

THE WINTER SEASON
NOVEMBER 1978 - FEBRUARY 1979

November was cold and dry; the temperature averaged 43.6°. The high mark was a mild 70° on the 18th, the low, 17° on the 27th. The season's first freeze for the Boston area came on the 13th, 6 days later than average. Snow totaled 4.2 inches, the most for November since 4.9 inches in 1945. The season's first snow was 2.1 inches on the 21st, a whole 4 weeks before average.

December was mild and sunny with somewhat below normal precipitation. The mercury averaged 35.3°, 2.3° above normal. The highest temperature was 62° on the 4th; the low mark was 19° on the 11th, 18th and 19th. Precipitation totaled 3.63 inches with 1.2 inches on the 9th-10th. Snowfall was but 5.8 inches, 2.3 inches less than average. The most snow in 24 hours was 4.8 inches on the 9th-10th. A bad sleet storm on the 20th-21st caused severe glazing and many accidents were reported.

Mild temperatures, cloudy skies and flooding rains dominated the weather for January in eastern Massachusetts. The year started with a hint of spring with the temperature of 58° on New Year's Day, rising to 61° on the 2nd. There were 5 days in the 50s. It was pleasant weather for searching out the Boreal Owl in Salisbury, but to no avail. The low mark was 4° on the 19th. Precipitation totaled 10.55 inches, about triple the 3.69 inches normal and set a new record for January. This was the 9th greatest total for any month and the wettest of any since August, 1955 (17.09 inches). Days with more than one inch also set a new record for January at 5; the most precipitation in 24 hours was 2.72 inches on the 20th-21st. Snow totaled 10.5 inches, 2.3 inches under normal, with 4.2 inches on the 17th being the most in any one storm. The ground was bare most of the month. The two great rainstorms caused disastrous flooding in eastern Massachusetts.

February was very cold and sunny with near normal precipitation. The first 20 days were very cold, averaging 12.6 degrees below normal. The entire month averaged 23.1°, 7.3° below normal. This was the coldest February since 1936 (22.8°) and the 7th coldest in 109 years of record. The mercury dipped to 5° or lower for 10 days in a row, setting a new record. The month's low was -3° on the 11th, the high temperature reading was 53° on the 22nd and 28th. Precipitation totaled 3.46 inches; the most in any one day was 1.75 inches on the 26th. Snow totaled only 6.6 inches, 5.4 inches less than average and less than a fourth of the February 1978 27.2 inches. The most in any 24 hour period was 3.7 inches on the 7-8th. This was the windiest month of any since January, 1971. The winds continued stronger than average right through most of the month's coldest days, producing bitter and even dangerous wind-chill conditions. According to Robert Lautzenneiser, state climatologist, northwesterly winds prevailed throughout the first two-thirds of the month, the longest such steady direction within recall, possibly a record duration. The "storm of the month" was the "Great Sleet Storm" on the 26th. This dropped 2.6 inches of nearly all sleet mixed with some freezing rain at times. The sleet and icing conditions varied with location and elevation. Great Blue Hill received more freezing rain with heavy build-up on tree limbs causing severe damage. Roads were very hazardous and strong northeasterly winds battered the coastline. Another feature of the month was the high air pressure of 30.86 inches on the 18th, the highest reading since December 31, 1971.



Boreal Owl, Salisbury, Massachusetts, December 31, 1978
Photographed by Fred Atwood, Alexandria, Va.

Loons through Herons

An unusually large number of loons present in the waters around Nantucket in late December included 355 Common (cf., CBC totals since 1974: 69, 299, 99, 241) and 375 Red-throated (cf., 4, 132, 19, 51) while counts elsewhere along the coast were considered normal. At Rafes Chasm, Magnolia, an Eared Grebe present January 27 to February 4 represents the only state sight record since January, 1975 (Sandy Neck, Barnstable). Traditionally the least likely shearwater to appear in winter is the Sooty since this species, along with the Wilson's Storm-Petrel, are among the first of our summer pelagics to depart New England waters--in this case for breeding colonies in the southern hemisphere. Surprisingly late were single Sooty Shearwaters on Cultivator Shoals December 12 and from shore at Eastham (Nauset) during the northeast' of December 17. It is likely that such lingering individuals are non-breeding sub-adults spending the entire winter in the north Atlantic. Other late pelagic sightings included 5-6 unidentified shearwaters from the cape in mid-December and two very late Wilson's Storm-Petrels on Georges Bank November 15. Migrant Gannets staged an excellent flight, noted primarily from typical Cape Cod observation points. During 35 mph NE-NW winds on December 17, the Cape Cod CBC tallied nearly 12,000 Gannets. This count is exceeded only by an estimate of 15,000 Gannets off Monomy December 20, 1973. In recent years Double-crested Cormorants seem to be lingering into the winter though sightings decrease as the winter progresses: cf., monthly totals for the last four seasons:

	<u>December</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>
1978-9:	15	6	1
1977-8:	5	5	0
1976-7:	9	2	0
1975-6:	1	0	0

Common Loon:

11/12,19	Barnstable (SW), Salisbury	150,9	R. A. Forster, BBC
12/9,15	Saltuate, Buzzards Bay	44,42	SSBC, CBC
12/17,31	Cape Ann, Nantucket	39,355	CBC
1/28	P.I.	19	BBC
2/15,22	Cape Ann, Salisbury-P.I.	15,12	J. Gragan, R.S. Heil

Red-throated Loon:

11/5	Breed's Pd., Lynn	1	R.S. Heil
11/11,12	Provincetown, Plymouth-S.N.	25,75	R.R. Veit#, SSBC
12/9,27	Rockport, Plymouth	74,4	BBC, CBC
12/17/31	Cape Cod, Nantucket	11, 375	CBC
1/20,2/16-19	Nantucket, M.V.	125,8	R.R. Veit#, A. Keith#

Red-necked Grebe:

11/22,23	Provincetown, Rockport	2,5	R.S. Heil#, R.A. Forster
12/16,27	Buzzards Bay, Plymouth	6,10	CBC
12/31,1/5	Nantucket, Cape Ann	91,6	CBC, BBC
1/20,23	Nantucket, Provincetown	15,25	R.R.Veit#, L.Crofoot#
2/22,25	Salisbury, Rockport	7,6	R.S.Heil,R.H.Stymiest#

Horned Grebe:

11/4, 5-26	Lakeville, Wollaston	17,60-203	W.R.Petersen, D.T.Brown#
12/16,23	Buzzards Bay, Newburyport	583,36	CBC
1/20,27	Nantucket, P.I.	275,40	R.R.Veit#, BBC
2/4,16-19	Cape Ann, M.V.	30,40	BBC,R.Sargent#

Eared Grebe:

1/27-2/4	Rafe's Chasm-Magnolia	1	M.Martinek#
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Pied-billed Grebe:

11/11,24	Braintree, Lakeville	12,24	W.R.Petersen, BBC
12/2	Braintree(Great Pond)	14	S.Higginbotham
12/16,17	Buzzards Bay, Cape Cod	33,33	CBC
1/13	P.I.	4	BBC
1/15,20	Accoaxet, Lakeville	5,3	W.R.Petersen

Greater Shearwater:

11/24	Eastham(Nauset), Nantucket	100,60	W.R.Petersen, R.R.Veit#
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Sooty Shearwater:

12/12,17	Cultivator Shoals, Eastham (Nauset)	1,1	MBO staff, W.R.Petersen & P.K.Donahue
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Manx Shearwater:

11/24	Eastham(Nauset)	2	W.R.Petersen
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shearwater, sp.:

12/10,17	Eastham(First Encounter)	3+,2-3	B.Nikula, W.R.Petersen#
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Wilson's Storm-Petrel: (no details)

11/15	SE Georges Bank	2	MBO staff
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White Pelican:

11/1-12/7	Truro to Centerville	1	v.o.
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White Pelican:

<u>11/1-12/7</u>	Truro to Centerville	1	v.o.
<u>Gannet:</u>			
11/12,24	Eastham(First Encounter)	2000+, 4000	R.W.Smart & B.Nikula#
11/22	Nantucket, Provincetown	4000, 1000	R.R.Veit#, R.S.Heil#
12/10,17	Eastham(F.E.), outer cape	1000+, 11,845	B.Nikula, CBC
1/28	Rockport, Provincetown	1 imm., 11	J.Berry, L.Crofoot#
2/3,25	S.Georges Bank, Rockport	13,1	MB3 staff, G.L.Souay#
<u>Great Cormorant:</u>			
11/5,8	Nahant, Cape Ann	80, 65+	BBC, BBC
11/23	Waltham(Camb. Res.)	1 imm.	R.A.Forster
12/16,17	Buzzards Bay, Cape Cod	573, 305	CBC
1/7,13	Squantum, Nahant	120, 105	BBC, S.Zendeh
<u>Double-crested Cormorant:</u>			
11/12	Newburyport, Lakeville	10, 1	R.S.Heil, BBC
11/18,30	Rockport, Newburyport	1, 1 imm.	BBC, R.S.Heil
12/3,13	N.Scituate, Plymouth	1, 5 imm.	R.R.Veit#, R.S.Heil
12/17,23,31	Cape Cod, Newburyport; Ipswich	6, 1 imm.; 2	CBC; J.Berry
1/5,7	N.Scituate, Quincy	1 imm., 3	G.Wilson#, D.T.Brown
1/1,20	Ipswich, Plymouth	1, 1 imm.	J.Berry, W.R.Petersen
2/28	M.V.	1	V.Laux
<u>Great Blue Heron:</u>			
11/11,25	P.I., Essex	10, 16	BBC, BBC
12/16,17	Buzzards Bay, Cape Cod	34, 31	CBC
12/30,31	Marshfield, Nantucket	20, 55	CBC
1/7-27	5 localities	10 individuals	v.o.
2/3,16-19	Milton, M.V.	3, 3	BBC, G.Daniels#
thr. Feb.	5 localities	5 individuals	v.o.
<u>Green Heron:</u>			
<u>11/5,12/16,30</u>	M.V., Worcester, Tuckernuck I.	1, 1, 1	V.Laux, CBC, CBC
<u>Great Egret:</u>			
<u>11/4-23</u>	Nauset	1	B.Nikula#
<u>Black-crowned Night Heron:</u>			
11/18,26	E.Boston, Hingham	1,1 imm.	R.R.Veit#, G.Wilson
12/16,30	Pocasset, Tuckernuck	8, 12	CBC
1/5,2/16-19	Hingham, M.V.	1 imm., 5	G.Wilson, E.M.Sears#
<u>American Bittern:</u>			
11/4-11.11-30	Salisbury, P.I.	1, 1	R.R.Veit#, R.S.Heil#
12/16,17	Wareham, Cape Cod	1, 2	CBC

Waterfowl

Several Snow Geese seen in Ipswich in late December and almost certainly the same individuals at Newburyport during February were notable winterers. The appearance of Fulvous Whistling Ducks during November, now nearly an annual event, continued this year when ten were well described from P.I. on the 7th, the same locality where ten were noted during November, 1977. A mid-February cold spell with 12 consecutive days of below freezing temperatures displaced many wintering dabbling ducks to unlikely environs. Gadwall flocks were encountered in the surf at Gloucester and Magnolia while single Pintail were found in salt water at Manchester and in a drainage ditch in Peabody. The Lakeville region has long been known to be the prime staging area for Ring-necked Ducks in late fall, but some 800 estimated on the Lakeville Ponds November 12 represents the highest count ever made in Massachusetts, substantially eclipsing the November 22, 1975 high of 660. The status of Greater and Lesser Scaup in Massachusetts is still unclear. Although Lesser Scaup is far more numerous on the southeastern coastal plain than elsewhere, such high CBC "counts" as 574 from Buzzard's Bay and 451 from Nantucket are perhaps questionable. The concentration of Red-breasted Mergansers along the inside shore of Truro peaked at 12,000 on November 5, exceeding last year's previous high count of 8000. An estimate of 7000 in Nantucket Harbor December 30 probably involved a large component of the Truro flock.

