

# Field Records:

## August 1981

by George W. Gove, Robert H. Stymeist, Lee E. Taylor



August 1981 was very dry and on the warm side. The temperature averaged 72.1°; the high mark was 90° on the 10th and 11th while the coolest day was August 26 with 51°. Rain totaled only 1.04 inches, 2.42 inches under normal and the least amount in August since 0.83 inches in 1972. This was the fifth driest August in 111 years of record. Variable totals fell in the Greater Boston area, but most areas were on the dry side. At Blue Hill, for example, only 0.53 inch was recorded, a new dry record for August since 1886. Walpole reported only 0.36 inch, the least amount of rain in this century! Northwest winds, those most favorable for autumn migrations, occurred on August 13, 16, 17, 18, 24 and 27.

### LOONS THROUGH HERONS

Summering loons occur each year; they are usually non-breeding birds, often sick or oiled, with most reports from the coastal locations and a few inland records. More astonishing was the discovery of a Red-necked Grebe off Monomoy on August 12. The only other recent summer sightings were on August 4, 1954 at Monomoy and, more recently, a completely breeding-plumaged bird was picked up dead on August 30, 1979 at Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. A total of not less than 50 Manx Shearwaters was noted on the Brookline Bird Club pelagic trip to Stellwagen Bank on August 23. There are only three other records of equal or better density: 50+ at Provincetown on September 25, 1977 and again on November 25, 1979; 120 at Sandy Neck, Barnstable on August 12, 1979. A summering, or a very early, Great Cormorant was carefully studied at Sandy Neck on August 27. In recent years early fall migrants have occurred in early September.

The heron roost at Plum Island is still the best show in town. Maximum counts were 13 Great Blue Heron, 11 Little Blue Heron, 14 Great Egret, 420+ Snowy Egret, 4 Louisiana Heron, and 25 Glossy Ibis. The best time to visit is on a weekday evening in August. Be sure to arrive at the Stage Island tower at least two hours before sunset.

R.H.S.

| SPECIES/DATE              | LOCATION                        | NUMBER   | OBSERVERS                   |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|
| Common Loon:              |                                 |          |                             |
| 1,30                      | Lakeville, S.Dartmouth          | 3, 6     | W.Petersen, R.Stymeist#     |
| Red-necked Grebe:         |                                 |          |                             |
| 12                        | off Monomoy                     | 1        | P.Trull                     |
| Pied-billed Grebe:        |                                 |          |                             |
| 16                        | P.I.                            | 4        | G.Gove#                     |
| Cory's Shearwater:        |                                 |          |                             |
| 12,16                     | 15 mi. east of Chatham, Stellw. | 60+, 75  | P.Trull, B.Nikula           |
| Greater Shearwater:       |                                 |          |                             |
| 23                        | Stellw.                         | 15       | BBC (W.Drummond)            |
| Sooty Shearwater:         |                                 |          |                             |
| 23                        | Stellw.                         | 30       | BBC (W.Drummond)            |
| Manx Shearwater:          |                                 |          |                             |
| 16,23                     | Stellw.                         | 15+, 50+ | B.Nikula, BBC (W.Drummond)  |
| 25                        | Barnstable (S.N.)               | 10       | R.Pease                     |
| Wilson's Storm-Petrel:    |                                 |          |                             |
| 23                        | Stellw.                         | 25       | BBC (W.Drummond)            |
| Gannet:                   |                                 |          |                             |
| 23,26                     | Stellw., Eastham                | 1, 18    | BBC (W.Drummond), B.Nikula  |
| Great Cormorant:          | (full details on file)          |          |                             |
| 27                        | Barnstable (S.N.)               | 1 imm.   | N.+ O.Komar, G.d'Entremont# |
| Double-crested Cormorant: |                                 |          |                             |
| 9                         | Monomoy, Westboro               | 42, 1    | BBC, L.Babbitt              |

| SPECIES/DATE                         | LOCATION                        | NUMBER         | OBSERVERS   |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|---|
| Double-crested Cormorant, continued: |                                 |                |   |
| 8,30                                 | P.I., Revere                    | 200, 200+      | BBC, C.Jackson#                                     |
| Great Blue Heron:                    |                                 |                |   |
| thr.                                 | P.I., Eastham (F.H.)            | max. 13        | 8/16, max. 62                                       |
| 9                                    | S.Hanson, Westboro              | 6, 7           | 8/30 v.o., J.Barton + v.o.<br>W.Petersen, L.Babbitt |
| Green Heron:                         |                                 |                |   |
| 29,30                                | Monomoy, S.Dartmouth            | 1, 4           | J.Barton#, J.Heywood#                               |
| Little Blue Heron:                   |                                 |                |   |
| thr.                                 | P.I. roost                      | max. 11        | (8 ad., 3 imm.) 8/23 R.Stymeist# + v.o.             |
| 13,17                                | Lakeville, Monomoy              | 1 ad., 2       | L.Pratt, W.Bailey#                                  |
| Cattle Egret:                        |                                 |                |   |
| 11,14;22                             | Ipswich                         | 3, 8; 20       | J.Berry; R.+ D.Hale                                 |
| 22                                   | Essex                           | 8              | P.Parsons#  |
| Great Egret:                         |                                 |                |   |
| thr.                                 | P.I. roost                      | max. 14        | 8/23 R.Stymeist# + v.o.                             |
| 23;30                                | E.Boston; S.Hanson, S.Dartmouth | 4;3,28         | S.Zendeh; W.Petersen, R.Stymeist#                   |
| Snowy Egret:                         |                                 |                |   |
| thr.                                 | P.I. roost                      | max. 420+      | 8/23 D.Arvidson# + v.o.                             |
| thr.                                 | E.Boston (Belle Isle)           | max. 230       | S.Zendeh# + v.o.                                    |
| thr.                                 | Monomoy                         | max. 100       | v.o.  |
| 29                                   | Barnstable (S.N.)               | 108            | J.Aylward   |
| Louisiana Heron:                     |                                 |                |   |
| thr.                                 | P.I. roost                      | max. 4         | 8/23 D.Arvidson# + v.o.                             |
| Black-crowned Night Heron:           |                                 |                |   |
| 5,29                                 | Saugus, P.I.                    | 6, 10+         | J.Berry   |
| Yellow-crowned Night Heron:          |                                 |                |   |
| 1,3                                  | P.I.                            | 1, 2 ad.       | BBC   |
| Least Bittern:                       |                                 |                |   |
| 1;2                                  | P.I.; W.Harwich, Hull           | 1; 1, 1        | E.Nielsen; J.Hines, W.Hanley                        |
| 6,14                                 | Wayland, P.I.                   | 1, 1           | J.Hines, S.Loring + R.Emery                         |
| Glossy Ibis:                         |                                 |                |   |
| thr.                                 | P.I., M.V.                      | max. 25        | 8/22, 10 G.Gove# + v.o., V.Laux                     |
| thr.                                 | Monomoy, E.Boston               | max. 9, max. 4 | v.o., S.Zendeh#                                     |
| 8                                    | Sandwich                        | 12             | J.Aylward   |

