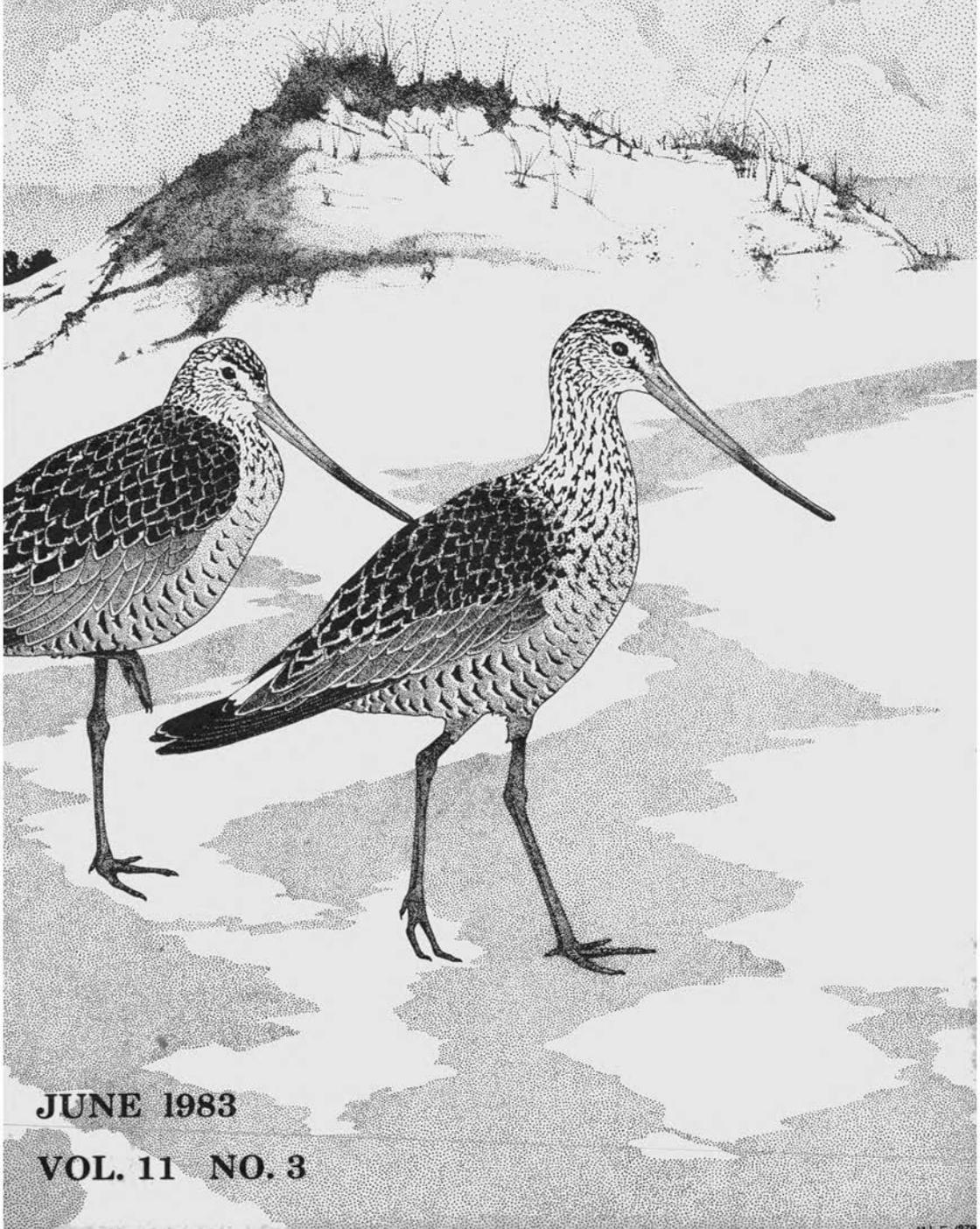


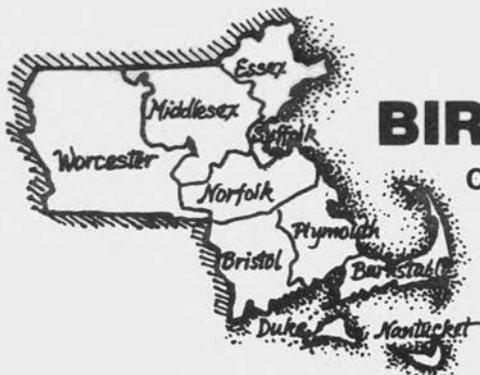
BIRD OBSERVER

OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS



JUNE 1983

VOL. 11 NO. 3



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WHERE AND WHEN TO SEND FIELD RECORDS

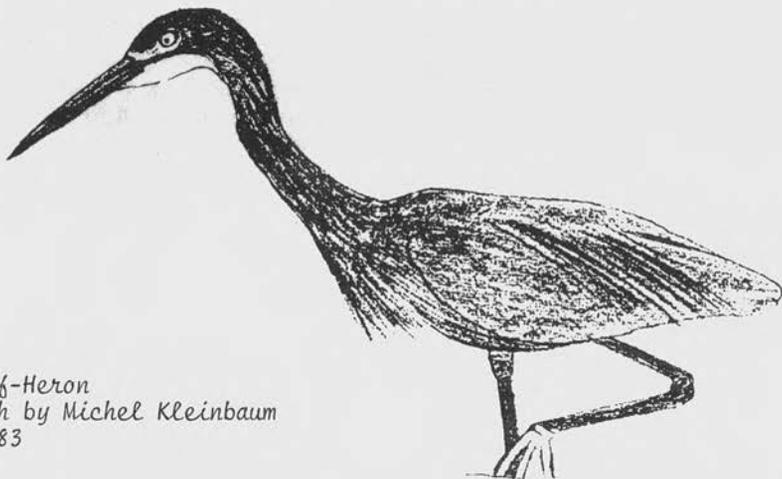
In order to be processed, all field records for any given month must be submitted PROMPTLY and NOT LATER THAN the eighth of the following month to:

RUTH EMERY, 225 Belmont Street, Wollaston, MA 02170.

COMMON NIGHTHAWK WATCH

The Massachusetts Audubon Society will conduct a Common Nighthawk migration watch from August 20 through September 7. Observers in the Connecticut River Valley have been watching nighthawk migration for years, but the migration in the rest of the state is still little known. Last year, close monitoring from a Brookline hilltop witnessed over 3000 individuals in less than three weeks. Previous watches indicate that other areas may experience a substantial migration under certain weather conditions.

To participate in the watch write Massachusetts Audubon Society, Natural History Services, Lincoln, MA 01773. Be sure to enclose a large self-addressed stamped envelope to receive instructions and a chart on which to record sightings.



Western Reef-Heron
Field Sketch by Michel Kleinbaum
July 15, 1983

The doldrums of the birding summer have evaporated! The unusual dark heron, first noted in Quaise Marsh, Nantucket, by Edith and Clinton Andrews on April 26, was finally identified as a Western Reef-Heron from Africa, Egretta gularis, a state and North American record and surely a life bird for most of the birders from near and far for whom Nantucket, already laden with summer visitors, has become the mecca of the season. A contingent from the Bird Observer staff joined the throngs on July 16 to see the bird and do some birder-watching, but even Roger Tory Peterson, the prize luminary there, had to take second place to the star of the day - the visiting heron.

This lively African bird, resembling at first glance a Little Blue Heron, seemed perfectly at home and fed steadily, the long bill stabbing the water repeatedly and successfully in clear view of the delighted audience, only occasionally flying off to disappear for brief intervals on unknown affairs of its own. A very active bird, it quickly dispatched any Snowys who ventured near and performed a fascinating succession of movements - shadowing the water with raised wings to reduce the glare and make prey more visible, executing swirly foot movements (to attract prey?), prancing sideways as if dancing, and searching for food while stepping steadily backwards. The other herons in the marsh looked very sluggish by contrast. The white chin and upper throat and the pale lores were visible to the naked eye over some distance, and the golden feet, visible in flight and during high-stepping movements, made the bird easy to track and to distinguish from other dark herons.

This heron was thought to be a moulting Little Blue until June 11 when Edith Andrews saw its yellow feet for the first time and realized that this was no usual local heron. By a happy chance, Rob Cardillo of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences' VIREO project (Visual Resources in Ornithology) was vacationing on Nantucket and met Edith when he visited the Maria Mitchell Museum, the result being that he photographed the bird on June 28. Not until July 11 however did the photos reach the Philadelphia Academy where they were immediately identified by Robert Ridgley. VIREO then sent Alec Forbes-Watson, eminent authority on African birds, along with Michel Kleinbaum (whose field sketch appears here) to confirm Ridgley's identification in the field. From that day, the birding world began its assault. It is expected that this exciting visitor will remain until the fall migration, and until it leaves, it assuredly will not be able to so much as drop a feather without some happy birder watching. DRA

A GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF
THE SQUAM LAKES REGION, NEW HAMPSHIRE¹

by Beverly S. Ridgely

INTRODUCTION by Tudor Richards

History. There have been such extraordinary changes over the years in the bird life of the Squam Lakes Region (as in the rest of central New Hampshire) that some of these should be touched upon. Two centuries ago the region was still largely wilderness, with birds of deep forests predominant. In the following decades, however, the creation of much open land at the expense of the virgin forest caused a great decrease in the number of forest birds and an increase in those liking fields and pastures.

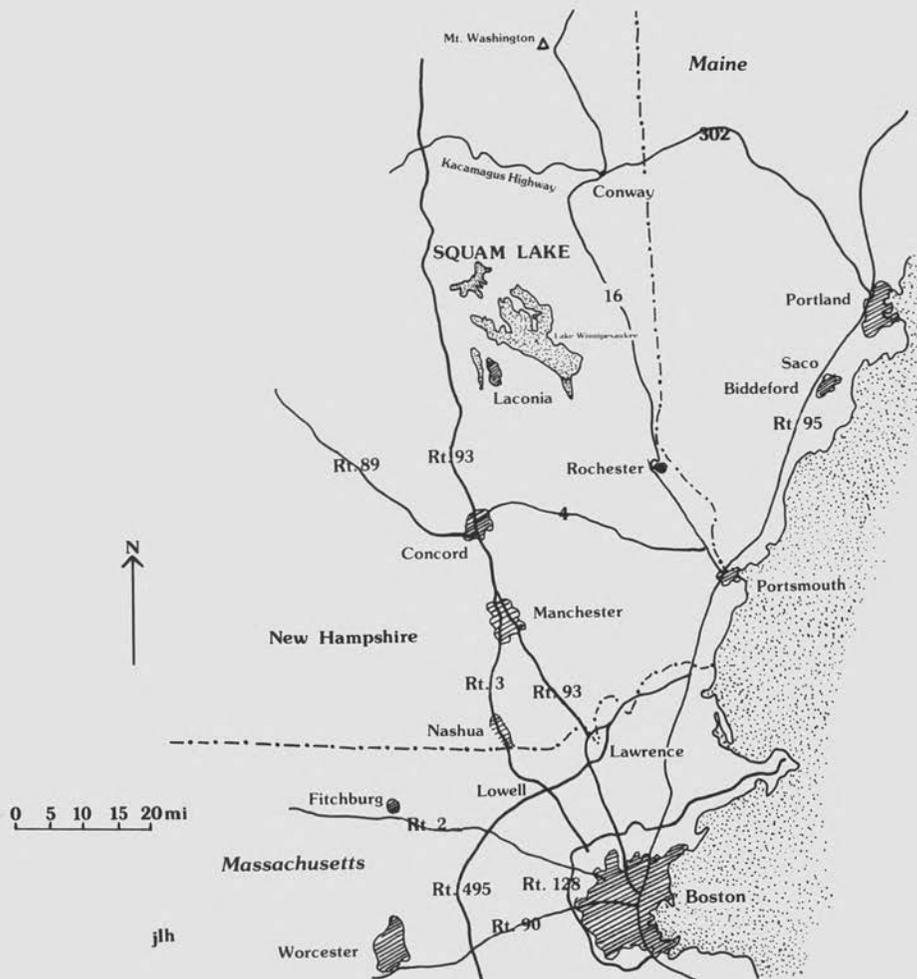
This trend has now been largely reversed with the decline of agriculture starting over a century ago. On the other hand, rather than reverting to well-developed forests, much of the abandoned farmland has come up to brushy areas, thin woodlands or unnaturally pure and extensive stands of white pine, many of which have been timbered on becoming merchantable, with certain birds benefiting from each of these mostly temporary types of habitat and others not.

Then there have been wholly disastrous developments such as market and feather hunting and the introduction of the House Sparrow and European Starling during the last century, and, more recently, the extensive use of pesticides. Furthermore, the proliferation of garbage everywhere has been a bonanza for gulls and "blackbirds," and the latter have also benefited from the availability of vast amounts of grain in certain sections of the country. As a result, species of birds preyed upon by gulls or parasitized by the Brown-headed Cowbirds have suffered greatly.

Nevertheless, there have also been favorable factors such as the much better protection of birds in general in recent decades, the creation of wildlife refuges, and the feeding of birds in winter, though the latter almost certainly is partially responsible for the increase of the Blue Jay, a natural nest robber that is now, unfortunately, present in unnatural numbers.

No doubt the greatest change that has occurred in the bird life of the Squam Lakes Region within historical times is the extermination of the Passenger Pigeon. Once the continent's

¹Bird Observer wishes to thank the Squam Lakes Association of Plymouth, New Hampshire for permission to use this material, including the map, which is reprinted from the book by Professor Ridgely, A Guide to the Birds of the Squam Lakes Region, New Hampshire (228 pages), published by the Squam Lakes Association in 1977.



and probably the world's most abundant bird, it almost certainly was also our region's most abundant species up to perhaps the middle of the last century, some individuals possibly occurring as recently as the 1880s or 1890s. We are fortunate in having a number of references that together give us a good idea of the bird life of the Squam region 70-90 years ago or so, and none of which, incidentally, mentions the Passenger Pigeon. Though very probably somewhat down in numbers by the turn of the present century, the Common Loon and the Great Blue Heron seem to have survived the slaughter of the nineteenth century remarkably well. Waterfowl, not surprisingly, fared less well, the only species known to nest in the region during the above period being the Black and Wood ducks, and these sparingly. The Bald Eagle appears to have been more common then than it is now, but hawks in general seem to have been very scarce, including even the Broad-winged Hawk and the American Kestrel. Despite having been a major target of market hunters in the last century, the Upland Sandpiper apparently still nested in numbers in or near our region until at

least the 1890s, whereas the Killdeer was then almost unknown. Most remarkable of all, gulls were practically never seen except during or immediately after easterly storms, and then only occasionally.

All evidence indicates that the Mourning Dove, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, and Brown-headed Cowbird were, at best, rare in the Squam region in the period 1883-1903, and that the Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Tufted Titmouse, Wood Thrush, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, European Starling, Louisiana Waterthrush, Cardinal, and Evening Grosbeak were, except for an incursion of the latter in 1890, unknown. On the other hand, Walter Faxon, a highly respected amateur ornithologist, in his account of June visits to Holderness in 1885 and 1886, describes the Common Nighthawk, Purple Martin, Cliff Swallow, and Eastern Bluebird as "common," the Vesper Sparrow as "very common," the Whip-poor-will as "abundant," and the Indigo Bunting as "very abundant." All of these are much less common now as summer residents, and some seem to be absent except as migrants.

In more recent decades the Common and Hooded mergansers appear to have become summer residents in the Squam region for the first time in history, although in the last few years the former has returned to its earlier status as only or primarily a migrant. Unfortunately the non-native Mallard has been artificially introduced in recent years, become largely dependent on "handouts," and started to interbreed with the Black Duck. More welcome is the Ring-necked Duck, which was unknown around the turn of the century but is now fairly common in migration and possibly a locally nesting species.

Hawks seem to have staged something of a comeback in recent decades only to suffer serious setbacks more recently because of pesticide poisoning, though there are now signs of recovery from this catastrophe. Meanwhile the Upland Sandpiper has almost entirely disappeared from open agricultural land and has seemingly been replaced by the Killdeer.

By far the most dramatic change of all in recent years has been the extraordinary increase in the number of gulls. Starting with the Herring Gull, this explosion soon included the larger Great Black-backed Gull and the smaller Ring-billed Gull, all of which are now common on Squam Lake. As a group, gulls are, in fact, by far the most common waterbirds in summer on the lake. This unprecedented development is clearly the result of better protection followed by the proliferation of garbage, open dumps being where many gulls now get much of their food, some of it even in winter, though sanitary land-fill practices may soon begin to turn the tables on them.

Among the small landbirds, probably the most noticeable changes of recent decades have been the arrivals in the region of the Wood Thrush, which soon became a common summer resident, the great increase in the numbers of the Blue Jay, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, and White-throated Sparrow, and

the decrease of the Whip-poor-will, Common Nighthawk, Purple Martin, Cliff Swallow, Eastern Bluebird, Indigo Bunting, and Vesper Sparrow.

