

# The Chickadee

of the  
FORBUSH BIRD CLUB

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Issued annually, chronicling the affairs of the club, reporting items of interest concerning Worcester County birds, and stimulating a more serious study of birds.

Edited by Lloyd S. Jenkins, Ethel S. Fleming,  
Mary Lou Winters and Olive P. Wetherbee.

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## AIM OF THE FORBUSH BIRD CLUB -

To promote the study of birds, especially  
of this vicinity;  
to extend hospitality to wild birds;  
to secure co-operation in all measures  
tending to protect the birds; and  
to extend knowledge and sentiment in  
favor of bird study.

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## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Although the Chickadee chronicles the events of the past year, it usually arrives in your hands as spring begins in earnest. I therefore take this opportunity to remind everyone of the W. Elmer Ekblaw Sanctuary in Paxton.

Last year our activities there, formal and informal, were on a limited scale. This was partly due to its inaccessibility. Now we have a fine gravel road to within a few hundred feet of the headquarters, and a parking place. I think we should try to use the sanctuary as much as possible, as a place to show friends who have an interest in Nature, and as a place to put some of those idle hours to good purpose.

One of the club sponsored projects this year will be the planting of aquatic plants for ducks, and some repairs to the building. But there are many other projects, big and small, that would contribute to its beauty and usefulness. I cannot go into detail here; you will find some suggestions along this line posted at the building. Why not pay a visit soon, and see how we are progressing!

- Lloyd S. Jenkins

FIELD NOTES - WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS - 1956

1956 was a good birding year in Worcester County. 206 species were recorded, compared to 215 in the banner year of 1954, when the hurricanes were responsible for the appearance of several rare species. There were four species never before recorded by the club: - Eastern Glossy Ibis, American Three-toed Woodpecker, Yellow-throated Warbler and Oregon Junco.

After an average winter in which normal numbers of northern birds were reported, there occurred a series of very severe early spring storms. They left a deep snow cover that lingered until late April holding back the early migrants a week or more. After the spring weather took over, however, there were no bad storms to the end of the year. The warbler migration was marked by a wave on May 12 in which the rare Yellow-throated and Prothonotary Warblers were recorded. The influx of Arctic Three toed Woodpeckers in late fall was unprecedented in Worcester County records.

There were some odd occurrences to wonder about. How could all those Robins reported in January be accounted for? What was the reason for the dazed-appearing Scarlet Tanagers on the ground in May? Where were the Wood Ducks and Hermit Thrushes in October? Why were some of the regular fall migrant warblers so scarce or missing? Where were the Evening Grosbeaks and other northern birds which appear quite regularly in the late fall? It all added up to an interesting year.

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- COMMON LOON: April 12, W. Boylston, 1, Crompton, to May 20, Boylston, 1, Winters. Then, Sept. 15, Boylston, 1, Drown, to Dec. 24, Clinton, 1 Crompton.
- HORNED GREBE: May 15, Princeton, 2, Fleming. Then Oct. 14, Brookfield, 3, W. Wetherbee, and Clinton, 3, McAllister, to Dec. 24, Sterling, 1, Crompton.
- PIED-BILLED GREBE: March 13, E. Brookfield, 1, Crompton, to May 9, Princeton, 2, Inman. Then Oct. 12, Paxton, 1, Winters, to Dec. 24, W. Boylston, 1, Crompton.
- DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT: May 9, Boylston, 1, Hayes.
- GREAT BLUE HERON: March 13, Spencer, 1, Crompton, and March 31, Southbridge, 1, Brown (of Springfield), to Nov. 27, Uxbridge, 1, Crompton. On Oct. 12, Miss Murdock observed 7 in Sterling where she had watched three occupied nests in the summer.
- AMERICAN EGRET: Only Sept. 2, Lancaster, 1, Crompton.
- GREEN HERON: May 4, Lancaster, 1, Crompton, to Oct. 2, Sterling, 1, Allen.
- BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON: April 4, Auburn, 1, Kinsel, and April 7, Clinton, 2, McClosky, to July 26, Uxbridge, 3, Crompton. Five other reports, between April 29 and June 27.
- AMERICAN BITTERN: April 7, Clinton, 1, McClosky, and April 17, Boylston, 1, McAllister, to Oct. 22, Worcester, 1, O. Wetherbee. The rarely seen breast-plumes displayed in courtship were observed in Lunenburg on May 1 (Bruce).
- EASTERN GLOSSY IBIS: May 5, Bolton, 2, Crompton, and May 6, Bolton, 1, Fleming. Studied at length by several observers. Two had been in Concord on May 3 (Armstrong).
- CANADA GOOSE: April 3, Auburn, 7, Kinsel, and April 6, W. Boylston, 10, Crompton, to May 12, Lunenburg, 2, Bruce. The largest spring flock (42) was seen in Clinton on April 13 (Fleming). In autumn, Oct. 12, Boylston, 200, McAllister, and Oct. 18, Athol, 400, Allison, to Nov. 1, Worcester, 48, O. Wetherbee. Reported from four other localities, Oct. 26-28.

SNOW GOOSE: April 5, Bolton, 15 (seen by careful observers from the Atlantic Union College in Lancaster and reported to Crompton); and more dubiously (date very late) April 25, Brookfield, 200, reported to Crompton by Barker Keith. In fall, Nov. 14, W. Brookfield, 5, Crompton.

BALDPATE: May 5, Bolton, 2 males, Crompton, was the only (and late) spring record. In fall, Oct. 13, Sutton, 2, W. Wetherbee; Oct. 27, Worcester, 1, McMenemy; Nov. 7, Clinton, 2, and Nov. 10, Dana, 2, Crompton.

PINTAIL: Only April 7 and 11, Lancaster, one pair seen by Crompton.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL: April 11, Bolton, 2 pairs, Crompton, who saw 22 birds there on April 23 and 6 on May 5; also 14 in Lancaster on April 24. In fall, only Oct. 20, Dana, 1, Albertine.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL: March 31-April 4, Lancaster, 1 male, McClosky, and April 23, Bolton, 3, Crompton. Then Aug. 20, Spencer, 1, Crompton, to Sept. 23, Spencer, 24, W. Wetherbee and (very late) Oct. 28, Paxton, 2, Fleming.

WOOD DUCK: March 28, W. Brookfield, 2, Crompton, to Sept. 22, Paxton, 4, Fleming (the only fall record). On April 17, McAllister saw 2 in a tree in his back yard in Boylston. The only sizable count was 13 (parents and young) seen in Hubbardston, June 11, by Murdock.

REDHEAD: Reported only by Crompton at Brookfield: - one female on Oct. 24 and another on Nov. 15, 16, and 20.