#### WATERFOWL

A summering Brant was found throughout the month on Martha's Vineyard. Ring-necked Ducks arrived early at Lakeville again this year. It was a very good year for Wood Ducks, especially numerous near Concord. Hooded Mergansers were found throughout the month at Stage Island Pool, Plum Island. R.H.S.

|                    |                         |              |                                 |
|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| Brant:             |                         |              |                                 |
| thr.               | M.V.                    | 1            | V.Laux                          |
| Mallard:           |                         |              |                                 |
| thr.               | Newton                  | 114          | N.+ O.Komar                     |
| Gadwall:           |                         |              |                                 |
| thr.,22            | P.I., Monomoy           | max. 50, 12+ | S.Henderson#+v.o., W.Harrington |
| Pintail:           |                         |              |                                 |
| thr.               | P.I.                    | max. 6       | 8/29 BBC                        |
| Green-winged Teal: |                         |              |                                 |
| 16,22              | P.I., Monomoy           | 25, 100+     | S.Henderson#, B.Nikula#         |
| Blue-winged Teal:  |                         |              |                                 |
| 16,22              | P.I., Monomoy           | 125, 75+     | S.Henderson#, B.Nikula#         |
| Northern Shoveler: |                         |              |                                 |
| 22                 | Monomoy                 | 12+          | B.Nikula#                       |
| Wood Duck:         |                         |              |                                 |
| 1,12               | P.I., S.Hanson          | 15, 25       | E.Nielsen, W.Petersen           |
| 22,26              | Concord, Hyannis        | 7, 2         | BBC, J.Aylward                  |
| 30,31              | Weston, Newton          | 15+, 6       | J.Hines, N.+ O.Komar            |
| Ring-necked Duck:  |                         |              |                                 |
| 30                 | Lakeville               | 10           | W.Petersen                      |
| Common Eider:      |                         |              |                                 |
| 22,30              | Manchester, S.Dartmouth | 1, 33        | J.Berry, R.Stymeist#            |
| Surf Scoter:       |                         |              |                                 |
| 22                 | Manchester              | 7            | J.Berry                         |
| Ruddy Duck:        |                         |              |                                 |
| thr.               | P.I.                    | max. 8       | v.o.                            |
| Hooded Merganser:  |                         |              |                                 |
| 1-22,23,26         | P.I.                    | 1, 2, 4      | v.o., R.Forster, R.Forster      |

| <u>SPECIES/DATE</u>  | <u>LOCATION</u>                          | <u>NUMBER</u>   | <u>OBSERVERS</u>                                    |
|--|--|---|---|
| Red-breasted Merganser:<br>thr.  | P.I.                                     | max. 7  | v.o.  |
| <u>RAPTORS</u>   |  |   |   |
| A very early adult Peregrine Falcon was found at Scituate on August 2 and 3. It is not known whether this bird was a Cornell Peregrine. Another Peregrine Falcon was found at Plum Island and presumably the same bird was present at Ipswich at the end of the month. |  |   | R.H.S.  |
| Turkey Vulture:<br>7-8, 11+23<br>27, 30  | Ipswich, Westboro<br>N.Braintree, P'town | 1, 1 + 1<br>8, 1  | J.Nove, J.Hines + L.Babbitt<br>D.Crompton, J.Barton |
| Goshawk:<br>27, 29   | Annisquam                                | 1, 1  | H.Wiggin  |
| Cooper's Hawk:<br>15   | P.I.                                     | 1   | G.Gove#   |
| Red-shouldered Hawk:<br>17   | Topsfield (IRWS)                         | 1 ad.   | R.Scott   |
| Broad-winged Hawk:<br>21-31  | Newton                                   | 9   | N.+ O.Komar   |
| Northern Harrier (Marsh Hawk):<br>thr.   | P.I.                                     | max. 4  | v.o.  |
| Osprey:<br>30  | Lakeville, Westport                      | 2 yg.in nest, 21  | W.Petersen, R.Stymeist#                             |
|  |  | Other reports of 1-2 individuals made a total of 12 early migrants. |   |
| Peregrine Falcon:<br>2-3<br>29, 30   | Scituate<br>P.I., Ipswich                | 1 ad.<br>2, 1   | D.Clapp, W.Petersen<br>G.Gove, T.Duquette           |

#### RAILS THROUGH SKIMMERS

American Oystercatchers increased on Monomoy with 34 being seen there on the 2nd. Up-land Sandpipers were seen on the Vineyard throughout the month with a maximum of 18 reported. With the drought conditions of this year causing inland ponds to dry up, many shorebirds frequented the muddy edges of these ponds providing a number of reports of various shorebirds from these locations. Red Knots continued at Scituate with a maximum of 2800 seen there. According to Bailey (*Birds in Massachusetts*, 1955), "The favored localities of Scituate, Outer Cape and Plymouth will normally produce from 500 to 2000 birds on a day's trip. The highest count...was 4500, seen at Scituate...on 8/13/50..." A maximum of 5000 Semipalmated Sandpipers was also reported from Scituate. The only Marbled Godwits reported were two from Monomoy. Hudsonian Godwits were seen throughout the month in the Newburyport-Plum Island area and on Monomoy where a maximum of 125 were recorded. G.W.G.