Mention should also be made of the fairly recent arrival as nesting species or possible nesting species of such "southern" birds as the Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Tufted Titmouse, Mockingbird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Cardinal, and also of two "northern" birds, the Common Raven and Ruby-crowned Kinglet; the very recent and remarkable increase of the Mourning Dove; and the noticeable decrease as summer residents of such small birds as the Black-throated Green and Blackburnian warblers, almost certainly at least partly the result of increased stealing of eggs and nestlings by Blue Jays and grackles and of nest parasitizing by cowbirds.

The bird life of the Squam Lakes Region today, despite the major changes that have occurred, remains much as it was nearly a century ago in that the vast majority of species occurring then occur now and vice versa, even if not, in many cases, in the same numbers.

Nesting Season. Even when the spring migration is over, a tremendous variety of birds stay to nest in the Squam Lakes Region, including a modest number of water birds. Our prize species is, of course, the Common Loon, that wonderful symbol of wildness which at Squam Lake is at the extreme southwestern limit of its principal nesting range, since the few lakes and ponds farther south where loons nest have all had only one or two pairs producing young in recent years.

Other water birds well represented as summer residents in suitable habitat in the region are the Great Blue Heron, American Bittern, Black and Wood ducks, Hooded Merganser, Killdeer, American Woodcock, Spotted Sandpiper, and the apparently non-nesting or not successfully nesting Great Black-backed, Herring, and Ring-billed gulls. Scarcer species that are probably regular at least somewhere in our area include the Pied-billed Grebe, Green-backed Heron, Common Merganser, Virginia and Sora rails Common Snipe, and perhaps one or two others.

Land birds summering in the Squam region range from "southern" species just reaching it, like the still very rare Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, to species near their southern limit here that range to the Arctic, like the Gray-cheeked Thrush. Our area has, in fact, a wonderful mixture of "southern" and "northern" birds. This is well illustrated by the thrushes, with the Veery and Wood Thrush largely confined to lower elevations, and the Swainson's Thrush to the top of Sandwich Dome, where it joins the even hardier Gray-cheeked Thrush.

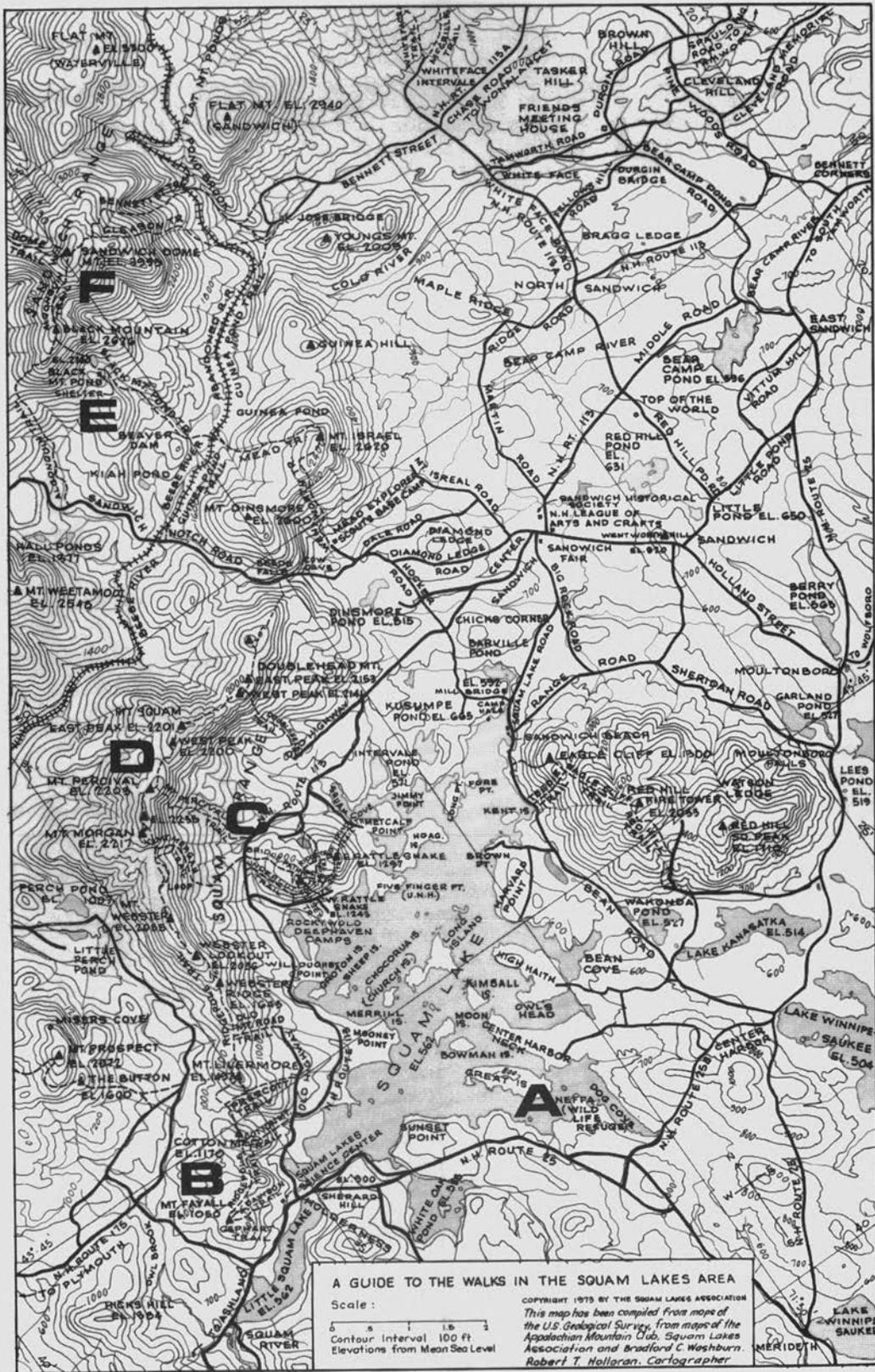
The wood warblers, because of their great variety and the rather particular niche that each species occupies during the

nesting season, from lakeshore pines in the case of the Pine Warbler to stunted spruce and fir in that of the Blackpoll Warbler, are, if anything, an even more interesting family during the early summer than during spring migration. About all they seem to lack are melodious songs, the term "warbler" being inappropriate, although the songs of most are not uninteresting and those of a few fairly musical.

Mention should also be made of a few more of our summer or permanent residents that are outstanding for one reason or another. Birds of prey are fairly well represented by the more common hawks, the Red-tailed and Broad-winged hawks and the American Kestrel, which are uncommon summer residents (Red-tail may sometimes occur in winter), and by the Great Horned, Barred, and Northern Saw-whet owls, which are uncommon permanent residents. Several other birds of unusual interest are the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Common Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, and the "friendly" Eastern Phoebe which so often nests under the eaves of camps and boathouses.

While swallows are still well represented in the Squam region by the Tree and Barn swallows, the other species are not common and the Purple Martin seems no longer to nest here. Our best singers, aside from the thrushes and in particular the Wood and Hermit thrushes, are, in the opinion of this observer the tiny Winter Wren and Ruby-crowned Kinglet (both of which are more common in summer in the mountains than around the Lakes), and the Brown Thrasher, Solitary Vireo, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Northern Oriole, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Purple Finch, and White-throated Sparrow, the oriole and grosbeak also being strikingly beautiful to look at. Other Squam birds with unusually bright colors besides these two species, the Eastern Bluebird, and many of the wood warblers, are the Red-winged Blackbird, Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting, and American Goldfinch.

The Squam Lakes Region is fortunate to include high as well as low elevations (from about 560 feet above sea level at the lakes to 3993 feet on top of Sandwich Dome), and it should be emphasized that a good percentage of the birds of most interest to serious birders are mountain species not commonly if at all found in summer near the low country around the lakes. These include such permanent residents as the Spruce Grouse, Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay, and Common Raven, which all probably occur uncommonly to rarely somewhere on the Sandwich Range and perhaps on Sandwich Dome, and the Boreal Chickadee, which is more widely distributed in the mountains; such summer residents, mostly local if not uncommon, as the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Philadelphia Vireo, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, and Mourning warblers, and Rusty Blackbird; and the Red and White-winged crossbills and Pine Siskin, which occur irregularly in both summer and winter.



A GUIDE TO THE WALKS IN THE SQUAM LAKES AREA

Scale : $\frac{1}{2}$ inch = 1 mile

Contour Interval 100 Ft
Elevations from Mean Sea Level

COPYRIGHT 1975 BY THE SQUAM LAKES ASSOCIATION
This map has been compiled from maps of the U.S. Geological Survey, from maps of the Appalachian Mountain Club, Squam Lakes Association and Bradford C. Washburn.
Robert T. Holleran, Cartographer

BIRDS AND HIKES IN THE SQUAM LAKES REGION

The following pages seek to answer briefly a question asked by many residents of and visitors to the Squam region during the period between, say, mid-May and mid-October: what birds am I likely to find while taking a favorite hike or visiting a favorite area? Only the more unusual or choice species actually recorded by the author in recent years in the locality in question are included, and you of course cannot expect to see all of these special birds on one or even several hikes or trips. Remember too that most of the species mentioned are easier to hear and usually to see before mid-July. For directions on reaching the places involved and descriptions of trails, except the New England Forestry Foundation Association (NEFFA) tract, see the current edition of the Squam Lakes Association Trails Guide. All of the areas are indicated on the map of the region published therein. [The map referred to is about 11 x 18 inches and has been much reduced in order to reprint it in Bird Observer. This map can be purchased in the Squam Lakes area and is included in copies of Beverly Ridgely's book available at local bookstores.]

A. NEFFA Forest Management and Wildlife Sanctuary. After Guinea Pond and Black Mountain Pond areas described later, the NEFFA property, located on the western side of Dog Cove, Squam Lake, probably offers the greatest variety of birds in the Squam region. The author has regularly recorded 45-55 species on a morning's visit in early-to-mid-June, 35-50 in mid-to-late August, and 18-20 in late October. The entrance to this splendid tract is located on College Road, between Routes 3 and 25B, Holderness. NEFFA includes a remarkable variety of habitats in a relatively small space, including meadows, mixed woods, stands of mature conifers, several lake coves, and a large swamp. An extensive system of well-marked trails covers the property, including even the swamp, a fascinating and usually inaccessible wildlife community to which a catwalk gives easy access.

In June and July, such large birds as Common Loon, Great Blue Heron, Black Duck, Broad-winged Hawk, and Ruffed Grouse are all highly likely to be recorded. You will probably hear the call or drumroll of the great Pileated Woodpecker rather than glimpse this shy bird, but NEFFA is one of the few Squam localities where you have a good chance of seeing Alder Flycatcher at close range (from the catwalk through the swamp). A few pairs of both Brown Creeper and Winter Wren presumably nest in the tract, as do at least 16 species of warblers, including Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Canada, and probably, Northern Parula and Magnolia. Swamp Sparrows, heard on all sides from the catwalk, can be spished or squeaked into the open and to very close range.

From mid-August to mid-September, NEFFA fairly swarms with birds, especially when waves of warblers pass through, pushed by the first northwest frontal systems that are harbingers of

things to come. The Red-breasted Nuthatch is then usually more numerous and conspicuous than during the nesting season, and you should find Tennessee, Cape May, Bay-breasted, Black-poll, and Wilson's warblers in greater numbers than generally occur in spring in our region. The Olive-sided Flycatcher is a good possibility at this season, especially in and around the swamp, and so is the unobtrusive Yellow-bellied Flycatcher; although the latter is usually identifiable by sight, you will find it very hard to separate the many Least and Alder Flycatchers unless one, by chance, sings once or twice.

In October, watch for both Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Palm Warblers, and White-crowned and Fox sparrows, and listen for Evening Grosbeaks and perhaps crossbills flying over. If you are lucky, you may find a Boreal Chickadee or two, probably with Black-capped Chickadees and other small arboreal birds.

B. Squam Lakes Science Center, Including Mount Fayall via the Gephart and Davison Trails. Although the grounds of the SLSC in Holderness do not include as great a variety of habitats and therefore of nesting or migrant birds as the NEFFA tract, they do boast several breeding species that may be seen here more regularly and easily than anywhere in our region. Among these are a pair or two of House Wrens and Eastern Bluebirds, which annually use birdhouses erected for them around the buildings and along the lower trails, several pairs of Warbling Vireos, which can be heard and with patience seen in tall shade trees on the Center's property and also along Route 3 in the town, and small colonies of Bobolinks which nest in the lush grassy meadows. Brown Thrashers, Yellow Warblers, Northern Orioles, and Chipping Sparrows also nest in the lower part of the grounds, while near and around the summit of Mount Fayall you will almost surely find Red-breasted Nuthatch, Hermit Thrush, Yellow-rumped Warbler and Dark-eyed Junco. Less certain but good possibilities are Pileated Woodpecker (as usual, less likely to be seen than heard drumming or calling), Bank Swallow (undoubtedly birds from the colony that nests annually in the large sandpit a few miles north along Route 113), and Scarlet Tanager (in predominantly deciduous woods along the lower part of the Gephart and Davison Trails on Mount Fayall).

C. West and East Rattlesnake Mountains, including Morgan and Col Ponds. For a representative and varied sampling of Squam bird life at lower elevations, here is a hike especially recommended for a clear calm morning from late spring through midsummer. Leave your car in the parking lot for Mounts Morgan and West Rattlesnake (located off Route 113, 5.2 miles northeast of Holderness and 6.4 miles southwest of Center Sandwich). Start by birding Morgan Pond, the beaver pond just north of the lot and bordering 113. Then climb West Rattlesnake via the Old Bridle Path Trail, and continue along the Ridge Trail toward East Rattlesnake. Where the Col Trail meets the Ridge Trail from the north, descend the Col Trail

and investigate Col Pond and its environs. From here you can either follow the dirt road north to Route 113 and return to your car or, if you have time, retrace the Col Trail to the Ridge Trail and continue east to East Rattlesnake. From its summit, descend the Butterworth Trail to Metcalf Road and either walk back to your car via Metcalf Road and Route 113 or use a companion's car, previously parked at the causeway on Metcalf Road near the head of the Butterworth Trail, to return to the Mount Morgan parking lot.

Since it provides access to two active beaver ponds and two low mountains as well as the wooded ridge connecting them, this un strenuous route offers a good cross section of summer bird life in our region up to about 1300 feet. In recent years, the author has taken this hike a number of times between mid-May and early September, and has recorded a total of 74 species; 40-45 would be a good count for any one morning. Morgan and Col Ponds are excellent places for seeing any or all of our three relatively common breeding ducks (Black and Wood ducks and Hooded Merganser), and both have had migrant Blue-winged Teal several times in August. These ponds are also good for migrant Solitary Sandpipers and for such uncommon breeders as Red-shouldered Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, and Yellow-throated Vireo. The Rattlesnake Mountains are the summer home of one of our largest populations of Hermit Thrushes, as well as of good numbers of several warblers, including Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green (especially in the stands of hemlock along the Butterworth Trail, East Rattlesnake), Blackburnian, Pine (most likely in the large grove of red pines near the summit of East Rattlesnake), and Canada. Moreover, such infrequently recorded birds as Northern Goshawk, American Woodcock, and Pileated Woodpecker have been observed on this hike more than once and at close range. From late August to early October, the area around Col Pond is one of our best for Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Philadelphia Vireo, Palm and Mourning warblers, White-crowned and Fox sparrows, and other uncommon migrants.

D. Red Hill and Squam Range: Mounts Morgan and Percival and Crawford-Ridgepole Trail. Undoubtedly Red Hill and Mounts Morgan and Percival are climbed by more people between June and October than any mountains in the Squam region except West Rattlesnake. While enjoying these popular climbs and the magnificent vistas they afford, birders can also record many species that nest more commonly from 1200 to 2200 feet than from the elevation of the Squam Lakes to 1200 feet. On such higher climbs, in addition to most birds found on Mount Fayall, the Rattlesnakes, and other comparably low mountains, you will see and, in season, hear more individuals of such species as Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Solitary Vireo, Nashville and Yellow-rumped warblers, and Scarlet Tanager. Moreover, you will record birds that are usually or always absent as breeders below 1200 feet, like Swainson's Thrush, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Magnolia and Blackpoll warblers. And there is always the chance, even

on such heavily frequented trails, of finding Red-tailed and Broad-winged hawks, Ruffed Grouse, and Pileated Woodpecker. A day along the Crawford-Ridgepole Trail, starting at the Sandwich Notch Road and ending at Mount Percival or Morgan and thence down to Route 113, is suggested, because it is relatively untraveled by hikers and gives you the opportunity to bird in greater peace and quiet than are possible on Red Hill or Mount Morgan.

