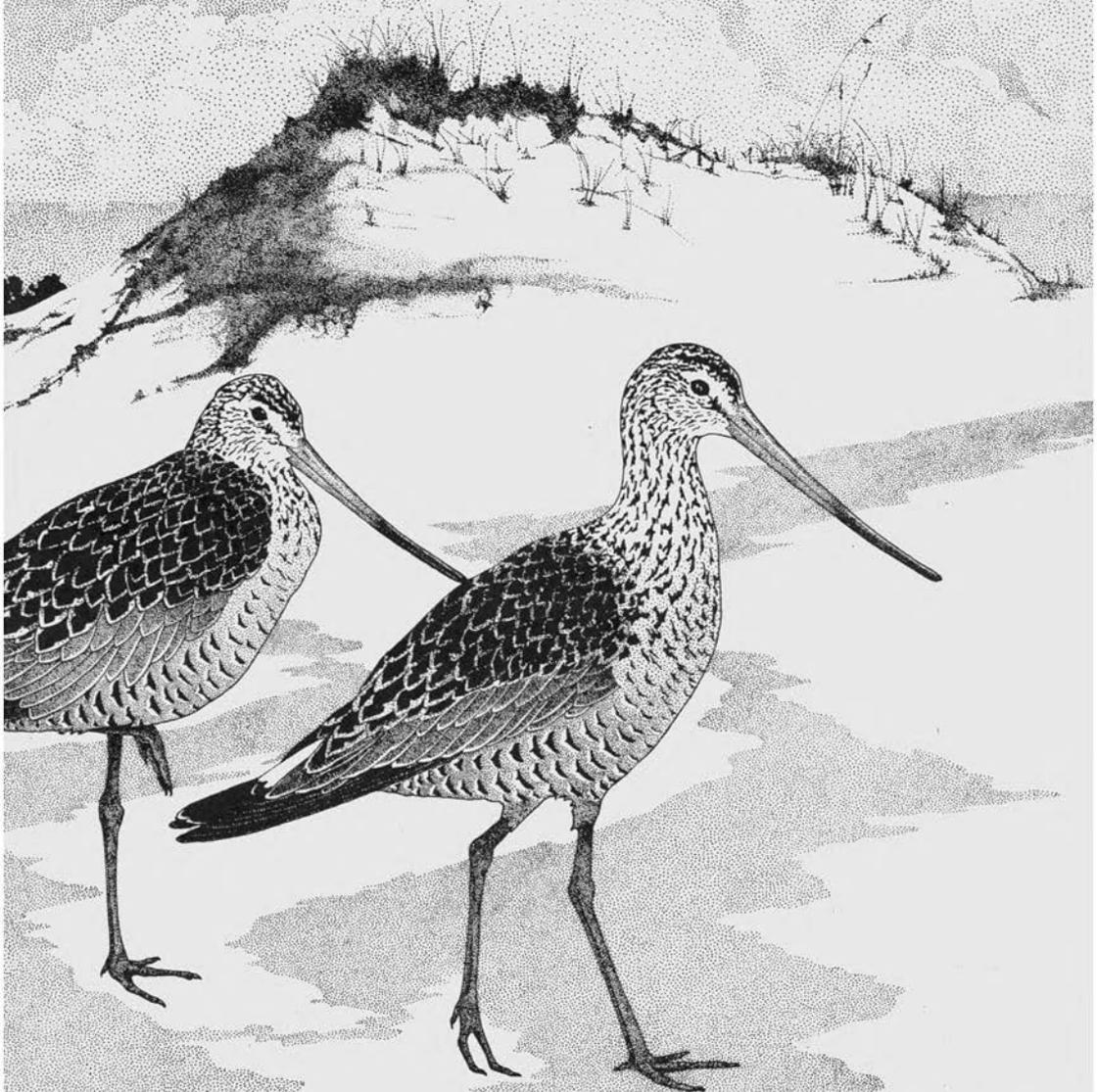


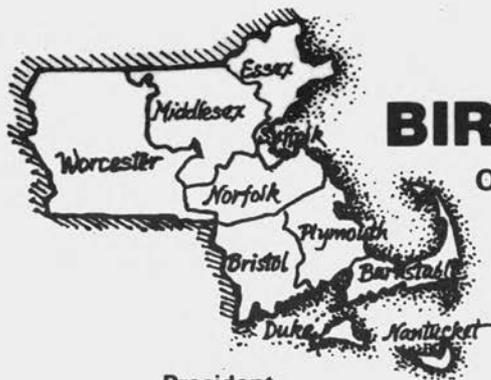
BIRD OBSERVER

OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS



FEBRUARY 1983

VOL. 11 NO. 1



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TASL HARBOR SURVEYS

Surveys of the waterfowl of Boston and Newburyport harbors will be held on March 12(Boston) and March 13(Newburyport). For details of times, meeting places and leaders, please contact Craig Jackson, 321-4382, or Soheil Zende, 628-8990.



MASSACHUSETTS GULLS: A WORKSHOP

Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts invites you to participate in its first special birding workshop. Wayne R. Petersen will conduct an evening seminar on Massachusetts gulls: their biology, evolution, ecology, historical status, and identification. Through the use of slides, study skins and discussion, participants will be introduced to the subtleness of larid molt and the many complexities affecting the aging process of gulls. In addition to exposing the group to some of the more important larid literature, a follow-up field trip to Newburyport will provide an opportunity for the group to put to use the information gained from the indoor session.

Evening Seminar: Thursday, March 17, 1983 8 P.M. to 9:30 P.M.
at the First Church in Belmont Unitarian Universalist,
404 Concord Avenue, Belmont
Saturday Field Trip: March 19, 1983 in Newburyport

To register for this two-part course, please send a check for \$25 to Bird Observer, 462 Trapelo Road, Belmont MA 02178. The course will be limited to twenty participants. For more information, call Louise De Giacomo, 484-7859.

P.S. Yes, Thayer's Gull will be included.

Special Two-Day Pelagic Trip



Bird Observer along with the Brookline Bird Club will conduct a two-day pelagic trip to the edge of the Continental Shelf, where the possibilities of such highly pelagic seabirds as SOUTH POLAR SKUA and LONG-TAILED JAEGER can occur more frequently than in inshore waters. Remote possibilities include WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL and BRIDLED TERN!

The trip will depart from Gloucester aboard the Yankee Cpts., a fully equipped 100-foot vessel, on Sunday, August 21, at 7 P.M. and return about 7 P.M. on Tuesday, August 23. Wayne Petersen will provide narration and information while at sea. Be forewarned: the weather at this time of year is unpredictable and the sea can be very rough. Accommodations are simple bunks in an open dormitory setting. Trip cost will be about \$160 per person.

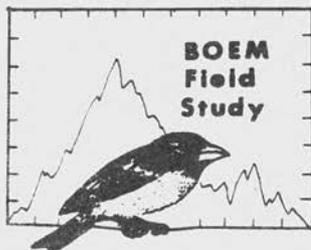
This trip is limited to 40 participants, so please reserve now by sending a deposit of \$50 payable to Bird Observer. Mail to: Robert Stymeist, 358 Tappan Street, Brookline, MA 02146. For more information contact Robert Stymeist (734-1289), Bill Drummond (373-4292) or Wayne Petersen (447-0332).

SPRING MIGRATION WATCH

This project is a continuation of the spring migration study which was organized by John Andrews and Lee Taylor in 1982. 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 observed 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.



BIRDING CAPE ANN

by Christopher Leahy, Gloucester

We are all in spiritual bondage to the passions of our youth. Having grown up with the smell of salt water in my nostrils and an obsession with birds, I will never be convinced that there is a better way to spend the early hours of a late fall day than sitting on a point of rocky coastal ledge, staring out to sea across great green, long-rolling combers, constantly wiping a mixture of rain and spray from face and lenses, and watching the procession of southbound arctic and subarctic-breeding seabirds in all its variety of species and rhythm. Translated into geographical and meteorological terms, this sentimental description becomes - the eastern periphery of Cape Ann during a good northeaster in late October or early November.

During the height of the Griscom era of birdwatching in the Commonwealth - now drawing to a close - the peculiar activity described above had a considerable following. In addition to himself, dozens of other Boston-based or south shore-oriented field ornithologists made frequent autumn and winter pilgrimages to this most "pelagic" corner of Essex County to count scoters and gannets, always hoping for one of those exceptional mornings when a Leach's Storm-Petrel is picked up flapping equably amidst the gale or when Dovekies are being blown overland and whiz by on all sides.

Has Cape Ann ceased to be the birding Mecca it once was? A few years ago, a birding acquaintance, having been told that I was now living in Gloucester, replied incredulously, "Gloucester!" Then, "Remember when people used to go to Cape Ann?" What he meant principally was that spectacular movements and exotic species of seabirds are now far more closely associated in the birder brain with Cape Cod and particularly First Encounter Beach in Eastham than with any place on the North Shore. There is no point in denying that if you want to see large numbers of shearwaters and jaegers and to have a better than average chance of seeing a Sabine's Gull or a puffin, you should head for what people south and west of Boston call "the Cape." As for loons and grebes, gannets and sea ducks, you can pick them up at nearly any shore point between late fall and early spring, so that unless there is a Blue Grosbeak at a feeder in Lanesville, a serious birder does not "need" to make the long eastward detour from Interstate 95 at all. Why then describe the alleged highlights of this unfashionable backwater of field ornithology? First, before anyone has time to take that last sentence seriously, my purpose is to remind the birding community that Cape Ann remains one of the top half dozen birding regions of the state at any time of year except in the early summer avian doldrums. There are few enough places

after all where you can watch 2600 Common Eiders glitter across a dark, swollen sea as I did in an hour's visit to Andrew's Point on a squally day last October. Where else can you hold out to a birding visitor from the South or inland a reasonable hope of finding Barrow's Goldeneye, Harlequin Duck, King Eider, Purple Sandpiper, Glaucous and Iceland gulls, Black Guillemot and usually some rarity du jour in return for a few hours in the cold?

Furthermore, those tempted to dismiss Cape Ann as coastal habitat may be interested to hear that the bird list for the Halibut Point Reservation numbers some 235 species and includes Northern Goshawk, Peregrine Falcon, Lesser Golden-Plover, Snowy Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, Northern and Loggerhead shrike, White-winged Crossbill, Grasshopper Sparrow, and the great majority of regular spring and fall migrant songbirds in addition to pelagic rarities such as Northern Fulmar, Great Skua, and Ivory Gull. And while Cape Ann is often characterized as a thinly vegetated outcropping of Pre-Cambrian shield, there is also a surprising amount of Pileated Woodpecker habitat if you know where to look (see under Summer Residents, below).

An equally important reason to include Cape Ann frequently in your annual birding schedule is that it is uniquely beautiful. Its landscapes, cultures, waters, and especially its light have inspired many of the best American artists from disciplines as diverse as the luminists of the nineteenth century and the "ash can" school of the 20s and 30s. It is, to be succinct, the most beautiful place in Massachusetts. Lest you think this is just the idle claim of a chauvinistic resident, let me point out that a true native son (I am a Johnny-come-very-lately from Marblehead) is insulted by any description of his turf that does not set it by a good margin above all other places on earth. I've seen a good deal of the earth in the last dozen years, and I'm inclined to be sympathetic to this view.

I have organized the bird-finding material below by phenomenon - seabird migration, winter residents, etc. - under which more detailed information is further divided by locality. Inasmuch as this is a commission for a birdwatching periodical, I have perhaps taken a small liberty by including in the locality notes a few facts that are not directly related to efficient birding. I have tried to limit these digressions to a few "hidden treasures" and to the kinds of things that everyone wonders about as they go about their chosen business but that few have the time to look up.

[Editor's note: the Winter Residents section includes detailed directions for a full day's tour around the Cape Ann coastline. The reader should consult this part and the accompanying maps to find areas mentioned elsewhere.]

SEABIRD MIGRATION

The most spectacular avian event on Cape Ann is the fall passage of seabirds along the coast, beginning with flocks of Double-crested Cormorants as early as late August and tapering off in mid-to-late December with the arrival of the last of the wintering sea ducks and alcids. For me, this spectacle has two high points: the great strings and wedges of scoters (all three species) and Common Eiders (sharp eyes will pick out a King occasionally) which peak between mid-October and early November and the drama of a good, strong two or three day northeast blow between late October and early December. The scoter/eider migration occurs regardless of the weather and is a moving pageant whether the sky is clear or lowering. When the day is fine, the sun vivifies the reds, yellows, and green of the ducks' soft-part colors and makes the drake eiders seem to twinkle as they flap. When the wind is blowing inshore and a big green sea is running, it is equally fine to watch the flocks undulate over the wave crests and disappear into the troughs. It is as if you can feel the primordial instinct to flee before the arctic winter.

The thrills of a November northeaster are of a somewhat different nature. The weather itself is exciting - noisy and physical - and the birding takes on the piquance that derives from the anticipation of rarities. Apart from their intrinsic glamour, the advantage of northeasters is that they push pelagic species toward the coast. When such a storm coincides with some offshore event such as an influx of kittiwakes or a concentrated movement of Dovekies, birders on the snore may be treated to interesting species in unusual abundance. November combines a high average incidence of northeasters and the greatest variety of seabirds on the move in numbers. Common and Red-throated loons (sometimes hundreds), Red-necked and Horned grebes, Northern Gannets (often hundreds), both cormorants, any of the wintering sea ducks, kittiwakes (sometimes thousands), Razorbills, Thick-billed Murres, and Black Guillemots should be represented in an average November flight, and the "edge" is provided by the hope that a Leach's Storm-Petrel, fulmar, Cory's Shearwater, Common Puffin, or a flock of Red Phalaropes will wing into view. Not long ago Dovekies would routinely have been included among the regulars above, but they have been so scarce during the last decade that they can no longer be blithely expected.

A roaring onshore gale is not crucial to good fall seabirding on Cape Ann. A still, overcast day in mid-November with a flat, calm sea may compensate with improved visibility for its failure to produce great concentrations. Indeed, only strong northwest winds are consistently unproductive along this coast in the fall except for cormorants, loons, and sea ducks.

From August through October, the patient observer-cum-telescope can view from land's end in Rockport a full range of "summer pelagics": tubenoses, phalaropes, jaegers, etc., as well as whales, dolphins, basking sharks, and ocean sunfish. But most visitors to Cape Ann in search of these species will probably want to invest in a boat trip offshore (see Pelagic Trips below).

The return of seabirds northward in the spring is a more attenuated, dispersed affair and is not as predictable an event as the fall flight. Nevertheless, southeasterly gales are not at all unusual in April and May and occasionally drive migrating flocks of Red Phalaropes inshore. Shearwaters, storm-petrels and jaegers also begin to arrive in numbers on the offshore banks in April and may be pushed shoreward by spring storms though these species do not become common on the inshore banks until midsummer at the earliest. Sooty Shearwaters tend to migrate closer to the coast than their fellow tubenoses, and a patient observer can often see them from shore in late May and early June, even in fine weather.

Under any weather conditions, experience has shown that sea-watching is best in the early hours following dawn. Birds moving at sea during the night seem to get pushed inshore when the wind is easterly and then gradually reorient during the day. When there is no storm, the seas tend to be calmer at dawn, enhancing visibility. This is not to say that impressive movements do not occur at other times of day; they most emphatically do.

Two locations surpass all others as seabird watch points on Cape Ann. (See Winter Residents section for detailed travel directions.)

Andrew's Point is reached by public roads that end right at the edge of the sea. The obvious advantage here is that when the weather is nasty, you can watch the migration from your car, suffering only the inconvenience of having occasionally to wipe rain and spray from your optical equipment. There are a number of ways to park at Andrew's to command a broad stretch of horizon, but on weekends in late fall the best slots go to the early birds. Most of the human residents of Andrew's Point have departed for the season by the time the birds are flying, and relations between property owners and birders have in general been good here. In order to maintain this civilized coexistence, individuals and especially bird clubs are advised to take a proprietary interest in the welfare of the area's lawns, shrubbery, etc.

Halibut Point, originally perhaps "haul about" point, is one of the most magnificent pieces of real estate in the Commonwealth. Its sculptured pink granite margins meet the

Atlantic with a grace that suggests artistic invention. When the wind is up, the play of water and rock is as good as the last act of King Lear. On a clear day your eyes will be drawn along the smooth pale curve of Plum Island and Crane's Beach to the left and you can pick out Mt. Agamenticus to the northeast, looking more like a little blue island than a tall monadnock back of the Maine coast. If it is October, the gentle slope up to the quarry pond will be scarlet with turned huckleberry leaves, and if it is August, the mixture of salt air and sweet fern will make you want to sit down and wait out the season right there.

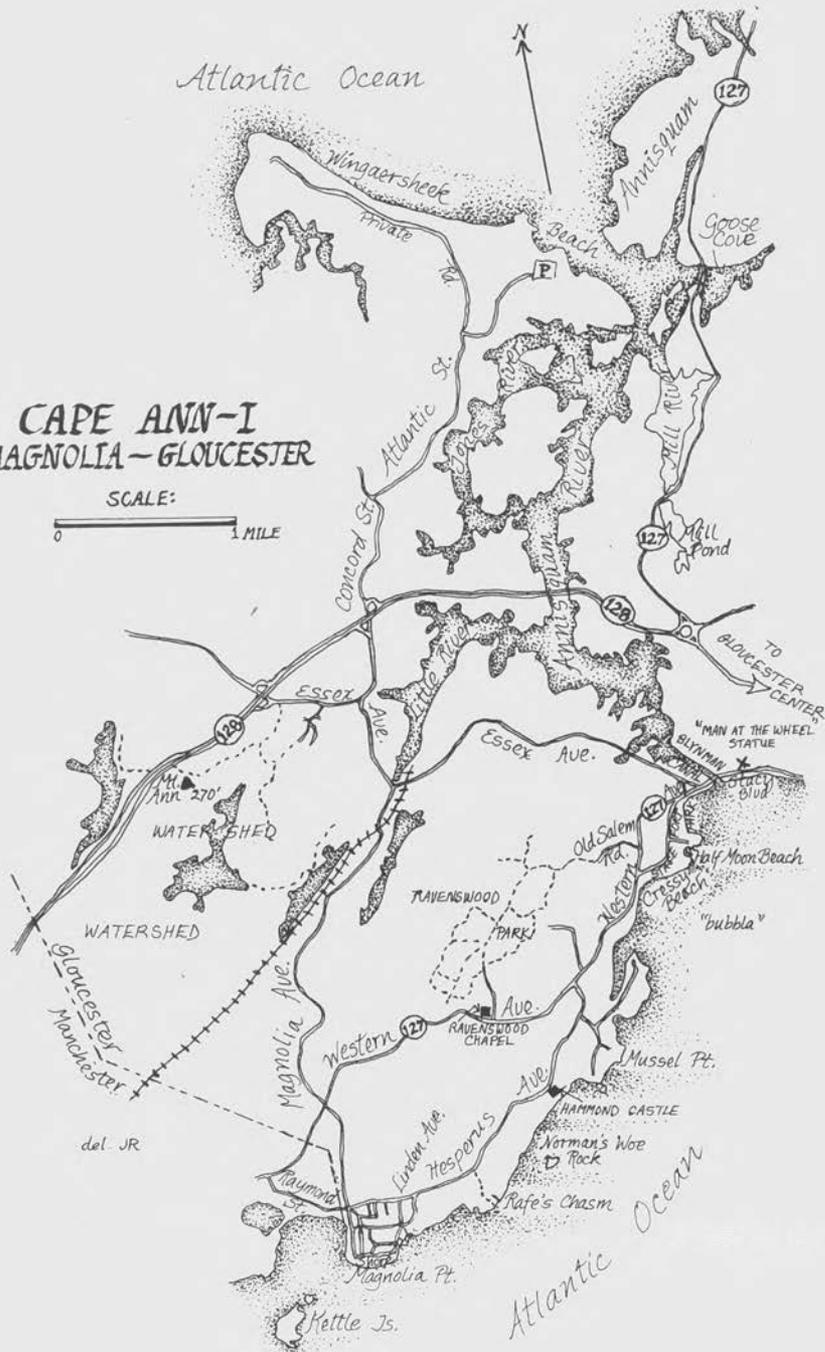
From about 1798 to 1920, cutting slabs of the native ledge like the ones that make up Halibut's most prominent topographical feature was a prosperous industry in Rockport. Most of the hard work was eventually done by meaty-armed Finns and Irishmen who risked their lives and worked twelve hour days for a slice of New World opportunity. Except for a single operative quarry in Pigeon Cove, commercial stone-cutting is only history here now. But the quarry holes still have their uses: one is a favored repository for the region's stolen cars; another is reserved for skinny dipping; most, like the one at Halibut, are just pretty to look at.

