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EDITOR'S PAGE

Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts has been declared a non-profit tax exempt organization by the Internal Revenue Service. Any gifts to Bird Observer will be greatly appreciated and will be tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

FINAL NOTICE

It's time to resubscribe. With this copy of Bird Observer your 1976 subscription ends. In order to continue, we again need your support as a subscriber, a contributor and an observer. It is very important that you resubscribe promptly since we must have 300 subscribers for our first issue of the new year or lose our second class mailing permit.

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EVERGLADE KITE IN TROUBLE

Severe loss of living space for the Everglade Kite in Florida has resulted in proposed critical habitat determinations by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The proposal includes about 1000 square miles of marshland in southeastern Florida for the Kite. Under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, a Federal agency may not authorize, fund, or carry out any action that would result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitats.

In recent years, however, the widespread development of the Everglades region for agricultural uses, flood control, grazing, and residential and recreational projects has drastically altered and reduced the original habitat. The flow of water from Lake Okeechobee to the Everglades has been reduced by drought and diversion to agricultural areas. Add to this the threat of hurricanes, fires, shooting, increased pollution from pesticides used in the area, and the potential fate of the 100 or so remaining birds is all too apparent.

Barred Owl photographed at M.I.T. by Calvin Campbell. Photograph courtesy of Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
I find myself concentrating on birding local areas intensively. In particular, I have been going to the Revere-Saugus-East Boston-Winthrop area on the average of once a week from mid-summer through fall, and somewhat less frequently during the spring. Although Robert Stymeist has previously written about this area for BIRD OBSERVER (Vol. 2, No. 6, November-December 1974), the following notes---in the form of additions, amendments and updates should be of interest.

My purpose in writing about this area is to encourage other people who live nearby to drive less and bird more, to go to this area often enough so that something approximating day-to-day coverage can be realized, to rediscover the wealth and variety of the natural world in the Boston Basin before industry and greed bulldozed it.

By documenting the importance of this section of the coast to resting, nesting, feeding and migrating birds, birders can help make a case for the protection of estuarine wetlands, tidal marshes, and other coastal features in Greater Boston. The Environmental Protection Division of the Massachusetts Attorney General is right now investigating and may be starting to fight the filling of Saugus Marsh. A small muddy area in the Belle Isle Marsh of East Boston-Revere, which in September harbored innumerable shorebirds, snipes, Laughing Gulls, and rails, is already gone---a school or something is being built there. We must be constantly on the watch to protect what is left.

I. Point of Pines

Point of Pines is the northern terminus of Revere Beach. One can park at the rotary at the north end of Revere Beach Drive and walk north along the beach. This is my recommendation during the summer on holidays and weekends, when the residents of Point of Pines community become very proprietary about their beach and have been known to hire overweight, off-duty policemen to chase off intruders. The residents really can't stop anyone from walking on the beach---only those parking in the community and walking to the beach. At dawn and at sunset, when the atmosphere is magical and the view magnificent, have no fear of parking on any of the streets perpendicular to Point of Pines and walking out onto this great and fertile feeding ground for our shore migrants.

Ideally one should arrive at Point of Pines two hours after low tide. At this time, the incoming tide concentrates the gulls and shorebirds into smaller and more compact flocks. By standing in one spot approximately in the middle of the huge mudflat (barefooted in July and August) one can scan all the birds for a period of an hour to an hour and a half before they finally fly off---sometimes in spectacular formations---to their high tide roosts.

From midsummer until extreme cold sets in around December the following gulls are to be expected: 100-500 Bonaparte's, 20-50 Ring-billed, several hundred each of Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls. Laughing Gulls in small numbers can be seen until mid-November. Little Gulls and Black-headed Gulls may show up from late August on. Arctic, Common, and Least Terns can be seen until fall.

The regularly expected shorebird species are Semipalmated Plover (many), Killdeer (occasional), Black-bellied Plover, Red Knot, Semipalmated Sandpiper (hundreds in July and August), Sanderling and Dunlin (hundreds late September through December), and White-rumped Sandpiper.

Cormorants are always visible from the beach. As the fall progresses, hundreds of Black Ducks become regular. Eiders, Buffleheads, Common Goldeneyes, scoters, Greater Scaups and Red-breasted Mergansers, as well as both loons and Horned Grebes can be expected.

Highlights from the last two years are

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bird</th>
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<tr>
<td>Marbled Godwit</td>
<td>2 August 17-September 7, 1975</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whimbrel</td>
<td>1 September 4, 1975</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manx Shearwater</td>
<td>3 July 13, 1976</td>
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<tr>
<td>Royal Tern</td>
<td>1 July 31, 1976</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Skimmer</td>
<td>4 September 18, 1976</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peregrine Falcon</td>
<td>1 October 2, 1976.</td>
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II. Pines River

A visit to Revere-Winthrop should always include a check of the Pines River at or around low tide. Access is from Route 1A. If you are traveling north, observe the following landmarks: Wonderland on the left, and then a rotary; approximately 3/4 mile north on 1A, Route 60 crosses (traffic lights); another 1/2 mile and another set of lights; after this look for a "STAY RIGHT FOR LEFT TURN" sign, go right, cross 1A at the lights, and you will be on Mills Avenue driving along the Pines River. If you are southbound from Point of Pines or from Lynn on 1A, the first right after the Point of Pines on-off ramp leads to Mills Avenue.

The river often has cormorants and some ducks. Terns can be seen flying and diving. The near shore is shingles, coarse sand and mussel beds: look for yellowlegs, Black-bellied Plovers, Ruddy Turnstones and Semipalmated Plovers. There is a large mudflat at the south end of Mills Avenue that is exposed at low tide. This should be scanned for specialties among the scattered flocks of peep and yellowlegs. A Willet was here September 6, 1976.

With your telescope scan the opposite shore of the Pines River. Though smaller shorebirds are difficult to make out at that distance, Red Knots, dowitchers, yellowlegs and Whimbrels (2 on May 15, 1976) should be conspicuous on the mudflats. Snowy Egrets and Black-crowned Night Herons are also often seen at the water's edge. Great Blue Herons arrive in mid-September, and a half-dozen can be seen wading the river or preening in the tall grass above the river in October.

At the height of the shorebird migration, it is worthwhile to get back on 1A southbound and pull off at the very next parking area (dirt). Walk discreetly around the stores and the boatyard, smiling lots at everyone who is staring at the strange scope-toting visitor. Scanning the river, its estuaries, and all exposed mudflats should reward you with close-up looks at Snowy Egrets and a variety of shorebirds. Least Sandpipers are more common here than on the outer beach. It is time for someone to find Stilt Sandpipers, godwits and rails in this marsh.

Despite obvious urban blight and leaching from the vast Saugus dump-incinerator nearby, the Saugus Marsh, created by the Pines and Saugus Rivers, remains one of the great wild areas in Greater Boston and deserves much attention and protection by naturalists and birders.

III. Saugus Marsh

On any birding trip to the Revere-Winthrop area, a useful and often productive stop is the Saugus Marsh. From the Revere Beach Parkway take Route 107 north. After going through a few commercial blocks and a rotary, Route 107 becomes a divided highway cutting across the Pines River Estuarine Wetland---Saugus Marsh. You will cross several branches of the Pines River at each of which a short stop-and-look is advisable. In summer and early fall look for shorebirds, herons, and gulls; in late fall and winter, for wintering ducks such as Red-breasted Mergansers and Buffleheads. About 1/2 mile north of the rotary, you will notice a high earthen dike approach Route 107 on the left and then run parallel to it for several miles. This would have been I-95 but for ex-Governor Sargent. About 1 mile north of the rotary there is a short dirt road crossing the marsh and leading from 107 to the top of the dike. There is no access to this from the northbound side of 107, but a cautious U-turn several hundred yards north of this spot will bring you back to the dirt road. (If you have gone as far as the huge incinerator-dump on the right, or if you have crossed the Saugus River into Lynn, you have gone much too far.)

In the past one could easily drive to the top of the dike. Recently, a cable across the dirt road has prevented access by car, but then someone bent the fence out of the way, so you can drive again. The top of the dike can be windy and cold, so a car up there is useful. The view of the marsh in all directions is grand.

Snowy Egrets, Great Blue Herons, many ducks and shorebirds, Snowy Owls, Kestrels, Marsh Hawks, Ring-necked Pheasants, terns and gulls, swallows, Eastern Meadowlarks, Horned Larks and Snow Buntings have all been seen from the top of this dike. It remains to be seen whether rails or a Short-eared Owl will turn up here. Anything seems possible in this, the largest marsh in Greater Boston.
IV. East Boston Puddle

The East Boston Puddle—all right, call it Salt Pan—offers good birding and is no more than a 20 minute drive from most northern sections of the city. Glossy Ibis, Snowy Egret, Little and Great Blue Herons and American Bittern have all been seen here. Both dowitchers, Hudsonian Godwits, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs and all varieties of peep use this as a rest stop at high tide. Also to be seen are Ring-billed, Black-headed, Laughing and Bonaparte’s Gulls, Least and Common Terns, and Belted Kingfishers.

The Puddle is part of the Belle Isle Estuarine Wetland and is just east of Bennington Street, north of Orient Heights MBTA station. The easiest way to find it from Bennington Street is to turn east on Leverett Street at Eddie Mack’s II Restaurant. Follow the pavement until it narrows and turns into dirt, at which point you should park. The Puddle is now to the left and ahead of you. Walk into the marsh; it is not particularly wet. But be careful not to step on nails in all the junk that is lying around.

In July, August, or September, if you arrive at sunrise and about two to three hours before high tide, the avian spectacle will soon take your mind off the unsightliness and trashiness that blights this marsh. In the morning the light is just right, and for an hour or more you can enjoy the dozens of feeding egrets, the hundreds of Short-billed Dowitchers, and all of the other shorebirds and marsh-dwellers that feed, preen and rest here. In October Long-billed Dowitchers and Greater Yellowlegs, as well as the ubiquitous Killdeer, are standard fare. By November, Black-headed Gulls in small numbers can be expected, especially at extreme high tide.

The Puddle, alas, is shallow and freezes rapidly; so by mid-November the chances of finding shorebirds or gulls here diminishes. Still it is worth checking this area for lingering or wintering rails, bitterns, and sparrows, as well as an occasional Kestrel or Merlin.

New Director for Massachusetts’ Division of Fish and Wildlife

Matthew Connolly, Jr., has been sworn in as the new State Director of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Mr. Connolly’s first important position in state government was that of State Ornithologist. In the past seven years, Connolly has been in charge of planning state parks, he has directed the Office of Conservation Services, and, most recently, he completed the Coastal Zone Management Plan.

As Director, he hopes to bring some planning techniques to the Division’s work, particularly in the area of selecting and justifying land purchases. Another problem that Mr. Connolly wants to resolve is "the apparent canyon" between people who call themselves sportsmen and those who refer to themselves as environmentalists. He would like to become involved in more projects that deserve the label of education.