A single Bonaparte's Gull was reported from Lakeville although not normally reported from inland locations. The Bonaparte's has an overland migration route but is usually seen along the coast in Massachusetts. An adult Sabine's Gull was reported from Stellwagen Bank. Forster's Terns were reported from four locations with a maximum of five terns on Monomoy where six Black Terns were also seen. Black Skimmers were reported from six locations ranging from Ipswich to Fairhaven.

|  |                                  |                                  |   |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Virginia Rail:<br>3,13<br>22                         | P.I., Wayland<br>GMNWR           | 1, 3<br>1                        | BBC, J.Hines<br>BBC                             |
| <u>Sora:</u>   |                                  |                                  |   |
| 6, 13, 21  | Wayland                          | 1 imm., 1 ad.                    | J.Hines   |
| Common Gallinule:<br>1,15<br>21;22                   | P.I.<br>GMNWR                    | 9, 3<br>3 ad., 8 imm.; 6         | BBC, E.Nielsen<br>J.Hines; BBC                  |
| American Coot:<br>1,22                               | P.I.                             | 2, 1                             | E.Nielsen, BBC                                  |
| American Oystercatcher:<br>2,8<br>17,29<br>21        | Monomoy, M.V.<br>Monomoy<br>M.V. | 34, 3<br>30, 12<br>12            | BBC, Mr.Cady<br>W.Bailey, O.+ N.Komar<br>V.Laux |
| Semipalmated Sandpiper:<br>2,3,7<br>1,3,16<br>2,9,29 | Scituate<br>P.I.<br>Monomoy      | max. 450<br>max. 200<br>max. 200 | W.Petersen<br>BBC<br>BBC                        |

| SPECIES/DATE                       | LOCATION               | NUMBER           | OBSERVERS             |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Semipalmated Sandpiper, continued: |                        |                  |                       |
| 14,23,30                           | Revere                 | max. 50          | S.Zendeh, BBC         |
| 14,16                              | Lexington, S.Dartmouth | 34, 45           | J.Andrews, T.Raymond  |
| Piping Plover:                     |                        |                  |                       |
| 2,9,29                             | Monomoy                | max. 10          | v.o.                  |
| 8,9                                | P.I., Ipswich          | 2, 2             | BBC, J.Berry          |
| 30                                 | Acoaxet                | 7                | R.Stymeist            |
| Killdeer:                          |                        |                  |                       |
| 3,29;9,11                          | P.I.; Westboro         | max. 10; max. 45 | BBC; J.Hines          |
| 14,21                              | Revere, Newton         | 3, 12            | S.Zendeh, O.+ N.Komar |
| 30                                 | Lakeville              | 4                | D.Briggs              |
| American Golden Plover:            |                        |                  |                       |
| 22,26,29                           | P.I.                   | 1, 3, 2          | v.o.                  |
| 2,22,30                            | Monomoy; M.V.          | 1; 3, 4          | BBC; V.Laux           |
| 23,29                              | E.Boston, Newburyport  | 1, 1             | S.Zendeh, BBC         |
| Black-bellied Plover:              |                        |                  |                       |
| 1,2,16,29                          | P.I.                   | max. 700         | BBC                   |
| 9,29                               | Monomoy                | max. 300         | BBC, J.Barton         |
| 14                                 | Revere                 | 175              | S.Zendeh              |
| Ruddy Turnstone:                   |                        |                  |                       |
| 1,15,29                            | P.I.                   | max. 39          | v.o.                  |
| 2,9                                | Monomoy                | 5, 20            | BBC                   |
| 3                                  | Scituate               | 100              | W.Petersen            |
| 16,30                              | S.Dartmouth            | 7, 65            | T.Raymond, R.Stymeist |
| Common Snipe:                      |                        |                  |                       |
| 15,22                              | WBWS, Wayland          | 1, 1             | J.Hines               |
| 22,29                              | P.I.                   | 1, 1             | BBC                   |
| Whimbrel:                          |                        |                  |                       |
| 1,17,29                            | Monomoy                | 4, 20, 25        | v.o.                  |
| 2,23,26,29                         | P.I.                   | max. 8           | v.o.                  |
| 11,16                              | Annisquam, S.Dartmouth | 1, 4             | H.Wiggin, T.Raymond   |
| 3,30                               | Scituate, Chatham      | 2, 5             | W.Petersen, BBC       |
| 4,15                               | WBWS                   | 51, 17           | J.Hines               |
| Upland Sandpiper:                  |                        |                  |                       |
| 1;8,29                             | Newburyport            | 8; 3, 1          | G.Gove; BBC           |
| 23                                 | Newbury-Newbypt        | 9                | R.Forster             |
| 29                                 | Ipswich                | 4                | R.Stymeist            |
| thr.                               | Martha's Vineyard      | max. 18          | V.Laux                |
| 6;13,14                            | Monomoy; Chatham       | 1; 1,2           | B.Nikula              |
| Spotted Sandpiper:                 |                        |                  |                       |
| 1,22,29                            | P.I.                   | max. 4           | BBC                   |
| 9,18                               | Westboro, Woburn       | 7, 4             | L.Babbitt, C.Jackson  |
| 30                                 | S.Dartmouth            | 10               | R.Stymeist#           |
| Solitary Sandpiper:                |                        |                  |                       |
| 9,16                               | Concord                | 2, 5             | J.Carter, R.Walton    |
| 11,13;14                           | Lexington              | max. 3           | J.Carter; J.Andrews   |
| 18                                 | Woburn                 | 4                | C.Jackson             |
| 9                                  | S.Hanson               | 5                | W.Petersen            |
| 22,30                              | Wayland, Weston        | 3, 2             | J.Hines               |
| Willet:                            |                        |                  |                       |
| 1,2,9,29                           | Monomoy                | max. 16          | v.o.                  |
| Greater Yellowlegs:                |                        |                  |                       |
| 16,22                              | P.I.                   | max. 180         | G.Gove#, BBC          |
| 14,30                              | Revere                 | 80, 80           | S.Zendeh, BBC         |
| Lesser Yellowlegs:                 |                        |                  |                       |
| 1,8                                | P.I.                   | max. 50          | BBC                   |
| 9,13                               | Lexington              | max. 7           | J.Andrews, J.Carter   |
| Red Knot:                          |                        |                  |                       |
| 3                                  | Scituate               | 2800             | W.Petersen            |
| 8,17,29                            | P.I.                   | 4, 20, 9         | BBC, C.Ewer, G.Gove#  |
| 2,9,29                             | Monomoy                | 430, 4; 50       | BBC; E.Nielsen#       |
| 14,30                              | Revere                 | 13, 1            | S.Zendeh, BBC         |
| Pectoral Sandpiper:                |                        |                  |                       |
| thr.                               | P.I.                   | max. 25          | v.o.                  |
| 9,11                               | Westboro               | 2, 3             | J.Hines, L.Babbitt    |
| 11                                 | Lexington              | 4                | J.Carter              |
| White-rumped Sandpiper:            |                        |                  |                       |
| thr.                               | P.I.                   | max. 150         | v.o.                  |
| 30                                 | E.Boston               | 17               | BBC                   |