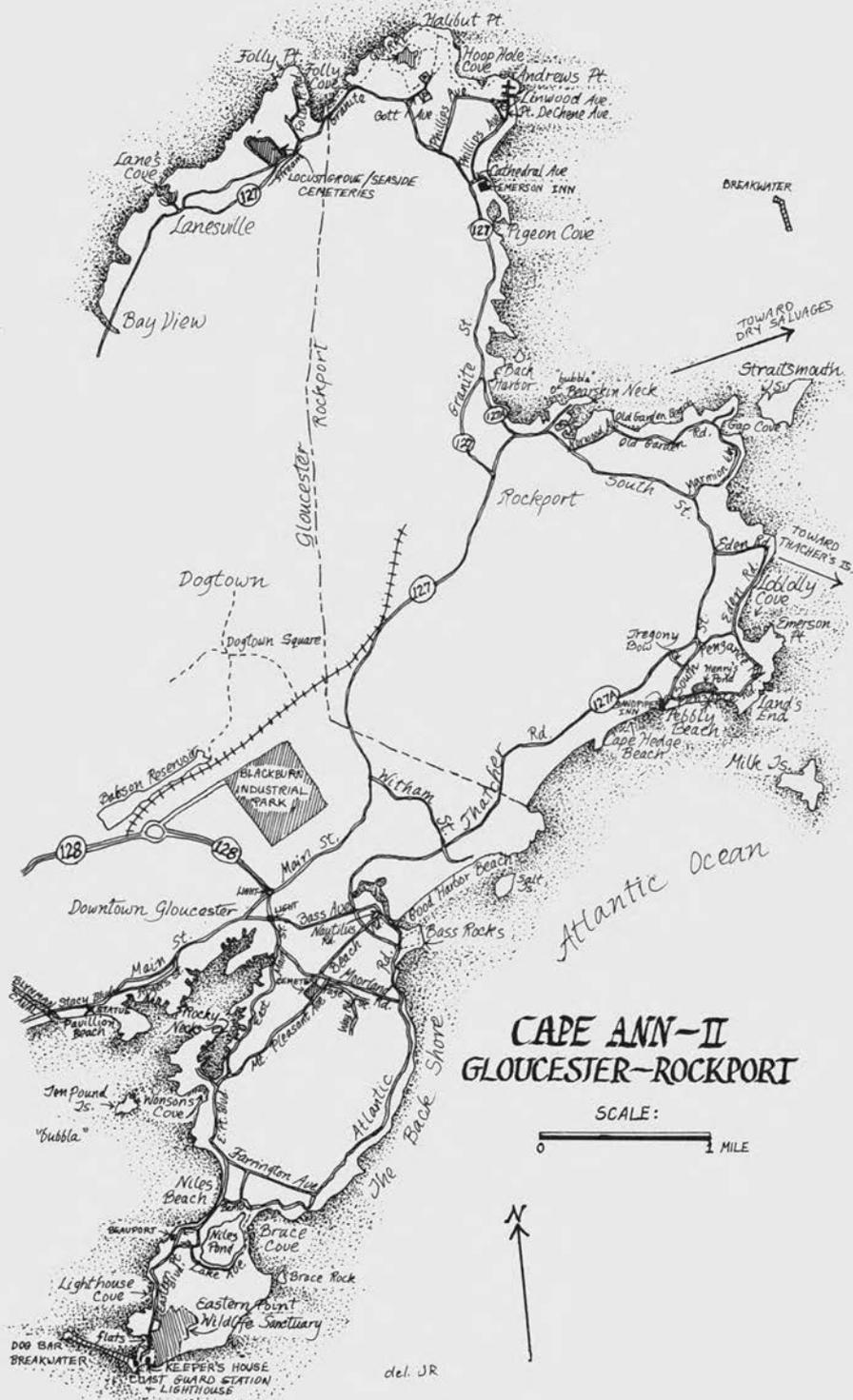
Thanks to the Trustees of Reservations and the enlightened government of Massachusetts, we can stop worrying that we will awake one morning to find Halibut Point blighted with the condominium clusters that have recently sprung up on choice shorefront in these parts like toadstools after a rain; the whole point is now under protection. However, now that the state has acquired the lion's share of the point, use of the area will probably increase. A management plan has already been drafted which calls for trail improvements, increased parking space, a visitor center at the old World War II submarine lookout tower, and a fulltime staff of three.

As to seawatching at Halibut, purists will not acknowledge that there is any alternative. Watching birds pass by from the lower rocks - these provide a measure of shelter when necessary as well as seating arrangements to suit all conditions and anatomies - it is no trick at all to imagine that you are on a remote island or in a boat, not just watching but, actually among the flocks of eider. From the top of the rock stack where there is no shelter whatever, the perspective is altogether different, and the migration can be seen laid out over the broad plane of water as if from the air. To partake of all this splendor you must dress appropriately for the weather, park in one of the two parking lots situated just off Route 127A (Gott Avenue), make your contribution to the maintenance of the place, and walk the pleasant half mile or so of trail down to the shore.

CAPE ANN-I MAGNOLIA - GLOUCESTER

SCALE:





**CAPE ANN-II
GLOUCESTER-ROCKPORT**



del. JR

WINTER RESIDENTS

By late November all the species of seabirds that winter along Cape Ann's rocky shores are in residence though new individuals continue to appear erratically throughout the season. Common and Red-throated loons, Red-necked and Horned grebes, Great Cormorant, goldeneye, Oldsquaw, Bufflehead, eider, all three scoters, Red-breasted Merganser, Purple Sandpiper, one or two species of white-winged gulls, and Black Guillemot can be expected during any moderately thorough inspection of the coastline. This usual fare is often spiked by the presence of one or more slightly less common or more irregular species such as Barrow's Goldeneye, Harlequin Duck, King Eider, Thick-billed Murre, Razorbill, or Dovekie. Every few seasons, the area is graced by the visit of a true rarity such as Arctic Loon, Eared Grebe, Common Murre, or Ivory Gull. Even omitting these "write-ins," it is hard to think of a better way for an ornithophile to spend a calm winter day than poking along the baroquely jig-sawed margin of this headland, scanning each cove and beachfront for whatever avian surprise it might hold. In general, such expeditions are most successful during high to mid-tide since many littoral feeders move offshore at low tide, but this "rule" is not followed by all individuals. In any case, if you spend an adequate amount of time, you will inevitably encounter at least mid-tide at some point during your visit.

A geographer would doubtless consider the Annisquam River to be the natural western boundary of Cape Ann. The Cape Ann phone book, however, includes Essex within its domain, and the Gloucester Daily Times goes so far as to annex Manchester. I herewith propose the birdwatcher's Cape Ann to be Gloucester and Rockport, thereby including the subdivision of southwest Gloucester known as Magnolia and also Wingersheek Beach.

Accordingly, this paper tour of the coast will begin at the west end of Magnolia's Shore Road which leaves Hesperus Avenue to the south, right at the Manchester/Magnolia line. In reality, you will probably want to spend the hours immediately after dawn at Andrew's Point or Halibut Point (see above) to see if anything of interest has drifted inshore during the night. (If you begin the day looking due east, you will spend a lot of time puzzling over avian silhouettes bobbing in front of the rising sun.) The waters off Magnolia Point may host any of the species noted above, but the best reason for stopping here is the chance of finding the Harlequin Ducks that range along this part of the coast most winters; sometimes they can only be discerned working the near shore of Kettle Island to the southwest.

Turn left at the end of Shore Road (right follows the shore for a few more yards to a private drive), and then jog immediately right on Linden Avenue. From the point at which Linden joins Hesperus Avenue, it is about 0.4 mile to a quadrangle of municipal park, officially known as Rafe's Chasm Reservation.



Harlequin Ducks

Illustration by Julie Roberts

You will recognize the entrance by the small parking lot on the east side of the road and the post and rail fence running along the access trail through the woods to the shore. The chasm, reputedly named for a one-time Magnolian called Ralph, splits the granite ledge for some two hundred feet at the water's edge. Despite the name of the park, the chasm is on private property just to the north of the town land and is protected from close public scrutiny by imposing wire fences. That is all right because when the chasm was more accessible, some over-curious sightseer was always tumbling into the sixty-foot gorge. The sight now advertised here by a sign at the end of the park trail is "The Flume," a similar chasm visible across the cove to the west. None of this need be of much concern to birders as their interest in the place is centered on the Harlequin Ducks that not infrequently feed and perch at close range around the surf-washed rocks. As you walk along the shore edge, note the luxuriant purplish-green (winter) clumps of Bearberry, *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*, an ericaceous ground cover of rather local distribution in Essex County.

About 0.6 mile beyond the parking area for Rafe's Chasm is the much larger one for the Hammond Castle Museum. This is the creation of Jack Hammond, millionaire eccentric and holder of hundreds of patents in radar, radio, and television technology in which fields he was an early genius. The

castle represents a lifetime of eclectic art collecting and is worth the price of a visit (three dollars per adult for a guided tour), in the summer when birding is slack or even in the winter when the weather is cold (closed in January). Only one of the castle's curiosities will be noted here and only because it will unfailingly catch your eye if you follow the birding directions below: the tall gent striking a balletic pose in the garden, raising a conch above his head and clad only in a fig leaf and a coat of verdigris is Jack himself. Walk down the driveway at the north end of the parking lot, look through the portico of Gothic arches, and offshore to the right you will see Norman's Woe Rock. This is the scene of Longfellow's "Wreck of the Hesperus" and of many genuine, less sentimental founderingings. No one seems to remember who Norman was - probably one of the unlucky captains who lost his ship here. Compensating slightly for the threat it poses to mariners, this rock is good Harlequin Duck habitat along its edges. A legion of Great Cormorants roosts on it in winter, as Double-crests do in summer. Also scope along the shore of Mussel Point to your left, the near shore, and the water immediately before you which may be quite busy with an interesting assortment of the seabird species listed above. The peninsula with the lighthouse across the way is Eastern Point wither you will be led directly.

Heading north again on Hesperus Avenue, you will soon rejoin Route 127, usually known hereabouts as Western Avenue. Follow this north for 0.7 mile and turn right on Hough Avenue into Stage Fort Park. From the fence line above Cressy Beach you have a good view of the outer harbor where large flocks of goldeneyes and eiders and smaller numbers of other species sometimes drift. You may also see an impressive congregation of gulls over a long slick near the center of the harbor. The attraction is described with wry tolerance in Gloucester as "the Bubbla" (bubbler), the end of a pipe the other end of which is connected to the city sewer system. The outflow is four million gallons per day. In addition to the plebeian gulls (Herring, Great Black-backed and Ring-billed), Iceland, Glaucous, and kittiwake are to be expected here in winter. Little and Black-headed gulls have also been seen and "the Bubbla" seems a likely habitat for that inveterate offal-eater, Ivory Gull. In 1623 a few intrepid fishermen from the Massachusetts Bay Colony set up a fishing stage near where you're standing, an ill-fated attempt to begin Gloucester, which failed to attract a population fit for incorporation until 1642. The "fort" part of Stage Fort Park comes from the old breastwork above Half Moon Beach first built in 1673 and manned in the War of 1812, the Civil War, and the Spanish-American War of 1898 though no notable action ever occurred here.

Exiting Stage Fort Park at the other end of the access road brings you back onto Western Avenue, which shortly crosses the "cut bridge" over the Blynman Canal and becomes Stacy Boulevard. Just north of the cut is the Gloucester High

School athletic field, and if the weather is nasty, it may be worth scoping the gulls that often roost there for Lesser Black-backed Gull. If there seem to be a lot of ducks or gulls off Pavillion Beach or along the seawall before the cut, stop and scope for Barrow's Goldeneye and interesting gulls; and, if so inclined, admire Leonard Craske's famous Man at the Wheel statue, erected in tribute to seafaring Gloucestermen and especially those many thousands who never returned.

A more prosaic landmark is the odd bit of dockworks standing in the water offshore to your left and usually thickly settled with gulls. This is the platform of the Greasy Pole. During the fiesta of St. Peter in the last weekend in June, anyone who has drunk enough beer is eligible to try to walk to the end of the slippery projection and snatch a red flag from its tip. Someone always manages to do so, but that of course has little to do with the appeal of the event.

Unless you want to stop for a beer at the Blackburn Tavern or grab a coffee-to-go at Dunkin Donuts, follow Rogers Street along the waterfront, stopping only to check the large gull flocks that roost on roofs to your right or gather to scavenge refuse from any fishy activity that may be in progress along the wharves. If you stay with the waterfront, you will go over a hill and come down on East Main Street which roughly parallels the east side of the harbor and the west margin of the peninsula known as East Gloucester. Along the first mile of East Main, continue to watch for gulls flocking by the wharves and on the flats in Wonson's Cove if it is low tide. You might pause for a moment in the parking lot at Niles Beach and scan the broad stretch of water before you; any of the common wintering waterbird species are likely to be present, though in my experience this is one of those likely looking spots that never fulfils its promise by producing a rarity. Perhaps that is because non-ornithological thoughts often intrude when one looks out from this vantage point. The ever changing vista looking across to the Magnolia shore and then south still seems a fair model for the one Fitz Hugh Lane painted in the 1860s except for the cut of the boats.

Glancing down the near shore and the stone-gated road to the south, we can anticipate our entrance into that bastion of summering pulchritude, Eastern Point. Only 160 years ago this choice real estate was selling, not very briskly, for twelve dollars an acre. These days you would have to add at least three zeros for an acre that could claim even a distant view of the water. From 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on weekends and holidays between Memorial Day and Labor Day, a gentleman in uniform will stop you at the gate and ask your business. If you are visiting friends on the point or are bound for Massachusetts Audubon's Eastern Point Wildlife Sanctuary (have your membership card on hand!), you will be waved through; otherwise you will be politely but firmly urged to



Thayer's Gull

Photo by Chris Leahy

skip it or walk. No such obstacle confronts the winter birder. Once inside the gates, examine the fruiting trees in the yard to your left just in case Pine Grosbeaks or other noteworthy frugivores are munching therein. Then glance out the opposite window at Ten Pound Island gracing the entrance to the inner harbor. Winslow Homer shared accommodations with the lighthouse keeper here during the summer of 1880; he underwent a major change in style and painted in that time many of what most critics agree are among his finest watercolors.

Not far after the road takes you on an obligatory detour to the right, away from Niles Pond, you will see a sign for "Beauport." This is what Champlain called Gloucester when he stopped by early in the seventeenth century, but in the present context, it refers to an adjacent mansion (open summers only) of forty rooms, each elaborately decorated by another Gloucester-based eccentric, Henry Davis Sleeper, to reflect a particular period or mood. Of more interest to birders are the nearby Scotch Pines, likely to hold Red Crossbill in those years when this irruptive species favors us with its presence.

Just beyond Lighthouse Cove (see comments under Niles Beach for scenic and birding prospects), you will come into a luxuriant stand of oaks spanning both sides of the road. Look for Red-headed Woodpecker here in late fall and early winter. On the left is the entrance to the Massachusetts Audubon Society's Eastern Point Wildlife Sanctuary, of scant interest

at this season though the scrubby open area near the south end has produced Orange-crowned Warbler in late November and early December. The end of the road is a parking lot overlooking a small cove and flat, the Dog Bar Breakwater, and the Eastern Point Coast Guard Station cum Lighthouse. The little flat of the cove is often a fine place to sort out plumages of white-winged gulls at close range, and Purple Sandpipers are regular (if usually distant) on the breakwater. After an easterly gale, the latter is also a good place to confirm the leg color of Black-legged Kittiwakes.

As you return along Eastern Point Boulevard, the road takes you past the west shore of Niles Pond. There is little room to pull over here, but the traffic is usually light. If the pond hasn't frozen up completely (usually not until January) and the sun isn't in your eyes, you may want to pause here and look over the throng of resting and bathing gulls that is nearly always present. To work Niles Pond more thoroughly, continue north along Eastern Point Boulevard, and take your first right onto spruce-lined Bemo Avenue. Jog to the left and then immediately right and down the hill, and park where three big boulders block auto access to a sand track off to the right. Try to ignore the array of beer bottles that normally adorns this popular reveling spot and walk the track, scope in hand. The thick borders of Salt Spray Rose and honeysuckle have been known to harbor Orange-crowned Warblers and to provide perches for Northern Shrikes and Western Kingbirds, but these are by no means to be expected. Shortly, you will emerge onto the narrow embankment that separates Brace Cove to the east from Niles Pond to the west. It would not be very surprising to flush a Water Pipit or a Palm Warbler at this point, but your main concern is to scan the cove and the pond. Together they constitute one of the best places this side of Newfoundland to see numbers of white-winged gulls with fifty or more frequently present in late winter. And if you are the kind of birder-masochist who enjoys examining ten thousand gulls in the hope that one of them will turn out to be a Lesser Black-backed or that afterthought of evolution, Thayer's Gull, you can hardly do better than to hunker down amid the mugwort stems here and start scanning. The clientele at the Niles' seagull bathhouse is in continual flux; so by the time you've scanned the flock once, it's quite likely that the bird you're looking for has come in at the other end and so on ad infinitum.

Before you return, give the cove the once over for Barrow's Goldeneye and the stray alcid, and check the beach for wintering Sanderling, Dunlin, and Killdeer. While there is open water, Niles Pond usually holds a respectable variety of fresh water fowl. Mallard, Black Duck, teal, American Wigeon, Northern Pintail and Gadwall are regular, and classier species such as Eurasian Wigeon, Snow Goose, and Tundra (Whistling) Swan show up with surprising frequency. It's a good place to see Lesser Scaup "well enough to count" in late fall and early spring. The walk around the pond is

nice, but in winter you are unlikely to see anything of interest that you do not see from this vantage point. Finally, take a moment to drink in the handsome proportions of the rocky crescent of the cove held down at the south tip by Brace Rock, one of Fitz Hugh Lane's favorite subjects. The north headland of "Brace's" was once known as False Point, because not a few seamen dimly perceived the cove and the pond beyond through the murk of a foggy night and proceeded as if rounding Eastern Point, shortly of course discovering their mistake as they found themselves aground on the beach.

