

RESULTS OF THE 1979 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

IN EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

by Robert Stymeist, Brookline

During the 1979 Christmas Bird Count (CBC), a total of 189 species were recorded on 19 eastern Massachusetts CBCs; this was augmented by two additional races: Ipswich Sparrow and Oregon Junco. We would like to thank Dave Emerson of Taunton for providing us with the results for the Massachusetts section of the Westport-Tiverton Rhode Island CBC. In 1978 172 species were recorded; the warmer and almost snowless winter of 1979 accounted for the increase in species and the number of individuals reported in many species. Outstanding among the reports were Arctic Loon, Western Grebe, Cory's Shearwater, White-rumped Sandpiper, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Swainson's Thrush, White-eyed Vireo, Prairie and Wilson's warblers, Brewer's Blackbird, Western Tanager, Green-tailed Towhee, and Harris's Sparrow.

The warmer weather certainly can be held responsible for higher counts such as 446 Common Flickers, 5 House Wrens, 55 Gray Catbirds, 20 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 22 Common Yellowthroats, 417 Eastern Meadowlarks, 100 Rufous-sided Towhees, and 26 Chipping Sparrows.

Of boreal eruptive species, only the Northern Shrike was reported in any numbers. There are reported in the summary some winter finch records that must be looked at very critically as such finches, with the exception of Evening Grosbeak, simply were not very much in evidence this winter.

B.O.E.M. has listed in the following tabulation of the eastern Massachusetts CBCs all the species that were recorded by the compilers of the counts. We have not edited for any questionable species of which there may be some; such editing will be up to the regional editor of American Birds who, with all the supporting detail, can pass the final judgment.

The complete results of the 1979-80 Christmas Bird Count can be obtained by sending a check for \$5.50, payable to American Birds, 950 Third Avenue, New York, New York, 10022. This mammoth issue contains the results of all the counts in North America as well as several in Central America and many of the islands in the Caribbean. It is usually available after September 1.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Athol</u>	<u>Buz. Bay</u>	<u>C. Ann</u>	<u>C. Cod</u>	<u>Concord</u>	<u>Gr. Bos.</u>	<u>Marsh.</u>	<u>M.V.</u>
Common Loon	2	31	21	44		1	26	55
<u>Arctic Loon</u>								
Red-throated Loon		2	2	30		4	2	33
Red-necked Grebe		3		1		2	9	5
Horned Grebe		655	22	11		52	3	7
<u>Western Grebe</u>								
Pied-billed Grebe		17	1	46	4	15		3
Cory's Shearwater				1				
Gannet			20	1850			2	3
Great Cormorant		130	126	115		116	2	29
Double-crested Cormorant				2		3		
Great Blue Heron		38	2	70	1	7	3	19
<u>Green Heron</u>					1	1		1
Great Egret		1						
Black-crowned Night Heron		12		6		1		1
American Bittern			2	1	1			
Mute Swan		26	4					356
<u>Whistling Swan</u>								
Canada Goose	33	674	1618	3100	1649	83	1835	1100
Brant		60	2	1070		170	2373	28
Snow Goose		1	2	2				
Mallard		266	623	298	1223	1682	87	299
Black Duck	9	1096	1027	3507	281	1802	2009	584
Gadwall			5			1		3
Pintail			3		6	4	1	4
Green-winged Teal				26	1	18		6
<u>European Wigeon</u>		1	1					
American Wigeon		58	34	29		81		53
Wood Duck		1	1	1				2
Redhead		70		2				1
Ring-necked Duck		75	8	100	20	4		
Canvasback		288		614	1	6		176
Greater Scaup		3411	281	59		2233	23	53
Lesser Scaup						6		
Common Goldeneye	4	1295	339	237	3	415	300	128
Barrow's Goldeneye				1		1		
Bufflehead		1449	255	1287	3	594	72	291
Oldsquaw		632	7	96		2	33	8
Harlequin Duck			2	1			1	
Common Eider		458	2145	22256		1931	7380	2552
White-winged Scoter		314	269	33		105	197	282
Surf Scoter		646	6			1	11	6
Black Scoter		22	2	71			38	20
Ruddy Duck		6	12	38		66		64
Hooded Merganser	13	231	6	67	1	24		21
Common Merganser	11	48	3	415	15	87	1	103
Red-breasted Merganser		1430	209	459		892	288	6120
Goshawk					2	1		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	4		13	5	2		3
Cooper's Hawk	1			1				
Red-tailed Hawk	1	7	5	6	49	22		13
Red-shouldered Hawk						1		
<u>Broad-winged Hawk</u>								
Rough-legged Hawk					1	2		6
Bald Eagle								
Marsh Hawk		1		12		2	3	16
Osprey						1		
Peregrine Falcon						1		
Merlin				3				2
American Kestrel		12	8	14	12	22	11	12
Ruffed Grouse	4	3	3		4			
Bobwhite		47		48				9
Ring-necked Pheasant	4	6	28	2	139	211		8
Clapper Rail								
Virginia Rail				10	2		2	
<u>Common Gallinule</u>								
American Coot		65	13	90	13	45		33