| SPECIES/DATE             | LOCATION               | NUMBER    | OBSERVERS                 |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|
| Baird's Sandpiper:       |                        |           |                           |
| 15,17,22                 | P.I.                   | 1, 1, 2   | v.o.                      |
| 20-22                    | Monomoy                | 1         | W.Bailey#                 |
| 30                       | M.V.                   | 2         | V.Laux                    |
| Least Sandpiper:         |                        |           |                           |
| 9,23                     | Westboro               | 25, 45    | L.Babbitt                 |
| 16,29                    | P.I.                   | 50, 40    | BBC                       |
| Short-billed Dowitcher:  |                        |           |                           |
| thr.                     | P.I.                   | max. 30   | BBC                       |
| 9,29                     | Monomoy                | 90, 10    | BBC, J.Barton#            |
| 14,23                    | Revere                 | 100, 23   | S.Zendeh                  |
| Long-billed Dowitcher:   |                        |           |                           |
| 1,23,29                  | P.I.                   | 2, 65, 2  | E.Nielsen, R.Forster, BBC |
| 23,26                    | E.Boston, Chatham      | 2, 1      | S.Zendeh, B.Nikula        |
| Stilt Sandpiper:         |                        |           |                           |
| 1-23                     | P.I.                   | max. 18   | v.o.                      |
| 4,30                     | WBWS                   | 5, 2      | J.Hines, BBC              |
| 17,29                    | Monomoy                | 1, 2      | W.Bailey#, O.+ N.Komar#   |
| Semipalmated Sandpiper:  |                        |           |                           |
| 16,29                    | P.I.                   | 100, 500  | BBC                       |
| 2,9                      | Monomoy                | max. 300  | BBC                       |
| 2,3                      | Scituate               | max. 5000 | W.Petersen                |
| 14                       | Revere                 | max. 4000 | S.Zendeh                  |
| Western Sandpiper:       |                        |           |                           |
| 2,8                      | Monomoy, Annisquam     | 1, 1      | BBC, H.Wiggin             |
| 26,29                    | P.I.                   | 1, 2      | R.Forster, G.Gove         |
| 30                       | E.Boston               | 1         | BBC                       |
| Buff-breasted Sandpiper: |                        |           |                           |
| 26,29                    | P.I.                   | 1, 3      | R.Forster, J.Berry        |
| 17,29                    | Monomoy                | 1, 2      | W.Bailey, W.Harrington    |
| 28                       | M.V.                   | 4         | V.Laux                    |
| 30                       | Newton                 | 1         | M.Myerson#                |
| Marbled Godwit:          |                        |           |                           |
| 18,23,29                 | Monomoy                | max. 2    | v.o.                      |
| Hudsonian Godwit:        |                        |           |                           |
| thr.                     | P.I.                   | max. 24   | v.o.                      |
| thr.                     | Newbypt Harbor         | max. 32   | G.Gove                    |
| thr.                     | Monomoy                | max. 125  | v.o.                      |
| 3,28                     | Scituate, M.V.         | 1, 2      | W.Petersen, V.Laux        |
| 14,16                    | Revere                 | 53, 30    | S.Zendeh#                 |
| Sanderling:              |                        |           |                           |
| thr.                     | Monomoy                | max. 700  | v.o.                      |
| 15,24                    | P.I.                   | max. 40   | BBC                       |
| 30                       | E.Boston               | 100       | BBC                       |
| Wilson's Phalarope:      |                        |           |                           |
| thr.                     | P.I.                   | max. 5    | v.o.                      |
| 23;15,23                 | Monomoy; M.V.          | 2; 1, 3   | v.o.; V.Laux              |
| 14,16,23                 | Revere                 | 2, 2, 1   | S.Zendeh#                 |
| Northern Phalarope:      |                        |           |                           |
| 22-29                    | P.I.                   | 1         | v.o.                      |
| 16,30;23                 | Stellwagen             | 7, 5; 6   | B.Nikula; BBC             |
| 18,26                    | Nauset, Monomoy        | 1, 5      | B.Nikula                  |
| 25,26                    | Barnstable, Eastham    | 46, 5     | R.Pease, B.Nikula         |
| Pomarine Jaeger:         |                        |           |                           |
| 25,30                    | Barnstable, Stellw.    | 6, 1      | R.Pease, B.Nikula#        |
| Parasitic Jaeger:        |                        |           |                           |
| 16,30;25                 | Stellwagen; Barnstable | 5; 15     | B.Nikula; R.Pease         |
| Black-headed Gull:       |                        |           |                           |
| 1,22                     | P.I.                   | 1         | E.Nielsen#                |
| Laughing Gull:           |                        |           |                           |
| thr.                     | Monomoy                | max. 450  | BBC                       |
| 15,17                    | P.I.                   | 1         | BBC                       |
| 30                       | Hingham, Westport      | 40, 100   | N.Osborne, R.Stymeist#    |
| 14,23                    | Nahant, Stellw.        | 80, 25    | S.Zendeh, BBC             |
| Bonaparte's Gull:        |                        |           |                           |
| 1,8                      | Lakeville, P.I.        | 1, 60     | W.Petersen, BBC           |
| 14                       | Revere                 | 500       | S.Zendeh                  |
| Little Gull:             |                        |           |                           |
| thr.                     | Newbypt-P.I.           | max. 3    | v.o.                      |