The filling of the position of State Ornithologist may tell a great deal about this new administration. Recently, this position has been held by people who served as Assistant Directors, making the position mainly another administrative job. Connolly intends to appoint a genuine ornithologist to the post, someone to start taking the Division’s responsibility for non-game species seriously.

The results of a capable, enthusiastic administration should be noticeable, but as subtle improvements in already existing programs.

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At 10:30 A.M. on 9 January 1977 my wife and I were cruising the snow-covered back roads of Bridgewater, Massachusetts in search of raptors in the large farm fields of the area. The weather was clear and sunny with a very light northwest wind. The temperature was a cold 32°F and there was a 15" snow cover on the ground following a very heavy snow storm on the 7th.

While on Summer Street about 3 miles south of Bridgewater Center, we stopped to view a large flock of Common Crows (Corvus brachyrhynchos) which were feeding in a snow-filled corn field. Close inspection revealed a number of smaller birds feeding in the same field. These smaller birds included Mourning Doves (Zenaida macroura), Horned Larks (Eremophila alpestris), Eastern Meadowlarks (Sturnella magna), Dark-eyed Juncos (Junco hyemalis), Tree Sparrows (Spizella arborea) and a Flock of Lapland Longspurs (Calcarius lapponicus) numbering 40-50 individuals.

Pleased at finding such a substantial flock of longspurs in inland Bridgewater, I decided to take a closer look for possible rarer species. I entered the field on foot, however, travel was difficult since the snow was knee-deep or deeper in many areas. The scattered flock of feeding longspurs allowed a surprisingly close approach, often to within 100'. While systematically checking each bird, one individual caught my eye as it flitted a few feet between the corn stalks. I was especially struck by the large amount of white on the tail. Close inspection showed it to be a noticeably smaller and shorter tailed bird than adjacent Lapland Longspurs. Suddenly, most of the flock flew into the top branches of a bordering hedge row about 5' off the ground. The smaller bird was quickly located again as it fluttered on its perch, its tail pattern was plainly seen again. This time, the white base and dark center with an inverted T pattern was definitely seen, thus convincing me of my initial suspicion that the bird in question was a McCown's Longspur (Calcarius mccownii).

While viewing the bird for almost 15 minutes in bright sun at no less than 50' with 7X50 binoculars, the following details were noted. The upperparts were a warm brown with distinct, but not sharp, dark stripes. These stripes were most pronounced on the back. The nape lacked all trace of rusty and showed little contrast with the back. The head pattern was interesting in that it showed a striking resemblance to that of a Grasshopper Sparrow (Ammodramus garan-narum) or a miniature female Dickcissel (Spiza americana). There was a prominent buffy eye stripe and what appeared as the faint suggestion of an eye ring on the buffy-brown cheek area. The crown was finely striped throughout with thin dark brown or blackish stripes. There was a thin brown malar stripe, which heightened the resemblance to a Dickcissel. The wings and their coverts were of the same buff tones as the back and there was evidence of faint buffy wing bars. No chestnut shoulder patch was able to be seen.

Beneath, the chin and throat area appeared light gray or white with a prominent pinkish buff across the upper breast. This buff area was similar in shape to the winter bib of a Dickcissel and in color it resembled the upper breast coloration of an immature Grasshopper Sparrow or of one of the interior races of the Sharp-tailed Sparrow (Ammodramus caudacuta). Streaking, if present at all in this buffy area, was faint and indistinct. The lower breast and belly were white or light gray in contrast to the upper breast. There were no dark smudges or crisp streaks anywhere on the breast or flanks.

The short tail, the bird's most distinctive marking, was pure white on the outer edges from the base to the distal end. The central pair of tail feathers were black from base to distal end. All other rectrices appeared white from base to about 3/4 the length of the tail. The pattern here described was clearly visible in flight from above and below as the bird flew with the other longspurs. The overall pale appearance, short tail and flashing tail pattern all combined in making the bird easy to pick up on the wing at quite a distance.

At one point the McCown's Longspur was heard calling. Its note was 2-3 sharp rattles, perhaps slightly higher in pitch than the corresponding notes of the Lapland Longspur.

Satisfied with my own observation, I left the field at 11:15 A.M. to call other observers for confirmation. By 2:00 P.M., Richard Forster, Paul and Francine Buckley, Ruth Emery, Kathleen Anderson, Norma Hill and Sibley Higginbotham had arrived and together we relocated the bird and observed it both flying and sitting for over an hour. On this occasion, the bird was observed through 20X telescopes as well as binoculars and all observers had ample opportunity to confirm my original identification. The Buckleys, Hill, Anderson and the writer all had previous experience with the species in the West.

While a more complete survey of the literature will follow, a cursory search points to this being the first modern record east of Illinois. The record of a McCown's Longspur recorded by C.J. Maynard (1896) taken on January 7, 1877 in Ipswich by B.A. Sango is dubious in that in reality that specimen was purchased in the Boston Market and may have come from anywhere in New England. What few other sight records exist in the East are all considered unsatisfactory.
SOME NOTES ON DOWITCHERS
by Soheil, Zendeh, Cambridge

I had the opportunity to study Short-billed and Long-billed Dowitchers extensively this fall at both Plum Island and East Boston. I found that the great waves of Short-bills seemed to melt away by mid-August, while in September, both species were equally uncommon. I also spent a fair amount of time and energy reading and asking questions of many and sundry observers concerning species differentiation in the genus Limnodromus. At least 80% of the birders consulted — novices and expert alike — cursed and said that the two species ought to be "relumped." But until that miracle happens, observers must make the best of a confusing situation.

In my opinion, minute details of plumage and its progress during the post-breeding molt simply are not very useful for field identification. Heavy barring on the sides of the upper breast, attributed to the Long-billed Dowitcher, may or may not be visible, and in many individuals looks more like either spotting or duskiness. The presence of barring versus spotting on the under-tail coverts as a means of differentiating Long-bills from Short-bills was visible in my experience in only one instance at 15 foot range. That, "There is (in Long-billeds) never the white belly so characteristic of the Short-bill" (quote from Wayne Petersen's article for Birder's Kit #7) leaves the question of what looks "white" in the field up to the discretion of the individual observer.

My observations:
1. In a group of mixed dowitchers in mid-September the Long-bills tend to be noticeably larger and chunkier; at that time they are also definitely browner. But it is the combination of size and color that makes for field differentiation. Later on in October and November, when Long-bills are to be seen almost exclusively, size comparison with Greater Yellowlegs is very useful: the bodies of the two birds are almost exactly the same size and shape. The Short-billed is only slightly larger than the Lesser Yellowlegs and has the same lean look.
2. When a group of dowitchers takes off calling and you fail to hear any Lesser Yellowlegs-like double whistles, you have just flushed Long-bills. Actually, the Long-bills, thin "pik" whistle is fairly distinctive, but can get swallowed up in the similar calls of dozens of smaller peep. The Lesser Yellowlegs-like call of the Short-bill, however, stands out in any such context.

BOOK REVIEW

A Season of Birds, by Dion Henderson, illustrated by Chuck Ripper; published by the Tamarack Press, Madison, Wisconsin; copyright 1976. 88 pages.

The title would imply a treatment of the ways various species adapt with the seasons, carrying out their basic life-sustaining functions in balance with natural forces. Although the artistic aspirations of Chuck Ripper remain pleasing, in pen and ink, somehow the reputation is marred when associated with text which is often out of phase, ambiguous and awkward. Each pair of pages, consisting of a drawing and a bit of prose, is a complete entity, apart from that which appears when the page is turned. Each illustration is annoyingly footnoted by some contemplative suggestion, which tries to relate the two. Unfortunately, these abstract suggestions are displayed as bold chapter titles as incongruous as, "Spring/rain, Summer/Blue Grosbeak, Summer/fullness, Autumn/grasshopper, Winter/mischance, Winter/peach log," and the like.

It seems odd that a book devoted to birds should not concentrate its theme on them, regardless of whether the work is poetic, figurative or factual in nature. Dissertations on spiders, grasshoppers, winter constellations, peach logs and a skunk thrusting its head into a can and starving, clearly have their place elsewhere.

If all of this is nonsensical, thus is the overall impression of A Season of Birds. Although the book provided the reader with hearty amusement, it is imagined that this is not the author's sincere intention. The attempt at creating a visual and emotional identity with nature as a whole is appreciated. It is unfortunate that this aim is not fulfilled.

Marcia Litchfield, Lincoln
Early this summer in Inuvik, Northwest Territory, Canada, a pair of Peregrine Falcons nested near the town's rock quarry. Canadian federal wildlife officials banned all further blasting for half the summer, until after the young birds had been raised, even though town officials grumbled about the effects of this halt on the already brief Arctic construction season.

Why were these birds shown such preferential treatment? Because these birds are members of one of the two North American subspecies of Falco peregrinus that are on endangered species lists. The Peregrine's plight is widely recognized, and concern is being shown throughout the North American continent.

Recently, a valiant effort to breed and release young Peregrines to the wild was begun in the United States. Dr. Tom Cade of Cornell University's Ornithology Laboratory heads a team of scientists in an innovative program that could save these regal birds from extinction. They hope to restore a natural breeding population to our now vacant eastern eyries. A project of this scope and magnitude has never before been undertaken, and, if it succeeds, it will have far-reaching implications for man's efforts to save an ever-growing list of endangered species from extinction.

The eastern populations of the Peregrine Falcon (subspecies anatum) disappeared after World War II. Western populations of the same subspecies still survive, although these birds are extremely rare throughout their range, and their numbers are still decreasing. It would have been logical for Dr. Cade to use individuals from these Western populations as his breeding stock at his New York laboratory, but none were available. So instead, he used Tundra Peregrines (Falco peregrinus tundrius, a newly recognized subspecies), which are readily available from falconers. Falconers prefer these Peregrines because they are stronger than the members of other subspecies that do not migrate such great distances.

Peregrines from the Arctic tundra differ in build, plumage, and migratory habit from the subspecies anatum. This latter subspecies occurred widely in an area from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, extending northward to the boreal forest and southward into Mexico. It was medium-sized (as compared to other subspecies of the Peregrine Falcon) and medium light in color. It migrated only moderate distances: Massachusetts-dwelling birds, for example, moved no further south than Long Island, N. Y., in winter. The Tundra Peregrine, on the other hand, breeds across the top of the continent from Alaska to Greenland. It is smaller in size and lighter in color, and it migrates each winter into the vast interior of South America.

The major risk in using tundra birds for breeding lay in their migratory habit. If the Peregrines used by the Cornell workers continued to travel to South America, they would be exposed to DDT, which is still very much in use there. Fortunately, the Peregrines that were released last year did not migrate very far at all. Since they had been bred and raised in latitudes with a different photoperiod (length of day and night) from that of their Arctic relatives, their triggering mechanisms and messages for migration seem to have been altered. The released birds were radio-tracked and were found to winter on the eastern coasts of the states in which they had been released. On these shores they found plentiful waterfowl on which to feed.

