

# BIRD RECORDS

## A FLURRY OF FIELD GUIDES

Several new field guides have been published recently that all birders should be aware of. Roger Tory Peterson started this flurry by publishing a revised edition of his popular guide in 1980. Within the past year two new guides and one revised guide have challenged Peterson in the field guide market. Briefly, I will describe the advantages and disadvantages of these guides.

The Birds of North America\* by Chandler Robbins *et al.* has been updated, and it is the least expensive of the new books. The revision retains the same format which has made it so popular, and it is not substantially different from the original edition.

The National Audubon Society has sponsored a three-volume Master Guide to Birding, which was compiled by many different experts and primarily uses photographs for identification purposes. This guide is the most expensive (\$42 for the set) and is not a "field" guide as such because of its large size, but it probably has the most information in it. Both the Robbins guide and the National Audubon guide are available at the gift shop at Audubon House.

The National Geographic Society has published the Field Guide to the Birds of North America as a single volume that is similar in format to the Robbins guide. The book was edited by the National Geographic staff and uses paintings done by about 20 different artists. Naturally, there are some inconsistencies inherent in a book with so many different artists/authors, but this guide deals with female, juvenile, immature, and winter plumages and geographic races better than the other (CONTINUED ON PAGE 9)

\* Reviewed in detail by Tudor Richards in N.H. Audubon, March-April 1984.

# WINTER SEASON

The 1982-1983 Winter Season

## INTRODUCTION:

The fall was a warm one and the unseasonable temperatures stayed with us through the 1982-83 winter season. We had very few days of really cold temperatures, and only about one week in which the mercury fell below 0° F. Freeze-up of lakes was late, most being only partly frozen during the Christmas Bird Counts. Several rivers remained open into January.

Many people commented that, "There just aren't any birds around this winter." But perhaps what they really meant to say was that they weren't seeing the usual number of birds at their feeders. Could it have been that feeders were not as needed this year because infrequent snow falls left much open ground and a readily available natural food supply? Most of the Christmas counts reported fair to good wild food crops for their areas. In the Coastal Count circle the wild food crop was excellent, while only the Peterborough-Hancock Christmas Count described their wild food crop as poor.

Northern finches were virtually nonexistent this season. However, this was a very good winter for Purple Finches, and five Christmas counts had new record high totals for House Finches. Evening Grosbeaks were plentiful early, yet by the second half of the season they were gone.

But the bird most notably absent from a large part of our state this winter was the Blue Jay. For many Christmas counts, Blue Jay totals were very low. The Laconia and Peterborough CBCs had record low numbers. The 107 Blue Jays for the Peterborough CBC were barely 10% of the previous year's total. Several persons speculated that the lack

of Blue Jays may have been due to the insufficient mast crop, which probably resulted from the recent Gypsy Moth infestation.

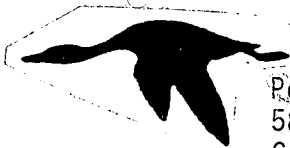
In general, most species were evident in average or high numbers. The Concord and Pittsburg Christmas Bird Counts had their second highest species totals ever. Record high numbers of individuals were recorded for several species during the eleven CBCs. Five counts (Coastal, Concord, Hanover-Norwich, Isles of Shoals, and Peterborough) each added a new bird to their species lists, while the Baker Valley CBC, in its ninth year, added three new species.

Andrea and George Robbins

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1982-1983 Winter Season

LOONS, GREBES



Perhaps as noteworthy as the 58 Common Loons seen on the Coastal CBC, Dec. 18 (RS), were the Common Loons seen inland during December: 1 on Squam Lake, W. Sandwich, Dec. 10-12 (BSR), 1 on Webster Lake, Franklin, Dec. 11 (KCE), and those lingering even into January; 10 seen on the Laconia CBC Jan. 1 (WL) and 1 on Lake Winnepesaukee Jan. 10 (RAQ). Also remaining late inland was a Red-throated Loon seen on Webster Lake in Franklin Dec. 2 and 5 (KCE). The Coastal CBC tallied 3 Red-throated Loons and a single bird was seen on Great Bay Feb. 27 (GCR, AER).

