

Northern Oriole:			
3	Cambridge(Mt.A.)	6	S. Raabe + H. Barr
Rose-breasted Grosbeak:			
19,27	Milton, Concord	4,3	BBC(Morrissey),(Wilson)
Indigo Bunting:			
thr.,1	Wellesley-Lincoln, Ipswich	7,3 m.	R. Forster, J. Berry
Purple Finch:			
1,21	Cambridge, P.I.	1,6	BBC(Clayton), BBC(Heil)
Pine Siskin:			
10,12	Foxboro, Wayland	1,15	W. Davis, J. Hines
Red Crossbill:			
3,7,11	Plymouth	3+,4,1	M. Moore
3	Falmouth, Foxboro	"small groups",3	A. Clarke, W. Davis
6,14	Ipswich, Shirley	6,4	J. Nove, F. Hegliger
11,20	Provincetown, P.I.	11,1	R. Forster, J. Denison
27	Sandwich	5	R. Pease
Grasshopper Sparrow:			
thr.	Tuckernuck I.	12+prs.	R. Veit
12,13on	Truro, Dartmouth	1-2,2	W. Petersen, M. Argue#
Sharp-tailed Sparrow:			
thr.	Barnstable	400+ nesting	R. Pease
Seaside Sparrow:			
thr.,7-24	Barnstable, P.I.	35+ nesting,2	R. Pease, R. Heil#
Dark-eyed Junco:			
thr.	Weston, Westwood	2-3,2	L. Robinson, J. Clancy
White-throated Sparrow:			
13	Princeton(WMWS)	2	H. Merriman
11-14,20	Abington, Middleboro	1,1	E. Pearson, W. Petersen

#### A RECORD COUNT OF BLACK-BELLIED PLOVERS AT NEWBURYPORT

by Michael C. Moore and Steven B. Light, Manomet Bird Observatory

At 12:45 P.M. on 19 May 1976 we estimated that 6500 Black-bellied Plovers (Pluvialis squatarola) were foraging on mudflats at Newburyport Harbor, Massachusetts. Our estimate was made about 2 1/4 hours after low tide while the incoming tide forced shorebirds towards shore, but before they had begun leaving for resting areas. Our independent estimates were made with telescopes (Light using 20X, Moore 35X), and were derived by slightly different techniques. Light counted all Black-bellied Plovers in one telescope-field and then counted the number of scope-fields of similar density thereafter. When noticeable changes of density occurred, another telescope-field was counted and the count modified accordingly. Moore estimated by first counting 100 plovers and, using this as a unit, counting the rest by 100's. On the first count Light estimated 5200 and Moore estimated 5700. About 15 minutes later, when the tide had forced the birds closer, Light estimated 4900 and Moore estimated 6500. However, on this count Moore included a distant flock of about 1000 birds that Light was unable to see with his lower magnification telescope. We agreed that Moore's estimate was probably more accurate. Despite the fact that 6500 birds is an unusually high number for Black-bellied Plovers, we feel that our figure is satisfactory and may even be a conservative estimate.

Comments from other observers (as well as our own rough estimate on 18 May) indicate that about 6500 Black-bellied Plovers were present in the Newburyport area from about 16-20 May. By 28 May Moore estimated only 2500 under conditions similar to those that prevailed when estimates were made on 19 May.

Although we have not made an exhaustive literature search, our count of Black-bellied Plovers is the highest we have found reference to, and likely is the highest known anywhere in the United States in recent years. The previous high count for Massachusetts was 3500 observed on Monomoy Island by Griscom on 21 May 1947 (Bailey 1955). The highest count we have found outside of Massachusetts was 6200 birds and was made by Bent and Oberholser at Tuckerton Bay, New Jersey, on 27 May 1927 (Bent 1929).

#### Literature Cited

- Bailey, Wallace, 1955, Birds in Massachusetts, Where and When to Find Them, College Press, South Lancaster, Massachusetts.
- Bent, A. C., 1929, Life Histories of North American Shorebirds, Smithsonian Institution, United States National Museum, Bulletin 146.