Mute Swan:

11/1-26	Ipswich	9	v.o.
12/30,31	Westport, Nantucket	50,81	G.W.Gove, CBC
1/7,15	Falmouth, Acoaxet	11,75	BBC, W.R.Petersen#
thr. Feb.,18	M.V., Acoaxet	135, 150	V.Laux, P.Yarkey
<u>Whistling Swan:</u>			
<u>11/19-1/10</u>	P.I.(11/19), then Ipswich	1 ad.	G.W.Gove, BBC

Canada Goose:	Buzz,Bay,Cape Cod,Newburyport	1022,1300,1925	CBC
12/16,17,23	Framingham	418	K.S.Hamilton#
1/5			
Brant:			
11/3,11	Wollaston, Orleans	200, 5000+	G.Wilson,R.R.Veit#
12/8,17	Wollaston, Cape Cod	2500+, 1517	G.Wilson,CBC
12/23,30	Newburyport, Marshfield	160, 2405	CBC
1/19,27	Duxbury, P.I.	450, 1	T.Raymond, BBC
2/16-19	M.V.	200	A.Keith#
Snow Goose:			
11/19	P.I.	1	BBC
12/2-3,23 on	GMNWR, Ipswich	1, 4	G.W.Gove, CBC#
1/27	Salisbury	3	BBC
2/3-10,27-28	Newburyport, Belmont	3, 3	B.Nikula#, M.Dodder
"Blue" Snow Goose:			
12/25 on	Nantucket	3 adults	C.Jackson#
Fulvous Whistling Duck:			
11/7	P.I. salt pans	10	Mrs.H.Abbott
Mallard:			
12/27,30	Plymouth, Concord	518, 594	CBC
Black Duck:			
11/12	Newburyport-P.I.	7030+	R.Heil
12/17,23	Cape Cod, Newburyport	2214, 3496	CBC
1/20,2/23	Duxbury-Plymouth, Halifax	2000, 700	W.R.Petersen
Gadwall:			
11/5,22	Ipswich, GMNWR	44, 55	BBC, R.Walton
12/23,30	Newburyport, Nantucket	19, 16	CBC
1/1,5 on	Ipswich, Salem	11, 35	BBC, R.Heil
1/12,2/16	Magnolia, Gloucester	10, 6	W.Conwell#, C.Leahy
2/16-19,25	M.V., Plymouth	10, 10	C.Lincoln#, SSBC
Pintail:			
11/19,30	Monomoy, P.I.	400, 200	C.Goodrich#, R.Heil
12/23, thr.Jan.	P.I., Chatham	43, 12	CBC, R.Prescott
1/13,30	GMNWR, P.I.	4, 21	R.Walton, D.Brown
2/11-13,12-15	Manchester, S.Peabody	1, 1 female	H.Carr#, R.Heil
2/23,16-19	Halifax, M.V.	3, 8	W.R.Petersen,R.Sargent
Green-winged Teal:			
11/11,22	P.I., GMNWR	140, 205	BBC, R.Walton
12/17,30,31	Cape Cod,Concord,Nantucket	7, 3, 82	CBC
2/10,16-19	E.Boston, M.V.	1, 9	S.Zendeh,E.Sears#
Blue-winged Teal:			
11/4,12	GMNWR, Lakeville	3, 5	G.W.Gove,P.Hallowell
thr.Jan.	Sandwich	2	R.Pease
American Wigeon:			
11/5	GMNWR, Ipswich	200, 145	BBC, BBC
11/25	Nantucket	340	R.R.Veit & M.J.Litchfield
12/16,27,31	E.Falmouth,Plymouth,Nantucket	91, 20, 272	CBC
1/5,18	Cohasset, Hatchville	2, 60	R.P.Emery#, P.Garrey
2/16-19,18	M.V., Wollaston	10, 1	G.Daniels#, BBC
Northern Shoveler:			
11/11,4-22	P.I., GMNWR	25, 26-14	BBC, G.W.Gove#
12/1;23,31	E.Boston; P.I., Nantucket	single males	S.Zendeh; CBC
1/21	E.Boston (Belle Isle)	1 male	S.Zendeh
Wood Duck:			
11/11	Hingham, GMNWR	2, 3	B.Treat, BBC
12/16-31	4 localities	7 individuals	v.o.
1/5,7	Framingham, Brookline	4, 2	K.S.Hamilton#,C.Hubbard
1/28,29	Saugus, Jamaica Plain(A.A.)	1, 2	C.Jackson, J.Satterly
2/7,11-12	E.Lexington, Chatham	1, 1	L.Schimmel,B.Nikula#
2/16-19	M.V.	8	A.Keith
Redhead:			
11/5-10,6	Cambridge(F.P.), Eastham	2, 22	F.Bouchard,SSBC
11/25,12/16	Nantucket, Buzzards Bay	240, 30	R.R.Veit & M.J.Litchfield CBC
12/30,31	Tuckernuck, Nantucket	90, 29	CBC
1/17,22	Falmouth, Acoaxet	53, 8	P.Garrey, G.W.Gove
2/11-18,17-18	Acoaxet, Nantucket	max.6, 50	P.Yaukey, C.Jackson
Ring-necked Duck:			
11/11,12	Braintree, Lakeville	265, 800	W.R.Petersen, G.W.Gove
12/16,17	Buzzards Bay, Cape Cod	88, 82	CBC

1/5,7	Framingham, Falmouth	3, 10	R.A.Forster#, BBC
2/9,16-19	Plymouth, M.V.	3 pr., 4	K.S.Anderson,G.Daniels#
Canvasback:			
11/11	Braintree, Cambridge(F.P.)	65, 200	W.R.Petersen,R.K.Walton
11/12,16	Lakeville, Falmouth	300, 150	P.Hallowell, P.Garrey
12/16, 31	Buzzards Bay, Nantucket	194, 200	CBC
1/2-23,22	Wollaston, Acoaxet	7, 200	R.P.Emery#, G.W.Gove
2/3,14	Newburyport, Mancheste.	2, 4	R.S.Heil#, H.Weissberg
2/16-19,25	M.V., Poponneset Bay	30, 125	V.Laux, B.Nikula
Greater Scaup:			
11/9,12	Wollaston, Lakeville	75, 400	G.Wilson, BBC
12/3;16,31	Winthrop;Buzz.Bay, Nantucket	2212;5550,1924	R.H.Stymaist; CBC
1/23,28	Squantum, Lynn	2000, 1800+	G.Wilson, S.Zendeh
2/25	Winthrop	900+	BBC
Lesser Scaup:			
11/17,28	Cambridge(F.P.), Braintree	2, 6	S.A.Perkins, D.T.Brown
12/16	Winthrop, Buzzards Bay	35, 574	CBC
12/17,31	Chatham, Nantucket	118, <u>451</u>	CBC
1/27	Falmouth	3	R.H.Stymaist#
2/25,29	Winthrop, Lakeville	1, 3	BBC, D.Briggs
Common Goldeneye:			
11/12,25	Lakeville, Ipswich	30, 20	P.Hallowell, BBC
12/17,23,31	G.Boston,Newburyport,Nantucket	649,729,3117	CBC
1/30	Newburyport	900+	R.S.Heil
2/16-19,25	M.V., Newburyport	1000, 1000	E.M.Sears, R.R.Veit#
Barrow's Goldeneye			
11/11,25	Wollaston, Nantucket	1m 5f,3m 1f	D.T.Brown, R.R.Veit#
12/16,17	N.Falmouth, G.Boston	1, 1	CBC
12/23,30	Newburyport, Marshfield	3m, 1	CBC
12/2-18,10	Scituate, Wollaston	1, 1	W.R.Petersen,D.T.Brown
1/1,6	Quincy, Rockport	1, 1	D.Skiel, B.Keenan#
thr. Jan.	Chatham, Dennis	2m, 1m	v.o.
1/11 on	Newburyport	1m	GLS#
1/14,14 on	Gloucester, Scituate	2m 1f, 2m	BBC, W.R.Petersen#
2/14, thr. Feb.	Quincy, Newburyport	2, max.5(2/20)	G.Wilson, D.T.Brown#
Bufflehead:			
11/23,29	Nahant, Newburyport	700, 700	R.Heil
12/16,17	Buzzards Bay, Cape Cod	2490, 1335	CBC
1/28	Lynn/Nahant	580	S.Zendeh
2/16-19	M.V.	500	G.Daniels
Oldsquaw			
11/12,25	S.N., Tuckernack I.	1500+, 7500	R.A.Forster, R.Veit#
11/4,26	Lakeville, Sharon	3, 1	W.R.Petersen, D.Clapp#
12/14,16	Nantucket, Buzzard's Bay	51,000, 998	E.Andrews, CBC
2/28	Newburyport	1200	R.Heil
Harlequin Duck:			
11/5,22 on	E.Orleans	4, 5+	SSBC, B.Nikula#
thr. Dec.	E.Orleans, Magnolia	11, 4	B.Nikula#, v.o.
12/2-23	Cohasset	1	R.Veit#
thr. Jan.	E.Orleans, Magnolia	max.10, 6	B.Nikula#, G.Soucy#
1/6-16,14	Gloucester, Nahant	1m, 1m	B.Keenan#, S.Garret
1/27,31	N.Scituate, Acoaxet	1m, 3	W.R.Petersen, D.Briggs
2/4-18,25	Magnolia, Rockport	max.5, 2	G.D'Entremont#,L.Jodrey#
2/16-19	M.V.	4	R.Sargent
Common Eider:			
Nov.-Jan.	Nahant-Winthrop	max.18,000(12/6)	R.Heil
11/5	Truro	5000	W.R.Petersen
12/30,31	Marshfield, Nantucket	9027, 18,599	CBC
1/7,21	Long I.,Duxbury-Plymouth,M.V.	8300,9000,10000	BBC,W.R.Petersen,V.Laux
King Eider:			
11/3-23,6-23	Wollaston, Nahant	1sub-ad,m, 1sub-ad,m	v.o., R.Heil
11/28	Hull	1 ad,m	B.Cassie
12/2,3	N.Scituate, Winthrop	1m, 2m 1f	W.R.Petersen,R.Stymaist
12/2-3,17	Hull, Cape Cod	1f, 2m	R.Veit, CBC
12/23,31	Quincy, Nantucket	1, 1 ad,m	CBC
1/7,14	Long I., Nahant	2m, 1f	BBC, S.Garret
2/23,25	Boston, S.N.	1 sub-ad,m,imm,m	R.Campbell, D.Briggs
White-winged Scoter			
11/4,5	Lakeville, Wollaston	2, 250	W.R.Petersen, S.Zendeh
12/30,31	Nantucket Sound, Nantucket	2500, 1547	R.Heil#, CBC