RING-NECKED DUCK: March 4, Uxbridge, 2, Fleming; April 5, Clinton, 3, McClosky, to April 29, Lunenburg, 1, Hayes. In fall, Oct. 22, Brookfield, 2, Fleming, to Dec. 24, Sterling, 3, Crompton. The largest counts, 11 each date, were on April 14 and 26 in Brookfield, Crompton. As late as Dec. 15, he saw 9 males and 1 female in Sterling.

CANVASBACK: Nov. 20, Clinton, 1 male, Crompton, is the only record.

GREATER SCAUP DUCK: In spring, only April 24, Brookfield, 1 pair, Crompton, and April 29, Boylston, 2, McAllister. Then Oct. 26, Brookfield, 3, Crompton, to Dec. 21 and 24, Sterling, 1 male, Crompton, and Dec. 31, W. Boylston, 2, McAllister. On Oct. 28, W. Wetherbee saw 55 at Brookfield.

LESSER SCAUP DUCK: Reported only by Crompton: - Nov. 10, Petersham, 1, and Nov. 15 and 20, Brookfield, a pair.

AMERICAN GOLDEN-EYE: Jan. 20, Worcester, 1, and Feb. 21, W. Brookfield, 16, Crompton, to April 24, Brookfield, 6, Crompton, who saw 33 there on April 14. In autumn, Oct. 26, Brookfield, 3, to Dec. 24, Boylston, 4, Crompton.

BUFFLEHEAD: The only spring report is from Barre, some time in April (Miner). Oct. 28, Brookfield, 8, W. Wetherbee, to Nov. 20, Sterling, 3, and Dec. 4, Southboro, 3, Crompton. Reported from four townships, Nov. 6-15.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER: Oct. 28, Brookfield, 5, W. Wetherbee, and Nov. 11, W. Brookfield, 1 male, Crompton.

RUDDY DUCK: Jan. 12, Worcester, 1, Crompton. In autumn, reported only from Lake Quaboag, Brookfield, - Oct. 21, McAllister, 30, to Nov. 16, Crompton, 18. About 50 were there, Oct. 24 and 30.

HOODED MERGANSER: April 3, E. Brookfield, 1, Crompton, to April 17, Paxton, 2, Winters. In autumn, Oct. 29, Princeton (Quinapoxet Res.), 12, Fleming, to Dec. 24, Sterling, 6, Crompton.

AMERICAN MERGANSER: Winter to May 16, Princeton, 1 female, and May 26, 28, and June 13, Worcester, 1 female, Crompton. On April 23 Hayes saw 75 in Boylston. In autumn, Oct. 26, Brookfield, 1, Crompton, to winter.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER: May 9, Boylston (Wachusett Res.), a pair, Hayes.

TURKEY VULTURE: Only two records; - May 31, W. Brookfield, 1, J. Madeira (from Connecticut), and July 7, Sterling, 1, Allen.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK: Jan. 5 and March 13, Lancaster, 1, McClosky; Jan. 20, also in Lancaster, 1, Hayes; March 1, W. Boylston, 1, Caldwell; April 6, Auburn, 1, Kinsel, and Paxton, 1, Jenkins, to June 5, Princeton, 1, Inman. In autumn, reported only in Athol by Allison; - one on Oct. 3, and one on Oct. 21. Then,

very late, Dec. 26, Lancaster, 1, Crompton, perhaps the same winterer as in January.

COOPER'S HAWK: Feb. 15, Athol, 1, Allison; April 21, Worcester, 1, Winters, to May 18, Lunenburg, 1, Hayes. Then Aug. 29, Petersham, 1, Allison, to Oct. 12, Boylston, 1, McAllister, and Oct. 30, W. Boylston, 1, Caldwell.

RED-TAILED HAWK: Jan. 2, Worcester, 1, McAllister, and Jan. 3, Bolton, 1, McClosky; Feb. 4, Hubbardston, 1, Murdock, and Feb. 19, Lancaster, McClosky, also 4 there March 15. March 10, Harvard, 1, Hayes, to May 17, Leicester, 1, Fleming, and May 31, Auburn or Oxford, 1, Madeira. Two in June, presumably a breeding pair, are reported to have frequented a certain spot in N. Brookfield where later, during July and August, 2 young were observed (Mrs. Alice Alcorn). Eliot also has June - July reports from Oakham, Holden, and Petersham. In fall, Sept. 12, Sterling, 1, Allen, to Dec. 1, Oakham, 1, Crompton.

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK: Feb. 25, Harvard, 1, Hayes; March 10, Lancaster, 1, Schumacher (from Pittsfield); March 13, E. Brookfield, 1, Crompton; March 31, Worcester and Brookfield, to Nov. 15, Brookfield 1, Crompton.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK: April 17, Dudley, 1, Kinsel, and Harvard, 1, Hayes, to Sept. 22, Shrewsbury, 1, Crompton.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: Feb. 21, Harvard, 1, Hayes.

BALD EAGLE: Dana: - 1 on Feb. 20, 1 on June 26, and 3 on July 27, all by Crompton. the only other record was April 20, Cook's Canyon, Barre, 1, Miner.

MARSH HAWK: March 17, Lancaster, 1, McClosky, and April 3, Brookfield, 1 male, Crompton, to Oct. 12, Paxton, 1, Winters. There are breeding-season reports from Paxton, Bolton, N. Brookfield, Petersham and S. Athol.

OSPREY: April 1, Athol, 1, Allison, and April 7, Boylston, 1, McAllister, to May 12, Holden, 1, Schmierer. In fall, Sept. 11, Rutland, 1, Crompton, to Sept. 30, Worcester, 1, Winters.

DUCK HAWK: Jan. 23, Worcester, one picked a pigeon from our roof and flew away clutching it in its talons (Fleming). March 26, Athol, 1, Allison. Oct. 11 and Dec. 12, Worcester, 1, 1, W. Wetherbee.

PIGEON HAWK: April 22, Clinton, 1, Caldwell; May 21, Gardner, 1, Brown (from Springfield); and Sept. 14, Spencer, 1, Crompton.

SPARROW HAWK: Feb. 5, Auburn, 1, Zimmerman; Feb. 13, Worcester, 1, Fleming; Feb. 18, Athol, 1, Allison; March 1, Auburn, 1, O. Wetherbee; March 10, Westboro, 1, McAllister, to Nov. 1, Worcester, 1, Crompton.

RUFFED GROUSE: Many records throughout the year among the most noteworthy of which were: - Jan. 7, Sterling, 22, McClosky, and May 24, Worcester, 1 with 10 eggs, Crompton.

VIRGINIA RAIL: An adult was found dead on Floral St., Shrewsbury, in November, preserved in a deep-freeze, and given to James Marsten of Whitman Road, Worcester, in January, 1957 (Crompton, Jenkins).

FLORIDA GALLINULE: Oct. 3, Worcester, 1 immature, McMenemy.