From where you parked, the road continues parallel with Brace Beach. From high to mid-tide, you can often stay in your car and inspect at wonderfully close range a variety of interesting gulls feeding at the surf line along this stretch. If the road remains passable (sometimes it's flooded, icy, or strewn with storm-tossed boulders), it emerges after a few turns at the south end of what the maps call Atlantic Road. In local parlance, the stretch from here to Bass Rocks is just The Back Shore. Every day of the year this two-mile succession of rocky coves and sprawling figures of granite makes a pretty admirable foreground for the ever-changing sea and sky; but at the end of a three-day northeaster when the wind comes around into the northwest, blowing the tops off the juggernautical combers and letting the sun work theatrical effects through the racing clouds, well . . . Big Sur, eat your heart out. In calmer weather the coves and shoals of this back shore attract most of the seabird specialties discussed above. Just drive along slowly, stopping where you notice something of potential interest. Residents are used to tourists poking along here gawking at the view, but you should check your rear-view mirror once in a while to make sure the line of traffic behind you isn't too long. Often the best variety of birds occurs in or near the last cove before Bass Rocks just beyond Moorland Road on the left. The Harlequin Ducks, King Eiders, Purple Sandpipers, white-winged gulls, and other birds (both rarer and commoner) that hang out here give no sign of being offended by the quality of the seaside architecture.

Continue left along Atlantic Road and take the second right (Beach Road). After all those rocks it is a pleasant surprise to come upon the soft pale strand of "Little" Good Harbor Beach, its unpretentious dunes, and the patch of golden salt marsh behind. There are usually some gulls collected here and sometimes winter Sanderlings. If you park near the entrance to the beach parking lot and walk in at this time of year, your Cape Ann list may end up the better for Horned Lark, Ipswich Savannah Sparrow, Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting.

But on the whole, this "Good Harbor" is far more interesting for its geological history than as habitat for avian rarities. The perspicacious reader will want to know for a start where the good little harbor is. To the extent that it is

anywhere anymore, it has dwindled into the little wedge of a pond that lies at the intersection of Thatcher Road (127A) and Witham Street. As late as the 1750s, there was a lagoon in place of most of the present day salt marsh, a thirty-foot high "Piney Knoll" standing approximately where the wooden bridge crosses the tidal creek at the end of Beach Road and extending out along what is now the dune line, and a navigable creek separating this little peninsula from Briar Neck. In due course the pines that anchored the knoll were cut, a big storm washed the knoll into the lagoon, and the filling of the Briar Neck creek by its owner effected the last stage in the cooperative efforts of man and nature to turn harbor into marsh.

Almost all of the Rockport shore is accessible by road. How much of it to bird is therefore a matter of personal choice. One likes to believe that the traditional stops noted briefly below are the best and the generally neglected stretches of coast utterly and forever uninteresting, but this is probably a delusion. So by all means, experiment, especially if you are going over familiar territory for the fiftieth time. The hidebound itinerary is more or less as follows.

Continue north from Gloucester into Rockport on the eastern leg of 127A. About 1.5 miles past the Rockport line, turn right on Tregony Bow and then right again where it emerges on South Street. You will soon see before you to the left the stony skeleton of the fire-ruined Sandpiper Inn, a good place from which to scope the large flocks of ducks that sometimes occur off this north end of Cape Hedge Beach. Turn back on South Street and go immediately right onto Penzance Road. Before freeze-up, Henry's Pond often has an interesting duck or gull and commands at least a nod of respect for harboring three Wood Storks in June of 1955. Stop at the north end of Pebbly Beach and look around. The clump of rocks here often has Purple Sandpipers, and for some reason the strait between Land's End and Milk Island regularly attracts concentrations of feeding seabirds. Note the black battalions of cormorants lined up on the beach of Milk Island along with what looks like about a third of the world's population of Herring and Great Black-backed gulls. Perhaps this is the moment to remind you that all of the offshore islands are worth examining through the telescope in the hope of noting a perched Snowy Owl or Rough-legged Hawk. You can even entertain fantasies of Gyrfalcons and Golden Eagles with some justification.

Proceed along Penzance Road, keeping your eyes open for Northern Shrikes in the tops of the Emerson Point thickets. Pause at the southwest corner of Loblolly Cove and briefly look over beach, rocks, and water. Then turn right onto the bumps and craters of Eden Road, watching the water for birds and admiring the twin lights of Thacher's Island (variable spelling). A steady course will bring you back onto 127A.

Turn right and right again about 0.4 mile along onto Marmion Way. You will probably not be compelled to stop until you get to Gap Cove, where you can usually count on finding some gulls, eiders, and perhaps something more exotic feeding along the near shore or along the base of adjacent Straitsmouth Island (now owned by Massachusetts Audubon Society).

Turn right in another 0.4 mile onto Old Garden Road and pause again in the parking lot above Old Garden Beach. If, as is not unlikely, you see nothing else, turn your scope to the east and examine the little patch of foam and gull guano known as the Dry Salvages (pronounced to rhyme with wages). Unlikely though it seems, this unprepossessing little hazard to navigation apparently so inspired T. S. Eliot that he named one of his "Four Quartets" for it. The poem is strongly evocative of the Cape Ann marinescape. While you are looking that one up, you may want to peruse the fifth stanza of "Landscapes" called "Cape Ann." It has nothing to do with Cape Ann except, I guess, in the poet's imagination, but it is easily Eliot's most ornithological poem: eleven species in thirteen lines.

As it swings left, Old Garden Road becomes Norwood Avenue and brings you again out onto 127A which to the right leads you shortly into the center of Rockport. Turn right along the shop-lined peninsula of Bearskin Neck (somebody once killed a bear here using only his knife and hung up the trophy, the story goes), and park in the lot at the end. Looking west from here you will probably see a group of gulls, often including Glaucous and Iceland, gathered around Rockport's version of the "Bubbla." Check for Purple Sandpipers on the little breakwater behind you. (N.B.: During the Christmas season Bearskin Neck is thronged with consumers, making access by car unbearable to impossible.)

Emerging from the west side of town on 127A, slow down or stop along the Back Harbor, a particularly reliable spot for Red-necked Grebe. Climb up through Pigeon Cove and turn right on Phillips Avenue 1.2 miles beyond the junction of 127 and 127A. Go straight on the little road (Cathedral Avenue!) that swings behind the Ralph Waldo Emerson Inn until you can see the shore: another standby lookout for Purple Sandpipers, Red-necked Grebes, Black Guillemots, and interesting ducks. The transcendent ornithological fame of this spot derives from a lost Rock Wren which made the best of things here for a few months in the winter of 1965. Return to Phillips Avenue, turn right, and as Phillips veers left, continue ahead on Point DeChene Avenue to Andrew's Point. (See also discussion under Seabird Migration.)

If you stop at Andrew's Point first thing in the morning for a spot of sea watching you may "wipe out" the majority of the winter resident specialties of Cape Ann before you leave. A raft of Common Eiders is nearly always present off the point and contains one or more King Eiders with surprising frequency.

Hoop Hole Cove, between Andrew's and Halibut points, usually hosts a flock of Common Goldeneyes, and the chance of finding a Barrow's among them seems better than average. An hour of conscientious watching at Andrew's is almost certain to produce Red-necked Grebe, Purple Sandpiper, Black Guillemot, and a white-winged gull or two. Birders who enjoy being out in the winter may be interested to learn that there is a path that can be followed along the shore from the Andrew's Point side of Hoop Hole Cove all the way to Folly Cove. The path crosses some private property, but birders are rarely shot in the wintertime on Cape Ann.

If you prefer to drive, start back out Point DeChene Avenue and take the second right, a little dirt road (Linwood Avenue) that connects again with the U-shaped Phillips Avenue which in turn leads back to 127. The turn-off (Gott Avenue) to Halibut Point is 0.4 mile beyond this intersection, and 0.3 mile farther on is Folly Cove, which is worth a onceover both from the sea wall at the Folly Cove Inn and from the little pull-off at the head of the cove. Two tenths of a mile beyond the pull-off, Folly Point Road ascends between two granite gate posts. This is a private road, but the view from the cliffs at the point rivals Halibut's for spectacle and affords the opportunity to scan more shoreline if you are still missing a species or two.

If you are chased out of Folly Point, go right at the fork coming up on 127 and turn into Locust Grove/Seaside Cemetery. At the back of this cemetery, there are trails that lead down to the shore, and the oaks in the cemetery sometimes sustain a Red-headed and/or other interesting woodpecker through the winter. Below the other branch (Washington Street) of the above-noted fork in the main road is a little wooded stream and marsh which stays open quite late into the winter, making it a good spot to pick up wintering robins or a snipe if you decide to begin your year's list on Cape Ann.



Glaucous Gull

*Photo by Nathaniel C. Nash
Courtesy of Massachusetts Audubon Society*

When I was a kid, Dee Snyder and I used to check out every inch of coast from Lane's Cove to Bay View, doubtless following the lead of Maestro Griscom. Though we came up with a "good tick" now and then, I have never been particularly enthusiastic about this stretch except for Lane's Cove itself with its quaint proportions and imposing seawall that the even more imposing Atlantic knocked over during the blizzard of '78. However, don't mistake my prejudices for your own.

There must be someone out there who has seen a good bird at Goose Cove or the adjacent Annisquam flats. I think my front runner is Brant, regular in spring and fall, but I keep watching for the Great Crested Grebe or, at least, Barnacle Goose that waits in the destiny of the place.

If you absolutely must "break sixty" on January first on Cape Ann, you might try birding the road out to Wingaersheek Beach including the adjacent marshes. Dick Forster, Wayne Peterson and crew never failed to turn up a Clapper Rail, an Orange-crowned Warbler, a Seaside Sparrow, or something equally "sexy" out here in the days when the Cape Ann Christmas Count was in competitive form. Keep in mind, however, that they spent the day there and did not do a lot of birding from the car. A proven tactic is to work the northeast edge of the salt marsh at high tide starting at the beach parking lot.

PASSERINE MIGRATION

Why should you forsake Mt. Auburn or Marblehead Neck and come to Cape Ann during migration? For variety, maybe? I'm not going to try to persuade you that my neighborhood is "just as good as" the regular traps, but I insist on noting that Prothonotary, Yellow-throated, Cerulean, and Worm-eating warblers have all been seen within walking distance of my doorstep in East Gloucester. For "trash-birds" like Lincoln's Sparrow and Philadelphia Vireo, I usually don't have to go farther than my driveway which partly explains why I don't get to the Neck or the Dell as often as I used to. Anyway, if some emergency brings you out here in May or September/October, here are a few stops that regularly produce their share of first class birds.

Eastern Point. The tall oaks along Eastern Point Boulevard from the south end of Lighthouse Cove to the edge of the salt marsh on the Eastern Point Wildlife Sanctuary are a natural target for warblers and other migrants making a landfall in spring. The interior of the sanctuary tends to be less rewarding because of the denseness of the habitat and the lack of edges. Also, the trails are so poorly maintained that it is often hard to make headway through the Smilax thickets. In fall, the main attraction of this area is the brushy thickets between the southern edge of the sanctuary and the shoreline. From these, interesting warblers and sparrows can often be "pished" up. In October and early November, a

variety of sparrows can usually be seen feeding on the lighthouse keeper's lawn and along the little drive that runs up to the east of the house.

The open part of the sanctuary is a traditional roost for migrating Monarch butterflies from late August to early October. Concentrations vary from none to several hundred depending on annual population fluctuations. The point is also a good place to find migrant Buckeye butterflies in late summer and fall. If you find yourself here when the weather is fine but the birding slack, treat yourself to a walk out to the end of the Dog Bar Breakwater.

Niles Pond. The thickets and copses around Niles Pond can be very productive in both spring and fall. The best birding is from the parking area at Brace Cove (see above under Winter Residents) along Lake Avenue to Eastern Point Boulevard.

Mt. Pleasant Cemetery and vicinity. Hardly Mt. Auburn, this upper end of Mt. Pleasant Avenue in East Gloucester nevertheless seems to be another logical target for migrants hitting the peninsula in spring. On a good day a walk down Page Street and Way Road can be worthwhile. Considering how little attention this area gets, it must mean something that most of the rarer warbler species that have been recorded in Massachusetts have been seen in this neighborhood.

Halibut Point. Over 135 species of land birds have been recorded in Halibut's locust groves and thickets. As with the other migrant traps noted, "prime time" is May and late August through early November.

SHOREBIRDS

Though Cape Ann has more than a fair share of mud flats and salt marshes, I have neither seen nor heard of shorebirds of more than routine interest visiting any of them. Of course, they are seldom worked. By contrast, Brace Cove often has an interesting assortment of shorebirds in late summer and fall. Buff-breasted Sandpiper has shown up here at least once, and I'll hazard a guess that Baird's Sandpiper is as regular at Brace Cove as on Plum Island. Pebbly Beach also holds an interesting sandpiper (Baird's again) from time to time. And I have been surprised to discover what an abundance and variety of shorebirds roost and feed along the sea ledges of the outer Cape Ann (fifteen or more species have been recorded for Halibut, most of them commonly).

SUMMER RESIDENTS

There are no Mourning Warblers or Black Skimmers breeding on Cape Ann, so perhaps its resident birds will be of chief interest to its resident humans. However, though they harbor no great rarities, the areas briefly described below are very pleasant and interesting places to walk, especially if your interest in natural history extends to organisms other than feathered ones.

Dogtown is a surprisingly extensive expanse of uninhabited oak woods, Red Maple swamp, postage stamp bogs, heathy scrub, and huge and plentiful glacial erratic boulders, occupying the heart of Cape Ann. It is crisscrossed with trails but accessible to cars only at its edges, so that it is possible to experience wilderness here within a few hundred yards of ordinary modern bustle. Dogtown is of interest historically because of the cellar holes marking the site of an eighteenth century settlement of about sixty families that flourished briefly before the American Revolution. Due perhaps to a postwar shift in Gloucester's economy, Dogtown became a kind of backwoods slum whose last wretched eccentric was evacuated in 1830. The name is generally supposed to derive from the dogs kept for protection by the largely female population, but like almost everything else said about Dogtown's history, this is speculation. Anyone with the courage to spend the night in Dogtown Square under a full moon is apt (it is said) to witness a ghostly spectacle of awesome proportions though one should be careful these days to distinguish supernatural manifestations from those of partying teenagers. Curiosities of a later era are a highlight of the trail that enters Dogtown east of the Babson Reservoir from the Blackburn Industrial Park. Here, Gloucester scion and self-appointed keeper of the public morality, Roger Babson, had inspirational words and phrases (PERSEVERANCE, HELP MOTHER) carved into pathside boulders.

The birdlife of Dogtown is not exceptional. Field Sparrows breed near Dogtown Square, and Prairie Warblers are common in this and the other open brushy areas. The swamp forest accommodates typical species such as Chestnut-sided Warbler, Great Crested Flycatcher, Scarlet Tanager, Wood Thrush, and Veery. The best of Dogtown's natural history is the botany of its bogs in which Pitcher Plant, Sundew, and several species of orchids, including the rare Arethusa, thrive. A very local woodland dragonfly (Williamsonia lintneri) occurs here too in late April and May. Every Sunday morning starting at 10:00 A.M., the Rockport Conservation Commission conducts walks through Dogtown (and other scenic or interesting areas). These begin behind the town hall on Broadway, and dogs are not invited. For more detail and good maps of Dogtown, see Garland(1973) and Pope (1980) in the references.

Ravenswood Park. The main access and parking lot of this five hundred acre park are located on Western Avenue (Route 127), 1.1 miles east of the intersection with Magnolia Avenue and 0.6 mile west of the Hesperus Avenue intersection (watch for Ravenswood Chapel on the north side of the road). The Ravenswood forest is easily the best example of mature, relatively undisturbed, forest on Cape Ann and compares favorably with any in the eastern part of the state. Here you can walk beneath a tall canopy of aged beeches and hemlocks and with a little effort and luck encounter some bird species such as Pileated Woodpecker, Solitary Vireo, and Black-

throated Green and Blackburnian warblers that tend to demand this habitat. As with Dogtown, the avifauna of Ravenswood (which probably never included ravens) is overshadowed by its flora which includes the northernmost examples of the plant for which Magnolia is named.

At the turn of the century, Ravenswood was the home of a naturalist "hermit" named Mason Walton, and the site of his hut is marked on the trail map located at the entrance near the chapel. Walton looked the part of a rustic eccentric with a long white beard and a Whitmanesque twinkle in his eye, but he was a sociable sort of hermit, walking into Gloucester for breakfast every morning and leading thousands of visitors on nature walks around his domain. He also wrote a rather fanciful book of nature lore in which he claims among other things to have proven that female "Cow Buntings" (Brown-headed Cowbirds) return to the nests they have parasitized and help the foster parents rear the young.

If you visit Ravenswood, be sure to take the trail up to Ledge Hill to see the view travelers from the south first had of Gloucester as their coaches mounted this peak of the Old Salem Road. Ravenswood is abutted to the west by extensive town watershed land, much of it quite undisturbed and crossed by trails (see map). Here the illusion of wilderness may be captured even better than within the park, which is very popular with joggers, doggers, and horsepersons.

Kettle Island "rookery": If you station yourself on Magnolia Point between 5:30 and 7:00 P.M. on any day from April to September and look southwest, you can watch dozens of Snowy Egrets, Cattle Egrets, Little Blue Herons, and Glossy Ibis returning to their nesting/roosting sites on Kettle Island. You should also watch for the less common Great Egret and Tricolored (Louisiana) Heron. The birds occupied House Island, a mile or so to the west, until 1979 when they relocated for reasons unknown.

PELAGIC TRIPS

The current popularity of whale watching has proved a boon to birders: there are now numerous sailings to the inshore fishing banks, where large concentrations of pelagic birds often keep company with the sought-after cetaceans. Wilson's Storm-Petrels and Greater, Manx, and Sooty shearwaters are likely to be present in midsummer (though tubenoses are notably erratic in seasonal distribution), and by August and September the odds of seeing Cory's Shearwater, jaegers, Northern Phalaropes, and rarities such as Sabine's Gull improve. The Gloucester Fisherman's Museum (617-283-1940) runs morning, afternoon, and full day cruises daily June through September. There are also numerous sport fishing boats that do daily runs out of Gloucester and Rockport (see the Cape Ann phone book under Fishing Parties). Some of these do overnight cruises to George's Bank, where the vari-

ety and abundance of birdlife are often greater than inshore. If you are tempted to ship out on one of the latter trips, you should consider that accommodations tend to be rather spartan and that the fishing crowd has a "flavor" different from the birding/whaling crowd.

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The maps for this article were drawn by Julie S. Roberts.