One hundred Red-necked Grebes were recorded during the Coastal CBC and 10 were found Feb. 27 at Rye Harbor (GCR, AER). Horned Grebes seemed scarce this winter. The only reports being 6 (a low number) for the Coastal CBC and 2 off Odiorne Point in Rye Feb. 27 (GCR, AER). The only Pied-billed Grebes for the winter season were one bird found Dec. 11 on Squam Lake,

Sandwich (BSR) and another single bird seen on the Merrimack River during the Concord CBC Dec. 18 (RAQ), (a third count record).

GANNET THROUGH HERONS



Three Northern Gannets were seen off the N.H. Coast, a 7th record for the Coastal CBC, and 18 were sighted from the deck of the Heritage during the Jan. 2 Isles of Shoals CBC (EWP).

The number of Great Cormorants on this year's Coastal CBC tied the high total of 52. The 18 observers on the Isles of Shoals CBC sighted 245, and at least one immature bird wintered along the Merrimack River, Manchester (MTM). For the 6th time a Double-crested Cormorant was found by participants of the Coastal CBC.

A total of 5 Great Blue Herons were counted on the Lee-Durham CBC on Dec. 23 (TF) and 2 on the Coastal CBC. Single birds were seen in Peterborough Dec. 19 (Mrs. Robert Richardson fide MC) and along the Merrimack River in Manchester on Jan. 24 (MTM).

WATERFOWL



For the 2nd straight year and a 4th count record, a Canada Goose was found on the Concord CBC.

Good numbers were tallied on the Coastal (1825), Lee-Durham (637), and Nashua (93) CBCs (RA). Isles of Shoals CBC observers found one bird and 9 were reported from Salem, Jan. 19 (KEF). A single Brant, flying with scoters, proved to be a new bird for the Isles of Shoals CBC.

Mallards and Black Ducks were well reported this winter. Two Black Ducks, lingering on open water in northern N.H., were counted by the four hardy observers on the Pittsburg CBC, Jan. 1 (DWF). One Gadwall (a bird virtually nonexistent in N.H. during the winter) was found near the Mill Pond Dam, Durham (EWP) on this year's Lee-Durham CBC, and 3 American Wigeons were sighted by Coastal CBC participants. For a 2nd year Wood Ducks were found on the Nashua CBC; the 5 birds were a new high for the count. A single Wood Duck was observed on the Lee-Durham CBC.

Two single Ring-necked Ducks, one from the Laconia CBC and one male seen on Silver Lake in Lochmere on January 10 (RAQ, BS, MH), were the only reports this winter. Christmas count birders recorded 6 Greater Scaup on the Lee-Durham CBC, 300 on the Coastal CBC, and 3 on the Laconia CBC. On Dec. 21 RAQ and ADM observed one male Lesser Scaup on the Bellamy River in Dover, an unusual bird in New Hampshire during the winter months.

Common Goldeneyes were seen in December on open water in New London (KCE), Andover (KCE), Holderness (BSR), and Salem (KEF). And a pair, sighted on the Squam River in Ashland, Jan. 17 (BSR), were noted as unusual for this date. The Errol-Umbagog CBC, Jan. 31 (DWF) and Lee-Durham CBC tallied 24 birds each. The Concord CBC had a new record high of 57. One male Barrow's Goldeneye spent late January and early February with several Common Goldeneyes on the Merrimack River, north of the dam in Hooksett. The bird was originally sighted on Jan. 22 (RAQ et al.).

