

THE BIRD OBSERVER SUMMARY FOR JUNE, 1976

This was the hottest June in the official 105 years of record keeping, topping the 1930 mark by one whole degree. The temperature averaged 73.4 degrees, 5.4 degrees above normal. The temperature reached the 90 degree mark on more days than ever before, a total of 11, the past average is only 2 days.

Tubenoses, outside of the fine counts by J. Loughlin of the Manomet Bird Observatory at George's Bank, had a poor showing. Northern Fulmar however were seen off Plum Island and Chatham, a total around 16 as compared with two for last year (1 dead and 1 unable to fly). An adult Yellow-nosed Albatross was certainly the highlight.

Louisiana Herons were found breeding this year for the first time on House Island off Manchester. A total of 451 Snowy Egrets were seen flying to House on June 17. Throughout the month large numbers of Black-crowned Night Herons came to fish at dusk at the Charles River in Watertown Square. Herons continue to breed at Clark's Island off Duxbury. The following chart compares the number of nests found this year with 1975.

	<u>1976</u>	<u>1975</u>
Little Blue Heron:	5	5
Great Egret:	5	5
Snowy Egret:	245	150
Black-crowned Night Heron:	245	350
Glossy Ibis:	60	40

The Mississippi Kite continued from May on the outer cape and over 70 immature Broad Winged Hawks were noted at Race Point, Provincetown. A Rough-legged Hawk was well studied at Monomoy, this being a very unusual season. The latest record prior to this occurred at Orleans May 16, 1959.

Shorebird highlights included a pair of breeding Willet at Monomoy. The first such breeding record in 101 years. They were last known to breed at Monomoy in 1875. A young chick was confirmed on July 7, though their behavior suspected breeding on June 23. The Bar-tailed Godwit was last seen at Newburyport on the 1st and a Curlew Sandpiper was photographed at Nauset.

Late stragglers included an Iceland Gull at Plymouth and a Glaucous Gull at Nantucket. Over 550 Arctic Terns were present throughout the month at Monomoy. The majority of these birds were in the "sterna portlandica" plumage, which is assumed to occur among certain aberrant second year birds. Typical Arctic Terns achieve adult plumage in their second year. This is by far the largest number of non-breeding Arctic Terns ever to occur in Massachusetts.

Acadian Flycatchers continue to appear as late spring migrants (totals for the last four years 1973,4; 1974,5; 1975,6-8). In recent years this species has been found nesting on Long Island, New York, a trend which may continue to this state in the future. Pine Siskins lingered and were seen with nesting material in several locations and Red Cross-bills were still present at the end of the month.

R.H.S.

Common Loon:			
5,6	Manomet, Harwichport	16,3	W. Petersen, BBC(H.D'Entremont)
Red-throated Loon:			
3,22	Clinton, Marshfield	1,1	H. Merriman, W. Petersen
Pied-billed Grebe:			
21	P.I.	4	BBC(R.Heil)
<u>Yellow-nosed Albatross:</u>			
14	Cultivator Shoals (north side of George's Bank)	1 ad.	J. Loughlin
Northern Fulmar:			
6	off P.I., off Chatham	5-10,6	E. Phinney#, BBC(H.D'Entremont)
10	George's Bank	<u>960+</u>	J. Loughlin
Cory's Shearwater:			
14,30	George's Bank, off Cuttyhunk	14,2	J. Loughlin, H.&V. Sprong
Greater Shearwater:			
10	George's Bank	<u>3200+</u>	J. Loughlin
Sooty Shearwater:			
6,12	off Chatham, Provincetown	15,1	BBC(H.D'Entremont), R. Forster
10	George's Bank	<u>900+</u>	J. Loughlin

