

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
 Plum Island, July 8, 1984
 Photo by Robert Stymeist



Field Records

July 1984

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

The warm, wet, and cloudy month of July 1984 had an average temperature of 74.7 degrees. That was 1.2 degrees above normal, but still 3.3 degrees cooler than the blistering July of 1983. Ice cream cones were melting, and the beer was flowing on July 15 when the temperature reached 98 degrees, breaking a 101-year-old record for that date by 2 degrees. Seven days had the mercury soaring to 90 degrees or higher, two more days than average, but only half the number of days last year. The sun shone 63 percent of the time, which is the monthly average, but the nights were relatively comfortable, although the evening of July 23 was a sticky 79 degrees, the highest overnight low of the month. The lowest temperature was a mild 58 degrees on July 9, 10, 27, and 28. Precipitation totaled 4.43 inches, 1.75 inches more than normal; the most in any one day was 1.19 inches on July 18. No severe local storms were noted near Boston, but several tornadoes spiraled across other parts of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Connecticut.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

A breeding-plumaged Red-throated Loon was observed at Stage Harbor in Chatham on the fifteenth. At Wareham 28 Common Loons were found in Little Harbor, nearly half of which were in summer plumage.

Twenty-five Cory's, 130 Greater, and just one Sooty shearwater were noted at Stellwagen Bank on the fifth. A single Greater Shearwater was observed sitting on the beach at Monomoy, being continually harassed by terns. Two immature Great Cormorants were noted near the target ship off Eastham, and Double-crested Cormorants were found in good numbers at East Boston, Squantum, and on Plum Island.

Fifty-three Great Blue Herons were counted at the Suasco Dam area in Westboro, a location where they nest. Tricolored Herons were found in just three locations, Plum Island, South Monomoy, and Nantucket. Likewise Little Blue Herons were few and far between with reports of three on South Monomoy and one or two from Essex County. At the spillway on the Charles River in Watertown, counts of Black-crowned Night-Herons were made several times during the month. On July 6, 97 were counted, including 11 immatures, and on July 14, 73 birds were recorded including just 7 immatures. This area has been a traditional gathering spot for night-herons; on July 1, 1976, 201 were tallied there.

R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>JULY 1984</u>
Red-throated Loon: 15	Chatham(Stage I.)	1 br. pl. (ph.)	V.Cordes	
Common Loon: 14,28	Wareham(Little I.)	20+, 28	L.+C.Robinson	
Pied-billed Grebe: 11	S.Monomoy	1	B.Nikula#	
Cory's Shearwater: 5	Stellwagen	25	R.Heil	
Greater Shearwater: 4,5	N.Monomoy,Stellwagen	1 sitting on beach,	130	R.Heil
Sooty Shearwater: 5	Stellwagen	1	R.Heil	
Great Cormorant: 10	Eastham(target ship)	2 imm.	A.Morgan	
Double-crested Cormorant: thr. 28,29	E.Boston(Belle Isle) P.I.area,Squantum	max. 250 (7/22) 350+, 300	S.Zendeh# G.d'Entremont#,S.Zendeh	
American Bittern: 7,8 14,22	P.I.,E.Boston Lancaster,W.Newbury	1, 1 2, 1	R.Titus,S.Zendeh S.Carroll#,R.Titus	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>JULY 1984</u>
Least Bittern:				
thr.	P.I.	max. 3	v.o.	
8,22	Marshfield,GMNWR	3-4, 2 imm.	W.Petersen#,M.Lynch#	
Great Blue Heron:				
10	Westboro(Suasco)	53	M.Lynch,S.Carroll	
Great Egret:				
22,29	IRWS; P.I., Westport	3; 2, 20	R.Titus,J.Berry,R.Stymeist#	
Snowy Egret:				
thr.	E.Boston(Belle Isle)	59 (7/8) max. 70	(7/22 S.Zendeh	
2,7	P.I.,Squantum	45, 40	BBC,R.Abrams	
Little Blue Heron:				
1,6	P.I.,Rowley	1, 1	I.Giriunas,R.Forster	
11,29	S.Monomoy;P.I.,Ipswich	3; 1 ad., 1 ad.	D.Holt#;G.Gove	
Tricolored Heron:				
1-2,11	P.I.,S.Monomoy	1, 1	I.Giriunas#,D.Holt	
18	Nantucket	1	N.Jenks-Jay	
Cattle Egret:				
4,29,30	Ipswich	3, 8, 3	J.Berry,G.Gove,J.Berry	
Green-backed Heron:				
thr.,14	P.I.,Lancaster	max. 8, 11	v.o.,M.Lynch#	
Black-crowned Night-Heron:				
thr.	Watertown(Square)	max. 97+ incl. 11 imm.	(7/6) B.Phillips	
13,22	Eastham(Hem.Landing)	44, 68	B.Nikula	
20,25	Charlestown,Squantum	19, 10	T.Ahearn,G.d'Entremont	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:				
8,22	N.Scituate,Eastham	1 imm., 3 imm.	R.Titus,B.Nikula	
28,28-29	N.Monomoy,P.I.	1 imm., 1 ad.	CCBC,v.o.	
Glossy Ibis:				
thr.	P.I.,E.Boston	max. 9 (7/21), max. 9 (7/22)	E.Nielsen#,S.Zendeh	
4	Natick(Broadmoor)	1	E.Taylor	
3,14	N.Monomoy	6, 8	D.Holt#+v.o.	