Surf Scoter:			
11/12	S.N.	500	SSBC
12/16,30	Buzzards Bay, Nantucket Sound	809, 150	CBC, R.Heil#
2/17-18,18	Nantucket, Cape Ann	100, 20	C.Jackson, BBC
Black Scoter:			
11/4-18,22	Lakeville, Truro	1, 2000+	W.R.Petersen, R.Heil#
12/17,29	Cape Cod, Nantucket Sound	35+, 600	CBC, S.Zendeh
2/16-19,18	M.V., Cape Ann	100, 6	G.Daniels#, BBC
Ruddy Duck:			
11/4	Lakeville, Framingham	350, 36	W.R.Petersen, R.A.Forster
11/11	Braintree, P.I.	80+, 12	W.R.Petersen, BBC
12/2,17	Braintree, Cape Cod	31, 73	S.Higginbotham, CBC
1/7,27-28	Wollaston, Lakeville	1, 1	BBC, D.Briggs
Hooded Merganser:			
11/5,10	Ipswich, P.I.	28, 16	BBC, G.Gove
11/17,28	Falmouth, Braintree	19, 27	P.Garrey, D.Brown
12/16	E.Falmouth, Bourne	99, 120	B.Nikula#, W.Petersen#
1/5,23	Framingham, Salem	4, 2	R.A.Forster, R.Heil
1/28,2/18	Lakeville, Eastham(F.H.)	15, 30	K.S.Anderson, P.Trull#
Common Merganser:			
11/7,24	Worcester, Cambridge Res.	47, 160	B.Blodget, R.Walton
11/28	Braintree	133	D.Brown
12/23,27	Newburyport, Plymouth	46, 264	CBC
1/16,21	E.Milton, Dorchester	28, 15	W.Cornwell
2/25	Newburyport, Popponesset Beach	42, 200	R.Stymeist#, B.Nikula
Red-breasted Merganser:			
11/5	Ipswich, Truro	150, 12,000	BBC, SSBC
12/16,30	Buzzards Bay, Nantucket	1777, 7000	CBC, R.Heil#
1/7,2/13	Acoaxet, Whitman	200, 1	B.Cassie, W.R.Petersen
2/4,16-19	Cape Ann, M.V.	200, 350	BBC, C.Lincoln#

Vultures through Rails

In Chatham a Black Vulture observed on December 19 is one of a remarkable number of winter records and specimens. Red-tailed and Rough-legged Hawks were well reported from the usual favored wintering sites. Bald Eagles totaled a minimum of 20 individuals from 10 localities; encouragingly, at least 13 were immature. Single Peregrines wintered on the outer cape, downtown Boston and possibly the P.I. area while no less than 10 Merlins were identified, all on the southeastern coastal plain, December-February. A Sandhill Crane, ranging from Middleton to Beverly, survived the entire winter foraging in stubble corn fields though cracked corn was regularly supplied at the latter location. An adult Purple Gallinule was captured alive on Morris Island, January 25, and later released at Felix Neck W. S., M.V. A "purple bird with yellow legs" had been reported from Cackle Cove, Chatham, 4-5 days before.

<u>Black Vulture:</u>			
12/19	Chatham	1	H.Rich
Goshawk:			
thr. Nov.	6 localities	6: 2 ad., 1 imm., 3 unspecified	v.o.
12/17,23,30	Nauset, Newburyport, Concord	1, 1, 2	CBC
12/1,10	Framingham, Halifax	1 ad., 1 ad.	R.A.Forster, W.R.Petersen
12/24-30	E.Middleboro	1	K.S.Anderson
1/16	Rockport, Brookline	1 imm., 1 ad.	G.Soucy, C.Lovell
1/20,20-28	Lakeville, WBWS	1 ad., 1 imm.	W.R.Petersen, W.Bailey
2/1,11-19	Carlisle, Littleton	1, 1 ad.	D.Souphall, J.Baird
Sharp-shinned Hawk:			
11/5-27	5 localities	singles	v.o.
12/16	Millis, Buzzards Bay	4, 5	CBC
12/17,23,27	Cape Cod, Newburyport, Plymouth	12, 3, 4	CBC
thr. Jan.	7 localities	8 individuals	v.o.
2/16-19, thr. Feb.	M.V., 6 localities	4, singles	V.Laux, v.o.
Cooper's Hawk:			
11/18,20	Eastham, Barnstable	1, 1	C.Godrich, R.Pease
11/21,12/4	S.Peabody, Concord	1, 1 imm.	R.Heil, J.Baird
12/24,30	E.Middleboro, Nantucket	1 ad., 1	K.S.Anderson, S.Zendeh
12/30,1/4	Concord, Fall River	3, 1	CBC, D.Brown
1/8-22,14	WBWS, Ipswich	1, 1	W.Bailey, G.Soucy#
2/4,11	Truro, Ipswich	1 sub-ad., 1m	B.Nikula#, G.Soucy#
2/20	Nantucket	1	S.A.Perkins

Red-tailed Hawk:		
11/5,22	E.Lexington, Nantucket	4, 5 R.Veit & M.J.Litchfield
12/16,17	Wilmington, Cape Cod	8, 9 CBC
12/23,27	Newburyport, Plymouth	19, 11 CBC
thr. Jan.	11 localities	16 individuals v.o.
2/4,16-19	Bridgewater, M.V.	5, 20 BBC, C.Lincoln#
thr. Feb.	18 localities	30 individuals v.o.
Red-shouldered Hawk:		
11/11,26,28	N.Carver, Hingham, Middleboro	singles D.Briggs
12/16, 1/6	Millis, Woburn	1, 1 CBC, BBC
2/4,28	Salisbury, Bridgewater	1 imm., 2 W.R.Petersen, J.Flaherty
Rough-legged Hawk:		
11/25,26	Ipswich, Salisbury	3, 3+ G.Hotz, P.Roberts#
thr. Nov.	M.V., 6 other localities	5, 6 individuals V.Laux, v.o.
12/12,20	Salisbury, P.I.	3d. 1 l., 4 l. R.Heil
12/30;31	Concord, Marshfield; Nantucket	3, 4; 13 CBC
thr. Jan., 15	Cape Cod, Bridgewater	3-4, 4 B.Nikula#, B.Litchfield
thr. Jan.	10 other localities	20 individuals v.o.
2/16-19, 17-18	M.V., Nantucket	6, 5-6 V.Laux, C.Jackson
2/23, thr. Feb.	Halifax, 10 other localities	3, 13 individ. W.R.Petersen#, v.o.
Golden Eagle:		
12/30, 1/31	Quabbin Reservoir	1 imm. J.Swedberg & v.o.
2/7	Orleans	1 ad. C.Goodrich, P.Trull+J.Harris
Bald Eagle:		
11/19	Monomoy	1 imm. W.Bailey
12/17	Chatham, Nauset	1 imm., 1 imm. CBC
12/19-20, 31-2/18	Concord, Nantucket	1 ad., 2 imm. R.A.Forster, CBC
1/2, 16	Magnolia, Wellfleet	1 imm., 1 imm. C.Baines, C.Goodrich
1/17	Chatham	1 imm. B.Nikula
1/19 on	Quabbin Reservoir	max. 8 v.o.
2/14-16, thr. Feb.	Manchester, Eastham-Chatham	1 imm., 3 imm. H.Weissberg, v.o.
thr. Feb.	Quabbin Reservoir	max. 11: 6 ad., 5 imm. H.Bates#
thr. Feb.	W.Newbury (Merrimack R.)	2 imm. fide R.Heil
Marsh Hawk:		
11/5, 29	Orleans-Truro, P.I.	4, 5 SSBC, R.Heil
12/2	Salisbury, P.I.	4, 4 P.Roberts#
12/17, 30, 31	Cape Cod, Tuckernuck, Nantucket	23, 9, 40 CBC
2/3-20	Newburyport-Salisbury	max. 4 R.Heil
2/16-19, 17-18	M.V., Nantucket	10, 10 R.Sargent#, C.Jackson
Osprey		
11/2, 3	Sharon, M.V.	1, 1 D.Clapp, V.Laux
11/5-8, 9	Lynnfield, Lincoln	3, 1 R.Heil#, R.A.Forster
11/10, 11	Norfolk, Woburn	2, 1 S.Langer, S.Zendeh#
Peregrine Falcon:		
11/10, 19	Provincetown, Monomoy	1, 1 ad. P.Arrigo#, B.Nikula#
11/19, 24-25	P.I.	1 imm., 1 imm. m P.Roberts#
11/25-2/24	downtown Boston	1m R.Campbell + v.o.
12/17, 23	Chatham, P.I.	1, 1 CBC
1/17	Wellfleet	1 D.McNair
2/8-9, 19	S.Orleans, P.I.	1, 1 C.Goodrich#, E.Smith
Merlin:		
11/4-24, 11	P.I.-Salisbury, Woburn	3, 1 v.o., S.Zendeh#
11/19, 12/17	Monomoy, G.Boston	1, 1 W.Bailey#, CBC
12/16, 17	E.Falmouth, Cape Cod	1, 4 CBC
12/27, 31	Plymouth, Nantucket	1, 3 CBC
thr. Jan., 7	Eastham-Chatham, Marion	1-3, 1 fide B.Nikula, D.Briggs
2/4, 20	N.Beach, Nantucket	1 ad., 3 B.Nikula, S.A.Perkins
American Kestrel:		
11/5, 29	Bridgewater, P.I.	5, 6 BBC, R.Heil
12/17	G. Boston, Cape Cod	18, 21 CBC
12/23, 30	Newburyport, Marshfield	15, 15 CBC
1/5, 6	Framingham, P.I.	9, 11 R.A.Forster#, H.Wiggin#
thr. Feb.	4 localities	8 individuals v.o.
Ruffed Grouse:		
12/16, 23	Buzzards Bay, Newburyport	5, 9 CBC
12/27, 30	Plymouth, Concord	29, 29 CBC
Bobwhite:		
12/16	Millis, Buzzards Bay	23, 158 CBC
12/17, 27	Cape Cod, Plymouth	29, 28 CBC
2/16-19	M.V.	40 E.M.Sears