Manx Shearwater:			
10	George's Bank	1	J. Loughlin
Wilson's Storm Petrel:			
6	off P.I., off Chatham	1500,3	E. Phinney#, BBC(H.D'Entremont)
Gannet:			
6	off Chatham	2	BBC(H.D'Entremont)
Little Blue Heron:			
17	Manchester(House Island)	6	R. Heil#
Great Egret:			
thr.	5 localities	9 individuals	v.o.
Snowy Egret:			
17,24	Manchester, P.I.	451,60	R. Heil#, R. Emery#
Louisiana Heron:			
3-4,13	Duxbury, P.I.	1,4	D. Walton, P. Parsons
17	Manchester	5	R. Heil#
Blue-crowned Night Heron:			
thr.	Waltham(Watertown Sq.)	max. 181 <sup>6</sup> / <sub>18</sub>	J. Luck#
Yellow-crowned Night Heron:			
7-17	P.I.	1-4	R. Heil# + v.o.
Least Bittern:			
thr.	Bolton	2	H. Merriman
3-4,6-24	Concord(GMNWR), P.I.	1,1-4	D. Walton, G. Soucy# + v.o.
8,12	Manomet(UBO), Swampscott	1,5	S. Parsons, S. Zende#
19,21	Manomet, Beverly(from train)	1,1	B. Cassie, V. Albee
American Bittern:			
thr.	Bolton	1-5	H. Merriman
12,28	Swampscott, P.I.	2,1	S. Zende#, BBC(C.Simmons)
Glossy Ibis:			
thr.	P.I. area	max. 21	BBC(C.Simmons) + v.o.
Gadwall:			
12	Concord(GMNWR)	8 ad. + 17 yg.	BBC(E. Taylor)
28	P.I.	40 ad. + 8 yg.	BBC(C.Simmons)
Blue-winged Teal:			
27	W. Newbury	1 ad. + 8 yg.	W. Petersen#
Wood Duck:			
thr.	Lancaster	5 prs., 40 yg.	H. Merriman
12	Concord(GMNWR)	10 ad. + 15 yg.	BBC(E. Taylor)
14	Sherborn	1 ad. + 11 yg.	E. Taylor
26	Ipswich	24 ad. + 10 yg.	J. Berry
Common Eider:			
6	off Harwichport	8	BBC(H.D'Entremont)
Common Merganser:			
6	Harwichport	1	BBC(H.D'Entremont)
Hooded Merganser:			
19,20	Bolton	1 f., 6 yg.	H. Merriman
Turkey Vulture:			
8,30	Truro, Holliston	1,3	W. Bailey, J. Marshall
Goshawk:			
3	Clinton	1	H. Merriman
Mississippi Kite: (from May)			
8	Truro	1	C. Goodrich, B. Nikula, W. Bailey
8	Eastham (same bird)	1	I. Nisbet, T. Scott
11	Provincetown	1	B. Nikula, C. Goodrich
Red-shouldered Hawk:			
5,12	Bridgewater, Topsfield	1 breeding,1	. Petersen, J. Berry
Broad-winged Hawk:			
thr.	Weston	2 nests,4 yg.	L. Robinson
9	Provincetown(Race Point)	70 imm.	R. Heil#
Rough-legged Hawk:			
9	Monomoy	1 lt. phase	R. Forster, I. Nisbet
Bald Eagle:			
8-13	Provincetown	1 imm.	B. Nikula, C. Goodrich, W. Petersen
Osprey:			
thr.	Wareham, Lakeville	nesting pairs	fide H. Kingmen, W. Petersen# + v.o.
9,10	Monomoy, Eastham(FH)	1,1	R. Forster#, R. Veit#
American Kestrel:			
30	Waltham	4(2 yg.)	J. Luck#