Sp.	Millis	Nant.	N.B.	Newbpt.	Plym.	Quin.	Tau-Mb.	Tuck.	Westpt.	Wilm.	Worc.
CL		103	1	60	48	4		7	26		2
AL				1							
R-tL		260		9	7	8		4	27		
R-nG		19	16	15	1						
HG	14	17	47	105	10	116			47		7
WG		1									
P-bG	7	24		1	23	2	8		1	2	1
CS										2	1
G		107			8						
GC		14	100	6	30	6002	1	18	34		
D-cC	1				2	3					
GBH		41	3	2	5	14	1	6	20		
GH											
GE											
B-cNH		8				6					
AB		3	1	1		1		8			
MS		80	35	2	109				83		
WS		1							1		
CG	593	698	77	2380	346	109	77	149	2260	261	537
B		55			400	1623		41			
SG					2						
M	513	47	417	162	434	419	135		233	197	415
BD	331	561	481	6850	1081	1516	104	145	781	28	176
G		6		47	19	4					
P				70	4	1				24	
G-wT		6			1				16		
EW											
AW		230		19	1	11	3	8	122		
WD		1		1	1	1					
R		140			7						
R-nD	14	74			51		1				
C	22	160	22		21	2	178		400		
GS		607	85	22	3	2426	93		4		
LS		14	2766		10						
CG	2	1240	311	538	340	995	141	324	636	10	54
BG		6		2	3	1	1				
B	2	530	500	318	161	467	10	21	125		8
O		65080	322	156	61	22		17600			1
HD											
CE		8815	19	45	3428	4292		5328			
W-wS		512	274	48	264	460		34	8		
SS		96	53	5	32	3		6	4		
BS		51	9	2	16	4		8	2		1
RD	22	10			2		1		1		15
HD	21	10		2	18	6	26		4	1	11
CM	33	23	11	178	336	43	40	9	1		307
R-bW	6	3376	41	91	661	2197		242	702		
G	1					1					
S-sH	1	7		2	2	2	2		1		1
CH											
R-tH	16	25	2	28	9		7	1	7	4	10
R-sH	1										
B-wH			1								
R-lH	1	4		6			1	3			
BE				1							
MH		34		4			1	5	4		
O											
PF			1					1			
M		5		1	1	2	1				
AK	19	25	14	17	9	16	18	1	9		2
RG	18			1	33	8	4			1	5
B				14	15		12				1
R-nP	20	43		32		8	4		3	8	19
CR					1						
VR		3		3	1	3		1			
CG		1									
AC	65	108	4		110	2	66		179		

Species	Athol	Buz.Bay	C. Ann	C. Cod	Concord	Gr.Bos.	Marsh.	M.V.
Killdeer			14		1	5	1	6
Black-bellied Plover			1	7		6		
Ruddy Turnstone								
American Woodcock				1		1		1
Common Snipe		14		14	2	2	1	5
Greater Yellowlegs		25	2	15		1		2
Red Knot							50	
Purple Sandpiper		2	33			12	1	7
<u>White-rumped Sandpiper</u>								
Dunlin		7	134	990		28	85	22
Long-billed Dowitcher				1		2		
<u>Marbled Godwit</u>								
Sanderling		4	32	314		40	4	18
<u>Pomarine Jaeger</u>				1				
Glaucous Gull								1
Iceland Gull		1				1		
Great Black-backed Gull		212	5053	1278	209	716	507	505
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull</u>								
Herring Gull	1	3113	11384	12196	1407	8786	3651	4150
Ring-billed Gull	5	192	336	403		815	91	955
Black-headed Gull				6				1
Laughing Gull		1				3		1
Bonaparte's Gull		261	509	157		601	126	1482
Little Gull								
Black-legged Kittiwake				16000			7	1
<u>Common Tern</u>				1				
Razorbill		1		18				10
Thick-billed Murre			1					
<u>Dovekie</u>							3	
Black Guillemot								
Rock Dove	153	261	414	65	678	2529	222	46
Mourning Dove	160	293	419	197	1098	322	79	193
Barn Owl				2				4
Screech Owl		13	2		24	21	1	1
Great Horned Owl		3	2	6	7	8	1	
Snowy Owl	1							
Barred Owl								
Long-eared Owl					2			
Short-eared Owl								
Saw-Whet Owl								
Belted Kingfisher			11	22	9	11		9
Common Flicker		45	3	91	7	27		50
Pileated Woodpecker	1		1		5			
Red-headed Woodpecker						1		
<u>Red-bellied Woodpecker</u>					1			1
Hairy Woodpecker	17	6	11	10	106	22	1	6
Downy Woodpecker	37	34	37	29	377	163	19	17
<u>Ash-throated Flycatcher</u>								
Eastern Phoebe								1
Horned Lark	22	32	78	45		29	25	70
Tree Swallow				1				2
Blue Jay	405	455	173	520	1174	357	49	137
Common Crow	78	389	500	498	1599	1085	219	225
Fish Crow					6	7		
Black-capped Chickadee	535	735	548	892	2578	921	224	496
Tufted Titmouse	53	72	37	30	497	150	48	
White-breasted Nuthatch	75	36	37	10	364	107	20	68
Red-breasted Nuthatch	9	5			10	2		1
Brown Creeper	7	11	6	7	43	28		4
<u>House Wren</u>				1		1	1	
Winter Wren		2	1	3	2	1		4
Carolina Wren		22		5		1	3	36
Long-billed Marsh Wren				12	2	1		
<u>Short-billed Marsh Wren</u>				1				
Mockingbird	6	146	43	81	144	141	20	10
Gray Catbird		11		9		4	1	5
Brown Thrasher		2		5		4		
American Robin	7	408	34	95	219	183	4	6

