

THE BIRD OBSERVER SUMMARY FOR AUGUST 1974

August temperatures were near normal, and precipitation continued sparse and spotty at the beginning of the month. However, at mid-month significant rainfall brought a temporary relief to New England's severe drought. Showers and thunderstorms on the 19th, 23rd and 24th brought the monthly rainfall total to near normal.

Shearwater and petrel reports were low, but it is difficult to determine whether this is a true indication of their numbers, or whether it is due to poor coverage or they passed by unobserved. Herons were reported in average numbers, with a big drop in the number of Snowies as compared with 250 at Plum Island last year.

Waterfowl were at a seasonal low ebb, but a few noteworthy reports include 3 Fulvous Tree Ducks continuing from July in Rowley; a Harlequin Duck remained all month at the Edison site in Plymouth, and the female King Eider continued in the Nauset-Orleans area. A Turkey Vulture and a Rough-legged Hawk on Martha's Vineyard highlighted the raptor reports, and Peregrine Falcons and Merlins were earlier than usual. The Sandhill Crane continued through the 26th at West Harwich and was found on Monomoy at the end of the month.

There were good numbers of shorebirds reported, as would be expected during the peak of shorebird migration. Peak counts include the following: Black-bellied Plover - 2000, Red Knot - 1500, White-rumped Sandpiper - 50+, Long-billed Dowitcher - 16, Hudsonian Godwit - 132. In addition, there were 11 Baird's Sandpipers, a Curlew Sandpiper, 14 Buff-breasted Sandpipers, 5 Marbled Godwits, 3 Ruffs, 5 Wilson's Phalaropes and an American Avocet reported.

There was a poor jaeger flight, yet 1 Long-tailed Jaeger and a Northern Skua were reported. Two Lesser Black-backed Gulls were present again this summer on Coast Guard Beach, Nauset. An adult Sabine's Gull was reported during the greater part of August at high tide on Monomoy. Roseate Tern reports have increased this year; note especially the high count at Muskeget-Tuckernuck Islands.

Barn Owls continued at Sandwich and Martha's Vineyard, and the Chuck-will's-widows were still present on Nantucket and the Vineyard. Warblers were migrating with 20 species reported, and 3 Yellow-headed Blackbirds were noted in scattered localities. The Henslow's Sparrows remained at Newburyport until the field was mowed; 3 Lark Sparrows were noted; and an early Lincoln's Sparrow was found on Chilmark, Martha's Vineyard on the 12th.

R.H.S.

Pied-billed Grebe:			
31	P.I.	10	BBC(H.Weissberg)
Greater Shearwater:			
10,11	off P.I., Monomoy	10,1 dead	BBC(G.Soucy), F.Gardner#
Sooty Shearwater:			
early Aug.	Edgartown(M.V.)	1 oiled	G.Ben David
<u>Leach's Storm-Petrel:</u> (No Details)			
10	off P.I.	2	E.Treacy, BBC(G.Soucy)
<u>Wilson's Storm-Petrel:</u>			
10	off P.I.	500+	BBC(G.Soucy)
Double-crested Cormorant:			
25	P.I.	150 migrants	W.Petersen, R.Forster
Great Blue Heron:			
24	Concord(GMNWR)	20	E.Taylor, L.Robinson
Little Blue Heron:			
thr.	8 localities	12 individuals	v.o.
Cattle Egret:			
22,30	Dartmouth, Ipswich	3,22	H.D'Entremont#, E.Taylor
29,31	Newbury, Essex	1,17	H.D'Entremont#, BBC(H.Weissberg)
Great Egret:			
thr.	12 localities	34 individuals	v.o.
Snowy Egret:			
4,12,31	Rowley, P.I., Barnstable	45,42,72	R.Forster, BBC(G.Soucy), R.Pease
<u>Louisiana Heron:</u>			
6,19	Monomoy, Chappaquidick Is.	1,1	P.Bailey#, E.Chalif#
Black-crowned Night Heron:			
10	Concord(GMNWR)	42	H.Merriman