According to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, of the 16 Peregrines released in 1975, 12 survived their first year. This year 32 were placed in the wild. 100 more are projected for release in 1977. Although these initial releases have used only the tundra subspecies, the Cornell group plans to try other races in the future. One of these is Peale's Peregrine Falcon (F. p. pealei), which is a large and more sedentary falcon from the Aleutian Islands. It is the only North American subspecies of Peregrine that is not at present on the list of endangered species.

Another race of the Peregrine that interests Dr. Cade and his co-workers is the Spanish Peregrine (F. p. brookei), which has adapted well to civilization in Europe. "It nests near villages, on castle battlements, and church towers, and feeds largely on pigeons—which could win it warm welcome from American city fathers." (Audubon Vol. 77, No. 6, November 1975, p. 49.)
The story of how DDT demolished the eastern populations of American Peregrines has been well-documented and publicized. The following are the major points in the case of the Peregrines of Massachusetts, as documented in the Massachusetts Audubon Newsletter, Vol. 15, No. 2, October, 1975. There were once 14 active eyries in the Berkshires in western Massachusetts and in the Connecticut River Valley. In 1947 the first decrease in productivity was noted. By the late 1950s, all reproduction had ceased, and only some unproductive adults remained. By 1964 no Peregrines were found in Massachusetts, or anywhere else east of the Rockies. The falcon, at the top of a long food chain, fell victim to rising DDT concentrations. As the amount of DDT rose in the birds, the thickness of their eggshells decreased. An 18.8% decline in eggshell thickness from 1947 to 1952 was sufficient to cause the fragile eggs to break from the normal movements made by the adults in their nests.

Dr. Cade believes that if he can produce a more sedentary population of Peregrines from the Arctic race, he can eliminate the DDT problem that these birds now confront on their wintering grounds in South America. Since the first released group did not migrate to these dangerous latitudes, there is great hope that the project will be a complete success. But much work remains to be done before Peregrines will have been reestablished in the numbers and at the localities of our original Duck Hawk.

Dale Zimmerman's Audubon article cited above describes the Peregrine as a "boldly handsome and dramatic bird, an agile predator that strikes down its prey in high speed dives and kills with its powerful taloned feet." He says that "observers who are fortunate enough to have seen its hunting stoop, or the male's rolling, diving mating display, are struck by the magnificence of the peregrine's flight."

Zimmerman reminds us that the falcon has been exploited by man for centuries at the hands of falconers. But it is precisely the falconer's expertise and techniques that have allowed the Cornell laboratory to work so rapidly and so successfully in their efforts to teach a domestically-bred falcon to revert to nature. If the project succeeds, the pilgrim hawk, the age-old wanderer, will once again reign over our skies and remain with us not only in myth but in reality.

Passenger Pigeon Story

A Passing in Cincinnati is a U.S. Government Printing Office booklet (stock number 024-000-00821+-0), which recounts vividly the history of our continent's Passenger Pigeon, from the early settler days until more recent times, when this graceful and once plentiful bird became extinct.

This publication, the last of three historical vignettes published by the Department of the Interior, costs 65 cents and is well worth purchasing. The pamphlet is packed with detailed descriptions of the handsome birds, which flocked together in astounding numbers and ranged from Quebec to Florida. By 1914 there was only a single bird alive, and it was captive in the Cincinnati Zoo. When she died, these gentle birds were no more.

The Passenger Pigeon was "...bluish gray, and its under parts in the male were reddish and gray in the female. Its sparkling, red eyes were bold and unflinching. It usually laid only one egg on a flimsy platform of sticks placed in a tree with a hundred pair or more nesting in the same tree. Its food consisted mainly of nuts (especially beech-nuts), acorns, berries and seeds. Because of its speed (a mile a minute), grace, and maneuverability, it earned the title of 'blue meteor'."

Because it moved about and nested in such enormous numbers, it was quite vulnerable as a species. Between 1871 and 1880, it was hunted and netted so intensively that the populations underwent a precipitous decline. The number killed in this decade alone was enough to doom the species. In 1874, for example, over a four week period an estimated 25,000 pigeons per day were shipped to market from a single nesting site in Michigan.
Not only was the bird taken for food and for use in target shooting, but terrible numbers were wasted. Nesting areas were invaded needlessly, and small birds and unhatched eggs were left to die. Hunters often killed too many birds to carry away and so left many to rot on the ground. Squabs were a glut on the market and were even sold by size. Thousands of spoiled squabs were buried near Kilbourne, Wisconsin, and several tons had to be thrown into the Wisconsin River for the same reason.

The skin of the last Passenger Pigeon was mounted and has been on display in the Smithsonian Institution for the past 62 years. In Cincinnati, A Passenger Pigeon Memorial Fund was begun recently to finance an education program on endangered species.

This booklet tells a story from which we must draw serious conclusions. Man must learn from his past misdeeds, if he is to prevent future losses such as that of the Passenger Pigeon.

G.M.

Is the bird in the lower portion of the picture a Hoary Redpoll? Note the streaking on the sides, the darkish appearance relative to the Common at top left, but also the white rump contrasting with the back. A glimpse of the undertail coverts indicated that it was. Photograph by the author in March, 1976, at the feeders of James Mountz in Weston. Incidentally, this station yielded better-marked birds as well. In a letter to the author, William C. Drummond wrote: "Of the two Hoarys that I saw on February 29, one was very pale, had a conspicuous white rump and was noticeably larger ... It also seemed more fierce than the Commons, driving the others off and staying there to feed when the man came out of the house."
Open a field guide that illustrates both species of redpolls—there doesn't seem to be much of a problem separating the Hoary (*Acanthis hornemanni*) from the Common (*Acanthis flammea*). But gremlins lurk in the underbrush—many more than I suspected when this article was begun!

In North America, only two species and three subspecies of genus *Acanthis* are currently recognized by the American Ornithologists' Union. But wide variations in size and plumage lead to enigmas. In short, the field guides do not tell the whole story; a couple of little-known field marks described below may help to distinguish the two species.

I will stress contrasts between *A. h. exilipes* and *A. f. flammea*—the races of Hoary and Common Redpoll, respectively, that are most likely to be encountered in Massachusetts— for it is problematical whether any of the subspecies can be consistently identified in the field. In fact, John Bull remarked, "The identification in life of the two redpolls is a difficult matter at best ... Size is deceptive in the field even when direct comparison is possible. Coloration and amount of streaking in these birds are so variable that individual specimens in large museum series have been determined as different forms from time to time by competent taxonomists."

To my knowledge, the single subspecies of Hoary Redpoll (*A. h. hornemanni* = Hornemann's Redpoll) has never been collected in Massachusetts, but both subspecies of Common Redpoll have. *A. f. holboellii* - Holboell's Redpoll is generally regarded as unidentifiable by sight. Indeed, a footnote in the current AOU Check-list states that "The validity of this race is uncertain from present information; possibly it is not separable from *A. f. flammea*.

The Greater Redpoll (*A. f. rostrata*) may also be unidentifiable with certainty in the field. Yet, in Massachusetts, it may occasionally be quite abundant, particularly along the coast. Brewster recalled February, 1883, when 34 of 40 redpolls collected on Nantucket Beach were Greater.

These subspecies will be mentioned only inasmuch as they affect the identification of *A. h. exilipes*. To avoid ambiguities, it will be necessary to make frequent reference to the scientific names of the redpolls. For convenience, they are collected in the table.

### HOARY REDPOLL

- *A. h. exilipes* = Hoary Redpoll in general usage; also Coues' Hoary Redpoll or Coues' Redpoll, referring to the western Canadian Arctic race.
- *A. h. hornemanni* = Hornemann's Redpoll, the extreme northeastern Canadian Arctic and Arctic Greenland race.

### COMMON REDPOLL

- *A. f. flammea* = Common Redpoll, breeds across mainland Arctic Canada and southward into the Subarctic.
- *A. f. rostrata* = Greater Redpoll, breeds in extreme northeastern Canada and southern Greenland.
- *A. f. holboellii* = Holboell's Redpoll, the North American range of this questionable race is said to be Alaska and the Yukon Territory.

Following is a synthesis of field marks culled from a score of references. It is intended merely to isolate probable useful field characteristics and to indicate the degree of consensus among the sources. Except for size, refer to the sketch for anatomical identification.

**Size:** Relative to *A. f. flammea*, *A. h. exilipes* averages larger but shows no consistent difference that would be diagnostic in the field. There is marked overlap, even among the largest subspecies, *A. f. rostrata* and *A. h. hornemanni*.

**Bill (l in sketch):** Among the half dozen sources that comment specifically, the consensus is that relative to *A. f. flammea*, the bill of *A. h. exilipes* is shorter and more
conical. (See especially the illustrations in Godfrey or Forbush.) Among the subspecies, note that the bill of A. h. hornemanni is proportionally larger and thicker than A. h. exilipes, while that of A. f. rostrata is markedly heavy and grosbeaklike. The bill is not diagnostic, but it may be useful in isolating ambiguous individuals.

General Coloration (2): Everyone seems to agree that the Hoary Redpoll has a basically paler appearance than the Common, due to the color of the feather edging—predominantly whitish in the former, buff in the latter. Indeed, A. h. hornemanni must be a very conspicuous bird, "the largest and whitest of the redpolls," according to Bent. I cite some cautions, however. "No spring sight records [of Hoary Redpoll] can be accepted because of [feather] wear; pale-colored Redpolls collected in late March proved to be worn Common" (Griscom and Snyder). "Apparently the darker individuals of [A. h. exilipes] are difficult to distinguish in the field from the common redpoll" (Baldwin in Bent). Note that the dark Hoary Redpolls overlap the light Commons and vice versa. General light coloration may be useful for picking out a suspect Hoary from a flock, but it does not prove the bird to be of that species.

Rump (3): Again there is general agreement—the rump should be white and unstreaked on the Hoary. However, many authors stop short in their remarks; they fail to mention that flecks of pink or even an all-pink glow may be present. I prefer Godfrey's description: "(except in worn breeding plumage) [the rump is] white or pinkish with little or no streaking, thus contrasting with the back." This is a primary field mark. Several sources also mention that Hoary Redpolls seem to be less inclined to cover their rumps with their wings.

Undertail Coverts (4): The first specific description of this criterion (though it is implied by Forbush) seems to be by Thomas S. Roberts: "under tail-coverts pure white without central dark streaks." In 1960 C. Stuart Houston classified 147 redpolls trapped in Saskatchewan in the following manner:

Unquestionable Hoary (3% of the total)—"very white wash overall, a pure white rump and pure white undertail coverts."