Sp.	Millis.	Nant.	N.B.	Newbpt.	Plym.	Quin.	Tau-Mb.	Tuck.	Westpt.	Wilm.	Worc.
K				1	7	5				1	
B-bP		15				10		8	8		
RT		1	2			7					
AW	1			1							
CS	1	5		8	3		1				1
GY			3								
RK											
PS		24	8	1	225			43			
W-rS				1							
D		14	55	120	78	162		5	175		
L-bD											
MG								1			
S		119	32	10	22	12		69	3		
PJ											
GC		4		1							
IG		21		7			1			1	
GB-bG	456	5646	51	355	606	647	341	239	65	25	105
LB-bG		4									
HG	3089	16483	1790	3367	4113	7731	1650	1958	1700	3550	805
R-bG	24	32	503	37	448	1644	105	3	291	3	6
B-hG				1							
LG			2			1					
BG		2651	70	169	17	922		573	253		
LG				5							
B-lK		819		4	14			28			
CT											
R		7			19				1		
T-bM											
D											
BG		3			3						
RD	538	99	478	385	181	423	488		11	457	474
MD	121	136	223	840	200	135	427		139	96	417
BO											
SO	3			28	7	1	7		3		
GHO	4		1	15		1	6		10		2
SO		1		1		1					
BO				3		1	3				
L-eO							2				
S-eO		4		1		1	1	1			
S-WO		5									
EK	3	4	8	6	2		2		2	2	5
CF	3	147	5	11	16		7	25	6	2	1
PW							1				1
R-hW	1										
R-bW	2						1				
HW	26		3	47		12	20		1	15	15
DW	83	5	28	80	22	89	59	6	10	31	69
A-tF									1		
EP					1						
HL		41		119	41	25	200		65	1	
TS											
BJ	348	69	272	405	331	318	471	23	65	201	482
CC	1014	305	249	567	149	350	260	9	31	61	223
FC	65										
B-eC	873	143	269	770	639	324	385	15	77	227	608
TT	179		81	41	45	108	182		18	104	50
W-bN	93	1	28	82	23	110	69	1	8	30	63
R-bN	1		2	3	14	1	1			9	14
BC	15		1	11	7	4	6		1	7	6
HW	1		1								
WW					2	1					
CW	1	1	10				2		12		
L-bMW		1						1			
S-bMW											
M	46	31	38	57	33	67	46		14	13	23
GC	1	7	1	1	1			5	8		1
BT					1				1	1	
AR	36	32	27	41	75	15	4	2	22	27	64