<u>Sandhill Crane</u>			
1/8 on	Danvers and Middleton	1	v.o.
2/2 on	Beverly (Cherry Hill)	1 (same)	R.Heil + v.o.
<u>Clapper Rail:</u>			
12/2, 1/1-2	Newburyport	1, 1	J.Grugan, BBC + v.o.
<u>Virginia Rail:</u>			
11/6, 23	GMNWR, Nantucket	2, 5	R.Walton, R.Veit#
12/17, 27	Cape Cod, Plymouth	5, 3	CBC
12/30, 31	Marshfield, Nantucket	3, 7	CBC
1/13, 18	Middleboro, S. Peabody	1, 3	R.Turner, R.Heil
thr. Feb., 11-17	S.Peabody, Ipswich	1, 2	R.Heil, G.Soucy#
<u>Sora:</u>			
11/6-12/30	GMNWR	1	R.Walton#, CBC
1/13, 14	GMNWR, Ipswich	2, 2	R.Walton, G.Soucy#
<u>Purple Gallinule:</u>			
1/25	Morris I., Chatham	1 ad.	D.Reynolds#
<u>Common Gallinule:</u>			
11/11-12, 22-26	P.I., Nantucket	1, 1	R.Heil#, R.Veit#
2/20	Nantucket	1	S.A.Perkins
<u>American Coot:</u>			
11/4, 12	P.I., Lakeville	223, 450	R.Veit#, BBC
12/2, 17	Braintree (Great Pond)	200, 40	S.Higginbotham
12/16, 17	Buzzards Bay, Cape Cod	22, 53	CBC
1/5, 15	Lynn, Plymouth	22, 25	R.Heil#, W.Cornwell

Shorebirds

A very late Semipalmated Plover was reported from Acoaxet January 7. Singles of this species are casually noted into mid-December locally, however January sightings are almost unknown. Several other lingering shorebirds remaining until late November included a Lesser Yellowlegs at Newburyport November 12, a critically identified Semipalmated Sandpiper at P.I. November 30, and at least one Western Sandpiper there on the 4th. For the second year running, Long-billed Dowitchers were encountered on the Newburyport CBC December 23. It is likely, as several observers have speculated, that the same individuals are involved each year. Surprisingly late were December flocks of Red Phalaropes on Cultivator Shoals and from Surfside Beach, Nantucket.

<u>Semipalmated Plover:</u>			
11/5	Ipswich	1	BBC
1/7	Acoaxet (no details)	1	J.Murphy#
<u>Killdeer:</u>			
11/1-7, 1-14	Sharon, Woburn	max. 19, max. 24	D.Clapp, G.Gove
11/5, 12/23	Ipswich, Newburyport	23, 1	BBC, CBC
12/27, 30	Plymouth, Westport	5, 2	CBC, G.Gove
1/1, 20	Squantum, Plymouth	1, 3	S.Higginbotham, W.Petersen
1/23, 26	M.V., Orleans	1, 2	V.Laux, P.Trull
<u>American Golden Plover:</u>			
11/7-14, 11	M.V., P.I.	3, 1	V.Laux, BBC
<u>Black-bellied Plover:</u>			
11/3, 24	Winthrop, Eastham	400, 50	S.Zendeh#, W.R.Petersen
11/5	Ipswich, Nauset	225, 200	BBC, SSBC
12/17, 30	Cape Cod, Marshfield	47, 9	CBC
12/31, 1/7	Nantucket, Acoaxet	15, 1	CBC, B.Cassie
2/10	Acoaxet	1	R.Stymeist#
<u>Ruddy Turnstone:</u>			
11/11, 17	N.Scituate, Winthrop	50, 30	W.R.Petersen, S.Zendeh#
12/2, 18	Rockport, N.Scituate	3, 60	R.Walton, S.Higginbotham
12/23, 25	Quincy, Winthrop	11, 6	CBC
1/15, 20	Cohasset, Gloucester	10, 4	W.Conwell, BBC
1/22	Winthrop	4	S.Zendeh
<u>American Woodcock:</u>			
11/9, 22	Cambridge, Provincetown	1, 1	J.Knapp, M.Kasprzyk#
12/17, 27	Cape Cod, Plymouth	2, 1	CBC
12/25	Sandwich	1	R.Pease
2/14	Chilmark, M.V.	1	V.Laux
<u>Common Snipe:</u>			
12/16, 23	Wareham, Newburyport	10, 14	CBC
1/7, 18	Buzzards Bay, S.Peabody	8, 3	SSBC, R.Heil
2/3, thr. Feb.	Newburyport, S.Peabody	3, 2	R.Heil
2/16, 16-19	Gloucester, M.V.	2, 4	C.Leahy, A.Keith

Willet:				
11/1-19,11	Salisbury, Nauset (C.G.)	1, 1		v.o., B. Nikula
Greater Yellowlegs:				
11/5,6	Orleans-Truro, E.Boston	75, 35		SSBC, R.Heil
12/2,24	P.I., Marion	3, 2		P.Roberts#, G.Gove
12/23,29	Quincy, Eastham	1, 6		S.Zendeh, C.Goodrich
1/1-23,15	Wollaston, Acoaxet	1, 1		G.Wilson, W.R.Petersen#
Lesser Yellowlegs:				
11/3,12	E.Boston, Newburyport	1, 1		S.Zendeh, B.Cassie+R.Heil#
Red Knot:				
11/5,11	Nauset(C.G.), Scituate	40, 60		SSBC, W.R.Petersen
12/18,25	N.Scituate, Winthrop	150+, 11		S.Higginbotham, S.Zendeh
1/5,22	N.Scituate, Winthrop	150, 30		R.Emery#, S.Zendeh
Purple Sandpiper:				
11/19,28	Rockport, N.Scituate	250, 300		P.Roberts, M.+B.Litchfield
12/6,18	Winthrop, N.Scituate	150, 300		R.Heil, S.Higginbotham
1/7	Acoaxet	80		B.Cassie
2/3,18	Cape Ann, P.I. Jetty	150, 55		BBC, R.Heil
Pectoral Sandpiper:				
11/5,7	Lynnfield, W.Boylston	4 juv., 1		R.Heil, B.Blodget
11/11	Truro, GMNWR	1, 1		R.Veit, BBC
11/13	M.V.	4		V.Laux
White-rumped Sandpiper:				
11/4	Scituate; P.I., Salisbury	4; 13, 7		W.R.Petersen, R.Veit + M.J.Litchfield
11/4-11,5	Nauset(C.G.), <u>Lynnfield</u>	max. 10+, 1		B.Nikula#, R.Heil
11/23,30	Nantucket, P.I.	1, 1		R.Veit, R.Heil
Dunlin:				
11/6,12;19	Lynn Harbor, Newburyport, Monomoy	1300, 2200; 2000		R.Heil; W.Bailey
12/2,12	Scituate, Newburyport	700+, 120		W.R.Petersen, R.Heil
12/17,30	Cape Cod, Marshfield	2223, 237		CBC
1/5,17	Cohasset, Acoaxet	200, 110		R.Emery, R.Heil
Long-billed Dowitcher:				
11/4, 24, 30	P.I.	25, 3, 2		R.Veit#, T.Raymond#, R.Heil
12/23	P.I.basin	2		W.Petersen, B.Nikula, G.Gove
Semipalmated Sandpiper:				
11/4, 30	Scituate, P.I.(S.Pool)	3, 1		W.R.Petersen, R.Heil
Western Sandpiper:				
11/4	P.I.	1		R.Veit + M.Litchfield
Calidris sp.				
11/4	P.I.	4		R.Veit#
Marbled Godwit:				
11/19	Monomoy	3		C.Goodrich + W.Bailey
Hudsonian Godwit:				
11/3,8	E.Boston, Eastham	3, 4		S.Zendeh, M.Perkins
11/4,11	Nauset (C.G.)	8, 6		B.Nikula#
Sanderling:				
11/6,11	Lynn Harbor, Duxbury	900+, 300		R.Heil, G.Wilson
12/6,17	Revere, Cape Cod	700, 751		R.Heil, CBC
1/5,28	Marblehead, Lynn/Nahant	35, 300+		R.Heil, S.Zendeh
Red Phalarope:				
12/12,31	Cultivator Shoals, Nantucket	28, 6		MBO staff, R.Smart

Jaegers through Alcids

Totally unexpected were at least 10 Pomarine Jaegers and 2-4 unidentified jaegers observed passing by First Encounter, Eastham during a very weak northeaster' on the remarkably late date of December 10. Equally impressive was a single jaeger sp. well inshore at Winthrop December 10. Skuas, species distinctions aside, are clearly increasing in New England waters. Following a total of some 34 birds on the offshore fishing banks last autumn were four separate skua sightings from as many Cape Cod and Nantucket localities during December. A moderate northeaster' January 13 produced a good show of white-winged gulls at Cape Ann. On the 14th 12 Glaucous (1 adult, 3 second or third year, 8 first year) and 60 Iceland gulls (40% adult) were located there. Presumably storm-related in their appearance, numbers of this magnitude were not present before the 13th or found thereafter. Beginning in late November, Black-legged Kittiwakes, like Gannets, were present in unprecedented numbers in the waters around Cape Cod. The CBC there counted nearly 13,000, noted moving both in the typical counter-clockwise fashion around Cape Cod Bay and streaming south along Nauset. In late January, massive numbers observed actively feeding around Race Point, Provincetown,

were conservatively estimated at 15,000. Although there have been three December sightings since 1958, a Forster's Tern at Menemsha Pond, M.V., January 21, is believed to be the only mid-late winter record. A brief but heavy flight of alcids occurred at Halibut Point, Rockport in the early A.M. of February 25 when 300 Thick-billed Murres and 200 Razorbills were noted. The next day seemingly equal conditions and wind direction yielded virtually no alcids.