Probable Hoary (19%)—"whitish wash, but had a varying number of fine dark streaks on the rump and the sides of the breasts; the undertail coverts remained pure white."

The remaining 78% of Mr. Houston's birds had definite characteristics of Common Redpoll and also streaks on the undertail coverts. "The undertail coverts and not the rump should be used as the differentiating feature," he concluded, "and in borderline cases the decision will be difficult to make." This field mark has gained recognition, being referred to by Baldwin, Buckley and Kane, and Godfrey. The latter, however, cautions that both A. h. exilipes and A. h. hornemanni may have some streaking on the undertail coverts.

Pantaloons (5): Buckley and Kane relate an observation by J. Peterson, who described a "'pantaloons' effect of fluffy thigh feathering on several [Hoary Redpoll] seen in the Adirondacks." This field mark may prove to be useful, but it has not yet stood critical evaluation.

Streaking (6): Most sources indicate either by description or illustration that Hoarys generally have a white belly and less pronounced streaking on the sides than do Commons—no streaking at all. However, the variation in both species is so great (contrast the portraits in Audubon or Robbins with those in Pough or Heinzel) that this feature must be regarded as of secondary importance.

Discussions with J. T. Leverich and especially C. E. Smith have been of great aid in bringing this blurred story into better focus.
Postscript: Several months after this article had been written, I chanced upon a reference to Greater Redpoll in the Bulletin of New England Bird Life (Vol. 8, No. 3, March 1944). That was a remarkable year for redpolls: Common was described as having a "tremendous flight"; Hoary, "unusual numbers"; Greater, "extraordinary flight."

Most interesting, however, were the remarks concerning Ludlow Griscom, "who had never seen this particular bird before, made up for lost time; on the 9th with Mr. Tousey he saw 3 in the Sudbury Valley with 40 Commons and later that same day 3 more in Newburyport; on the 19th with Messrs. Mason & Henderson he found 2 in a flock of 750 Commons (including one Hoary) at Boxford, then later that day 1 in Newburyport in a flock of 250; on Mar. 26th at Rowley he saw 2 in a flock of 80."

But then how is one to take this statement made 11 years later in The Birds of Massachusetts (Griscom and Snyder, 1955): "Because of the numerous Redpoll intermediates, sight records are not acceptable..." I see the imprint of a critical observer, one who could reassess a sighting in the light of new knowledge. Before Griscom's image is lost by the attrition of those who knew him well, someone should write this story.

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The August, 1976 issue of American Birds carried an article by Carl E. Bock and Larry W. Lepthien that examined the rate at which the House Finch has increased throughout the eastern United States. From Christmas Bird Counts between 1962 and 1971, these University of Colorado scientists found that this species doubled its numbers about every 3 1/4 years.

The graph they presented reminded me of one that I had prepared from Charlotte E. Smith's careful censuses of Tufted Titmice in Weston between 1958 (first sighting) and 1968 (well established and known to have been breeding since 1965). From her data I found that the Titmice doubled their population every 2 3/4 years during that first decade -- in substantial agreement with the Bock-Lepthien result.

It is interesting to speculate whether introduced species, or those expanding their ranges, fill an ecological niche at some predictable rate. According to Hal Harrison (A Field Guide to Birds' Nests, 1975), the "common" clutch size of House Finch and Tufted Titmouse is 4-5 and 5-6 eggs, respectively. Taking the average for both species, the ratio of clutch size, 4 1/2 / 5 1/2 = 0.82, is inversely proportional to the number of years necessary for the population to double, 2 3/4 / 3 1/4 = 0.85. Of course, this argument assumes that both species suffered similar mortality and had suitable habitat in which to expand.

This study would not have been possible without the meticulous records of Mrs. Smith, which after a decade have yielded provocative results. Some obvious candidates for similar analysis include Fish Crow, Mockingbird, Cardinal, and House Finch. I would be pleased to receive records of these species from observers who have accurate counts spanning a decade or so after the species became a regular inhabitant. (Write to 14 Willow Rd., Wellesley, Ma. 02181.)

Postscript: For the mathematically minded, I obtained the following equation for the growth of Tufted Titmice in Weston: $N = 4.359 \times 10^{-7} \times e^{0.272x}$, where $N$ is the total number of birds, $e$ the base of natural logarithms, and $x$ the last two digits of the (1900) calendar year. The coefficient of determination was $r^2 = 0.80$. The Bock-Lepthien result was $BPH = 0.04 \times e^{-0.207x}$, where $BPH$ represents birds per party hour seen on Christmas Bird Counts. For the latter equation $r^2 = 0.91$, indicating a better fit to the data than mine.

**SUET-EATING AMERICAN KESTREL**

By Gerald Flaherty, Bridgewater

Ralph Saunders of 151 Plymouth St., Bridgewater reported to me an American Kestrel (Falco sparverius) repeatedly feeding from a bag of suet at his backyard feeder. Early during the winter of 1974-75 Ralph observed a Kestrel frequenting the vicinity of his suet feeder (a plastic net onion bag) which he had hung for his song-birds.

Eventually, after a number of visits in which the Kestrel was seen to alight upon and feed "chickadee style" from the suet, Ralph placed a second bag higher up in the apple tree to accommodate the Kestrel and encourage a nervous resident song bird population.

The Kestrel soon diverted his attention to the new more accessible bag, leaving the original bag for Ralph's more customary visitors. After repeated visits, several weekly during the months of December, January and early February, the hawk was seen to finally tear open the bag, (Ralph had observed persistent unsuccessful efforts to open the bag) and extract the remains of the suet and fly off with it.

Ralph observed the bird subsequently on a habitual perch, but never again saw him in his yard though he renewed the suet bag.

The unusual concentration at winter feeding station has always been an incentive for visits. Apparently none, (or at least one) hawks, are able to study and learn the habits of their intended prey so successfully that they can imitate them.
The Environmental Impact Statement (here in known as EIS) on National Wildlife Refuges issued November 12, was prepared as a result of a lawsuit brought in 197*+ by private conservation groups concerned with how 367 individual refuges were being funded and managed. A draft statement was issued in November 1975. Following that, eight public hearings and over 200 written comments from Federal, State, and local agencies, plus 59 conservation groups, five universities, and numerous private citizens prompted changes in the final version.

The changes reflect concerns expressed over major issues such as haying and grazing, refuge hunting and trapping, use of chemicals, changes in traditional waterfowl distribution patterns, and waterfowl predation upon agricultural crops.

This EIS is a "programmatic" statement as opposed to a "site-specific" statement. It is an environmental document which recognizes the major components of refuge operation, identifies the principal biological, physical and social impacts associated with routine activities on refuges, such as farming, waterfowl population control, and water management, and provides sufficiently broad impact analysis to allow the decisionmaker to choose the least environmentally damaging course of action.

The EIS is designed to cover a 10-year span of normal operations. It will be updated throughout that period as additional scientific data are collected. It should facilitate the preparation of more site-specific assessments that future proposed actions might require under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Copies of the final environmental impact statement on the operation of the National Wildlife Refuge System may be obtained by writing to: Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Refuges, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

**UPDATE ON: STEEL SHOT - A RESPONSE TO LEAD POISONING**

The Department of Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service news release of January 4, 1977 discusses further the lead shot poisoning which kills annually an estimated 2 million waterfowl in the United States. While feeding in the wetlands, where waterfowl hunting is permitted, birds swallow lead pellets which are subsequently ground down in their gizzards. The resultant lead salts pass into the blood stream, causing sickness and very often death in these birds.

Extensive research has been carried out on the lead poisoning of waterfowl. The January 1976 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Final Environmental Statement reviewed 25 years of investigations on this problem. It was found that many wetlands contain two or more lead pellets per square foot in the prime feeding areas for waterfowl. Having examined more than 50,000 gizzards throughout the United States, it was found that in some areas 25-50 percent of the ducks had lead pellets.

To alleviate this problem, the U.S. government banned the use of lead shot. As reported in Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts, Vol. 4 no. 5, steel shot will be required in 12, 16, 20, and 28 gauges and .410 shot guns in portions of nine Atlantic seaboard states for the 1977 hunting season. However, those regulations have since been temporarily rescinded to require steel shot in only 12 gauge or larger shot guns, because of a lack of supply in the smaller gauges.

During the 1977-1978 hunting season the requirement to use steel shot for waterfowl hunting will be further expanded within the Atlantic Flyway, and will be broadened to include the Mississippi Flyway as well. The Atlantic Flyway expansion will include an area which will affect 50 percent of the duck harvest within that flyway. Next hunting season will be the first time steel shot will be required anywhere in the Mississippi Flyway's 11 states. About 35 percent of its harvest will be affected by the changes.

The proposed zones, where steel shot may be required in the U.S., can be found in the Federal Register, December 23, 1976. The area in Massachusetts affected by the regulations is delineated by highways. It is described as that part of the state lying east of U.S. Rte. 1 beginning at the New Hampshire-Massachusetts border, proceeding southward to the junction with Rte. 3, then southeastward along Rte. 3 to U.S. Rte. 6. The line runs west on Rte. 6 to include all areas to the south of this highway to the Rhode Island state line.
September in Boston was quite dry, slightly on the warm side and blessed with abundant sunshine. The temperature averaged 64.9°, being the warmest since September, 1972. The high was 88° on the 14th, the low temperature was 46° on the 29th; no records were broken. Frost was noted on the 25th and 29th at some inland localities. The total precipitation was 1.56", 1.60" below normal and the lowest since 1971.

The most marked trends noted during September involved huge numbers of pelagic species which moved into the littoral waters of Cape Cod and Nantucket at mid month and remained to feed there well into November. The situation climaxed on September 20, when 2000+ greater shearwaters were estimated off Monomoy (to the virtual exclusion of cory's). On the same day greater shearwaters were estimated flying by Nantucket in the early morning hours unaccompanied by greaters! As the fall progressed, counts of this magnitude of greater shearwaters were made along the length of the outer cape, as well as in Cape cod bay. As the birds present in these numbers close to shore almost daily, it can be assumed that they were feeding upon the tremendous numbers of squid present in these waters throughout the summer.

Fishermen throughout southern New England reported an almost unprecedented number of squid in shallow coastal waters this year. During the latter part of the summer, an eddy broke free from the Gulf Stream and approached close enough to the coast of Massachusetts (actually skirting the southern edge of Georges Bank) to actually warm the local surface temperatures substantially. This may have been directly responsible for the renewed abundance of cory's shearwaters in our area, following their drastic decline in the years 1970-1975. In addition, cory's shearwaters were recorded this year in the Bay of Fundy and east of nova scotia, considerably north of their normal range, as this species shows close affinity to the warmer waters typical of the more southern latitudes.

Of the southern herons, Louisianas totalled 4 for the month (cf. 5,0,2,0 for the last four years). This was the first year that the species has been found breeding in the state, and also represents its northernmost breeding record.