| <u>SPECIES/DATE</u>     | <u>LOCATION</u>       | <u>NUMBER</u>    | <u>OBSERVERS</u>      |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Black-legged Kittiwake: |                       |                  |                       |
| thr.                    | Monomoy               | max. 8           | v.o.                  |
| 17                      | P.I.                  | 1                | C.Ewer                |
| <u>Sabine's Gull:</u>   |                       |                  |                       |
| 30                      | Stellw.               | 1 ad.            | B.Nikula#             |
| Forster's Tern:         |                       |                  |                       |
| thr.                    | Monomoy               | max. 5           | v.o.                  |
| 1,2                     | Nantucket             | 1                | N.Jenks-Jay           |
| 17                      | P.I.                  | 2                | C.Ewer                |
| 23                      | Stellwagen            | 2                | BBC                   |
| Common Tern:            |                       |                  |                       |
| 30                      | Stellwagen            | 4000             | B.Nikula              |
| 18                      | Nauset                | 3000             | B.Nikula              |
| Arctic Tern:            |                       |                  |                       |
| thr.                    | Monomoy               | max. 4           | v.o.                  |
| Roseate Tern:           |                       |                  |                       |
| 6,18                    | P'town, Nauset        | 800, 1000        | P.Trull#, B.Nikula    |
| Least Tern:             |                       |                  |                       |
| thr.                    | P.I.                  | max. 50          | v.o.                  |
| 2, 9                    | Monomoy               | 4                | BBC                   |
| 30                      | S.Dartmouth, Westport | 75, 25           | R.Stymeist#           |
| Black Tern:             |                       |                  |                       |
| 3                       | Scituate              | 1                | W.Petersen            |
| 16,22                   | P.I.                  | 2, 1             | G.Gove#               |
| 17-30                   | Monomoy               | max. 6           | v.o.                  |
| Black Skimmer:          |                       |                  |                       |
| 1,2;25                  | Nantucket, Chatham    | 1; 1 ad., 1 imm. | N.Jenks-Jay; R.Comeau |
| 8,9                     | Sandwich, Fairhaven   | 1 imm., 2 imm.   | J.Aylward, R.Barnhart |
| 23                      | Ipswich               | 1 imm.           | T.Duquette            |
| 29,30                   | Scituate              | max. 4           | v.o.                  |

#### CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

The Common Nighthawk migration got under way August 19. The great majority of night-hawks migrate through the Connecticut valley area and this year was no exception. There were, however, some large flights noted near Boston with 422 counted in Brookline, 76 in Newton, 104 in Framingham-Sudbury, and 45 in Belmont. A full report of the 1981 Common Nighthawk migration statewide is available through the Natural History Services, Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln, MA 01773. Be sure to enclose a large, self-addressed, stamped envelope. R.H.S.

|                            |                            |                 |                                      |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mourning Dove:             |                            |                 |                                      |
| 21-31                      | Newton                     | 56              | N.+ O.Komar                          |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo:      |                            |                 |                                      |
| 1-19                       | 5 loc.                     | 9 ind.          | v.o.                                 |
| Black-billed Cuckoo:       |                            |                 |                                      |
| 1,21,22                    | P.I., Concord, Newton      | 1, 1, 1         | BBC, J.Hines, N.+ O.Komar            |
| Screech Owl:               |                            |                 |                                      |
| thr.                       | 5 loc.                     | 10 ind.         | v.o.                                 |
| Great Horned Owl:          |                            |                 |                                      |
| thr.                       | 4 loc.                     | 7 ind.          | v.o.                                 |
| Short-eared Owl:           |                            |                 |                                      |
| thr.                       | Monomoy                    | max. 5          | v.o.                                 |
| Saw-whet Owl:              |                            |                 |                                      |
| 18 on                      | Middleboro                 | 1               | D.Briggs                             |
| Common Nighthawk:          |                            |                 |                                      |
| 18-26,18-31                | Newton, Sudbury-Framingham | totals: 76, 104 | N.+ O.Komar, R.Forster               |
| 19-28,22-24                | Brookline, Belmont         | totals: 422, 45 | R.Stymeist, J.Heywood                |
| 17,22                      | Concord, Rutland           | 19, 125         | W.Wyman, L.Babbitt                   |
| 23,30                      | Worcester, Weston          | 20, 11          | D.Crompton#, J.Hines                 |
| Chimney Swift:             |                            |                 |                                      |
| 28                         | Brookline                  | 40              | R.Stymeist                           |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird: |                            |                 |                                      |
| 30                         | W.Newbury                  | 1               | V.Albee#                             |
| Common Flicker:            |                            |                 |                                      |
| 18-31                      | Newton                     | 29              | N.+ O.Komar                          |
| Pileated Woodpecker:       |                            |                 |                                      |
| 6,10,27                    | Norwell, Duxbury, Lincoln  | 1, 1, 1         | fide W.Petersen, A.Leitas, R.Forster |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:  |                            |                 |                                      |
| 17                         | Topsfield (IRWS)           | 1 imm.          | R.Scott                              |

| <u>SPECIES/DATE</u>        | <u>LOCATION</u> | <u>NUMBER</u> | <u>OBSERVERS</u> |
|----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|
| Hairy Woodpecker:<br>18-31 | Newton          | 6             | N.+ O.Komar      |
| Downy Woodpecker:<br>18-31 | Newton          | 35            | N.+ O.Komar      |

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SPARROWS

A roost, predominantly of American Robins but also including some Common Grackles, was discovered in a red maple swamp on the Woburn/Lexington line. The first of two careful counts of birds entering the roost turned up 4100 individuals, a large number but not inconsistent with other historical records. Further details will be published subsequently in Bird Observer. As in July, an early report of a Swainson's Thrush was received, this time from Plum Island. It would be interesting in the future to watch more closely for these inconspicuous birds in order to determine to what extent they regularly occur in the late summer months.