COOT: April 22, Petersham, 2, Nutting (from Amherst). Aug. 29, Athol, 1, Allison; Oct. 11 to Nov. 16, Brookfield, 14, 16, Crompton; Nov. 15 and 20, Clinton, 11-12, Crompton; Nov. 20-21, Worcester, 1, Crompton, Schmierer.

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER: May 12, Lancaster, 1, Fitchburg Bird Club; May 16, Spencer, 1, W. Wetherbee, and May 17, Spencer, 2, Hayes. Then Aug. 6, Spencer, 1, W. Wetherbee, to Aug. 24, Worcester, 1, and Sept. 5, Spencer, 1, Fleming.

KILLDEER: Feb. 13, Auburn, 2, Kinsel; March 10, W. Boylston, 1, Drown, to Nov. 1 14, E. Brookfield, 2, Crompton.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER: One at Spencer, observed on Oct. 11, 14, and 16, by Crompton, W. Wetherbee, and Fleming.

WOODCOCK: March 25, Auburn, 1, Kinsel, and April 5, Fitchburg, 1, Elaine Smith, to Nov. 17, Phillipston, 1, and Nov. 23, Athol, 2, Allison.

WILSON'S SNIBE: March 20 and 24, Lancaster, 1, McClosky; April 11 and 16, Bolton, 1, 2, and May 10, Lancaster, 1, Crompton. In autumn, Sept. 23, Spencer, 1, to Oct. 28, Spencer, 1, W. Wetherbee. Also Oct. 14, Lancaster, 1, Crompton.

UPLAND PLOVER: Two at Worcester air-port July 29 and 31 (Fleming), and one there Aug. 25 (Crompton).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER: May 4, Lancaster, 2, Crompton, to Sept. 22, W. Boylston, Drown. Three very late records: - Oct. 1, Boylston 2, McAllister; Oct. 3, N. Brookfield, 3, Alcorn; Oct. 20, Spencer, 1, Fleming.

SOLITARY SANDPIPER: May 3, Spencer, 1 at a farm pond, Fleming, to May 20, Spencer (filter beds) 16, Fleming. Then July 15, Spencer, 1, Crompton, to Oct. 11, Spencer, 4, W. Wetherbee, and Oct. 15, Sterling, 1 present daily on the Allen farm from Aug. 28 on, Allen.

GREATER YELLOW-LEGS: April 11, Bolton, 1, to May 13, Bolton, 5, Crompton. Maximum there, 8 on May 6. Also reported from Lancaster, May 2 - 4, and Sterling, May 9. Then Aug. 4, Spencer, 3, Crompton, and Aug. 22, Holden, 2, Fleming, to Nov. 4, Brookfield, 1, Alcorn.

LESSER YELLOW-LEGS: May 2, Lancaster, 1 with a Greater, Elaine Smith; May 6, Holden, 1 seen well, Caldwell; May 13, Bolton, 3, Crompton; and May 17, Spencer, 1, Hayes. Then July 11, Spencer, 1, W. Wetherbee, to Oct. 24, Sutton, 1, O. Wetherbee. On Aug. 20, Crompton counted 44 at Spencer.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER: One spring record: - May 17, Spencer, 1, Hayes. Then Aug. 4, Spencer, 1, Crompton, to Oct. 28, Spencer, 3, W. Wetherbee. On Oct. 19 in Sutton, Fleming saw 12, with 2 Lesser Yellow-legs.

LEAST SANDPIPER: May 6, Westboro, 1, Crompton, and May 16, 17, and 28 at Spencer, W. Wetherbee, Hayes (22), and Crompton. Then July 11, Spencer 2, W. Wetherbee, to Sept. 19, Sterling, 4 present daily at the Allen farm from Sept. 5 on, and Sept. 23, Leominster, 6, Marble.

STILT SANDPIPER: One record: - Aug. 14, Worcester, 1 adult still partly in nuptial plumage, with 4 Lesser Yellow-legs and 4 Semipalmated Sandpipers, Crompton.

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER: July 26, Spencer, 1, to Sept. 14, Worcester, 1, Crompton, who counted 200 at Spencer on Aug. 4.

NORTHERN PHALAROPE: One record: - Aug. 24, Spencer, 1, W. Wetherbee.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: March 25, Wachusett Reservoir, 2, Alden Marble. There were unusually many, inland, in early 1956.

HERRING GULL: Winter to May 28, Worcester, 23, and June 24, Shrewsbury, 1, Crompton. Then July 22, Holden, 1, Fleming, to winter.

RING-BILLED GULL: Only one record: - May 5, Boylston, 1, Crompton.

MOURNING DOVE: Jan. 21, Brookfield, 1, Crompton; Jan. 27 and Feb. 28, Sterling, 1, 1, Allen; March 10, Lunenburg, 1, Hayes; March 23, Worcester, 1, Schmierer, to Oct. 17, S. Athol, 10, Allison; Oct. 28, Spencer, 1, and Dec. 24, Boylston, 4, Crompton.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO: May 24, Worcester, 1, Crompton. The only other date was an indefinite one in June, N. Brookfield, Alcorn.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO: May 20, W. Boylston, 1, F.B.C., to Sept. 30, Paxton, 1, W. Wetherbee. The only other localities reporting were Worcester, N. Brookfield, Princeton and Fitchburg.

SCREECH OWL: Jan. 2, Boylston, 1, McAllister; Feb. 6-Feb. 13, Sterling, 1, Allen; May 9, Worcester, 1, Fleming; May 20, W. Boylston, 1, F.B.C. Then single birds reported in Worcester on Aug. 27, Winters; Oct. 20, Inman; Nov. 7, Fleming.

GREAT HORNED OWL: June 5, Holden, 1, Schmierer; June 11, Hubbardston, 1, Murdock; July 26, Rutland, 1, Crompton; Aug. 21, Paxton, 1, Jenkins.

SNOWY OWL: Only one record, by Miner in Barre (date indefinite).

BARRED OWL: Jan. 21, Paxton, 1 calling, Jenkins; April 14, Athol, 1, Allison. Also "check-marked" by Miner in Barre.

LONG-EARED OWL: Only March 3, Hubbardston, 2 heard, Murdock.

SHORT-EARED OWL: Dec. 21, Clinton, 1, Crompton.

SAW-WHET OWL: Jan. 7, Clinton, 1, McClosky; Feb. 6, Athol, 1, Allison; March 30, Lunenburg, 1, Hayes.

WHIP-POOR-WILL: May 2, Boylston, 1, McAllister, and W. Boylston, 1, Caldwell, to Aug. 12, Princeton, 1, Inman, and Sept. 25, Holden, 1, Marshall.

NIGHTHAWK: May 16, Athol, 1, Allison, and Worcester, 1, Crompton, to Sept. 20, Worcester, 2, Fleming.