Among the typical migrant waterfowl arrivals during the month, a European wigeon at Nantucket and 2 snow geese in kingston were noted. Of six separate cooper's hawks reported, the five along the outer coast can safely be assumed to be migrants, but their origin is very questionable. It cannot be overemphasized how rare this species has become in new england in recent years. It may not nest north of massachusetts at all. An adult bald eagle was seen in havernhill on the 25th. At least 13 peregrine falcons flew over eastern massachusetts this month, compared to the 1,5-8+ of the last three years respectively.

Black-bellied plovers occurred in perhaps slightly higher than normal numbers this fall, following a record high spring migration. Without any doubt the most spectacular record of the month (or of the year for that matter) was that of a Eurasian curlew (Numenius arquata) which frequented Monomoy Island from the 19th-29th, during which period it was seen by many and identifiable photographed in color. This not only constitutes the first state record, but the 2nd such record for North America, the only previous record being of an individual shot by a market gunner on Long Island, N.Y. in 1853. The location, date and collector are unknown or lost. Complementary to this record, a whimbrel of the nominate phaeopus race, of strictly Palearctic distribution, was seen at Plum Island on the 1st. One or two curlew sandpipers were present on Plum Island for the duration of the month, differences in plumage suggesting the presence of more than one individual. Western sandpipers were extremely scarce this month, with only one individual bird confidently identified (cf. 175,19,8 for previous 3 years), although this may reflect in part observers' growing reluctance to identify this difficult species in the field.

An average migration of jaegers was noted, although a skua from shore at Provincetown was noteworthy, as sightings inshore of this species continue to be scarce, despite its apparent frequency on the offshore banks during the summer months. Two early Iceland gulls were observed on Plum Island, possibly representing summering individuals from last winter. An adult franklin's gull occurred on Monomoy on the 11th; 2 other state records fall on approximately this date including an immature bird last year at newburyport. An adult sabine's gull was found in newburyport Harbor on the 6th, where it remained until the end of the month. This species is very rare or casual inshore, and this represents the first record for newburyport Harbor, the unequalled mecca for rare gulls which has harbored 15 additional species! Caspian terns built up to a maximum of 2 on the 29th.

This month was particularly devoid of any marked "waves" of passerine migrants, although numerous rarities were recorded and most observers were satisfied with an exciting migration season on the outer coast. Olive-sided flycatchers came through en masse on the 12th, and a say's phoebe was seen on monomoy on the 6th. Two additional wheatears were recorded in september, following a sighting in August on Duxbury Beach, while birds were also found in Rhode Island and on Long Island, N.Y. This flight is certainly unprecedented for the northeast.
Of southern vagrant warblers, a Kentucky and a Prothonotary were noted. Following an extremely feeble spring migration, Cape May Warblers occurred in large numbers, and Bay-breasted and Tennessee declined from their irruptions of the last two years. These three species are the ones that benefit directly from outbreaks of spruce budworm on their boreal breeding grounds, one of which has occurred over the last 3 years.

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<td>Cape May</td>
<td>134+</td>
<td>89+</td>
<td>1347+</td>
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<td>Bay-breasted</td>
<td>22+</td>
<td>51+</td>
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(for August, September, October)

The above chart includes all counts received by the Bird Observer staff, and includes banding totals from Manomet Bird Observatory. Not surprisingly, the infestation of spruce budworms (which provide food for these birds) peaked during the summer of 1975, the season in which evidently the most young were raised.

Three Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported this month, September Yellow-headed Blackbirds total 1,3,5 for the last 3 years. Blue Grosbeaks arrived somewhat earlier than usual, on the 15th, and remained throughout the month, all sightings from traditional localities on Cape Cod. A comparatively large flight of Lark Sparrows was noted, 6 individuals being reported this month alone (cf. 4,3,4 for the last three years). Finally, Lapland Longspurs arrived on the 25th.

R. R. V.

Common Loon: 
26 off P.I.

Horned Grebe: 
10,11 Chatham, Cambridge (Fresh Pond) 1, 2

Pied-billed Grebe: 
23-27 Nantucket, Lakeville 15+, 14

Northern Fulmar: 
26 Pollock Rip (off Chatham) 1

Cory's Shearwater: 
18,26 Nantucket 50, 1000+ (for August, September, October)

Greater Shearwater: 
26 Pollock Rip (off Chatham) 2000+

Sooty Shearwater: 
26 Pollock Rip (off Chatham) 50

Manx Shearwater: 
2,20,28 Barnstable 1, 1, 1

Gannet: 
18+25,26 Nantucket, Pollock Rip (off Chatham) 1+2, 1

Great Cormorant: 
4,8 Marblehead, Duxbury 1, 2

Green Heron: 
26 P.I., Cambridge 1, 2

Little Blue Heron: 
1-20,8-27 P.I., Duxbury 1-4, 1-2

Cattle Egret: 
4+25 Ipswich 15+8

Great Egret: 
1-22,6-26 Concord (GMWNR), P.I. 1, 1-2

Snowy Egret: 
thr. P.I., Squantum max. 126, 52

C.Banes#, BBC (B. Miller)
S. Zendeh, W. Petersen
BBC (H. D'Entremont)
L. Jodrey#, SSBC (Petersen#)
BBC (H. D'Entremont)
BBC (H. D'Entremont)
R. Pease
BBC (H. D'Entremont), W. Bailey#
L. Jodrey# + SSBC, BBC (H. D'Entremont)
J. Nove
J. Berry, M. Moore
SSBC (F. Gardner)
SSBC (Litchfields), M. Kasprzyk
J. Berry, H. Coolidge#
R. Heil#, E. Pearson#
BBC (Hales), BBC (N. King)
R. Veit# v.o., M. Moore#
M. + B. Litchfield, BBC (N. Clayton)
H. Wiggins
J. Berry
J. Berry + E. Taylor
Cattle Egret: 
4+25 Ipswich 15+8

Great Egret: 
1-22,6-26 Concord (GMWNR), P.I. 1, 1-2

Snowy Egret: 
thr. P.I., Squantum max. 126, 52

BBC (W. Drummond), S. Pease
H. W. Harrington# , M. Moore#
Louisiana Heron:
6-29, 10 P.I., Saxonville 1, 1  W. Scott, v.o., J. Passinari, I. Campbell, B. Nikula, v.o.
12, 16-26 Braintree, Eastham 2, 1

Yellow-crowned Night Heron:
6, 18 Monomoy, Marshfield 1, 1 ad.  W. Bailey, H.W. Harrington, v.o.

American Bittern:
thr. 6 localities 10 individuals  v.o., S. Zendeh
thr.

Glossy Ibis:
6, 29, 10 P.I., E. Boston 2, 1  C. Jackson, T. Leverich
19, 25 Rowley, Monomoy 1, 1

Yellow-crowned Night Heron:
6, 18 Monomoy, Marshfield 1, 1 ad.  BBC (V. Albee, N. King)

American Bittern:
thr. 6 localities 10 individuals  MBO staff

Goldfinch:
6, 18 Monomoy, Marshfield 1, 1 ad.  R. Emery

European Wigeon:
25+26 Nantucket 1 m.  SSBC (J. Kenneally)

American Wigeon:
23 12, 12 m. 1 Monomoy, Concord (GMNWR) 200, 187  H. Merriman, R. Styimeist

Pintail:
29 P.I. 23  H. Merriman, D. Johnson

Blue-winged Teal:
25-26 Nantucket 12  BBC (R. Clayton, Hales)

Redhead:
24, 25 Cambridge, Nantucket 5, 1  H. Merriman, R. Styimeist

Ring-necked Duck:
25, 26 Nantucket, Cambridge 5, 5  SSBC (F. Gardner), L. Resmini

Canvasback:
18-26 Nantucket 1  L. Robinson, SSBC (J. Kenneally)

Greater Scaup:
12, 19 Monomoy, Revere 1, 2  SSBC (J. Kenneally), BBC (N. King)
22, 26 Barnstable, P.I. 2, 9  W. Petersen

Lesser Scaup:
11 Monomoy 2  BBC (L. Jodrey) v.o.

Common Eider:
18 Duxbury 41  M. Moore

Ruddy Duck:
26, 30 P.I., Plymouth 8, 11  BBC (H. Weissberg)

Hooded Merganser:
18 P.I. 1  H. Merriman

Common Merganser:
26 Lancaster 1  W. Petersen

Sharp-shinned Hawk:
18-26 15 localities 102 individuals  v.o.

Cooper's Hawk:
4, 6, 29 Marblehead 1, 1, 1  J. Clancy, R. Emery, J. Clancy
18, 29 Boston (L.I.); Lancaster, Monomoy 1, 1, 1  R. Emery, H. Merriman, H. Wiggia

Red-tailed Hawk:
19 Norwell 19  W. Petersen

Red-shouldered Hawk:
19, 22 Norwell, Framingham 2 ad. 32  W. Petersen, K. Hamilton
25 Manchester, Newbury 1 32 BBC (G. Hotz), J. Berry

Broad-winged Hawk:
Wh. of 19-24 Lancaster 115  H. Merriman
19 Andover, Haverhill 327, 433  M. Olmstead, fide P. Roberts
19 Mt. Wachusett, Norwell 683, 3  P. Roberts, W. Petersen

Bald Eagle:
25 Haverhill (Silver Hill) 1 ad.  P. Roberts

Marsh Hawk:
thr. 10 localities 34 individuals  v.o.