Pomarine Jaeger:			
11/12,24	Eastham(First Encounter)	4, 8	C.Goodrich, B.Nikula#
12/10	Eastham(First Encounter)	10+(most ad.)	B.Nikula + W.Bailey#
Parasitic Jaeger:			
11/12	S.N.	12	R.A.Forster
11/24	Eastham(F.E.), Eastham(Nauset)	1-2, 2	C.Goodrich#, W.R.Petersen
jaeger sp.:			
12/9,16	Rockport, Winthrop	1 imm.d., 1	R.Veit + M.J.Litchfield
12/10	Eastham (First Encounter)	2-4	B.Nikula#
Great Skua:			
12/6	Gulf of Maine	2	MBO staff
skua sp.:			
12/10,16	Eastham(F.E.), Truro	1, 1	B.Nikula#, D.McNair
12/17,1/10-11	Orleans(N.Beach), Nantucket	1, 1	W.Harrington#, G.Frost#
2/21	Georges Bank	1	MBO staff
Glaucous Gull:			
11/11	Provincetown	1 (3rd w.)	R.Veit + M.J.Litchfield
12/9,23	Gloucester, Newburyport	1, 2	BBC, CBC
1/14	Rockport-Gloucester	12	R.Heil + M.Kasprzyk
thr. Jan.	5 other localities	6 individuals	v.o.
2/5,25	Brookline, Gloucester	1, 2	D.Arvidsen, R.Veit#
2/21,22	Salisbury, Newburyport	2, 1	R.Walton, R.Heil
Island Gull:			
11/11,12	Provincetown, Newburyport	1 ad., 1	R.Veit#, R.Heil
11/12	Sandwich, S.N.	2, 1	W.R.Petersen#, R.A.Forster
11/24,30	Nantucket, Newburyport	8, 7	R.Veit#, R.Heil
12/2,30	Salisbury, Concord	10, 1	R.A.Forster, CBC
12/26-1/2,12/31	Bridgewater, Nantucket	2, 30	W.R.Petersen, CBC
1/14,27	Cape Ann, Salisbury-P.I.	60, 20	R.Heil#, BBC
thr. Feb.	P.I., Gloucester max.45(2/3), max.40(2/25)	W.R.Petersen, R.Veit#	
2/25	Manchester	25	BBC
Great Black-backed Gull:			
11/17,23,31	Cape Cod, Newburyport, Nantucket	8425, 425, 1880	CBC
Lesser Black-backed Gull:			
11/11(from Oct.)	Provincetown(Hatch's Harbor)	1 adult	R.Veit#
11/23-12/31, 11/24	Nantucket(harb), Sachacha Pd.	1 2nd w., 1 ad.	R.Veit, S.Perkins + M.J.
12/31	Nantucket (Great Pt.)	1 ad.	S.Perkins Litchfield
Ring-billed Gull:			
11/18,30	Middleboro, Newburyport	400, 275	W.R.Petersen, R.Heil
12/6,12	Revere, Newburyport	220, 300+(95% ad.)	R.Heil
12/17,23,27	Cape Cod, Quincy, Plymouth	601, 779, 434	CBC
Black-headed Gull:			
11/17-18,24	E.Boston, Sandwich	1, 1	S.Zendeh#, R.Pease
12/3-16,13 thr. Feb.	E.Boston, Plymouth	max.4ad., 1 imm.	R.Stymiest, R.Heil#
12/10	Milton, Eastham(F.E.)	2, 1 ad.	D.Brown, B.Nikula
12/16,17	Buzzards Bay, Orleans	1, 1	CBC
12/18,31	N.Scituate, Nantucket	2, 1 ad. 1 imm.	S.Higginbotham, CBC
1/1,20	Salisbury, Dorchester	1, 1	S.+R.Higginbotham, w.Cornwell
2/8,22	Magnolia, Newburyport	1 ad., 1 ad.	R.Heil
2/8,16	M.V., Gloucester	1 ad., 2	V.Laux, C.Leahy
2/25	Dorchester	2	R.Emery#
Laughing Gull:			
11/6;6,23	Winthrop; Nahant	37;25 ad., 1 ad.	R.Heil
11/21,24	Woods Hole, Squantum	47, 25	R.Veit, G.Wilson
12/7, thr. Dec.	Scituate, Edgartown, M.V.	3, max. 15	D.Clapp, V.Laux
12/17,30	Chatham, P.I.	2, 1	CBC, B.Cassie
Franklin's Gull:			
12/7	Monomoy	1 ad.	R.Clem, fide W.Bailey
Bonaparte's Gull:			
11/23,26	Nahant-Revere, Hull	375, 500	R.Heil, G.Wilson
12/23,30,31	Newburyport, Tuckernuck, Nantucket	169,1620,1406	CBC
1/7,14	Acoaxet, Scituate-Cohasset	250, 350	B.Cassie, SSEC

Little Gull:			
11/25	Newburyport	2 ad.	T.Ryan
12/7,23	Monomoy, Newburyport	1, 3(1 ad., 1 sub-ad., 1 imm.)	R.Clem, CBC
1/1	Newburyport	1	BBC
Black-legged Kittiwake:			
11/12,24	Eastham(First Encounter)	4000, 4000+	C.Goodrich, R.Smart#
12/9,10	Rockport, Eastham (F.E.)	800, 5000+	R.Veit#, B.Nikula#
12/17	outer Cape Cod	12,670	CBC
1/13	Provincetown, Rockport	1500(2hr), 1500	B.Nikula, G.Soucy#
1/28	Provincetown	15,000	B.Nikula
2/25	Rockport	4500	R.Veit#
Forster's Tern:			
1/21	Menemsha Pond (M.V.)	1	V.Laux
Common Tern:			
11/5,6	Truro, Winthrop	5,1	SSEC, R.Heil
11/11	Provincetown	3 imm.	R.Veit + M.J.Litchfield
11/22-26,24	Madaket, Wellfleet	4, 4	R.Veit#, B.Nikula#
Razorbill:			
11/12,22	S.N., Provincetown	2, 23	SSEC, R.Heil#
11/23,24	Rockport, Eastham(F.E.)	19, 20	R.A.Forster, B.Nikula#
12/9,17	Rockport, Cape Cod	25, 6	R.Veit#, CBC
12/29,31	Nantucket Sound, Nantucket	6, 12	S.Zendeh, CBC
thr. Jan.	4 localities	10 individuals	v.o.
2/19,25	E. of Cape Cod, Rockport	24, 200	MBO staff, R.Veit + R.Stymest
Common Murre:			
12/9,31	Rockport, Nantucket	2, 1	R.Veit+M.Litchfield, CBC
1/28	Provincetown	1	B.Nikula + P.Trull
2/25	Rockport	1	R.Veit#
Thick-billed Murre:			
11/4,18	S.N.	2,7	R.Pease
11/19,23	Rockport	1,4	SSEC, R.A.Forster
12/9	Rockport	30	R.Veit + M.J.Litchfield
2/16-19,25	M.V., Rockport	1, 300	G.Daniels, R.Veit+R.Stymest
lg. acid sp.			
11/23	Rockport	33	R.A.Forster
12/9,10	Rockport, Eastham(F.E.)	25, 20	R.Veit#, B.Nikula#
Dovekie:			
11/1,8,13	S.N.	1, 1, 1	R.Pease
11/4,23	Manomet, Rockport	1, 1	MBO staff, R.A.Forster
11/24,12/2	Eastham(F.E.), Georges Bank	2, 32	R.Smart#, MBO staff
12/9	Rockport, N.Scituate	68, 1	BBC, W.R.Petersen
1/20	Nantucket	1	R.Veit#
2/21-23,25	Georges Bank, Rockport	56, 25	MBO staff, G.Soucy#
Black Guillemot:			
11/12-23,23	S.N., Rockport	1-3, 1	v.o., R.A.Forster
12/2,9	N.Scituate, Rockport	6, 10	R.Veit#, C.Leahy#
12/21,30	Nantucket, Provincetown Harbor	4, 18	R.Veit#, S.+R.Higginbotham
thr. Jan.	Cape Ann, P'town Harbor	max. 7, 8+	v.o.
Common Puffin:			
11/4-5	Eastham(First Encounter)	1	C.Goodrich#
12/7,17	Cultivator Shoals, Eastham	1, 2	MBO staff, W.R.Petersen
1/8,12	Cultivator Shoals, Gloucester	1, 1	MBO staff, D.Brown#

Doves through Woodpeckers

The most surprising lingerer of the season was surely the Black-billed Cuckoo found on Nantucket December 24. Although unique to Massachusetts records, it was not completely unprecedented for New England. In 1974 a Black-billed Cuckoo survived on bittersweet berries in Augusta, Maine, until at least December 14. On December 28 a Great Gray Owl was discovered at the IRWS, Topsfield. Little did we realize that it was the local vanguard of the biggest Great Gray Owl incursion ever witnessed in the northeast and the only one since the winter of 1890-91. The main flight, however, did not ensue until the first week of February, but by month's end at least 15 individuals had been located, and there were many reports of "big owls" thought to be Great Grays. In each case the owls were found in open area habitats, particularly at the edges of large grassy fields where small rodents were seen to be taken. Many observers commented that most, if not all, the Great Grays they had seen possessed a considerable amount of buffy, reddish-brown color to the wings, mantle, and breast. That first year immatures in many groups of birds (e.g., shorebirds, hawks) typically display buffy feather edgings is well known. The majority of the local Great Gray Owl flight may have involved immatures. In con-

junction with the Great Gray flight was a modest show of Hawk and Boreal Owls throughout northern New England, one of the latter of which made it to Massachusetts. On December 31 a Boreal Owl was discovered near the Salisbury boat ramp, photographed, and seen by a number of observers; the bird could not be located on the following days. The two most recent state sight records are from Belmont, February 15, 1942, and Topsfield, December 20, 1942.