Yellow-crowned Night Heron:			
thr.	Centerville, Monomoy	2 ad., 2(1 ad., 1 imm.)	V. Laux# & v.o., v.o.
10, 18	Tuckernuck Is., Nauset	1 imm., 3 imm.	R. Veit, B. Nikula
American Bittern:			
thr.	7 localities	12 individuals	v.o.
Glossy Ibis:			
thr.	8 localities	47 individuals	v.o.
Brant:			
thr.	S. Wellfleet (WBWS)	8	v.o.
<u>Fulvous Tree Duck:</u>			
1-5	Rowley	3 (from July)	v.o.
Mallard:			
2	Clinton	220	B. Blodget
Black Duck:			
2, 8	Clinton	357, 496	B. Blodget
Gadwall:			
31	P. I.	12	BBC (H. Weissberg)
Pintail:			
9	P. I.	6	R. Forster
Blue-winged Teal:			
31	P. I.	37	BBC (H. Weissberg)
Northern Shoveler:			
25	P. I.	16	W. Petersen, R. Forster
Wood Duck:			
12	P. I., Weston	15, 13	BBC (G. Soucy), L. Robinson
<u>Harlequin Duck:</u>			
thr.	Plymouth	1	B. Sorrie & v.o.
<u>King Eider:</u>			
thr., 11	Nauset, Monomoy	1, 1	v.o.
White-winged Scoter:			
31	S. Chatham	40	W. Petersen, R. Forster
Ruddy Duck:			
24	P. I.	10	BBC (N. King)
Hooded Merganser:			
2	Princeton (Wachusett)	1	B. Blodget
Turkey Vulture:			
3	Medway	1	R. Forster
Sharp-shinned Hawk:			
15&23	Manomet	1	M. B. O. Staff
Red-tailed Hawk:			
thr.	7 localities	8 individuals	v.o.
Black-bellied Plover:			
3, 17	Monomoy	500, 750+	BBC (H. D'Entremont), BBC (R. Stymeist)
24, 31	Newburyport	600, 2000	R. Stymeist#, BBC (H. Weissberg)
Ruddy Turnstone:			
4, 12, 27	P. I.	65, 25, 50+	R. Forster, BBC (G. Soucy), G. Soucy#
6, 8	Monomoy, Scituate	40, 100	D&V Crompton
American Woodcock:			
29	Winchester	1	P. Donahue
Common Snipe:			
18, 19	Lakeville, Chappaquidick Is.	7, 1	B. Sorrie, E. Chalif#
31	Harwich	1	W. Petersen#
Whimbrel:			
1-13	Monomoy	8-10	BBC (H. D'Entremont) & v.o.
9	Newburyport	12	R. Forster#
Upland Sandpiper:			
25, 31	Newburyport	4, 3	W. Petersen#, BBC (H. Weissberg)
Spotted Sandpiper:			
thr.	4 localities	7 individuals	v.o.
Solitary Sandpiper:			
thr.	7 localities	23 individuals	v.o.
Willet:			
17, 18	Monomoy, Scituate	3, 3	BBC (R. Stymeist), N. Osborne#
23	Chatham, Wellfleet	2, 3	H. Merriman
Greater Yellowlegs:			
3, 5	Monomoy, P. I. - Newburyport	100, 350	BBC (H. D'Entremont), BBC (E. Pyburn)