E. Guinea Pond and Black Mountain Pond Trails, Sandwich Notch. For the largest variety of Squam birds in a day, at any season when the Sandwich Notch Road is open, this area is highly recommended. You can leave your car in the early morning at the trail head on the Notch Road (about 5.5 miles west of Center Sandwich), hike to Guinea Pond, retrace your steps a short distance and ascend to Black Mountain Pond, descend and return to your car, all in the course of a leisurely and rewarding day. Or, if you prefer, you can plan to spend the night at Black Mountain Pond, in your tent or the SLA shelter, and the next day climb to Black Mountain and perhaps Sandwich Dome via the upper part of the Algonquin Trail. Either way, the different habitats through which you will pass, particularly the extensive swamps along the Guinea Pond Trail, the shores and environs of beautiful Guinea and Black Mountain ponds, and the new ponds being created by beaver colonies along the Black Mountain Pond Trail, will assure your recording many kinds of birds, and most of them in quantity. Over the past six years, the author has totaled 96 species in this area on daylong visits between late May and mid-October. On an average trip, especially in early June - mid-July and late August - mid-September, you should easily tally 45-50 species.

Because of its relative isolation, Guinea Pond has so far not been too disturbed by fishermen and campers in the spring and summer (although its peace is now more and more shattered by ORVS or all-terrain vehicles). There you will find nesting Black and Wood ducks and Hooded Merganser as well as such relatively uncommon and interesting birds as Belted Kingfisher, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Rusty Blackbird. Migrants that stop at the pond to rest and feed include Pied-billed Grebe and American Bittern (both most likely late August - late September) and Solitary Sandpiper (mid-August - mid-September). The old swamps bordering much of the middle third or so of the Guinea Pond Trail are excellent for birds at all seasons. Along this stretch, for example, Alder and Olive-sided flycatchers nest in the swampy areas to the west of the trail, and Great Crested and Least flycatchers and Eastern Wood-Pewee in the mixed woods bordering it to the east. From late August to mid-September, warblers literally stream along the trail, both through the swamps and in the wooded sections (15-18 species should be recorded on a good flight day and often in astonishing numbers), and Sharp-shinned, Red-tailed, and Broad-winged hawks and Northern Harriers have been seen following the same NE-SW route. This is also one of the best places in the Squam region to find such uncommon and elusive birds as Black-billed Cuckoo, Philadelphia Vireo, and

Lincoln's Sparrow on fall migration. As you climb the trail to Black Mountain Pond, you will rise from about 1500 feet at Guinea Pond to 2260 feet and will have a good opportunity to note the changes in the breeding ranges of four of our brown-backed, spotted-breasted thrushes. Veery, Wood Thrush, and some Hermit Thrushes nest along the Guinea Pond Trail. You will then find the Veery dropping out, fewer Woods and more Hermits, and increasing numbers of Swainson's Thrushes which are the most common thrushes at Black Mountain Pond and in its vicinity. If you continue up Black Mountain, you will come upon our highest ranging thrush, the Gray-cheeked, which nests fairly commonly in the stunted growth on the open ledges here. You will thus have seen and heard in one day all our thrushes in their preferred breeding situations. Black Mountain Pond and the predominantly coniferous woods around it are also the summer home of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned kinglets, Blackpoll Warblers, and Rusty Black-birds, and the author has found Boreal Chickadee in July.

F. Sandwich Dome via the Algonquin Trail. Sandwich Dome, whose summit (3993 feet) is the highest point in the Squam region, can be climbed by trails from Waterville Valley and from Jose's Bridge, Whiteface. The SLA Algonquin Trail is, however, recommended for the superb views of the White Mountains and Lakes Region afforded by the open ledges on Black Mountain, and also for the variety of bird life it offers the interested climber. Along the first stretch of the trail, after it leaves the Sandwich Notch Road (about 7.5 miles west of Center Sandwich), there are streams, pools, and small swampy areas which add variety to predominantly mixed woods and higher up, coniferous habitats. You will not see as many different kinds of birds in a day on the Algonquin Trail as in the Guinea and Black Mountain Ponds area described earlier, but the additional 1700+ feet you must ascend to reach the top of Sandwich Dome provide access to greater numbers of our high-country species. Your chances will be good for Boreal Chickadee and excellent for Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Gray-cheeked Thrush (in the stunted conifers on the open ledges of Black Mountain), and both species of kinglets. You will also have the only real possibility in the Squam region today of happening upon a Spruce Grouse, although none seems to have been reported from Sandwich Dome or Black Mountain for a number of years. It is, however, very likely that you will hear and see a Common Raven or two, and watch a Red-tailed or Broad-winged Hawk soaring on the updrafts along the ridges. And if you make the climb from, say, the second to the fourth week of August, you may well have the at first surprising experience of watching Chimney Swifts, Barn Swallows, and perhaps other swallows flying over and around the summit of the Dome on their way southward. It should be noted, however, that the Algonquin Trail is in places the steepest, and in general, the ruggedest way to climb Sandwich Dome and that it should not be attempted in poor weather or if you are not in good physical condition.

BEVERLY S. RIDGELY, Professor of French Studies at Brown University for thirty years, has published widely both in his professional and his avocational fields of birdwatching and the collection of bird stamps and postal stationery, his latest book being published in the latter field. A birder from boyhood, he has travelled worldwide to observe birds and wildlife. He founded the Loon Preservation Committee and produced the bird guide to the Squam Lakes area for the Conservation Commission of the Squam Lakes Association. He is active in the Squam Lakes Science Center and has worked on the breeding bird atlas of New Hampshire. Proud father of Robert S. Ridgely, a well-published professional ornithologist (A Guide to the Birds of Panama, Princeton University Press, 1976), Professor Ridgely would like readers to know that profits from the sale of the book from which this article was reprinted are given to the Squam Lakes Association, a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the area.

TUDOR RICHARDS, widely known and respected ornithologist, is former executive director of the Audubon Society of New Hampshire.

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In an effort to determine behavioral patterns and movements of an inland-feeding population of gulls and to estimate the numbers using an area, U.S. Fish and Wildlife biologists have color-marked and released gulls in the Manchester/Concord, New Hampshire area in May and June. The gulls have been dyed red and tagged with a numbered yellow leg marker.

IF MARKED BIRDS ARE SIGHTED, PLEASE REPORT DATE AND LOCATION to: Rene Bollengier, Project Coordinator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Box 1518, Federal Building, Concord, NH 03301
Telephone: (603) 225-9621.

OBSERVATIONS OF TWO APPARENT HYBRID GULLS IN MASSACHUSETTS

by Richard S. Heil, Peabody

As a group, gulls exhibit such a variable degree of characters and plumages it is little wonder that most of us find them to be among the most difficult birds to identify. The larger species in particular have several stages of immature and seasonal adult plumages separated by often confusing molts. In addition, there is often marked individual, sub-specific, and geographical variation, and many may be subject to albinism and/or hybridity. With these points in mind, it is not difficult to understand why this group is increasingly referred to, although not always with admiration, as "the large gull complex." As Ludlow Griscom once put it, "If anybody wishes to vent his spleen and disappointment [about gull identification], his quarrel is with God rather than with men!"

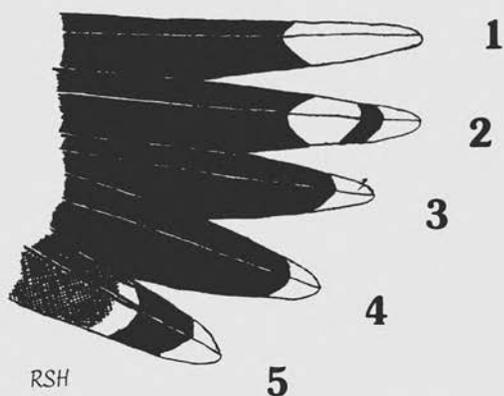
Probable hybrid of Larus argentatus and L. marinus. On 21 May 1981, an adult gull with characters intermediate between a Herring Gull (Larus argentatus) and a Great Black-backed Gull (L. marinus) was found in a mixed breeding colony of the two species on Muskeget Island, Massachusetts. Although present in the colony throughout June, the gull was apparently not nesting and was most often observed in "loafing areas" frequented by non-breeding and immature gulls of both species. The bird was also observed by Richard Forster on May 26 and briefly by Richard Veit in late June. The author was able to obtain a series of color photographs of the gull in flight and standing in the colony.

At least five adult specimens of presumed argentatus x marinus hybrids exist for North America (Foxall, 1979). All but the one taken on Staten Island, New York (Jehl, 1960) are from the Ottawa, Ontario - lower Great Lakes area. Crosses have also occurred in captivity (Gray, 1958).

The Muskeget gull was in breeding plumage; the head, neck, underparts, and tail were pure white. The back and wing mantle were slate-gray, contrasting with the darker primaries and being slightly paler than an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull of the L. fuscus graellsii race and thus closer in color to argentatus than to marinus. The primary pattern, however, most closely resembled that of L. marinus: the outer four feathers were largely black, lacking the extensive gray tongues of argentatus, and the first primary (outermost, using the British numbering system) possessed a long white tip. The extensive white tip on the first primary, the large white mirror on the second, and a lack of extensive gray tongues on primaries one through four eliminate the reasonable possibility of other dark-mantled gulls such as Lesser Black-backed Gull (L. fuscus), Slaty-backed Gull (L. schistisagus), Western Gull (L. occidentalis), and dark-mantled races of



*Probable Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) x Great Black-backed Gull (*L. marinus*) hybrid in flight showing primary pattern
Muskeget Island, MA ; May 1981
Photo by Richard S. Heil*



*Primary pattern of probable Herring Gull x Great Black-backed Gull hybrid
drawn from photographs taken on Muskeget Island, MA, May 1981*

argentatus. Interestingly, of the five presumed argentatus x marinus specimens, only the one from New York has a primary pattern similar to the Muskeget gull. All the others most closely resemble the pattern in argentatus with a subterminal mirror instead of a long white tip on the outermost primary.

The iris was yellowish while the orbital ring (eye-ring) appeared reddish-orange. The bill was deep yellow with an extensive reddish spot at the gonys similar to L. marinus. The legs were flesh-colored. The gull's size and build seemed intermediate between the hypothesized parents although the structure of the head and bill most resembled that of L. marinus - a heavy, flat head and a scowling appearance to the eye. The bill was rather long and deep at the angle of the gonys but, again, intermediate in appearance between the presumed parents.

The Great Black-backed Gull has increased markedly along the Massachusetts coast since it was first found breeding in 1931. Recent expansion has perhaps been at the expense of the less aggressive Herring Gull, now outnumbered four to one at Muskeget. As these gulls continue to compete and utilize the same nesting colonies, there will probably be further reports of argentatus x marinus hybrids in Massachusetts.

Probable hybrid of Larus argentatus and L. hyperboreus. On 1 December 1982, the author discovered a large, pale gull roosting on the breakwater with other gulls at Eastern Point, Gloucester, Massachusetts. It appeared to be a Glaucous Gull (L. hyperboreus) in first-winter plumage. The head and body were pale buff-colored, uniformly so on the head and underparts but possessing pale brownish-buff barring on the back and wing coverts. Eventually the gull flew out to scavenge behind an approaching fishing boat that was cleaning its catch. When it took flight, I was surprised to observe that the primaries, typically the whitest part of a Glaucous Gull wing, were in fact darker than the wing coverts and that the bird possessed a solid, although pale, tail band. To my dismay, the bird soon disappeared in a mass of several hundred feeding gulls behind the boat.

Fortunately, about an hour later, the same gull was observed at close range bathing and preening at nearby Niles Pond where it was carefully studied both on the water and in flight for forty-five minutes and where I was able to obtain a detailed description. The bird was larger than all adjacent Herring Gulls (L. argentatus) but about the same size as the smaller Great Black-backed Gulls (L. marinus) present. The bill was long and heavy with a sharply demarcated black tip and the basal two-thirds was pinkish. The legs were flesh-colored. The head was pale buff-colored, bulky, and had a flat-topped profile; pale feathering above and below the dark eye formed a broken ring. The body and the wing

mantle were pale buff-colored but with darker brownish-buff barring and chevrons on the back, wing coverts, and upper- and undertail coverts. The belly was uniformly grayish-brown. These areas appeared no darker than is usual for juvenile or fresh first-winter plumages of hyperboreus. The tail was finely and indistinctly barred from the base fusing gradually into a pale, but solid, grayish-brown subterminal band, paler and less extensive than in first-winter argentatus. All of the rectrices were pale tipped.

The flight feathers, particularly the outer primaries, were pale grayish-brown in color but contrastingly darker than the tone of the wing mantle. This coloration was most extensive on the outer webs with pale tongues present on the inner webs of the primaries. All of the primaries and secondaries had fairly broad pale tips. The extent and tone of color in the flight feathers was, however, considerably paler and much less extensive than in any first-winter argentatus, so much so that if the bird's size and bill were not considered, it might have been taken for a first-winter Thayer's Gull (L. thayeri) which has a similar primary pattern, tail band, and general color tone.

The first-winter Glaucous-winged Gull (L. glaucescens) has a bill which is largely or entirely black while the plumage has a darker tone overall with little or no contrast between the primaries and the mantle. That one of the parents might have been marinus rather than argentatus is thought to be unlikely since such a cross would be expected to possess darker flight feathers and at least a suggestion of the black and white checkered pattern typical of a first-winter marinus mantle.



Drawing of a probable Herring Gull (Larus argentatus) x Glaucous Gull (L. hyperboreus) hybrid observed at Niles Pond, Gloucester, MA, December 1982

Smith (1966) in his monograph, Evolution of Some Arctic Gulls (Larus): An Experimental Study of Isolating Mechanisms, discusses several factors that reduce the chance of hybridization between argentatus and hyperboreus, even though their breeding ranges overlap extensively. In the Canadian arctic he found that the peak of sexual activity for hyperboreus precedes that of argentatus by about two weeks. For nesting, hyperboreus utilizes cliffs while argentatus breeds in tundra valleys and flat, marshy areas. Differential coloration of both orbital ring (argentatus: usually orange; hyperboreus: yellow) and wing tip (argentatus: black; hyperboreus: white) also serve to keep these species reproductively isolated and thus reduce potential interbreeding. Despite Smith's findings, these two species are now known to hybridize in Iceland and may also do so somewhere in the vastness of the Canadian arctic.

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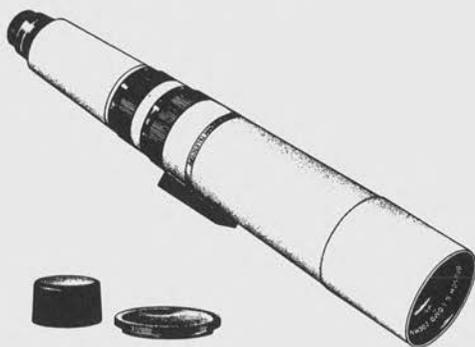
RICHARD S. HEIL, editor of the New England Christmas Bird Count and of the Northeastern Maritime Region (Winter Season) for American Birds, was formerly a records compiler for Bird Observer. He has worked on research projects for Massachusetts Audubon Society and has been a part of three pelagic studies for Manomet Bird Observatory aboard both Russian and domestic vessels. Rick has been a bird-watcher since the age of fifteen and is at present a full-time student at Salem State College, majoring in biology.

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NEW FRONTIERS IN HAWKWATCHING:
HAWK MIGRATION CONFERENCE IV

by H. Christian Floyd, Lexington

During March 24-27, 1983, approximately four hundred hawk-watching enthusiasts, including leading raptor authorities from the United States, England, Israel, and Panama, gathered in Rochester, New York, for the presentation of forty papers at Hawk Migration Conference IV, sponsored by the Hawk Migration Association of North America and Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association.

This report summarizes some of the presentations that were most interesting to me in addressing the frontiers of hawk-watching and raptor migration study: the new geographical areas being studied, new efforts to assess the significance of hawkwatching data, and new applications of technology to this area. These summaries just scratch the surface of what was presented at the conference. Having heard all of the presentations first-hand, I am eagerly awaiting the publication of the conference proceedings some time next year and hope that this report will lead you to share my anticipation.

The western United States is indeed still a frontier with respect to what is known about hawk migration through this region, but much has been learned recently through the efforts of pioneering hawkwatchers like Steve Hoffman. According to Steve, only six fall sites in the West receive over one hundred hours of hawkwatching. The relatively low level of hawkwatching activity in the West was explained by four main factors: few birders, difficult access to sites, dispersed migration due to the lack of natural barriers and leading lines, and only recent knowledge of the timing and weather correlations of western flights. Steve offered some generalizations about hawk migration in the West to compare it with hawk migration in the East. In the West, most fall sites are on isolated ridges over 8,000 feet above sea level, and most spring sites are in the lower foothills of mountain ranges. Thermals are more important to migration in the West and more reliable on account of drier soil, drier air, and clearer sky. A lower concentration of birds results from use of updrafts along ridges because the birds are more spread out over the slope of the much larger western ridge. Fall migration in the West tends to occur about ten days earlier than in the East. Migration activity correlates differently with the passage of a cold front. In the East, activity peaks shortly after passage of the front as migrating raptors use the lift of strong winds up the slopes of ridges. In the West, activity picks up more gradually after passage of the front as the strength of thermals rebuilds.

