

SUMMARY FOR OCTOBER, 1977

October was cloudy and wet throughout eastern Massachusetts. The temperature averaged 55.3°, 3° warmer than October 1976. The high mark was 77° on the 2nd, the low 37° on the 24th.

Rain totalled 4.63", 1.61" over normal and the most in October since the 8.68" that fell in 1962. Much to the dismay of most birders, measurable rain fell on 7 weekends in a row, ending with that of Oct. 15-16th. Larger stretches of wet weekends in a row have been noted in the winter and spring seasons, but rain frequency is typically at the annual minimum in September and October.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

Loons began migrating and maximum counts of Commons along the coast included 150 at Rockport on the 15th (RSH) and 115+ from Manomet to Sandy Neck, Barnstable on the 16th (WRP#). There were also a good number reported from inland localities, where 2 were recorded from Weston on the 8th, the first Weston record since 1964 (LJR). At Wachusett Reservoir, 27 Common Loons were noted on the 15th (BB), and 2 were seen in Framingham on the 16th (RAF). As many as 60 Red-throated Loons were observed at P.I. on the 29th (GWG) and, also on that date, 50 were noted at Sandy Neck, Barnstable (SH,RH). There were many inland reports of Horned Grebes. Among them, 1 was in Boylston on the 15th (BB), 1 was in Woburn from the 24-26 (GWG) and 3 were in Lakeville on the 29th (WRP). Red-necked Grebes were reported from only 3 localities: 2 in Salisbury on the 8th (RWS), 1 from Wachusett on the 15th (BB) and a single from Manomet on the 16th (WRP). Pied-billed Grebes totalled 9 in Harwich on the 2nd (CH,BH) and 16 in Lakeville on the 4th (WRP).

Northern Fulmar reports totalled 48 throughout the month, with as many as 28+ at Jeffrey's Ledge, (3 of which were dark phase) on the 2nd (ASNH). At Provincetown 2 light phase fulmars were noted on the 1st and as many as 10, with one dark phase, reported from there on the 9th (RRV#). A single fulmar was noted off Rockport on the 9th (MK). Other reports included 2 on Georges Bank on the 12th and 2 on the Northeast Peak on the 15th (MBO). One to 2 N. Fulmars were also noted off 1st Encounter Beach, Eastham on the 21st (CAG,BN). Surprisingly, last year during October many more dark phase birds were reported.

Cory's Shearwaters were observed off of Sandy Neck on the 14th when 4+ were noted (BN,RFP), but on the 28th over 73 were counted there (RFP). Other Cory's reports came from Great South Channel where 15 were observed on the 26th (MBO). An amazing concentration of Greater Shearwaters were feeding off Provincetown throughout the month with a minimum count of 1500+ on the 23rd to a maximum of 2500+ on the 15th (RRV,v.o.). Among these Greaters were several Sooty Shearwaters with 10 there on the 1st, 5 on the 15th and 8 on the 22nd (RRV#,v.o.). There were over 38 observations of Manx Shearwaters during the month, all from the outer cape.

Leach's Storm-Petrels were noted off Sandy Neck on the 14th when 27 were observed (RFP,DTB#) and 8 were seen at Provincetown on the 15th (RRV#). During the same period, 11 other individuals were noted along the outer cape (v.o.). Two Leach's Storm-Petrels were also noted from Rockport on the 15th (GLS). A non-Leach's Storm-Petrel was noted at Sandy Neck on the 14th (DTB,RPE). Originally reported as a Wilson's Storm-Petrel, fog and a NE wind precluded positive identification. Thousands of Gannets were feeding at Provincetown with 2000+ noted on the 15th and over 1500 on the 23rd (RRV#,v.o.). Over 900 were observed from Sandy Neck on the 8th (RFP) and 800 were there on the 18th (PAB).

The first Great Cormorants arrived with the thousands of migrating Double-crested Cormorants during the early weeks of the month, building up at month's end. The flight of Double-crested Cormorants on the 8th was spectacular, with over 5000 individuals reported throughout the day over P.I. and the Newburyport-Salisbury area (RHS#,IG,v.o.). That same mass movement was also noted in many inland locations with over 400 in Weston (LJR) and 89 over Mt. Auburn, Cambridge (PM#) on the same day. On the 10th, 2380 were observed over P.I. and 450 were noted at Sandy Neck on the 15th (RFP).