Mourning Dove:			
12/16,23	Buzzards Bay, Newburyport	478, 231	CBC
1/5,8	Needham, Framingham	85, 131	J.Carey,K.Hamilton#
Black-billed Cuckoo:			
12/24	Nantucket (good details)	1	R.Hall
Barn Owl:			
12/10,31	Quincy (Long I.), Nantucket	1, 1	D.Clapp#, CBC
2/16-19	M.V.	1	V.Laux
Screech Owl:			
12/23,27,30	Newburyport,Plymouth,Concord	24, 5, 24	CBC
1/5	Framingham	7	R.A.Forster#
Great Horned Owl:			
11/8,25	Truro, Beverly	1, 1	M.Perkins, G.Soucy
12/23;30	Quincy,Newburyport; Concord	4, 4; 7	CBC
1/5,28	Framingham, Saugus	3, 1-2	R.Forster#, C.Jackson
Jan. + Feb.	7 other localities	8 individuals	v.o.
Snowy Owl			
11/24-25,15-29	Salisbury, P.I.	1, 1	v.o.
11/6,26-28	Beverly-Danvers, Cohasset	1, 1	B.Cheney,fide Litchfields
12/23	Newburyport area	8	CBC
12/26-1/16,12/29-1/6	S.Boston(Castle I.),Boston	(airport) 1,	1 P.Puchalski, R.Woodward
thr. Jan.	Newburyport-P.I. area	max. 5 (1/1)	v.o.
1/6,20	Rockport, Squantum	1, 1	BBC, D.Skiels
1/14,27-28	Barnstable, Scituate	1, 1	K.Hamilton, W.R.Petersen
2/4-21,22	Salisbury, P.I.	1, 2	v.o., R.Heil
Barred Owl			
11/1	Weston	1	A.Grousbeck
12/23,31	Georgetown, Acton	1, 1	CBC, J.Garngross
1/21	Holbrook-Randolph line	2	G.D'Entremont
thr. Feb.		11 singles	v.o.
Great Gray Owl: (statewide)			
12/28-thr. Feb.	Topsfield (IRWS)	1	R.Scott + v.o.
2/3-7(dead)	Newbury-Newburyport	1	R.Smith + v.o.
2/3-15	Amherst (Hampshire County)	1	v.o.
2/8 on	Hatfield (Hampshire County)	max. 2(2/13 on)	v.o.
2/10	Stockbridge (Berkshire Co.)	1	fide R.A.Forster
2/11-14(dead)	Lexington (Middlesex County)	1	C.Esserian
2/11 on	Marlboro (Middlesex County)	1	B.Byrne#
2/15	Thorndike (Hampden County)	1	fide R.A.Forster
2/19	Magnolia (Essex County)	1	N.Valerius#
2/21	Bernardston (Franklin Co.)	1	fide R.A.Forster
2/23 on	W.Boxford (Essex County)	1	v.o.
2/24	Brookline (Norfolk County)	1	fide O.Komar#
2/25 on	Concord (Middlesex County)	1	Mrs.W.Malcom
2/28	Wayland (Worcester County)	1	B.Blodget
Long-eared Owl:			
11/4,22	P.I., Westwood	1, 4	O.Komar, Genninger
11/25,30	Nantucket, Manomet	1, 1	R.Veit#, MBO staff
12/2,17	E.Lexington, Belmont	1, 1	J.Andrews, CBC
thr. Jan.	Salisbury	max. 4	R.Heil + M.Kasprzyk#
1/?,1	Lexington, Squantum	1, 1	R.Walton,S.+R.Higinbotham
2/4-20,22	Salisbury, M.V.(S.F.)	max. 2, 5	R.Walton#, V.Laux
2/23,27-28	Duxbury, Belmont	2, 1	W.R.Petersen#, M.Dodder
Short-eared Owl:			
11/22-26,30	Nantucket, Salisbury	2, 1	R.Veit#, L.Healy
12/30	Salisbury;Marshfield,Tuckernuck	5; 4, 6	G.Soucy; CBC
12/29,31	Squantum, Nantucket	3, 5	M.Argue#, CBC
thr. Dec.	6 other localities	7 individuals	v.o.
thr. Jan.,6-30	Salisbury, P.I.	max.5, max.2	G.Soucy#, R.Veit#
1/7,10	Squantum, Ipswich	4, 2	BBC, R.Heil#
1/20-28,19-28	S.Duxbury, 3 localities	4, singles	W.R.Petersen, v.o.
thr. Feb.	Salisbury	max.8(2/19)	G.Soucy#
2/23	Marshfield, S.Duxbury	2, 3	W.R.Petersen#



Great Gray Owl swallowing meadow vole, Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield, Massachusetts, January 30, 1979. Photograph by Bill Byrne, Courtesy of Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

2/4-18	5 localities	singles	v.o.
<u>Saw-whet Owl:</u>			
11/2, 7, 10	MFO (all immatures)	1, 2, 1	MBO staff
11/25	Nantucket	1	R.Veit + M.Litchfield
12/16, 31	Millis, Nantucket	1, 1	CBC
2/15	N.Chatham, Burlington	1, 1	B.Nikula, fide M.Litchfield
2/23	Marshfield	1	W.Petersen#
<u>Boreal Owl:</u>			
12/31	Salisbury Beach S.P.	1	F.Atwood + v.o.
<u>Ruby-throated Hummingbird:</u>			
11/6, 17	Nonquitt, Nantucket	1, 1	F.Plowden-Wardlaw, fide E.Andrews
<u>Belted Kingfisher:</u>			
12/16, 17	Buzzards Bay, Cape Cod	36, 23	CBC
1/? thr. Jan.	Framingham, 8 localities	5, 10 individ.	R.Forster#, v.o.
2/4, 16-19	Manchester, M.V.	1, 2	BBC, E.Sears#
<u>Common Flicker:</u>			
12/17, 31	Cape Cod, Nantucket	45, 88	CBC
<u>Pileated Woodpecker:</u>			
11/12, 20 on	Carlisle, Wayland	1, 1	Mrs. Clark, T.Hart
11/21, 12/2	Lincoln, Andover	1, 1	M.Bovey, K.Carpenter
12/6; 16	Wellesley; Hamilton, Millis	1; 1, 2	M.McGee; J.Berry, CBC
1/28, 29	Framingham, IRWS	1, 1	K.Hamilton, R.A.Forster#
2/25	Milton	1	O.Loring
<u>Red-bellied Woodpecker:</u>			
12/31	Swansea	1	N.Hill
<u>Red-headed Woodpecker:</u>			
11/9 thr. Feb.	W.Concord	1 imm.	C.Anderson + v.o.
11/20-1/16	Wayland	1 imm.	T.Hart#
<u>Hairy Woodpecker:</u>			
12/30, 16	Concord, Wilmington	100, 96	CBC
<u>Downy Woodpecker:</u>			
12/17, 30, 16	G.Boston, Concord, Wilmington	88, 260, 193	CBC
<u>Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker:</u>			
12/29	Lynn Woods	1 female	J.Roderick

Passerines

This was the most disappointing year in recent memory for a number of usually common species as well as a virtually non-existent flight of winter finches. A look at the results of the 1978 Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) will easily confirm this fact. Bird Observer will publish the complete results of all the eastern Massachusetts CBCs. The Concord CBC, for example, usually leads the nation in the number of individual Blue Jays; this year's total of 281 was 1,593 under last year's count.

The following chart compares the counts of usually common winter species on the Concord and Greater Boston CBCs for last year with this year. The results are typical on all the counts.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Concord</u>		<u>Greater Boston</u>	
	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>
Hairy Woodpecker	118	100	30	9
Downy Woodpecker	309	260	143	88
Blue Jay	1874	281	1091	284
White-breasted Nuthatch	325	288	171	74
Red-breasted Nuthatch	142	8	127	3
American Robin	86	18	337	115
Dark-eyed Junco	1424	374	734	232
Tree Sparrow	1130	608	361	121
White-throated Sparrow	242	66	185	67
Song Sparrow	172	127	203	105

Those of us who feed birds were given a big break on the cost for seed this year with so few birds coming to our feeders. Last year we went through three times as much seed with all those hungry siskins and redpolls around.

Winter wasn't all that bleak with several specialities staying around for all of us to see: the Varied Thrushes in Norwell and Chelmsford, the Bohemian Waxwings of Concord, the Lark Bunting of Salisbury and the Harris's Sparrow at Acoaxet.

West Kingbirds were reported in December from S. Wellfleet and in N. Falmouth; other late departures included a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on December 7, a Black-and-white Warbler on December 3, a Cape May Warbler on November 26, an Ovenbird on November 23, a Redstart on December 6, and a Lincoln's Sparrow on November 17. Especially noteworthy were two reports of Solitary Vireos: on December 16 one was found at N. Falmouth, a first for a New England CBC, and another bird was found on December 30 at Nantucket, one day before the Nantucket CBC. A Wilson's Warbler was found in Chatham on December 12 and again on the 31st.

A Common Crow roost in Waltham was estimated at 2500 birds; Fish Crows were reported from Plum Island and Halifax for the first time. Only one Boreal Chickadee was reported this winter.

Over 1000 American Robins were found in Wellfleet during January, possibly a new high for winter. A maximum of 13 Eastern Bluebirds was reported most of the winter in Eastham. There was an explosion of Northern Shrikes with over 100 reported. A Townsend's Solitaire in Warren, Rhode Island was a special treat for those who went to see it but couldn't scare it the short distance to Massachusetts.

A fantastic total of 2983 Yellow-rumped Warblers was found on the Nantucket CBC, compared to a mere 255 in 1977; also the Nantucket CBC recorded 60 Palm Warblers as compared with just 2 in 1977. An *Oporornis* warbler was found on November 23 at Nantucket; the observers feel confident that this species was a MacGillivray's Warbler, but unfortunately it could not be netted.

The Brewer's Blackbird returned and remained at Katama, Martha's Vineyard for the winter while another adult was present at the chicken farm in Truro in early November. An immature male Black-headed Grosbeak visited a feeder in Lexington during February. A Blue Grosbeak was found in Barnstable and 3 Dickcissels were reported.

The flight of winter finches was almost non-existent; Pine Grosbeaks were few in eastern Massachusetts but were reported in good numbers in the Quabbin area. There was a scattering of Common Redpolls, and Pine Siskins started to appear in February but in very small numbers compared to last year's invasion. Only two reports each for Red and White-winged crossbills came in; the Red Crossbills at the Arnold Arboretum remained for a few days.

The Lark Bunting was still present through November 4 at the campground at Salisbury. A Grasshopper Sparrow was carefully studied at the Danvers State Hospital grounds on January 21; there are a few records for winter Grasshopper Sparrows in recent years. An amazing 13 Chipping Sparrows were noted in N. Falmouth, 11 of them in one flock on December 17. Generally speaking, most sparrow counts were way down this winter; you could spend a day in the field and not see a white-throat or a Tree Sparrow! Snow Buntings were well reported from Plum Island during November and by December 23 only 59 could be found.

Western Kingbird:

11/5-12/3	Truro	3-1	v.o.
11/7,12	N.Scituate, M.V.	1, 1	M.+B.Litchfield, V.Laux
11/15,12/7	S.Wellfleet	1, 1	P.Bailey, W.Bailey
12/16	N.Falmouth	1	D.Brown, W.Cornwell#
Horned Lark:			
11/2,5	Salisbury, Eastham	80+, 75+	M.Kasprzyk, SSBC
12/17,31	Cape Cod, Nantucket	83, 55	CBC
1/13,27	Concord, Salisbury	38, 40	R.Walton, BBC
Tree Swallow:			
11/4,10	P.I.	4, 1	BBC, G.Gove
Barn Swallow:			
11/4;5	P.I., Eastham; Sharon	6+, 2; 2	R.Veit#,B.Nikula; D.Clapp
11/5,6,7	Framingham, Nahant, M.V.	1, 1, 2	R.Forster, R.Heil, V.Laux
11/11,12	Eastham, S.N.	1, 4	G.Gove, D.Brown#
Blue Jay: (very low population)			
12/17,30	G.Boston, Concord	284, 281	CBC
1/5	Framingham	76	K.Hamilton, R.A.Forster
Common Crow:			
12/17,30	G.Boston, Concord	1017, 1357	CBC
thr. Dec.-Jan.	Waltham	1800-2500	R.Stymaist, J.Luck
Fish Crow:			
11/19,12/10	<u>P.I., Halifax</u>	1, 1+	G.Soucy#+v.o.,W.Petersen