Bufflehead reports were few, but a single female found Jan. 10 on Lake Winnepesaukee in Gilford (RAQ, BS, MH) is noteworthy. The 20 Oldsquaw in Hampton Dec. 2 (DBK), 60 on the Coastal CBC, and 111, Jan. 2, on the Isles of Shoals CBC are typical numbers for winter coastal sightings; however, the lone bird recorded during the Laconia CBC is a rare find inland at this time of year. One Common Eider in Hampton Dec. 2 (DBK) and 15 (low) on the Coastal CBC were the only Dec. reports. The Isles of Shoals CBC, Jan. 2, recorded 286. Sixty White-winged Scoters were counted off Hampton Dec. 2 (DBK). The Coastal CBC and Isles of Shoals CBC reported 120 and 6 birds respectively, and a single bird was spotted in Great Bay, Newington on Feb. 27 (GCR, AER). Surf Scoter and Black Scoter totals were low for this year's Coastal CBC, possibly due to the high steady winds and rough water which caused poor observation conditions. Only 2 and 10 of the respective species were recorded. Nine Surf Scoters were counted during the Isles of Shoals CBC. Five Black Scoters were seen on the ocean off Rye Beach, Feb. 27 (GCR, AER).

Hooded, Common, and Red-breasted Mergansers were all reported in good numbers. The 101 Hooded Mergansers were a high total for the Laconia CBC. Sixteen Common Mergansers on the Peterborough CBC, Dec. 18 (MC), were a new record high. The Coastal CBC had 437 Red-breasted Mergansers; the Lee-Durham CBC, 22; the Isles of Shoals CBC, 17; and the Laconia CBC, 1.

HAWKS AND FALCONS



The Northern Goshawk is a thrilling bird at any time of the year. The three observers on the Errol-Umbagog CBC were able to locate three of these magnificent birds. Also, an adult was reported as having killed a chicken on Berry Pond Road in Pittsfield, Jan. 10 (fide RAQ). Sharp-shinned Hawks were reported from Salem, (KEF); Hopkinton, (fide RAQ); and on several CBCs. An unconfirmed Cooper's Hawk was reportedly taking pigeons for two weeks in the Nashua area (fide RAQ).

The mild temperatures and little snow possibly encouraged many Red-tailed Hawks to remain in N.H. this winter. Fourteen were sighted on the Coastal CBC and 6 (a new record high) on the Concord CBC. Three was a high total for the Baker Valley CBC, Dec. 19 (JK). Several other sightings occurred statewide. A single Red-shouldered Hawk, spotted by birders on the Coastal CBC, was the only report for that species this winter. Three Rough-legged Hawks were seen on the Coastal CBC. A single bird was reported on the Lee-Durham CBC, and another in Hampton, Dec. 25 (DBK).

An adult Bald Eagle, seen along the Merrimack River in North Hooksett, was found Jan. 22 (RAQ et al.) and remained in the area for several weeks. Northern Harriers were recorded on the Coastal CBC for the 9th time. This year's total of 3 birds was a new record high. A pair of American Kestrels wintered in S.E. Manchester (MTM) and 3 were seen during January, also in Manchester (GCR). A total of 18 were found during five CBC's.



GROUSE THROUGH ALCIDS

An elusive bird for most birders, the Spruce Grouse was seen twice this winter: one along the Glen Boulder Trail in Pinkham Notch, Jan. 22 (MR) and the other was near the Mount Willard Trail in Crawford Notch, Jan. 29 (MR). A high number of 15 Ruffed Grouse were counted during the Peterborough CBC. A total of 43 were found during nine other counts. Four were feeding on barberries in Hillsboro during January and February (RAS). Jean Moors (fide RAQ) had as many as 6 Wild Turkeys coming daily into her Dover backyard through January. Birders found 8 turkeys in the Lee-Durham CBC count circle. Ring-necked Pheasants were seen on three Christmas Bird Counts: 2 Nashua, 7 Coastal, and 4 Peterborough.

One American Coot was in the Taylor River, Hampton, on December 1 (Wayne Nelson fide RAQ). Four Ruddy Turnstones were feeding with Purple Sandpipers among the rocks on Boon Island during the Isles of Shoals CBC. An American Woodcock was flushed several times along Hyland Road in South Hampton,

Dec. 23 (GWG). For a second year a woodcock was found on the Coastal CBC. The Nashua CBC had a Common Snipe. Isles of Shoals CBC birders tallied 530 Purple Sandpipers. The Coastal CBC had 99, plus 17 Dunlin and 26 Sanderlings. Seventy-five Dunlin with 10 Sanderlings were found in Seabrook on Jan. 14 (EGL and ST).