Lesser Yellowlegs:			
5,25	Newburyport	50,550	BBC (E. Pyburn), W. Petersen#
8,22	Clinton	26,21	B. Blodgett
Red Knot:			
8,12	Scituate, Eastham (Nauset)	1500,300	D&V Crompton, R. Forster#
12,23	P. I.	30,15	BBC (G. Soucy), H. Wiggan#
Pectoral Sandpiper:			
4,25	P. I.	4,40	R. Forster, W. Petersen#
10,25,28	Concord (GMNWR)	12,10,12	H. Merriman, L. Robinson, R. Emery#
10-31	7 localities	14 individuals	v. o.
White-rumped Sandpiper:			
9,25	P. I. (south end)	10,50+	R. Forster#, W. Petersen#
11-31	7 localities	21 individuals	v. o.
25,28	Boston, Concord (GMNWR)	2,2	A. Agush, R. Emery#
Baird's Sandpiper:			
10-31,18	Monomoy, Lakeville	5+,2	J. Harris# & v. o., B. Sorrie#
25&27,27	Boston, Concord (GMNWR)	1&2,1	A. Agush & M&A Argue, L. Robinson#
Least Sandpiper:			
3,5	Monomoy, Worcester	100,32	BBC (H. D'Entremont), B. Blodgett
12	P. I.	50	BBC (G. Soucy)
Curlew Sandpiper:			
1-13	Newburyport	1 (changing plumage)	D. Alexander# & v. o.
Dunlin:			
15,25	Eastham, Boston	1,2	R. Forster, A. Agush
Short-billed Dowitcher:			
3	Monomoy	50	BBC (H. D'Entremont)
5,24,31	P. I.	250,25,80	BBC (E. Pyburn, H. Weissberg)
Long-billed Dowitcher:			
4,25;8	P. I.; Monomoy	3,16;1	R. Forster, W. Petersen#; J. Harris#
Stilt Sandpiper:			
2,4,10	P. I.	33,81,7	M&A Argue#, R. Forster, J. Berry
17,31	Chappaquidick (M. V.), Harwich	1,4	E. Chalif#, W. Petersen#
Semipalmated Sandpiper:			
3,8	Monomoy, Scituate	1000,2000	BBC (H. D'Entremont), D. Crompton
12	P. I.	1000+	BBC (G. Soucy)
Western Sandpiper:			
25,28,31	Boston, Concord, Eastham	4,2,25	A. Agush, W. Petersen#, W. Petersen
Buff-breasted Sandpiper:			
25-29,29	Monomoy, Eastham	max. 5,4	J. Harris# & v. o., V. Laux# & v. o.
31	Newburyport, Edgartown (M. V.)	1,4	R. Emery#, M. Hancock
Marbled Godwit:			
1-8;6,8,15	Monomoy; Eastham	2;1	v. o.; fide B. Nikula
23-31	P. I.	2	A. Horn# & v. o.
Hudsonian Godwit:			
thr.	Monomoy	max. 132 (Aug. 4)	v. o.
thr.	Newburyport	max. 69 (Aug. 9)	v. o.
20,30	Tuckernuck Is., Eastham	32,31	R. Veit, C. Goodrich#
Ruff/Reeve:			
4,8,28	P. I., Monomoy, Newburyport	1,1,1	R. Forster, W. Bailey#, A&M Argue
Sanderling:			
3	Monomoy	1000	BBC (H. D'Entremont)
American Avocet:			
18-20	Dartmouth (Barney's Joy)	1	F. Symonds# & v. o.
Red Phalarope:			
18,30	off Chatham, Eastham	7,2	W. Harrington#, V. Laux#
Wilson's Phalarope:			
8-31,14-27	Monomoy, P. I.	2,1	fide B. Nikula, M. McClellan & v. o.
15,25	S. Wellfleet, Rowley	1,1	R. Forster, W. Petersen#
Northern Phalarope:			
10,18	off P. I., off Chatham	150,50	BBC (L. Jodrey), W. Harrington#
17&30	Monomoy	1 (in dunes), 25	BBC (R. Stymeist), W. Harrington
25-28	Concord (GMNWR)	1	E. Taylor# & v. o.
Pomarine Jaeger:			
30	Eastham (Nauset)	1	V. Laux, B. Nikula# & v. o.
Parasitic Jaeger:			
8,17	Monomoy	1,2	W. Bailey, C. Bauer
31	Annisquam, Barnstable	1,3	P. Stowe, H. D'Entremont#
31	P. I.	1	BBC (H. Weissberg)

