon in the same publication. If these species can exhibit such patches, then the value of this field mark as a "diagnostic" feature of Arctic Loons is open to serious question.

A tremendous number of Greater Shearwaters was reported during the first week of the month along the entire outer cape from Chatham to Provincetown. The greatest concentration was to the southeast and east of Monomoy. No fewer than 15,000 were noted with many reports of large numbers at every outlook on the ocean side but not a single report in Cape Cod Bay. With the shearwaters was a large gathering of Gannets, all of which were feeding on sand lance. Interesting is the report of 12,000 at First Encounter, Eastham, on the bay side when the wind shifted to the northwest.

A Green Heron in Winchester was unusually late as was a Great Egret at Yarmouth on the 29th. During a high tide at Plum Island, four American Bitterns were reported. R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Common Loon:			
1,14	Wollaston, Rockport	6, 28	W.Cornwell, R.Heil
Arctic Loon: (no details)			
10	Rockport	1	D.Brown#
Red-throated Loon:			
1	Wollaston, P.I.	200+, 35	L.Robinson, G.Gove#
11,14	N.Beach(Orleans-Chatham), S.N.	75, 50	W.Petersen#
Red-necked Grebe:			
1,11	Wollaston, Rockport	1, 3	L.Robinson, J.Berry
11	Nauset, E. Orleans	3, 2	J.Aylward
Horned Grebe:			
1,4	Wollaston	200+, 313	L.Robinson, D.Brown#
1,21	Lakeville	15, 27	W.Petersen
Pied-billed Grebe:			
1,8	Concord, Lakeville	7, 15	L.Taylor, W.Petersen#
Northern Fulmar:			
8,19	P'town, Eastham	1, 1	B.Sorrie#, C.Goodrich#

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Cory's Shearwater:			
7,19	P'town, Eastham	2, 2	R.Heil#, B.Nikula
Greater Shearwater:			
7-11	Outer Cape Cod	15,000+	R.Heil,B.Nikula,W.Petersen#
	Tremendous numbers reported along entire outer cape w/the greatest concentration to the SE and E of Monomoy.		
Sooty Shearwater:			
8, 14	Nauset, Rockport	1, 1	R.Heil
Manx Shearwater:			
11	E. Orleans	1	W.Petersen#
Gannet:			
7, 11	Outer Cape Cod	5000+	R.Heil#, W.Petersen#
7, 14	Rockport (A.P.)	202, 400	M.Greenwald#,R.Heil
18	Eastham (P.E.)	12,000	W.Bailey#
Great Cormorant:			
14,28	Manchester,Cape Ann	100+, 50	G.Hotz, BBC (Albee)
Double-crested Cormorant:			
11, 22	Rockport, Winthrop	2, 5	J.Berry, R.Heil
29	Quincy Bay	2	D.Brown
Great Blue Heron:			
1-12,1-15	Woburn, P.I.	2, max 9 11/1	G.Gove, v.o.
	Many other reports of 1-2 individuals from various locations.		
Green Heron:			
8	Winchester	1	L.Taylor
Great Egret:			
29	Yarmouth	1	J.Aylward
American Bittern:			
11, 14+28	Eastham, P.I.	1, 4+1	T.Raymond,R.Heil+J.O'Regan

#### WATERFOWL

The staff at the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge conducted a census of waterfowl at the refuge on the 23rd. Led by Doug Spencer this census will be conducted during the waterfowl season. The large numbers reflect the ability of the refuge personnel to cover much more territory than we can.

Canada Goose	1557	Green-winged Teal	2411
Mallard	555	Northern Shoveler	67
Black Duck	3241	Greater Scaup	1
Gadwall	75	Bufflehead	10
Pintail	795	Ruddy Duck	11

Bird Observer also conducted a fresh water waterfowl census November 6-10 under the direction of John Andrews of Lexington. Observers submitted reports for 58 lakes and ponds in eastern Massachusetts and logged 5126 individuals belonging to thirty different species. Some interesting findings about relative populations of dabbling and diving ducks were obtained and complete analysis of the results will be published in a future issue of Bird Observer.

Three Whistling Swans were found at Acoaxet among 57 Mute Swans on November 11. A very careful count of 1500 Ring-necked Ducks at Lakeville on the 1st constitutes a new state high count for this species. King Eiders were reported from 7 locations with a total of 15+ individuals noted. The large flocks of Common Eider in Boston Harbor peaked much earlier than in previous years and the largest concentration was reported from Chatham. R.H.S.