Perhaps the best bird of the season was seen by few birders and remained in the area only one week. The IVORY GULL was first seen at the state fish pier in Portsmouth around January 15 (RS, EWP et al.).



Glaucous Gulls are continuing to increase. The Coastal CBC had a decade high count of 3 and the Concord CBC had a new high total of 3. An adult was seen along the Merrimack River in S.E. Manchester the last week of January (MTM). A first year bird was on the Squam River in Ashland Jan. 10 (RAQ, BS, MH), another first year bird was in Portsmouth harbor Jan. 19 (RAQ, TR), and an all white, second year bird was on the Androscoggin River north of Berlin Jan. 23 (RAQ, TR, ASNH). The following Iceland Gulls were reported: 1 Nashua CBC; 2 Coastal CBC; 1 Concord CBC; 2 Isles of Shoals CBC; 1 adult Merrimack River, Manchester, Jan. and Feb. (MTM); 1 first year bird Portsmouth harbor Jan. 19 (RAQ, TR); and 1 second year bird at the town landfill, Andover, Feb. 24 (KCE). Great Black-backed Gulls were reported from coastal, Connecticut River, and Merrimack River areas. The Nashua CBC had a high of 353 because the dump was open Saturday. And, in Andover, where these gulls are usually uncommon, as many as 5 were counted at the town landfill, Feb. 24 (KCE). Twenty-five Herring Gulls were also at the Andover landfill Feb. 24 (KCE). This is the first winter for flocks of gulls there. The Hanover-Norwich and Peterborough CBCs both had record high numbers of Herring Gulls, 57 and 7 respectively. The Lee-Durham and Isles of Shoals CBCs each had one Ring-billed Gull. Another single bird was a new species for the Baker Valley CBC, Dec. 19 (JK). The 9 Ring-billed Gulls counted were also new for the Hanover N.H.-Norwich Vt. CBC Dec. 26 (WGE). And for the first time, these gulls were seen on Pleasant Lake in New London (10) Jan. 2

(KCE). Four Bonaparte's Gulls were in Hampton Dec. 2 (DBK). The Coastal CBC had 48 and the Isles of Shoals CBC had 11. For the 9th time, the Coastal CBC had Black-legged Kittiwakes; 4 this year. A single kittiwake was found in Durham near Jackson's Landing, Jan. 25 (MLD). Isles of Shoals CBC birders counted 104. A Little Gull was sighted by Coastal CBC observers. This is only the fifth year that this European straggler has been seen during the count. Also, an adult Little Gull was seen in Portsmouth harbor, an area outside of the Isles of Shoals count circle, from the boat on count day.

A Razorbill was found, for a seventh count record, on the Coastal CBC. Sixteen were within the Isles of Shoals CBC count circle. All other alcid reports come from the Isles of Shoals CBC. These include 26 Dovekies, 53 Black Guillemots, and 15 Common Puffins.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS



Our most northerly reports for Mourning Doves were one on the Pittsburg CBC, and 21 on the ASNH field trip to Errol on Jan. 23.

The only Screech Owl reported was on the Coastal CBC. It was a 6th count record and the first seen since 1962. Great Horned Owls were seen during the Coastal CBC, which had one, and the Baker Valley CBC which had a record high of 4. Snowy Owls were plentiful this winter, and the one which perched on the Capitol building in Concord from Dec. 27-29 (RAQ et al.) was photographed for newspaper and television news reports. Other Snowy Owl reports include: a single bird seen in Portsmouth during the Coastal CBC count week but missed on the count day, a bird seen by Cindy Martin (fide CFS) in Dunbarton Dec. 13, another bird seen Jan. 4 in West Hopkinton by Raymond Batchelder (fide RAQ), and two birds on the Shoals during the Isles of Shoals CBC. A total of 9 Barred Owls were reported from around the state. One Saw-whet Owl was heard calling on Feb. 27 in Dunbarton (JG).