<u>Long-tailed Jaeger:</u>			
29	Eastham(Nauset)	1(sub-adult)	C.Goodrich
<u>Northern Skua: (excellent details)</u>			
10	Nantucket	1 imm.	S.Perkins
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull: (excellent details)</u>			
1,29-31	Nauset	1(sub-ad.),1(ad.)	J.Harris# & v.o.,V.Laux# & v.o.
<u>Black-headed Gull:</u>			
21-31,25	Monomoy,Newburyport	1,2	J.Clancy# & v.o.,W.Petersen#
<u>Bonaparte's Gull:</u>			
6	Newburyport	275	H.D'Entremont#
<u>Laughing Gull:</u>			
3,17	Ipswich,Monomoy	1,292	J.Berry,BBC(R.Stymeist)
29	Boston(Long Is.),Hingham	125,31	D.Brown#,C.Clark
<u>Little Gull:</u>			
6,30	Newburyport,Plymouth	1,1	H.D'Entremont,M.B.O.Staff
<u>Sabine's Gull: (excellent details)</u>			
4-24	Monomoy	1 ad.	W.W.Harrington# & v.o.
<u>Forster's Tern:</u>			
8,16,17	Eastham(Nauset)	1	v.o.,fide B.Nikula
20&26,23	S.Wellfleet,Plymouth	1,1	B.Nikula,B.Sorrie#
25&28	P.I.	1,1	W.Petersen#,M.Baird#
<u>Common Tern:</u>			
3	Monomoy	1000	BBC(H.D'Entremont)
<u>Arctic Tern:</u>			
3	Monomoy	2	BBC(H.D'Entremont)
6,7	P.I.,Chatham	1,1	R.Dwelly,D.Crompton
<u>Roseate Tern:</u>			
15	Tuckernuck-Muskeget Is.	2150(careful estimate)	R.Veit
25	P.I.	47	W.Petersen & R.Forster
<u>Least Tern:</u>			
thr.	Tuckernuck Is.	125 prs.	R.Veit#
<u>Royal Tern:</u>			
5-31,23	Monomoy,P.I.	1-2,1	B.Nikula# & v.o.,H.Wiggin#
<u>Black Tern:</u>			
thr.	7 localities	21 individuals	v.o.
22,27	Clinton(Wachusett),Barnstable	9,31	B.Blodget,R.Pease
25,28-31	Plymouth,Concord(GMNWR)	19,1	B.Sorrie#,R.Emery# & v.o.
<u>Black Skimmer:</u>			
4&31,10-31	Monomoy,Eastham	1,2	W.W.Harrington#,v.o.
15-24,25	Plymouth,Wasque(M.V.)	1 imm.,1 imm.	F.Gardner# & v.o.,E.Sears#
<u>Black-billed Cuckoo:</u>			
4-31	4 localities	singles-2(b.)	v.o.
<u>Barn Owl:</u>			
thr.,1	Sandwich,Tisbury(M.V.)	1,1	v.o.,S.Whiting#
<u>Screech Owl:</u>			
thr.	5 localities	singles	v.o.
<u>Great Horned Owl:</u>			
15,17	Norwell,Marshfield	3,1	M&B Litchfield,J.Clancy
<u>Barred Owl:</u>			
20	Holden	1	B.Blodget
<u>Long-eared Owl:</u>			
1-18	Chatham	2	J.Martin# & v.o.
<u>Short-eared Owl:</u>			
11-17	Monomoy	2	F.Gardner# & v.o.
26,31	Katama(M.V.),Barnstable	3,1	E.Chalif#,H.D'Entremont
<u>Chuck-will's-widow:</u>			
1-27,1-7	Nantucket,Chilmark(M.V.)	1,1	S.Perkins# & v.o.,F.Epstein
<u>Whip-poor-will:</u>			
thr.,24	Westwood,Medfield	2,2	J.Clancy
<u>Common Nighthawk:</u>			
15-31	6 localities	48 individuals	v.o.
23	Weston	25-30	L.Robinson
<u>Ruby-throated Hummingbird:</u>			
24-31	4 localities	12 individuals	v.o.
<u>Pileated Woodpecker:</u>			
26	Littleton	1	J.Baird
<u>Red-headed Woodpecker:</u>			
31	Oak Bluffs(M.V.)	1	M.Hancock

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:			
19	Plymouth	1	T.Lloyd-Evans
Eastern Kingbird:			
19,24	P.I.	35,25	BBC(W.Drummond),BBC(N.King)
Great Crested Flycatcher:			
thr.	Westwood	1	J.Clancy
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:			
29,31	Manomet,P.I.	2(b.),1	M.B.O.Staff,M.Argue#
Willow Flycatcher:			
4	Ipswich	3-4 m.	J.Berry
Empidonax:			
30	Winchester	9	P.Donahue#
Eastern Wood Pewee:			
23	Annisquam	1	H.Wiggin#
Olive-sided Flycatcher:			
29	Boston(Long Is.)	2	D.Brown#
29	Winchester,Manomet	1,1(b.)	P.Donahue,M.B.O.Staff
Tree Swallow:			
12,31	P.I.	1500,8000	BBC(G.Soucy),BBC(H.Weissberg)
Barn Swallow:			
10	P.I.	200 every 5 min. for 15 min.-going north	J.Berry
Cliff Swallow:			
7	Princeton	4 nests with young-late!	B.Blodget
Purple Martin:			
25	P.I.-Ipswich	<u>100+</u> many yg.	W.Petersen & R.Forster
Fish Crow:			
10-11	Tashmoo(M.V.)	1	B.Lee
Red-breasted Nuthatch:			
15,16	Cohasset,Chappaquidick Is.	2,1	M&B Litchfield,E.Chalif#
18	Quase(M.V.)	2	C.Noble
Winter Wren:			
3	Ipswich	1 m.	J.Berry
Carolina Wren:			
29	Manomet	5(b.)	M.B.O.Staff
Veery:			
31	P.I.	1	BBC(H.Weissberg)
Eastern Bluebird:			
12,24	Southboro,Lincoln	5-6,11	D.Cameron,P.Miller
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:			
15,21,27	Manomet,Plymouth,Manomet	1,1,1	M.B.O.Staff,B.Sorrie,W.Petersen
Cedar Waxwing:			
28	Tuckernuck Is.	180+	R.Veit
Loggerhead Shrike:			
24-25	Tuckernuck Is.	1	R.Veit
White-eyed Vireo:			
10,12	P.I.,Tuckernuck Is.	1,1	E.Tracy,R.Veit
29,31	Manomet,Middleboro	12(b.),1	M.B.O.Staff,D.Briggs
Solitary Vireo:			
25	Scituate	1	C.Clark
Philadelphia Vireo:			
31	Manomet	1(b.)	M.B.O.Staff
Warbling Vireo:			
24	P.I.	1	BBC(N.King)
Black-and-white Warbler:			
26,30	Littleton,Winchester	1,2	J.Baird,P.Donahue
Golden-winged Warbler:			
30	Winchester	1	P.Donahue
Blue-winged Warbler:			
25,31	Mashpee,Manomet	1,46	V.Smith,M.B.O.Staff
Lawrence's Warbler: (Hybrid)			
30	Winchester	1	P.Donahue
Tennessee Warbler:			
18,30	Hingham,Winchester	1,2	C.Clark,P.Donahue
Parula Warbler:			
21	Manomet	2	M.B.O.Staff
Magnolia Warbler:			
31	Fairhaven	2(m.&f.)	G.Mock