A total of 25 Great Blue Herons were recorded from P.I. on the 16th (GWG). Eleven Little Blue Herons were noted there on the 2nd (SAP#), while an immature Little Blue remained from the 16th on in Boylston (BB). Two to four Cattle Egrets remained in Ipswich from the 1st-6th (GLS), and single birds were reported from Concord on the 2nd (IG), from Truro (22nd-24th) (MJL#), from Barnstable on the 29th (RFP) and from P.I. on the same day (GWG). A maximum of 12 Great Egrets were noted at P.I. on the 2nd (RRV#), where over 150 Snowy Egrets were counted on the same day. As many as 3 adult and 1 immature Louisiana Herons remained at P.I. throughout the month (v.o.). Yellow-crowned Night Herons were reported from P.I. on the 1st (DH,RSH), and an immature from Sandwich on the 18th (PAB).

WATERFOWL

A count of 168 Mute Swans was noted at their stronghold at Acoaxet on the 9th (BBC-SPG). Only 1 Brant was reported during the month: at Manomet on the 16th (WRP). Snow Geese were reported from Concord with 1 on the 12th (Mrs. Busk), 4 in Eastham on the 15th (v.o.), 4-6 in Wayland from the 18th-25th (Mrs. Spaulding) and 45 at Provincetown on the 23rd (MJL,RRV). High counts of dabbling ducks include 30 Gadwalls in Ipswich on the 6th (GLS), 150 Pintails at P.I. on the 11th (RSH), 1200 Green-winged Teal at P.I. on the 11th (RSH), 3 European Wigeons at Nantucket on the 7th (EFA#), 275 American Wigeons at GMNWR, Concord (RKW), 50 Northern Shovelers at P.I. on the 29th (GWG), while 3 N. Shovelers were noted at Fresh Pond, Cambridge (Rev. J.Holman). Over 60 Wood Ducks were noted at GMNWR on the 16th (PMR).

Twenty Redheads were counted at Nantucket on the 8th (CJ) and 7 were noted in Eastham on the 15th (RHS,RPE). A maximum of 50 Ring-necked Ducks were found at Fresh Pond, Cambridge throughout the month (J.Barton), while 130 were observed in Lakeville on the 4th (WRP). Forty Canvasbacks were reported from Fresh Pond, Cambridge between the 23rd-

31st (SZ#). Over 660 Lesser Scaups were counted in Falmouth on the 29th (AAC). Common Goldeneyes arrived in small numbers at mid-month, but did not increase substantially. Over 1500 Common Eiders were off North Scituate on the 22nd (SH) and over 8000 were seen off Monomoy on the 24th (WWB). A single King Eider was noted off Rockport on the 23rd (R.Stone#). From Manomet on the 8th the following scoter counts were made: 300-400 White-winged; 400-500 Surf; and 200 Black Scoters (JG,LC). At North Scituate over 1500 Surf and 500 Black Scoters were counted on the 22nd (SH). A Black Scoter was also noted in Wayland on the 20th (RAF). High counts of Ruddy Ducks were noted from Framingham, with 24 on the 27th (RAF), 45 at P.I. on the 23rd (JRK) and over 70 at Lakeville on the 29th (WRP). Eight Hooded Mergansers were found at P.I. on the 1st (DH,RCH), and 8 were noted from Ipswich on the 24th (JWB). Common Mergansers arrived in small numbers at mid-month.

RAPTORS

With better organization, the Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch produced many more sightings this month than any previous October. Below is a chart of species seen from Mt. Wachusett, Mt. Watatic and other observation points during the hawk watch dates which follow in parentheses. These figures have been compiled by Paul M. Roberts, hawk watch coordinator.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Wachusett</u>	<u>Watatic</u>	<u>others</u>
Turkey Vulture	2 (1)	3 (29)	1 (1)
Goshawk	1 (29)	10 (2)	2 (29,30)
Sharp-shinned Hawk	9 (3)	10 (2)	14 (8)
Cooper's Hawk	1 (2), 1 (15)	-	2 (8)
Red-tailed Hawk	-	13 (29)	35 (30)
Red-shouldered Hawk	3 (29)	4 (29)	
Osprey	3 (3)	-	
Peregrine Falcon	-	1 (29)	
American Kestrel	-	5 (8)	