In a separate paper, Steve Hoffman discussed the fall migration of Cooper's Hawks through the Wellsville Mountains in

northern Utah and through the Goshute Mountains in north-eastern Nevada. Cooper's Hawks migrate two to three weeks earlier in the West than in the East. This may be explained by the facts that winter comes earlier in the West, particularly at higher altitudes, and that most western Cooper's Hawks come from mountain forests. In the West, the peak of Cooper's Hawk migration occurs before the Sharpshin peak, while in the East, the peaks for these two accipiters occur at the same time. Perhaps because of their heavier wing loading, Cooper's Hawks fly later in the day than Sharpshins. The birds arrive later in the day at the Goshutes than at the Wellsvilles. This was explained by the greater extent of arid, inhospitable land to the north of the Goshutes. The birds would avoid resting for the night in this land, would tend to cross it only from an early start, and would have to cross it in its entirety before reaching the Goshutes.

The technical problems of counting the large numbers of hawks that migrate through Panama (945,000 counted this past fall) were discussed by Neal Smith. He described in particular the photographic counting technique that he used for the rainy season (fall) migrations from 1977 to 1981. Long-range photographs were taken of a large flock while it was in a glide (rather than in a kettle). The photographs were blown up and the birds in each photograph were counted with the aid of a marking pen and a hand-held mechanical counter. In 1979, many birds passed in the clouds and were missed in the count. Radar would be useless for counting birds in clouds. In the dry season (spring) migration, counting would be even more difficult, since the flight is more spread out, not in a narrow corridor as in the rainy season. In summary, Neal doubted that accurate counts of the population of migrant hawks could be made, even in Panama.

The results of an experiment performed at Cape May to determine the impact of observer numbers on raptor counts were described by Rene Kochenberger. In this experiment, raptor counts were taken by four physically separated parties of observers: three isolated parties of one, two and three observers, and the official counter, who may be aided by the sightings of other hawkwatchers at the official observation post. The four parties were separated by distances of a few hundred yards, separate enough that they would not influence each other in their observations, but close enough that they would be observing essentially the same flight. The counts taken by the four parties were compared by species. Generally, the counts agreed closely, within 20% of each other. Most of the significant differences in counts could be explained by the route preference of the species. For example, the party of two observers at the bunker, which is on the beach, recorded more Peregrine Falcons than the other parties, which were well away from the beach. The species for which the counts correlated positively with the number of observers were "broad-front"

migrants, specifically the following: Turkey Vulture, Merlin, Bald Eagle, Golden Eagle, and Northern Harrier. The data also supported the common-sense conclusion that with more observers, more of the uncommon species will be seen, particularly during generally large flights.

At a migration trap such as Cape May, there is always speculation concerning the extent to which repeat birds contribute to the count. The results of a telemetry study that provided a measure of the repetition potential at Cape May were presented by Mark Fuller for the authors, A.M.A. Holthuijzen and L. Oosterhuis. In this study, captured female Sharp-shinned Hawks were fitted with transmitters, released, and tracked until they permanently departed the area. One sample of 63 birds broke down with respect to the number of days in the area as follows: 43 birds in area one day, 16 birds in area two days, 3 birds in area three days, and 1 bird in area four days. A significant question raised was whether the capturing of the birds affected their behavior. Mark noted that banders at Cape May had observed that birds captured and released in the afternoon tended to stay over another day, presumably to recover from the shock of capture.

Imagine trying to track and keep pace with a Peregrine Falcon as it migrates from north to south across the United States! That is what Bill Cochran tried to do with the aid of radio telemetry and any means of transportation he could borrow or hire. In each of several wild chases, a captured Peregrine was fitted with a long-range radio transmitter and was then released and tracked by means of a mobile direction-finding receiver. Some of the birds that Bill tracked spent much of their time migrating offshore over the Atlantic Ocean. Bill speculated from his observations that Peregrines migrating southward along the Atlantic Coast tend to fly over water simply as a result of flying due south. The birds tend to turn toward land at sunset, resulting in concentrations of Peregrines at outward projecting coastal locations. However, one of the birds was twice observed (by telemetry) just soaring for much of the night over the open ocean!

Advanced radar methods that could be used for the study of hawk migration were described by Kenneth Able. In general, radar can be used to locate major movements of birds in an area and to measure their altitude of flight. One major limitation of radar is its lack of discrimination for identification or counting. A single radar blip might be caused by one goose or a hundred Broad-winged Hawks. So radar observations need to be correlated with visual observations. Ken proposed the following setup for observing hawk migration: a long-range radar to locate concentrations of birds moving through an area, a mobile team of visual observers to dispatch to the locality of the concentration, and a mobile marine radar for the use of the visual observer team.

The widespread National Weather Service radar WSR-57 was noted as a good long-range radar for observing migrating birds and one which might be available for such use on a non-interference basis.

A unique mobile laboratory for the radar-aided observations of avian migration was described by Sid Gauthreaux. The major equipment items of this mobile-home laboratory include a surveillance radar, a fixed-beam vertical radar, a closed-circuit TV system, a visual image intensifier and a video recorder. The fixed-beam radar and the visual image intensifier are aligned to look at the same airspace, and the signals from the two can be recorded in parallel for later playback. With this system, altitude data from the radar can be correlated with the visual images of birds passing overhead. The laboratory was sponsored by the Electric Power Research Institute for the purpose of monitoring movements of birds near power transmission lines. It has been used to observe hawk migration in New Jersey and in Texas.

The "noonday lull," an apparent decrease in hawk migration activity around midday, is a puzzling phenomenon familiar to most hawkwatchers. Based upon his work with Sid Gauthreaux in the mobile laboratory, Paul Kerlinger offered an explanation of this phenomenon. In work done at Cape May, Paul had been able to determine that Sharp-shinned Hawks were "difficult to see overhead" when they flying at altitudes greater than 400 meters and that they were "easy to see overhead" when they were flying at altitudes less than 300 meters. Work done in the spring at Santa Ana Refuge in Texas provided quantitative information on the altitude distribution of migrating hawks during various periods of the day. From 7 a.m. to 10 a.m., 77.5% of the birds were at altitudes less than 200 meters. From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., only 2.5% of the birds were at less than 200 meters, and 85.0% were between 200 and 800 meters. These data supported Paul's theory that the noon lull is just a counting bias caused by the hawkwatcher's inability to see birds flying high at midday. For Paul, however, the more important questions on the daily rhythm of hawk migration were the following: when do they take off, and when do they land?

In addition to the very full program of papers, the conference included a variety of other attractions. In one evening program, Richard Porter, author of Flight Identification of European Raptors, presented a slide lecture on Old World raptors with a comprehensive overview of their migrations, noting in detail the remarkable counts of raptors of various species that occur in migration at critical land mass junctures in the Old World. On the following evening, Yossi Leshem, of the Israel Raptor Information Center, described the richly varied raptors of Israel and showed a feature film on the spectacular spring migration of raptors and other birds at Elat. In a panel discussion entitled

"Sticky Problems of Hawk Identification," five authorities in raptor identification reviewed the standard field marks for distinguishing the various species within the the major raptor families and added a few new twists for even the most experienced hawkwatchers to consider. The concluding attraction was a field trip to Braddock Bay, a site on the south shore of Lake Ontario where 30,000 hawks pass every spring and where a good flight of Red-shouldered Hawks was expected at the time of the conference. Bad weather ruined the hawk flight but didn't dampen the spirits of the hawk-watchers, who, after the non-stop intensity of the conference program, enjoyed this special opportunity to make new acquaintances, tell old stories, and work up plans for hawk-watching and raptor study in the future.

H. CHRISTIAN FLOYD, a devoted hawk-watcher, began watching birds in Atlanta at the age of twelve. Chris is a systems engineer for the MITRE Corporation and has been on the staff of Bird Observer since 1980. He will be acting editor of the forthcoming issue which will focus on the subject of migration.

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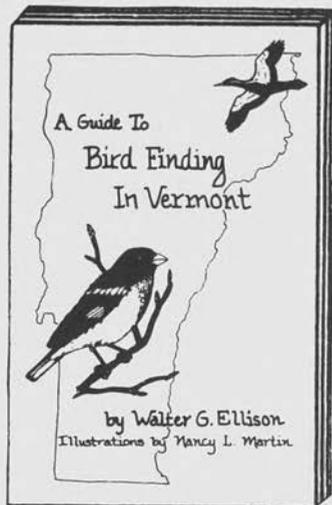
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BEHAVIOR-WATCHING FIELD NOTES

by Donald and Lillian Stokes, Carlisle

Nicholas Komar had an interesting observation of a Scarlet Tanager singing outside his house at 10:05 P.M. on May 27 on a clear night. They have never nested near his house so he thought this may have been a migrant.

Comment: Why birds sing at night is still a mystery. Several species have been reported singing at night, including mockingbirds, Ovenbirds, Field Sparrows, Marsh Wrens, Black-billed and Yellow-billed cuckoos. We have not heard of Scarlet Tanagers singing at night, but we suspect that more birds do this than have been reported.

Chris Floyd and George Gove saw an intense fight between two starlings on January 30, 1983. The birds were in the middle of the road and one was on top of the other pecking violently at its head and neck. The victim escaped to a nearby perch but was immediately attacked again. The fight lasted for a minute. After the attacker left, Chris and George approached the attacked bird who had remained on the ground, and it flew up with apparently little injury.

Comment. The interesting feature of this observation is the date. In our area, starlings do not start nest-building and egg-laying until late March and April, but the males do defend nest holes through the winter. Their most intense defense often occurs in midwinter, just when this fight was seen. Chances are that there was a shortage of good nest holes in the area and that these were two males fighting over one. If the dominant bird had been followed, he might have been seen flying off to a nest hole nearby.

Robert Stymeist watched Tree Swallows in August at Parker River N.W.R. "playing" with a feather. One bird of a group of 10-14 birds would take the feather, rise above the group, "then drop the feather and proceed to try and catch it again. The bird who caught the feather rose above the group and dropped it (for others to catch?)."

Comment. Bob points out that Tree Swallows line their nests with white feathers. In our Tree Swallow colony we have also seen nests lined with black, brown, and speckled feathers and have seen the birds compete for feathers during nest-building time, but Bob's incident took place in August - past the nesting time for swallows. Bob wondered whether this was "just a game or a lesson for next spring and the breeding cycle." What we see as "games" or "play" is often functional behavior in animals. Perhaps the sight of the feather triggered a collecting behavior, but the behavior was not complete because it was not the right time of year.

Roger V. Smith witnessed a loon assault an American Wigeon. This occurred on the Maine coast during Labor Day weekend. From under the water the loon popped "right up alongside the

duck with neck tightly arched so that the bill pointed straight down and drove downward on the duck with what looked like a deliberate deadly thrust. Both birds disappeared below the surface, but only the loon surfaced again."

Comment. Though this may seem like strange behavior for a loon, Forbush (Birds of Massachusetts, 1925) cites some similar accounts. In one account, a loon rises from under the surface and attacks a female duck and young and disappears under the water with one of the young ducks.

In April, George Gove was watching shorebirds in Newburyport Harbor when a thunderstorm came from the northwest. About six hundred Pectoral Sandpipers flew from the tide line up to higher ground and crouched in the grasses, apparently to get some protection. They kept making short flights to higher ground and thicker grasses until they were within ten to twenty feet of the road. After the storm they returned to the mudflats.

Comment. What birds do during storms is always interesting to observe. Where did you seek shelter, George?

Behavior-watching in the Months Ahead.

Midsummer is a great time for the behavior-watcher. Not only are many birds starting second broods or still trying to have their first successful brood, but there are also a great many fledgling birds in the woods, fields, and wetlands. You can usually find fledgling birds by listening for their harsh, high-pitched, persistent calling.

Once young birds have hatched there are a variety of strategies that have evolved for caring for them until they are independent. One major adaptation is having precocial young. Precocial birds are able to move about and feed themselves a few hours after hatching; all the parents have to do is protect them from predators and inclement weather. This system seems so good that you may wonder why all birds don't have it. Obviously, two of the main drawbacks are that larger eggs and a longer incubation period are needed to bring the young to this stage of development before hatching. The longer that parents stay on or near the nest, the more obvious it is and the more likely it is that the eggs will be eaten by a predator.

Altricial young are dependent on the parents for warmth at first, food, and protection. Having altricial young means that the eggs are smaller, and there is a relatively short incubation period. But then, increased energy demands are placed on the parents. Typically, this stage, from hatching until independence of the young, is divided into two parts: the nestling stage when the young are in the nest, and the fledgling stage when they are out of the nest but still dependent on the adults for food.

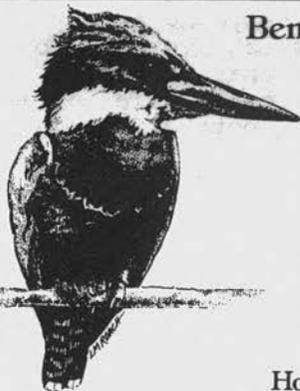
Observation of parental techniques for care of the young reveals interesting adaptations that have evolved in both precocial and altricial species. We have studied three precocial

birds, and each exhibits a different arrangement. In Mallards, the female drives the male away from her during incubation, and during the fledgling stage she cares for the young all by herself. In Killdeer, both parents tend to watch over the young except when a second brood is started. In that case, the female lays eggs and starts incubating while the male continues to care for the first set of young. In Spotted Sandpipers, typically polyandrous, it is often the male that does all of the caring for the young. Where the Spotted Sandpipers are monogamous, both male and female tend the young fledglings.

In altricial birds a similar variety of strategies exists. In grackles, there is a strong tendency for the male to leave the female during incubation and possibly start pairing with another female; then the female does all the caring and feeding of the young. In many other passerines, the female may leave the fledglings of the first brood in the care of the male while she starts a second brood. This is often true of House Wrens. A third possibility is typical of Song Sparrows where both parents care for the young. In this species, it has been observed that the parents actually divide up the young, each parent consistently feeding and caring for certain of the fledglings.

Bird-watching is often considered a little slow in midsummer, for migrants have stopped arriving, and the shorebirds have not yet started south. But midsummer presents endless possibilities for the behavior-watcher to observe and to learn. One of the least studied phases of birds' lives is the fledgling stage, and methods of parental care are only one small area of study. As you watch parent-fledgling interactions this summer, try to determine several things. Do both parents feed and care for the young? Do both perform the same tasks or do they divide up feeding and protection? Do both feed all of the young or do they divide up the brood? Also, when observing parent-young interactions, try to determine the sex of the parent, either by plumage or behavior, for this will add an important dimension to the observations. Almost anything learned about this stage of bird life and behavior can be of interest and value to the scientific community, for this area of bird behavior is still little known.

DONALD AND LILLIAN STOKES contribute this column on behavior-watching regularly. They are authors, naturalists, and teachers. Don's most recent book is A Guide to Observing Insect Lives, and he and Lillian have recently completed a second volume to A Guide to the Behavior of Common Birds, soon to be published. Contributions to the column should be mailed to Behavior Field Notes, 52 Norwell Farm Road, Carlisle, MA 01741 or called in to 369-8488.



Ben Feltner's Peregrine Tours

FALL 1983 TOUR SCHEDULE

MAINE/NOVA SCOTIA	2-10 July
PACIFIC NORTHWEST	16-29 July
ARIZONA	6-14 Aug.
UPPER TEXAS COAST WEEKENDS	1-2, 8-9, 15-16 Oct.
POLAR BEARS (Churchill)	Late Oct.
PALENOQUE WORKSHOP	31 Oct.-5 Nov.
WESTERN MEXICO	7-17 Nov.
NIAGARA FALLS GULL WORKSHOP	24-27 Nov.
OAXACA	13-21 Dec.
EASTERN MEXICO	27 Dec.-11 Jan.

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Field Records

March 1983



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

The month of March was warm, wet and windy. The temperature averaged 40.6° , 2.2° above normal; this was the warmest March since 1979. The high mark was 61° on the fourteenth and twenty-eighth. The low was a chilly 22° on the twenty-fifth, unusually late in the month. Precipitation totaled 9.72 inches, 5.59 inches over the average and the most in March since 1953, thirty years ago. This was the fifth wettest March in 166 years and the twenty-eighth wettest month in nearly 2000 months! Measurable rain fell seven days in a row, March 7-13, just falling short of the eight day record for March 1884. Precipitation for the year to date is 19.75 inches, the most since 1958; 1983 ranks as the wettest in 166 years. Monthly rain totals were even greater in some suburbs, eleven inches to the north and thirteen to fourteen inches to the south of Boston in the Hingham-Pembroke area. Snow was nearly absent; the total was but 0.2 inch and that quickly melted. This was 7.5 inches less than average and the least in March since 1979. This record ties for eighth place for the least amount of snow in 93 years. Thunderstorms occurred on four days, a record for March. The average is less than one day. The storm on the twenty-eighth hit harder just to the south, leaving the ground practically covered by small hail in some suburbs. Fog was rather frequent during the month.