Whistling Swan:			
11	Acoaxet	3	R.Stymeist,G.Gove#
Brant:			
1, 8	Wollaston	600+,400+	L.Robinson,H.Mallers
Gadwall:			
2	Ipswich (Clark's Pond)	175	D.Arvidson#
Pintail:			
7, 8	Barnstable,Yarmouth	50, 63	W.Petersen,J.Aylward
Green-winged Teal:			
7, 8	Wakefield, GMNWR	150, 26	C.Jackson, R.Walton
Blue-winged Teal:			
1, 7	Cambridge, P.I.	2, 6	J.Barton, BBC (King)
American Wigeon:			
7, 10	Ipswich, Arlington	250+, 37	BBC, R.Stymeist#
8, 13	GMNWR, Belmont	87, 23	R.Walton, L.Robinson

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Northern Shoveler:			
8,28	GMNWR, P.I.	8, 49	BBC, G.Gove
Wood Duck:			
7,8	Wakefield, GMNWR	1, 6	C.Jackson, R.Walton
13,28	Belmont, Lakeville	1, 2	L.Robinson, W.Petersen#
Redhead:			
thr.	Cambridge (F.Pond)	2	v.o.
9,21	Braintree, Lakeville	4, 2	D.Brown, W.Petersen#
22,29	N.Scituate, Falmouth	1, 18	W.Petersen, I.Girunias#
Ring-necked Duck:			
1,21,28	Lakeville	1500, 60, 2	W.Petersen#
1,8,30	Cambridge	52, 16, 4	J.Barton + v.o.
9,22	Braintree, Eastham	60-65, 90	D.Brown, B.Nikula
Canvasback:			
1,21,28	Lakeville	17, 35, 85	W.Petersen#
1,8,22,30	Cambridge	38,110,142,80	J.Barton + v.o.
Greater Scaup:			
8,21	Lakeville	100, 50	W.Petersen#
Lesser Scaup:			
14,22	Gloucester, Cambridge	6, 11	R.Heil, J.Barton
21,28	Lakeville	50, 60	W.Petersen#
Common Goldeneye:			
8,21	Lakeville	13, 45	W.Petersen
	Very few reported from coastal localities.		
Barrow's Goldeneye:			
4	Quincy Bay	3	D.Brown
Bufflehead:			
1,8	Wollaston, Lakeville	400, 150	W.Cornwell, G.Gove#
10,17	Lincoln (Camb. Res.)	28, 50	O.Komar, P.Roberts
	Very few reported from coastal localities.		
Oldsquaw:			
1,11	Lakeville, N.Beach	7, 300	W.Petersen
28-29	Nantucket	8000	R.Veit
Harlequin Duck:			
thr.	Gloucester-Magnolia	1-2	v.o.
4,24	Quincy, E.Orleans	1, 3	D.Brown, B.Nikula#
Common Eider:			
1,7	Winthrop	7000, 2000	S.Zendeh#, R.Stymeist#
11,15	Rockport	320+, 400+	J.Berry
28	Chatham	20,000	B.Nikula
King Eider:			
thr.	Revere	max. 4 (2 ad.m. 1 sub ad 1 f.)	S. Zendeh + v.o.
1-14,4	Manomet, Quincy Bay	1 f, 3 (1 m., 1 imm. m. 1 f.)	MBO Staff, D.Brown
7,21	Rockport	1 f., 1 m.	N.Komar, C.Corley
15,22	Barnstable, N.Scituate	1 ad. m., 1 f.	J.Aylward, W.Petersen#
22	Winthrop	3 f.	R.Heil
White-winged Scoter:			
1	Wollaston Bay, Revere-Winthrop	300, 300	W.Cornwell, S.Zendeh#
1+28,8	Lakeville, Chatham	3+2, 1000	W.Petersen#, B.Nikula#
Surf Scoter:			
1,7	Lakeville, Rockport	3, 27	W.Petersen#, N.Komar#
Black Scoter:			
1,8-22	Lakeville, Cambridge	2, 2	W.Petersen, J.Barton#
11,28-29	N.Beach, Nantucket	400, 2500	W.Petersen, R.Veit
Ruddy Duck:			
1,8,28	Lakeville	250, 400, 100	W.Petersen# + v.o.
1,8,30	Cambridge	2, 22, 47	J.Barton# + v.o.
7	Framingham, Braintree	35, 73	E.Morrier, W.Petersen
10,29	Arlington, Brewster	22, 54	R.Stymeist#, B.Nikula
Hooded Merganser:			
1+28,thr.	Lakeville, Woburn	22 + 36, max. 25	W.Petersen#, G.Gove
10,17,25	Lincoln (Camb. Res.)	16, 32, 18	v.o.
11,22	Eastham, Braintree	24, 9	J.Aylward, D.Brown
Common Merganser:			
10,17,25	Lincoln (Camb. Res)	54, 220, 100+	P.Roberts# + v.o.
22,28	Braintree, Lakeville	68, 100	D.Brown, W.Petersen
Red-breasted Merganser:			
7,8	Barnstable (S.N.), (Harbor)	60,000+, 3000+	W.Petersen#, J.Aylward
28-29	Nantucket	10,000	R.Veit