ANSWERS TO THE BIRD NAME QUIZ

by Chris Floyd, Lexington

The unfamiliar-looking names are translations of the scientific names of some familiar birds, as shown below. With the help of the listed references, which I used, you might discover other amusing translations. How about California Ground Cuckoo?

Winter Noiselet: Clangula hyemalis: Oldsquaw

Clangula hyemalis, from the diminutive clangula of the Latin clangor, "noise," and the Latin hiemalis, "of winter," from hiems, "winter."

Little White Oxhead: Bucephala albeola: Bufflehead

Bucephala albeola, from the Greek bous, "ox," the Greek kephale, "head," and the Latin albus, "white," plus the diminutive suffix -olus.

Shielded Spoon: Spatula clypeata: Northern Shoveler

Spatula clypeata, from the Latin spatula, "spoon," and the Latin clypeatus, "furnished with a shield," from clypeum, "shield."

Pointed Duck: Anas acuta: Northern Pintail

Anas acuta, from the Latin anas, "duck," and the Latin acutus, "pointed."

Red-footed Duck: Anas rubripes: American Black Duck

Anas rubripes, from the Latin anas, "duck," the Latin ruber, "red," and the Latin pes, "foot."

Harefoot: Lagopus lagopus: Willow Ptarmigan

Lagopus lagopus, from the Greek lagos, "hare," and the Greek pous, "foot."

Cloaked Bloodfoot: Haematopus palliatus: American Oyster-catcher

Haematopus palliatus, from the Greek haima (genitive haimatos), "blood," the Greek pous, "foot," and the Latin palliatus, "wearing a cloak."

Lesser Bog-lover: Philohela minor: American Woodcock

Philohela minor, from the Greek philos, "loving," the Greek helos, "bog," and the Latin minor, "lesser."

Tricolored Waterqueen: Hydranassa tricolor: Tricolored Heron
Hydranassa tricolor, from the Greek hydor, "water," the Greek anassa, "queen," the Latin tres (combining form tri-), "three," and the Latin color, "color."

Violet Nightqueen: Nyctanassa violacea: Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
Nyctanassa violacea, from the Greek nyctos, "night," the Greek anassa, "queen," and the Latin violaceus, "violet-colored," from viola, "violet" (the flower).

Sociable Hookbeak: Rostrhamus sociabilis: Snail Kite
Rostrhamus sociabilis; from the Latin rostrum, "beak," the Latin hamus, "hook," and the Latin sociabilis, "gregarious."

Black Beakface: Rhynchops nigra: Black Skimmer
Rhynchops nigra, from the Greek rhynchos, "beak," the Greek ops, "face," and the Latin niger, "black."

Reddish Bowmouth: Toxostoma rufum: Brown Thrasher
Toxostoma rufum, from the Greek toxon, "bow," the Greek stoma, "mouth," and the Latin rufus, "reddish."

Wandering Worm-eater: Vermivora peregrina: Tennessee Warbler
Vermivora peregrina, from the Latin vermis, "worm," the Latin vorare, "to eat," and the Latin peregrinus, "wandering."

Greenish Gnatking: Empidonax virescens: Acadian Flycatcher
Empidonax virescens, from the Greek empis (genitive empidos), "gnat," the Greek anax, "king," and the Latin virescens, "growing green."

Rice-eating Longclaw: Dolichonyx oryzivorus: Bobolink
Dolichonyx oryzivorus, from the Greek dolichos, "long," the Greek onyx, "claw," the Latin oryza, "rice," and the Latin vorare, "to eat."

Red-tailed Moth-eater: Setophaga ruticilla: American Redstart
Setophaga ruticilla, from the Greek setos, "moth," the Greek phagein, "to eat," the Latin rutilus, "reddish," and the supposed Latin cilla, "tail."

Golden-haired Shaketail: Seiurus aurocapillus: Ovenbird

Seiurus aurocapillus, from the Greek seio, "shake," the Greek oura, "tail," the Latin aurum, "gold," and the Latin capillus, "hair."

Tiger-striped Tree-dweller: Dendroica tigrina: Cape May Warbler

Dendroica tigrina, from the Greek dendron, "tree," the Greek oikeo, "inhabit," and the Latin tigrinus, "striped like a tiger," from tigris, "tiger."

Many-tongued Mimic: Mimus polyglottos: Northern Mockingbird

Mimus polyglottos, from the Latin mimus, "mimic," the Greek poly, "many," and the Greek glotta, "tongue."

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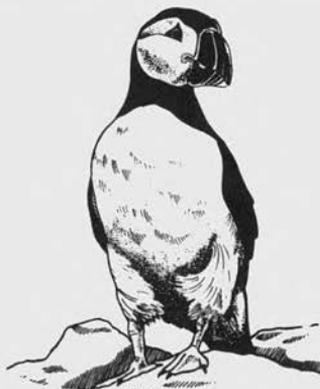
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Field Records: October 1982



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

October 1982 began and ended on the warm side; in fact, the weather was nearly perfect with sunshine occurring 66% of the time. The temperature averaged 54.2°, 1.2° below normal, but 3.0° warmer than October 1981. No record temperatures were broken, but the mercury reached the 82° mark on the sixth and the lowest reading was 35° on the twenty-third. The final four days of October were pure Indian Summer with highs in the 60s and 70s and much sunshine and haze. Rain totaled 3.19 inches, the most, 1.77 inches, falling on October 8-9. That was the most rain for a single day in nearly three months. A thunderstorm accompanied this rain, double the October average.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

Red-throated Loons were migrating past Sandy Neck in Barnstable on the average of one hundred individuals per hour on October 26, a day with fog and northeast winds. Seven Pied-billed Grebes were found at Great Meadows, the most reported from one location since last April.

On the ninth and tenth of the month when gusts from the northeast were the highest, Northern Fulmars were recorded from land locations at Sandy Neck, Barnstable, at Andrews Point, Rockport, and at Race Point, Provincetown. During that storm there was also a considerable flight of shearwaters reported with a thousand Greater Shearwaters logged in just half an hour at Provincetown. Six Leach's Storm-Petrels were noted during the storm at Sandy Neck and eight were seen milling about Barnstable Harbor the following day. Needless to say, gannets were also recorded in impressive numbers from both Andrews Point and Sandy Neck. Great Cormorants were migrating and the last push of migrating Double-crested Cormorants was noted during the storm of October 9-10.

The last of the Green-backed Herons reported was on the second, and a Cattle Egret was reported from Newburyport on October 8. Thirty-eight Great Egrets were in the marshes of Westport near Horseneck Beach on the eleventh. The Tricolored Heron was last reported on October 16, and only one Glossy Ibis was noted all month. American Bitterns continued to be scarce!

R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Common Loon:			
10	Salisbury-P.I., Barnstable	21, 18	R.Forster#, D.Clapp
23	Scituate, Mt. Wachusett	30+, 1	BBC, P.Roberts#
Red-throated Loon:			
26	Barnstable (SN)	100/hour	R.Pease
Red-necked Grebe:			
10,16,22	Barnstable, P.I., MBO	1, 1, 2	R.Pease, BBC, MBO
Horned Grebe:			
10,16-30	Lakeville, P.I.	1, 2	K.Anderson, v.o.
Pied-billed Grebe:			
11	GMNWR, Lakeville	7, 2	G.Gove#, W.Petersen
23	Cambridge, Lakeville	1, 4	BBC, W.Petersen#
Northern Fulmar:			
9,10	Barnstable (SN)	3+, 3	R.Pease#
9,10	Rockport (AP), P'town	2, 2	R.Heil, W.Petersen#
13-14,16+31	Noman's I., Stellwagen	3, 2+1	W.Manter, MBO + BBC
Cory's Shearwater:			
9+10,12	Barnstable (SN), Noman's I.	1+2, 20	R.Pease#, W.Manter
31	Stellwagen	3	D.Brown

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Greater Shearwater:			
10,11	P'town	500 per one half hr, 1000 per one half hr.	W.Petersen#
12,16	Noman's I., Stellwagen	200, 2000	W.Manter, MBO
23,31	Chatham, Stellwagen	300+, 1500+	R.Heil, BBC
Sooty Shearwater:			
9,10	Barnstable (SN)	1, 1	R.Pease#
31	Stellwagen	5	BBC
Manx Shearwater:			
9,10	Barnstable (SN), Eastham	6, 1	R.Pease#, W.Petersen#
17,31	Stellwagen	10, 8	MBO, BBC
Leach's Storm-Petrel:			
10	Barnstable (SN), Barnstable Harbor	16, 8	R.Pease#
10,31	P'town, Nantucket	2, 1 (dead)	W.Petersen#, C. Andrews
Northern Gannet:			
9,10	Rockport (AP), Barnstable (SN)	1200 in hour, 3300 in 1	1/2 hr. R.Heil, D.Clapp
26,31	Eastham, Stellwagen	1000, 500	W.Bailey#, BBC
Great Cormorant:			
3	P'town, P.I.	5, 2	SSBC, C.Gove#
11-30,13	Lakeville, Woburn	2-1, 1	W.Petersen#, G.Gove
19,23	Cambridge, Scituate	2, 20	F.Bouchard, BBC
24,28	Randolph, Wellesley	1, 1	D.Brown, C.Ewer
Double-crested Cormorant:			
8,10	Wollaston, Salisbury-P.I.	2000+, 2000+	G.Wilson, R.Forster#
24,31	P.I., Easton	300+, 80	BBC, K.Ryan
Great Blue Heron:			
thr.	Eastham (FH)	max. 40	v.o.
11,15	Westport, P.I.	26, 8	R.Stymeist#, D.Spencer
17,29	W.Gloucester, Saugus	7, 7	J.Grugan, J.Berry
Green-backed Heron:			
2	Eastham	3	L.Taylor#
Little Blue Heron:			
3,15	Nantucket, P.I.	3, 1 imm.	BBC, D.Spencer
21,26	Walpole, N.Scituate	1 ad., 1 imm.	R.Titus, B.Litchfield
29	Barnstable	1 imm.	R.Pease#
Cattle Egret:			
8	Newburyport	1	J.Carter
Great Egret:			
11,24	Westport, Squantum	38, 1	R.Stymeist#, D.Brown#
Snowy Egret:			
10	Cohasset, P.I.	6, 14	H.Mallers, BBC
11,30	Westport, P.I.	13, 1	R.Stymeist#, BBC
Tricolored Heron:			
16	P.I.	1	W.Petersen#
Black-crowned Night-Heron:			
15,18	P.I., Squantum	35, 20	D.Spencer, K.Ryan
23	Eastham	24	SSBC
American Bittern:			
8,16	Eastham, P.I.	2, 4	R.Heil#, W.Petersen#
Glossy Ibis:			
1-31	Nantucket	1	E.Andrews

WATERFOWL

The survey of waterfowl at the Parker River N.W.R. continues; the results for the census taken there on October 15 are:

Canada Goose	1330	Green-winged Teal	2035
Snow Goose	9	Blue-winged Teal	48
Mallard	631	Eurasian Wigeon	1
Black Duck	2445	American Wigeon	200
Gadwall	160	Northern Shoveler	63
Northern Pintail	232		

A high count of 77 Wood Ducks was recorded at Great Meadows on the eleventh; last year thirty-five were recorded on the twelfth. The bay ducks returned in good numbers by the third week of the month at their traditional locations. A Surf Scoter at Lakeville was unusual. Ruddy Ducks were noted in good numbers from Randolph and in Eastham. R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMB.</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Mute Swan: 11,23	Westport, Falmouth	172, 25	R.Stymeist#, P.Hallowell
Canada Goose: 15	P.I.	1330	D.Spencer
Brant: 2,16	Nantucket, Newburyport	6, 22	BBC, BBC
Snow Goose: 2 on 11,20 27,28	P.I. GMNWR, M.V. SRV, Lakeville	max. 9 1, 3 1, 3	v.o. G.Gove, fide A.Brown R.Walton, D.+J.Briggs
Mallard: 15	Scituate, P.I.	145, 631	D.Clapp, D.Spencer
American Black Duck: 15	P.I.	2445	D.Spencer#
Gadwall: 15,31	P.I., Ipswich	160, 200+	D.Spencer#, R.Heil#
Northern Pintail: 6,15,26	GMNWR, P.I., Yarmouth	20, <u>232</u> , 40	P.Roberts, D.Spencer#, J.Aylward
Green-winged Teal: 15	P.I.	<u>2035</u>	D.Spencer#
Blue-winged Teal: 11,15	GMNWR, P.I.	4, 48	G.Gove, D.Spencer#
Eurasian Wigeon: 15,31	P.I., Ipswich	1, 1	D.Spencer#, R.Heil#
American Wigeon: 3,15 16,31	Nantucket, P.I. GMNWR, Ipswich	50, 200 300, 240+	BBC, D.Spencer# BBC, R.Heil#
Northern Shoveler: 10,15	GMNWR, P.I.	6, <u>63</u>	G.Gove, D.Spencer#
Wood Duck: 11	GMNWR	<u>77</u>	G.Gove
Redhead: 23,24,29	Falmouth, Braintree, Cambridge	6, 1, 1	P.Hallowell, D.Brown, J.Barton
Ring-necked Duck: 11,23,30 21,23,29 24,30	Lakeville Cambridge West Newbury	500, 100, 400 21, 35, 37 295, 450	W.Petersen J.Barton BBC
Canvasback: 20,23,29,30	Cambridge	14, 45, 62, 107	J.Barton + v.o.
Greater Scaup: 11,16 29	Lakeville, Newburyport Cambridge	12, 30 7	W.Petersen J.Barton
Lesser Scaup: 20,23,29 23,24	Cambridge Lakeville, Randolph	3, 4, 8 2, 23	J.Barton W.Petersen, D.Brown
Common Goldeneye: 23	Lakeville	2	W.Petersen#
Bufflehead: 23,25	Lakeville, Cambridge	17, 1	W.Petersen#, F.Bouchard
Oldsquaw: 23,24	Manomet, P.I.	40, 7	SSBC, BBC
Common Eider: 23,24	Manomet, Scituate	75, 100	SSBC, BBC
White-winged Scoter: 10 16,24,30	Barnstable P.I.	1050 in 1 1/2 hrs. 100, 42, 90	D.Clapp# BBC
Surf Scoter: 10,23	Barnstable, <u>Lakeville</u>	500, 1	D.Clapp, W.Petersen#
Black Scoter: 10	Barnstable	135	D.Clapp
Ruddy Duck: 11,17 24,31	Lakeville, Wayland Randolph, Eastham	1, 6 79, 81	W.Petersen, E.Morrier D.Brown, SSBC (Fox)
Hooded Merganser: 22-31	Winchester	13 (3 m., 10 f.)	G.Gove
Common Merganser: 5,10 16,23	Lincoln, Cohasset Eastham, Lakeville	1, 2 .9, 1	P.Alden, R.Titus G.Gove#, W.Petersen#

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Red-breasted Merganser:			
10	Barnstable	375	D. Clapp

RAPTORS

A flight of eleven hundred Sharp-shinned Hawks was reported migrating past Gay Head on Martha's Vineyard during the second day of the northwest winds of October 2. Nineteen Red-shouldered and fifty-eight Red-tailed hawks seen on the twenty-third over Mt. Wachusett constituted a good count for a single day of these two species. Also on the same date, nine Northern Harriers seen on Mt. Wachusett tied the all time high for that species at Wachusett. At Mt. Watatic on October 24, twenty-two Red-shouldered Hawks were recorded. Only five Red-shoulders were reported during October 1981.

A Golden Eagle was reported from Barnstable, and immature Bald Eagles were noted on the Vineyard and in Truro. Twenty-two sightings of Peregrine Falcon were reported mostly from coastal locations; in addition ten individuals were seen on the Vineyard on October 12. R.H.S.

Turkey Vulture:

1,2	Walpole, New Braintree	1, 4	H.Parker, D.Crompton#
23	Mt. Wachusett, Framingham	2, 9	P.Roberts, R.Fisher fide R. Forster

Goshawk:

16,19	P.I., WBWS	1, 1 imm.	BBC (S.Grinley), B.Nikula
23,29	Mt. Wachusett, E.Middleboro	1 imm., 1	P.Roberts#, K.Anderson

Sharp-shinned Hawk:

2	Nantucket, Gay Head	15, <u>1100</u>	R.Stymeist, V.Laux
3	Ashburnham, P'town	28, <u>5</u>	P.Roberts, SSBC
23,24;24	Mt.Wachusett; Ashburnham	20, 6; 7	P.Roberts

Cooper's Hawk:

2,3	Nantucket, Ashburnham	1, 3	R.Stymeist#, P.Roberts
2,7	Canton, GMNWR	1, 1	R.Titus, P.Roberts#
8,11	P'town, Bridgewater	1, 1	J.Smith#, W.Petersen
23,24;23	Mt.Wachusett; Chatham	2, 1; 1 imm.	P.Roberts#, B.Nikula
16,31	P.I.	1, 1	W.Petersen, P.Roberts

Red-tailed Hawk:

23,24;24	Mt. Wachusett; Ashburnham	58, 19; 19	P.Roberts#
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Red-shouldered Hawk:

23,24;24	Mt. Wachusett; Ashburnham	19, 8; 22	P.Roberts#
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Rough-legged Hawk:

21,31	P.I., Eastham	1, 2	N.Clayton, SSBC (Fox)
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Golden Eagle:

15	Barnstable	1 imm.	R.Pease
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Bald Eagle:

5,12;10	Chilmark; Truro	1 imm.; 1 imm.	G.BenDavid, V.Laux; B.Nikula
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Northern Harrier:

23	Mt. Wachusett	9	P.Roberts
thr.	P.I.	max. 9 (10/2)	v.o.

Osprey:

1-17	9 locations	13 individuals	v.o.
19,29,31	Saugus, Peabody, Wayland	1, 1, 1	J.Grugan, R.Heil, E.Morrier

Peregrine Falcon:

thr.	10 locations	22 individuals	v.o.
12	M.V.	<u>10</u>	v.o. fide A.Brown

Merlin:

thr.	26 individuals reported mostly from coastal locations		
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American Kestrel:

3,16	Ashburnham, Newburyport	5, 8	P.Roberts, BBC
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SANDHILL CRANE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A Sandhill Crane was seen in a cornfield in Andover on the second and another, probably the same bird, was seen in the vicinity of Cross Farm Hill on Plum Island on October 4. The last one seen in Essex County was present in Middleton-Danvers-Beverly from January through March of 1979.

A Whimbrel was seen on the late date of October 30 and 31 at Nauset and Monomoy, respectively, and was judged to be one individual as it had an injured foot. Spotted and Solitary sandpipers were late also as they have generally departed by the end of

September although Bailey (Birds of Massachusetts) states that from one to four are reported in October and gives extreme late dates into November. Other shorebirds reported at later than normal dates included a Willet on October 23 and Lesser Yellowlegs and Stilt Sandpiper on the 31st; Bailey gives an extreme late date for the latter species of November 1. Good numbers of reports of Pectoral and White-rumped Sandpipers were received. Five Dunlin were seen in Lakeville; one usually does not expect to see these shorebirds at an inland location. Short-billed Dowitchers also were seen on later than usual dates. The East Boston Marbled Godwit, seen most of September, continued there throughout this month.