WATERFOWL THROUGH NORTHERN BOBWHITE

Forty-six Wood Ducks were tallied at Great Meadows on July 22, and a female Pintail had eight young in tow on July 15. Unusual July waterfowl were Greater Scaup in Wareham, a pair of Bufflehead at Wachusett Reservoir in Clinton, and the interesting report of three young Hooded Mergansers in the Bolton Flat area of Lancaster.

On July 3, an immature Bald Eagle was seen feeding on carrion on the river flats between Woodbridge Island and the Sportsman's Lodge, Newburyport, occasionally getting up and flying around only to be harassed by gulls and terns, then settling back down to feed. Another immature Bald Eagle was observed flying very low over the Worcester Art Museum on July 27. In Newburyport, two young Cooper's Hawks were out of the nest on July 11; this nest, found in June, was the first known nesting of this species in many years for Essex County.

A Mississippi Kite was well observed on July 8 in Wareham. This sub-adult bird was the eighth record for the state, the most recent being a bird seen in Chatham and Truro on May 6 and 7, 1983. R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>JULY 1984</u>
Mute Swan:				
14	P.I.	1	G.d'Entremont#	
Wood Duck:				
22	GMNWR	46	RRC	
Northern Pintail:				
15	P.I.	1 f. + 8 yg.	G.Gove	
Blue-winged Teal:				
29	P.I.	30 + incl. yg.	J.Berry	
Gadwall:				
21,28	P.I.	7, 7	BBC	
American Wigeon:				
11,29	P.I.	3, pr.	W.Petersen#,J.Berry	
Greater Scaup:				
14	Wareham(Little H.)	1 m.	L.+ C.Robinson	
Oldsquaw:				
2	Chatham	3	B.Nikula	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>JULY 1984</u>
Black Scoter: 14,21	Wareham	7 m., 5 m., 2 f.	L.+ C.Robinson	
White-winged Scoter: 14,21	Wareham	25, 58	L.+ C.Robinson	
Bufflehead: 1	Clinton(Wachusett Reservoir) pr.		R.Titus	
Hooded Merganser: 14	Lancaster(Bolton Flats)	3 yg.	M.Lynch,S.Carroll	
Red-breasted Merganser: 21,23	Wareham,S.Dartmouth	1 f., 1 f.	L.+ C.Robinson,R.Laubach	
Turkey Vulture: 2,9	Milton,Hopkinton	2, 1	W.Regan,P.Anderson	
10,20	Dedham,Wayland	1, 1	J.Marshall,H.Parker	
Osprey: 2,11	Wareham,Lancaster	3, 1	L+C.Robinson,M.Lynch#	
21,29	Newbypt.;M.V.,Westport	1, 7, 54	BBC;A.Ellis,R.Stymeist#	
<u>Mississippi Kite:</u> 8	Wareham	1 sub-ad.	G.LeBaron	
Bald Eagle: 3	Newbypt.	1 imm.	B.Sorrie	
27	Worcester	1 imm.	M.Lynch#	
Cooper's Hawk: 11	Newbypt.	Pr. at nest + 2 yg. out of nest.	W.Petersen	
Northern Goshawk: 1	Lincoln	1 ad.	R.Forster	
Red-shouldered Hawk: 2,14	E.Middleboro,N.Carver	1, 1 imm.	K.Anderson	
American Kestrel: 21	Plymouth Beach	2 ad. + 3 m. + 2 f. yg.	G.Gove#	
29	Lincoln(Hanscom)	6+	J.Carter	
Northern Bobwhite: 3,29	Canton,Bedford(Hanscom)	1, 2	G.d'Entremont,J.Carter	