Other reports of Cooper's Hawk came from Cape Cod with singles from Barnstable on the 3rd (RFP), Provincetown on the 21st (CAG), Eastham on the 21st (WWB) and Truro on the 29th (VL#). A late flight of Broad-winged Hawks included 69 in Shrewsbury on the 2nd (fide N.Clayton) and a single bird in Framingham on the 7th (RAF). Single Rough-legged Hawks were reported from P.I. on the 7th (LC), Nantucket on the 13th (EFA#) and Wachusett on the 30th (J.Lipke). Immature Bald Eagles were reported from Princeton on the 1st (PMR), Dracut on the 7th (P.Arrigo), Boylston on the 15-16th (BB), also on the 15-16th from Provincetown (LC#), at WBWS on the 24-25th (WWB#) and one adult was seen over Boston on the 19th (HTW). Six Marsh Hawks were found at P.I. on the 10th (PMR, JR) and 21 other individuals were reported throughout the month. Ospreys were noted from 23 locations with 34 individuals reported. As many as 17 Peregrine Falcons were noted throughout the month from 10 locations, 7 of these were identified as immatures or sub-adults. Twenty-one Merlins were reported during the month, mostly from coastal locations.

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A Clapper Rail was found at Fort Hill Eastham on the 10th (RMB) and again on the 15th (RRV#). Soras were found in Truro on the 7th (MJL#), Marshfield, where 5 were observed on the 15th (WRP#), and in Framingham on the 16th (RAF). A Common Gallinule was picked up dead in Raynham on the 21st (S.Verhoorn) and another was present in Woburn from the 15-27th (GWC).

Sixty Semipalmated Plovers were counted at Sandy Neck on the 16th (WRP#) and 26 were noted at First Encounter Beach, Eastham on the 22nd (WRP#). Over 12 Piping Plovers were noted in Truro on the 15th (AAC). At Fresh Pond, Cambridge 40 Killdeers were noted on the 16th (SZ). A total of 27 Golden Plovers were recorded during the month, fewer than in the two previous Octobers. Flocks of 30 Ruddy Turnstones were noted from Winthrop on the 21st (SZ) and from North Scituate on the 22nd (SH). Only three American Woodcocks were reported during the month, singles in Stoneham (M.Martinek), Mt. Auburn Cemetery (RHS), and in Framingham (MAD). Twenty-five Common Snipes were noted at Corn Hill, Truro on the 15th (RRV#). Five Whimbrels were present on P.I. on the 1st (DH,RCH), where a single bird was still present on the 8th (IG#). Other Whimbrels were found in Winthrop on the 1st (SZ), Gloucester on the 2nd (JN) and in Eastham on the 8th (WRP#). A Spotted Sandpiper was found in South Peabody on the 22nd and 27th (RSH#), and a Solitary Sandpiper was found in Barnstable on the 18th (PAB). At Eastham 2-1 Willets were found from the 22-24th (WRP#). As many as 50 Greater Yellowlegs were found throughout the month in East Boston (SZ), and 140 were found in Eastham on the 1st (RSH#). A Lesser Yellowlegs was found on the 29th in Scituate (WRP). Over 80 Red Knots were counted in Plymouth on the 8th (WRP). Seventeen Pectoral Sandpipers were found in Bridgewater on the 4th, where a Least Sandpiper was found among them (DTB). A Baird's Sandpiper was identified in Gloucester on the 17th (CWL), a White-rumped Sandpiper was found on Long Island on the 23rd (RCV,AHV), and 2 were reported from Scituate on the 29th (WRP). Dunlin counts included 1100+ at Newburyport on the 1st (RSH), 4000+ at Barnstable on the 24th (RFP) and 3000+ at No. Scituate on the 29th (WRP). Short-billed Dowitchers were carefully identified in Eastham where 3 were observed on the 15th (WRP#). Singles were also noted in Newburyport on the 11th and a juvenile bird was in Scituate on the 29th (RAF#). A maximum of 45 Long-billed Dowitchers was present in Newburyport on the 2nd (RRV#) with 29 still there on the 29th (WRP#). A Stilt Sandpiper was found on P.I. on the 11th (RSH). A Semipalmated Sandpiper was observed at Scituate on the 29th (WRP); 3 Western Sandpipers were noted at Sandy Neck on the 16th (WRP#). Two Marbled Godwits were in Newburyport Harbor on the 8th (RHS#), and continued through the 15th with only 1 being observed (v.o.). The last Hudsonian Godwits were 4 found on the 2nd at Newburyport (RRV,SAP#). Forty Red Phalaropes were noted at 1st Encounter on the 21st (BN,CAG). Wilson's Phalaropes were found at P.I. on the 2nd (RMB#) and on Penikese Island on the 8th (VL). Over 200 Northern Phalaropes were seen in Great South Channel on the 26th (MBO) and one was found at GMNWR, Concord on the 9-10th (E.Morrier,J.Andrews).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS

On the 22nd, 2 full adult, 5 sub-adult, and 1 dark sub-adult Pomarine Jaegers were noted off First Encounter Beach (WRP,RAF). On the 15th when the wind shifted following a NE storm and increased from SW to NW 30 Parasitic Jaegers were noted off First Encounter (CAG); while on the same day, over 40 were seen off Provincetown, 80% of which were adults and 95% light phase (RRV#); while in Rockport 18 were seen offshore, mostly immatures (RSH#). The MBO staff recorded 5 sightings of skuas, sp? in the Georges Bank area between the 15th-22nd.

A Glaucous Gull was reported from Rockport on the 13th (CWL), and Iceland Gulls were noted from Nahant on the 14th (SZ) and at Stellwagen Bank on the 30th (BBC-HD'E). An adult Lesser Black-backed Gull was noted at East Orleans on the 9th (SAP,RRV,MJL), and a second bird was found at Sandy Neck on the 16th (SH,WRP,AWN). From 1-2 adult Black-headed Gulls were present throughout the month in E. Boston (SZ). A total of 15 Laughing Gulls were found in Winthrop on the 21st (SZ), and 14 were noted at Squantum on the 25th (RPE#). An adult Franklin's Gull in winter plumage was carefully studied from aboard a ship just north of West Chop, Martha's Vineyard Oct. 10 (AWN), the second Franklin's Gull to occur in Massachusetts this fall. One to two Bonaparte's Gulls were found in Boylston between the 11th-23rd (HWM). One adult and one immature Little Gull were found in Newburyport Harbor on the 11th (RSH). Black-legged Kittiwakes were feeding off Provincetown all month with over 600 on the 15th, 400+ on the 22nd and over 1000 on the 23rd (SAP,RRV,MJL).

Forster's Terns were noted in Newburyport Harbor Oct. 8-11 (RSH#), and at Sandy Neck where 3 were noted on the 10th (WRP#). Over 400 Common Terns were still at Sandy Neck on the 24th (RFP); also at Sandy Neck, over 5*Roseate Terns were noted on the 10th (WRP), 2 Caspian Terns were reported from there on the 14th (BN), and an immature Black Skimmer was seen there on the 10th (WRP). Six Caspian Terns were seen off Salisbury on the 6th (GLS#) and a high count of 10 was reported off P.I. on the 24th (GLS#). As many as 8 Black Skimmers were found in Chatham on the 2nd (RJ,HWM) and 2 were noted on Plymouth Beach on the 3rd (HC,DC).

Twenty Razorbills (RSH), and one Common Puffin (GLS) were noted off Rockport on the 15th during a NE storm. A Thick-billed Murre was seen off Sandy Neck on the 28th (RFP) and the only Dovekie reported was one there on the 14th (RFP). Another Common Puffin was noted on the BBC boat trip to Stellwagen Bank on the 30th (WRP).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Over 400 Mourning Doves were seen migrating over Provincetown on the 1st (RRV,RHS). Fourteen Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported throughout the month, while only 4 Black-billed Cuckoos were noted. A Barn Owl was found on Monomoy on the 24th (CAG,BN). Long-eared Owls were noted from P.I. (HHD'E), Salem (JJC), Orleans (CAG), Lexington (JA) and Truro (VL#). Manomet banded 7 Saw-whet Owls during the month, 5 of them between the 22nd-26th.