CHIMNEY SWIFT: April 27, Auburn, 3, Kinsel, and April 28, Paxton, 1, Schmierer, to Sept. 9, Athol, 4, Allison. On May 4, W. Wetherbee saw 50 in Worcester.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD: May 12, Paxton, 1, Jenkins, to Sept. 30, Worcester, 1, Fleming. Murdock in Hubbardston, on June 29, watched one investigating the entrance to an occupied Pileated Woodpecker's nest.

BELTED KINGFISHER: April 2, Brookfield, 1, to Sept. 18, Paxton, 1, Fleming. Crompton saw 1 in E. Brookfield, Oct. 11; in Lancaster, Nov. 7; and in Worcester, Oct. 22, Nov. 14, and Dec. 16.

FLICKER: Feb. 24, Sutton, 1, O. Wetherbee; Feb. 27, Southboro, 1, Crompton; March 27, Auburn, 2, Kinsel, to Nov. 6, Worcester, 1, Crompton; Dec. 31, Worcester, 1, McMenemy.

PILEATED WOODPECKER: Reported from Athol, Holden, Barre, Dana, Lancaster, Lunenburg, Shrewsbury and Hubbardston. From May 12 until July 1 in Hubbardston, Miss Murdock watched an occupied nest with two growing young birds.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER: April 6, W. Boylston, 1, very early, and April 27 and May 17 (late), Worcester, 1, 1, Crompton. The only other spring report was from Sterling, April 29-30, Allen. In fall, Sept. 29, W. Boylston, 2, Drown; Sept. 30, Paxton, 2, W. Wetherbee; and Oct. 10, Worcester, 1, Crompton.

ARCTIC THREE-TOED WOODPECKER: Seven records of this rare visitor from the North; - Oct. 31, Worcester, 1 female, fide Eliot; Nov. 3, Holden, 1 male, Marshall; Dec. 1, Rutland, 1 male, Crompton; Dec. 2, Paxton, 1 female, Jenkins; Dec. 7, Cook's Canyon Sanctuary, Barre, 1 male, and Dec. 16, there, 1 female, Crompton; Dec. 26, Baldwinsville, 1, fide Murdock.

AMERICAN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER: April 23, 24, Athol, 1 male closely observed in yard, Allison.

EASTERN KINGBIRD: May 5, Sterling, 1, Fleming, to Sept. 15, Rutland, 1, Fleming.

CRESTED FLYCATCHER: May 12, Hubbardston, 2, Murdock, to June 2, Holden, 1, Schmierer.

PHOEBE: Feb. 11, Brookfield, 2, Marland; Feb. 22, Athol, 1, Allison; March 20, Worcester, 1, Schmierer, to Oct. 28, Paxton, 1, W. Wetherbee; Nov. 10, Dana, 1, Crompton.

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER: May 28, Worcester, 1, and Aug. 20, Worcester, 1, Crompton.

ALDER FLYCATCHER: June 11, Hubbardston, 1, Murdock; June 16, Paxton, 1, Fleming; June 22, Barre, 1, Crompton. One other report gives 4 in N. Brookfield in June but without date, Alcorn.

LEAST FLYCATCHER: May 2, Lunenburg, 2, Hayes, to Aug. 8, W. Boylston, 1, Caldwell.

WOOD PEWEE: May 17, S. Athol, 1, Eliot, to Sept. 23, Worcester, 1, Winters; Sept. 28, Sterling, 1, Allen.

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER: May 25, Cook's Canyon Sanctuary, Barre, 1, F.B.C.; June 24, 27, Petersham, 1, 1, Allison; Aug. 20, Worcester, 1, Crompton.

NORTHERN HORNED LARK: Feb. 21, Paxton, 10, Fleming; April 1, Paxton, 15, Jenkins; April 10, Paxton, 12, Fleming.

PRAIRIE HORNED LARK: March 13, Worcester, 2, Crompton, to Sept. 19, Worcester, 2, Fleming.

TREE SWALLOW: March 31, W. Brookfield, 4, Crompton, to Sept. 3, Athol, 5, Allison. On April 14, Crompton saw 150 in Brookfield.

BANK SWALLOW: April 29, Paxton, 1, Crompton, to Aug. 8, Paxton, 1, Crompton. W. Wetherbee recorded 50 in Oxford on May 6.

ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW: April 24, Shrewsbury, 2, Fleming, and Brookfield, 1, Crompton, to July 17, Rutland, 1, Crompton. Reported also from Lunenburg, Boylston, Lancaster, Spencer and Barre.

BARN SWALLOW: April 14, Brookfield, 1, and April 23, Sterling, 1, Crompton, to Sept. 3, Sterling, Holden, 135, Fleming, and Holden, 2, W. Wetherbee. On Aug. 29, Allison saw 125 in Phillipston.

CLIFF SWALLOW: May 3, Sterling, 2, Bruce, to Aug. 29, Petersham, 15, Allison, and Sept. 3, Sterling, 7, Allen.

PURPLE MARTIN: May 24, Rutland, near the Holden line, at nest-boxes in a swamp off Route 122A, five were seen by David Miner and Mr. A. Fuller of WTAG who had first heard of them. Miner told Miss Bruce, who on June 25 drove from Fitchburg and found two pairs. This is the first authenticated colony in the County for many years.

BLUE JAY: May 12, Hubbardston, 54, and May 13, at the same place, Murdock counted 125 crossing the road, 56 within two minutes.

CROW: March 3, Hubbardston, hundreds migrating, Murdock. Nov. 14, W. Brookfield, 30, Crompton.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH: Winter to May 12, Worcester, 1, Crompton, and Hubbardston, 6, Murdock, who noted one carrying food although no nest was found. The only later records were by Allison who saw one on Dec. 5 in Royalston, and one on Dec. 8 in Athol.

BROWN CREEPER: Winter to May 12, Hubbardston, Murdock, and May 21, Worcester, 1, Inman. In fall, Oct. 10, Boylston, 1, McAllister, to winter.

HOUSE WREN: May 1, Auburn, 2, Kinsel, to Sept. 1, W. Boylston, 1, Drown.

WINTER WREN: June 11, Hubbardston, 1 heard singing, Murdock, who has in past years found summering birds at four places in the township. Oct. 10, W. Boylston, 1, Caldwell; Oct. 11, Barre, 1, Crompton.

LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN: June 13, Brookfield, 4 in their regular area along the railroad, Crompton.

SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN: July 18, New Braintree, 1, Crompton, as in the past two summers.

MOCKINGBIRD: Jan. 6, Grafton, 1 at feeder in same home grounds where it spent the winter of 1954-1955, (Fleming). May 4, Worcester, 1, Kemp (reported to O. Wetherbee).

CATBIRD: May 1, Auburn, 2, Kinsel, to Oct. 8, N. Brookfield, 2, Alcorn.

BROWN THRASHER: April 25, Auburn, 1, Kinsel, to Sept. 19, W. Boylston, 2, Caldwell.