RAILS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

On a BBC walk at Great Meadows, 10 Virginia Rails and 3 Soras were noted. Reports of Lesser Golden-Plover are scarce in summer; nevertheless, two were reported this month -- one in breeding plumage. The highest counts in 12 years of records of American Oystercatchers (40) and Willets (95) were recorded this month from North Monomoy, where a very high count of Least Sandpipers was also made. Also, excellent numbers of Whimbrels were counted there with 148 and 195 seen going to roost on July 19 and 30, respectively.

Among a flock of 500 Red Knots seen on Plymouth Beach were 10 to 12 color-banded birds. These were some of the knots that had been banded at Scituate (Third Cliff) in the summer of 1983. Three, and possibly four, Curlew Sandpipers were noted this month. The possibility of four birds exists because the bird seen at Squantum on July 23-29 may or may not have been the same bird that had been reported to Massachusetts Audubon Society on the twenty-seventh as having been seen at Thompson's Island for a week previous.

The Common Black-headed Gulls, which had failed in their nesting attempt in June, were still present on North Monomoy, where a Lesser Black-backed Gull in second summer plumage was also seen. An albino Great Black-backed Gull, at first mistaken for a Glaucous, caused excitement at Plymouth. A Gull-billed Tern was noted at Plum Island and a Caspian and 11 to 13 Royal Terns were reported, one of the latter being a banded bird. Last month it was said that Sandwich Terns are of irregular occurrence; this month 3 were seen at three different locations. Arctic Terns were present in good numbers. This is the southern limit of their breeding range but most of these birds were of the portlandica form; that is, first year, non-breeding birds. The largest and most productive Least Tern colony in the state, at Nantucket, had 560 pairs of adults and 310 immature birds. The pair of Black Skimmers nesting on North Monomoy was seen with three young; we hope the young successfully fledged and the skimmers will return to breed here next year.