The following CBCs had Belted Kingfishers: Lee-Durham (1), Coastal (3), Concord (1), and Laconia (2). Two were along the Merrimack River in S.E. Manchester Dec. 17 (MTM).

Three Common (Yellow-shafted) Flickers were found on the Coastal CBC, and a report of one came from Landing Rd., Hampton, Jan. 19 (DBK). A single bird remained in Canterbury from Jan. 17 to Jan. 28 (Sandra Dougherty fide DBS). Eighteen Pileated Woodpeckers were observed throughout the state; the two during the Pittsburg CBC being a new high total for that count. A RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER, at a feeder, photographed by Marco Restani and well documented by Art Borrer, was this year's new bird for the Coastal CBC. We received a very interesting account of a Red-headed Woodpecker which wintered through Feb. 21 near the suet feeders of Royal and Verna Smith (fide RAQ) in Laconia. When this bird was first seen it had no prominent color except for its dark back and white patches on wings and lower back. Slowly, through the month of February, its brownish head feathers were replaced by the red feathers of an adult Red-headed Woodpecker, confirming its identity. Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers were recorded in low numbers, 10 and 18 respectively, during the Hanover-Norwich CBC; however, the 77 Hairy Woodpeckers on the Peterborough CBC were a new record for that count. The two Black-backed Woodpeckers found during the Errol-Umbagog CBC gave the count a new high total for this species. While hiking in the White Mountains, MR sighted two of these woodpeckers Jan. 1 and Jan. 8, both female, and both were stripping bark from spruce trees. The best report for this species comes from the Pittsburg CBC which had six of these birds, a total which exceeded all previous counts combined.

HORNED LARKS THROUGH SHRIKES

The following Christmas Counts had Horned Larks: Coastal (64), Hanover-Norwich (1), Nashua (15), and Isles of Shoals (1).

The two northern counts recorded Gray Jays, 3 on the Errol-Umbagog count and 11 on the

Pittsburg count. One Gray Jay was found in Errol, Dec. 2 (CFS, HN, BW) and two in Pinkham Notch on the Glen Boulder Trail, Jan. 22 (MR). Blue Jays were common in the northern parts of the state but scarce in the south. Many southern CBCs reported low totals, while the Peterborough and Laconia counts had their lowest totals ever. Northern Ravens were



well reported. The 10 on the Baker Valley CBC and 3 on the Peterborough CBC were new record high totals for those counts. The two Ravens found

roosting along the Merrimack River by GCR during the Concord CBC gave that count a new species. American Crows remained further north this winter than in the past winters. Eight were seen on the Errol-Umbagog CBC, a new high total there, and the six recorded on the Pittsburg CBC were the first seen since 1972 and also a new high total.

Black-capped Chickadees were abundant and seen in high numbers on several counts: 740 (a new high) Concord and 1118 (also a new high) Laconia are examples. Nine and 19 Boreal Chickadees were counted on the Errol-Umbagog and Pittsburg CBCs respectively. Five were along the Carter-Moriah Trail, south of Gorham, Jan. 9 (MR), and one was seen one day during the last week of February in Andover by P.J. Fenton (fide KCE). The Tufted Titmouse is extending its range northward while continuing to increase in numbers. New record highs of 17, Baker Valley CBC; and 66, Coastal CBC, were recorded this winter. Two titmice seen in Kearsarge during January were the most northerly report (Gertrude Smith fide RAQ). Our many reports of Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches show that both species wintered in typical numbers this season. A total of 56 Brown Creepers were sighted on nine of our N.H. CBCs. One bird was in Danbury, Jan. 3 (KCE), and on Feb. 1, two were near the Merrimack River in S.E. Manchester (MTM). After a snow storm, a single, well-described Carolina Wren stayed for about a week, eating suet at a feeder in West Nottingham. The bird was first seen Jan. 20 (Bob Weston fide RAQ).