R.H.S.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

There was a buildup of Red-necked Grebe at Corporation Beach, Dennis during this month. This concentration has occurred now for several years at this location. The Western Grebe has continued in the Third Cliff area of Scituate since last November, apparently feeling no need to associate with other Western Grebes at this point.

The first herons of spring were reported following southeast winds of March 17 and a warming period of three to four days of near 60° weather. Cattle Egrets were noted only from the islands of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket.

Three Tundra Swans continued on the Vineyard, but only three Snow Geese were seen all month. The population of Brant along the eastern Massachusetts shore is encouraging considering their endangered status several years ago. The Wood Ducks returned to their breeding areas by the end of the month. Blue-winged Teal and increasing numbers of Green-winged Teal, Northern Pintail and Gadwall were also reported by March 20. A Eurasian Wigeon was noted at East Orleans, and Harlequin Ducks were reported from Rockport, Marshfield and as many as sixteen from the Vineyard. The Tufted Duck continued at Acoaxet through March 13; and then this bird or another appeared in Chatham on March 27 where it remained through the end of the month. A Barrow's Goldeneye was unusual at Great Meadows in Concord.

R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Red-throated Loon: 19-20	Nantucket	10	BBC(C.Jackson)
Common Loon: 19-20,27	Nantucket, P.I.	50, 20	BBC(C.Jackson),SSBC
Pied-billed Grebe: 6	Westport	1	G.Gove
Horned Grebe: 6,27	Quincy, W.Falmouth	11, 48	L.Robinson,D.Arvidson
Red-necked Grebe: 6, 24;27 6	Dennis (Corporation Beach) Westport, Brant Rock	42, 62; 130 ⁺ 2, 2	B.Nikulaj;D.Arvidson C.Floyd,W.Petersen
Western Grebe: thr.	Scituate	1 (from Nov. 82)	v.o.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Northern Gannet: 19-20,20	Nantucket, P'town	40, 300 ⁺	BBC,B.Nikula [#]
Great Cormorant: 3,14 29	Nauset, Penikese I. Orleans-Eastham	75, 125 ⁺ 150 ⁺	J.Redfern#,B.Nikula# B.Nikula
Double-crested Cormorant: 9-31,26	Somerville, M.V.	max. 15 3/24, 15	J.Berry, R.Stymeist#
American Bittern: 6,20	Eastham, E.Orleans	1, 1	M.Lynch#,B.Nikula#
Great Blue Heron: 5	Westport	7	G.Gove
Snowy Egret: 22	Squantum, Yarmouth	1, 2	R.Abrams, J.Aylward
Little Blue Heron: 17-20	E.Orleans	1 ad.	R.Cook+ v.o.
Cattle Egret: c. 20-25,20	M.V., Nantucket	2, 2	fide V.Laux,R.Vermilye#
Black-crowned Night-Heron: 19-20	Nantucket	15	BBC(C.Jackson)
Glossy Ibis: 27	W.Bridgewater	4	D.Emerson
Tundra Swan: 4	M.V.	3	V.Laux
Mute Swan: 6	Westport	82	G.Gove#
Snow Goose: 13-20,26	P.I., Seekonk	2, 1	W.Petersen#+v.o.,D.Emerson
Brant: thr. thr. 12,26	Squantum-Quincy area Newburyport Harbor Plymouth, Barnstable Harbor	max. 1000 ⁺ 3/31 max. 400 ⁺ 3 1/27 400 ⁺ , 1000 ⁺	v.o. v.o. SSBC, J. Aylward
Wood Duck: 11,13 20 27	SRV, Ipswich Topsfield, Easton GMNWR, SRV	2, 2 2, 4 7, 10	R.Walton,J.Berry I.Giriunas,K.Ryan G.Gove#,R.Walton
Green-winged Teal: 5,6 6,8 20,30	W.Bridgewater, Centerville Marshfield, SRV P.I., Wayland	2, 20 3, 2 15-20, 16	W.Petersen#,B.Nikula# D.Clapp#,R.Walton L.Jodrey#,R.Forster
American Black Duck: 12 17,20	Boston Harbor, Newburypt. Wayland, W.Bridgewater	694, 600 31, 150	TASL,BBC R.Forster,K.Ryan
Northern Pintail: 5,7 20	Westport, W.Bridgewater W.Bridgewater, P.I.	24, 30 20, 100	G.Gove,K.Ryan K.Ryan,W.Petersen
Blue-winged Teal: 20,27	P.I., Wayland	3-4, 5	L.Jodrey,R.Forster
Northern Shoveler: 21	P.I.	2 m.	C+N.Hubbard
Gadwall: 14,20,30	Penikese I.,P.I.,Wayland	6, 8, 3	B.Nikula#,W.Petersen#,R.Forster
Eurasian Wigeon: 1-5	E.Orleans	1	A.Williams+v.o.
American Wigeon: 19-20,25	Nantucket, W.Bridgewater	100, 4	BBC,K.Ryan
Canvasback: 4,5 26,29	Cambridge, Westport W.Newbury, Marshfield	1, 200 8, 2	F.Bouchard,G.Gove F.Bouchard#,D.Clapp
Redhead: 5,19-20 26	Westport, Nantucket M.V.	1, 125 5	G.Gove,BBC(Jackson) G.Gove#
Ring-necked Duck: 1,5 13,18 20,26,27 27	SRV, Lakeville Carver, SRV W. Newbury GMNWR, Concord	1, 4 90 ⁺ , 16 14, 7, 1 8, 23	R.Walton,SSBC D.Briggs#,R.Walton L.Jodrey+v.o. G.Gove#,E.Nielson#
Tufted Duck: 1-13,27-31	Westport, Chatham	1, 1	v.o.,A.Tait+v.o.

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS
Greater Scaup:			
12	Boston Harbor	2474	TASL
20,26	Newburyport Harbor	80 ⁺ , 200 ⁺	J. Berry
Lesser Scaup:			
5	Lakeville	1	SSBC
Common Eider:			
12	Boston Harbor	1200	TASL
Harlequin Duck:			
4,12,20	M.V., Rockport, Brant Rock	16, 5, 1	V. Laux, J. Berry, S. Higginbotham
Oldsquaw:			
27	Newburyport	150	SSBC
Black Scoter:			
19-20	Nantucket	150	BBC
Surf Scoter:			
19-20	Nantucket	300	BBC
White-winged Scoter:			
19-20	Nantucket	2000	BBC
Common Goldeneye:			
12	Newbypt, Boston Harbor	230, 304	BBC, TASL
19-20,31	Nantucket, SRV	200, 35	BBC, R. Walton
Barrow's Goldeneye:			
thr.	Newburyport	max. 7 (4m, 3f)	3/26 v.o.
28-31	GMNWR	1 m.	R. Walton+v.o.
Bufflehead:			
12	Boston Harbor	627	TASL
19-20,27	Nantucket, Newburyport	200, 50	BBC, SSBC
Hooded Merganser:			
1,2	Belmont, Cambridge	2, 2	L. Robinson, A. Foy
1-6,13	Lakeville, Falmouth	3, 4	D. Briggs+v.o., D. Davis#
Common Merganser:			
1	Belmont, SRV, Lakeville	35, 6, 10	L. Robinson, R. Walton, D. Briggs
5	Winchester, Dedham	25, 15	R. Clayton, E. Cutler
6,13	Marshfield, Norwood	16, 87	D. Clapp, E. Cutler
13,18	Falmouth, SRV	25 ⁺ , 61	D. Briggs#, R. Walton
Red-breasted Merganser:			
12	Boston Harbor	428	TASL
19-20	Nantucket	1000	BBC
Ruddy Duck:			
5	Lakeville	1	D. Briggs

HAWKS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Turkey Vultures moved into and through the state this month being first reported on March 4. Up to five subadult Bald Eagles continued on the ponds in Lakeville where a subadult Golden Eagle was also seen for a week. Six Northern Goshawks from as many locations were reported, and Red-shouldered Hawks were migrating on schedule.

The first Piping Plover was noted on March 26; the earliest date for this species in the last ten years is March 16. The first migrant Killdeer were seen on the fifth. Their general arrival time is the third week of March, but it is difficult to deduce from the records migration dates for this species and others like Greater Yellowlegs as they are frequent winterers. Lesser Yellowlegs, on the other hand, are clearly migrants; there are no reports of this species in January or February in the BOEM records going back to 1973. The earliest date in the records is March 12 and this year's early date is the fourteenth. Bailey notes in *Birds of Massachusetts*, an early date a month later than this. Dunlin were migrating as were Common Snipe and American Woodcock.

The Lesser Black-backed Gull continued to frequent the Cambridge Reservoir in Lincoln-Waltham, and a first winter Glaucous Gull was also seen there. A Thick-billed Murre was noted in Provincetown where seventy Black Guillemots were counted on March 20. This may be an unprecedented high number; Bailey gives a high count of forty-two seen at sea off Rockport.

A red-phase Eastern Screech-Owl spent the daylight hours roosting in a Wood Duck box in Westport where he was very visible. Another red-phase bird was noted in Ipswich. Seven Great Horned Owls were counted on an owl-prowl in the Bridgewater-Middleboro area on the fifth and the Barred Owl continued in Cambridge as did a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Mt. Auburn. G.W.G.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Turkey Vulture:			
4,6	Westport, Hopkinton	2, 1	G.Bertrand#, M.Lynch#
14,20	Milton, Princeton	3, 4	D.Brown, T.Lipsky
23-27	3 locations	4 individuals	v.o.
Bald Eagle:			
thr.	Lakeville	4-5 imm.	K.Holmes+v.o.
6	Plymouth	1	T.Lloyd-Evans
20	P.I., Marshfield	1 imm., 1 imm.	L.Jodrey#, J.Flaherty
Northern Harrier:			
5-6, 12-26	Marshfield, Newburyport	3, max.2 (3/20)	SSBC, v.o.
19-20	Nantucket	10	BBC
Sharp-shinned Hawk:			
5	Acoaxet, Westport	1, 2	SSBC, G.Gove
20, 23	W.Newbury, Sudbury	1, 1	G.Gove#, K.Ryan
Northern Goshawk:			
7, 8	MBO, Lincoln	1, 1	M.Payne, F.Richardson
13, 20	Boxford, Milton (FM)	1, 1	W.Drummond#, R.Abrams
27, 29	E.Middleboro, Scituate	1, 1	K.Anderson, T.Reilly
Red-shouldered Hawk:			
1, 10	Easton, Norwell	1, 1	K.Ryan
14, 15	Orleans, Norwell	1, 4	G.Manach, D.Clapp
20	Princeton, Newburyport	8, 2	T.Lipsky, P.Roberts#
20-27, 22	Boxford, Milton	pair, 1	v.o., G.Wilson
Red-tailed Hawk:			
5, 6	Weston, Lexington	2, 4	L.Robinson, L.Taylor#
19-20	Nantucket	5	BBC
20	Newburyport, Milton (FM)	8, 4	P.Roberts#, R.Abrams
23-25	Sudbury	4	K.Ryan
Rough-legged Hawk:			
5, 12	Bridgewater, Newburyport	1, 2	SSBC, BBC
13, 20	E.Orleans, Marshfield	1 (dark), 1	B.Nikula#, D.Clapp
27	P.I., Salisbury	1, 1	SSBC
Golden Eagle:			
5-13	Lakeville	1 subadult	W.Petersen#+v.o.
American Kestrel:			
13, 20	Squantum, Newburyport area	2, 4	BBC, P.Roberts#
20, 24	W.Newbury, Medford	2, pair courting	L.Jodrey#, G.Gove
Peregrine Falcon:			
20	Mt.Wachusett	1	T.Lipsky
Ruffed Grouse:			
12, 14	Newburyport, Milton	2, 2	BBC, D.Brown
3-31	E.Middleboro	1-2	K.Anderson
Virginia Rail:			
18, 26	Gloucester, Ipswich	1, 1	C.Leahy, J.Berry
American Coot:			
3, 12	Cambridge, Plymouth	1, 3	F.Bouchard, SSBC
19, 20	Nantucket	10	BBC
Piping Plover:			
26	Nantucket	1	BBC
Killdeer:			
5	Dedham, Westport	1, 1	E.Cutler, H.Wiggin
14, 20	Bridgewater, Newburyport	10, 10	K.Ryan, W.Petersen#
18, 27	SRV, W.Newbury	6, 4	R.Walton, J.Berry
6-31	10 locations	22	v.o.
Greater Yellowlegs:			
6, 30	Centerville, Eastham	4, 4	B.Nikula#
18-31	Yarmouth	1	J.Aylward
Lesser Yellowlegs:			
14, 19-21	W.Newbury, Nantucket	1, 1	BBC
30	Eastham	1	B.Nikula#
Sanderling:			
19, 20	Nantucket	7	BBC
Purple Sandpiper:			
4, 5	Acoaxet, Scituate	100, 50	D.Briggs#
12	Winthrop, Nahant	90, 20	TASL
19, 20	Nantucket	10	BBC
Dunlin:			
5.6	Scituate, Westport	60, 370	SSBC, G.Gove

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Common Snipe:			
13;17,20	Squantum;Marshfield	1; 4, 2	BBC;D.Clapp
20;23,24	W.Newbury; Woburn	7; 1	W.Petersen;G.Gove
27	Concord	4	G.Gove
American Woodcock:			
5,7	Bridgewater, Marshfield	2, 1	W.Petersen,D.Clapp
13,14	Concord, Canton	2, 2	BBC, G.d'Entremont
20	Weston, Ipswich	2, 1 displaying	L.Robinson,J.Berry
7-31	9 locations	9	v.o.
Little Gull:			
19,20	Newburyport	4 ad.	BBC
20	P'town	1 imm.	B.Nikula#
Bonaparte's Gull:			
19,20;26	Nantucket; Newburyport	48; 10	BBC
Ring-billed Gull:			
12	Bridgewater	400	K.Anderson#
20,26	Salisbury-Newburyport	50, 100	J.Berry
19-27	Newburyport	200	BBC,SSBC
Iceland Gull:			
7;19,20	P.I.;Nantucket	20; 10	F.Bouchard;BBC
thr.	Newburyport area	max. 30	v.o.
Lesser Black-backed Gull:			
16,27	Waltham-Cambridge Res.	1	R.Stymeist#,G.Gove#
Glaucous Gull:			
12,20	Winthrop,P'town	1, 1	TASL,B.Nikula#
19,20;27	Nantucket;Waltham	1; 1(1W)	BBC,E.Nielsen#
thr.	Newburyport area	max. 2	v.o.
Black-legged Kittiwake:			
19,20	Nantucket	10	BBC
Thick-billed Murre:			
6	P'town	1	M.Lynch+S.Carroll
Razorbill:			
19,20;20	Nantucket; P'town	17; 3	BBC;B.Nikula#
Black Guillemot:			
5,12	Cape Ann, Rockport	3,+1	BBC,J.Berry
20,27	P'town	70, 6	B.Nikula,D.Arvidson
Mourning Dove:			
29	S.Sudbury	1 on nest	K.Ryan
Eastern Screech-Owl:			
5,5-31	Bridgewater, Westport	2, 1	SSBC, R.Stymeist#
6,13	Shrewsbury, Cambridge	1, 1	M.Lynch#,BBC
12,14-15	Rockport, Ipswich	1 1 red	J.Berry
14,15	E.Middleboro, Belmont	1, 2	P.Donahue,S.Sanders
Great Horned Owl:			
1-3,5	Wollaston,Bridgewater-Middleboro	1, 7	D.Savich,W.Petersen#
14,21.	Milton,Hamilton	1, 1	D.Brown,J.Berry
25	E.Middleboro	2	K.Anderson
13,18	Cambridge, Canton (FM)	1, 1	BBC,L.Chelkauskas
Snowy Owl:			
thr.	Newburyport area	1-2	v.o.
3,5	Quincy, Westport	1, 1	J.Young,G.Gove#
1-6(from Dec.)	Worcester	1	v.o.
22	Saugus	1	J.Berry
Barred Owl:			
thr.	Cambridge-Harvard Yard	1	v.o.
5,15,25	Middleboro area	1, 1, 1	SSBC(W.Petersen),D.Elkin,K.Anderson
1,14	Townsend, Milton	1, 1	D.Brailey,D.Brown
Short-eared Owl:			
20	Salisbury, P.I., Truro	1, 1, 1	v.o.,P.Roberts#,G.Adami
27	P.I.	1	SSBC
Northern Saw-whet Owl:			
15,16	E.Middleboro, Plymouth	1, 1	P.Donahue,L.Briggs
Belted Kingfisher:			
thr.,1	Lakeville,SRV	1, 2	D.Briggs,R.Walton
5,21	Westport, Nantucket	2, 1	G.Gove,E.Andrews
Red-headed Woodpecker:			
26	M.V.	3	G.Gove#
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:			
thr.	Mt.Auburn	1	v.o.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Northern Flicker:			
13,17	Squantum, Belmont	1, 1	BBC,L.Robinson
19-20,21	Nantucket,Salisbury	23, 1	BBC,C+N.Hubbard
Pileated Woodpecker:			
2,14	Beverly, Milton	1, 1	R.Thissell,D.Brown

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH EVENING GROSBEAKS

All March reports in the rarity and early migrant categories came from Cape Cod and the Islands. A single Purple Martin at Chatham in the second week was notably early. The Jackdaw on Nantucket since November last year lived up to that species' reputation for being sedentary by remaining another month. The third week of March saw a remarkable two reports of Prothonotary Warbler, from Chatham and Martha's Vineyard. Either the turn to cold weather on March 23 or its encounter with a cat left the Vineyard individual a permanent resident of the island.

