

EDITOR'S PAGE

POOLING OUR ENERGY

This summer it may be easier for birders to find petrels than petrol. Industry and government reports indicate a shortfall in the production of gasoline sufficient to cause spot shortages, if not worse, throughout the nation. Gasoline stations might be closed on Sundays or entire weekends, if not by legal mandate, then by the lack of adequate supplies or the desire to reduce operating costs. Even if supplies should prove ample, which seems highly unlikely, we will not be able to avoid paying a very high price for our gasoline. With late April prices ranging from 74¢ to 86¢ per gallon and going higher almost daily, birding trips are proving quite expensive and can only become more so.

Bird Observer therefore encourages its readers to car-pool whenever possible. Not only will you undoubtedly conserve gasoline and save money, both laudable achievements in their own rights, but also you might discover more birds! To this end, we will publish a car-pooling directory for our subscribers, if interest warrants. If you regularly bird one of the following areas (in season) and would be interested in car-pooling, please send us your name, address and telephone number on a postcard, noting which areas of the following you like to bird with some regularity: the Outer Cape, Monomoy, Westport-Dartmouth, Cape Ann, Newburyport-Plum Island, Sudbury Valley, Mt. Wachusett, and Quabbin. We will publish this information in a forthcoming issue, clustering potential car-poolers by their general region of residence, i.e., the Cape, the South Shore, the western suburbs, etc. You would then make your own arrangements with someone in your area, or car-pool from a shopping center en route. Bird clubs might also consider "clustering" at local shopping centers and car-pooling for their longer field trips.

NEWBURYPORT AND BOSTON BREEDING BIRD COUNTS

On Saturday, June 16, a breeding bird census of Newburyport and vicinity will be conducted. The area covered, the rules, and the format will be the same as for the annual Christmas Bird Count. Contact Rick Heil, 20 MacArthur Circle, Peabody, MA. 01960, in advance for details, or call 531-7790.

On Sunday, June 17, a Greater Boston Breeding Bird Census will be held. With limited coverage, 112 species were reported in the first year of the count. Anyone interested in participating in this project is urged to contact Robert H. Stymeist, c/o Bird Observer, 462 Trapelo Rd., Belmont, MA. 02178, or call 734-1289.

LOON PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Two publications about loons are now available through the Loon Preservation Committee of the Audubon Society of New Hampshire. The proceedings of the January Loon Conference, "The Common Loon," contain status, research, and management papers from the U.S. and Canada. Edited and published by the L.P.C., it is available for \$5.50 postpaid. A paper published in New Hampshire Audubon's annual report, "Loons in the Northeast - A Chronological Profile," is also available for \$1.00 postpaid. Orders must enclose payment and should be sent to: Loon Preservation Committee, Main Street, Humiston Building, Meredith, New Hampshire 03252.