A Common Nighthawk picked up dead in Needham on the 4th (J.Pickup), was the only report outside of Cape Cod for the month. The occurrence of Common Nighthawks on the Cape is unusual. However, this year they were noted in Sandwich on the 18th (RFP), from Truro on the 21st (CAG,BN), at Chatham on the 22nd (WRP,RAF), and at Eastham on the 25th (P.Olmstead). All of these dated represent the latest recorded for Massachusetts, the previous late date being Oct. 16, 1952 in Lanesville and Oct. 16, 1954 at Chatham. There was also a late flight of Chimney Swifts reported as follows: on the 18th single birds in Barnstable (RFP), Watertown (RHS) and GMNWR (RKW), 3 at Nantucket on the 20th (EFA#), 4 at Wellfleet on the 21st (CAG,BN) and 1 at Manomet on the 22nd (MBO staff). A hummingbird, sp? was observed in Beverly on the 13th (Mrs. Soucy). Single Pileated Woodpeckers were found in Framingham (RAF), Topsfield (J.Grugan#), Weston (T.Capello), Needham (F.Alwon) and Lancaster (HWM). The only Red-bellied Woodpecker was reported from Orleans on the 22nd (CAG). A Red-headed Woodpecker was seen flying over Race Point on the 1st (RHS#) and another on the 16th (SAP#); others were found in Dorchester on the 2nd (JM), in Needham between the 11th-24th (HD'E#) and in Weston from the 20th on (Robert Cronin#).

KINGBIRDS THROUGH SHRIKES

An Eastern Kingbird was found on P.I. on the 6th where 2 were occasionally seen up to the late date of October 16 (GLS#,v.o.). It was a good year for Western Kingbird, 8 reports (as compared with 0,1,1,2 for the last four Octobers).

Western Kingbird:

1,16,21	Provincetown	1,1,1	RRV#,J.Grugan#,BN#
1-2,9	Eastham (FH),No Mans Land	1,1	PM#,VL
8-23,15-29	P.I.,Truro	1,1	RSH#,RRV#
31	Nantucket	1	EFA

Great Crested Flycatchers were found at Monomoy on the 8th (B.Morrissey) and in Woburn on the 28th (GWG). Eastern Phoebes were reported from Framingham on the 16th (RAF) and Provincetown on the 29th (FRH).

Say's Phoebes had a small irruption in the state, with four separate birds reported. The only other recent October record was of one found at Marconi Station Oct. 4-7, 1974 (WWB#).

Say's Phoebe:

Sept. 30,1	off Martha's Vineyard, Nauset	1,1	RAF#,N.Waldron
1-8,23-25	Nantucket,S.Wellfleet	1,1	HLJ#,WWB

A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was noted on Monomoy on the 8th (B.Morrissey) and a "Traill's" flycatcher was picked up dead at the Prudential Building in Boston on the 4th (HTW). An Eastern Wood Pewee was carefully identified at Chatham on the late date of Oct. 22nd (RAF,WRP).

Tree Swallows totalled over 7000 on the 2nd at Sandy Neck, (HWM,RJ). At Bridgewater on the 4th, over 500 were counted (DTB#) and on the

16th, over 800 were reported at Manomet (WRP). The last report was a single bird at No. Scituate on the 22nd (SH). Single Barn Swallows were reported from Bridgewater on the 4th (DTB#), P.I. on the 16th (RMB) and Provincetown on the 4th (PRB#) and 2 immatures were noted there on the 15th (RRV#).

Blue Jays were migrating on the 1st, with 758 flying over Race Point, Provincetown in 3 1/2 hours (RHS#). A Boreal Chickadee was found in Framingham on the 23rd (RAF). Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported in exceptional numbers during the month with the highest count coming from Weston with 59 there on the 16th (LJR). (LJR had not recorded this species in Weston during October since 1973.) Single House Wrens were reported in Marshfield on the 2nd (ES), from Long Island on the 3rd (J.Grugan#) and from Lancaster on the 12th (HWM). A good flight of Winter Wrens was noted during the month with most being reported within the first two weeks; at least six different birds were found on P.I. on the 8th (RHS#). A Long-billed Marsh Wren was still around GMNWR on the 28th (JA).

