

Lapland Longspur:				
thr.	P.I.	max.	25	(v.o.)
thr.	Salisbury	max.	15	(v.o.)
Snow Bunting:				
7	W.Newbury		13	Moore
13	Gloucester		30	King
21	Scituate (Humarock)		22	Emery #

WINTER GULL POSTSCRIPT

Though Philip Martin did a good job of summarizing "Winter Gulls in Massachusetts" (BIRD OBSERVER, Vol. 1, No. 1), I would like to make these additional comments.

Ring-billed gull: Second year birds often have completely black primaries since the all dark primaries of the juvenile plumage are not lost until the bird acquires its second winter plumage. This characteristic means that essentially gray-and-white gulls of medium size are often identified as kittiwakes on the basis of all black primaries with no white spotting at the wing tips.

Glaucous gull: The note on the folded wing and tail relationship of sitting Iceland and glaucous gulls is not reliable under many circumstances. The relationship is often dependent on just how the individual bird folds its wings! Not mentioned is the often helpful character of bill pattern on immature glaucous gulls. Generally, the very long, flesh or horn-colored bill of the glaucous gull is noticeably ringed with black at the distal end. There is quite an unmarked area between this ring and the basal end of the bill. In the sub-adult Iceland gull, the dusky tip usually blends gradually into the basal area, thus not leaving as much pale area between the ring and the base of the bill.

Bonaparte's gull: The Bonaparte's gull does not always have an all black bill. Often, the immatures, and even some adults, will have some pale or flesh-color at the basal portion of the bill, especially on the lower mandible. Therefore, not every small gull with a bicolored bill is necessarily an immature black-headed gull, unless other field marks are present.

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HAWK WATCHING ANYONE?

Birders who have experienced the spectacular flights of migrating hawks at Mt. Tom in western Massachusetts or Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania have probably wondered where the birds came from and where they would go. Also, an observer concentrating on one side of his lookout often just glimpses a kettle sneaking by on the other, thus raising the question, "How many hawks have I missed?"

Two years ago, Donald Hopkins and Gerald Merserau initiated a "hawk watch" to provide some answers. On designated weekends they encourage birders throughout southwestern New England to report sightings of migrating raptors. Although this project has not been blessed with especially favorable weather conditions, it has indicated that observers at traditionally "good" sites, such as Mt. Tom's Goat Peak, may see only about a third of the total hawk flight.

This years hawk watches are scheduled for April 21-22, September 15-16, and October 27-28. If you would like to witness one of the great migration spectacles, while making a contribution to field ornithology, write to Donald Hopkins, 27 London Rd., Windsor, Conn. 06095.

To brush up on hawk identification and techniques of observation, you might want to read A Guide to Northeastern Hawk Watching, by Donald S. Heintzelman, available from the author, 35 Church St., Lambertville, N.J. 08530. 64 pages, price about \$1.50.

P.M.