RAPTORS THROUGH COOT

At least 12 Goshawks were noted from a wide range of locations, and 5 Cooper's Hawks were reported. It is very hard to estimate the numbers of Rough-legged Hawks seen in the Salisbury-Plum Island area. Is there a migration or are the same birds hanging around all month? An immature Golden Eagle was seen by two observers in Truro on November 22 and in South Wellfleet on the 23rd. A Bald Eagle was found in Newburyport on the 29th. A Gyrfalcon was reported at North Beach, E. Orleans on November 27. When reporting any raptors for the records and especially Bald Eagles, it is important to include the age and sex of the birds, if possible.

R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Goshawk:			
thr.	10 locations	12 individuals	v.o.
Sharp-shinned Hawk:			
thr.	9 locations	11 individuals	v.o.
Cooper's Hawk:			
1,2	P.I.	1, 1	J.Grugan, D.Arvidson#
7,10	W.Barnstable, Arlington	2, 1	R.Pease#, R.Stymeist
Red-tailed Hawk:			
8,14	Salisbury, Salisbury/P.I.	28 migrants, 12	E.Taylor#, P.Roberts
thr.	11 other locations	30 individuals	v.o.
Red-shouldered Hawk:			
5,28	E.Bridgewater, Weymouth	1, 1	K.Anderson, D.Brown#
Rough-legged Hawk:			
thr.	Salisbury/P.I.	53 sightings	rpt-max 7 at one time 11/8+22+15 v.o.
thr.	Outer Cape	4 - 5	v.o.
12	Arlington	1	W.Drummond# + v.o.
<u>Golden Eagle:</u>			
22,23	Truro, W.Brewster	1 imm.	J.Young, W.Bailey
<u>Bald Eagle:</u>			
29	Newburyport	1	Parker River NWR Staff
Marsh Hawk:			
thr.	P.I./Salisbury	44 sightings reported-max 9 11/7	v.o.
Osprey:			
1-8,1	GMNWR, Orange	4-1, 2	v.o., B.Miller
1,2	Lakeville, Billerica	1, 1	W.Petersen#, T.Lee
4,6-9	Lincoln, Woburn	1, 2	P.Wade, G.Gove
7,8	Saugus, Wayland	1, 2	C.Jackson, E.Morrier
28	Lakeville	1	W.Petersen
<u>Gyrfalcon:</u>			
27	N. Beach	1 imm.	P.+W.Bailey, W.Harrington
Peregrine Falcon:			
3,8	Chatham, Boston	1, 1	R.Fox#, R.Campbell
11	WBWS, N.Beach	1, 1 ad.	J.Aylward, W.Petersen#
23	P.I.	1	Parker River NWR Staff
Merlin:			
3,7	Lincoln, Lakeville	1, 1	J.Bird, P.Hallowell
8,11	Middleboro, E.Orleans	1, 1	SSBC, T.Raymond#
14,21	Salisbury, P.I.	1, 1	P.Roberts
26+28	E.Boston (Belle Isle)	2	K.Morris
American Kestrel:			
14,22	Salisbury / P.I.	4, 5	P.Roberts
Ruffed Grouse:			
8,14	Weston, Dedham	3, 5	J.Hines, N.+O.Komar
Bobwhite:			
9	<u>Wellesley</u>	12	R.Wallace
Common Gallinule:			
11	Orleans	1	J.Raymond
American Coot:			
1,21	Lakeville	100+, 110	W.Petersen#
7,8	Braintree, GMNWR	78, 33	W.Petersen, R.Walton

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDS

A Spotted Sandpiper was seen on the late date of the 13th at P.I.; normally the majority of these birds have departed by the end of September. Lesser Yellowlegs, also normally gone by mid-October, were seen throughout the month with nine at Newburyport on the 28th. Eight *Calidris* species small sandpipers were seen on the Cape on the 29th; also late was a Western Sandpiper on the 29th. Jaegers were seen

throughout the month off the Cape and in Nantucket Sound.

Lesser Black-backed Gulls continue to be reported in increasing numbers with a total of 11 being reported from four locations. These birds are showing up in many places; a dozen or so frequent a dump in the Tampa-St. Pete area of Florida. Two Forster's Terns were reported with one on the very late date of the 29th, and a Black Tern was seen in Chatham on the 20th; Bailey notes October 12 as a late date for this species and they normally have departed by the end of September.