Both Fox and Song sparrows were reported migrating in good numbers during the last week of the month. Purple Finches, which had been notably abundant since December, remained in numbers through the middle of March. L.E.T.

Eastern Phoebe:			
12,21	Lexington, P.I.	1, 1	A.Williams,J.Kellogg
24-31	4 locations	8	v.o.
Horned Lark:			
6,20-26	Marshfield,P.I./Salisbury	9, 15 max.	D.Clapp,v.o.
Purple Martin:			
11,22	Chatham, M.V.	1, 1m	P.Bailey,V.Laux
Tree Swallow:			
20,21	Truro, SRV	1, 1	G.Adami,R.Walton
24,27	Wareham, GMNWR	1, 5	R.Turner,G.Gove#
Barn Swallow:			
22	M.V.	1	V.Laux
Fish Crow:			
13,20	Mt.A.,E.Middleboro	1, 4	BBC,K.Anderson
27	GMNWR	1	E.Nielsen#
Jackdaw:			
from Nov.1982-3/20	Nantucket	1	BBC(C.Jackson)
Red-breasted Nuthatch:			
.3	Cambridge(FP)	1	F.Bouchard
Brown Creeper:			
12-15	3 locations	4	v.o.
Carolina Wren:			
6,12-31	Lakeville, Middleboro	2, 2	W.Petersen,D.Elkin
Golden-crowned Kinglet:			
6-26	6 locations	14	v.o.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet:			
24	Woburn	1	G.Gove
Eastern Bluebird:			
16,20	Duxbury,Hopkinton	1, 1	C.Fowler,H.Russell
21,30	Tyngsboro,E.Middleboro	pr., 1	F.Bouchard,K.Anderson
Hermit Thrush:			
6	Andover	1	E.Strawn#
American Robin:			
9,15-19	Wellesley, 7 locations	200 ⁺ , 1-50	L.Robinson,v.o.
30	Lincoln (2 fields)	185	R.Forster
Gray Catbird:			
5	Lakeville	1	W.Petersen#
Brown Thrasher:			
5	Acoaxet	1 (dead)	H.Wiggin#
Cedar Waxwing:			
1,3-22	Middleboro, 10 locations	31, 40 max.	D.Briggs,v.o.
11,27	Bedford, Wayland	100+, 40	F.Friend,R.Forster
Northern Shrike:			
2	Wayland	1 m. singing	R.Walton
Shrike species:			
28	Milton(FM)	1	M.Murphy#
Yellow-rumped Warbler:			
19	Wayland, Nantucket	4, 10	E.Morrier,BBC
Prothonotary Warbler:			
22,22-23	Chatham, M.V.	1, 1	W.Bailey, fide V.Laux

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
American Tree Sparrow:			
1,5-28	Belmont, 4 locations	6, 8 max.	L.Robinson,v.o.
Fox Sparrow:			
21-26	4 locations	5 total	v.o.
27	Boxford, SRV	3, 7	J.Berry#,R.Walton
Song Sparrow:			
28,31	Belmont,SRV	20, 24	L.Robinson,R.Walton
Snow Bunting:			
4,20-21	Acoaxet, Salisbury	7, 12 max.	K.Holmes,v.o.
Red-winged Blackbird:			
5,6	Westport,Pembroke	150, 3000	v.o.,H.Harrington
7,12	W.Bridgewater,Newburyport	300, 60	K.Ryan,BBC
Eastern Meadowlark:			
19-20,21	Nantucket,Newburyport	4, 1	BBC,C.Hubbard#
Yellow-headed Blackbird:			
6	Eastham	1 f. (excellent description)	C.+ K.Barton
Rusty Blackbird:			
15,20	Lincoln, Newburyport	3, 30	R.Forster,P.Roberts#
26,27	M.V.,W.Roxbury	6, 6	G.Gove#,J.Paputseanos
Common Crackle:			
4	Middleboro, Acoaxet	3, 3	D.Briggs#
6,28	Pembroke,Middleboro	3000, 5000	W.Harrington,D.Briggs
Brown-headed Cowbird:			
13,16	Lexington, Belmont	2, 1	BBC,L.Robinson
Purple Finch:			
5,5-12	Wayland,SRV	125, 65	L.Robinson,R.Walton#
25,27	Lexington,Boxford	7, 6	A.Williams#,J.Berry#
Evening Grosbeak:			
thr.	Middleboro, Lakeville	60-130, 60-70	D.Briggs#,K.Holmes
19,23	W.Newbury,Sudbury	8, 10	BBC,K.Ryan

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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

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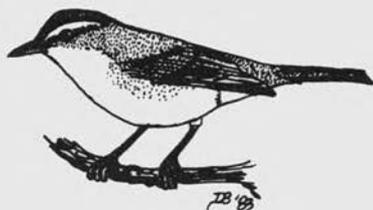
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Field Records

April 1983



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

April 1983 was a very wet, gloomy month with temperatures on the warm side, the average being 49.1°, slightly above normal, and the sixth consecutive month to be warmer than average. The high temperature was 83° on the twenty-ninth; the lowest was 34° on the second.

Total precipitation in Boston was 6.86 inches, 3.13 inches above normal, a continuation of a four-month stretch of unrelenting showers. It was the sixteenth wettest April in 166 years! The total rainfall in the first four months of this year was the fourth highest for this four-month period in 166 years. Since January 1, 26.01 inches of precipitation have descended on the Boston area, or 11.06 inches more than normal. Very little snow fell; normally April gets 0.9 inch of snow, but this year only a trace came down, and none stayed on the warm ground. The seasonal accumulation now stands at 32.7 inches, 9.2 inches less than the past average.

An interesting phenomenon occurred in the greater Boston area on the nineteenth in the afternoon when a funnel cloud or tornado was seen in the Braintree-Weymouth area. Some hail fell in the area that afternoon.

Southwest winds, those most favorable for passerine migration, occurred on April 7 and 18, and the big blows on April 28-30. A good migration was noted on the last days of the month at many locations.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

The Western Grebe continued in the Third Cliff area of Scituate for more than five complete months, thus establishing a marathon record for this species on a continuous basis in Massachusetts. Double-crested Cormorants were well under way by the end of the month, with many reports of migrating flocks during the warm weather of the waning days of April.

Hérons and egrets were arriving on schedule and a push of migrants arrived at the month's end as would be expected with the warm southwest winds. An adult Little Blue Heron was noticed going over Mount Auburn on April 28, and a Tricolored Heron was reported from Chatham and East Orleans early in the month. The first Green-backed Hérons were noted on April 23, and over ten Cattle Egrets were noted on outer Cape Cod. A freshly dead Yellow-crowned Night Heron was picked up in Marshfield on April 2, the last day of freezing temperatures this month.

Returning waterfowl gained in numbers at the end of the month, especially Green and Blue-winged teal. A Eurasian Wigeon was found at West Bridgewater on April 17, a rare bird on the South Shore at any time but especially in the spring. This is undoubtedly the first spring record of a migrant in Plymouth County. The Tufted Duck continued through April 3 in Chatham. Other highlights included Northern Shoveler at Fresh Pond, Cambridge, King Eiders at Dennis and East Orleans, and a late Lesser Scaup at the Cambridge Reservoir in Waltham-Lincoln. R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Pied-billed Grebe: 28	P.I.	1	A.Williams
Red-necked Grebe: 2,4,5	Dennis	40, 36, 14	J.Aylward#tv.o.
Western Grebe: thr. from Nov. Scituate		1	v.o.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Northern Gannet:			
1	P'town (Race Pt.)	35	R.Titus
2,19	P.I., Marshfield, Scituate	1; 10 ⁺ , 45	D.Resnick#; D.Clapp, R.Abrams
Great Cormorant:			
23	P.I.	6	BBC(S.Grinley)
Double-crested Cormorant:			
12,17	Middleboro, Marshfield	100, 45	K.Anderson#, W.Petersen
20,23	Braintree, Mt.Wachusett	200, 36	R.Abrams, P.Roberts#
27,28	P.I., Mt.A.	389, 200	P.Roberts#, S.Perkins#
Many reports of migrating cormorants on Plum Island on the last few days of the month from numerous individuals.			
American Bittern:			
15-30,22	P.I., GMNWR	1+, 1	v.o., R.Walton
Great Blue Heron:			
thr.	P.I.	max. 5 at one time	v.o.
18,23	Westboro, Mt.Wachusett	20, 8	G.Gove#, P.Roberts
Great Egret:			
11,14	Squantum, Concord	1, 1	R.Abrams, G.Gove
17,30	S.Dartmouth, P.I.	4, 4	R.Stymeist#, C.Floyd#
Snowy Egret:			
2,9	Plymouth; Essex, Squantum	1; 2, 6	P.W.Smith; I.Giriunas, R.Stymeist
24	Marshfield, Squantum	15, 14	SSBC, G.Wilson
Little Blue Heron:			
28	Mt.A.	1 ad.	S.Zendeh#+v.o.
Western Reef-Heron:			
26	Quaise Marsh, Nantucket	1	E. + C. Andrews
See article on page 124.			
Tricolored Heron:			
9,9-10	Chatham, E.Orleans	1, 1	B.Nikula, A.Williams
Cattle Egret:			
15;17,24,30	Norton; Ipswich	1; 1, 1, 11	K.Ryan; J.Berry, L.Jodrey
25-30	outer Cape Cod	10+ total	v.o.
30	Lakeville, Marshfield	6, 1	K.Holmes#, S.Smith
Green-backed Heron:			
23,25	GMNWR, Marshfield	1, 1	C.Jackson, D.Clapp
28-30,30	MT.A., P.I.	3 singles, 5	J.Barton+v.o., BBC
Black-crowned Night-Heron:			
17,23	Belmont, P.I.	12, 26	S.Sanders, B.Parker
Other reports of 1-5 individuals from various locations.			
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:			
2	Marshfield	1 found dead	D.Clapp
Glossy Ibis:			
9,12	Squantum, Marshfield	1, 1	R.Abrams, D.Clapp
21,28	Bolton, P.I.	8, 12	K.Anderson#, A.Williams
Mute Swan:			
17,23	Westport	134, 155	G.Gove#+v.o.
Snow Goose:			
16	P.I.	58	BBC
"Blue Goose":			
18	WBWS	1	D.Reynolds#+v.o.
Brant:			
thr.	Squantum	max. 400	v.o.
thr.	Newburyport area	max. 500	v.o.
Canada Goose:			
thr.,27	P.I., Mt.A.	506, 2	v.o., v.o.
Wood Duck:			
6,12	SRV, Middleboro	13, 5	R.Walton, K.Powers#
Other reports of 1-4 individuals from various locations.			
Green-winged Teal:			
1,2	P.I., Bridgewater	20 ⁺ , 25 ⁺	BBC, SSBC
19,21	W.Bridgewater, Halifax	40, 30	W.Petersen
17,24	Wayland, P.I.	21, 38	E.Morrier, BBC
"Eurasian" Teal:			
2,20	P.I., Wayland	1 m., 1 m.	H.Weissberg, R.Forster
Northern Pintail:			
2,23,24	P.I.	50, 26, 18	v.o.
Blue-winged Teal:			
1,2	P.I., Lakeville	2, 2	D.Briggs, K.Holmes
17,30	Wayland, P.I.	11, 20	E.Morrier, BBC
Northern Shoveler:			
4,9	Milton, Cambridge	1, 1	R.Abrams, BBC(J.Holmes)
9,16	Ipswich, Boston	4-6, 1	J.Berry, BBC

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Gadwall: thr., 27	P. I., W. Bridgewater	max. 11, 3	v.o., W. Petersen
Eurasian Wigeon: 17, 28	W. Bridgewater, Monomoy	1, 1	W. Petersen# + v.o., D. Holt#
American Wigeon: thr., 9	P. I., Cambridge	max. 8, 9	v.o., BBC
Canvasback: 2, 4	Lakeville, Milton	1, 5	SSBC, R. Abrams
Ring-necked Duck: 2, 3, 5 16, 21	Lakeville, Carver, Bridgewater W. Newbury, S. Hanson	12, 205, 35 8, 35	SSBC, BBC, R. Titus V. Albee#, W. Petersen
Tufted Duck: 1-3	Chatham	1 m. from March	v.o.
Greater Scaup: 10, 23	Newburyport	30, 1	BBC
Lesser Scaup: 5; 30	Bridgewater; Lincoln	14; 1 (4/2)	R. Titus; G. Gove, R. Stymeist#
Common Eider: 22	N. Scituate	900	W. Petersen
King Eider: 5-6, 10	Dennis, E. Orleans	1 f., 2	B. Nikula#, A. Williams
Harlequin Duck: 16, 22	Rockport, N. Scituate	6, 1	V. Albee#, W. Petersen
Oldsquaw: 30	P. I.	200	BBC
Black Scoter: 10	E. Orleans	500	A. Williams
Surf Scoter: 23	Scituate	150	G. Gove#
Common Goldeneye: 10	Newburyport	200	S. Henderson#
Barrow's Goldeneye: 1-3	Newburyport	max. 8	S. Read + v.o.
ufflehead: 10, 22	Newburyport, Salem	125, 6	BBC, J. Berry
Common Merganser: 18, 21	Wayland, S. Hanson	5, 2	C. Turin#, W. Petersen
Red-breasted Merganser: 9, 10	Squantum, P. I.	150 ⁺ , 75	R. Abrams, BBC
Ruddy Duck: thr.	P. I.	max. 6	v.o.

HAWKS THROUGH RAILS

Ospreys were carefully counted on two occasions in the Westport area with a total of 53 seen on April 12, and it was noted that all visible nesting sites were occupied. A pair was also observed on a nest at Assawompset Pond in Lakeville where an immature Bald Eagle continued through the twenty-sixth. The eagle seen in Middleboro was probably the same bird as it was only five miles, as the eagle flies, from the pond and on the Nemasket River, the outlet of Assawompset. A total of ten Cooper's Hawks was reported for the month, and a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks was seen in apparent courtship flight and calling to each other in Petersham. The pair at Crooked Pond continued from March. Rough-legged Hawks were last reported on April 18, not a late date. Good numbers of Merlins were noted at Plum Island with a maximum daily count of eight on the thirtieth and a total for the month there of sixteen. A total of eight Peregrine Falcons was reported. (An encouraging footnote: according to New York conservation officials, two pairs of Peregrines are nesting in New York City, one on the Throg's Neck Bridge and one on the Verrazana Narrows Bridge. Three of the four birds were said definitely to be birds that were released in 1980 from the rearing program at Cornell.) G.W.G.

