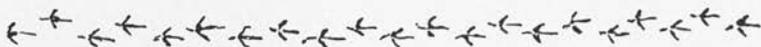


<u>Species</u>	<u>Athol</u>	<u>Buz. Bay</u>	<u>C. Ann</u>	<u>C. Cod</u>	<u>Concord</u>	<u>G. Bos.</u>	<u>M. V.</u>
Sharp-tailed Sparrow				2			
Dark-eyed Junco	49	148	45	17	374	232	31
"Oregon Junco"							
Tree Sparrow	49	44	78	11	608	121	14
Chipping Sparrow		13					
Field Sparrow	1	70		32	16	10	2
White-crowned Sparrow		1			1	1	
White-throated Sparrow	5	275	25	121	66	67	32
Fox Sparrow		2		1		2	
Swamp Sparrow		28	•	17	17	3	2
Song Sparrow	1	346	21	143	127	105	46
Lapland Longspur			3	250		38	
Snow Bunting		13	44	281		4	27
Total # of species	46	113	79	119	67	101+1	96



Letter To The Editor

I was fascinated to read at least one observer's account of his time with the Salisbury Boreal Owl. Leif Robinson is probably correct in his belief that the amount of human interference the Boreal Owl experienced was not particularly detrimental to the bird and is quite likely not the reason for the owl's disappearance. What troubles me about Robinson's account of the "kitchy-kitchy-koo" episode is what it says about the attitude birders bring to their pursuit. One wonders if birds are playthings designed to amuse and satisfy bird-watchers? Or might birds be biological entities that we as bird-watchers can observe, study, admire and respect?

It is unfortunate that it was a member of the Massachusetts Audubon staff that touched the Boreal Owl. One would hope such staff members would be the model of good birding etiquette. But if an Audubon society staff-person can play with Boreal Owls, why isn't it fine for any birder to do whatever he or she wishes with any bird they chance upon? Clearly such a situation would present a very sad state of affairs. Obviously Massachusetts Audubon does not condone or support the interference of any part of a bird's natural history. All the research, sanctuaries and natural history education testify to that. But as birders let us take the time to re-examine our reasons for looking at birds. Observe them, scrutinize them carefully, delight in them, worship them. The reasons for being afield will be your own. But please, whatever your reasons, leave them alone. If nothing else, respect them.

Peter Vickery
Lincoln, Maine

(All letters to the editor are subject to condensation.)