Osprey:
6-30 1-2 individuals reported from 18 localities  v.o.
19 Lancaster, Mt. Wachusett 6, 5  H. Merriman, P. Roberts
19 Haverhill, Andover 5, 14  fide P. Roberts, M. Olmstead

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Peregrine Falcon:  
8,13-26 P.I., Nantucket  
18,19 Squantum, Andover  
21+24,25+30 Monomoy, Monomoy  
1, singles M.Gardler, G.Soucy#v.o.  
1, 1 S.Higginbotham#, M.Olmstead  
1+1, 3+1 MBO Staff, C.Goodrich#  
Merlin:  
11 on 15 localities 49 individuals v.o.  
12-30 Capec Cod  
18-26 P.I.  
18,19 Squantum, Andover 1, 1 S.Higginbotham#, M.Olmstead  
21+2U,25+30 Manomet, Monomoy 1+1, 3+1 MBO Staff, C.Goodrich#  
American Kestrel:  
thr. 15 localities 117 migrants; v.o.  
35 individuals at Nantucket, 23 at Andover, 10 at Haverhill  
Clapper Rail:  
18 Marshfield, Plymouth  
29 Newburyport  
1 dead, 1 SSBC(W.Harrington), P.Gardner  
1-2 R.Veit, R.Emery#  
American Oystercatcher:  
thr. Monomoy, Nantucket  
8+, 7-4 v.o., v.o.  
Semipalmated Plover:  
1,18 Monomoy, P.I.  
200, 200 W.Bailey, BBC(H.Weissberg)  
18 Duxbury  
81 M.Moore  
Piping Plover:  
1 Monomoy  
75+ R.Veit, M.Moore  
Golden Plover:  
12,21 Orleans, Monomoy  
20, 14+ C.Goodrich, W.Petersen  
25-26,29 Nantucket, P.I.  
16, 30 SSBC(J.Kenneally), R.Emery#  
Black-bellied Plover:  
1,18 Monomoy, P.I.  
1200, 500+ M.Moore#, W.Petersen  
18,19 Duxbury, Monomoy  
310, 2500 M.Moore, R.Veit  
21,30 Monomoy, Duxbury  
4000+, 569 R.Veit#, M.Moore  
Ruddy Turnstone:  
5,12 Monomoy  
100, 40 BBC(Drummond), H.Merriman  
18 Scituate  
41 M.+B.Litchfield  
Eurasian Curlew:  
19-29 Monomoy  
1 R.Veit, S.Perkins+v.o.  
2nd record for North America  
Whimbrel:  
1 P.I.  
1(Eurasian race) M.Gardler  
6,21 Monomoy  
55, 35 W.Bailey, R.Veit#  
Upland Sandpiper:  
25 Nantucket  
1 S.Perkins#  
Solitary Sandpiper:  
20,25 Cambridge, Duxbury  
2, 1 R.Stymeist, W.Harrington  
Willet:  
1,7 Monomoy, Chatham  
8-10, 15 R.Veit#, W.Scott#  
6,26 Saugus, Eastham  
1, 8 S.Zendeh, H.Coolidge#  
Lesser Yellowlegs:  
11 Newburyport  
150 R.Veit  
Red Knot:  
1,6-8 Monomoy, Revere-Winthrop  
200+, 2-25 M.Moore#, S.Zendeh  
11,19-21 P.I., Monomoy  
225, 600+ R.Veit#  
Purple Sandpiper:  
18 M.Scituate  
10 M.+B.Litchfield  
White-rumped Sandpiper:  
12 P.I.  
80+ W.Petersen#  
Baird's Sandpiper:  
1-4,5 P.I., Scituate  
1-3, 2 Juv. v.o., M.Moore  
11,25 Rowley, Monomoy  
1, 2 K.Hamilton, C.Goodrich  
26 Duxbury  
1 MBO Staff  
Curlew Sandpiper:  
4-19 P.I.  
1(from July) v.o.  
Dunlin:  
4,8 P.I., Revere  
1, 2 S.Zendeh, B.Morrissey  
18,19 Duxbury, P.I.  
202, 400+ M.Moore, R.Veit#  
Long-billed Dowitcher:  
11,19 P.I., E.Boston  
8, 15 R.Stymeist, S.Zendeh  
Stilt Sandpiper:  
11-12;26 P.I.  
4; 2 R.Veit, W.Petersen; R.+D.Hale  
Semipalmated Sandpiper:  
5 Monomoy, P.I.  
650, 500+ W.Drummond#, F.Catman  
26 P.I.  
100+ R.+D.Hale  
Western Sandpiper:  
8 Duxbury Beach  
1 M.Moore
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Locality</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buff-breasted Sandpiper</td>
<td>5-25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marbled Godwit</td>
<td>3-26, 26</td>
<td>2, 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>P.I., Scituate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hollins Godwit</td>
<td>4-30</td>
<td>21-20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newburyport</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Avocet</td>
<td>1-26, 16-21</td>
<td>1, 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>P.I., Wellfleet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red Phalarope</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wilson's Phalarope</td>
<td>8-19; 19-21</td>
<td>1-2; 1-2</td>
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<tr>
<td>P.I.; Monomoy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern Phalarope</td>
<td>8-10; 18-19</td>
<td>1; 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>P.I.; Nantucket</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fomarine Jaeger</td>
<td>2, 1, 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barnstable, Nantucket</td>
<td>18-19, 19</td>
<td>2, 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pollock Rip, Provincetown</td>
<td>26, 27</td>
<td>3, 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parasitic Jaeger</td>
<td>2, 1, 17</td>
<td>12, 10</td>
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<td>Barnstable, Nantucket</td>
<td>25-26, 26</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skua</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provincetown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keelandy Gull</td>
<td>7, 26</td>
<td>1, 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>P.I.</td>
<td>28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black-headed Gull</td>
<td>6-26</td>
<td>1-2 ad.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newburyport</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Laughing Gull</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>80+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Franklin's Gull</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1 ad.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Little Gull</td>
<td>6-29</td>
<td>3 ad.,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newburyport</td>
<td>3 ad., 1 imm.; 4 ad.,</td>
<td>1 imm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Revere, Plymouth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Squantum</td>
<td>1 ad.</td>
<td>R. Higginbotham#</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sabine's Gull</td>
<td>6 on</td>
<td>1 ad.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newburyport</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black-legged Kittiwake</td>
<td>26, 27</td>
<td>1 ad.,</td>
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<td>Nantucket, Provincetown</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Porster's Tern</td>
<td>4-27</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Common Tern</td>
<td>1, 18-26</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roseate Tern</td>
<td>11, 18-19</td>
<td>200+, 200</td>
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<tr>
<td>P.I., Nantucket</td>
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<tr>
<td>Least Tern</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>S. Dartmouth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caspian Tern</td>
<td>11-29</td>
<td>1-9</td>
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<tr>
<td>P.I.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Skimmer</td>
<td>1-22</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monomoy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Yellow-billed Cuckoo</td>
<td>18-25</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 localities</td>
<td></td>
<td>singles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manchester</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black-billed Cuckoo</td>
<td>16, 19</td>
<td>1, 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hingham, Nahant</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manchester</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Long-eared Owl</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>P.I.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short-eared Owl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monomoy, Nantucket</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whip-poor-will</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chatham</td>
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<tr>
<td>Common Nighthawk</td>
<td>25-26, 29</td>
<td>1, 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nantucket, Ipswich</td>
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<td>Chimney Swift</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>514</td>
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<td>Framingham</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ruby-throated Hummingbird</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marblehead</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red-bellied Woodpecker</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chatham</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Species</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Remarks</td>
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<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red-headed Woodpecker:</td>
<td>Centerville, Lanesville</td>
<td>1 ad., 1 imm.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nantucket</td>
<td>1 imm.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:</td>
<td>12-30</td>
<td>18 individuals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12 localities</td>
<td>v.o.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eastern Kingbird:</td>
<td>Brewster</td>
<td>1(last)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Kingbird:</td>
<td>Truro, Manchester</td>
<td>2, 1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>P.I.</td>
<td>M.Gardler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Crested Flycatcher:</td>
<td>Manomet(MBO)</td>
<td>1(b)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Say's Phoebe:</td>
<td>Monomoy</td>
<td>Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:</td>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>singles</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 localities</td>
<td>v.o.</td>
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<td>Olive-sided Flycatcher:</td>
<td>Nantucket, Orleans</td>
<td>5, 1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wellfleet</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bank Swallow:</td>
<td>P.I.</td>
<td>15+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Purple Martin:</td>
<td>P.I.</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td>Black-capped Chickadee:</td>
<td>thr. Manomet(MBO)</td>
<td>370(b)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red-breasted Nuthatch:</td>
<td>18,25-26</td>
<td>15, 12</td>
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<td>Carolina Wren:</td>
<td>P.I., Nantucket</td>
<td>1, 2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>P.I., N.Sinisquam</td>
<td>H.Weissberg#, J.Kenneally#</td>
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<td>Hermit Thrush:</td>
<td>Chatham</td>
<td>R.Heil#, M.+B.Litchfield</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swainson's Thrush:</td>
<td>Marblehead(MWWS)</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wheatear:</td>
<td>Nantucket</td>
<td>1, 1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd week Annisquam</td>
<td>M.+A.Argue#</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ruby-crowned Kinglet:</td>
<td>Chatham</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water Pipit:</td>
<td>Monomoy, Salisbury</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>P.I.</td>
<td>120</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cedar Waxwing:</td>
<td>Nantucket, Manchester</td>
<td>100+, 120+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loggerhead Shrike:</td>
<td>Monomoy, Bowley</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wellfleet</td>
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<tr>
<td>White-eyed Vireo:</td>
<td>P.I., N.Sinisquame</td>
<td>2, 3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nantucket</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Yellow-throated Vireo:</td>
<td>Manomet(MBO), Chatham</td>
<td>1 (b), 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Manomet(MBO), Plymouth</td>
<td>1 (b), 1 (b)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philadelphia Vireo:</td>
<td>Boston, Marblehead(MWWS)</td>
<td>Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Warbling Vireo:</td>
<td>4-25</td>
<td>23+ individuals</td>
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<td>6+ localities</td>
<td>v.o.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Black-throated Blue Warbler (18)

- P.I. 14
- Wellesley 1

## Blackburnian Warbler (27)

- Manomet (MBO) 1

## Bay-breasted Warbler (37(b))

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manomet (MBO)</td>
<td>1-26</td>
<td>13</td>
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## Blackpoll Warbler (222(b))

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manomet (MBO)</td>
<td>9/18</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cambridge (Mt.A)</td>
<td>9/22-26</td>
<td>100</td>
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## Ovenbird (30)

- Boston (Pru) 4

## Northern Waterthrush (14+1; 1)

- Manomet (MBO) 1
- Outer Cape 1
- Ipswich 1
- Lancaster, Marblehead 1
- N.Scituate 1

## Connecticut Warbler (11, 18, 21, 25)

- Weston, N.Scituate 1
- Wellfleet, Framingham 1
- Manomet (MBO) 1
- Milton, Bridgewater 1

## Mourning Warbler (5(b))

- Outer Cape 1
- Ipswich 1
- Lancaster, Marblehead 1

## Yellow-breasted Chat (14(b))

- Manomet (MBO) 1
- Outer Cape 1
- Ipswich 1
- N.Scituate 1

## Hooded Warbler (18)

- Manomet (MBO) 1
- Outer Cape 1
- Plymouth, Nantucket 1

## Canada Warbler (19)

- Manomet (MBO) 1

## Bobolink (6, 8)

- Nantucket 1

## Yellow-headed Blackbird (1-6)

- Monomoy, Truro 1
- Lanesville 1

## Northern Oriole (18)

- Monomoy, Truro 1

## Rusty Blackbird (17, 18)

- Monomoy, Truro 1

## Brown-headed Cowbird (26)

- Framingham 1

## Blue Grosbeak (15-31)

- Outer Cape 1

## Indigo Bunting (18)

- Truro 1

## Dickcissel (6+25)

- Truro 1

## House Finch (18)

- Marshfield, Hingham 1

## Red Crossbill (29)

- Woods Hole 1

## Savannah Sparrow (25)

- Ipswich, Nantucket 1

## Sharp-tailed Sparrow (11)

- Newburyport, N.Scituate 1

## Seaside Sparrow (11, 28)

- P.I. 2
- Monomoy 1
### Vesper Sparrow:
- 14, 25: P.I., Wellfleet
- 3, 1: R. Ebery#, H. Coolidge#