Over 320 American Robins were noted from Lincoln on the 17th (RAF). A Wood Thrush was found in a garage in Ipswich on the 13th (JWB) and another was noted from the Prudential, Boston on the 13th (HTW). Swainson's Thrushes were reported from both Framingham (RAF) and Lancaster (HWM) on the 18th. A Gray-cheeked Thrush was found at the Prudential, Boston on the 11th (HTW) and another was observed in No. Scituate on the 23rd (SH). A Veery on the 6th in Framingham was the only one reported during the month (RAF). Reports of Eastern Bluebird came from Provincetown with 3 (IG), Carlisle with 6 (S.LaCerva), Shrewsbury with 6 (MI) and 3 from Woburn (GWG). Three Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were found at Race Point, Provincetown on the 1st (PM#), others were seen in Quincy on the 2nd (DTB#), 2 in Marshfield also on the 2nd (SSBC-ES), one was netted at Manomet on the 13th (MBO) and another was found in Ellisville on the 16th (SSBC-WRP). Very few Golden-crowned Kinglets were reported during the month, a period when there should be many more migrants. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were well reported with a maximum 80-90 birds found in the Salem-Lynn area on the 19th (RMB#). Water Pipits were reported in good numbers with maximum counts of 150 at Provincetown on the 9th (MJL#), 40 at P.I. on the 24th (GLS#) and 65 in Sudbury on the 28th (RAF). A Bohemian Waxwing was found in a flock of Cedars on P.I. on the 8th (RWS#,v.o.), where it remained through the 11th.

From the 20th on Northern Shrikes were reported in good numbers, with 5 from the outer cape (fide BN), 2+ in the P.I.-Salisbury area (RCH#), and singles from other localities. Three Loggerhead Shrikes were noted with one each in Truro on the 1st (CAG), South Wellfleet on the 9th (RRV#) and from Chatham on the 21st (CAG).

Certainly the most interesting report of the month was of a Phainopepla, apparently an immature male, seen feeding on berries at Tuckernuck Island Oct. 7 (MLF). This bird was carefully studied at close range over an extended period of time, leaving little doubt as to its identity. Recent east coast reports of Phainopeplas included one female on

Block Island, R.I. in September 1976, and an adult male at Nantucket in February of 1972. The Nantucket bird was not reported at the time on the reasonable assumption that it was an escaped cage bird. The occurrence of a juvenal on the outer coast in October strongly indicates that we are dealing with authentic vagrants.

VIREOS THROUGH SNOW BUNTING

A White-eyed Vireo was found in Provincetown on the 16th, where a Solitary Vireo was noted on the 22nd (RRV,SAP,MJL). A single Yellow-throated Vireo was noted in Sandwich on the 1st for the only report of the month (RFP). A Red-eyed Vireo was found in Lincoln on the 29th (CB) and single Philadelphia Vireos were noted from Provincetown on the 16th (RRV#) and in North Scituate on the 22nd (SH). Warbling Vireos were banded at Manomet on the 4th and 5th (MBO staff) and another was found in Provincetown on the 9th (MJL#).

Black-and-white Warblers were noted on the 22nd from both Salem (HWF) and from North Scituate (SH). Most interesting is the report of a Worm-eating Warbler that was seen at WBWS on the 18th (PB). The only recent October record is a bird banded at Manomet on 10/5/75. Late Warbler migrants include a Tennessee at Salem on the 22nd (RSH); Nashville at Both Truro (VL) and Lancaster (HWM) on the 29th; Magnolia at both Salem (HWF) and North Scituate (SH) on the 22nd; Cape May at both Salem (RPF), and P.I. (GWG) on the 23rd; a Black-throated Blue at North Scituate on the 22nd (SH); a Blackburnian in Norfolk on the 9th (RMB); a Chestnut-sided at Fort Hill, Eastham on the 23rd (R.Austin#); a Prairie at WBWS on the 25th (PO); an Ovenbird in Ipswich on the 10th (JWB); a Connecticut in Woburn on the 7th (GWG); a Mourning in Truro on the 8th (WRP#); and an American Redstart in Lancaster on the 26th (HWM). A good many Orange-crowned Warblers were reported with 7 banded at Manomet and 15 other individuals reported mostly during the first two weeks of the month. The Yellow-rumped Warbler flight was overwhelming as usual with a conservative 500 at Provincetown on the 1st (RHS,RRV#), 1000+ on P.I. on the 8th (RHS#) and 250+ at Salisbury on the 8th (RHS#). The high counts were not only concentrated along the coast with 72 reported from Fresh Pond, Cambridge on the 16th (J.Barton), 73 were noted in Weston on the 8th (LJR), and 250 from South Peabody on the 19th (RSH). Two Yellow-breasted Chats were noted, one at P.I. on the 15th (S.Garrett#), and one was banded at Manomet on the 25th (MBO staff). The highlight of the month was the Black-throated Gray Warbler found at Camp Lion, at the Salem and Lynn town lines on the 18th, where it remained through the 31st (RSH,v.o.). The only recent record for eastern Massachusetts was of a bird 10/11-12/70 in Winchester (PKD). The bird remained in a small group of pines and was photographed (RSH) and seen by many observers during its stay.