As noted previously, the inclement weather (storms) of the 14th - 20th produced a spectacle of sea birds off the Cape. To quote one astute observer, a Mr. W.R.Petersen, "Along with Gannets and Greater Shearwaters, the numbers of sea birds over the ocean were extraordinary - rivaling Sooty Shearwaters off California or cormorants off Peru! It should be emphasized that all of these 'mega-counts' are subjective" (amen!) "at least and that circumstances did not permit any accurate method of counting. The relative numbers and the gross orders of magnitude were mutually agreed upon by the group and are certainly accurate on a relative basis from one species to another." This was from a report of 20 k Black-legged Kittiwakes on the 11th and 50 k on the 22nd, the latter by B.Nikula. The problem of estimating large numbers of birds is at least proportional to that number, in addition to the fact that the astute observer must psyche out the weather to be at the right place at the right time.

The weather also produced some Dovekie wrecks with three dead birds brought to MBO from various inland locations, one from an inland location in Plymouth and one taken to the Aquarium for eventual release after being picked up on Revere Beach Parkway. G.W.G.

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS
Semipalmated Plover:			
11	Chatham	2	W.Petersen#
Killdeer:			
1,7	Wollaston, Ipswich	4, 19	W.Cornwell, BBC(J.Berry)
7,8	Lincoln-Lexington, GMNWR	9, 1	J.Hines, BBC(R.Vernon)
Black-bellied Plover:			
1,7	Winthrop	80, 96	BBC (S.Zendeh), R.Stymeist
3,7	Chatham, Ipswich	15, 40+	B.Nikula#, BBC (J.Berry)
24	Wollaston	14	D.Brown
Ruddy Turnstone:			
22,29	Winthrop, Wollaston	29, 1	R.Heil, D.Brown
Woodcock:			
3	Holliston	1	J.Marshall
Common Snipe:			
8	Bridgewater	1	SSBC (K.Anderson)
Spotted Sandpiper:			
1,13	Lincoln, P.I.	1, 1	J.Hines#, R.Heil
Willet:			
8	Yarmouth	1	J.Aylward
Greater Yellowlegs:			
thr.	P.I.	max. 40	v.o.
1,3	E.Boston, Truro	80, 50	BBC (S.Zendeh), J.Kenneally#
thr.	Wollaston	max. 60 (11/1)	v.o.
7	Lincoln	6	J.Hines#
Lesser Yellowlegs:			
1,8	E.Boston, Bridgewater	2, 1	BBC (S.Zendeh), BBC (G.Gove)
4,28	Fall River, Newburyport	1, 9	T.Lloyd-Evans, K.Able
Purple Sandpiper:			
1;7	Revere-Winthrop; Rockport, P.I. (Salt Pans)	300; 2, 1	BBC (S.Zendeh); M.Greenwald#, B.Schlinger#
22	N.Scituate, Rockport, Acoaxet	250+, 75, 12	W. Petersen, SSEC, M. Argue
White-rumped Sandpiper:			
1,2	P.I.	2, 2	G.Gove, D.Arvidson
7,11,14	Barnstable, WBWS, Eastham	1, 2, 1	W.Petersen, J.Aylward, W.Petersen#
Calidris species:			
29	Nauset	8	B.Nikula
Dunlin:			
1-23	P.I.-Newburyport	max. 3000	v.o.
1,29	Revere-Winthrop, Wollaston	800, 171	BBC(S.Zendeh), D.Brown
11,22	Westport, Acoaxet	800	R.Stymeist#, M.Argue#
Long-billed Dowitcher:			
1;2,7	E.Boston; P.I.	2; 12, 8	BBC(S.Zendeh); D.Arvidson, G.Gove