### Lark Sparrow:
- 5–8: Wellfleet (Marconi)
- 6, 28, 30: P.I.
- 1, 1, 1: C. Goodrich + v.o.
- 8–12: Monomoy
- 1: F. Haanen# + v.o.
- 25: Ipswich, Truro
- 1, 2: W. Bailey# + v.o.
- 11: P.I. (first migrants)
- 3: J. Grugan, J. Murphy

### Dark-eyed Junco:
- 11: P.I.
- 1, 1, 1: F. Hamlen# + v.o.
- 8–12: Monomoy
- 1: W. Bailey# + v.o.

### Tree Sparrow:
- 25, 29: P.I.
- 1: J. Clancy, R. Heil#

#### Clay-colored Sparrow:
- 6–24: Outer Cape
- 1: H. Coolidge; J. Clancy, R. Heil#
- 28: P.I.
- 6–7: Fide B. Nikula
- 25+: D. Briggs

#### Field Sparrow:
- 21: Bridgewater
- 1: N. Claflin
- 25+: D. Briggs

#### White-crowned Sparrow:
- 13–18: various locations
- 60–70: B. Nikula#
- 25: Monomoy
- first arrivals v.o.

#### Lincoln's Sparrow:
- 12 on
- 22 individuals v.o.

#### Lapland Longspur:
- 25: Duxbury, Monomoy
- 2, 1: BBC (H. W. Harrington), T. Leverich#

### Abbreviations
- ad. adult
- b. banded
- f. female
- imm. immature
- m. male
- max. maximum
- thr. throughout
- v.o. various observers
- # additional observers
- ABC Allen Bird Club
- BBC Brookline Bird Club
- CCBC Cape Cod Bird Club
- FBC Forbush Bird Club
- FBC Fassamansett Bird Club
- SSBC South Shore Bird Club
- DFWS Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary
- GMMWR Great Meadows Nat'l Wildlife Refuge
- IRWS Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary
- MBO Manomet Bird Observatory
- WBWS Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary
- F.M. Fowl Meadow, Milton
- Mt. A. Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge
- M.V. Martha's Vineyard
- P.I. Plum Island

The following is a petition which is being circulated at present among concerned people. Readers are urged to copy and circulate it among their friends. Return signed petitions to: Craig Jackson, 47 Franklin Street, Somerville, Mass. 02145.

To Secretary of the Interior Andrus:

New England coastal waters are threatened by many oil spills, large and small. In each case of spillage the following facts become clearer and more ominous:

1. The North Atlantic–Georges Bank area, wealthy beyond belief with life, is delicately balanced. Spilled oil can kill its fish, mammals, and birds, as well as the phytoplankton and fish larvae on which all other life depends.

2. The Argo Merchant disaster made it clear that no clean-up technology for the rough seas of the North Atlantic exists.

3. Many people's livelihoods are in jeopardy: the fishing, shellfish, and tourist industries all depend on the fertility and cleanliness of the ocean to prosper.

We believe the risks of environmental and economic disaster far outweigh any benefits that might come from drilling Georges Bank for oil. The Department of the Interior has estimated that the oil reserves of Georges Bank would provide the energy needs of the nation for only twelve days! WE THEREFORE URGENTLY REQUEST THAT YOU STOP THE LEASING OF TRACTS FOR OFFSHORE DRILLING IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC–GEORGES BANK AREA.
The month of October was generally cold, wet and cloudy, and the temperature ranged from a high of 77° to a low of 28° on the 27th, with an overall average of 52.3°. The first frost occurred in Boston on the 20th, 12 days earlier than average. Precipitation totalled 4.21 inches of rain, concentrated in squalls on the 9th and 20th. High winds from the west and northwest were frequent, with a gust hitting 56 m.p.h. on the 21st.

Tubenoses once again highlighted the month's varied list of reports, with the aforementioned concentration of feeding Greater Shearwaters recorded as still present off Provincetown throughout the month. Amongst them were numerous Sooty Shearwaters, with a maximum count of 100 on the 10th. In addition, thousands of Greater, although no Sooty, Shearwaters were present on Georges Bank. Most noteworthy, however, was the unprecedented abundance of Northern Fulmars recorded in inshore waters, beginning with several individuals noted from shore, and culminating in a count of 60+ on Stellwagen Bank on the 30th. Striking was the fact that a carefully estimated 75% of these birds were in the dark phase, this morph typically being represented by less than 5% of birds seen in New England waters. It can be hypothesized that these early "migrants" may consist of individuals from colonies on the western Atlantic, which, due to their more northerly location, contain a higher percentage of dark-phased birds than the eastern Atlantic race. (Percentage of dark/light phased birds increases markedly towards the north.) This early fall influx may indeed be a temporary seasonal one, as other high counts of Fulmars, made later in the winter, consist of an overwhelming majority of light-phased birds. Two Wilson's Storm-Petrels on Georges Bank, Oct. 29, were remarkable, and represent the latest fall record for local waters.

Numerous herons lingered into the month, including a Louisiana persisting until the 10th on Plum Island. A Whistling Swan appeared on Monomoy on the 30th, rather early for this species. A blue morph Snow Goose was spotted among 40 Snows at Rowley, this being the only flock of this species noted on the outer coast during the fall. Ring-necked Ducks built up to a total of 435+ at Lakeville along with 170 Canvasbacks. A Harlequin Duck was present at Monomoy for one day, Oct. 8th.

An amazing "flight" of Turkey Vultures occurred in the 4th week of the month, when 8-9 separate individuals were noted. Totals for Goshawks and Cooper's Hawks were 5 and 6, respectively. Rough-legged Hawks arrived on the 7th and 9th, respectively. Aca count of 7+ Clapper Rails calling together at Wellfleet certainly represents a state high for recent years. The Eurasian Curlew was seen again on the 12th, and late shorebird migrants included a Baird's Sandpiper on the 11th at Plum Island, 2 Stilt Sandpipers on the 31st at P.I., and two separate Short-billed Dowitchers on the 17th and 24th.

Skua's continue to frequent Georges Bank, with 10-15 individuals seen there this month. A Lesser Black-backed Gull was seen and excellently photographed at Nauset, where the species has now been seen for 4 years running. Caspian Terns totalled 29 for the month, a very high count considering totals for October the last 3 years - 2,3,21. Even more surprising was a Royal Tern at Provincetown, Oct. 10th - 11th. Scattered alcids arrived by mid-month, including a Common Puffin in Cape Cod Bay on the 30th. Common Puffins seem to have become regular here at this season.

Waves of passerines and other migrants occurred on the 11th, 12th and 27th, the former being more pronounced on the Outer Cape and Islands. Particularly late migrants included: Common Nighthawk (7th), Ruby-throated Hummingbird (13th,16th) and a Warbling Vireo in Chatham (19th-24), possibly a late date for the state. A Bewick's Wren was found on Monomoy on the 12th, the second in 2 years for the state. Inland, a Gray Jay was found at Dana, by the Quabbin Reservoir on the 23rd.

Perhaps the most bizarre event of the month was the occurrence of 4 separate Wheatears, bringing to a total of 7 the birds seen in Massachusetts this fall. An influx of Wheatears such as this is completely unprecedented, Wheatears being considered casual or accidental in any of the New England states previously.

After numerous sight records in previous years, Brewer's Blackbird finally deserves a place on the state list as two out of four individuals present in Truro on the 23rd - 28th were identifiably photographed in color.