No woodpeckers of any species were reported this month! This does not mean, however, that there are no woodpeckers in Massachusetts.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>G.W.G.</u> <u>JULY 1984</u>
Clapper Rail: 28	P.I.	1 heard	BBC	
Virginia Rail: 14,16	Lancaster,P.I.	5, 1 f. + 5 yg.	M.Lynch#,BBC	
22,28	GMNWR,Chatham	10, 1 dead	BBC,J.Aylward	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>JULY 1984</u>
Sora:				
22	GMNWR	3	BBC	
Common Moorhen:				
thr.	GMNWR	1-2	v.o.	
11,29	S.Monomoy,P.I.	1, 2 ad. + 6 yg.	B.Nikula#,J.Berry	
Black-bellied Plover:				
thr.	N.Monomoy	max. 400	B.Nikula#	
8,31	Scituate,Plymouth	12, 7	W.Petersen,K.Anderson#	
Lesser Golden-Plover:				
4,21	N.Monomoy,Plymouth	1 br. pl., 1	G.Gove#	
Semipalmated Plover:				
thr.	N.Monomoy	max. 300 (7/28)	B.Nikula#	
8,28	Scituate,P.I.	2, 10	W.Petersen,BBC	
Piping Plover:				
8,19	Scituate	8, 4 ad. + 6 yg.	W.Petersen,G.d'Entremont#	
26	Monomoy	max. 15	B.Nikula#	
Killdeer:				
1	Halifax,Bedford	50, 10	W.Petersen,J.Carter	
10,21	Sharon,P.I.	16, 15	R.Titus,BBC	
American Oystercatcher:				
14	Nantucket,N.Monomoy	7, 20	A.Ellis,BBC	
21,26	Chatham,N.Monomoy	1, 40	W.Reagan,B.Nikula#	
Greater Yellowlegs:				
thr.	E.Boston,P.I.	max. 32 (7/29), max. 20 (7/28)	S.Zendeh,BBC	
14	N.Monomoy	100	BBC	
Lesser Yellowlegs:				
thr.	E.Boston,P.I.	max. 40 (7/14), max. 21 (7/21)	S.Zendeh,v.o.	
19,20	N.Monomoy,Halifax	130, 11	B.Nikula#,K.Anderson	
22	Newbypt	223	R.Titus	
Solitary Sandpiper:				
14-16	P.I.	1	v.o.	
20,22	Halifax,GMNWR	3, 1	K.Anderson,BBC	
Willet:				
2-28	P.I.	max. 6-8	v.o.	
10,28	Barnstable,Squantum	nest. pr., 8	G.Wilson,W.Reagan	
thr.	N.Monomoy	max. 95 (7/28)	B.Nikula#	
Spotted Sandpiper:				
14,15	Lancaster,Belmont	1 ad. + 1 yg., 2	M.Lynch#,L.Taylor	
16,22	P.I.,GMNWR	4, 3	BBC	
17,27	Nantucket,E.Boston	2, 3	N.Jenks-Jay,S.Zendeh	
Upland Sandpiper:				
1,4	Halifax,E.Middleboro	5, 2	W.Petersen,K.Anderson	
15,29	Newbypt,Bedford	3, 19	G.Gove,J.Carter	
Whimbrel:				
12,19,30	N.Monomoy	40, 148, <u>195</u>	B.Nikula#	
15;21,31	Nantucket;Plymouth	10; 8, 5	N.Jenks-Jay;G.Gove,W.Smith	
1-2 birds from each of 6 locations				
Hudsonian Godwit:				
thr.	N.Monomoy	max. 63 (7/28)	v.o.	
7-29	Newbypt-P.I.	max 8 (7/28)	v.o.	
8-29	E.Boston	max. 11 (7/22)	S.Zendeh	
Ruddy Turnstone:				
12,25	Nantucket	2, 7	N.Jenks-Jay	
21,30	Plymouth,Wareham	20, 40	G.Gove#,L+C.Robinson	
Red Knot:				
thr.	N.Monomoy	max. 1400 (7/28)	v.o.	
19,29	N.Scituate	150, 1100	G.d'Entremont#,R.Titus	
21	Plymouth	500	G.Gove#	
Sanderling:				
thr.	N.Monomoy	max. 3000 (7/24)	B.Nikula#	
22,29	E.Boston,Nantucket	150, 46	S.Zendeh,N.Jenks-Jay	
Semipalmated Sandpiper:				
thr.	N.Monomoy	max. 2000 (7/24, 26)	B.Nikula#	
22,28	E.Boston,P.I.	500, 75	S.Zendeh,BBC	
29	Scituate	400	R.Titus	
Least Sandpiper:				
thr.	N.Monomoy	max. 1400 (7/19)	B.Nikula#	