G.W.G.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Sandhill Crane:			
2,4	Andover, P.I.	1, 1	J.Kimball#, E.Darling
Virginia Rail:			
2-3,31	Eastham; Marshfield	1; 1	SSBC; D.Brown#
Sora:			
23,31	Marshfield	1, 1 calling	BBC, D.Brown#
Common Moorhen:			
3,6,11	Sandwich	1	R.Pease#
10,24	P.I.	1	BBC
31	Ipswich	1 imm.	R.Heil#
American Coot:			
6,11	GMNWR	10, 6	BBC, G.Gove
16,30;23	P.I.; Lakeville	3; 2	BBC; W.Petersen#
25,30	Cambridge	5, 8	F.Bouchard, BBC
Semipalmated Plover:			
17,24,30,31	Newburyport-P.I.	32, 9, 1, 2	BBC
17,23	Scituate	10, 28	SSBC, BBC
27	Nantucket	3	E.Andrews
Killdeer:			
4,7,8	Walpole, E.Middleboro, Newburyport	25,40,25	R.Titus, K.Anderson, J.Carter
13,15,21	Easton, Lynn, Concord	28, 60, 28	K.Ryan, R.Heil, R.Forster
30,31	P.I., Ipswich	6, 42	BBC, J.Smith
Lesser Golden-Plover:			
1-23,3	M.V., P.I.	10, 6	V.Laux, G.Gove#
24;31	P.I.; Rowley, Newburyport	1; 4 juv., 1 juv.	BBC; R.Heil
Black-bellied Plover:			
10, 23	Scituate	8, 80	H.Mallers, BBC
23,31	Plymouth, Monomoy	60, 600+	SSBC, B.Nikula#
Ruddy Turnstone:			
23	Marshfield, Scituate	1, 1	BBC
Common Snipe:			
8,24	Newburyport	1, 3	J.Carter, BBC
13	Easton, SRV	2, 2	K.Ryan, R.Walton
Whimbrel:			
2,10	P.I.	13, 1	BBC
2-3,10	Eastham, P'town	1, 1	SSBC, W.Petersen#
30,31	Nauset, Monomoy	1, 1	B.Nikula
Spotted Sandpiper:			
9,15	Lincoln, Lynn	1, 1	R.Forster, R.Heil
Solitary Sandpiper:			
1,11	Chatham, Bridgewater	4, 2	B.Nikula, W.Petersen
15;16,17	Lynn; P'town	1; 1	R.Heil; G.Gove#, R.Stymeist#
20,25	SRV	2, 1	R.Walton
Willet:			
23	Chatham	3	J.Smith#
Greater Yellowlegs:			
2-3,3	WBWS, E.Boston	125, 75	SSBC, K.Winkler
1-19	Nantucket	max. 79 (10/12)	E.Andrews
15;30,31	PRNWR; P.I.	39; 35, 40	Staff; BBC
Lesser Yellowlegs:			
16	GMNWR	5	BBC
24;31	Squantum; Newburyport, P.I.	3; 1, 2	D.Brown; R.Heil, P.Roberts
Red Knot:			
23,31	Scituate, Monomoy	400, 200+	BBC, B.Nikula#
Pectoral Sandpiper:			
11;13	Bridgewater; Easton, SRV	22; 4, 3	W.Petersen; K.Ryan, R.Walton
15,16;30,31	P.I.	1, 2; 2, 8	NWR Staff, E.Morrer; BBC
23,29	M.V., Nantucket	50, 1	V.Laux, E.Andrews#

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS
Pectoral Sandpiper (continued):			
23,30	Halifax	19, 41	W.Petersen#
23,31	Monomoy	30+, 20+	B.Nikula+H.Stabins
24,27	Squantum, SRV	1, 1	D.Brown#,R.Walton
White-rumped Sandpiper:			
3,15	P.I.	2, 15	G.Gove#,D.Spencer
16,31	P.I.	20, 15	W.Petersen#,R.Heil
15;17	Gloucester, Lynn; P'town	4, 12; 5	B.Sorrie,R.Heil;J.Heywood#
11,23;23,30	Bridgewater;Halifax	3, 1; 7, 10	W.Petersen#
23,31	Monomoy	30, 35+	B.Nikula+H.Stabins
24,29	Squantum, Wenham	2, 5	D.Brown#,R.Heil
26,30	MV, Eastham	3, 20	A.Brown, B.Nikula
Least Sandpiper:			
11	Westport	1	R.Stymeist#
Dunlin:			
2,3	P'town	300	SSBC(Osborne)
11,23	Lakeville, Halifax	5, 2	W.Petersen#
15;30,31	P.I.	927; 300, 3400	NWR Staff;BBC
Short-billed Dowitcher:			
3,16	P.I., Newburyport	7 juv., 2 juv.	R.Heil,W.Petersen#
Long-billed Dowitcher:			
3,10,30,31	P.I.	75, 14, 3, 27	G.Gove,R.Forster#,BBC,R.Heil
30,31	Orleans, Monomoy	1, 1	B.Nikula
dowitcher species:			
31	Monomoy	2-3	B.Nikula
Stilt Sandpiper:			
16,31	P.I.	1, 3	W.Petersen#,R.Heil#
Semipalmated Sandpiper:			
11,27	Bridgewater, Scituate	26, 20	W.Petersen,SSBC
16,30	P.I.	30, 6	W.Petersen#,BBC
17;23,30	Scituate; Halifax	20; 1	SSBC;W.Petersen#
Western Sandpiper:			
2,30	P.I.	1	BBC
17	Plymouth	7	MBO staff
23,30	Monomoy, Eastham	2, 3	B.Nikula#
Marbled Godwit:			
thr.	E.Boston	1	K.Winkler,S.Zendeh
2	Eastham	1	L.Taylor,G.Gove
Hudsonian Godwit:			
3;10,24	P.I.; Newburyport	3; 2, 2	G.Gove#;R.Forster#,G.Gove#
3,17	E.Boston	2, 1	K.Winkler,F.Bouchard
Sanderling:			
8,12	Wollaston, Winthrop	40, 10	G.Wilson,F.Bouchard
23	Scituate	125	BBC
Red Phalarope:			
10,26	Barnstable, Eastham	1, 2	D.Clapp,W.Bailey
Red-necked Phalarope:			
9,10	Barnstable	6, 15+	B.Nikula#,W.Petersen#
10,17;17	Eastham; Orleans	15, 15; 1	W.Petersen#,R.Forster#;J.Aylward

JAEGERS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

On the ninth, 125 Parasitic Jaegers were seen from Sandy Neck and on the tenth, 20 Pomarine and 85 Parasitic jaegers were seen at First Encounter Beach, where a skua was also seen. Quoting from the report by W. Petersen, "Based upon my impression that the bird was decidedly reddish-brown, I suspect that this bird was of the nominate race (Great Skua). However, due to the conditions at the time, positive species identification could not be safely made." At least eight Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported from five locations including one inland at Clinton. Not surprisingly, neither Bailey nor Griscom mentions this European gull; the first state record was September 14, 1971 (see BOEM, 1:113 and 8:137). Recent reports are numerous. The bird in Clinton had been there since the end of September. An adult Black-headed Gull in winter plumage with an aluminum band on the left leg was reported from East Boston; it would be interesting to know where this bird was banded or ringed. An immature Sabine's Gull was seen in Eastham, First Encounter Beach, on the tenth, and a late Roseate Tern was both seen and heard on October 8. Seven Caspian Terns were on the mud at Stage Island Pool, Plum Island on the third and eight were seen on Plymouth Beach on October 8. Black Terns were seen through

the month at Provincetown (Herring Cove); they also have normally departed by the end of September. A puffin, a rare bird in Massachusetts, was seen in Eastham on October 26 when northeast winds were blowing.

A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Martha's Vineyard was late on October 23. Two Northern Saw-whet Owls were banded at Manomet Bird Observatory, and one was seen in the Old Pines at Plum Island. A Common Nighthawk was late on the 18th in Marshfield, as was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird on the 21st. Immature Red-headed Woodpeckers were noted in Rockport and Lowell. G.W.G.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Pomarine Jaeger:			
10,17,26	Eastham	20+, 1, 3	W.Petersen#,R.Forster,W.+P.Bailey
17,31	Stellwagen	6, 6	MBO staff,BBC
Parasitic Jaeger:			
7,9	Stellwagen, Manomet	3, 1	MBO staff,W.Petersen
9;16,31	Barnstable; P'town	125; 1, 9	R.Pease#;L.Taylor#,SSBC
10,26	Eastham	85+, 7	W.Petersen#,W.+P.Bailey
skua species:			
10	Eastham	1	W.Petersen,B.Sorrie,B.Nikula
Glaucous Gull:			
13-14	MV	1	W.Manter
Iceland Gull:			
16,31	P'town	1, 2	G.Gove#,SSBC
31	Stellwagen	4	BBC
Lesser Black-backed Gull:			
1-24	Clinton	1 ad.	L.Babbit,D.+V.Crompton
8,10	P'town	1 ad., 1 (2W)	W.Petersen#,R.Heil#
6-9,29	Plymouth, Gloucester	1, 2 ad. + 1 imm.	D.Evered#,H.Weissberg#
30,31	Monomoy	1, 1 ad.	B.Nikula
Ring-billed Gull:			
11,23	Bridgewater, Norton	500, 110	W.Petersen,R.Titus
Black-headed Gull:			
3	E.Boston	1 ad.	K.Winkler
	Winter plumage, aluminum band on left leg		
Bonaparte's Gull:			
30	Newburyport	75	BBC
Little Gull:			
9,16	Newburyport	1 imm., 1	BBC,W.Petersen#
Black-legged Kittiwake:			
10,26	Eastham	200, 1400	B.Nikula#,W.+P.Bailey
16,31	Stellwagen	200, 300	MBO staff,BBC
10,23	Cape Cod Bay, P'town	250+, 1200+	W.Petersen#,R.Heil
<u>Sabine's Gull:</u>			
10	Eastham	1 imm.	B.Nikula,W.Petersen,B.Sorrie
Forster's Tern:			
3,10	Newburyport, Cape Cod Bay	2, 6	R.Heil,W.Petersen#
16,31	P'town	6, 2	G.Gove#,SSBC(Fox)
Common Tern:			
10	Cape Cod Bay	3000	W.Petersen#
16,24,31	P'town	2000	v.o.
Roseate Tern:			
8	P'town	2	R.Heil
Caspian Tern:			
3	P.I.	7	v.o.
3,8	Plymouth Beach	1, 8	MBO staff
Black Tern:			
thr.	P'town	max. 3 (10/16)	v.o.
Razorbill:			
31	P'town	6	SSBC(Fox)
Dovekie:			
11,26	Barnstable	1, 5	R.Pease#
26	Eastham	7	B.Nikula
Atlantic Puffin:			
26	Eastham	1	W.+P.Bailey
Yellow-billed Cuckoo:			
3,23	Salisbury, MV	1, 1	R.Heil,v.o.(fide A.Brown)
Black-billed Cuckoo:			
18	Harwich	1	H.Stabins

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Eastern Screech Owl:			
3,23	Easton, Marshfield	1, 2	K.Ryan,BBC(Harrington)
Great Horned Owl:			
3;10	Weston; Easton, P.I.	1; 1, 1	L.Robinson;K.Ryan,BBC(Olivers)
2+3,19	Brewster, Mt.Auburn	2, 1	SSBC(Osborne),J.Heywood
Northern Saw-whet Owl:			
2+3,19	Brewster, MBO	1, 2 (banded)	SSBC(Osborne),K.Anderson
30	P.I. Old Pines	1	BBC(W.Drummond)
Common Nighthawk:			
18	Marshfield	1	W.Harrington
Ruby-throated Hummingbird:			
21	Wollaston	1	R.Emery
Belted Kingfisher:			
15,27,30	P.I., SRV, Cambridge	1, 1, 1	D.Spencer,R.Walton,BBC(Holman)
Pileated Woodpecker:			
14	Worcester	1	V.+D.Crompton
Red-headed Woodpecker:			
27-28,29-31	Rockport, Lowell	1 imm., 1 imm.	R.Norris, M.Mayotte
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:			
2,3	P.I., W.Newbury	2, 2	BBC(McHales),R.Heil
2-3,3	P'town, Nantucket	2, 1	SSBC(Osbornes),BBC(Davis)
10	Worcester	1 imm.	V.+D.Crompton
Hairy Woodpecker:			
16	P.I.	1	W.Petersen#

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SNOW BUNTINGS

Landbird migration was intense throughout the first half of the month. Manomet Bird Observatory banders had extraordinarily high activity in the nets on Monday, October 4. This was reportedly one of their best fall migration days in the last few years. On the following weekend, after the foul weather cleared out, observers throughout our area encountered large numbers of migrants. Both kinglet species, Palm and Yellow-rumped warblers were particularly noticeable elements of this wave. On the weekend of October 16-17, migration was again apparent, this time consisting most notably of Red-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, American Robin, Hermit Thrush and Yellow-rumped Warbler. A remarkable count of nine Winter Wrens was made at Chatham on the 17th. For the rest of the month, there was little breadth reported in terms of migrant species or individuals. During the last weekend, however, good-sized flocks of Snow Bunting arrived, approximately on schedule.

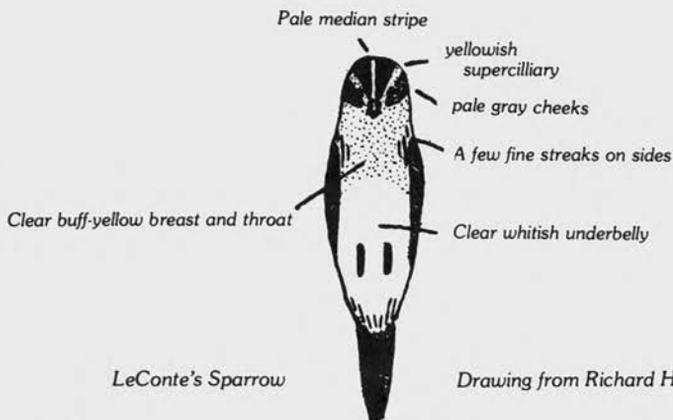
In October, we can reasonably start to look for indications of the northern winter irruptive species. This year, both Red-breasted Nuthatch and Evening Grosbeak came down, but in only moderate numbers. Of the other winter finches, only White-winged Crossbill was reported.

It seemed subjectively to some observers that a number of summer resident species departed early this year, possibly in response to the cold spell during the second week of October. Due to the variability of reporting from year to year, it is risky to make this assertion from the records. However, it is pretty clear that early departure did indeed occur with House Wren and Brown Thrasher.

In the opposite time-direction, a few individuals typically linger well beyond the departure schedules they would do better to follow. Great Crested Flycatcher and Bay-breasted Warbler individuals took this course. Also, a high count of Tree Swallows occurred slightly later than in years past.

This October was not a big month for rare species. Loggerhead Shrike, always of high interest to area birders, was reported for single days from two coastal locations. Probably the most excitement was generated by the well-documented sighting of LeConte's Sparrow at the edge of the saltmarsh across from the Newburyport airstrip. The accompanying illustration was taken from Richard Heil's notebook.

L.E.T.



LeConte's Sparrow

Drawing from Richard Heil's notebook

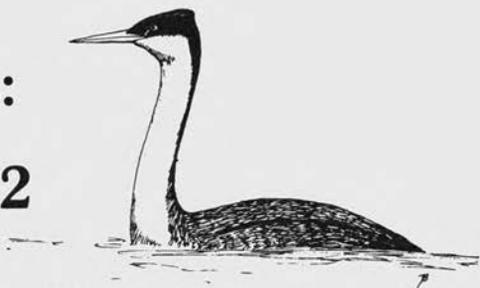
<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Western Kingbird: 5,23,24	MBO, P.I., Waltham	1, 1, 1	Staff,N.Hill,R.Stewart
Great Crested Flycatcher: 24,29	M.V.	1, 1	W.Manter#
Eastern Phoebe: 2-24	P.I.	7(max. 3 on 10/24)	v.o.
6-20	SRV	4(max. 3 on 10/6)	R.Walton
11-17	4 locations	5	v.o.
Eastern Wood-Pewee: 2+3	P'town	1	SSBC
Horned Lark: 10-17,30-31	Scituate, P.I.	10 max., 60	v.o.
Tree Swallow: 2,10	Nantucket,Barnstable	35, 35	BBC, D.Clapp
17,18	Orleans, Squantum	100+, <u>2000</u>	B.Nikula#, K.Ryan
26	M.V.	6	A.Brown#
Barn Swallow: 10	P'town	1	W.Petersen#
Common Raven: 3	Ashburnham	1	P.Roberts#
American Crow: 23,24	Mt. Wachusett,Ashburnham	130, 297	P.Roberts#
Fish Crow: 18,31	Newton	110, 272	N.+O.Komar
Tufted Titmouse: 16	P.I.	1	W.Petersen#
Red-breasted Nuthatch: 16,31	P'town	5, 6	L.Taylor#, SSBC
24,31	P.I.	1, 1	BBC
House Wren: 11	Westport	1	R.Stymeist
Winter Wren: 10-23,15	P.I.-Salisbury,Rockport	4 singles, 2	v.o., J.Grugan
17,31	Chatham, E.Middleboro	2, 1	W.Bailey#,K.Anderson
Carolina Wren: 10	Marshfield	1	H.Mallers
Marsh Wren: 2-3,31	Eastham, Marshfield	2, 3	SSBC, D.Brown#
Gray Catbird: 3;17,23	Nantucket; Marshfield	6; 1, 1	BBC; SSBC, BBC
17,30;18	P.I.; Belmont	2, 1; 1	BBC; L.Robinson
Brown Thrasher: 16,23	P.I., Salisbury	1, 1	BBC, H.Wiggin#
American Robin: 17	Belmont	225+ migrants in 15 min.	L.Taylor
Wood Thrush: 2	P.I.	1	BBC