Late Bobolinks were reported from Framingham, where one was observed on the 16th (RAF), and Truro on the 23rd (RRV#). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported from Eastham on the 2nd (RJ,HWM), at a feeder in E. Orleans on the 4th (AF), and a feeder in Wellfleet on the 18th and possibly later (fide WWB). Flocks of Redwinged Blackbirds were estimated at over 1000 in Topsfield on the 2nd (GLS) and 6000+ in Framingham

on the 23rd (RAF). As many as 12 Rusty Blackbirds were noted in Lancaster on the 12th (HWM), over 25 in Truro on the 15th (AAC) and 25 in South Peabody on the 19th (RSH). Brewer's Blackbirds totalled at least 3 or more at Corn Hill, Truro with 2-3 females and 1-2 adult males Oct. 21 (BN,CAG,WVB,v.o.). Other Brewer's Blackbirds were noted from Bridgewater where an immature was carefully studied on the 4th (WRP), and 2 were found on Nantucket on the 8-10th (KJH). Four Blue Grosbeaks were noted with 2 from Nantucket, 1 on the 1st and a different bird on the 7th (EFA); single birds were also noted on the 1st from Truro (RSH#) and Eastham (RRV#). Indigo Buntings continued in good numbers during the 1st week of the month. A total of 9 Dickcissels were recorded during the month with 5 of them from inland localities.

Winter finches were appearing to be having a good flight year from the many reports received; by mid-month multitudes of Pine Siskins were recorded with over 1000 on the outer cape on the 23rd (RRV#) and most reports were well in excess of 50 individuals at each locality. Pine Grosbeaks began arriving after the 15th with a maximum of 13 on the 23rd at P.I. (RSH#,v.o.). A single Common Redpoll was seen at sea in the vicinity of Jeffries Ledge on the 24th (MBO staff). Both crossbills were noted but not in any substantial numbers. Over 100 American Goldfinches were found in Mt. Auburn Cemetery during the first two weeks of the month feeding on sunflower heads (RHS).

High counts of Savannah Sparrows were made in Framingham with 150 there on the 16th (RAF); 80+ were counted at Bridgewater on the 4th (WRP) and 80+ were noted from Salisbury on the 8th (RHS#). Grasshopper Sparrows were reported from Truro on the 23rd (RRV#) and from Provincetown on the 29th (RRV#). Twelve Seaside Sparrows were noted from Provincetown on the 4th (RRV#) and 8 were found at Fort Hill on the 12th (WRP#). Vesper Sparrows were well represented throughout eastern Massachusetts with a maximum of 20+ at Marconi Station, Wellfleet on the 16th (RRV#,v.o.).

Lark Sparrows were reported from Nantucket on the 5-7th (HLJ,v.o.), from Wellfleet on the 8th (RAF), and from WBWS on the 23rd-24th (WWB). Tree Sparrows arrived during the third week of the month and over 85 were noted in Provincetown on the 23rd (SAP#) and 125+ were seen in Framingham on the 30th (RAF). The last big flocks of Chipping Sparrows were noted during the first week with 25+ at Wellfleet (MK), and 33 on P.I. (RHS#). A single bird was found in Clinton on the 23rd (HWM). A maximum of 3 Clay-colored Sparrows was found at Truro on the 1st (MK,RHS,RRV#,v.o.) where 1-2 birds were found there off and on during the month. Other Clay-colored Sparrows were noted from Nantucket on the 8th (KJH) and in No. Scituate on the 22nd (SH). Over 35 Field Sparrows were noted in South Peabody on the 19th (RSH). White-crowned Sparrows were reported in small numbers in only a few localities. Lincoln's Sparrows were well reported with over 40 individuals noted. An overwhelming 200 Swamp Sparrows were counted in East Boston on the 7th (SZ). The first Lapland Longspurs were seen at Provincetown on the 1st (RRV) with many more by month's end; unusual was a flock of 10+ in Bolton on the 23rd (HWM). Snow Buntings were reported from many inland areas as well as along the coast with a maximum of 500 at Salisbury on the 29th (RAF).

RHS

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

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For sale: used, Poughs, <u>Birds of Eastern and Central North America</u> , \$4.00 Contact Herman D'Entremont, (617) 969-8146 (Newton, Massachusetts)
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