Bobwhite:			
20	Ipswich	1	J. Berry
King Rail:			
3-12	P.I. (possible King X Clapper)	1	R. Heil, M. Gardler
19	Barnstable	1	R. Pease
Clapper Rail:			
thr.	Barnstable	6	R. Pease
Virginia Rail:			
21,27	P.I., Concord(GMNWR)	2 ad. 5 yg.,6(with yg.)	BBC(R.Heil), BBC(Wilsons)
Sora Rail:			
24,28	P.I.	3 ad.+4 yg.,1 ad.,6 yg.	R. Emery#, BBC(C.Simmons)
Common Gallinule:			
12	Concord(GMNWR)	5 ad.,7 yg.	BBC(E. Taylor)
American Oystercatcher:			
thr.	Monomoy, Nantucket	max. 15,3 prs. nesting	v.o., R. Veit#
thr.	Tuckernuck, Muskeget	3 prs. nesting,1 pr. nesting	R. Veit
Semipalmated Plover:			
6	Ipswich	6	J. Nove
Piping Plover:			
6	Ipswich(Castle Neck)	11	J. Nove
Whimbrel:			
3	Barnstable	1	R. Pease
Upland Sandpiper:			
thr.,27	Bridgewater, Newburyport	2,6	W. Petersen, D. Butler
Willet:			
thr.	Monomoy	6-8 1 pr. nesting	v.o.
FIRST RECENT MASSACHUSETTS BREEDING RECORD			
Lesser Yellowlegs:			
24,26	P.I., Rowley	5,6	R. Emery#, J. Berry
White-rumped Sandpiper:			
26	Rowley	3	J. Berry
Curlew Sandpiper:			
15-20	Nauset	1(photographed)	B. Nikula# + v.o.
Bar-tailed Godwit:			
1	Newburyport(from 5/22)	1	R. Veit
Red Phalarope:			
2+10	Monomoy	1-2	C. Goodrich, B. Nikula
Pomarine Jaeger:			
5	Nantucket Shoals	1	J. Loughlin
Parasitic Jaeger:			
6	off Chatham, Nantucket Shoals	2,1	BBC(H.D'Entremont), J. Loughlin
12	P.I., Barnstable	3,1	G. Soucy#, R. Pease
Skua:			
2	Nantucket Shoals	1	J. Loughlin
Glaucous Gull:			
22 on	Nantucket	1st year	R. Veit, L. Stockford
Iceland Gull:			
29	Plymouth Beach	1,1	MBO staff
Bonaparte's Gull:			
27	Newburyport	130	W. Petersen
Little Gull:			
2+9,6	Monomoy, Harwichport	2+1,1	C. Goodrich# + R. Forster#, H. D'Entremont#
Sandwich Tern:			
26	Katama, M.V.	1	P. Olmstead
		no details	
Common Tern:			
6,21	Plymouth, P.I.	200,25+	BBC(H.D'Entremont, R.Heil)
Arctic Tern:			
the.	Monomoy	550+	R. Forster, I. Nisbet
		1 st year type "Portlandica"	
Least Tern:			
thr.	Ipswich	50-60	J. Nove + V.O.
Royal Tern:			
9,20-25	Sandwich, Plymouth	2,1-3	R. Pease, B. Cassie + v.o.
Black Tern:			
12,14	Barnstable, P.I.	1,1	R. Pease, BBC(M.Kasprzyk)

Black Skinner:				
3,5	Monomoy, Nauset	1,1		P. Trull, B. Nikula#
12	P.I.	1		G. Soucy, R. Heil + v.o.
Thick-billed Murre:				
10	George's Bank	1		J. Loughlin
Yellow-billed Cuckoo:				
9-26	Dover	4-5		B. Morrisey + v.o.
Black-billed Cuckoo:				
5,26	W. Newbury, Dover	1,4		G. Soucy#, F. Hamlen#
Great Horned Owl:				
thr.	Millis	1-3 including yg.		J. marshall
16,27	Lancaster, Harvard	2,2		H. Merriman
Long-eared Owl:				
16	Essex	1 dead		J. Berry, J. Nove
Short-eared Owl:				
thr.	Tuckernuck	3 prs. nesting		R. Veit
Saw-whet Owl:				
14+25	Sandwich	1		R. Pease
Pileated Woodpecker:				
5	Lancaster	2		H. Merriman
Chimney Swift:				
5,15,20	Framingham	57,54,74		E. Taylor
Ruby-throated Himmungbird:				
3	Cambridge(Mt.A.)	1		S. Raabe + H. Barr
Eastern Kingbird:				
6	Ipswich	23		J. Nove
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:				
1,3	Lincoln, Dorchester	1,1		R. Forster, J. Murphy
3,7	P.I.	1,1		M+A Argue, L. Jodrey
12,13	Ipswich, W. Newbury	2,1		J. Berry, H. Weissberg
19	Annisquam	1		H. Wiggin
Acadian Flycatcher:				
5,9	Cambridge, Sandwich	1,2		R. Forster, R. Pease
13,20	P.I., Duxbury	1,2		P. Fox, M. Baird, W. Petersen+ K. Anderson
Alder Flycatcher:				
5,6	Brookfield, P.I.	1,2		T. Gagnon, G. Soucy
12-14,13-14	P.I., Newburyport	1,1		v.o., v.o.
15-17,26	Millis, Newburyport	1,1		J. Marshall, Argues
Willow Flycatcher:				
5,5-6	Milton, W. Newbury	3,3		F. Hamlen#, G. Soucy
7	Concord	7		BBC(Clayton)
Least Flycatcher:				
5,20	Lakeville, Duxbury	1,1		W. Petersen
Eastern Wood Pewee:				
2,6	Cambridge, Concord	1,1		BBC(Zendeh),(Clayton)
11,19	Chelmsford, Dover	1,1		W. Harris, BBC(Morrissey)
Bank Swallow:				
6	Ipswich	24 nests		J. Nove
Rough-winged Swallow:				
thr.	Weston	14+ (7 imm.)		L. Robinson
Cliff Swallow:				
1,6	Squantum, Essex	9,pr.		G. Wilson, G. Soucy
Purple Martin:				
14,21	P.I.	14,15+		M. Kasprzyk, R. Heil
Fish Crow:				
7	Plymouth	9		M. Moore
White-breasted Nuthatch:				
28	Millis	4		J. Marshall
Red-breasted Nuthatch:				
5,13	Lakeville, Boxford	1-2,1 nesting		W. Petersen, S. Zendeh
19	Waltham	1		J. Luck
Winter Wren:				
6-26,11	Dover, Chelmsford	1,1		J. Marshall, W. Harris#
Carolina Wren:				
23,25	Dartmouth, Scituate	1,1		B. Nickerson, W. Petersen
Mockingbird:				
16	Essex	nest w/ 4 yg.		J. Berry