A general migratory movement of passersines commenced on the 23rd and continued through the last week of the month. Vireos and warblers were especially noticeable at coastal sites with some nice southern rarities being reported. Two Prothonotary Warblers (both sexes) were seen on Cape Cod on the 28th and 29th, two of the heaviest migration days. At Marblehead Neck, a Kentucky Warbler was seen on the 24th. A week later, another Southern skulker, a male Hooded Warbler, was observed there.

Some unusually early individual migrants were noted during the big movement of the last week of the month. On Martha's Vineyard, the Rusty Blackbird which turned up on the 29th was early by a good three to four weeks. The August 23rd Pine Siskin there was also a bit of a surprise although this could presage a situation similar to last year when the siskins pushed right through eastern Massachusetts early to winter farther south. Lincoln's Sparrows typically arrive in our area beginning in mid-September, so the individual which spent the last week of August in Baldwinville was noteworthy.

L.E.T.

|                            |                        |                         |                         |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Eastern Kingbird:          |                        |                         |                         |
| thr., 16-22                | P.I., GMNWR            | 50+, 20+                | v.o., BBC               |
| 25, 30                     | Wayland, Truro         | 10, 10                  | J.Hines, BBC            |
| Great-crested Flycatcher:  |                        |                         |                         |
| thr.                       | 3 loc.                 | 8 ind.                  | v.o.                    |
| Eastern Phoebe:            |                        |                         |                         |
| thr.                       | 3 loc.                 | 6 ind.                  | v.o.                    |
| Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: |                        |                         |                         |
| 13, 20                     | M.V., Newton           | 1, 1                    | V.Laux, N.Komar         |
| 22, 30                     | Monomoy, S.Dartmouth   | 1, 2                    | B.Nikula, J.Heywood#    |
| Least Flycatcher:          |                        |                         |                         |
| 24, 30                     | MNWS, Framingham       | 1, 2 calling            | J.MacDougall, R.Forster |
| Empidonax sp.:             |                        |                         |                         |
| 21-30                      | Concord-Wayland-Weston | 6                       | J.Hines                 |
| 26, 30                     | P.I., MNWS             | 3, 2                    | R.Forster#, J.Grugan    |
| Eastern Wood Pewee:        |                        |                         |                         |
| 24, 26                     | Weston, P.I.           | 2, 3                    | J.Hines, R.Forster#     |
| 30                         | Westport               | 2 calling               | R.Stymeist#             |
| Olive-sided Flycatcher:    |                        |                         |                         |
| 18                         | Gloucester             | 1                       | C.Leahy                 |
| Horned Lark:               |                        |                         |                         |
| 1, 29                      | P.I., Monomoy          | 8, 5                    | BBC, J.Barton#          |
| Tree Swallow:              |                        |                         |                         |
| thr.                       | P.I.                   | 10000-50000 (max. 8/17) | v.o.                    |
| 30                         | Westport area          | 6000                    | J.Heywood#              |
| Bank Swallow:              |                        |                         |                         |
| 1, 22                      | P.I.                   | 10, 400                 | BBC, R.Stymeist         |
| Barn Swallow:              |                        |                         |                         |
| thr., 21                   | P.I., Wayland          | 2000 max. 8/3, 800+     | BBC, J.Hines            |
| Cliff Swallow:             |                        |                         |                         |
| 1                          | Lakeville              | 1                       | W.Petersen              |
| Purple Martin:             |                        |                         |                         |
| 3, 29                      | P.I.                   | 100, 1                  | BBC                     |
| 5, 20                      | S.Orleans, Weston      | 17+, 2                  | B.Nikula#, J.Hines      |
| Fish Crow:                 |                        |                         |                         |
| 22                         | Natick                 | 5+ calling              | J.Hines                 |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch:     |                        |                         |                         |
| 1, 3                       | Lakeville, S.Wellfleet | 5, 4                    | W.Petersen, J.Hines     |
| 30                         | Chatham, MNWS          | 1, 1                    | BBC, J.Grugan#          |