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS
Western Sandpiper:			
8,11,29	Chatham-Orleans	1	v.o.
7	Barnstable	1	W.Petersen
Hudsonian Godwit:			
1,2	Wollaston	1	v.o.
1	E.Boston	2	BBC (S.Zendeh)
Sanderling:			
22,25	Acoaxet, Wollaston	35, 15	M.Argue#, G.Wilson
Red Phalarope:			
18	Eastham	13	W.Bailey
Pomarine Jaeger:			
11,21	Chatham	25, 5	v.o., B.Blodget
3,7,14	P'town,Truro,Barnstable	1, 2, 5	R.Fox#,R.Heil#,W.Petersen#
15,27	Nantucket Sound	2, 12	B.Nikula#, W.Bailey#
Parasitic Jaeger:			
18	Eastham	1	W.Bailey
Jaeger sp.:			
3,7	P'town	1, 3+	J.Kenneally#, R.Heil#
15,28	Barnstable, Chatham	6, 1	R.Pease#, B.Nikula
Glaucous Gull:			
28,29	Nantucket	6	R.Veit
Iceland Gull:			
11,20	Chatham	1, 1	W.Petersen#,B.Blodget
21,22	Gloucester	max. 4	v.o.
28,29	Nantucket	12	R.Veit
Great Black-backed Gull:			
28	Cape Ann	2000	BBC (V.Albee)
Lesser Black-backed Gull:			
15-21	Gloucester	1 ad.	R.Heil#
8,11	Chatham	2 ad., 1-3dW; 1 ad., 1-3d yr.	R.Heil,B.Nikula;R.Veit#
27,28-29	Salisbury,Nantucket	1-3d yr., 5	S.+L.Terrill, R.Veit
Herring Gull:			
thr.	Chatham	max. 40,000	B.Nikula#
Ring-billed Gull:			
8,21	Bridgewater	max. 700	v.o.
25	Weston	103	J.Hines
Black-headed Gull:			
1,26-28	E.Boston	max. 4	v.o.
14,28	Gloucester, Chatham	1 imm., 1	R.Heil, W.Harrington
Laughing Gull:			
1-22,1	Revere-Winthrop, E.Boston	max. 60, 50+	v.o., BBC (S.Zendeh)
1,8;11	Wollaston;Westport	max. 50; 40	v.o.; R.Stymeist
3,8,24	Chatham	max. 600+	v.o.
Bonaparte's Gull:			
1,22	Revere-Winthrop,Lynn-Nahant	170, <u>1200+</u>	BBC(S.Zendeh),R.Heil
1,8	Lakeville	10, 1	W.Petersen, BBC
22,30	Acoaxet,Newburyport	8, 100	M.Argue, H.Mallers#
Black-legged Kittiwake:			
7-22	Outer Cape Cod	max. <u>50,000</u> (11/22)	v.o.
15	Rockport	300	R.Heil
28-29	Nantucket	<u>10,000</u>	R.Veit
Forster's Tern:			
8,29	P'town, Squantum	1, 1 ad.	B.Sorrie#,D.Braunhardt#
Common Tern:			
1,3,8	P'town	max. 500+	v.o.
<u>Black Tern:</u>			
20	Chatham	1	B.Blodget#
Alcid, species:			
14,15	Rockport	6, 9	R.Heil
11,19	Chatham, Eastham	3(large), 3(large)	W.Petersen#, B.Nikula
Razorbill:			
10,14	Rockport	1, 8+	D.Brown, R.Heil
14,26,27	Barnstable,Nant.,P'town	1, 1, 1	W.Petersen,C.Jackson,P.Roberts#
Common Murre:			
22	Rockport	1	SSBC (J.Kenneally)
Dovekie:			
11,19	Chatham, Eastham	1, 1	W.Petersen#, B.Nikula
3,10	P'town, Rockport	1, 2	B.Nikula, D.Brown
14,16	Barnstable, Manomet	3, 4(3 dead)	W.Petersen#, MBO Staff
14,20	Plymouth(inland),Revere Beach	1, 1	L.Briggs, D.Arvidson

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Black Guillemot:			
7-28	Rockport	max. 4	v.o.
22	N.Scituate	2	W.Petersen#

#### DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A White-winged Dove was reported from Barnstable; birds as these are always a problem as they are easily maintained in captivity and as easily lost. Screech Owls are a different problem; although not quite as common as pigeons and starlings and a few other birds, they are probably an extremely common bird but, due to their mostly nocturnal habits and the opposite habits of observers, at least with respect to 'looking at birds,' they are not reported in representative numbers. Certainly they exploit every suitable habitat - urban, suburban, and rural. Eight Great Horned Owls were noted and Snowy Owls were present in the P.I. vicinity. The big Long-eared Owl roost didn't materialize this winter in Lexington (see accompanying article).