Swainson's Thrush:			
2	Cambridge	2	BBC(Zendeh)
Veery:			
1,12	Sherborn, Falmouth	1,pr.	BBC(Taylor), A. Clarke
Eastern Bluebird:			
1,11-13	Milton(F.M.), Lanesboro	1,1	R. Veit, BBC(Grimley)
12	Harvard	3-4	H. Merriman
12,19	Falmouth, Annisquam	pr.,nesting pr.	A. Clarke, H. Wiggin
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:			
17,28	Winchester, Falmouth	1,pr. building nest	M. McClellan, A. Clarke
30	Manomet	1	T. Lloyd-Evans
White-eyed Vireo:			
6,22	Ipswich, Marshfield	1,3	J. Nove, W. Petersen
Yellow-throated Vireo:			
1	Lincoln	1	R. Forster, J. Baird
Solitary Vireo:			
5,6	Lakeville, Concord	1,1	W. Petersen, BBC(Clayton)
Worm-eating Warbler:			
thr.	Weston	2 ad.,2 yg.	L. Robinson
20-26	Dover	1	F. Hamlen
Golden-winged Warbler:			
thr.,13	Weston, Holliston	1,1	L. Robinson, F. Hamlen
Blue-winged Warbler:			
11-13,13	Lenox, Holliston	3,1	BBC(Grimley), F. Hamlen
19	Foxboro	1	J. Luck
"Brewster's" Warbler:			
3	W. Newbury	1	C. Goodrich#
"Lawrence's" Warbler:			
1-5	Lancaster	1	H. Merriman
thr.	N. Dighton	1 m. nesting w/ Blue-wing young fledged 6/12	D. Emerson + v.o.
Nashville Warbler:			
20	Duxbury	1	W. Petersen
Magnolia Warbler:			
3,5	P.I., Milton	3,1	Argues, F. Hamlen
18	Brewster	1	B. Nikula
Yellow-rumped Warbler:			
13	Princeton(WMWS)	1(breeding?)	H. Merriman
Black-throated Green Warbler:			
6	Ipswich, Dover	2-3,1	J. Berry, J. Marshall
Blackburman Warbler:			
2,3	Cambridge, P.I.	1,2	BBC(Zendeh, Argues)
Chestnut-sided Warbler:			
14,19	Millis, Foxboro	1,2	J. Marshall, J. Luck
Bay-breasted Warbler:			
3	P.I.	1	M+A Argue
Blackpoll Warbler:			
5	Milton	1(last)	F. Hamlen
Pine Warbler:			
20	Millis	1	J. Marshall
Ovenbird:			
26	Dover	9	F. Hamlen
Northern Waterthrush:			
20	Middleboro	1-2	W. Petersen
Mourning Warbler:			
1,5	Lancaster	1	H. Merriman
7	Dover	1 dead	F. Alwon
Common Yellowthroat:			
29	Boston(Prudential Center)	1	A. Argue
Yellow-breasted Chat:			
23	Dartmouth	2	B. Nickerson
Canada Warbler:			
thr.	Weston	2-3	L. Robinson
20,27	Dover, W. Newbury	2,2	F. Hamlen, W. Petersen
American Redstart:			
2,21	Cambridge, P.I.	1 f.,1	BBC(Zendeh), (Heil)
Orchard Oriole:			
thr.,5	Winchester, Marshfield	1,1	M. McClellan, H.D'Entremont
14,27	Foxboro, Rowley	pr. w/ 4 yg.,1 ad.	D. Clapp, D. Butler
28	Falmouth	pr.	A. Clarke