ROBIN: Reported in unusual numbers in January and early February. Several single birds reported, and Jan. 16, Lancaster, 21, McClosky; Jan. 24, Brookfield, 15, Marland; Jan. 26, Worcester, 33, and Jan. 29, Worcester, 50 flying over our house in groups of two and three for over an hour in one direction each day, Fleming; Feb. 7, Fitchburg, 20 reported. Many records during Feb. and March, but no migrating flocks until April 6, Sterling, 60, Crompton. Thereafter present in normal numbers, with many lingerers in Nov., until Dec. 5, Worcester, 1, O. Wetherbee, and Dec. 13, Athol, 1, Allison.

WOOD THRUSH: May 1, Worcester, 1, O. Wetherbee, and Paxton, 1, Jenkins, to Oct. 2, Worcester, 1, Fleming.

HERMIT THRUSH: April 8, Worcester, 8 in snowstorm, Thayer (reported to O. Wetherbee); April 18, Worcester, 1, Winters, to Oct. 6, W. Boylston, 2, Caldwell.

OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH: May 13, Worcester, 1, Winters, to May 28, Worcester, 1, Crompton. Seen almost daily, May 13 - 20; eight on May 17, Crompton. In fall, far fewer; Oct. 12, Boylston, 2, McAllister, to Oct. 17, W. Boylston, 1, Caldwell, and Paxton, 3, Fleming.

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH: May 12, Worcester, 1, Crompton, and Lunenburg, 2, Fitchburg Bird Club; May 15, Sterling, 1, Allen; May 21, Princeton, 1, Inman; May 24, 25, C. C. Sanctuary, Barre, 1, 1, Miner, F.B.C.

VEERY: May 4, Auburn, 2, Kinsel, to Aug. 29, Worcester, 1, Inman.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD: No March records. April 3, Paxton, 1, Jenkins, to Oct. 29, Auburn, 1, Kinsel, and Worcester, 1, Fleming.



BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER: May 17, Worcester, 1, Crompton.

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET: Jan. 1, Auburn, 5, Kinsel, to April 29, Paxton, 3, Crompton. In fall, Sept. 16, Athol, 5, Allison; Oct. 11, C.C. Sanctuary, Barre, 2, to Dec. 18, Boylston, 1, Crompton.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET: Jan. 1, Athol, 1, Allison; April 25, Fitchburg, 2, E. Smith, and April 28, Ekblaw Sanctuary, Paxton, 5, F.B.C., to May 20, W. Boylston, 1, F.B.C. Then Sept. 30, Paxton, 1, W. Wetherbee, to Oct. 16, Holden, 2, Fleming.

AMERICAN PIPIT: Reported only in fall, mostly Oct. 20 - 22. Oct. 11, Spencer, 2, W. Wetherbee, 3, Crompton, to Nov. 11, W. Brookfield, 120, Crompton.

CEDAR WAXWING: Many records from Feb. 11, Athol, 150, Allison, through April 4, Lunenburg, 25, Hayes, from Worcester, Grafton, Boylston, Lancaster, Leicester, Holden, Oxford and Fitchburg. In April and May, notably decreasing until the normal nesting season, May 26, Worcester, 2, Crompton. Some flocks again reported in November, the largest of 32 in Worcester on Nov. 27 by O. Wetherbee, who recorded the latest bird there on Dec. 22.

NORTHERN SHRIKE: Jan 7, Lancaster, 1, McClosky; Jan. 25, Worcester, 1, Fleming; Feb. 4, Auburn, 1, Kinsel; Feb. 6, Rutland, 1, Crompton, who also saw one in Winchendon on Feb. 24, and in Clinton on Feb. 25; Feb. 15, S. Athol, 1, Allison, who recorded another in Athol on April 4; Feb. 27, Lunenburg, 1, Hayes; March 13, Paxton, 1, Jenkins; March 27, Fitchburg, 1, E. Smith; and April 4, Sterling, 1, Allen. In fall, Crompton recorded one in Dana on Nov. 10 and one in Barre on Dec. 3.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO: May 26, Lunenburg, 2, Fitchburg Bird Club, and Worcester, 1, Schmierer; Aug. 19, Worcester, 2 well observed in yard, Winters. One of these sang, and again on Aug. 20 and 23.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO: May 2, W. Boylston, 1, Caldwell, to May 23, Worcester, 1, Crompton. In summer: June 26, Holden, 1, Fleming; June 17, July 4, and July 25, Mt. Wachusett, Princeton, 1 singing, Fleming; Aug. 2, Dana, 1, Crompton. Then Sept. 25, Sterling, 1, Allen, and Oct. 16, W. Boylston, 1, Caldwell.

RED-EYED VIREO: May 11, Lunenburg, 1, E. Smith, to Oct. 1, Lancaster, 1, Caldwell.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO: Sept. 18, W. Boylston, 1 seen well and carefully identified, Caldwell.

WARBLING VIREO: May 12, W. Boylston, 1, Drown, and Worcester, 1, Crompton, to July 19, Princeton, 1, Inman.

BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER: April 25, Auburn, 2, Kinsel; May 1, Lunenburg, 1, Hayes, to Sept. 25, Sterling, 1, Allen.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER: May 12, Hubbardston, 1 carefully studied at length, Murdock; May 18, Worcester, 1 closely observed for a half hour, Hamill.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER: May 3, Worcester, 1, Crompton; May 6, Barre, fide Miner; May 19, Boylston, 1 (perhaps Brewster's Warbler, for throat not dark) Drown; June 9, Worcester, 1, Winters; Aug. 20, Worcester, 1, Crompton.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER: May 25, C.C. Sanctuary, Barre, 1, F.B.C; two reported from N. Brookfield in May (no date), Alcorn; Aug. 15, Dana, 1, Crompton.

BREWSTER'S WARBLER: May 16, Phillipston, 1, Allison.

TENNESSEE WARBLER: May 19, Lancaster, 2, Fitchburg Bird Club, to May 31, Worcester, 1, Fleming. Unusually numerous. On May 27, W. Wetherbee saw 12 in Worcester. None were recorded in the fall.

NASHVILLE WARBLER: May 3, Worcester, 1, Crompton, to Sept. 29, Paxton, 1, W. Wetherbee, and Worcester, 1, Fleming.

PARULA WARBLER: May 8, Auburn, 1, Kinsel, to May 28, Worcester, 1, Fleming. There were strangely no fall records.

YELLOW WARBLER: April 28, Auburn, 1, Kinsel; May 2, Lunenburg, 1, Hayes, to Aug. 20, Worcester and Spencer, 1, 1, Crompton.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER: May 5, Worcester, 1, to June 1, Worcester, 2, Crompton. June 29, Hubbardston, 1 singing male, acting as if nesting, Murdock. The only fall record: Sept. 17, Worcester, 2, Crompton.