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Hermit Thrush:			
3-21	6 locations	6	v.o.
4,19,20	SRV	2, 3, 1	R.Walton
10,17	Salisbury-P.I., Waltham	5, 9	R.Forster#, L.Taylor
19,23	Cambridge, Chatham	5, 3	F.Bouchard, B.Nikula
Swainson's Thrush:			
2-3,10	P'town, P.I.	3, 2	SSBC, BBC
15	Rockport	1	J.Grugan
Veery:			
3	Nantucket	1 b.	E.Andrews
Eastern Bluebird:			
5,30	Sandwich, Sudbury	7, 3 migrants	R.Pease, R.Forster
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:			
19	P'town	1	B.Nikula
Golden-crowned Kinglet:			
2-30	P.I.	55 max. (10/10)	v.o.
10-23	5 locations	16	v.o.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet:			
2-30	P.I.	70 max. (10/10)	v.o.
2-3,11	P'town, Lexington	5, 4	SSBC, J.Carter
Water Pipit:			
3;8,16	Nantucket; Newburyport	28; 50+, 30	R.Stymeist#; v.o.
6,21,24;17	SRV; P'town	17, 13, 14; 67	R.Walton;J.Heywood#
19,30	Framingham, Halifax	17, 25	R.Forster, W.Petersen
Cedar Waxwing:			
28	Wayland, Lincoln	20, 5	R.Forster
Loggerhead Shrike:			
14,23	Duxbury Beach,Eastham (F.H.)	1, 1	D.Clapp, G.Gove#
White-eyed Vireo:			
7	MNWS	1 imm.	R.Heil#
Solitary Vireo:			
2-3,10	P'town, P.I.	2, 2	SSBC, v.o.
23,31	Marshfield	1, 1	BBC, R.Stymeist#
Red-eyed Vireo:			
2-3,24	P'town, E.Middleboro	4, 1	SSBC, K.Anderson
Philadelphia Vireo:			
2-3	P'town	1	SSBC
Warbling Vireo:			
5	MNWS	1	R.Heil
Black-and-white Warbler:			
2-3,4	P'town,Boston Common	1, 1	SSBC, P.O'Neil
10,13	Marshfield, Westport	2, 1	H.Mallers, BBC
Tennessee Warbler:			
2-3,3	P'town, Salisbury	2, 1	SSBC, D.Lange#
10	P.I., Milton (F.M.)	1, 1	BBC, J.Paputseanos
Orange-crowned Warbler:			
4-19,19	MBO, Rockport	5 b., 1 b.	K.Anderson, R.Norris
5-24	8 locations	15	v.o.
29,30	S.Peabody, Chatham	1, 1	R.Heil#, B.Nikula
Nashville Warbler:			
2-17	3 locations	3	v.o.
17,28	Westport, Lynn	1, 1	B.Hallett#, R.Heil
Northern Parula:			
2-3,10	P'town, Marshfield	5, 1	SSBC, H.Mallers
Magnolia Warbler:			
2-3	P'town	1	SSBC
Cape May Warbler:			
2-3,22	P'town, Belmont	1, 1	SSBC, F.Bouchard
Black-throated Blue Warbler:			
2-3,9-15	P'town, 4 locations	4, 5	SSBC, v.o.
Yellow-rumped Warbler:			
2-17,2-16	P.I., P'town	300 max. (10/10),	500 max. (10/16) v.o.,v.o.
3,16	Weston, Eastham	200, 190	L.Robinson,R.Stymeist#
18,31	Squantum,Stellwagen Bank	120, 3	K.Ryan, BBC
Black-throated Green Warbler:			
10	Salisbury, P.I.	1, 1	K.Hamilton#
10	Milton (F.M.), Marshfield	1, 2	J.Paputseanos, H.Mallers
Bay-breasted Warbler:			
1,2-3	Nantucket, P'town	1, 1	BBC, SSBC

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Blackpoll Warbler:			
2-3,6	P'town, Belmont	12, 4	SSBC, L.Robinson
15-19,29	5 locations, Boston	7, 1	v.o., J.Grugan
Prairie Warbler:			
16	Truro, Eastham	1, 1	G.Gove#, J.Heywood#
31	Marshfield	1	D.Brown#
Palm Warbler:			
2-3,10	P'town, Marshfield	2, 4	SSBC, H.Mallers
10	P.I., Milton (F.M.)	8, 11	R.Forster#, J.Paputseanos
19,30	Belmont, P.I.	4, 1	F.Bouchard, BBC
Northern Waterthrush:			
10	P.I.	1	R.Forster#
Connecticut Warbler:			
2-3	P'town	1, 1	SSBC (Osbornes)
Common Yellowthroat:			
10	Salisbury-P.I., Lincoln	6, 1 m.	R.Forster, J.Carter
14,31	Belmont, Orleans	1, 1	L.Robinson, SSBC
Yellow-breasted Chat:			
3,18	P.I., Chatham	1, 1	D.Lange#, B.Nikula
Wilson's Warbler:			
2-3	P'town	1	SSBC
American Redstart:			
2-3,10	P'town, P.I.	8, 1	SSBC, BBC
10,17	Marshfield, P.I.	1, 1	H.Mallers, BBC
Bobolink:			
3,9	Nantucket, P.I.	20, 4	BBC, F.Bouchard
Eastern Meadowlark:			
2,8	Leicester, Newburyport	1, 8	D.Crompton#, J.Carter
Red-winged Blackbird:			
14,31	Walpole, Newton	1200, 16 ad. m.	R.Titus, O.Komar
Northern Oriole:			
16,31	Truro, Marshfield	2, 1	L.Taylor#, D.Brown#
Northern "Bullock's" Oriole:			
15,28	S.Peabody, Sandwich	1, 1	R.Heil, R.Pease
Rusty Blackbird:			
2-3,16	5 locations, Truro	31, 3	v.o., L.Taylor#
20,31	GMNWR, Littleton	150+, 36	G.Gove, J.Baird
Common Grackle:			
15,30	Boston, Rowley	115, 70	F.Bouchard, BBC
Brown-headed Cowbird:			
19,21	P'town, Concord	200, 175	B.Nikula, R.Forster
Rose-breasted Grosbeak:			
10	P.I., Truro	1, 5	R.Forster, W.Petersen#
Blue Grosbeak:			
2-17,3	Truro, Nantucket	5 max. (10/3), 4	v.o., R.Stymeist#
20,21	Yarmouth, Harwich	1, 2	R.Scott#, B.Nikula
Indigo Bunting:			
1,10-18	Lexington, Truro	1, 3	J.Andrews, v.o.
22,31	Newton, Truro	2, 1	O.Komar, SSBC
Dickcissel:			
11,15	Newton, Barnstable	1, 1	O.+N.Komar, R.Pease
16	Sudbury, Newburyport	1 m., 1	C.Cooper, W.Petersen
17,23	Truro, P'town	1, 1	D.Brown#, R.Heil
27-28,31	Shrewsbury, MBO	1 m., 1	N.+H.Ober, staff
Evening Grosbeak:			
14,24	Orleans, Ashburnham	1, 1	C.Goodrich, P.Roberts#
26	Framingham	5	K.Hamilton
Purple Finch:			
31	Marshfield	32	R.Stymeist#
White-winged Crossbill:			
13	Chatham	6	W.Bailey
Rufous-sided Towhee:			
3,15	Nantucket, Newton	3, 1	BBC, M.Greenwald#
16,24	P.I.	2, 1 m.	BBC, L.Taylor#
"Ipswich" Sparrow:			
24	Squantum	1	D.Brown#
Savannah Sparrow:			
2,3	P.I.-Salisbury, Nantucket	50, 70	BBC(McHales), BBC(Davis)
13,15	SRV, Newton	23, 28	R.Walton, O.Komar#

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Savannah Sparrow (continued):			
22,27	Newton, Belmont	13, 14	O.Komar#, F.Bouchard
Grasshopper Sparrow:			
2;5	Nantucket; Newton	1;1 (details),1(2 loc)	BBC(Davis);O.Komar#
8,21	Truro, Harwich	1, 1	R.Heil, B.Nikula
LeConte's Sparrow:			
31	Newburyport	1 (details)	R.Heil, J.Smith
Sharp-tailed Sparrow:			
3	GMNWR	1	L.Taylor#
17,31	Marshfield, Newburyport	6, 20	SSBC(B.Smyth), R.Heil
Seaside Sparrow:			
31	Newburyport	5	R.Heil
Vesper Sparrow:			
2,16;23	Wellfleet;P'town	max. 7; 3	L.Taylor#; R.Heil
19	Belmont	2	L.Robinson
	Ten individuals from as many locations		
Lark Sparrow:			
2,3	P.I., Nantucket	1, 1	BBC(McHales),BBC(Davis)
30	Squantum	1	D.Brown
Dark-eyed Junco:			
2,3	P.I., Nantucket	22, 24	BBC(McHales),BBC(Davis)
23	P.I., Salisbury	60, 80	M.Argue + H.Wiggin
Tree Sparrow:			
10	Salisbury	1	K.Hamilton
24	Squantum	15	D.Brown#
Chipping Sparrow:			
10	Salisbury-P.I.	45	K.Hamilton + R.Forster
16,17	S.Wellfleet, Truro	20, 18	R.Stymeist#
30	P.I.	1	BBC (Giriunas)
Clay-colored Sparrow:			
20,23,30	Sandwich,P.I.,Squantum	1,1,1	R.Pease,M.Argue+H.Wiggin,D.Brown
Field Sparrow:			
20	Belmont, Newton	12, 11	L.Robinson,O.+N.Komar
White-crowned Sparrow:			
10,18	P.I., Truro	8, 3	BBC(Olivers), R.Forster#
19,20	Belmont	3, 2	L.Robinson, F.Bouchard
24;31	SRV,Squantum;P'town	12,8;1	R.Walton, D.Brown;SSBC (Fox)
White-throated Sparrow:			
2,3	P.I., Weston	60, 150	BBC(McHales),L.Robinson
13,18	SRV, Lexington	67, 45	R.Walton, F.Bouchard
Fox Sparrow:			
10,16	P.I.,Salisbury	1, 1	BBC(Olivers),BBC(Grinley)
23,27	Woburn, SRV	1, 7	G.Gove#, R.Walton
	4 locations	4	v.o.
Lincoln's Sparrow:			
5,16	Newton, N.Easton	3, 3 (1 singing)	O.Komar#, R.Titus
31	Newton, Marshfield	1, 1	N.Komar, D.Brown#
	8 locations	10	v.o.
Swamp Sparrow:			
11,16	Belmont, Truro	6, 35	L.Taylor#
20	SRV, Newton	20, 8	R.Walton, N.Komar#
31	Wayland	10	E.Morrier
Song Sparrow:			
13,20	SRV	48, 74	R.Walton
18,20	Belmont	13, 23	F.Bouchard,L.Robinson
20	Newton	65	O.+N.Komar
Lapland Longspur:			
2,17	Scituate, Plymouth	5, 9	D.Clapp#, MBO Staff
23,24	Halifax, M.V.	4, 4	W.Petersen#, A.Brown#
Snow Bunting:			
10;23	P'town; P.I., Scituate	1;20,25	W.Petersen#;I.Giriunas,BBC(Harrington)
23	Halifax, Mt. Wachusett	6, 7	W.Petersen#, P.Roberts#
23-27	GMNWR	max. 7	v.o.
26,31	M.V., P.I.	20, 94	A.Brown#, P.Roberts#

Field Records: November 1982



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

November 1982 was fairly mild, though somewhat dry and cloudy; the temperature averaged 47.6°, 2.4° above normal, and this was the warmest November since 1979. The high temperature was a balmy 76° on the first, and the lowest temperature was 25° on the twenty-eighth. The first freeze of the season came three days later than average when the mercury hit just 32° on November 11. New record high minimum temperatures were set on November 4 and 12 when the low temperatures were 62° and 54° respectively. Though not to be taken as a serious forecast for the winter, the climatological statistics show that in the majority of cases a mild November is followed by a mild winter!

Precipitation totaled 3.42 inches, 1.09 inches less than normal. The most in any one day was 1.56 inches on the thirteenth. Snowfall was just a trace, and the first flakes fell on the fourteenth, a week later than the past average. Peak gusts of wind were recorded from the southwest on the thirteenth blowing back several migrants. Fog was frequent, with heavy fog on four days, double the normal number.

LOONS THROUGH IBIS

A Western Grebe of the dark morph was found at Duxbury Beach on November 28, probably the same bird that was present on the south shore last winter.

Thousands of Greater Shearwaters were reported off Nantucket on the third and 2000 were off North Beach on the eleventh. Last year over 15,000 were present at this location. A late Sooty Shearwater was reported also from North Beach on November 11. Manx Shearwaters were seen most of the month off Provincetown. Double-crested Cormorants lingered with as many as 16 reported from Newburyport on the thirtieth.

Hérons that may have been blown back north during the strong southwest winds in the first part of the month included many Cattle Egrets, 6 Little Blue Herons and 2 Snowy Egrets. A Glossy Ibis continued through the eighth at Nantucket and a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was found in the Quincy area on the sixth. R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Common Loon:			
6,14,24	P.I., S.N., Westport	12, 40, 40+	F.Bouchard, O.Komar#, L.Robinson
26,28	Nantucket, Duxbury Beach	35, 15	R.Stymeist#, W.Petersen#
Arctic Loon:			
28	Salisbury	1	A.+N.Clayton + v.o.
Red-throated Loon:			
6,7	P.I., Nahant	35, 7	F.Bouchard, BBC
6,14	Quincy Bay, S.N.	45, 10	D.Brown#, O.+N.Komar#
21,28	Nahant, Wellfleet	25, 34	R.Webber, C.Floyd#
Red-necked Grebe:			
20	Cape Ann	5	BBC
Horned Grebe:			
6,7	Lakeville, Nahant	10, 6	W.Petersen, BBC
13,30	Quincy Bay, Cape Ann	159, 18	D.Brown#, BBC
Western Grebe:			
28	Duxbury Beach	1 (dark morph)	D.Clapp, W.Petersen, W.Harrington
Pied-billed Grebe:			
6+26,7-31	Lakeville, Wellesley	7+8, max. 3	W.Petersen, K.Winkler
20,28	Braintree, Nantucket	4, 9	S.Higginbotham#, R.Stymeist#
	Other reports of 1-2 individuals from 9 locations		

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Northern Fulmar:			
2	e. of Newburyport	4	D.Abbott#
Greater Shearwater:			
2,3	e. of Newburyport, Nantucket	60, "thousands"	D.Abbott#, B.Bartlett
11,14	North Beach, Rockport	2000, 150	R.Comeau#, R.Heil#
Sooty Shearwater:			
11	North Beach	1	R.Comeau#
Manx Shearwater:			
11,14,21,28	P'town	5+, 4, 2; 1	W.Smith#; M.Greenwald#
Northern Gannet;			
12,13	Rockport, <u>Revere</u>	500, 33	K.Winkler#, R.Stymeist#
14	S.N., P'town	30, 2000+	O.+N.Komar#, B.Nikula#
20,27	Rockport, Nantucket	400+, 255	W.Smith#, R.Stymeist#
Great Cormorant:			
5,6	Lincoln, Lakeville	2, 4 imm.	R.Walton, W.Petersen
7,30	Boston Harbor, Cape Ann	150, 120	BBC
Double-crested Cormorant:			
13,14	Quincy, Scituate	3, 1	TASL, SSBC
26,30	Lakeville, Newburyport	1, <u>16</u>	W.Petersen, R.Heil
Great Blue Heron:			
7,8	GMNWR, Framingham	4, 4	R.Vernon#, S.Barrows
10,18	Saugus, P.I.	4, 8	J.Berry, D.Spencer#
Little Blue Heron:			
14-22,14	N.Scituate, N.Falmouth	4 imm., 1 imm.	H.Mallers, R.Stymeist#
15	Harwich	1 imm.	H.Stabins#
Cattle Egret:			
6-21	Ipswich	9-1	J.Berry + v.o.
7	Eastham, Marshfield	1, 1	D.Reynolds#, D.Brown#
7,7-11	N.Carver, Truro	3, 2	J.Tracy#, R.Comeau#
12-17	Nantucket	1	C.+E.Andrews#
Snowy Egret:			
6,7-21	Nantucket, Saugus	1, 1	E.Andrews, S.Zendeh# + v.o.
Black-crowned Night-Heron:			
14,22	Ipswich, Watertown	7, 3	BBC, R.Stymeist
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:			
6	Quincy Bay	1 imm.	D.Brown#
American Bittern:			
2,14+30	Nantucket, P.I.	1, 2 + 3	C.Andrews, BBC + R.Heil
Glossy Ibis:			
1-8	Nantucket	1	E.+C.Andrews

WATERFOWL

A Tundra Swan was present from midmonth on Nantucket where it remained through the end of December. On the same pond, a drake Eurasian Wigeon was found. The staff at the Parker River Wildlife Refuge continued to census the ducks there. Among the more interesting results were 240 Northern Pintail, 1510 Green-winged Teal, and 37 Northern Shovelers. Other interesting reports included another Eurasian Wigeon at Ipswich, Barrow's Goldeneye and Harlequin Ducks from four locations and a King Eider in Rockport. R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Mute Swan:			
7,28	Acoaxet, Nantucket	125+, 115	SSBC, R.Stymeist#
Tundra Swan:			
18-30	Nantucket	1 ad.	E.Andrews + v.o.
Canada Goose:			
6,7	Clinton, GMNWR	315, 475	B.Blodgett, R.Stymeist#
14,18	Ipswich (Maplecroft Farm), P.I.	550, 1425	J.Berry, D.Spencer
Brant:			
thr.	Quincy-Squantum	max. 220	v.o.
Snow Goose:			
6-18,12-30	P.I., Gloucester	max. 19, 1	v.o., v.o.
14,14-20	Ipswich, Marshfield	7, 7-8	J.Berry, W.Petersen+v.o.
Mallard:			
3,18	SRV, P.I.	77, 296	R.Walton, D.Spencer#

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
American Black Duck: 7,18	Boston Harbor(north),P.I.	800, 2008	BBC, D.Spencer#
Gadwall: 6 7,18	Ipswich, Peabody GMNWR, P.I.	160, 8 6, 38	R.Heil R.Vernon#, D.Spencer#
Northern Pintail: thr.,18	Yarmouthport, P.I.	max. 60, 240	J.Aylward, D.Spencer#
Green-winged Teal: 7,18	GMNWR, P.I.	60, 1510	R.Stymeist#,D.Spencer#
Green-winged "Eurasian" Teal: 24-30	Nantucket	1	E.Andrews# + v.o.
Blue-winged Teal: 6,14-20	Ipswich, Marshfield	2, 1	R.Heil, -R.Forster##+v.o.
Eurasian Wigeon: 6-30,18-30	Ipswich, Nantucket	1, 1	R.Heil+v.o.,E.Andrews+v.o.
American Wigeon: 6,7 11	Ipswich, GMNWR N.Scituate	220, 320 55	R.Heil, R.Stymeist# H.Mallers
Northern Shoveler: 6-22,6 18	GMNWR, Newton P.I.	max. 9, 1 37	v.o., J.Hines D.Spencer#
Wood Duck: 6;7	Ipswich; GMNWR, Weston	5; 18, 8	BBC; R.Stymeist#, J.Hines
Redhead: 7-20,14-25 14,20	Braintree, Arlington Falmouth, Jamaica Plain	1, 1 15, 1	W.Petersen# + v.o.,L.Taylor + v.o. R.Stymeist#, M.Dickey
Ring-necked Duck: 6,7 7,26	W.Newbury, Lakeville Acton, Lakeville	500+, 235 110, 100	BBC, W.Petersen W.Harvey#, W.Petersen
Canvasback: thr. 20,28	Cambridge, Lakeville Braintree, Nantucket	max. 138, max. 100 22, 160	v.o., v.o. S.Higginbotham,R.Stymeist#
Lesser Scaup: 14,24	Wellesley, Sharon	2, 2	K.Winkler, D.Clapp
Common Goldeneye: 5,6	Littleton, Melrose	2, 1	R.Walton, S.Zendeh
Barrow's Goldeneye: 14	Cape Ann	1	L.Robinson
Bufflehead: 7,13	Revere-Winthrop,Boston Harbor	1000, 1233	BBC, TASL
Oldsquaw: 26	Nantucket	30,000++	R.Stymeist#
Harlequin Duck: 8,12 on 28	N.Scituate, Gloucester E.Orleans, Nantucket	1, max. 8 3, 1	D.Clapp, K.Winkler# + v.o. J.Aylward#,K.Blackshaw#
Common Eider: 11,13 20,28	N.Scituate, Nahant Cape Ann, Nantucket Harbor	400, 2200 500, 600	H.Mallers, J.Heywood# BBC, R.Stymeist#
King Eider: 19-20	Rockport	1 f.	R.Heil + v.o.
White-winged Scoter: 7,11 13,26	Revere-Winthrop,N.Scituate Boston Harbor,Nantucket Sound	300, 100 409, 600	BBC, H.Mallers TASL, R.Stymeist#
Surf Scoter: 26	Nantucket Sound	700+	R.Stymeist#
Black Scoter: 11,20 26	N.Scituate, Cape Ann Nantucket Sound	45, 200 100+	H.Mallers, BBC R.Stymeist#
Ruddy Duck: 7 6,29	Waltham (Hardy Pond),Braintree Southboro, Waltham (Camb. Res.)	160, 144 59, 80	J.Andrews, W.Petersen B.Blodgett, R.Forster
Hooded Merganser: thr. 7 11 14	Waltham (Camb. Res.) Winchester, Braintree P.I., Arlington Falmouth, Ipswich	max. 13 6, 6 5, 22 3, 8	v.o. G.Gove, W.Petersen G.Gove#, J.Andrews R.Stymeist#, BBC
Common Merganser: thr. 20,23	Waltham (Camb. Res.) Wellesley, Lincoln (Sandy Pond)	max. 80 6, 45	v.o. K.Winkler, R.Forster

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Red-breasted Merganser: 3,14	Wollaston Bay, P'town	850, 4000+	S.Higginbotham, B.Nikula#

RAPTORS

Six Goshawks were reported from as many localities; last year twelve were reported. A Golden Eagle was noted from Provincetown on November 28. The strong southwest winds in the earlier part of the month contributed to a blow-back of Ospreys with eleven reported. Only one Peregrine was noted all month. R.H.S.