20,22	Halifax>Newbypt	67, 265	K.Anderson,R.Titus	
29	Scituate	150	R.Titus	
Pectoral Sandpiper:				
2,7,21,22	P.I.	1, 1, 1, 1	v.o.	
4	N.Monomoy	1	G.Gove	
22,29	E.Boston	3, 2	S.Zendeh	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>JULY 1984</u>
Dunlin: 15	P.I.	1 br. pl.	G.Gove	
<u>Curlew Sandpiper:</u> 14, 22	Nantucket, N. Monomoy	1 br. pl., 1	A. Ellis, L. Taylor#	
22-29	Squantum	1 br. pl.	v.o.	
<u>Stilt Sandpiper:</u> 6-29	P.I.	max. 34 (7/28)	v.o.	
<u>Short-billed Dowitcher:</u> thr.	N. Monomoy	max. 2300 (7/14)	v.o.	
thr.	P.I., Newbypt	max. 375 (7/22)	v.o.	
thr.	E. Boston	max. 120 (7/8)	S. Zende#	
7, 8	Squantum, Scituate	200, 25	R. Abrams, W. Petersen	
<u>Long-billed Dowitcher:</u> 11	P.I.	1	W. Petersen#	
<u>Common Snipe:</u> 11	Lancaster	2	S. Carroll#	
<u>American Woodcock:</u> 8; 21, 23	Lincoln; Newbury	1; 1	J. Carter; BBC	
<u>Wilson's Phalarope:</u> 2, 26	P.I., N. Monomoy	2, 1	BBC, D. Holt#	
<u>Parasitic Jaeger:</u> 4, 6	Marion	5, 1	P. Hallowell	
<u>Laughing Gull:</u> 15, 28	P.I.	1 ad. + 1 imm., 1	br. pl. G. Gove	
18, 25	Nantucket, Squantum	45, 5	N. Jenks-Jay, G. d'Entremont	
<u>Little Gull:</u> 7, 8	P.I., Newbypt	1 imm., 1	R. Titus, BBC	
<u>Common Black-headed Gull:</u> thr.	N. Monomoy	2-3 ad.	D. Holt#	
2, 22	E. Boston	1	S. Zende#	
<u>Bonaparte's Gull:</u> 8	P.I., Revere	60, 90	BBC, S. Zende#	
<u>Ring-billed Gull:</u> 23, 30	Westport	1, 6	R. + C. Laubach	
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull:</u> 22	N. Monomoy	1 (2 S)	C. Floyd#	
<u>Great Black-backed Gull (albino):</u> 8	Plymouth	1	W. Smith	
<u>Gull-billed Tern:</u> 1	P.I.	1	J. Soucy, L. Jodrey	
<u>Caspian Tern:</u> 1	P.I.	1	R. Williams	
<u>Royal Tern:</u> 1-22	N. Monomoy	max. 3 (7/4)	v.o.	
3, 15	Nantucket	2, 3	E. Andrews, N. Jenks-Jay	
8, 10	Revere, Plymouth	2, 1 b.	S. Zende#, W. Smith	
14	P.I.	2	G. d'Entremont#	
<u>Sandwich Tern:</u> 6, 11	P.I., S. Monomoy	1, 1 (ph.)	R. Heil, B. Nikula#	
29	Nantucket	1	N. Jenks-Jay	
<u>Roseate Tern:</u> 4, 15	P.I.	2, 1 br. pl.	G. d'Entremont, G. Gove	
8	Nantucket, Scituate	1, 4	N. Jenks-Jay, W. Petersen	
<u>Common Tern:</u> 8, 29, 30	Nantucket	46, 136, 200	N. Jenks-Jay	
<u>Arctic Tern:</u> thr.	N. Monomoy	max. 80 (7/14)	B. Nikula#	
thr.	Orleans	max. 25 (7/21)	B. Nikula#	
8	Nantucket	3 ad. + 2 imm.	N. Jenks-Jay	
<u>Forster's Tern:</u> 23	N. Monomoy	1	R. Humphrey#	
<u>Least Tern:</u> thr.	P.I.	max. 67 (7/15)	v.o.	
thr.	Nantucket	1430	N. Jenks-Jay	
<u>Black Tern:</u> 4	N. Monomoy	1 br. pl. + 1	G. Gove#	
8, 18, 25, 29	Nantucket	2, 1, 1, 1	N. Jenks-Jay	
<u>Black Skimmer:</u> thr.	N. Monomoy	1 pr. with 3 chicks, max. 6	D. Holt#	
thr.	Orleans	pr.	P. Trull#	
8, 25	P.I., Naushon I.	1, 2	v.o., J. Hatch	
<u>Black-billed Cuckoo:</u> 1, 25	Ipswich, S. Monomoy	1, 1	J. Berry, B. Nikula#	
Four from four locations.				