Numerous Grasshopper Sparrows were seen along the outer coast, and one inland during the period Oct. 19 - 24. Lark Sparrows were reported in higher than normal numbers (7, cf. 0,5,4 for the last three years) and Clay-colored Sparrows were noted in substantially higher then normal numbers, particularly on the Outer Cape with 10 - 12 individuals reported, (cf. 2,3,2 since 1973). Finally, Snow Buntings and Lapland Longspurs arrived in numbers at Salisbury by midmonth.
Common Loon:
2,13 Manomet, P.I. 68,100+ MBO staff, BBC (Ervin)
Red-throated Loon:
23, 24 P.I., Barnstable 70,280 R. Heil, H. D. D'Entremont, M. Moore
Red-necked Grebe:
23-31, 24 P.I., Barnstable 1-2, 3 v.o., B. Harrington, D. Crompton
Horned Grebe:
21 Lakeville 50 J. Flaherty
Northern Fulmar:
9, 10 Provincetown, Nantucket 1, 1 (light) W. Bailey, R. Veit
11 Orleans, Provincetown 2 dark, 2 light W. Petersen, T. Lawrence
13-21, 30 Georges Bank, Stellwagen Bank 32, 60 J. Loughlin, BBC (H. D’Entremont)
21-30 Outer Cape 6+ individuals v.o.
Cory's Shearwater:
10 Nantucket, Provincetown 100, 400+ R. Veit, W. Bailey
17, 26 Barnstable 100, 400+ SSBC (Petersen), R. Pease
Greater Shearwater:
thr. off Provincetown 2000+ v.o.
9 Plymouth Beach 1 W. Petersen, K. Anderson
13-21, 20-30 Georges Bank 3625, 4020 J. Loughlin, T. Lloyd-Evans
Sooty Shearwater:
10, 24 Provincetown, Provincetown-Wellfleet 100, 50 W. Bailey, W. Petersen
30 off Provincetown 30+ v.o.
21 Georges Bank max. 3 J. Loughlin
Manx Shearwater:
3-30 Outer Cape 11 sightings v.o.
24 Georges Bank 3 T. Lloyd-Evans
Leach's Storm-Petrel:
2, 2-7 Rockport, Barnstable 6, 5 sightings R. Veit, R. Pease
24 Georges Bank 1 T. Lloyd-Evans
Wilson's Storm-Petrel:
16, 29 Georges Bank 2, 2 J. Loughlin
Gannet:
19, 27 Rockport, Eastham 2000, 5000-10, 000 N. Claf lin, M. Moore
31 Rockport 1100 G. Soucy
Double-crested Cormorant:
14 Boston Harbor 1000+ J. McDonnell
Little Blue Heron:
7, 16-21 Duxbury, P.I. 1 imm., 1-2 ad. M. Moore, R. Emery, M. McClellan
Great Egret:
Snowy Egret:
9, 10 P.I., Westport 10, 40 BBC (Grinley), BBC (R. O’Hara)
23 F.I. 3 BBC (N. King)
Black-crowned Night Heron:
16 F.I., S. Wellfleet 80, 55 W. Petersen, R. Stymeist
Louisiana Heron:
2-16 F.I. 1 P. Parsons & v.o.
Whistling Swan:
30 Monomoy 1 W. Bailey
Brant:
15, 16 Manomet Pt. 9, 11 MBO staff
19, 23 Eastham, S. Dartmouth 30, 22 R. Veit, W. Petersen
Snow Goose:
10 Rowley 40 (1 blue morph) C. Leahy
Gadwall:
11 Concord (GNWR) 20 BBC (J. Hinds)
Green-winged Teal:
23 P.I. 1200+ R. Heil
Blue-winged Teal:
24 Concord (GNWR) 50 P. Deveau
European Wigeon:
9-10, 12 Nantucket, Monomoy 1 m., 1 C. Jackson, B. Nikula
American Wigeon:
9-10, 11 Nantucket, Concord 400, 1200+ C. Jackson, BBC (Hinds)
Northern Shoveler:
2, 30 P.I. 40, 97 BBC (Ervin), R. Stymeist
Wood Duck:
3, 11 Weston, Provincetown 47, 1 L. Robinson, W. Petersen
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<th>Count</th>
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<td>Ring-necked Duck:</td>
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<td>R.Emery#</td>
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<td>H.Merriman, J.Flaherty</td>
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<td>Bufflehead:</td>
<td>Middleboro, Newburyport</td>
<td>45, 125</td>
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<td>Oldsquaw:</td>
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<td>48, 6</td>
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<td>Harlequin Duck:</td>
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<td>Common Eider:</td>
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<td>300, 200</td>
<td>H.D'Ouimont, G.Soucy#</td>
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<td>Scoter (sp.?):</td>
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<td>Ruddy Duck:</td>
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<td>Goshawk:</td>
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<td>Cooper's Hawk:</td>
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<td>Osprey:</td>
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<td>Peregrine Falcon:</td>
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<td>Merlyn:</td>
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<td>N.Waldron</td>
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<td>Thrush:</td>
<td>14 localities</td>
<td>17 individuals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merlyn:</td>
<td>10+ localities</td>
<td>15+ individuals (1+ im.)</td>
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<td>Clapper Rail:</td>
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<td>American Oystercatcher:</td>
<td>Monomoy</td>
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Piping Plover: 11,17 East Orleans, Barnstable 3,12
Killdeer: 11,17 Middleboro 24
American Golden Plover: 11,17 Monomoy, Concord max. 25+ (23rd)
Black-bellied Plover: 16,17 Monomoy, Newburyport 1500,500
Whimbrel: 11,12 Wellfleet, Monomoy 1,1
Eurasian Curlew: 12 Monomoy 1 (from Sept. 19)
Spotted Sandpiper: 29 Worcester 1
Solitary Sandpiper: 10,11 Westport, Truro 1,1
Willet: 10,16 Newburyport, Chatham 1,4
Greater Yellowlegs: 17 Newburyport, Eastham 75+,100
Lesser Yellowlegs: 22,30 Newburyport 12,1
Red Knot: 16 Monomoy-Chatham 70
Purple Sandpiper: 19 No. Scituate 12
Pectoral Sandpiper: 3,10 Wayland, Duxbury 10,16
17,24 P.I., Eastham 50,75
29 Bridgewater 22
White-rumped Sandpiper: 17,25 Newburyport, Ipswich 10,9
Baird's Sandpiper: 11 P.I. 1
Least Sandpiper: 10 Duxbury 1
Dunlin: 9,23,30 P.I. 400,500,800+ 900+, 4000+
16,17 Barnstable, Monomoy
Short-billed Dowitcher: 17,24 Newburyport, Eastham 1,1

Long-billed Dowitcher: 17 Newburyport 120

Slate Sandpiper: 31 P.I. 2 (late)
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 10,31 Duxbury, Newburyport 40+,15
Western Sandpiper: 9,10 P.I., Duxbury 1,2
Marbled Godwit: 2,8 P.I., Plymouth 2,1
Hudsonian Godwit: 2-11,12 Concord, Monomoy 1,1
16,24 Newburyport, Quauntum 24,1
American Avocet: 11-20 Eastham (Nauset) 1

Red Phalarope: 26,30 Eastham, off Provincetown 500,40+
Northern Phalarope: 24,31 Provincetown, off Provincetown 1,3

Scaup: 2,8 P.I., Georges Bank 2,13

Parasitic Jaeger: 3,10 Provincetown 25,40
26 Eastham 50

Black-bellied Plover: 16,17 Monomoy, Newburyport 1500,500
Whimbrel: 11,12 Wellfleet, Monomoy 1,1
Eurasian Curlew: 12 Monomoy 1 (from Sept. 19)
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American Avocet: 11-20 Eastham (Nauset) 1

Red Phalarope: 26,30 Eastham, off Provincetown 500,40+
Northern Phalarope: 24,31 Provincetown, off Provincetown 1,3

Scaup: 2,8 P.I., Georges Bank 2,13

Parasitic Jaeger: 3,10 Provincetown 25,40
26 Eastham 50

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16,17 Barnstable, Monomoy
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Western Sandpiper: 9,10 P.I., Duxbury 1,2
Marbled Godwit: 2,8 P.I., Plymouth 2,1
Hudsonian Godwit: 2-11,12 Concord, Monomoy 1,1
16,24 Newburyport, Quauntum 24,1
American Avocet: 11-20 Eastham (Nauset) 1

Red Phalarope: 26,30 Eastham, off Provincetown 500,40+
Northern Phalarope: 24,31 Provincetown, off Provincetown 1,3

Scaup: 2,8 P.I., Georges Bank 2,13

Parasitic Jaeger: 3,10 Provincetown 25,40
26 Eastham 50
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<td>Skua</td>
<td>Georges Bank</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>J. Loughlin, T. Lloyd-Evans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glaucous Gull</td>
<td>off Provincetown, Barnstable</td>
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<td>BBC (H. D'Entremont)</td>
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<td>Iceland Gull</td>
<td>P.I., Georges Bank</td>
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<td>R. Emery, T. Lloyd-Evans</td>
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<td>Lesser Black-backed Gull</td>
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<td>C. Goodrich, B. Nikula</td>
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<td>Ring-billed Gull</td>
<td>Weston, So. Dartmouth</td>
<td>110,400+</td>
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<td>Black-headed Gull</td>
<td>Revere, Monomoy</td>
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<td>Bonaparte's Gull</td>
<td>Revere, Lakeville</td>
<td>400,1</td>
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<td>Laughing Gull</td>
<td>Winthrop, Hingham</td>
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<td>Royal Tern</td>
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<td>Marblehead, Brookline</td>
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<td>1 b., 1 staff, W.Bailey</td>
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<td>3,7</td>
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<td>7,10</td>
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<td>14</td>
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<td>14,23</td>
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<td>30,31</td>
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<td>2 ad. m., 2 f.(photographed) R.Veit, M.Litchfield</td>
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<td>2600,5000 J.Clancy, BBC(Davies)</td>
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<td>Truro</td>
<td>1 K.Hamilton</td>
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<td>Duxbury</td>
<td>1 imm. M.Moore</td>
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<td>23-29</td>
<td>Norwell</td>
<td>12 b. M&amp;B Litchfield</td>
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<td>Truro, Rockport</td>
<td>1-2, 1 b. v.o., R.Norris</td>
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<td>Outer Cape</td>
<td>1-2</td>
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<td>15</td>
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<td>Indigo Bunting</td>
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<td>18,30</td>
<td>Westboro, Carlisle</td>
<td>1,25 M.Gardler; P. Buckley, K.Harte</td>
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<td>Savannah Sparrow(Ipswich)</td>
<td>10,19</td>
<td>Scusset, Scituate</td>
<td>1,4 W.Petersen, N.Moore</td>
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<td>30</td>
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<td>F.Martin</td>
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<td>Grasshopper Sparrow</td>
<td>12,19</td>
<td>MBO, Truro</td>
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<td>19,24</td>
<td>S.Wellfleet, Truro</td>
<td>1,3 R.Veit, W.Petersen</td>
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<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Weston</td>
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<td>J.Hines</td>
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### Vesper Sparrow:
- **16 Eastham**
- **17**
- **R. Stymeist#**

### Lark Sparrow:
- **4,11 P.I., Salisbury**
- **16,17 Wellfleet, P.I.**
- **17-21,25 Truro, Rockport**
- **25 Framingham**
- **1 ad., 1 imm.**
- **C. Goodrich, R. Veit; V. Albee**

### Dark-eyed Junco:
- **29 Truro**
- **1000+**
- **R. Veit, P. Martin, M. Moore**

### Tree Sparrow:
- **9,17 Milton, P.I.**
- **24,29 Weston, Truro**
- **2,150+**
- **L. Robinson, R. Veit#**

### Chipping Sparrow:
- **9-25 7 localities**
- **v.o.**

### Clay-colored Sparrow:
- **1-25 Outer Cape**
- **8-10**
- **fide B. Nikula**
- **M. Moore, R. Veit**

### Field Sparrow:
- **16 Framingham, S. Peabody**
- **60,37**
- **K. Hamilton, R. Heil**

### White-crowned Sparrow:
- **19 Truro, Rockport**
- **75,60**
- **R. Veit, N. Claflin**
- **W. Bailey#**

### Lincoln's Sparrow:
- **24 Truro, Wellfleet**
- **10,15**
- **C. Goodrich, B. Nikula**

### Fox Sparrow:
- **12,19 MBQ, Lancaster**
- **1 b., 1**
- **staff, H. Merriman**
- **E. Forster, K. Hamilton**

### Lapland Longspur:
- **11,17 Salisbury**
- **25,125**
- **R. Forster; R. Veit, M. Litchfield**

### Snow Bunting:
- **16,17 Salisbury, Truro**
- **1,5**
- **R. Veit, M. Litchfield; BBC (Baines)**
- **R. Forster**

### Corrigenda

March 1976 records; vol. 4, no. 3

**Red-headed Woodpecker:**
- **thr., 8 Gloucester, Newtonville**
  - **1 m., 1 m.**
  - **S. Robbins + v.o., Goldberg**

should read:

**Red-headed Woodpecker:**
- **thr., 8 Gloucester, Newtonville**
  - **1,1**
  - **S. Robbins#, Goldberg**

August 1976; vol. 4, no. 5

**Surf Scoter:**
- **1,10 Cotuit, Plymouth**
  - **1 m., 1**

should read:

**Surf Scoter:**
- **1,10 Cotuit, Plymouth**
  - **1 f., 1**
  - **J. Barton, J. Murphy**

**Whimbrel:**
- **2,2-3 Wellfleet, Monomoy**
  - **80, 140**
  - **W. Bailey, C. Goodrich#**

should read:

**Whimbrel:**
- **2,2-3 Wellfleet, Monomoy**
  - **80, 140**
  - **W. Bailey, C. Goodrich#**

**Philadelphia Vireo:**
- **2 Cambridge (F. Pond)**
  - **20**
  - **R. Veit**

should read:

**Warbling Vireo:**
- **2 Cambridge (F. Pond)**
  - **20**
  - **R. Veit**
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