A single Northern Mockingbird was a new species for the Baker Valley CBC. The Coastal CBC had 58, a low number after the steady increase during the past decade. The Gray Catbird, seen on the Coastal CBC, was the only report this winter (a fifth count record). A Brown Thrasher had been in the backyard of Mrs. Frank Kullgren (fide RAQ) of Wilton, N.H., for at least five weeks when reported Jan. 17. The thrasher would, reportedly, chase away Cardinals and solitary Starlings only to be chased away, in turn, by six Starlings together.

For only the second time in count history an American Robin was found during the Errol-Umbagog CBC. Single birds were also seen during the Baker Valley CBC count period. Robins were also reported from Durham, Lebanon, Danbury, Andover, and Hillsboro. Two were seen roosting in a sumac bush in Lakeport, Feb. 10 (PHN). For the sixth consecutive winter a VARIED THRUSH was present in the state. Coming to a supply of cracked corn, a single bird remained for most of the winter near the yard of Frank and Doris Birmingham, Concord. A Hermit Thrush was found by EWP and LP during this year's Lee-Durham CBC.

Golden-crowned Kinglets were seen on several Christmas Counts. The Laconia CBC had a new high of 8. Two single Ruby-crowned Kinglets were reported. For the tenth year, one was found on the Coastal CBC, and EWP located the other for the Lee-Durham CBC.

Our only Bohemian Waxwing report came from West Nottingham, where approximately 15 were seen in mid-January (Bob Weston fide RAQ). On the other hand, Cedar Waxwings were more plentiful. The usual flock of 50-60 birds was on the UNH campus, Durham, Feb. 19 (TH). Groups of 5-40 birds were seen throughout the state, and one flock of 40 was up north in Randolph, Jan. 23 (RAQ, TR, GCR).

Four CBCs recorded Northern Shrikes. Single birds were seen on Baker Valley, Coastal, Pittsburg, and Peterborough counts. For the Peterborough count this was the first shrike reported on a Monadnock Region Christmas Count since Clarence

Brooks recorded one in Keene in 1900, the year the Christmas count tradition was begun! Other shrikes in N.H. this winter were: 1 Hopkinton, Jan. 15 (BS); 1 on the ASNH Errol trip, Jan. 23 (RAQ, TR, ASNH); 1 Manchester, Feb. 26 (RAQ); and 1 Strafford, Feb. 22 (Ann Smith fide RAQ).



### WARBLERS AND ICTERIDS

An ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER was seen during the Coastal CBC count week. Fourteen Yellow-rumped Warblers were found on the Coastal CBC, and 13 during the Isles of Shoals CBC. The Lee-Durham CBC had one, one was in Manchester Jan. 24 (MTM), and another single bird was visiting a suet feeder in Danbury, Jan. 3 (KCE). Most noteworthy was the "yellow-rump" in Gorham from Dec. 9 to Jan. 17 seen by Kay Reid (fide GCR). A Pine Warbler was at a feeder in Lee during the Lee-Durham CBC (TF, LH). Mrs. Ingram (fide RAQ) of Nashua reported an Ovenbird, Jan. 18, that had been near her home since the fall. A Yellow-breasted Chat, which had been killed by a cat, was found in Gonic by Linda and Henry Isaacson (fide AGK), Jan. 10.

Birders found Eastern Meadowlarks on two Christmas counts; Coastal had 5 and Lee-Durham, 2. A single bird was in Kensington, Feb. 1 (Dick Parker fide RAQ). A total of 12 Red-winged Blackbirds were seen on the CBCs. Twelve others were at the White Farm, Concord, Feb. 24 (Chuck Hugny fide RAQ). The Coastal CBC had the only Northern (Baltimore) Oriole and the only Rusty Blackbird. Common Grackles were scarcer than Red-wings: 1 on the Nashua CBC, a low of 3 on the Coastal CBC, 4 on the Lee-Durham CBC, and one seen in Gorham Jan. 22 by Mary Ayer (fide GCR). However, Brown-headed Cowbirds were numerous.