Turkey Vulture: thr.	Mt. Wachusett	max. 10 (4/9)	v.o.
2-3; 2, 9	Saugus; Quabbin	1; 6, 10	C. Jackson; E. Nielsen#, G. Gove#
6	Grafton, Monomoy	2, 5	A. Keas, D. Folger#
9, 18	Mt. Watatic	2, 1-2	W. Petersen#
24	Plympton	5	v.o.
thr.	singles from eight locations		v.o.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Osprey:			
thr.	Lakeville	pr. on nest, max. 3 (4/6)	K.Holmes+v.o.
thr.	Westport	max. 63 (4/12)	R.Stymeist#+v.o.
23,27	Mt.Wachusett	17, 4	P.Roberts,J.Barton#
23,28	W.Bridgewater,MBO	1, 1	W.Petersen,K.Anderson
23,27,30	W.Newbury,P.I.,Newbypt	1, 1, 1	BBC,P.Roberts,F.Bouchard
Bald Eagle:			
2,4	Quabbin,Middleboro	2 ad. + 2 imm., 1 imm.	E.Nielsen#,D.Briggs
2-26	Lakeville	1 imm.	K.Holmes+v.o.
Northern Harrier:			
thr.	P.I.	max. 3 (4/23)	v.o.
21	Halifax,S.Hanson	1, 1	W.Petersen
23,27	Mt.Wachusett	8, 1	P.Roberts,J.Barton#
17,24	Marshfield	2, 1	W.Petersen,SSBC
Sharp-shinned Hawk:			
thr.	Mt.Wachusett	max. 30 (4/23)	v.o.
thr.	P.I.	max. 5 (4/27)	v.o.
10,20	Wayland,Braintree	1, 1	E.Morrier,R.Abrams
22,23	W.Roxbury,Belmont	3, 1 f.	M.Greenwald,L.Taylor
29+30	Mt.A.	8	R.Stymeist#
30	Ipswich.Marshfield	3-4, 1	J.Berry,S.Smith#
Cooper's Hawk:			
6,10	Canton,GMNWR	1 imm., 1 f.	R.Titus,R.Stymeist#
5,9;27	Mt.Wachusett	1, 1; 2	F.Bouchard;J.Barton
24,28	Marshfield,Mt.A.	1, 1	SSBC,L.Robinson#
29,30	Middleboro	1, 1	K.Anderson
Northern Goshawk:			
9;10,17,23	E.Middleboro;Boxford	1; 1	K.Anderson;BBC+v.o.
16,20	P.I.,Milton	1, 1	BBC,R.Abrams
23,27,30	Mt.Wachusett	1	v.o.
Red-shouldered Hawk:			
thr.	Boxford	2	v.o.
2	Petersham,Middleboro	2, 1	G.Gove#,SSBC
2,5,15	E.Middleboro	1-2	K.Anderson
7,9	Hanover,Mt.Watatic	1, 1	B.Sorrie,W.Petersen
29	Bridgewater	1	D.Briggs
Broad-winged Hawk:			
23,27,30	Mt.Wachusett	65, 81, 18	P.Roberts,J.Barton#
27,29+30	SRV,Mt.A.	9, 10	R.Walton,R.Stymeist#
27-30	singles from six locations		v.o.
Red-tailed Hawk:			
2	Bridgewater	15	SSBC
5;23,30	Mt.Wachusett	5; 4, 4	F.Bouchard;P.Roberts
thr.	1-2 from eleven locations		v.o.
Rough-legged Hawk:			
2,10;6	P.I.,Middleboro	1, 1; 1	BBC;K.Holmes
5,11;6	E.Halifax;Canton	1; 1 dark	R.Titus
9,18	Milton,Wayland(SRV)	1, 1 light	R.Abrams,G.Gove
American Kestrel:			
9-28	P.I.	max. 12 (4/12)	v.o.
23,27	Mt.Wachusett	33, 8	P.Roberts,J.Barton#
17;23	Wayland;Hamilton,Ipswich	3; 2, 3	E.Morrier;BBC
29	Truro	32	G.Adami
Merlin:			
9-30	P.I.	max. 8 (4/30)	v.o.
9,23	Squantum,SRV	1, 2	R.Abrams,R.Walton
Peregrine Falcon:			
1-25,28	Monomoy	max. 2	D.Folger,D.Holt
17,23	S.Dartmouth,Bolton	1 ad., 1	G.Gove#,B.Parker
23,27,30	P.I.	1, 1, 1 m. + 1 f.	B.Parker,P.Roberts,M.Argue
29,30	Truro,Newburyport	1, 1	G.Adami,R.Bouchard#
Ruffed Grouse:			
thr.	South Shore	3	W.Petersen
2;5	Boxford;S.Dartmouth,Westport	1; 1, 1	J.Berry#;R.Stymeist#
23;24,30	Hamilton,Mt.Wachusett;Saugus	3, 1; 1	BBC, P.Roberts;C.Jackson
Wild Turkey:			
2	Quabbin	1	E.Nielsen#
Northern Bobwhite:			
3,30	Carver, Middleboro	1, 4	D.Briggs

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Virginia Rail:			
9,16,30	Milton(FM);Ipswich,Hamilton	1; pair, 1	R.Abrams;J.Berry
24,30	Woburn,P.I.	1, 2	G.Gove#,R.Stymeist
Common Moorhen:			
25,30	Wayland,P.I.	1, 1	R.Forster,B.B.C.+v.o.

SHOREBIRDS

A Lesser Golden-Plover in basic plumage was seen in West Bridgewater early in the month; there are March reports of this species and most reports are from coastal locations. At least three Ruffs were seen at this location also, a male with an all white head and neck and a female on April 23 and two white-headed and white-breasted males with black coming into the lower breast on April 25 to 27. Solitary Sandpiper reports were notable for their absence; there are more and earlier reports in previous years with the early date being April 3. The Willet report is the third earliest in the past eleven years. Pectoral Sandpiper numbers were low, comparable to 1979 and 1980, and snipe were reported in low to average numbers. The Wilson's Phalarope report ties the prior record early date of April 30, 1981. G.W.G.

Black-bellied Plover:			
17,24	Winthrop,Newbury	20, 3	I.Giriunas#,G.Gove#
28,30	Newburyport,P.I.	8, 3	A.Williams,BBC
Lesser Golden-Plover:			
2,3	W.Bridgewater	1, 1	SSBC,W.Petersen
Piping Plover:			
2,23	P.I.,S.Dartmouth	1, 2	S.Zendeh,E.Nielsen#
Killdeer:			
2;3	Newbypt-P.I.,W.Bridgewater;Lakeville	5, 2; 1	BBC,SSBC;BBC
23,24	Ipswich,P.I.	2, 5	BBC
American Oystercatcher:			
28	Monomoy	8 pr.	D.Holt
Greater Yellowlegs:			
1,2,3	P.I.,Newbypt,W.Bridgewater	2, 3, 3	D.Briggs#,BBC,W.Petersen
9-10,23	Squantum,W.Bridgewater	15, 10	R.Abrams,G.Gove#
28,30	Marshfield,Newbypt	38, 200	D.Clapp,BBC
Lesser Yellowlegs:			
9,25	P.I.,W.Bridgewater	3, 5	P.Roberts,W.Petersen
30	P.I.	50	BBC
Solitary Sandpiper:			
30	W.Newbury	1	E.Nielsen
Willet:			
20	P.I.	1	A.Blaisdell
Spotted Sandpiper:			
27	W.Bridgewater	1	W.Petersen
30	Saugus,SRV,Wellesley	2, 3, 2	C.Jackson,R.Walton,K.Winkler
30	3 locations	1	v.o.
Upland Sandpiper:			
28	Newbypt,S.Natick,Marshfield	5, 1, 4	A.Williams,F.Hamlin,D.Clapp
29,30	Brewster,Eastham	4, 4	P.Bailey,B.Nikula#
30	Newbury,Lexington	9, 1	R.Stymeist#,C.Floyd#
Whimbrel:			
22,30	Monomoy,P.I.	1; 1	D.Folger,E.Nielsen+v.o.
Ruddy Turnstone:			
18	Winthrop	15	I.Giriunas
Pectoral Sandpiper:			
3,5	W.Bridgewater,Middleboro	1, 1	W.Petersen,D.Briggs
10,15	P.I.,W.Newbury	2, 1	BBC,H.Wiggin#
23,30	W.Bridgewater, P.I.	8, 3	G.Gove#,BBC
Purple Sandpiper:			
9,28	Manchester,Marblehead	100, 16	BBC,J.Smith
Dunlin:			
3, 17	Newbypt,Westport	11, 50	G.Gove#
23,27	W.Bridgewater	1, 4	W.Petersen
23-30	Newburyport	max. 85 (4/28)	BBC+v.o.
Ruff:			
23-29	W.Bridgewater	max. 2	v.o.
30	Newburyport	1 f.	R.Stymeist#
Short-billed Dowitcher:			
20,30	P.I.	1, 3	A.Blaisdell,BBC

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Common Snipe:			
1, 2	Newton, MCI-Bridgewater	1, 9	O. Komar, SSBC
18-26	W. Roxbury	max. 34 (4/18)	M. Greenwald
3, 17	W. Bridgewater, Marshfield	35, 20	W. Petersen
18	Concord, Bolton	33, 62	G. Gove
22, 23	W. Newbury, Newburyport	60, 70	W+M. Harris, BBC
Many other reports of 2-10 birds.			
American Woodcock:			
6, 9	Newton, Saugus	3, 1	O. Komar, C. Jackson
12	IRWS	10-12	BBC
23, 30	Cambridge; Lexington, Newbypt	2; 6, 12	R. Stymeist; J. Heywood; C. Floyd
thr.	individuals from 7 locations		
Wilson's Phalarope:			
30	Newburyport	1	BBC+v.o.

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS

Common Black-headed Gulls were reported from Winthrop and Newburyport; reports from the latter location have been rare in recent years whereas Little Gulls have been seen there with regularity.

Two reports of Mew Gull at West Bridgewater were received; however, there were no accompanying details. This bird is rare enough and similar enough in some plumages to the Ring-billed Gull that detailed notes or photographs should be submitted to make an acceptable record. Two Glaucous Gulls were reported, one from an inland location and one on the thirtieth, making an average late date. Early Common Terns were noted on the Vineyard although no numbers accompanied the report. G.W.G.

Little Gull:			
thr.	Newburyport	max. 4 (4/17)	R. Campbell+v.o.
Common Black-headed Gull:			
17, 30	Winthrop, Newburyport	1, 1	I. Giriunas, BBC
Bonaparte's Gull:			
thr.	Newburyport	max. 30	BBC
Mew Gull:			
2, 10	W. Bridgewater	1 (no details)	SSBC (S. Higginbotham), D. Brown#
Ring-billed Gull:			
2, 10	W. Bridgewater, Newbypt-P.I.	150, 300	SSBC, BBC
21	Bolton	35	K. Anderson
Herring Gull:			
10	Newburyport-P.I.	1000 ⁺	BBC
Iceland Gull:			
thr.	Newburyport-P.I.	max. 12	v.o.
Lesser Black-backed Gull:			
24	M.V.	1	V. Laux
Glaucous Gull:			
9, 30	Waltham (Camb. Res.), P'town	1 (1 w.), 1	G. Gove#, B. Nikula#
Common Tern:			
28	M.V.	(first)	V. Laux
Black Guillemot:			
22	N. Scituate	1	W. Petersen

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A very early Yellow-billed Cuckoo was found dead on April 27, and early Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were reported on the twenty-second and the twenty-sixth; the latter report was of a female found dead. Another early migrant was a Common Nighthawk on the Vineyard. A Common Barn-Owl was seen on two occasions on Monomoy, and the Harvard Barred Owl was seen through April 25. On April 8, it was seen eating a pigeon, carrying its meal from tree to tree. A pair of Barred Owls were heard calling and seen at their nest in Ipswich, and a Saw-whet Owl was photographed in Lexington. A female Red-bellied Woodpecker was seen on several occasions at Marblehead Neck. Pileated Woodpeckers were seen in Milton at a hole in a dead tree about twenty feet above ground, and in Wellesley a pair was seen excavating a hole, but when the site was checked later in the month, it was noted that the hole had been taken over by starlings. G.W.G.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo:			
27	S. Peabody	1 (dead)	R. Heil

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Common Barn-Owl:			
27,28	Monomoy	1	D.Folger+D.Holt
Eastern Screech-Owl:			
17	Westport	1 (red phase)	R.Stymeist#
23-30,30	Mt.A.,W.Newbury	2, 1 (red phase)	v.o.,C.Floyd#
Great Horned Owl:			
6	E.Middleboro	pair breeding	K.Anderson
28	P.I.(New Pines)	1 ad. + 1 yg.	A.Williams
Barred Owl:			
1-25	Cambridge-Harvard Yard	1	P.Stevens+v.o.
6,9	Kingston,Boxford	1 calling, 1	B.Sorrie#,B+W.Drummond
17	IRWS	2	C.Gove
Short-eared Owl:			
2,7,9	P.I.,E.Boston,Squantum	1, 3, 1	BBC,S.Zendeh,F.Abrams
Northern Saw-whet Owl:			
7,9	Plymouth,Lexington	1 (calling), 1 ad.(ph)	L.Briggs,P.Gay
26-30	Chatham	1	B.Nikula
Common Nighthawk:			
24	M.V.	1	V.Laux
Chimney Swift:			
28;28-30	Ipswich,Newbypt;Mt.A.	2, 4; max 20 (4/30)	J.Berry,A.Williams,v.o.
29	Marshfield	3	D.Clapp
Ruby-throated Hummingbird:			
22,26	Marblehead,Brewster	1, 1 f. (dead)	J.Smith,B.Nikula#
29	E.Orleans	1 f.	E.Gill
Belted Kingfisher:			
3,8	Carver,Dover	1, 1	BBC,F.Hamlen
17,25	Wayland,Newton	2, 2	E.Morrier,N.Komar
28,30	Mt.A.,Newburyport	3, 4	BBC
Red-bellied Woodpecker:			
8,9,23	MNWS	1 f.	R.Heil#+v.o.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:			
thr.	Mt.A.	max. 5 (4/30)	v.o.
28	P'town	3	T.Vose
Northern Flicker:			
thr.	Mt.A.	max. 16 (4/12)	v.o.
12-24	P.I.	max. 12 (4/28)	v.o.
Pileated Woodpecker:			
5,10	Milton	1, 2	J.Tonges,D.Brown
8,9	Weston, Manchester	1, 1	D.Perron,I.Giriunas#
9,23	Mt.Wachusett	1, 1	F.Bouchard#,P.Roberts#
10-16	Wellesley	pair	K.Winkler

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

Passerine spring migration started out with strength in Eastern Massachusetts for the first year in several. The weather record for the month showed two episodes of south-westerly winds which might have been expected to bring numbers of migrants our way: April 7 and 28-30. There were few noteworthy reports from the seventh or shortly thereafter with the exception of the general arrival of Eastern Phoebe. The weather at the end of the month, however, brought a flood of migrants. First significant counts of Eastern Kingbird, Purple Martin, and House Wren occurred then. Most surprising was the arrival of a Red-eyed Vireo in Mt. Auburn on the extraordinarily early date of April 27, so surprising in fact that Bob Stymeist, when first informed of this, proclaimed: "I'd sooner believe a Whooping Crane than a Red-eyed Vireo in April." Among the wood warblers, the last three days of the month saw first arrivals for at least twelve species.

Tucked between the two promising weather episodes was a good flight on April 22-24. Included were close to 150 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 50 Hermit Thrushes, and nearly 100 Palm Warblers.

Among the more interesting reports was a very early Eastern Kingbird at Chatham on the fourth. Another photographically confirmed record of Common Raven in the coastal part of the state was received, also from Chatham. The raven appears to be extending its range rapidly eastward, a most interesting phenomenon which should be monitored closely. A Carolina Wren in Hamilton provided an unusual north shore record.

Most worthy of mention was an impeccably described Gray-cheeked Thrush at Marblehead Neck on April 27, only the second April record of this scarce migrant.