| SPECIES/DATE                         | LOCATION                   | NUMBER                 | OBSERVERS                |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Brown Creeper:                       |                            |                        |                          |
| 3                                    | S.Wellfleet                | 3                      | J.Hines                  |
| Carolina Wren:                       |                            |                        |                          |
| 30                                   | Westport-S.Dartmouth       | 6                      | R.Stymeist#              |
| Long-billed Marsh Wren (Marsh Wren): |                            |                        |                          |
| 16-22,22                             | MNWR, Wayland              | 8 max., 8              | v.o., J.Hines            |
| Northern Mockingbird:                |                            |                        |                          |
| 18-31,29                             | Newton, P.I.               | total 61, 18           | N.+ O.Komar, BBC         |
| Gray Catbird:                        |                            |                        |                          |
| 8-29,18-31                           | P.I., Newton               | 45 max. 8/29, total 88 | v.o., N.+ O.Komar        |
| American Robin:                      |                            |                        |                          |
| 26, 17                               | Woburn, Stoneham           | 4100 (roost), 200      | J.Andrews#, M.Martineck  |
| Wood Thrush:                         |                            |                        |                          |
| 18-31,26                             | Newton, Weston             | total 7, 4             | N.+ O.Komar, J.Hines     |
| Swainson's Thrush:                   |                            |                        |                          |
| 9; 10                                | P.I., W.Newbury; Littleton | 1, 2; 2                | W.Petersen; J.Baird      |
| 11-31                                | Wayland-Weston             | 6 max. 8/20            | J.Hines                  |
| 20,21                                | Newton, MNWS               | 1, 4                   | N.Komar, R.Stymeist#     |
| Gray-cheeked Thrush:                 |                            |                        |                          |
| 28                                   | Worcester                  | 1                      | D.+ V.Crompton           |
| Veery:                               |                            |                        |                          |
| 18,25                                | Littleton, Newton          | 3, 3                   | J.Baird, N.+ O.Komar     |
| 29                                   | P.I.; Wayland, Weston      | 1; 3, 2                | BBC: J.Hines             |
| Eastern Bluebird:                    |                            |                        |                          |
| 11,20                                | Westboro, Milton           | 7, 2                   | J.Hines, H.Ellis         |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:               |                            |                        |                          |
| 18,22                                | Chatham, Newton            | 3, 1                   | B.Nikula, N.+ O.Komar    |
| Cedar Waxwing:                       |                            |                        |                          |
| 12,18-31                             | S.Hanson, Newton           | 35, total 111          | W.Petersen, N.+ O.Komar  |
| 15,29                                | Annisquam, P.I.            | 49, 20                 | H.Wiggin, BBC            |
| White-eyed Vireo:                    |                            |                        |                          |
| 30                                   | Westport                   | 6 singing              | J.Heywood#               |
| Yellow-throated Vireo:               |                            |                        |                          |
| 30                                   | MNWS                       | 1                      | J.Grujan#                |
| Red-eyed Vireo:                      |                            |                        |                          |
| 29                                   | P.I.                       | 5-6 singing m.         | J.Berry                  |
| Philadelphia Vireo:                  |                            |                        |                          |
| 24                                   | Littleton                  | 1                      | J.Baird                  |
| Warbling Vireo:                      |                            |                        |                          |
| 9,13                                 | W.Newbury, Wayland         | 2, 1                   | W.Petersen, J.Hines      |
| Black-and-white Warbler:             |                            |                        |                          |
| 8,27                                 | W.Newbury, Wayland         | 1, 2                   | BBC, J.Hines             |
| Prothonotary Warbler:                |                            |                        |                          |
| 28,29                                | Monomoy, Chatham           | 1 f., 1 m.             | C.Goodrich, N.+ O.Komar# |
| Worm-eating Warbler:                 |                            |                        |                          |
| 3,22                                 | Lincoln, MNWS              | 1, 1                   | P.Murphy, J.MacDougall   |
| Golden-winged Warbler:               |                            |                        |                          |
| 29                                   | P.I.                       | 1                      | BBC                      |
| Blue-winged Warbler:                 |                            |                        |                          |
| 9,11                                 | Westboro, Wayland          | 1, 1                   | L.Babbitt, J.Hines       |
| 26,30                                | Chatham, MNWS              | 4, 2                   | B.Nikula, M.Lynch#       |
| Tennessee Warbler:                   |                            |                        |                          |
| 18-31                                | Wayland-Weston             | total 38               | J.Hines                  |
| 26,30                                | P.I., MNWS                 | 6, 1                   | R.Forster#, SSBC         |
| Nashville Warbler:                   |                            |                        |                          |
| 29,31                                | P.I., Wayland              | 1, 2                   | BBC, J.Hines             |
| Yellow Warbler:                      |                            |                        |                          |
| 1,16                                 | M.V., P.I.                 | 40, 20                 | V.Laux, BBC              |
| 24                                   | Belmont                    | 2 "last"               | L.Robinson               |
| Magnolia Warbler:                    |                            |                        |                          |
| 24,29                                | Wayland, P.I.              | 1, 4                   | J.Hines, BBC             |
| Cape May Warbler:                    |                            |                        |                          |
| 15,19                                | P.I., Annisquam            | 2, 10                  | D.Stemple, H.Wiggin      |
| 24,29                                | Littleton, P.I.            | 2, 35                  | J.Baird, BBC             |
| Black-throated Blue Warbler:         |                            |                        |                          |
| 29,30                                | P.I., Chatham              | 1, 1                   | BBC                      |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler:               |                            |                        |                          |
| 1                                    | Lakeville                  | 1 f. (from July)       | W.Petersen               |
| Blackburnian Warbler:                |                            |                        |                          |
| 18                                   | Littleton, Wayland         | 2, 1                   | J.Baird, J.Hines         |