12/16,30	Millis, Concord	52, 2	CBC
Black-capped Chickadee:			
12/16,30	Buzzards Bay, Concord	806, 2070	CBC
1/5	Framingham	310	K.Hamilton, R.A.Forster
Boreal Chickadee:			
11/17	Worcester	1	B.Hlodget
Tufted Titmouse:			
12/16, 30	G.Boston, Concord	119, 378	CBC
12/30,1/5	M.V., Framingham	1, 56	CBC, K.Hamilton#
White-breasted Nuthatch:			
12/16,30	G.Boston, Concord	119, 288	CBC
1/5	Framingham	43	K.Hamilton, R.A.Forster
Red-breasted Nuthatch:			
11/21;12/16	M.V.; Buzzards Bay, Worcester	40; 6, 8	V.Laux; CBC
12/16,30	Athol, Concord	22, 8	CBC
	Only 6 reported in January and only 4 reported in February.		
Brown Creeper:			
12/16,30	G.Boston, Concord	13, 13	CBC
1/5	Framingham	3	K.Hamilton, R.A.Forster
	Only 7 reported in February.		
Winter Wren:			
11/28,1/10	Manomet	1, 1 b.	MBO staff
12/16-31	Eastern Mass. CBCs	10	CBC
2/16-19,19	M.V., Bridgewater	1, 1	G.Daniels#, W.R.Petersen
Carolina Wren:			
11/28,12/16	Sharon, Buzzards Bay	1, 12	fide N.Waldron, CBC
12/30,17	M.V., Cape Cod	7, 1	CBC
thr. Jan.-Feb.	Acoaxet, Lakeville	2-3, 1	v.o.. A.Howard + v.o.
1/27,2/10	Woods Hole, Marshfield	2, 1	R.Stymeist#, B.Harrigan
2/10,16-19	Norwell, M.V.	1, 4	J.Marshall, R.Sargent#
Long-billed Marsh Wren:			
11/4,11	GMNWR, Truro	6, 6	
11/30,12/23	Newburyport	1, 2	G.Gove, R.Veit#
12/17,31	Cape Cod, Nantucket	4, 5	R.Heil, W.R.Petersen#
1/29	W.Harwich	1	CBC
			B.Nikula
Mockingbird:			
12/16,17	Buzzards Bay, G.Boston	129, 76	CBC
12/23,20	Quincy, Concord	43, 171	CBC
1/5,2/10	Framingham, Acoaxet	69, 12	K.Hamilton#, R.Stymeist#
Gray Catbird			
11/18,21	Gloucester, Nantucket	1, 1	BBC, S.Perkins#
12/16,17	Buzzards Bay, Cape Cod	8, 2	CBC
12/27,31	Plymouth, Nantucket	1, 6	CBC
thr. Jan.	Acoaxet	1-2	CBC
1/7	Falmouth, Westport	2, 1	v.o.
1/15,16	Plymouth, Littleton	1, 1	BBC, SSEC
2/16-19,23	M.V., S.Duxbury	1, 1	W.Cornwell, Mrs.DeCamillis
			V.Laux#, D.Briggs
Brown Thrasher:			
12/27	Plymouth	2	
Jan., 6	Manomet, Acoaxet	1 b., 1	CBC
1/7,2/10,18	Buzzards Bay, Marshfield, M.V.	1, 1, 2	MBO staff, R.Heil
			SSBC, B.Harrigan, V.Laux#
American Robin:			
12/16,17	Buzzards Bay, Cape Cod	230, 438	
1/4,5	S.Peabody, Framingham	13, 45	CBC
1/7,15	Wellfleet, Acoaxet	1000+, 75	R.Heil, K.Hamilton#
1/19,27	Falmouth, Woods Hole	30, 70	B.Nikula#, W.R.Petersen#
2/4,15	Bridgewater, Manchester	50, 30	P.Garrey, R.Stymeist#
			BBC, Mrs.R.Ayer
Varied Thrush:			
12/25-2/19	Norwell	1	
ca.1/12-2/19	Cnelmsford	1	Mrs.Olsen + v.o.
1/7	Acoaxet	1	E.Cady + v.o.
			P.Arrigo
Hermit Thrush:			
11/13,12/16	Sandwich, Buzzards Bay	4, 8	
1/7,20	Acoaxet, Nantucket	1, 4	R.Pease, CBC
2/8;9 + 17	E.Middleboro; S.O'leans	1, 1	J.Murphy, R.Veit#
2/18	M.V.	2	K.Anderson, C.Goodrich#
			V.Laux#
Eastern Bluebird:			
12/4,17, thr. Jan.	Eastham	13, 10, max.10	C.Goodrich, CBC, v.o.
2/4	Chatham	3	B.Nikula

<u>Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:</u>		
thr. Nov. 12/7	Manomet	3-1 MBO staff
<u>Golden-crowned Kinglet:</u>		
12/16, 27	Buzzards Bay, Plymouth	43, 59 CBC
1/5	Framingham, Lynn	10, 6 K.Hamilton#, R.Heil
Only a total of 4 reported in February.		
<u>Ruby-crowned Kinglet:</u>		
11/30, 12/10	M.V., Nahant	12, 1 V.Laux, BBC
12/27, 31	Plymouth, Falmouth	5, 2 CBC, R.Stymeist
thr. Jan. 1/15	Acoaxet, Norwell	1-2, 1 v.o., B.Litchfield
<u>Water Pipit:</u>		
11/3	Revere, Winthrop	4, 1 S.Zendeh
11/5, 12	Sharon, Bridgewater	1, 65 D.Clapp, BBC
<u>Bohemian Waxwing:</u>		
12/30-1/3	Concord	1-2 R.Forster# + v.o.
<u>Cedar Waxwing:</u>		
11/24	Truro	30 W.R.Petersen
12/15, 17	Brookton; Cape Cod	50, 56 F.O'Brien, CBC
12/23, 27	Newburyport, Plymouth	53, 95 CBC
1/7	Wellfleet, Concord	125+, 80 C.Goodrich, R.Walton
1/13, 23	Brewster, Lakeville	75, 150+ B.Nikula, R.+L.Thatcher
<u>Northern Shrike:</u>		
thr. Nov.	many locations	ca. 20 v.o.
thr. Nov.	outer Cape Cod	6-7 fide B.Nikula
thr. Dec.	Well over 100 individuals reported including	CBC.
thr. Jan.	outer Cape Cod	7-8 fide B.Nikula
thr. Jan.	north shore	10+ v.o.
thr. Jan.	south shore	9+ v.o.
thr. Jan.	west of Boston	10+ v.o.
thr. Feb.	outer Cape Cod	6+ fide B.Nikula
2/16	Sudbury Valley	5 R.Walton
<u>Starling:</u>		
12/17, 23	G.Boston, Quincy	103,000, 110,000 CBC
<u>Solitary Vireo:</u>		
12/16, 30	N.Falmouth, Nantucket	1, 1 CBC(R.Stymeist#), R.Smart
<u>Black-and-white Warbler:</u>		
11/29-12/3	Manomet	1 MBO staff
<u>Orange-crowned Warbler:</u>		
11/17, 12/16	Lynn, Buzzards Bay	1-2, 2 R.Heil, CBC
12/24, 2/12 on	Chatham, Lincoln	1, 1 E.Fuller, W.Harrington+v.o.
<u>Cape May Warbler:</u>		
11/26	Nantucket	1 imm. R.Veit, E.Andrews#
<u>Yellow-rumped Warbler:</u>		
11/11, 19	Ipswich, Crane Beach	60+, 50+ J.Berry
12/16, 17	Buzzards Bay, Cape Cod	551, 397 CBC
12/31	Nantucket	2983 CBC
1/14, 18, 27	Scituate, Scusset, P.I.	50, 18, 4 SSBC, P.Garrey, BBC
2/16-19, 2/17-18	M.V., Nantucket	50, 150 R.Sargent#, C.Jackson
<u>Blackpoll Warbler:</u>		
11/8	Salem, Framingham	1, 3 R.Heil, R.A.Forster
11/13, 18	Lincoln, Lakeville	1, 1 R.A.Forster, W.R.Petersen
<u>Pine Warbler:</u>		
11/25, 12/16	Nantucket, N.Falmouth	1, 1 R.Veit#, CBC
12/17, 2/25	Chatham, Plymouth	1, 2 CBC, T.Lloyd-Evans
<u>Palm Warbler:</u>		
11/22-26, 12/31	Nantucket	20, 60 R.Veit#, CBC(R.Heil#)
12/16, 17	Buzzards Bay, Cape Cod	8, 7 CBC
12/23, 27	Newburyport, Plymouth	1, 1 CBC
1/8	M.V.	8 V.Laux
<u>Ovenbird:</u>		
11/10	Manomet	1 b. MBO staff
<u>Oporornis.sp.</u>		
11/23	Nantucket	1 R.Veit, S.Perkins, M.Litchfield
<u>Common Yellowthroat</u>		
11/21, 29	MNWS, S.Peabody	1, 3 R.Heil
12/3, 30	GMNWR	1, 1 R.Walton
12/23, 30	Newburyport, Tuckernuck	2, 1 CBC
<u>Yellow-breasted Chat:</u>		
11/19, 26	Barnstable	1, 1 R.Pease
11/23, 26	Rockport, Lexington	1, 1 R.A.Forster, P.Stowe