There were several bonafide rarities in the warbler genera, all occurring on Cape Cod. A single Yellow-throated Warbler turned up at Provincetown on the thirtieth; the region typically gets one each spring. Prothonotary Warblers were seen in both Chatham and Harwich. L.E.T.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Eastern Phoebe:			
2-3,5	5 locations,W.Bridgewater	5 singles, 5	v.o.,R.Titus
9	Hardwick,Boxford	8, 9	S.Sweet#,B.Drummond
10-30,23	Mt.A.,Boxford	4 max., 11	v.o.,BBC
Great-crested Flycatcher:			
30	Mt.A.	1	E.Nielsen#
Eastern Kingbird:			
4,28	Chatham, 2 locations	1, 2 singles	B.Nikula,v.o.
29, 29-30	SRV,Mt.A.	2, 4	R.Walton,R.Stymeist#
Horned Lark:			
16,21	P.I.,Halifax	4, 100	BBC,W.Petersen
Purple Martin:			
15,29	Middleboro, Mt.A.	3,+	J.Stiehl#,S.Perkins#
30	P'town,P.I.	12, 20	B.Nikula#,H.Wiggin#
Tree Swallow:			
3,10,11	Carver,Wayland,Stoughton	22, 28, 48	BBC,R.Stymeist#,R.Titus
11,23-30	Newbypt,P.I.	100, 75-200	M.Murphy,v.o.
Northern Rough-winged Swallow:			
16,17	Bolton Flats,W.Bridgewater	1, 1	B.Parker,W.Petersen
23,26	Ipswich,Milton	1, 2	BBC,R.Emery#
Bank Swallow:			
26,30	Lakeville,Medfield	2, 30	K.Holmes,F.Hamlen
Cliff Swallow:			
28	P.I.	2	A.Williams
Barn Swallow:			
8,9-16	Middleboro,Bolton Flats	1, 1-3	K.Holmes,F.Bouchard#
30	Mt.A.	2	BBC
Fish Crow:			
thr.,9	Mt.A.,Milton	6 max. (nesting), 20	v.o.,R.Abrams
18,22	W.Roxbury,N.Scituate	4, 5	M.Greenwald,W.Petersen
28	Winchester	4	G.Gove
Common Raven:			
9,30	Mt.Wachusett	3, 1	T.Lipsky#,P.Roberts
29	Chatham	1	R.Clem#
Red-breasted Nuthatch:			
2,4	Wareham,Bourne	2, 1	W.Petersen,D.Briggs
23-28	Mt.A.	2	BBC
Brown Creeper:			
4-30,7	Mt.A.,Dover	5 max. (4/4), 5 singing	v.o.,F.Hamlen
9, 17-23	Hardwick,Boxford	8, 15 max.	G.Gove#, v.o.
22	SRV	2 pr. (nest building)	R.Walton
Carolina Wren:			
2,17	Marshfield,Westport	2, 3	D.Clapp,J.Heywood#
23	Hamilton	1	BBC (J.Berry)
House Wren:			
27,29	E.Middleboro,Bridgewater	2 m. singing, 1	K.Anderson,D.Briggs
Winter Wren:			
9,9-30	Mt.Wachusett,Boxford	1, 2 max. (4/24)	J.O'Regan,v.o.
18,23	Lynn,MNWS	3, 4	R.Heil#
26-30,30	4 locations,Mt.Wachusett	6 individuals, 6	v.o.,P.Roberts
Marsh Wren:			
30	SRV	1	R.Walton
Golden-crowned Kinglet:			
2,9	Middleboro,Manchester	4, 6	SSBC,BBC
10-29,22	Mt.A.,W.Roxbury	6 max., 7	J.Heywood#,M.Greenwald
22	N.Scituate	15	W.Petersen
Ruby-crowned Kinglet:			
9,22	Manchester,N.Scituate	3, 50	BBC,W.Petersen
23	Boxford,MNWS	23, 70	BBC,J.Smith#
24,27	P.I.,Mt.A.	45, 28	BBC,R.Stymeist#
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:			
22-29,28-30	6 locations,Mt.A.	6 individuals, 1-3	v.o.
Eastern Bluebird:			
2,4-30	Plymouth,WBWS	1 m., 2 pr.	P.Smith,D.Reynolds#
9,10	Petersham,Middleboro	2 pr., 1	E.Nielsen#,K.Anderson

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
12,23	Marshfield, Mt. Wachusett	1, 2	D.Clapp, P.Roberts
29	Mt.A.	1 m.	S.Perkins#
<u>Veery:</u>			
30	Mt.A.	1	v.o.
<u>Gray-cheeked Thrush:</u>			
27	MNWS	1 (details)	R.Heil
<u>Swainson's Thrush:</u>			
27,30	Mt.A.	1, 1	L.Robinson, v.o.
<u>Hermit Thrush:</u>			
12,16-18	Boston, 4 locations	1, 6	E.Morrier, v.o.
23	MNWS, Mt.A.	40, 8	R.Heil, v.o.
28	P.I.	25	A.Williams
<u>Wood Thrush:</u>			
30	Mt.A.	2	BBC
<u>Gray Catbird:</u>			
8,18	MNWS, Wayland	1, 1	R.Heil, BBC
24,29-30	P.I., Mt.A.	1, 1-2	BBC, v.o.
<u>Brown Thrasher:</u>			
22,25	E.Orleans, Newton	1, 1	E.Williams, N.Komar
28,29-30	SRV, Mt.A.	1, 4	R.Walton, M.Noland#
<u>Water Pipit:</u>			
7	Newton	1	O.Komar
<u>Cedar Waxwing:</u>			
2,9	Marshfield, Manchester	7, 30	D.Clapp, BBC
10,16	Wayland, Eastham	26, 30	B.Parker, K.Anderson
18,20-30	Acton, Mt.A.	40, 10	W.Petersen, v.o.
<u>White-eyed Vireo:</u>			
29	Rockport, MNWS	1 b., 1	O.Norris, J.Smith
27-30	Mt.A.	1-2	R.Stymeist#
<u>Solitary Vireo:</u>			
25-30,27	Mt.A., Dover	6 max. (4/30), 1	M.Noland#, F.Hamlen
27,29	Newton, Baldwinville	1, 1	F.Hamlen, J.O'Regan
<u>Yellow-throated Vireo:</u>			
30	Mt.A.	1	BBC(W.+ B.Drummond)
<u>Warbling Vireo:</u>			
30	Dover	1	F.Hamlen
<u>Red-eyed Vireo:</u>			
27-29	Mt.A.	1	R.Stymeist#
<u>Blue-winged Warbler:</u>			
29,30	MNWS, Mt.A.	1 m., 1	J.Smith#, J.Paputseanus
<u>Golden-winged Warbler:</u>			
30	Mt.A.	1	W.Drummond#
<u>Tennessee Warbler:</u>			
29,30	P'town, Mt.A.	1, 1	B.Nikula, fide D.Arvidson
<u>Orange-crowned Warbler:</u>			
30	Mt.A.	1	R.Stymeist#
<u>Nashville Warbler:</u>			
29-30	Mt.A.	4	R.Stymeist#
<u>Northern Parula:</u>			
28,29	MNWS	1, 3	R.Heil#
28,28-30	Middleboro, Mt.A.	1, 10 max (4/30)	D.Briggs, v.o.
<u>Yellow Warbler:</u>			
23,29	Waltham, SRV	1, 4	L.Taylor, R.Walton
30	5 locations	17 total	v.o.
<u>Yellow-rumped Warbler:</u>			
6-28,20-30	SRV, Mt.A.	27 max., 120 max. (4/30)	R.Walton, v.o.
30	P'town, P.I.	100, 75	B.Nikula#, F.Bouchard
<u>Black-throated Green Warbler:</u>			
23-30,29-30	Boxford, Mt.A.	1-6, 1-2	v.o.
30	Dover	1	F.Hamlen
<u>Yellow-throated Warbler:</u>			
30	P'town	1	B.Nikula
<u>Pine Warbler:</u>			
9,15	Saugus, Kingston	1, 1	C.Jackson, B.Sorrie
17-30,17	Mt.A., Fall River	6 max. (4/29), 2	v.o., R.Stymeist#
21,27	Dover, Lakeville	3, 4	F.Hamlen, D.Briggs
22-30	7 locations	13 total	v.o.
<u>Prairie Warbler:</u>			
30	SRV, Saugus	2, 2	R.Walton, C.Jackson

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Palm Warbler:			
13	SRV, Mt. A.	1, 1	R. Walton, B. Phillips
18	Lynn, Mt. A.	3, 6	R. Heil, I. Giriunas
23	MNWS, Mt. A.	45, 32	J. Smith#, v.o.
24, 29	P. I., P' town	16, 15	BBC, B. Nikula
30	P. I., Mt. A.	4, 10	F. Bouchard, BBC
Black-and-white Warbler:			
23, 30	Mt. A.	1, 12	R. Stymeist#
29, 30	SRV	2, 4	R. Walton
30	3 locations, Mt. Wachusett	4, 3	v.o., P. Roberts#
American Redstart:			
30	Mt. A., WBWS	2, 1	R. Stymeist#, B. Nikula#
Prothonotary Warbler:			
15, 19	Chatham, Harwich	1, 1	fide D. Reynolds
Worm-eating Warbler:			
28	Scituate	1	D. Clapp
Ovenbird:			
30	Mt. A., Boxford	1, 2	B. Drummond#, BBC
30	Saugus	1	C. Jackson
Northern Waterthrush:			
23-30, 30	Mt. A., Boxford	1-4 max. (4/30), 1	v.o., BBC
Louisiana Waterthrush:			
9, 12, 24	Boxford	2, 4, 8	W. Drummond#
23-27, 23-28	Mt. A., MNWS	3 max. (4/24), 1-2	v.o., R. Heil
24, 27-28	Saugus, Dover	1, 1	C. Jackson, P. Hallowell#
26, 30	Stoughton, Rockport	1, 1 b.	R. Titus, O. Norris
Common Yellowthroat:			
30	Dover, Mt. A.	1, 2	F. Hamlen, v.o.
30	E. Middleboro	1 m.	K. Anderson

TANAGERS THROUGH EVENING GROSBEEK

The major migratory movement on April 28-30 naturally included finches and orioles as well as species lower on the taxonomic scale. Most notable were Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping and White-throated sparrow, and Northern and Orchard orioles. On Cape Cod and the islands, the whole last half of the month saw fringillids arriving in numbers. Of particular note were numbers of Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Indigo Bunting. The more northern and interior reaches of the state had to wait until the last few days of the month for first arrivals of these species. Among the more unusual reports was an early Summer Tanager at Truro on April 10. Blue Grosbeak, always a generator of excitement, occurred in good numbers and distribution with twelve individuals from seven coastal locations ranging from Provincetown and the Vineyard to Rockport. Single individuals of both Grasshopper and Henslow's sparrows were seen on the north shore during the end-of-the-month wave. These are both early records of rare spring migrants. A Lapland Longspur at Halifax on April 21 was notably late.

Summer Tanager:

10	Truro	1	fide R. Prescott
Rose-breasted Grosbeak:			
15-30, 20	Cape Cod, Everett	60+, 1	D. Reynolds, fide C. Leahy
25-29, 25-30	M. V., 6 locations	8, 7 total	V. Laux, v.o.
Blue Grosbeak:			
11, 25-26	Eastham, Rockport	1, 2	R. Prescott#, L. Jodrey
25-29, 26	M. V., N. Scituate	3, 1	V. Laux, M. Litchfield#
27	Plymouth, Cotuit	1, 1	L. Briggs, fide D. Reynolds
28-30	Provincetown	max. 3	B. Nikula#
Indigo Bunting:			
11-30, 17	Cape Cod, Westport	55+, 1 m.	fide D. Reynolds, R. Stymeist#
25	M. V., MBO	8, 3 b.	V. Laux, T. Lloyd-Evans
26, 29	Bridgewater, Mt. A.	2, 2	K. Holmes, M. Noland#
Dickcissel:			
2-23	Marshfield	1	D. Clapp#
Rufous-sided Towhee:			
3, 12	Middleboro, P. I.	1 m., 1	E. Lemmo, P. Roberts
18-23	5 locations	5 total	v.o.
30	Mt. A., SRV, Saugus	6, 4, 4	v.o., R. Walton, C. Jackson
American Tree Sparrow:			
15, 21	Newton, S. Hanson	2, 1	N. Komar, W. Petersen
Chipping Sparrow:			
23	P. I., Dover	1, 1	BBC, F. Hamlen
25-29	5 locations	6 total	v.o.
30	Mt. A., W. Roxbury	6, 2	v.o., M. Greenwald

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATIONS	NUMBER	OBSERVERS
Field Sparrow: 5,17	Woburn,Kingston	3 m., 1 m.	G.Gove,B.Sorrie
Vesper Sparrow: 24,28	P.I.,S.Natick	1, 2	BBC, F.Hamlen
Savannah Sparrow: 7,10	Newton, P.I.	1, 2	O.Komar,BBC
18,23	Bolton,SRV	12, 7	G.Gove,R.Walton
24,25	P.I.,W.Bridgewater	35, 40	BBC,W.Petersen
Grasshopper Sparrow: 29	MNWS	1	R.Heil
Henslow's Sparrow: 30	P.I.	1	B.Schlinger
Fox Sparrow: 2,3	Boxford,Carver	2, 1	J.Berry#,BBC
6	Dover	1	F.Hamlen
Swamp Sparrow: 21,23	Dover,Ipswich	1, 2	F.Hamlen,BBC
24,26-30	Marshfield,W.Roxbury	2, 7	SSBC,M.Greenwald
White-throated Sparrow: thr.,30	Mt.A.,P.I.	50 max. 4/30, 30	v.o.,BBC
30	SRV,W.Roxbury	13,49	R.Walton,M.Greenwald
Dark-eyed Junco: 23	Mt.A.,Mt.Wachusett	20,12	BBC,P.Roberts
Lapland Longspur: 21	Halifax	1	W.Petersen
Bobolink: 30	Eastham	1	H.Stabbins#
Red-winged Blackbird: 2-30,11	Newbypt,W.Bridgewater	150±,400	v.o.,R.Titus
Rusty Blackbird: 5,9	Stoughton,E.Middleboro	4,20	R.Titus,K.Anderson
15-17,18	Boxford,W.Roxbury	1,2	v.o.,M.Greenwald
Common Grackle: 3,30	Middleboro,Newbypt	165, 150	BBC
Brown-headed Cowbird: 12,17	Topsfield,Boxford	22, 20	BBC
Orchard Oriole: 29	Provincetown,E.Orleans	1, 2	B.Nikula,P.Gill
30	Mansfield	1	J.Kricher
Northern Oriole: 12,30	Marshfield,Mt.A.	1, 1	D.Clapp,R.Stymeist#
30	Middleboro	1	D.Briggs
Purple Finch: 2,4	Petersham,Sharon	40, 20	G.Gove#,R.Titus
8,25	SRV,Newton	50+, 6	R.Walton,N.Komar
Evening Grosbeak: 2,9-18	Petersham,Mt.Watatic,	100, 15	E.Nielsen#,W.Petersen
29	Mt.A.,SRV	56, 125+	S.Perkins#,R.Walton

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Eurasian Siskin
Rockport, May 5, 1983

Photo by P. William Smith



Eurasian Siskin
Rockport, May 5, 1983

Photo by P. William Smith

BANDING REPORT: EURASIAN SISKIN
IN ROCKPORT, MASSACHUSETTS

by Russell T. Norris, Rockport

At 11:30 A.M. on May 5, 1983, I noticed an unusual appearing bird in a mist net just outside my banding office window. Upon removing the bird from the net I soon realized that it was a species unknown to me. However, as I examined the bird, its close resemblance to the Pine Siskin (Carduelis pinus) in body shape was evident. My next reaction was that this might be some aberrant form of the native siskin.

It is my policy to confer with Massachusetts Audubon Society and the Manomet Bird Observatory whenever there appears to be some doubt as to the identity of birds captured at this station. Fortunately I was able to reach Christopher Leahy in Lincoln, and after I described the bird's plumage to him in some detail, he identified it as the Eurasian Siskin. A later call to Trevor Lloyd-Evans at the Manomet Bird Observatory further confirmed the identification, and by checking details of plumage with the "Identification Guide to European Passerines" by Lars Svensson, it was determined to be an after hatch year (AHY) male. Later in the day, Chris Leahy visited Rockport to see the bird and confirm his identification. Also P. William Smith of M.B.O. traveled to Rockport and took several color photographs of the bird.

The bird was in brilliant plumage with yellow-green as the predominant color. The crown and chin were black with a bright yellow-green breast and rump. The flanks were heavily streaked with brown. Black streaks on the back were not as prominent as several illustrations would seem to indicate. The bird had distinct gray-green cheek patches. There was a distinctive broad yellow-green wing bar, and the rectrices were bright yellow-green almost to the tips.

The plumage of this bird was in excellent condition with no signs of wear or molt. The feet were in good shape. The bird was fat and very active. We could see no indication of it having been caged. The bird was banded with U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service band #1610-44740. Its wing chord was 71 mm. and it weighed 13.5 grams. It was released at the point of capture in Whale Cove, about one mile southeast of Rockport center.

No attempt has been made to review the literature for other records of the Eurasian Siskin in North America, but P. William Smith has provided me with several references which include the male bird captured at a banding station in Kittery, Maine in 1962 (The Auk, 80:201, 1963). Two or three other individuals of this species have apparently been observed in New Jersey and Massachusetts although I do not have the details.

At a Glance . . .

April 1983 Photo

If you identified April's bird as a junco, you are to be congratulated even though you are wrong, for this was also the first choice of several experts who were consulted about the picture. Although no one sent in a correct identification, the entries were very interesting.

"April's bird is out of habitat again, but definitely a junco. Light bill and white outer tail feathers are the best field marks."

"Everything but the bill says 'junco' (white under tail, dark eye). Maybe the 'bill' is due to the camera angle. Anyway that's our uncertain guess."

H. B. Kane's handsome picture, dated May 18, 1947, is titled "Scarlet Tanager Male and Apple Blossoms." This print was pulled from the Massachusetts Audubon files to check the identification, and it proved to be one of a series of photos of this bird, several of the negatives being more readily recognizable. The junco-like appearance of the bird probably resulted from the use of a flashbulb set-up, the same effect that is produced by bright sunlight glinting off the dark wing of a crow, making it appear silvery or white. The Scarlet Tanager is so readily recognized by its brilliant plumage that one pays little attention to the bill. As stated by the uncertain, but very perceptive, contestant quoted above, all "but the bill" seems right. Moreover, the bill cannot be ignored, and in this birdwatcher's opinion (probably biased by foreknowledge), the bill of the pictured bird says "anager."

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At a Glance . . .

Photo by Hal H. Harrison



Courtesy of the Massachusetts Audubon Society

Can you identify this bird? Identification will be discussed in next issue's *At a Glance*. *Bird Observer* will award a PRIZE to the reader who submits the most correct answers in 1983. Please send your entry on a postcard to Bird Observer, 462 Trapelo Road, Belmont, MA 02178 before the answer is published in the next issue.

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