### FRINGILLIDS



The Nashua and Concord CBCs had new high totals for Northern Cardinals, 53 and 22 respectively. Many other Cardinals were reported from throughout the state, the furthest north

of these being two in Kearsarge during January (Gertrude Smith fide RAQ). Evening Grosbeaks were abundant in New Hampshire for the first half of the winter. They were seen on 10 of the 11 CBCs; missed only during the Isles of Shoals count. Yet by February the large flocks were gone from the state. This was a very good winter for Purple Finches -- also missed on only one count. New record high totals were set by Peterborough and Concord CBCs, 43 and 86 respectively.

New high numbers for House Finch were recorded on four Christmas counts: 98, Nashua; 384, Coastal; 57, Concord; and 97 (previous high 14), Hanover-Norwich. The single House Finch found on the Baker Valley CBC was a new bird for that count. Several small flocks of Pine Grosbeaks were noted in the northern parts of the state. The pair seen in Concord, Jan. 31 (HN, CFS), was the most southerly report. Common Redpolls were virtually nonexistent in N.H. this winter, our only reports coming from two CBCs. The Coastal count had 1 and the Lee-Durham count had 8. Pine Siskins were also scarce. The two northern counts, Errol-Umbagog and Pittsburg, had 12 and 7 respectively. One was found on the Nashua CBC and 3 on the Coastal CBC. No other reports were received. The American Goldfinch was another species which was seen on 10 of the 11 Christmas counts and evident in typical numbers throughout the state. The Laconia CBC had the only White-winged Crossbill reported this winter.

The Lee-Durham CBC had a single Rufous-sided Towhee, and the male towhee found on Star Island on the Isles of Shoals CBC was a new species for that count. Savannah Sparrow is a bird typically non-existent north and very rare to casual south through Dec., Jan., and Feb. Therefore, our only report -- one bird on the Coastal CBC -- comes as no surprise. Dark-eyed Juncos and Tree Sparrows were present in average numbers. Three CBCs had Field Sparrows: Nashua 2, Concord 1, and Hanover-Norwich 1. The Coastal CBC had seven White-throated Sparrows. The two in the Errol-Umbagog CBC tally were a new high for that count. And, a single "White-throat" was a new bird for the Isles of Shoals CBC, yet generally they



were less common than in recent years. The Coastal CBC had one Fox Sparrow. Our only other report was of six birds wintering at feeders in the Concord-White Farm area, submitted Feb. 11 by Chuck Hugny (fide RAQ). A small number of Swamp Sparrows wintered coastally. A total of 7 were seen on the Coastal, Concord, and Lee-Durham CBCs. Hanover-Norwich CBC had

the most northern report for Song Sparrow, 2 birds. Snow Buntings were few and far between. Three small flocks -- 8, Coastal CBC; 6, Concord CBC; and 3, Lee-Durham CBC -- were reported, along with a single bird on the northern most count -- Pittsburg -- and another single bird on the Isles of Shoals Christmas Bird Count.

Winter 1982-83

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Contributors:

AEAmes, RAndrews, MCadot, MLDavis, KCElkins, WGEllison, TFederer, DWFinch, KEFolsom, GWGavutis, JGrant, LHarris, THarwood, MHauser, JKent, DBKirwan, MKneeland, AGKuhn, EGLocke, WLord, MTMartin, EMcCillis, ADMulligan, HNevers, PHNordman, EWPhinney, LPhinney, PAPHipps, RAQuinn, MRestani, TRichards, BSRidgely, AERobbins, GCRobbins, MDSchaffer, CFSmith, RASprague, DBStavros, RStephenson, BSwift, SThompson, BWyman, and ASNH is Audubon Society of New Hampshire.