Four Pileated Woodpeckers were reported and a Red-bellied and a Red-headed Woodpecker were sharing the same habitat in the cemetery in Lanesville (Cape Ann). The latter was an immature and at least three other immatures were reported, including one at Horn Pond which will still be there at least through February 1, 1982.  
G.W.G.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
White-winged Dove:			
16	Barnstable (S.N.)	1	R.Pease (fide B.Nikula)
Mourning Dove:			
8	Bridgewater, Middleboro	80, 150	BBC, SSBC
Barn Owl:			
19	M.V.	1	B.Blodgett#
Screech Owl:			
1	Bridgewater, Weston	4, 1	W.Petersen#, J.Hines
8,22	Wellesley, N.Scituate	1, 1	K.Winkler, W.Petersen#
Great Horned Owl:			
8-22	6 locations	8 singles	v.o.
Snowy Owl:			
12-29,15	P.I., Ipswich	2, 1	v.o., J.Thomas
Barred Owl:			
12,25	Bridgewater, IRWS	1, 1	J.Flaherty, W.Drummond#
Long-eared Owl:			
19,26	M.V., Lexington	1, 2	B.Blodgett#, J.Andrews
Short-eared Owl:			
14-30,21	P.I., Bridgewater	max.4(11/30), 1	v.o., W.Petersen
Belted Kingfisher:			
1,8	Orange, Lakeville	1, 1	B.Miller, BBC
17-19,30	Saugus, Hingham	1, 1	J.Berry, H.Mallers#
Pileated Woodpecker:			
3,13	Medfield, Stoneham	1 f., 1	Desmond, S.Hession
19,30	Carlisle, Lincoln	1, 1	Saunders, W.Wyman
Red-bellied Woodpecker:			
1-24	Lanesville	1	v.o.
Red-headed Woodpecker:			
1-28,12	Lanesville, Braintree	1 imm., 1 imm.	v.o., G.Wilson#
14-19,27-30	Plymouth, Woburn	1 imm., 1 imm.	L.Briggs, W.Harris#

#### FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

As reported in this magazine for the last two months, the fall migration started very early this year, probably due to the unseasonably cold weather. Thus in November the only major migratory movement was the final event - arrival of our wintering birds. Of the more interesting species, both Northern Shrike and Boreal Chickadee came in about on time, and in average numbers. The chickadee flight did not match last year's unusually large movement.

Despite the generally early departure, a few individuals did linger. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were observed during the second week of the month at four sites, three coastal and one inland. The latter, Belmont, bird remained through the quite late date of November 24. Several warblers also stayed rather late, including Prairie, Nashville, Parula, and Wilson's. The latter three species

were all seen at a particularly inauspicious-looking site in Arlington, Meadowbrook Park. This little corner of marsh and weeds next to the town's leaf-dumping site which produced a Connecticut Warbler in October saw these interesting lingerers, and the most mysterious warbler of the month - an immature bird of the *Wilsonia* genus. This bird was initially found by myself and thought to be a Hooded Warbler, based on the lack of eyeline marking and the grayish-white in the primaries and tail. Subsequent observations did not turn up any distinct white tail spots, however, indicating probable Wilson's. An attempt to net the bird was unsuccessful, and no photographs were taken, so the bird must go into the record under its generic name. To add confusion to this whole identification problem, a definite adult Wilson's Warbler was seen at the same site on Veteran's Day by several people looking for the reported Hooded. For those of you who enjoy accounts of confusing fall warblers, tune in next month for the story of the bird seen, again in Arlington, on the Christmas Bird Count.

With the scarcity of birds in general, little could be expected in the way of rarities. The only report of note was of a Bohemian Waxwing, on Nantucket.

L.E.T.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Western Kingbird:			
14-30	MBO	1	staff
Horned Lark:			
8,21	Middleboro, Halifax	300, 250+	SSBC, W.Petersen#
Tree Swallow:			
3,7-8	Chatham, P.I.	2, 2	B.Nikula#, v.o.
21,29	Osterville, Weymouth	1, 1	J.Aylward,W.Petersen#
Barn Swallow:			
3,7	Truro, Nauset	10, 8	J.Kenneally,B.Nikula#
19,21	M.V., Chatham	2, 4	B.Blodget#
21,22	Gloucester, Salisbury	1, 1	R.Heil, I.Giriunas#
Common Crow:			
7,8	Reading, Bridgewater	250, 420	G.Gove, v.o.
24	Essex	540	J.Nove
Boreal Chickadee:			
1,3-14	Woburn, MBO	1, 4 total	G.Gove, staff
6,14	Wellesley, Clinton	2, 1	C.Quinlan, B.Blodget#
22	Newburyport	1	G.Gove#
Red-breasted Nuthatch:			
8-30,3	P.I., Chatham	max. 26(11/14), 8	v.o., B.Nikula#
8,28	Bridgewater, Cape Ann	4, 2	BBC
Winter Wren:			
1,14	Weston, MBO	1, 1	J.Hines, staff
28	Rockport	1	F.Bouchard
Carolina Wren:			
11,25	Westport, Brookline	5, 1	R.Stymeist#,D.Arvidson
Marsh Wren (Long-billed Marsh Wren):			
8	Concord	1	BBC
Gray Catbird:			
11,29	Westport, Falmouth	1, 1	R.Stymeist,I.Giriunas
Hermit Thrush:			
4,11	Weston, Belmont	2, 1	J.Hines, J.Barton#
14,24	P.I., Belmont	1, 1	BBC, L. Robinson
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:			
7,9	P'town, Rockport	1, 1	B.Nikula#, R.Emery#
9,10-24	MBO, Belmont	1, 1	staff, L.Robinson#
Golden-crowned Kinglet:			
8	Lakeville, Ipswich	15, 4	SSBC, J.Berry
11,26	Concord, Weston	4, 40	W.Wyman, L.Robinson
Ruby-crowned Kinglet:			
5,8	Jamaica Plain,Bridgewater	1, 1	J.Hines, BBC
11,22	Westport, Nahant	1, 2	R.Stymeist#, R.Heil
22	N.Scituate	1	W.Petersen#
Water Pipit:			
1,7	E. Boston, P.I.	15, 2	BBC, G.Gove#
11	Westport	2	R.Stymeist#
<u>Bohemian Waxwing:</u>			
28-29	Nantucket	1	R.Veit
Northern Shrike:			
11	S.Wellfleet, Brewster	1, 1	W.Bailey#, M.Eddy
14,22	Nant., Braintree	1, 1 ad.	B.Nikula#, D.Brown