| SPECIES/DATE            | LOCATION             | NUMBER          | OBSERVERS                  |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Chestnut-sided Warbler: |                      |                 |                            |
| 18,24                   | Littleton, Weston    | 1, 1            | J.Baird, J.Hines           |
| 26,30                   | P.I., Chatham        | 1, 1            | R.Forster, BBC             |
| Bay-breasted Warbler:   |                      |                 |                            |
| 30                      | P.I., Chatham        | 3, 1            | BBC                        |
| Blackpoll Warbler:      |                      |                 |                            |
| 24-30                   | 3 loc.               | 5 ind.          | v.o.                       |
| Pine Warbler:           |                      |                 |                            |
| 30                      | MNWS                 | 1               | S.Carroll#                 |
| Prairie Warbler:        |                      |                 |                            |
| 9,23                    | Westboro             | 5, 2            | L.Babbitt                  |
| Ovenbird:               |                      |                 |                            |
| 9,24                    | P.I., MNWS           | 1, 4            | W.Petersen, J.MacDougall   |
| 25,26                   | Weston, P.I.         | 1, 1            | J.Hines, R.Forster         |
| Northern Waterthrush:   |                      |                 |                            |
| 1,2                     | Chatham, P.I.        | 1, 2            | J.Hines, E.Nielsen         |
| 3-30                    | 6 loc.               | 20 ind.         | v.o.                       |
| Kentucky Warbler:       |                      |                 |                            |
| 24                      | MNWS                 | 1               | J.MacDougall               |
| Mourning Warbler:       |                      |                 |                            |
| 24,25                   | Cohasset, N.Scituate | 1, 1            | R.Viet                     |
| Common Yellowthroat:    |                      |                 |                            |
| 22,30                   | Monomoy, S.Dartmouth | 40, 25          | W.Harrington#, R.Stymeist# |
| Yellow-breasted Chat:   |                      |                 |                            |
| 26,28                   | Chatham, Monomoy     | 1, 1            | B.Nikula#, C.Goodrich      |
| 30                      | MNWS                 | 1               | J.Grigan                   |
| Hooded Warbler:         |                      |                 |                            |
| 30                      | MNWS                 | 1 m.            | M.Lynch#                   |
| Wilson's Warbler:       |                      |                 |                            |
| 18-30                   | 3 loc.               | 5 ind.          | v.o.                       |
| Canada Warbler:         |                      |                 |                            |
| 16-24,29                | 4 loc., Weston       | 4 ind., 3       | v.o., J.Hines              |
| American Redstart:      |                      |                 |                            |
| 18-30,28                | 4 loc., Monomoy      | 8 ind., 75      | v.o., C.Goodrich           |
| Bobolink:               |                      |                 |                            |
| 1,30                    | P.I., Truro          | 25, 23          | BBC                        |
| Northern Oriole:        |                      |                 |                            |
| 17,25                   | Stoneham, Weston     | 8, 18           | M.Martineck, J.Hines       |
| Rusty Blackbird:        |                      |                 |                            |
| 29                      | M.V.                 | 1 at feeder     | V.Laux                     |
| Scarlet Tanager:        |                      |                 |                            |
| 17,20                   | Stoneham, Weston     | 15, 4           | M.Martineck, J.Hines       |
| 23,30                   | P.I., Chatham        | 3, 1            | R.Forster, BBC             |
| Indigo Bunting:         |                      |                 |                            |
| 21,25                   | Concord, Lakeville   | 7, 10           | J.Hines, C.+P.Draghetti    |
| Purple Finch:           |                      |                 |                            |
| thr., 26                | P.I., Weston         | 25 max. 8/16, 5 | v.o., J.Hines              |
| Pine Siskin:            |                      |                 |                            |
| 23                      | M.V.                 | 1               | V.Laux                     |
| Savannah Sparrow:       |                      |                 |                            |
| 29                      | P.I.                 | 8               | BBC                        |
| Sharp-tailed Sparrow:   |                      |                 |                            |
| 1,22                    | Monomoy, P.I.        | 5, 8            | BBC                        |
| 23                      | Newbury              | 30+             | R.Forster#                 |
| Vesper Sparrow:         |                      |                 |                            |
| 3                       | S.Wellfleet          | 9               | J.Hines                    |
| White-throated Sparrow: |                      |                 |                            |
| 29,30                   | Framingham, Weston   | 1 imm., 1 imm.  | R.Forster, J.Hines         |
| Lincoln's Sparrow:      |                      |                 |                            |
| 24-31                   | Baldwinville         | 1               | J.O'Regan                  |

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

|       |                                |         |  |
|-------|--------------------------------|---------|--|
| ad.   | adult                          | F.M.    | Fowl Meadow, Milton                    |
| alt.  | alternate (plumage)            | gr.     | greater as in Gr.Boston area           |
| b.    | banded                         | I.      | Island                                 |
| br.   | breeding                       | M.V.    | Martha's Vineyard                      |
| dk.   | dark (phase)                   | Mt.A.   | Mt.Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge          |
| f.    | female                         | Nant.   | Nantucket                              |
| fl.   | fledge                         | Newbypt | Newburyport                            |
| imm.  | immature                       | ONWR    | Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge         |
| ind.  | individuals                    | P.I.    | Plum Island                            |
| loc.  | locations                      | P'town  | Provincetown                           |
| lt.   | light (phase)                  | R.P.    | Race Point, Provincetown               |
| m.    | male                           | S.N.    | Sandy Neck, Barnstable                 |
| max.  | maximum                        | Stellw. | Stellwagen (Bank)                      |
| migr. | migrating                      | ABC     | Allen Bird Club                        |
| ph.   | photographed                   | BBC     | Brookline Bird Club                    |
| pl.   | plumage                        | BOEM    | Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts |
| pr.   | pair                           | CBC     | Christmas Bird Count                   |
| thr.  | throughout                     | DFWS    | Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary        |
| v.o.  | various observers              | FBC     | Forbush Bird Club                      |
| W     | winter (2W = second winter)    | GBBBC   | Greater Boston Breeding Bird Census    |
| w/    | with                           | GMNWR   | Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge |
| yg.   | young                          | IRWS    | Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary       |
| #     | additional observers           | MAS     | Massachusetts Audubon Society          |
| A.A.  | Arnold Arboretum               | MBO     | Manomet Bird Observatory               |
| A.P.  | Andrews Point, Rockport        | MNWS    | Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary     |
| Buzz. | Buzzards (Bay)                 | NBBC    | Newburyport Breeding Bird Census       |
| C.Cod | Cape Cod                       | SSBC    | South Shore Bird Club                  |
| E.P.  | Eastern Point, Gloucester      | TASL    | Take a Second Look (BOEM project)      |
| F.E.  | First Encounter Beach, Eastham | WBWS    | Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary       |
| F.H.  | Fort Hill, Eastham             | WMWS    | Wachusett Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary   |

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FORBUSH BIRD CLUB - WORCESTER SCIENCE CENTER

1982 ANNUAL BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

AWARDS - (1st) Edward Howe Forbush Award and \$50  
(2nd) Award Ribbon and \$25  
(3rd) Award Ribbon and \$15

ENTRY PROCESS:

1. Obtain entry form from Worcester Science Center, 222 Harrington Way, Worcester, MA 01604. Phone: 617-791-9211
2. Entry fee is \$3.00 per entry.
3. Prints should be mounted or matted, not framed. Composite pictures, multiple prints and collages are not eligible.
4. Entries must be no smaller than 8 x 10 or no larger than 16 x 20, including mat. The prints should be no smaller than 35 sq. in.
5. Deadline is Monday, February 1, 1982.
6. Participants may be asked to submit proof of originality.
7. Photos not dealing with the subject of birds will not be accepted.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION - Worcester Science Center

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