Northern Oriole:			
3	Cambridge(Mt.A.)	6	S. Raabe + H. Barr
Rose-breasted Grosbeak:			
19,27	Milton, Concord	4,3	BBC(Morrissey),(Wilson)
Indigo Bunting:			
thr.,1	Wellesley-Lincoln, Ipswich	7,3 m.	R. Forster, J. Berry
Purple Finch:			
1,21	Cambridge, P.I.	1,6	BBC(Clayton), BBC(Heil)
Pine Siskin:			
10,12	Foxboro, Wayland	1,15	W. Davis, J. Hines
Red Crossbill:			
3,7,11	Plymouth	3+,4,1	M. Moore
3	Falmouth, Foxboro	"small groups",3	A. Clarke, W. Davis
6,14	Ipswich, Shirley	6,4	J. Nove, F. Hegliger
11,20	Provincetown, P.I.	11,1	R. Forster, J. Denison
27	Sandwich	5	R. Pease
Grasshopper Sparrow:			
thr.	Tuckernuck I.	12+prs.	R. Veit
12,13on	Truro, Dartmouth	1-2,2	W. Petersen, M. Argue#
Sharp-tailed Sparrow:			
thr.	Barnstable	400+ nesting	R. Pease
Seaside Sparrow:			
thr.,7-24	Barnstable, P.I.	35+ nesting,2	R. Pease, R. Heil#
Dark-eyed Junco:			
thr.	Weston, Westwood	2-3,2	L. Robinson, J. Clancy
White-throated Sparrow:			
13	Princeton(WMWS)	2	H. Merriman
11-14,20	Abington, Middleboro	1,1	E. Pearson, W. Petersen

#### A RECORD COUNT OF BLACK-BELLIED PLOVERS AT NEWBURYPORT

by Michael C. Moore and Steven B. Light, Manomet Bird Observatory

At 12:45 P.M. on 19 May 1976 we estimated that 6500 Black-bellied Plovers (Pluvialis squatarola) were foraging on mudflats at Newburyport Harbor, Massachusetts. Our estimate was made about 2 1/4 hours after low tide while the incoming tide forced shorebirds towards shore, but before they had begun leaving for resting areas. Our independent estimates were made with telescopes (Light using 20X, Moore 35X), and were derived by slightly different techniques. Light counted all Black-bellied Plovers in one telescope-field and then counted the number of scope-fields of similar density thereafter. When noticeable changes of density occurred, another telescope-field was counted and the count modified accordingly. Moore estimated by first counting 100 plovers and, using this as a unit, counting the rest by 100's. On the first count Light estimated 5200 and Moore estimated 5700. About 15 minutes later, when the tide had forced the birds closer, Light estimated 4900 and Moore estimated 6500. However, on this count Moore included a distant flock of about 1000 birds that Light was unable to see with his lower magnification telescope. We agreed that Moore's estimate was probably more accurate. Despite the fact that 6500 birds is an unusually high number for Black-bellied Plovers, we feel that our figure is satisfactory and may even be a conservative estimate.

Comments from other observers (as well as our own rough estimate on 18 May) indicate that about 6500 Black-bellied Plovers were present in the Newburyport area from about 16-20 May. By 28 May Moore estimated only 2500 under conditions similar to those that prevailed when estimates were made on 19 May.

Although we have not made an exhaustive literature search, our count of Black-bellied Plovers is the highest we have found reference to, and likely is the highest known anywhere in the United States in recent years. The previous high count for Massachusetts was 3500 observed on Monomoy Island by Griscom on 21 May 1947 (Bailey 1955). The highest count we have found outside of Massachusetts was 6200 birds and was made by Bent and Oberholser at Tuckerton Bay, New Jersey, on 27 May 1927 (Bent 1929).

#### Literature Cited

- Bailey, Wallace, 1955, Birds in Massachusetts, Where and When to Find Them, College Press, South Lancaster, Massachusetts.
- Bent, A. C., 1929, Life Histories of North American Shorebirds, Smithsonian Institution, United States National Museum, Bulletin 146.