<u>Species</u>	<u>Athol</u>	<u>Buz.Bay</u>	<u>C. Ann</u>	<u>C. Cod</u>	<u>Concord</u>	<u>Gr.Bos.</u>	<u>Marsh.</u>	<u>M.V.</u>
Hermit Thrush		6		1	1	1	1	
<u>Swainson's Thrush</u>		1						
Eastern Bluebird				4				
Golden-crowned Kinglet		38	12	26	14	5	5	2
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		6	1	3	1	1	1	
Water Pipit								
Cedar Waxwing		40	25	45	36	10		
Northern Shrike	2		1		2	2		
Starling	922	1883	5335	4092	3668	98700	3090	3900
<u>White-eyed Vireo</u>		1						
Orange-crowned Warbler		1	1	4		1		
Yellow-rumped Warbler		387	161	1579	12	73	88	1015
Pine Warbler		1						
<u>Prairie Warbler</u>								
Palm Warbler		2		7		2		6
Common Yellowthroat		1		8	2	8		
Yellow-breasted Chat		3		2		3		
<u>Wilson's Warbler</u>						1		
House Sparrow	441	545	626	401	2855	953	295	140
Eastern Meadowlark		6	3	138	8	13	8	49
Red-winged Blackbird		8		25	58	175	1	4
Northern Oriole				4				
Rusty Blackbird	1				4			
<u>Brewer's Blackbird</u>								1
Common Grackle		4	2		8	1		205
Brown-headed Cowbird	5	3	1	1	153	28	6	50
<u>Western Tanager</u>				1				
Cardinal	34	180	45	142	232	149	19	32
Dickcissel				1		1	1	
Evening Grosbeak	555	18	48	6	676		12	
Purple Finch	15	15	6	2	97	6		2
House Finch	10	419	181	280	44	172	70	178
Common Redpoll								
Pine Siskin	2					2		
American Goldfinch	34	146	84	49	702	356	41	48
Red Crossbill			9					
White-winged Crossbill						34		
<u>Green-tailed Towhee</u>				1				
Rufous-sided Towhee		50		6	1	1	1	13
Savannah Sparrow		11	15	20	1	11	4	4
"Ipswich" Sparrow								
Sharp-tailed Sparrow				3		2		
<u>Seaside Sparrow</u>								
Vesper Sparrow								
Lark Sparrow								
Dark-eyed Junco	543	224	126	27	749	751	68	19
"Oregon" Junco						1		
Tree Sparrow	26	45	94	13	551	339	33	9
<u>Chipping Sparrow</u>		16		1			4	1
Field Sparrow		65	3	34	23	51	1	
<u>Harris' Sparrow</u>		1						
White-crowned Sparrow		1			1	2		
White-throated Sparrow	8	365	53	210	192	213	48	147
Fox Sparrow		3	2	1	2	11	1	
Swamp Sparrow		22	2	28	34	24	4	9
Song Sparrow		352	109	193	195	767	51	80
Lapland Longspur			3	6		10		
Snow Bunting		11	47	87			2	1

<u>Sp.</u>	<u>Millis</u>	<u>Nant.</u>	<u>N.B.</u>	<u>Newbpt.</u>	<u>Plym.</u>	<u>Quin.</u>	<u>Tau-Mb.</u>	<u>Tuck.</u>	<u>Westpt.</u>	<u>Wilm.</u>	<u>Worc.</u>
HT	3	1			2	4					
ST	1										
EB											
G-cK	19	6		11	34		3		1		19
R-cK			1	2	1		1	2			
Wp			7								
CW	13	2		154	22	100					6
NS	1	1		1	4						2
S	3539	3036	2077	10732	520	90000	12008	120	330	527	2068
W-eV											
O-cW											
Y-rW	1	3128	351	54	699	101	89	333	80		4
PW					1						
PW	1	48	8		1	1					
CW		2							1		
Y-bC		1	1						1		
WW											
HS	558	151	431	729	229	285	376		61	201	487
EM	2	34	3	33		4	43	28	45		
R-wB	1	11	4	6		52	5		1		19
NO		4			1						1
RB	3	2		1		10					
BB											
G	5	4	4			4	2	1	3		2
B-hC			29	5		15	12		55	56	
WT											
C	86	38	148	40	51	89	39	3	18	26	50
D				1							
EG	13	2	58	161	26	2	140			7	161
PF	12		6	12		13	28		2	2	5
HF	9	77	200	67	103	110	94		19	6	98
CR						4					
PS											
AG	131	7	99	130	86	155	150	16	24	77	109
RC											3
W-wC						2					
G-tT											
R-sT		3	10	1	1	4	2	5	2		
SS	3	27		3		2	1	4	7		
"I"S		4		1	4			1	2		
S-tS					1				1		
SS		1		3							
VS				1							
LS						1					
D-eT	387	10	98	138	181	410	160		23	50	317
"O"J											
TS	182	2	23	390	67	330	107		13	67	120
CS						4					
FS	5	3	20	2	15	68	25		18		1
HS											
W-cS			11	4		3		1			1
W-tS	19	37	154	65	62	111	33	9	36	5	53
FS	1			1		2		1	3		1
SS	15	5		22	18	38	3	4	7		1
SS	54	84	60	134	108	228	33	54	59	30	71
LL				15			2				
SB		3		225	28		43	3	7		3