

Field Records: November 1981



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

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

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

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

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

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

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

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

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

WATERFOWL

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

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

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

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

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

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

RAPTORS THROUGH COOT

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

R.H.S.

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

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDS

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

throughout the month off the Cape and in Nantucket Sound.

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

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

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

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

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

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

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

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

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

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

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

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

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

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

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

L.E.T.

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

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

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SNOW BUNTING

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

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

L.E.T.

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

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

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EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS HAWK WATCH

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

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

TASL

TAKE A SECOND LOOK

Spring and Summer Projects

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

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

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