Goshawk:			
6,10	Marshfield, Nahant	1, 1 ad.	D.Brown, R.Heil
13,14	Wellesley, P.I.	1 ad., 1 imm.	K.Winkler, S.Henderson#
16,28	Lincoln, Nantucket	1 ad., 1	J.Baird, S.Perkins#
Sharp-shinned Hawk:			
thr.		10 individuals reported from 6 locations	
Cooper's Hawk:			
8,14	Marshfield, Sandwich	1, 1	D.Clapp, N.Komar
21,24,30	P.I., DFWS, Cape Ann	1 imm., 1 imm., 1	P.Roberts#, R.Forster, J.Nove#
Red-shouldered Hawk:			
27	Marshfield	1	D.Brown
Rough-legged Hawk:			
6	Ipswich, Orleans	1, 1	BBC, P.Hallowell#
9	Nantucket, Saugus	2, 1	E.Andrews#, J.Berry
Golden Eagle:			
28	P'town	1 imm.	A.Faulkner, M.Payne
Bald Eagle:			
27	Lakeville, Nantucket	1 imm., 1 imm.	G.Gove#, S.Perkins
Northern Harrier:			
14	Salisbury-Newburyport	11	P.Roberts
26-28	Nantucket	8+	J.Heywood#
Osprey:			
1-24,1	Harwich, Wayland	1, 1	H.Stabins#, R.Forster
7-28,7	Lakeville, Peabody	1, 3	B.Sorrie#+v.o., R.Heil
7,8	GMNWR, Framingham	1, 1	R.Stymeist#, S.Barrows
10,14,19	Wayland, GMNWR, Weston	1, 1, 1	R.Forster, G.Gove, L.Robinson
Peregrine Falcon:			
21	Monomoy	1 ad.	R.Clem
Merlin:			
11,27	P.I., Nantucket	3, 1	L.Taylor#, R.Stymeist#

RAILS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Many shorebirds lingered this fall; among them were American Oystercatcher (11/18), Lesser Golden-Plover (11/6), Lesser Yellowlegs (11/18), Semipalmated Sandpiper (11/30), Western Sandpiper (11/3), Marbled Godwit (11/7, continuing since September in East Boston), and a very late Stilt Sandpiper (11/9). The maximum daily count of Killdeer reported was 250 in Ipswich where another observer noted low numbers of Black-bellied Plover saying that usually there are 200 or so into December. Red and Red-necked phalaropes were seen in the fog on a pelagic trip out of Newburyport on November 2, and Red Phalaropes were seen at Rockport on the thirteenth after two days of southwest winds.

Lesser Black-backed Gulls are becoming routine in certain coastal locations and, judging by reports, are more common than Black-headed Gulls which first appeared here in 1930. A Forster's Tern was noted on the eleventh, Common Terns on November 28, and an adult-plumaged Roseate Tern was "well-seen at rest and in flight in direct comparison with two immature Common Terns" on the eleventh in Provincetown. Black Terns were reported on November 21 and to the end of the month from Provincetown and Chatham, the former location having up to three last month. Except for Common Terns, all of the others have normally departed by the end of September. All of the normally occurring alcids were represented this month.

A Barred Owl again made Cambridge its preferred winter home this year, cleaning up the rats in Harvard Square near the Brattle Theater and in Harvard Yard. Not unusual but worthy of note was an immature Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in Arlington. More noteworthy was a Black-backed (three toed) Woodpecker in Brewster, so far the only northern irruptive reported. G.W.G.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Clapper Rail:			
thr.,12	WBWS, Brewster	max. 3, 1	R.Prescott, H.Stabins
Virginia Rail:			
21,29	Lakeville, Middleboro	2, 1	D.Briggs + K.Holmes
American Coot:			
thr.	Lakeville, GMNWR	max.225 (11/26),	max. 125 (11/21) v.o.
7-20,thr.	Braintree, Ipswich	max. 75, max. 30	v.o.
6,7	Melrose, Acoaxet	6, 12	S.Zendeh, SSBC
18,28	P.I., Nantucket	51, 120	D.Spencer, J.Heywood#
American Oystercatcher:			
18	Chatham	1	W.Bailey
Semipalmated Plover:			
6	Quincy, Scituate	2, 6	D.Brown, W.Petersen
14,30	Barnstable, P.I.	1, 1	O.+N.Komar, J.Smith#
Killdeer:			
6,7	Ipswich, E.Boston-Nahant	250, 10	R.Heil, S.Zendeh
7-20	Wellesley	max. 17 (11/7)	K.Winkler
24	Sharon	2	D.Clapp
Lesser Golden-Plover:			
6	Rowley	3	R.Heil
Black-bellied Plover:			
6,7	Scituate, Winthrop	150, 80	W.Petersen, BBC (Zendeh)
13,14	N.Quincy, Ipswich	15, 15	TASL, J.Berry
28	Duxbury	20	W.Petersen
Ruddy Turnstone:			
7,10	Boston Harbor, Winthrop	7, 30	BBC (Zendeh), R.Heil
28	Duxbury	3	W.Petersen
American Woodcock:			
14;22	Cambridge,Falmouth;Dedham	1, 1; 1	L.Taylor,R.Emery#;J.Marshall
Common Snipe:			
14	Marshfield	1	SSBC (Petersen)
Greater Yellowlegs:			
3,9,18	Nantucket	49, 27, 14	C.+E.Andrews
14	Newburyport, Rowley	12, 7	BBC (Giriunas), J.Berry
14	Scituate, Barnstable	3, 3	W.Petersen,O.+N.Komar
18	P.I.	10	D.Spencer#
Lesser Yellowlegs:			
6,14,18	Quincy Bay, Rowley, P.I.	2, 1, 2	D.Brown,J.Berry,D.Spencer#
Red Knot:			
6,7,14	Scituate	25, 60, 20	W.Petersen#,D.Brown,SSBC
28	Duxbury	120	W.Petersen#
Purple Sandpiper:			
7,14,20	N.Scituate	150, 310, 420	D.Brown#,H.Mallers,G.Gove#
7	Acoaxet,Boston-Nahant	45, 30	SSBC(Higginbotham), BBC(Zendeh)
13,14	Lynn,Scituate-Marshfield	85, 75+	R.Stymeist#, SSBC(Petersen)
12	Rockport	max. 60 (11/12)	K. Winkler
20,26	Cape Ann, Nantucket	150, 30	BBC(Heil), R.Stymeist#
Pectoral Sandpiper:			
4,6	GMNWR, P.I.	1, 1	M.McCarthy, BBC(King)
6	Bridgewater, Halifax	13, 10	W.Petersen
White-rumped Sandpiper:			
6	Halifax, Quincy Bay	5, 3	W.Petersen, D.Brown#
7,14;18	Scituate; Quincy	2, 1; 1	D.Brown#, R.Forster#; L.Robinson
11,15	P.I.	2, 1	G.Gove, M.McClellan
Dunlin:			
6	Quincy Bay, Scituate	470, 600	D.Brown#, W.Petersen
7	P.I., Winthrop	1500,3000	L.Robinson, BBC
7	Dartmouth	150	SSBC
6,18	P.I.	2000, 1956	R.Heil, D.Spencer#
27,28	Newburyport, Duxbury	250, 500+	L.Robinson,W.Petersen#
Long-billed Dowitcher:			
6-7,8,14,21	P.I. 7,2,3,1	R.Heil, M.McClellan, BBC(Giriunas), L.Robinson	
Stilt Sandpiper:			
9	P.I.	1	R.Heil
Semipalmated Sandpiper:			
6,9	Bridgewater, Newburyport	1,1,	W.Petersen, R.Heil
sandpiper sp.			
27,30	Newburyport	1, 3	L.Robinson, R.Heil
Western Sandpiper:			
28,30	Duxbury, P.I.	1, 1	W.Petersen, R.Heil

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Marbled Godwit:			
1-7	E.Boston	1	S.Zendeh
Sanderling:			
6,9	Quincy Bay, Scituate	35, 30	D.Brown
Red Phalarope:			
2,13	e. of Newburyport, Rockport	225, 350	D.Abbott, R.Heil
Red-necked Phalarope:			
2	e. of Newburyport	60	D.Abbott
Glaucous Gull:			
15,17	Manomet	1	MBO Staff
14,27	Gloucester	1	R.Heil, BBC(Albee)
20	Sudbury	1 imm.	R.Forster
Iceland Gull:			
3,18	Quincy, Weymouth	1, 1	S.Higginbotham, L.Robinson
14,21	P'town, Gloucester	4 ad.+3 imm., 1	W.Smith, SSBC(Kenneally)
Lesser Black-backed Gull:			
8,13	Nantucket, Gloucester	1 ad., 1 ad.	E.Andrews#, R.Heil#
11,14	P'town	2, 3 ad.	B.Nikula#
13,16	Scituate, Plymouth	1 ad., 1	D.Clapp, MBO Staff
Ring-billed Gull:			
6	Bridgewater	450	W.Petersen
Black-headed Gull:			
6,13	Quincy Bay, Winthrop	1, 1	TASL
Laughing Gull:			
2,7,13	e. of Newburyport, E.Boston, Boston Harbor	1,15,83	D.Abbott, BBC(Zendeh), TASL
11-14,14	Chatham, Barnstable	50, 2	B.Nikula, O.+N.Komar
28	Nantucket, Wellfleet	1, 4	R.Stymeist, G.Gove#
Bonaparte's Gull:			
7,14	Newburyport	150, 115	J.Berry, BBC(Giriunas)
7	Nahant, Acoaxet	400, 30	BBC(Zendeh), SSBC(Higginbotham)
20,24,28	Rockport, Westport, Ipswich	120,250,150	BBC(Heil), L.Robinson, J.Berry
Black-legged Kittiwake:			
2;13,20	e. of Newburyport; Rockport	117; 500, 250	D.Abbott; R.Heil
14,28	P'town	50+, 300	W.Smith#, M.Greenwald#
Forster's Tern:			
7	Westport	3	SSBC(Higginbotham)
Common Tern:			
11,28	P'town	12, 2 imm.	B.Nikula#, C.Floyd#
28	Chatham	1	W.+P.Bailey
Roseate Tern:			
11	P'town	1 ad.	B.Nikula#
Black Tern:			
21-30,21	Chatham, P'town	1, 1	W.+P.Bailey, R.Comeau#
alcid sp.			
20;19,25	Rockport	2; 42, 60	H.Wiggin#; R.Heil
Razorbill:			
7,20	Scituate, Rockport	1, 50	D.Brown#, W.Smith#
26,28;28	Nantucket; P'town	1, 2; 9	R.Stymeist#; M.Greenwald#
Common Murre:			
7	Scituate	1	D.Brown#
Thick-billed Murre:			
20	Rockport, Wellfleet	15, 1	BBC(Heil), A.Lyford
Dovekie:			
14,20	Rockport	1, 8	R.Heil#, W.Smith#
14,20-27	P'town, Wellfleet	1, 3	B.Nikula#, A.Lyford#
Black Guillemot:			
20,27	Rockport	8, 1	W.Smith#, BBC(Albee)
Eastern Screech-Owl:			
6-26	Wellesley	1 (red ph.)	K.Winkler
20,27	Marshfield, Bridgewater	1, 1	C.Floyd#, G.Gove#
Great Horned Owl:			
14;14,25	Salisbury; Ipswich	1; 1, 1	P.Roberts#; BBC(Giriunas), J.Berry
26	Osterville	1	J.Berry
Snowy Owl:			
17	P.I.	1	D.Spencer#
Barred Owl:			
8-30	Cambridge	1	R.Paynter + v.o.
Long-eared Owl:			
28	Lexington	1	J.Andrews

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
<u>Short-eared Owl:</u>			
1,14-18	Squantum, P.I.	1, 2	R.Abrams, v.o.
14,26	Eastham, Nantucket	1, 2	R.Comeau, R.Stymeist
28	Duxbury, Marshfield	2, 1	W.Petersen#, D.Clapp
<u>Belted Kingfisher:</u>			
6 individuals from 6 locations			
<u>Northern Flicker:</u>			
7;14	E.Boston;Belmont,Marshfield	1; 1, 2	BBC; L.Taylor, SSBC
<u>Pileated Woodpecker:</u>			
thr.	Yarmouth	1 m.	P.Trimble
22,28	Littleton, Wellesley	1, 1 m.	M.deCamillis,K.Winkler
<u>Red-bellied Woodpecker:</u>			
1,8	MBO, Beverly	1, 1	Staff, R.Heil
8,16-21	MNWS, Holden	1, 1 m.	J.Smith, fide R.Forster
<u>Red-headed Woodpecker:</u>			
2,3	Lovell, Rutland	1 imm., 1 imm.	M.Mayotte, R.Sargent
15,16-20	Whitman, Needham	1 imm., 1 imm.	D.Clapp, W.Weston
<u>Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:</u>			
7	Arlington	1 imm.	L.Taylor
<u>Black-backed Woodpecker:</u>			
2	Brewster	1	R.Fisher fide R.Forster

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SNOW BUNTINGS

As in the preceding month, November records showed little sign of arrival of the winter irruptive species, at least among passerines. Only a handful of Red-breasted Nuthatch reports were received, and not a single Boreal Chickadee was detected. Northern Shrike numbers were about average compared to November recently past. The finch flight was virtually a total washout, consisting of a few Evening Grosbeak reports, and a single Pine Siskin.

Some individual birds, particularly within the vireo and warbler genera, did linger to constitute interesting records. Given all of the southwesterly wind flow, one might have expected most of the late individuals to be "blowbacks". Comparison of the record dates with the weather, however, indicated little if any reverse migration effect. The Warbling Vireo banded at Manomet was almost two months beyond typical departure dates, as was the Blue-winged Warbler which spent most of the month at Marshfield. Around Thanksgiving time, a suet feeder in Pembroke hosted a Pine Warbler.

Rarities for November were very sparse, but the one which is worthy of mention was certainly most unusual. A Jackdaw, the small European corvid, was seen and heard near Tom Nevers Head on Nantucket. The bird was photographed though at a distance due to its wariness. Since there are no known records for this species on this side of the Atlantic, this individual's origins are suspect. Further details on this sighting will be published subsequently.

L.E.T.

<u>Western Kingbird:</u>			
7,17	Manomet, N.Falmouth	1, 1	MBO Staff, P.Kyle#
20-26,20-28	Gloucester, Marshfield	1, 1	W.Smith#, D.Clapp#
30	Natick	1	R.Barnes
<u>Horned Lark:</u>			
6-18,26	P.I.-Salisbury,E.Bridgewater	50 max. (11/6), 80	v.o., W.Petersen
<u>Tree Swallow:</u>			
7	GMNWR, Acoaxet/Westport	1, 4 + 3	v.o., SSBC
11,15,16	P.I.	1, 2, 1	v.o.
<u>Barn Swallow:</u>			
6,7	Nantucket	2, 1 (different loc.)	E.Andrews
8,9-11	Plymouth Beach, P.I.	1, 3	W.Smith#, v.o.
12	Rockport	3	K.Winkler
<u>Fish Crow:</u>			
1,20	Newton, Wayland	22, 60	O.+N.Komar, R.Forster
21	Sudbury	20	R.Forster
<u>Jackdaw (origins unknown):</u>			
28-30	Nantucket	1	S.Perkins, R.Stymeist, J.Heywood
<u>Red-breasted Nuthatch:</u>			
18,19	Middleboro, Wellesley	1, 1	D.Briggs, L.Robinson
27,29	Nantucket, Lakeville	5, 1	R.Stymeist#, K.Holmes

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Brown Creeper: thr.	7 locations	9 total	v.o.
House Wren: 17	Falmouth	1	R.Heil#
Winter Wren: 5,14 17 20,21	Nahant, Ipswich Falmouth, Norwell Sudbury, Wellesley	3, 1 4, 1 1, 1	R.Heil, BBC R.Heil, D.Clapp R.Forster, K.Winkler
Carolina Wren: 1-21,6+27 7,17	Attleboro, Marshfield Acoaxet, Falmouth	2 max., 1+2 1, 16	D.Keil, D.Brown SSBC, R.Heil
Marsh Wren: 7,10 11,14 30	GMNWR, Swampscott Lexington, Marshfield Newburyport, Medfield	1, 1 1, 2 1, 1	BBC, R.Heil J.Andrews, SSBC R.Heil, J.Marshall
Gray Catbird: 7,14-17 27,28	Acoaxet, Falmouth Nantucket	2, 4 max. 1, 1	SSBC, v.o. R.Stymeist#
Brown Thrasher: 14,17	N.Falmouth, Falmouth	2, 1	R.Stymeist#, R.Heil#
American Robin: 6,7 21,24 28,30	Waltham, Acoaxet Lakeville, SRV Waltham, Cape Ann	70+ (migrants),13 50+, 16 12 (migrants), 4	L.Taylor, SSBC D.+J.Briggs, R.Walton L.Taylor, BBC
Hermit Thrush: 7 14-17	Newton, Bridgewater Falmouth	1, 1 3 max.	N.+O.Komar#, BBC v.o.
Eastern Bluebird: 1-9	Concord	2	R.Hale#
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 6,17	Waltham, SRV	1, 2	L.Taylor, R.Walton
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 6,14	P.I., Ipswich	2, 1	BBC
Water Pipit: 6,7	Halifax, Bridgewater	6, 35	W.Petersen, BBC
Cedar Waxwing: 2,5 8-29,22 28	Worcester, Lincoln Wellesley, Littleton Concord	10, 9 169 max. (11/21), 37	D.Crompton#, R.Forster# 75 K.Winkler, v.o. R.Walton
Northern Shrike: 13-18,14-20 17,28	P.I., Marshfield SRV, Wayland	1 max., 1 ad. 2, 1	v.o. R.Walton, R.Forster
Warbling Vireo: 11	MBO	1 b.	Staff
Blue-winged Warbler: 6-27	Marshfield(Ferry Hill)	1	D.Brown#
Orange-crowned Warbler: 5,10;10 11,19 21,20-21	Nahant; MBO Salisbury, Nantucket Watertown, Arlington	2, 1; 1 b. 1, 1 1, 1	R.Heil; Staff G.Gove#, E.Andrews M.Hall, J.Heywood#
Nashville Warbler: 5,17	Nahant, Falmouth	1, 1	R.Heil#
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 14,21 26-28,28	Falmouth, Wollaston Nantucket, P'town	50+, 500(max.) 500+, 100	R.Stymeist#, H.Walsh R.Stymeist, M.Greenwald#
Blackpoll Warbler: 6	Wellesley	1	K.Winkler
Pine Warbler: 25-28	Pembroke	1	E.Pearson
Palm Warbler: 6-30,27	3 locations, Nantucket	5 total, 34	v.o., R.Stymeist#
Common Yellowthroat: 14	Falmouth	1	R.Stymeist
Yellow-breasted Chat: 17-21,19-30 29	Falmouth, Orleans MBO	1 max., 1 1	v.o., B.Tirrell Staff
Bobolink: 7	Marshfield	1	D.Brown#