12/16,17,31 1/6	Buzz.Bay, Cape Cod, Nantucket Chatham	3, 2, 1 1	CBC B.Nikula
<u>Wilson's Warbler:</u>			
11/17	Sandwich	1	R.Pease
12/12 + 31	Chatham	1	R.Clem
<u>American Redstart:</u>			
11/25,12/6	Nantucket, Sandwich	1, 1	R.Veit#, R.Pease
<u>House Sparrow:</u>			
12/17,30	G.Boston, Concord	749, 1535	CBC
<u>Eastern Meadowlark:</u>			
12/17	Cape Cod	21	CBC
1/6,15	Bridgewater, S.Dartmouth	30, 40	W.R.Petersen#
1/28, 2/6	Marshfield, M.V.	25, 25	M.+B.Litchfield,V.Laux
<u>Red-winged Blackbird:</u>			
11/5,11	GMNWR	400, 270	BBC
thr. Dec.	Danvers, Woburn	6, 10-1	E.Pyburn, G.Gove
1/28	S.Peabody, Saugus	18, 25	R.Heil, C.Jackson
<u>Northern Oriole:</u>			
11/14,20	Wayland, Barnstable	1, 1	H.Parker, R.Pease
12/3,16	Wellfleet, Buzzards Bay	1, 2	P.Trull#, CBC
12/17	G.Boston, Cape Cod	1, 3	CBC
1/10	Concord	1	R.Walton
<u>Rusty Blackbird:</u>			
11/3,22	Woburn, Middleboro	1, 2	G.Gove, D.Briggs
11/23,25	Concord, Nantucket	2, 1	R.Walton, S.Perkins
12/3,14	Sharon, S.Peabody	1, 24	N.Waldron, R.Heil
12/30	Concord	9	CBC
thr. Jan.,4	Norwell, S.Peabody	1.2, 1	v.o., R.Heil
1/6,13	Middleboro, Concord	1, 1	D.Briggs, R.Walton
1/27	Wayland, N.Falmouth	1, 7	H.Parker, R.Stymeist#
<u>Brewer's Blackbird:</u>			
11/4-5	Truro	1 ad.	B.Nikula# + v.o.
thr. Dec.-Feb.	Katama, M.V.	1 ad.	V.Laux# + v.o.
<u>Common Grackle:</u>			
1/22	N.Falmouth	65-70	R.Stymeist#
<u>Brown-headed Cowbird:</u>			
11/11,21	P.I., S.Peabody	60, 150	BBC, R.Heil
12/26,28,1/2	E.Lexington	48, 81, 50	L.Schimmel
<u>Cardinal:</u>			
12/16,17	Buzzards Bay, Cape Cod	224, 121	CBC
12/17,30	G.Boston, Concord	105, 193	CBC
1/5	Framingham	80	K.Hamilton, R.A.Forster
<u>Rose-breasted Grosbeak:</u>			
11/7,11	WBWS, N.Scituate	1, 1 imm.	P.Bailey, W.Petersen
<u>Black-headed Grosbeak:</u>			
2/2-6	Lexington	1 imm.	M.Smith + v.o.
<u>Blue Grosbeak:</u>			
11/3	Barnstable	1	R.Pease
<u>Dickcissel:</u>			
11/5	Walpole, Truro	1, 1	D.Clapp#, SSBC
12/7	Barnstable	1	R.Pease
<u>Evening Grosbeak:</u>			
11/5,29	E.Weymouth, Beverly	50, 25	S.Burg, G.Soucy
12/16,17	Athol, Westminster	828, 1100+	CBC
thr. Jan. + Feb.	Middleboro	75-150	D.Briggs
<u>Purple Finch:</u>			
12/16	Athol, Buzzards Bay	12, 13	CBC
12/30	Concord	85	CBC
1/5	Framingham	16	K.Hamilton, R.A.Forster
<u>House Finch:</u>			
12/16;17	Buzz.Bay; Cape Cod, G.Boston	561; 221, 228	CBC
1/5	Framingham	294	K.Hamilton, R.A.Forster
<u>Pine Grosbeak:</u>			
12/3,16	Wellfleet, Athol	3+, 17	C.Goodrich#, CBC
12/17,30	Brewster, Tuckernuck	30, 1	CBC
early Jan.	Wellfleet	2-3	C.Goodrich
2/2+14	Littleton	10 + 18	J.Baird
2/11+18	Lincoln	1 + 2	M.Litchfield, C.Roth
2/4,20	Newburyport, Harvard	2, 6	G.d'Entremont,T.Urquhart

<u>Common Redpoll:</u>			
11/24, 12/17	Truro, Winchester	1, 9	W.Petersen, CBC(G.Gove)
12/20, 1/27	Danvers, Millis	2, 3	E.Pyburn, P.Tarrobino
<u>Pine Siskin:</u>			
12/17	Chatham, Winchester	25, 110	CBC, CBC(P.Roberts#)
1/3, 7	Middleboro, Acoaxet	1, 2	D.Briggs, B.Cassie
2/2, 4	Plymouth, Stoneham	1, 7	C.Youngstrom, M.Martinek
2/10	Chelmsford, Concord	6, 7	O.Komar, R.Walton
2/14, 16	Newton, Concord	10, 27	D.Howard, R.Walton
<u>American Goldfinch:</u>			
thr. Nov.	Rockport (Whale Cove)	34 b.	R.Norris
12/17, 23	Cape Cod, Newburyport	169, 162	CBC
1/5, thr. Feb.	Framingham, Middleboro	126, 50+daily	K.Hamilton#, D.Briggs
<u>Red Crossbill:</u>			
12/17, 2/11	Boston, Littleton	3, 9	CBC(H.d'Entremont#+v.o.), J.Nye
<u>White-winged Crossbill:</u>			
11/19, 12/31	Westwood, P.I.	1, 15	R.Vernon, S.Kellogg
<u>Rufous-sided Towhee:</u>			
12/17, 21	Chatham, Manchester	3, 1	CBC, R.Parsons
1/7, 10	Acoaxet, M.V.	2, 4	J.Murphy, V.Laux#
2/17-18, 25	Nantucket, Framingham	3, 1	C.Jackson, R.A.Forster
<u>Lark Bunting:</u>			
11/1-4	Salisbury	1 (from 9/27)	v.o.
<u>Savannah Sparrow:</u>			
11/4	Scituate	7 (Ipswich)	W.R.Petersen
12/17, 27	Cape Cod, Plymouth	13, 4	CBC
1/27, 2/16-19	P.I., M.V.	1, 50	BBC, C.Lincoln#
<u>Grasshopper Sparrow:</u>			
1/21	Danvers (good details)	1	Chrisitielo
<u>Sharp-tailed Sparrow:</u>			
11/12, 12/2	Salisbury, Scituate	1, 1	R.Heil, W.R.Petersen
12/17, 30	Nauset	2, 1	CBC, S.Higginbotham#
1/14, 28	Scituate, Eastham	4, 2	SSBC, W.R.Petersen
<u>Seaside Sparrow:</u>			
11/5, 1/14	Eastham, Scituate	1, 1	SSBC, SSBC
<u>Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon):</u>			
11/29, 2/2	S.Peabody, Lexington	1, 1	R.Heil, M.Smith# + v.o.
<u>Dark-eyed Junco:</u>			
11/11	Salisbury	1 albino	M.Smith
1/5	Framingham	95	K.Hamilton, R.Forster
<u>Tree Sparrow:</u>			
11/17, 19	Belmont-Waltham	45, 30	S.Perkins
12/23, 30	Newburyport, Concord	214, 608	CBC
1/1, 5	Salisbury, Framingham	47, 116	J.Clancy, R.A.Forster#
<u>Chipping Sparrow:</u>			
11/11; 30-12/6	Truro; Danvers, Framingham	1; 3, 1	R.Veit#; E.Pyburn, R.Forster
12/16	N.Falmouth	13	CBC (D.Brown#)
<u>Field Sparrow:</u>			
12/16, 17	Buzzards Bay, Cape Cod	70, 32	CBC
thr. Jan.-Feb.	Middleboro	10-12	D.Briggs
1/5, 6	Framingham, Bridgewater	13, 28	R.Forster#, W.Petersen
<u>Harris' Sparrow:</u>			
12/23-2/28	Acoaxet	1 ad.	CBC + v.o.
<u>White-crowned Sparrow:</u>			
thr. Dec.	Danvers	3 imm., 1 ad.	E.Pyburn
12/16, 17, 22	Buzz.Bay, G.Boston, Lincoln	1, 1, 1	CBC, CBC, R.Walton
thr. Jan., 2/8	Danvers, Lincoln	max. 5, 1	E.Pyburn#, M.Litchfield
<u>White-throated Sparrow:</u>			
12/16, 17	Buzzards Bay, Cape Cod	275, 121	CBC
12/17, 30	G.Boston, Concord	67, 66	CBC
1/7	Acoaxet	65+	v.o.
<u>Fox Sparrow:</u>			
11/4 + 5	Sudbury	18, 12	R.Forster
11/3, 10	Belmont, E.Lexington	10, 9	S.Perkins, L.Schimmel
12/16, 17	Buzzards Bay, Cambridge	2, 2	CBC
thr. Jan.	Only 5 reported all month.		
thr. Feb.	Only 1 reported all month.		
<u>Lincoln's Sparrow:</u>			
11/17	Belmont	1	S.Perkins

Swamp Sparrow:			
12/16,17	Buzzards Bay, Cape Cod	28, 17	CBC
12/30	Marshfield, Concord	44, 17	CBC
1/7-28,13	S.Peabody, GMNWR	2, 3	R.Heil, R.Walton
2/11,23	Acoaxet, Saugus	3, 2	G.Soucy, S.Zendeh
Song Sparrow:			
12/16,17	Buzzards Bay, Cape Cod	346, 143	CBC
1/5,2/10	Frammingham, Acoaxet	12, 28	R.Forster#, R.Stymeist#
Lapland Longspur:			
11/11,25,12/3	P.I.	14, 25+, 65	v.o.
12/17	Cape Cod	250	CBC
thr. Jan.,Feb.	Salisbury	max.35, max.200	v.o.
Snow Bunting:			
11/5,10,11,19,30	P.I.	800, 400, 700, 150, 300+	v.o.
11/11,22,1/13	Provincetown	300, 300+, 200+	v.o.
thr. Nov.	Salisbury	max. 150	v.o.
12/17,23	Cape Cod, Newburyport	281, 99	v.o.
1/16,20	Wilmington, Lanesville	16, 30	S.Garrett, D.+D.Hale

List of Abbreviations

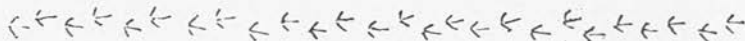
ad.	adult	SSEC	South Shore Bird Club
b.	banded	GMNWR	Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge
d.	dark phase	IRWS	Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary
f.	female	MBO	Manomet Bird Observatory
imm.	immature	MNWS	Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary
l.	light phase	WBWS	Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary
m.	male	WMWS	Wachusett Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary
max.	maximum	AA	Arnold Arboretum
thr.	throughout	A.P.	Andrews Point, Rockport
v.o.	various observers	E.P.	Eastern Point, Gloucester
yg.	young	F.M.	Fowl Meadow, Milton
#	additional observers	M.V.	Martha's Vineyard
ABC	Allen Bird Club	Mt.A.	Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge
BBC	Brookline Bird Club	P.I.	Plum Island
CBC	Christmas Bird Count	S.N.	Sandy Neck, Barnstable

PLUM ISLAND UPDATE

The Parker River National Wildlife Refuge is currently in the throes of major construction work. Road work began in April, with the intention of widening, elevating, and "surfacing" the island road as far as the Rowley line. If additional funds can be obtained, the project may be extended the length of the refuge; sufficient appropriations might be received as early as this summer. In the vicinity of Stage Island, the roadbed will be shifted westward to permit natural dune development.

Several parking lots have been closed, including #4, north of the salt pans, and #7, east of the Old Pines. Lots #5 (Kettlehole) and #8 (The Pines Trail) have been enlarged to compensate for the loss of parking spaces. This shift will reduce the number of boardwalks to the beach and will enable the refuge personnel to provide better security for parked cars.

In the near future, a new refuge headquarters, including a visitors center and an observation blind, will be constructed on the northern edge of the dike near "the Warden's."



A citizen of the U.S.S.R. was recently sentenced to six years in a labor camp for trying to steal 20 parrots from the Moscow City Zoo. The culprit was discovered hiding in one of the birds' cages with the parrots in his briefcase. (Punch, Dec. 13, 1978)