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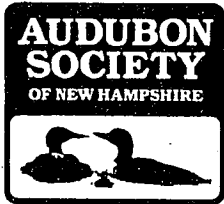
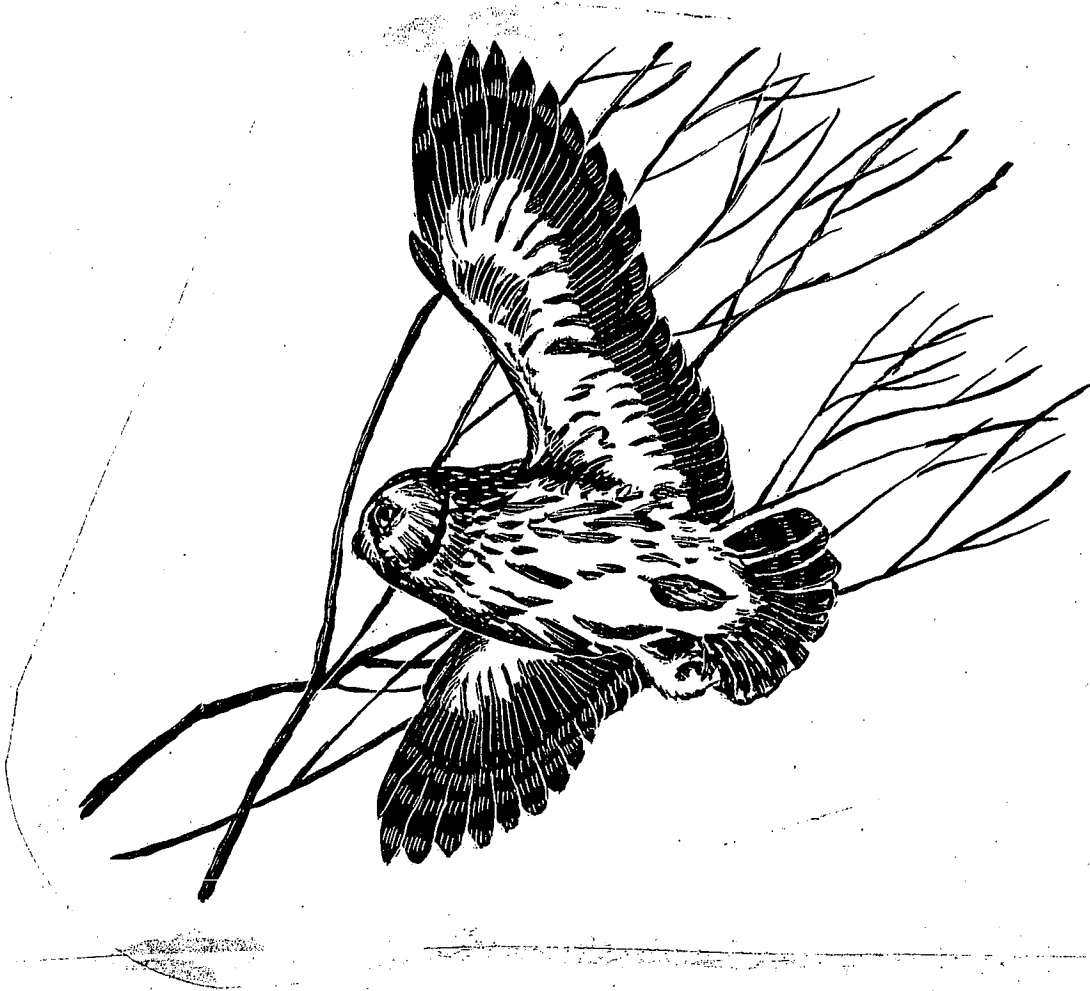
A Flurry of Field Guides - continued from page 1

books. The National Geographic guide is harder to come by than the others. It can be bought as a package with four records of bird songs and a large "coffee table" bird book for about \$35. The guide alone can be bought for \$15.95 plus \$3.50 postage from: American Birding Association Sales, P.O. Box 4335, Austin, TX 78765.

All of these guides are an improvement over the original Peterson, and the National Audubon and National Georgraphic efforts have state-of-the-art identification information. But the beginning birdwatcher should realize that no single field guide is infallible and actual field experience is just as important as the most up-to-date guide.

Finally, please don't forget to send your spring sightings (March 1-May 31) to: Sue Gonzalez & Wavell Fogleman, RFD 1, Plymouth, NH 03264.

*Robert A. Quinn*  
Robert A. Quinn, Editor



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