CAPE MAY WARBLER: May 12, Athol, 1, Allison, and Worcester, 1, Crompton, to May 21, Lunenburg, 2, Hayes. Rather numerous: 3 in Barre May 15; 4 in Fitchburg May 20. Strangely absent in the fall.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER: May 5, Worcester, 1, Crompton, to May 20, W. Boylston, 1, McAllister. In summer, June 18, Rutland, 2 males, Crompton; June 25, Leicester, July 3, Paxton, and July 4, Mt. Wachusett, 1 singing, Fleming; Aug. 22 Phillipston, 2, Allison. Fall migrants; Sept. 5, Holden, 1, Fleming, and Sept. 30, Worcester, 1, Winters.

MYRTLE WARBLER: April 13 and 17, Clinton, 1, 1, McClosky; April 21, N. Grafton, 6, F.B.C., to May 28, Spencer, 2, Crompton. Very numerous in both spring and fall migration; on May 4 Crompton saw 45 in Holden, and on May 12 Murdock saw 40 in Hubbardston. July 10, Boylston, 1 singing male, Fleming. In fall, Sept. 11, Rutland, 3, Crompton, to Nov. 11, Worcester, 1, Inman.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER: May 1, W. Boylston, 1, Caldwell, to Sept. 30, Worcester, 1, Winters.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER: May 5 to 29, Worcester, Crompton. June 7, Phillipston 1, Allison, and July 25, Mt. Wachusett, Princeton, 1, Fleming.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: May 12, Hubbardston, 1, Murdock. Thorough study and comparison with picture while it fed in a hemlock for half an hour. No song mentioned; nor the bill-length and color-above-lores which indicate subspecies, Southern or Western. Like the Prothonotary, an accidental participant in the huge wave of Warblers that marked May 12. (S.A.E.)

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER: May 5, Auburn, 2, Kinsel, to Sept. 11, Rutland, 1, Crompton.

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER: May 2, Worcester, 1, Crompton, to May 28, Worcester, 1, Fleming. Reported from 5 other localities. In fall only Sept. 19, W. Boylston, 1 well seen among Blackpolls, Caldwell.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER: May 16, Sterling, 1, Allen, to June 1, Worcester, 1, Crompton. In fall, Sept. 4, W. Boylston, 1, Caldwell, to Oct. 11, Barre, 1, Crompton. On Sept. 30, Winters saw 24 in Worcester.

PINE WARBLER: April 28, Paxton, 1, Caldwell; May 3, Sterling, 1, Bruce; May 12, Hubbardston, 2, Murdock; June 24, Uxbridge, 1, Crompton. This has almost disappeared as a breeding bird.

PRAIRIE WARBLER: May 5, Worcester, 1, Crompton, to Sept. 12, Sterling, 1, Allen.

YELLOW PALM WARBLER: April 13, Clinton, 1, McClosky, to May 12, Hubbardston, 2, Murdock, and (extremely late) May 20, W. Boylston, 1, F.B.C. Then Sept. 29, Paxton, 1, W. Wetherbee, to Oct. 16, W. Boylston, 1, Caldwell. Numerous in spring: Allison saw 15 in Athol on April 22. Hardly any in autumn, nor any Western Palms at all.

OVEN-BIRD: May 4, Boylston, 1, McAllister, and Auburn, 2, Kinsel, to Aug. 28, W. Boylston, 1, Caldwell. On May 12, Murdock saw 30 in Hubbardston.

NORTHERN WATER-THRUSH: May 2, Lunenburg, 1, Hayes, to May 20, W. Boylston, 4, F.B.C. Typically early south bound migrants:- July 27 and Sept. 1, Athol, 1, 1, in city yard, Allison; Aug. 4 and 20, Spencer, 1, 1, Crompton; Aug. 16 and Sept. 6, Sterling, 1, 1, Allen; Aug. 17, and Sept. 13, Barre, 1, 1, Crompton.

LOUISIANA WATER-THRUSH: May 5, Lancaster, 1, Crompton; still there May 19, Fitchburg Bird Club; May 15, Leicester, 1, Crompton; May 19, Worcester, 1 singing, F.B.C.; May 20, W. Boylston, 1, Fleming and others, and Paxton, 1 singing, Jenkins; July 26, Sutton, 1, Crompton.

MOURNING WARBLER: May 26, Lunenburg, 2, Fitchburg Bird Club, and 1, Hayes; and May 28, Worcester, 1 male, Crompton.

YELLOWTHROAT: May 1, Auburn, 1, Kinsel, to Sept. 17, Worcester, 1, Crompton.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: Dec. 15 and 19, Athol, 1, 1, Allison. In recent years the Chat has actually become more numerous in fall and winter than in breeding-time, like the Mockingbird.

**WILSON'S WARBLER:** May 13, Sterling, several, Allen, and Worcester, 1, Crompton, to May 30, W. Boylston, 1, Drown, and Paxton, 1, W. Wetherbee. On May 20 Hayes saw 5 in Lunenburg. Very much more numerous than in normal Mays. No fall records.

**CANADA WARBLER:** May 13, Hubbardston, 10, Murdock, and Paxton (Ekblaw Sanctuary), 3, F.B.C., to Aug. 27, Worcester, 1, Crompton. Remarkably absent from the great wave of May 12.

**AMERICAN REDSTART:** May 3, Auburn, 2, Kinsel; to Sept. 30, Worcester, 1, Winters.

**BOBOLINK:** May 2, Oxford, 3, Kinsel, and May 5, Lunenburg, 1, Hayes, to Sept. 3, Spencer, 28, W. Wetherbee.

**MEADOWLARK:** Jan. 18, Sterling, 1, Marble; Jan. 21, W. Brookfield, 10, Marland. March 21, Athol, 1, Allison, and 1, Hayes, to Oct. 29, Sterling, 1, Fleming.

**RED-WING:** Jan. 27, 29, Auburn, 1, 1, Zimmerman. March 3, Athol, 1, Allison, to Nov. 7, Lancaster, 1, Crompton. Dec. 26, Baldwinsville, 1 at feeding station, Murdock.

**BALTIMORE ORIOLE:** May 5, Athol, 2, Allison, and Auburn, 3, Kinsel, to Sept. 4, Athol, 1, Allison.

**RUSTY BLACKBIRD:** Feb. 21, S. Lancaster, 1, Mass. Audubon Field Notes. March 13, Westboro, 3, and March 28, Barre, 3, Crompton, to April 19, Athol, 25, Allison; and May 5 (late), Lunenburg, 8, Fitchburg Bird Club. Then Sept. 25, N. Brookfield, 50, Alcorn, to Nov. 7, Lancaster, 2, Crompton. Dec. 26, Baldwinsville, 1 at feeder, Murdock.