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Northern Shrike (continued):			
27,28	P'town, E. Middleboro	1, 1 ad.	P.Roberts#, W.Petersen#
Orange-crowned Warbler:			
22	Barnstable	1	J.Aylward
Nashville Warbler:			
9,14 ] late	Freestown, Arlington	1, 1	MBO staff, R.Stymeist#
18	Stoneham	1	I.Martinek
Parula Warbler:			
10	Arlington	1	R.Stymeist#
Magnolia Warbler:			
10,13	Arlington, MBO	1, 1 b.	R.Stymeist#, staff
Pine Warbler:			
1	P.I.	1 dead	J.Grugan
Prairie Warbler:			
1,28-29	Chatham, Nantucket	1, 1	B.Nikula, R.Veit
Palm Warbler:			
8,11	Middleboro, Gloucester	2, 1	SSBC, J.Berry
10,26-29	Arlington, E.Arlington	5, 2	R.Stymeist#, L.Taylor
Common Yellowthroat:			
8,22	Eastham, Nahant	1, 1	B.Sorrie#, R.Heil
Yellow-breasted Chat:			
11	Westport	2	R.Stymeist#
Wilsonia, species:			
8-28	Arlington	1 imm.	L.Taylor et. mult. al.
Wilson's Warbler:			
11	Arlington	1 ad.	N. + O.Komar#

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SNOW BUNTING

A notable exception to the general lack of through-migrants was a fine flight of Fox Sparrows, starting on the late side, during the last weeks of November and extending into December. As was hoped, based on the precursor flight of Pine Siskins in October, the other winter finches did reach our region this year. Common Redpolls arrived in solid numbers, and a bit on the early side. A good flight of White-winged Crossbills also occurred. Both Pine Grosbeaks and Red Crossbills were reported, but not in numbers that would constitute a great flight.

November 11 produced some nice sparrow records, possibly due to the number of observers afield on this holiday or maybe to the southwesterly wind flow occurring on that day only. Late individuals of both Sharp-tailed and Seaside Sparrow were seen on Cape Cod. More unusual finds included Western Tanagers at two different sites, and an immature "Bullock's" form of Northern Oriole was seen in Manchester.

L.E.T.

Red-winged Blackbird:			
7,10	Ipswich, Arlington	50, 10	BBC, R.Stymeist#
16,27	Stoneham, W.Roxbury	8, 15	R.Sutton, M.Murphy
Northern Oriole:			
7	W.Barnstable	1	R.Pease#
"Bullock's" Oriole:			
19-30	Manchester	1 imm.	C.Corley#
Rusty Blackbird:			
3,28	MBO, Weymouth	1, 6	staff, D.Brown#
Western Tanager:			
15,29-30	Wellesley, MBO	1, 1	C.Ewer, staff
Dickcissel:			
9,14	Danvers, Manchester	1, 1	E.Pyburn, BBC
Evening Grosbeak:			
1, 23-24	Orange, Cohasset	8, 14	B.Miller, H.Mallers
28	Weymouth, Cape Ann	9, 12	D.Brown#, BBC
Pine Grosbeak:			
1,7	Wellesley, P'town	1, 5	C.Clement, R.Scott#
8,15	Acton, WBWS	1, 2	N.Newton, W.Bailey
Common Redpoll:			
3,7	P.I., P'town	18, 100	N.Claflin, R.Heil
8,11	Orleans, Belmont	7, 12	B.Nikula#, L.Taylor
13	Concord, Mt.A.	75, 100	W.Wyman, P.Taylor
Pine Siskin:			
3-7,3	P.I., P'town	max. 9(11/3), 60	v.o., R.Fox#