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Yellow-billed Cuckoo:				
thr.	E.Middleboro	1-2	K.Anderson	
22	Newbypt	2	R.Titus	
6 from 6 locations				
Eastern Screech-Owl:				
29	M.V.	2 gray-phase	A.Ellis#	
Great Horned Owl:				
7	P.I.	1	J.Berry#	
Barred Owl:				
1	Lakeville,Medfield	pr., 4-5	W.Petersen#,B.Cassie#	
Short-eared Owl:				
thr.	N.Monomoy	3	D.Holt#	
25	S.Monomoy	5	B.Nikula#	
Northern Saw-whet Owl:				
7	Wellesley	1	fide N.King	
Common Nighthawk:				
18	Stoughton	1	R.Titus	
Whip-poor-will:				
2,4	Newbury,Natick	2, 3	BBC	
14,23	E.Middleboro,Newbury	1, 2	K.Anderson,BBC	
Chimney Swift:				
4	Natick	15	BBC	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird:				
23	E.Middleboro	1	P.Anderson	
Belted Kingfisher:				
22,23	GMNWR,Randolph	2, 1	BBC,G.d'Entremont	

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH PURPLE FINCH

An individual Acadian Flycatcher seen in Wareham constituted an unusual summer location for this species, which is much more regular as a breeder in central and western Massachusetts. Another surprise from the southeastern part of the state was the nesting pair of Willow Flycatchers at Whitman; this was only the third breeding record in Plymouth County known to Wayne Petersen. Cliff Swallows started out the season auspiciously at the maintenance buildings on Plum Island, with a large number of nests. By mid-July, however, only two adults were present and the nests were all destroyed or abandoned. The apparent cause was competing House Sparrows. A Sedge Wren was heard and carefully observed during the first week of the month in Nonquitt, near New Bedford. At month's end an adult Swainson's Thrush was banded at Rockport.

July observers at coastal sites turned up some nice rarities. For three days beginning July 6, an immature Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was seen at Plum Island. Another report of what was very likely the same individual was received from Chatham a week later. Interestingly, of the two long tailed flycatcher species, this North American one has occurred less often in recent years than the South American Fork-tailed. Interest in the Jackdaw near Siasconset on Nantucket heightened when apparent plumage differences were detected. Indeed, on July 9 two Jackdaws were seen together at that site. This is not quite so astounding an occurrence in the light of other recent Jackdaw activity in North America. An article on this situation will be published in a later issue of this magazine.

L.E.T.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>JULY 1984</u>
Olive-sided Flycatcher:				
1	Medfield	1	W.Reagan	
Eastern Wood-Pewee:				
thr.,9	E.Middleboro,P.I.	1, 1	K.Anderson,BBC	
Acadian Flycatcher:				
1	Wareham	1	L.+ C.Robinson	
Alder Flycatcher:				
14,15	Lancaster,Lincoln	1, 1	S.Carroll#, C.Floyd#	
Willow Flycatcher:				
1	Whitman,Lincoln	pr., 2	W.Petersen,J.Carter	
14,22	Lancaster,GMNWR	8, 4	M.Lynch#,BBC	
Eastern Phoebe:				
6	Concord	3	J.Carter	
Great Crested Flycatcher:				
14	Sharon	3	R.Titus	
Eastern Kingbird:				
2,14	Sharon,P.I.	16, 10	R.Titus,BBC	
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:				
6-8,14-15	P.I.,Chatham	1 imm., 1 ad.	R.Heil + v.o.,L.Pivacek#	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>JULY 1984</u>
Horned Lark: 29	Bedford	3	J.Carter	
Purple Martin: 1-18	Marshfield,Middleboro	16 pr., 43 pr.	R.Turner	
1-18	Halifax,Rehoboth	12 pr., 17 pr.	R.Turner	
21-28	P.I.	30 max.	v.o.	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow: 4,28	Wayland,Stoughton	7, 1	R.Forster,R.Titus	
Bank Swallow: 2-21,12	P.I.,Lincoln	6 max., 100+	BBC,J.Carter	
Cliff Swallow: 2-14,8	P.I., Marshfield	2 max., 1	v.o.,W.Petersen#	
Blue Jay: 23-25	Chatham	several flocks migr.	D.Holt	
Fish Crow: 7-22	Canton	2 max.	v.o.	
<u>Jackdaw:</u> 9-31	Nantucket	<u>2</u>	N.Jenks-Jay#	
Red-breasted Nuthatch: 9,11	Concord,Newbypt	2, 1	J.Carter,W.Petersen#	
25,26	Framingham,E.Middleboro	1, 1	R.Forster,K.Anderson	
Brown Creeper: 3-14	Concord	pr. + 2 yg.	C.Floyd#	
Sedge Wren: 6-7	Nonquitt	1	A.Ellis	
Marsh Wren: 2-21,22	P.I.,GMNWR	12 max., 17	v.o.,BBC	
Golden-crowned Kinglet: from June-1	Lakeville	2 pr.	W.Petersen	
Eastern Bluebird: 7	Lexington	1	R.Titus	
Veery: 15	Bolton	7	R.Titus#	
Swainson's Thrush: 30	Rockport	1 ad. b.	R.Norris	
Hermit Thrush: 14	Sharon	2	R.Titus	
Gray Catbird: 22	Newbypt	37	R.Titus	
Solitary Vireo: 11	Sharon	1	R.Titus	
Yellow-throated Vireo: from June-1,1	Halifax,Bridgewater	nesting pr., pr.	W.Petersen#	
Warbling Vireo: 22	GMNWR	2	BBC	
Red-eyed Vireo: 14	Sharon	23	R.Titus	
Blue-winged Warbler: 2	Concord	1 m.	J.Carter	
Nashville Warbler: 1	Berlin	1	R.Titus	
Northern Parula: 11	W.Newbury	1 m.	W.Petersen	
Chestnut-sided Warbler: 15	Waltham	1 m.	L.Taylor	
Black-throated Green Warbler: 1,30	Lakeville,Middleboro	1, 1 m.	W.Petersen#,K.Anderson	
Pine Warbler: 1	Lancaster,Medfield	2, 1	R.Titus,W.Reagan	
3,14	E.Middleboro,Concord	2 m., pr.	K.Anderson,J.Carter	
Prairie Warbler: 1,3	N.Carver,Concord	1 m., 2 m.	K.Anderson,J.Carter	
Black-and-white Warbler: 14,21	Sharon,Newbury	4, 2	R.Titus,BBC	
Worm-eating Warbler: from May-14	Sharon	1	R.Titus	
Northern Waterthrush: 1	Medfield,Lakeville	1, 5	W.Reagan,W.Petersen#	
Canada Warbler: 1	Lakeville	2 pr.	W.Petersen#	
Indigo Bunting: 3,20	Concord,Halifax	5, 4 m.	J.Carter,K.Anderson	