**BRONZED GRACKLE:** Jan. 1-31, Auburn, 1, Kinsel; Jan. 15, Auburn, 8, Zimmerman; Jan. 28 and Feb. 8, Lancaster, 32, 45, McClosky; March 4, Mendon, 3, Fleming; to Nov. 15, W. Boylston, 2, Crompton. Then Dec. 15, Athol, 1, Allison. Large flocks reported on April 17, Lancaster, 600, Crompton, and Oct. 11, Boylston, 2000, McAllister.

**COWBIRD:** Jan. 1, Auburn, 12, Kinsel; Jan. 15, Auburn, 100, Zimmerman; Jan. 17, Sterling, 2, Allen; Feb. 5, Athol, 10, Allison; Feb. 13, Worcester, 4, Schmierer; March 13, Westboro, 4, Crompton. Common thereafter through summer and fall to Nov. 7, Holden, 30, Crompton. Then Dec. 11, Auburn, 8, 0. Wetherbee; Dec. 15, Worcester, 4, Inman; Dec. 26, Sterling, 7, Fleming; and Dec. 31, Grafton, 14, 0. Wetherbee.

**SCARLET TANAGER:** May 11, Auburn, 1, Kinsel, to Oct. 2, Worcester, 1, Fleming. Aug. 15, W. Boylston, 1 female carrying food, Caldwell.

**ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK:** May 5, Athol, 1, Allison, to Sept. 5, Athol, 1, Allison.

**CARDINAL:** April 11, Worcester, 1, Washburn (Mass. Audubon Field Notes); May 4, Athol, 1 male, Ellis, fide Allison; May 12, Paxton, 1, Jenkins.

**INDIGO BUNTING:** April 23, Athol, 1 male banded in yard by Allison; May 15, Auburn, 1, Kinsel, to Sept. 14, Barre, 1, Crompton.

**DICKCISSEL:** Dec. 3-27, Fitchburg, 1 male and 1 female or immature stayed with Mr. and Mrs. Richard Lawrence (Bruce).

**EVENING GROSBEAK:** Reported from all parts of the county in good sized flocks up to 100 in Auburn, Jan. 1, Zimmerman. The latest spring date: May 14, at Athol and Fitchburg. In Athol, Jan. 9-Feb. 16, an albino was observed by Allison and others. In fall, the only records are: Sept. 30, Paxton, 1, W. Wetherbee; Dec. 2, Royalston, 1, and Dec. 13, Athol, 4, Allison; and a Dec. record in Fitchburg without date, noted in Mass. Audubon Bulletin.

**PURPLE FINCH:** Reported in small numbers from various parts of the county until April 14, Boylston, 5, McAllister; Worcester, 1, W. Wetherbee; Oxford, 4, Kinsel (indicating general arrival). Resident thereafter until Nov. 3, W. Boylston, 1, Drown, and Nov. 30, 2, Fleming.

**PINE GROSBEAK:** Many reports from Jan. 1 to March 25, Holden, 2, Crompton. Largest flock: Jan. 27, W. Boylston, 50, fide Caldwell. May 13, Paxton, one sickly bird was caught by Les Robinson (fide Jenkins). It had been banded, but Jenkins has not learned where or when.

REDPOLL: Jan. 1, Paxton, 50, Jenkins, and Lancaster, 6, McClosky, to April 19, Clinton, 1, Caldwell; April 23, Worcester, 2, Winters; and (very late) May 1, Fitchburg, 2 still at feeder, Bruce. The largest flocks: Feb. 2, Athol, 100, Allison; April 2, Brookfield, 125, Fleming; and April 5, Fitchburg, 150, Bruce.

PINE SISKIN: Jan. 29, Boylston, 25, McAllister. Feb. 26 to May 12 in Worcester (various observers). March 3, Hubbardston, 40, Murdock. May 16 and June 2, Athol, 20, 3, Allison. Oct. 30, Worcester, 3, fide Eliot.

RED CROSSBILL: May 4, Worcester, 5, Crompton, and May 18, near the same spot, 6, Viola Perrault, now Mrs. Crompton.

TOWHEE: April 24, Sterling, 1, Allen, and Auburn, 2, Kinsel, to Oct. 20, Holden, 1, Marshall. Oct. 31, Worcester, 1 male, fide Eliot. Dec. 29, Auburn, 1, Zimmerman.

SAVANNAH SPARROW: April 12, Lancaster, 1, Crompton, to Oct. 17, Paxton, 1, Fleming. Dec. 5, Worcester, 1, O. Wetherbee. On the April 29 field trip in W. Boylston, the F.B.C. recorded 35.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: Recorded by various observers along Airport Drive, Worcester, from June 12, Fleming, through July 30, Winters. Also at Sterling airport, July 10, Crompton.

HENSLOW'S SPARROW: June 25, to Aug. 7, Leicester, 1, Fleming. Back at its former nesting site on the Paxton-Leicester road after absence in 1955.

VESPER SPARROW: April 14, Fitchburg, 2, Bruce, and April 23 Lancaster, 1, Crompton, to Oct. 16, Worcester, 3, Fleming.

SLATE-COLORED JUNCO: Winter to May 13, Sterling, 1, Fleming, and Paxton, 1, Jenkins. On April 29, in W. Boylston, 50 were noted by F.B.C. Then Sept. 9, Mt. Wachusett, 2, Fleming; Oct. 5, Athol, 8, Allison, to winter.

OREGON JUNCO: Jan. 20, Worcester, 1 female at feeder daily until April 4, Fleming. Then Nov. 30, Worcester, 1 female (probably the same bird) through Dec. 31.

TREE SPARROW: Winter to May 1, Auburn, 3, Kinsel, and Grafton, 1, Crompton. Then Nov. 1, Auburn, 2, Kinsel, to winter. 25 were recorded in N. Brookfield on Nov. 4 by Alcorn.

CHIPPING SPARROW: April 22, Princeton, 1, H. L. Allen, to Oct. 28, N. Brookfield, a flock, Alcorn, and Worcester, 2, Crompton. On Oct. 27 Winters saw 20 in Worcester. Dec. 13, Worcester, 1, O. Wetherbee.

FIELD SPARROW: April 5, Auburn, 3, Kinsel, to Oct. 27, N. Brookfield, 1, Alcorn.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: Numerous for a few days in both spring and fall migrations. May 2, Paxton, 1, Crompton, to May 19, Boylston, 4, McAllister. In fall, Oct. 11, Barre, 2, Crompton, and Boylston, 2, McAllister, to Oct. 22, Brookfield, 3, Fleming.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: Jan 4, Lancaster, 1, McClosky; Jan. 5, Worcester, 1, Crompton; Jan. 9, N. Brookfield, 2, Newman. April 10, S. Lancaster, 1, Drown, and April 15, Boylston, 2, McAllister, to May 20, Holden, 1, F.B.C. Summer records of singing males: June 15, Paxton, 1, July 22, Princeton, 1; Aug. 5, Hubbardston, 1, Fleming. In fall, Sept. 22, Leicester, 2, Fleming, to Dec. 13, Worcester, 1, Crompton, Dec. 14, Athol, 1, Allison, and Dec. 26, S. Lancaster, 1, Drown.