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Pine Siskin (continued):			
15,28	WBWS, Weymouth	3-4, 25-30	W.Bailey, D.Brown#
Red Crossbill:			
15	WBWS	21	W.Bailey
White-winged Crossbill:			
3	P.I., P'town	12, 15	N.Claflin, R.Fox#
8,14	Wellesley, Newton	18, 21	K.Winkler, N.+O.Komar
26	P.I.	5	I.Giriunas
Rufous-sided Towhee:			
11,29	Belmont, Falmouth	1 f., 1	v.o., I.Giriunas
"Ipswich" Sparrow:			
7,8	P.I., Salisbury	1, 1	BBC, J.Grugan#
13	P.I.	3	R.Heil
Savannah Sparrow:			
1,8	E.Boston, Middleboro	6, 6	BBC, SSBC
29	P.I.	2	BBC
Grasshopper Sparrow:			
4,8	Freetown, Orleans	1, 1	MBO staff, R.Heil#
Sharp-tailed Sparrow:			
11	Eastham	1 (light)	T.Raymond#
Seaside Sparrow:			
11	Chatham	1	W.Petersen#
Tree Sparrow:			
1-29,8	P.I./Salisbury, Wayland	max. 10(11/8), 6	v.o., E.Morrier
10,21	Arlington, Woburn	30, 15	R.Stymeist#, BBC
Field Sparrow:			
8,22	Middleboro, Scituate	3, 5	SSBC, W.Petersen#
White-crowned Sparrow:			
9,14	Danvers, P.I.	3, 2	E.Pyburn, BBC
18	Stoneham	1	M.Martinek
White-throated Sparrow:			
8	Bridgewater, Middleboro	2, 8	BBC, SSEC
Fox Sparrow:			
1,4	Squantum, MBO	1, 1 b. ("first")	D.Brown, staff
14,21	Wayland, Carlisle	5, 7	J.Hines, R.Walton
21,26	Cambridge, Belmont	2, 2	S.Sanders#, L.Taylor
29,30	Dover, Lincoln	2, 1	P.Hallowell, W.Wyman
Lincoln's Sparrow:			
19	Belmont	1	L. Robinson
Swamp Sparrow:			
8	Bridgewater	2	BBC
Lapland Longspur:			
8,28	Middleboro, Weymouth	15, 17	SSBS, D.Brown#
Snow Bunting:			
1	Squantum, E.Boston	36, 25	D.Brown#, BBC
2-22,5-13	P.I./Salisbury, Woburn	max. 1000(11/13), 25	v.o., G.Gove
7	Ipswich, Wareham	300, 36	BBC, W.Hanley
10	Scituate, Newton	35, 6	J.Flaherty, O.Komar
15,29	Rockport, Squantum	9, 45	A.Blaisdell#, D.Brown

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## EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS HAWK WATCH

This year the Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch will conduct coordinated weekends watches on the last two weekends in April: April 17-18 and April 24-25. Volunteers are needed for both inland and coastal sites on both weekends. If you are interested in participating or would like additional information, please contact:

Paul M. Roberts  
254 Arlington Street  
Medford, MA 02155  
Telephone: 483-4263, after 8 p.m.

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## TASL

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### TAKE A SECOND LOOK

#### Spring and Summer Projects

**HARBOR CENSUS:** This season's final census of winter water birds in Boston and Newburyport harbors will take place on the weekend of March 6 and 7. Join us and enjoy the spectacle of waterfowl migration in full swing. Contact coordinators: Craig Jackson (321-4382) and Soheil Zendeh (628-8990).

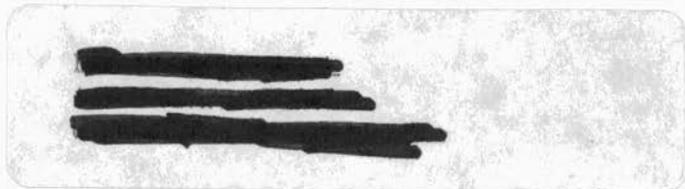
**HERON CENSUS:** We will attempt to tabulate the numbers, movements and, if possible, the breeding success of the Boston Harbor heron colony. Several parties of observers will be stationed at strategic places to monitor the dawn flight of herons out of the harbor to surrounding feeding areas; observations will be spaced at two week intervals (coinciding with early morning high tides) from mid-April to mid-October. Please contact the project coordinator for more details:

Soheil Zendeh  
380 Broadway  
Somerville, MA 02145  
Telephone: 628-8990.



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