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	JULY 1984
Field Sparrow: 3,20	Concord, Halifax	5, 1 m.	J. Carter, K. Anderson	
Grasshopper Sparrow: 9,15	Lincoln, M.V.	3 ad. + 2 yg., 1	J. Carter, M. Vaughan	
Sharp-tailed Sparrow: thr.	E. Boston, P.I.	8-10, 4 max.	S. Zendeher, v.o.	
Seaside Sparrow: 1, thr.	P.I., E. Boston	2, 1-2	I. Giriunas, S. Zendeher	
Swamp Sparrow: 10,14	Needham, Lancaster	8, 11	J. Marshall, S. Carroll#	
White-throated Sparrow: 11	W. Newbury	pr.	W. Petersen#	
Bobolink: 4,21	Sherborn, Rowley	3, 35	BBC	
Eastern Meadowlark: 4,9	Sherborn, P.I.	4, 2 nesting	BBC	
13,20	Lincoln, Halifax	2 nesting, 6	J. Carter, K. Anderson	
Orchard Oriole: 4,8	E. Orleans, Scituate	2, 1 m.	A. Williams, W. Petersen	
Purple Finch: 28	P.I.	10	BBC	



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

A Christmas Bird Count is a popular census of birdlife taken each year by a number of birdwatchers between December 10 and January 2. This traditional activity, sponsored by the National Audubon Society and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, dates back to 1899 and has grown from a limited affair involving only a few people to an event in which tens of thousands of birders in Canada, United States, Mexico, Central and South America participate. In the 79th Christmas Bird Count (CBC) of 1978, 31,140 people joined in 1269 separate counts to report a total of 103,403,790 individual birds of 600 species. In the CBC of 1982, the number of species reported in any one count ranged from 3 to 306 with the highest count in the U.S. being 222.

Although the participants vary in expertise from beginner to seasoned expert, the magnitude of the undertaking provides data of some scientific significance. For this reason, very specific rules are set up to guide those who take part. Each CBC is a day-long census of all birds within a circular area 15 miles in diameter, and compilers try to "field" as many competent birders as they can to cover the roughly 177 square miles of a count circle, pairing up the less experienced with the better qualified so that all sightings can be confirmed. The competition is keen to produce the highest number of species, and this undoubtedly insures the thoroughness with which the count areas are covered. And with the great number of birders in the field, there are bound to be a number of "rare bird" sightings - something that enables Massachusetts birders to participate enthusiastically despite the rigors of a cold winter's day. The day's activity usually ends with a celebratory suppertime gathering during which the final tally or "countdown" is made.

This year's count period is from Saturday, December 15, 1984 through January 1, 1985. Bird Observer encourages anyone wishing more information or desiring to participate, whatever your level of birding accomplishment, to send a stamped and self-addressed envelope to Robert H. Stymeist, 98 Boylston Street, Watertown, MA 02172.