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Eastern Meadowlark:			
14	Essex, Marshfield	26, 4	BBC, SSBC
Red-winged Blackbird:			
7	Concord, Westport	18, 200	BBC, SSBC
13,26	Cambridge, Halifax	2, 5	N.Komar, W.Petersen
Northern Oriole:			
30	N.Scituate	1 imm.	E.Burbank
Rusty Blackbird:			
2	MBO	2	Staff
Common Grackle:			
7	GMNWR	1	BBC
Brown-headed Cowbird:			
3,6-7	SRV, Bridgewater	33, 500	R.Walton, v.o.
6,7	Rowley, Westport	275, 100	F.Bouchard, SSBC
Blue Grosbeak:			
7-10	M.V. (W.Tisbury)	1	v.o.
Dickcissel:			
7,8-28	Nantucket, Marshfield	2, 2	E.Van Duyne#, D.Clapp#
21	Brookline	1	H.Wiggin
Evening Grosbeak:			
1,28	Baldwinville, Lexington	1, 7	J.O'Regan, J.Andrews
29,30	Middleboro, Cohasset	5, 22	K.Holmes, H.Mallers
Purple Finch:			
7,14	Belmont, Marshfield	10, 10	L.Taylor, SSBC
18	Lexington	8	P.Roberts
Pine Siskin:			
6	Braintree	1	D.Brown#
Rufous-sided Towhee:			
7,13	Acoaxet, Manchester	1, 1	SSBC, BBC
13-15,13-21	Marlboro, Wellesley	1, 1 f.	B.Parker, K.Winkler
17,27	Falmouth, Marshfield	13, 2	R.Heil#, D.Brown
Savannah Sparrow:			
24	SRV	2	R.Walton
"Ipswich" Sparrow:			
14,21	Scituate, Salisbury	10, 2	SSBC, BBC
28	Duxbury Beach	3	W.Petersen#
Sharp-tailed Sparrow:			
9-30, 14	Newburyport, Marshfield	3, 1	R.Heil#, SSBC
Seaside Sparrow:			
6,9-30	Scituate, Newburyport	2, 7	W.Petersen, R.Heil
Lark Sparrow:			
7,9	Nantucket (Quidnet), MBO	1, 1 b.	M.Depue#, Staff
27	Nantucket (Bartlett Farm)	1	J.Heywood#
Dark-eyed Junco:			
1,18	Baldwinville, Lexington	40, 18	J.O'Regan, P.Roberts
Tree Sparrow:			
10,19	SRV, Lexington	80, 200+	R.Walton, J.Carter
28	Waltham	65	L.Taylor
Chipping Sparrow:			
3,6	SRV, Salisbury	2, 1	R.Walton, BBC
White-crowned Sparrow:			
13,27	Wellesley, Nantucket	2 imm., 1 imm.	K.Winkler, R.Stymeist#
Field Sparrow:			
7,28	Braintree, Middleboro	8, 10	W.Petersen, D.Briggs#
White-throated Sparrow:			
17,29	Falmouth, Brookline	140, 5	R.Heil#, H.Wiggin
Fox Sparrow:			
1,3	Baldwinville, SRV	3, 3	J.O'Regan, R.Walton
7,11	Lexington, Salisbury	4, 5	L.Taylor, P.Hallowell
6-25	7 locations	12 total	v.o.
26,28	Halifax, Belmont	2, 1	W.Petersen, L.Taylor
Lincoln's Sparrow:			
7	Marshfield	2	D.Brown#
Swamp Sparrow:			
14	Marshfield-Scituate	12	SSBC
Song Sparrow:			
3,19	SRV, Lexington	19, 50+	R.Walton, J.Carter
Lapland Longspur:			
3,7	Plymouth Beach, Acoaxet	50, 1	L.Messich#, SSBC

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Snow Bunting:			
3-8,6-18	Plymouth Beach,P.I.-Salisbury	200 max., 900 max.	W.Smith#, v.o.
7,11	Dartmouth, Ipswich	180, 225+	SSBC, J.Berry
14,25	Belmont, Lexington	30, 40	L.Taylor, J.Andrews
27,28	Rockport, P'town	20, 25	BBC, M.Greenwald#

ADDENDUM FOR SEPT. 1982

Eurasian Wigeon:			
25	Nantucket	1 male	B. Nikula#

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ad.	adult	F.M.	Fowl Meadow, Milton
alt.	alternate (plumage)	gr.	greater as in Gr.Boston area
b.	banded	I.	Island
br.	breeding	M.V.	Martha's Vineyard
dk.	dark (phase)	Mt.A.	Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge
f.	female	Nant.	Nantucket
fl.	ledge	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)	GBBCC	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

DON'T GO TO CANADA WITHOUT THESE BOOKS!

Still available is Roger Burrows' *Birdwatcher's Guide To Atlantic Canada, Vol 1*: covers all islands and ferry routes in Canada's great Northeast (Newfoundland, Maritimes, Bluenose, Labrador, Coasts). *Volume 2* concentrates on Nova Scotia, Cape Breton, Bay of Fundy and is due out February 1. \$7 each postpaid, \$13 for two, \$20 for three. Fred Bouchard, 9 Walnut St., Belmont 02179 MA. The book is a thorough, insightful companion for birdseekers, well-indexed and illustrated by the ornithologist/author, Vol 1 has 175pp; Vol 2 may exceed 200pp.

REPORT OF A YELLOW-BILLED LOON: COMMENTARY

by Richard A. Forster, Framingham

On 14 November 1982, six observers were studying loons at Salisbury beach. Both Common (Gavia immer) and Red-throated (G. stellata) loons were present for comparison, and during the course of their observation, they noticed a particular individual that appeared different. They studied the loon for slightly more than an hour, took notes in the field, and made sketches which they submitted with their report. Their conclusion was that the bird was probably a Yellow-billed Loon (Gavia adamsii).

Most of the current popular field guides treat both Common and Yellow-billed loons but provide only perfunctory clues to specific identification. Observers on the west coast, where Yellow-billed Loon is a rare but annual winter visitor from Washington to northern California, recognize the difficulty in separating the two species in non-breeding (basic) plumage. In a detailed article on the field identification of the Yellow-billed Loon (Western Birds, Vol. 5, No. 4, 1974), L. C. Binford and J. V. Remsen, Jr., examine this problem at length. Using the salient points of their paper, I offer the following brief analysis of the Yellow-billed Loon report from Salisbury.

This report describes several specific characteristics that were considered different - size, head, bill, neck and back. Each of these will be presented in this note and compared with the Western Birds article.

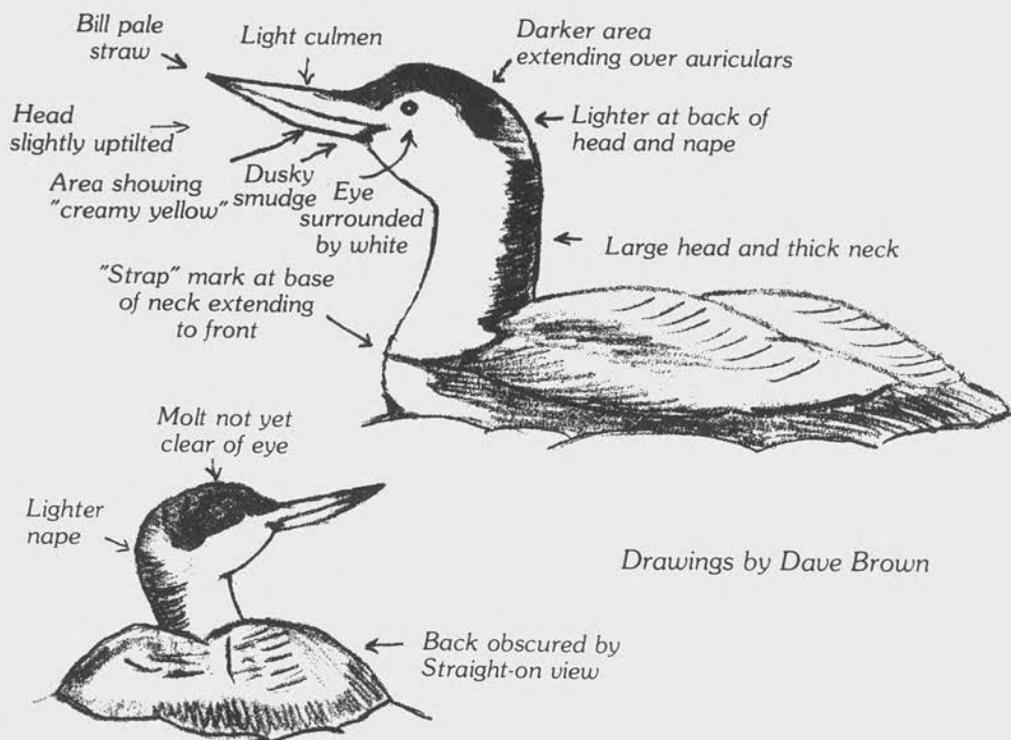
The observers noted that the loon was large, at least as large as the Commons, and it dwarfed a Red-throated Loon that was seen in direct comparison. Within both species the males average larger than the females although for the same age and sex, Yellow-bills average larger. Binford and Remsen point out, however, that there is extensive variation in most dimensions, especially among Commons, and that there is considerable overlap between the two species. Although size can be used as an indicator, it cannot be used to determine specific identity.

The six observers thought the head looked massive in proportion to the body, and the head to body ratio seemed greater than in the nearby Commons. One observer described the head as "bulbous." Also, the neck was considered thick and heavy. Binford and Remsen state that the Yellow-billed Loon has a disproportionately thick neck, the result of longer neck feathers, and this causes the body and especially the head to appear smaller.

Bill shape is an indicator for specific identity. The observers mentioned that the upper mandible was straight to

the tip where there was only the faintest hint of a "slight tiny decurve." This is consistent with the Yellow-billed Loon but is a subjective distinction even when seen at close range. They also stated that there was a sharp gonydeal angle. Binford and Remsen measured a large number of specimens and arrived at a mean gonydeal angle of 190.7° for Common and 191.2° for Yellow-billed. Thus, the degree of gonydeal angularity seems hardly a useful field characteristic. Another field mark mentioned by the observers was that the bill was totally light, including the culmen. A pale culmen is one of the definitive field marks for identifying Yellow-billed Loon. The culmen of the Common Loon is usually dark almost to the tip in most individuals and in all individuals at least the basal half of the culmen is dark. The closest the Salisbury bird was seen was estimated to be 175 yards in a rolling surf. Was the culmen actually pale or did it only appear pale?

Another definitive field mark for Yellow-billed Loon is a dark auricular (ear) patch located about one inch posterior to, and slightly below, the eye. The patch is roughly the size of a dime and is usually connected with the dark crown by less dark coloration. The area immediately behind the ear patch is pale, leading to the darker hind neck. Although the observers alluded to a patch of darker brown running from the crown down into the auricular area, the detailed sketches fail to show the distinctive ear patch.



Two sketches submitted by the Salisbury group show an extension of dark ("strap mark") onto the foreneck from the side of the body at the base of the neck. The Western Birds article states that the malar region, chin, throat and foreneck of both species are whitish except that most individuals of the Common Loon have dusky flecking across the anteriormost part of the neck. This extension is much paler in the Yellow-billed Loon and may be lacking in many individuals.

In sum, there are characteristics of the Salisbury loon that are suggestive of Yellow-billed Loon while other field marks point to Common Loon. Considering the extreme rarity of Yellow-billed Loon in eastern North America, the record should best be considered a hypothetical sighting. However, the observers are to be congratulated for making detailed notes and sketches which prove extremely useful in evaluating records of vagrant species. If more observers would make such diligent efforts, the aura of doubt around many records could be better eliminated.

RICHARD A. FORSTER, Assistant Director of Natural History Services at Massachusetts Audubon Society, is chairman of the Records Committee which investigates and evaluates reports of "rare birds," that is, sightings unusual as to species, numbers, location, or season.

The report of the Yellow-billed Loon was submitted by Dave Brown, Glenn d'Entremont, Erik Nielsen, Robert Campbell, and Herman D'Entremont.

SPRING HAWK WATCH

The Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch will conduct coordinated weekend watches on three weekends this spring. Coastal sites, especially on Cape Cod, Crane's Beach, and Plum Island, present the best opportunities on April 16-17. Both coastal and inland sites offer excellent opportunities on April 23-24 and April 30-May 1, weather permitting. Volunteer observers are needed for all three weekends. No experience is required, and your help on any date would be appreciated.

We are also seeking individuals who can hawkwatch (if the weather is favorable) on Plum Island on any days between April 10 and May 7 or on Wachusett Mountain between April 20 and May 7.

If you would like to participate in the watch, or if you need additional information, please contact:

Paul Roberts, 254 Arlington Street, Medford, MA 02155
Telephone: 617/ 483-4263 (after 8 P.M.).

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HAWK MIGRATION CONFERENCE: MARCH 25 - 27, 1983

"Hawkwatching Beyond the Numbers" is the theme of Hawk Migration Conference IV, to be held in Rochester, New York March 25-27. Sponsored by the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA) and the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association, the program will actually begin on the evening of March 24 with an illustrated talk on the Bald Eagle Restoration project in New York and a film on hang gliding with hawks.

Friday morning, the conference will focus on "Weather, Geography, and Migration," with papers on the flocking behavior of soaring migrants, individual flight patterns, and a paper by Neal Smith on "Thermals, cloud streets, trade winds, and tropical storms; how migrating raptors make the most out of environmental energy in Central America." S.A. Gauthreaux will also present a paper on "Age and sex differences in the orientation and wintering ranges of raptors."

The Friday afternoon session is on the migration of individual species: Turkey Vulture, Northern Goshawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, and Golden Eagle. W. Cochran will speak on "Nocturnal migration and coastal concentration of immature Peregrine Falcons: is the adult male pelagic?"

Friday evening, R. F. Porter, the lead author of the classic Flight Identification of European Raptors, will present an illustrated review of Old World raptor migration.

Saturday morning's session is on "Collecting and Using Numbers," including papers on how to count, what optical instruments to use, how the number of observers might affect a count, and what ground-based observers might be missing. (What are noon lulls?)

The Saturday afternoon session is on "New Frontiers and Alternative Techniques." Topics include the use of radar, and exciting new material on migrations in Alaska, northwestern Canada, California and other western states, Louisiana, and South Carolina. Lack of space prevents listing all the papers that will be given; a full program is available from the address given below.

Saturday evening, Yossi Leshem, the world-renowned director of the Israel Raptor Information Center, will be the featured speaker at the conference banquet. Leshem will present an illustrated talk on raptor migration in Israel.

Sunday, weather permitting, there will be hawkwatching at Braddock Bay, one of the continent's premier spring hawkwatching sites, during the peak of the Red-shouldered Hawk and Golden Eagle migration. Should inclement weather prevail, some of the world's best films on raptors will be shown at the Marriot Hotel, where the conference will be held.

The registration fee for the conference is only \$15. The Saturday evening banquet is an additional \$20 for registrants; \$25 for those unregistered. For complete information on the program, registration procedures, travel, and accommodations, contact: Paul M. Roberts, 254 Arlington Street, Medford, MA 02155. Telephone: 617/ 483-4263 (after 8 P.M.).



Brookline Bird Club

Special 70th Anniversary Weekend

CHRISTOPHER LEAHY

Staff Naturalist and Tour Leader for Massachusetts Audubon Society and author of *THE BIRDWATCHER'S COMPANION* will present a slide lecture:

THE NATURAL HISTORY OF OUTER MONGOLIA

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 1983

Museum of Science, Boston

7:30 P.M.

Please note that the date has been changed from that in the bulletin!

A DAY ON THOMPSON'S ISLAND, BOSTON HARBOR

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 1983

8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

A special package price of \$16 includes the following:

- ▶Transportation (round trip) from Kelly's Landing, South Boston
- ▶Workshops on target areas of field identification
- ▶Films on the Bald Eagle and Osprey
- ▶Demonstrations and exhibits by local crafts people
- ▶A buffet lunch prepared by the island caterers
- ▶Bird walks on the island: prime time for a Caspian Tern or a Ruff!

Space is limited! So please reserve NOW by sending your name, address, telephone number and a check for \$16 per person to Dorothy Davis, 115 Plymouth Street, Middleboro, MA 02346. Please make checks payable to the BROOKLINE BIRD CLUB.

For more information, please call Alden Clayton, 369-9186; Robert Stymeist, 734-1289; or Barbara Phillips, 924-6790.

Deadline for reservations is APRIL 1, 1983.

At a Glance . . .



Great Meadows, Fall 1980

Photo by J. Walter Brain

Can you identify this bird?

Identification will be discussed in next issue's *At a Glance*.

The resting seabird in last issue's "At a Glance" was an immature Northern Gannet. The picture was offered not as a great problem in identification but only as a recognition test since Massachusetts birders seldom have an opportunity to see this species at such close range. This photo was the last of the easy ones!

This year, Bird Observer is offering a PRIZE to the person who identifies correctly the most photos of the six that appear during 1983. Send in your answers on a postcard BEFORE ("that much is obvious") the answer appears in the next issue. If there is a tie, there will be a drawing to determine the prize winner, and the usual contest exclusions of B.O.E.M. staff members, associates, and their families also apply. If you have a picture that you think would make a good "At a Glance" photo, we would appreciate hearing from you. The best photos for printing are black and white enlargements, but we can use high-contrast color prints and slides, too. If you have any questions, please contact Dorothy Arvidson, 734-1862.

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