Cape May Warbler:			
25,30,31	Annisquam,Winchester,P.I.	6,1,2	H.Wiggin,P.Donahue#,R.Emery#
Black-throated Blue Warbler:			
23	Annisquam	1	H.Wiggin
Yellow-rumped Warbler:			
18	W.Tisbury(M.V.)	1	S.Whiting
Blackburnian Warbler:			
30	Winchester	1	P.Donahue
Chestnut-sided Warbler:			
26,30	Littleton,Winchester	1,1	P.Donahue#,J.Baird#
Bay-breasted Warbler:			
25	Katama(M.V.)	1	R.Sargent#
Blackpoll Warbler:			
25,26	P.I.,Littleton	1,1 ad.	W.Petersen#,J.Baird#
Palm Warbler:			
16	Chappaquidick Is.	1	E.Chalif#
Ovenbird:			
23	Annisquam	2 migrants	H.Wiggin
Northern Waterthrush:			
4,12	Marblehead(MNWS),Weston	1,1	W.Drummond,L.Robinson
28	Wollaston	1 at 11 p.m.on windowsill	S.Higginbotham
Mourning Warbler:			
28	Manomet	4(b.)	M.B.O.Staff
Yellow-breasted Chat:			
28	Manomet	6(b.)	M.B.O.Staff
Wilson's Warbler:			
25	P.I.	1	W.Petersen#
Canada Warbler:			
12,14	Manomet,Martha's Vineyard	1,1	M.B.O.Staff,E.Chalif#
Bobolink:			
10	Princeton	44	B.Blodget
Yellow-headed Blackbird:			
13	Tuckernuck Is.	1(sub-ad.m.)	R.Veit
24,29-31	P.I.,Monomoy	1 imm.,2 imm.m.	T.Martin,V.Laux#
House Finch:			
25	Newburyport	1	W.Petersen#
Henslow's Sparrow:			
1-10	Newburyport	2(from May)	v.o.
Sharp-tailed Sparrow:			
17	Monomoy	8	BBC(R.Stymeist)
Seaside Sparrow:			
7,30	Chatham,Manomet	3,1	D.Crompton,M.B.O.Staff
31	P.I.	1	BBC(H.Weissberg)
Vesper Sparrow:			
25	Newburyport	1	W.Petersen#
Lark Sparrow:			
16,27-31	Tuckernuck Is.,P.I.	1 ad.,1 ad.& 1 imm.	R.Veit,G.Soucy# & v.o.
Dark-eyed Junco:			
20	Middleboro	2	R.Maxim
White-throated Sparrow:			
5	Manomet	1	M.B.O.Staff
Lincoln's Sparrow:			
17	Chilmark(M.V.)	1	E.Chalif#

Abbreviations

ad.	adult	BBC	Brookline Bird Club
b.	banded	GMNR	Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge
f.	female	MBO	Manomet Bird Observatory
imm.	immature	MNWS	Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary
m.	male	WBWS	Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary
max.	maximum	E.P.	Eastern Point
thr.	throughout	F.M.	Fowl Meadow, Milton
unc.	uncommon	Mt.A.	Mt. Auburn Cemetery
v.o.	various observers	M.V.	Martha's Vineyard
yg.	young	P.I.	Plum Island
#	additional observers	S.N.	Sandy Neck, Barnstable