FOX SPARROW: Feb. 27, Auburn, 2, Kinsel; March 12, Worcester, 1, Winters, and Paxton, 1, Jenkins, to May 3, Auburn, 5, Kinsel. In fall, Oct. 20, N. Brookfield, 1, Alcorn, to Nov. 7, Barre, 1, Crompton.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: May 16, Worcester, 1, and May 18, Barre, 2, Crompton. A May record without date from N. Brookfield, 2, Alcorn. In fall, Sept. 29, Paxton, 1, W. Wetherbee.

SWAMP SPARROW: April 7, Clinton, 1, McClosky, and April 17, Boylston, 1, McAllister, to Nov. 14, Brookfield, 1, Crompton.

SONG SPARROW: Several records of wintering birds: Worcester, Jan. 2-5, and Jan. 20-Feb. 29, Fleming, 1; Jan. 6-19, and March 2, O. Wetherbee, 1, 2; N. Brookfield, Jan. 9, Newman, 1; Boylston, Jan. 25, McAllister, 4, Common after April 6, and resident until Nov. 1, Worcester, 1, Crompton. Dec. records from Athol, Worcester, Sterling, and N. Brookfield, with five on Dec. 31.

SNOW BUNTING: Feb. 19, Fitchburg, 60, E. Smith; Feb. 26, Worcester, 22, Crompton, to March 23, Lancaster, 900, McClosky. Then Oct. 26, Spencer, 2, McAllister and Crompton, and Nov. 20 Clinton, 30, Crompton.

Some species, which are permanent and common residents of Worcester County are omitted: MALLARD and BLACK DUCK, RING-NECKED PHEASANT, ROCK DOVE, HAIRY and DOWNY WOODPECKERS, BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE, WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH, STARLING, ENGLISH SPARROW and GOLDFINCH.

The list of contributors includes, in addition to Forbush Bird Club members, the following Worcester County birders: Miss Helen L. Murdock of Hubbardston, Mrs. Mabel M. Allen of Sterling, Mrs. Chester M. Inman of Princeton and Worcester, Mrs. Alice Alcorn of N. Brookfield, Mr. Richard C. Hayes of Lunenburg, Mr. David R. Miner of Cook's Canyon Wildlife Sanctuary, Barre, Mr. Lawrence McClosky of Lancaster, and the Fitchburg Bird Club.

The Editors wish to thank all observers who have contributed to the "Field Notes", and Mr. Samuel A. Eliot Jr. who has edited the list with great care and added valuable material.

E.S.F.

#### CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS 1956

1. Dec. 23, 1956. Davis Hill Road, Paxton, 7 A.M. to 12 M. Weather: fair and cold.

Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 12; Chickadee, 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; Junco, 2; Tree Sparrow, 4.  
Total: 7 species, 25 individuals.

- Lloyd S. Jenkins

2. Dec. 24, 1956. Worcester, W. Boylston, Boylston, Sterling, Clinton, 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Weather: rain until 3 P.M., then cloudy with temperature of 28 to 32 degrees and N. E. wind. Open water in Wachusett Reservoir and three ponds.

Common Loon, 1; Horned Grebe, 1; Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Mallard Duck, 6; Black Duck, 143; Ring-necked Duck, 3; Greater Scaup, 1; Golden-eye, 6; Hooded Merganser, 6; American Merganser, 46; Herring Gull, 106; Mourning Dove, 4; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Blue Jay, 21; Crow, 13; Chickadee, 12; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Starling, 58; English Sparrow, 40; Slate-colored Junco, 18; Oregon Junco, 1; Tree Sparrow, 6; Song Sparrow, 1.  
Total: 23 species, 496 individuals.

- Davis and Viola Crompton, Francis X. McMenemy

3. Dec. 26, 1956. Worcester, 5 Maplewood Rd., Boylston, Berlin, Clinton, Lancaster, Sterling, W. Boylston, Holden; all day, 58 miles by car. Weather: sunny, light N. W. wind and temperature of 23 to 32 degrees.

Mallard Duck, 23; Black Duck, 18; Pheasant, 2; Herring Gull, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Blue Jay, 20; Crow, 11; Chickadee, 23; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Starling, 6; English Sparrow, 16; Cowbird, 7; Slate-colored Junco, 36; Tree Sparrow, 58; Song Sparrow, 1.  
An Oregon Junco visited the feeder at Maplewood Road regularly during the Census period although not seen on Dec. 26.

Total: 17 species, 226 individuals.

- Walter and Ethel Fleming

4. Dec. 27, 1956. Worcester, 20 Wild Rose Ave., all day. Weather: light snow, temperature, 32 degrees.  
Blue Jay, 1; Chickadee, 4; English Sparrow, 25; Cowbird, 10; Junco, 12; Tree Sparrow, 5.  
Total: 6 species, 57 individuals.

- Mary Lou Winters

5. Dec. 31, 1956. Worcester, 11 Dallas St., Lake Park, to Grafton, 7 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Weather: snow, accumulating 3 inches and drifting; clearing in P.M. with temperature 6 to 14 degrees.  
Herring Gull, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 5; Chickadee, 1; Starling 60; English Sparrow, 51; Cowbird, 14; Slate-colored Junco, 3; Tree Sparrow, 6.  
Additional, seen in the same area; Dec. 23, Cedar Waxwing, 1; Dec. 29, Goldfinch, 1.  
Total: 11 species, 144 individuals.

- Olive P. Wetherbee

6. Dec. 31, 1956. Boylston, Clinton, W. Boylston, 2 P.M. to 5 P.M., 4 miles by car, 1/2 mile on foot. Weather: clear, cold wind; temperature, 10 to 20 degrees.  
Black Duck, 75; Greater Scaup Duck 2; American Merganser, 25; Herring Gull, 10; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 10; Crow, 3; Chickadee, 5; Brown Creeper, 1; Starling, 10; English Sparrow, 6; Junco, 7; Tree Sparrow, 10.  
Total: 14 species, 166 individuals.

- Bill McAllister

Additional species: Red-eyed Towhee, 1 reported in Auburn on Dec. 29 by H. Zimmerman. Broad-winged Hawk, 1 reported on Dec. 27 and 29 in Holden by Marjorie Marshall.

Totals: --

Common Loon	1	Blue Jay	69
Horned Grebe	1	Crow	27
Pied-billed Grebe	1	Chickadee	48
Mallard Duck	29	White-breasted Nuthatch	2
Black Duck	236	Brown Creeper	1
Ring-necked Duck	3	Golden-crowned Kinglet	2
Greater Scaup Duck	3	Cedar Waxwing	1
American Golden-eye	6	Starling	134
Hooded Merganser	6	English Sparrow	138
American Merganser	71	Cowbird	31
Broad-winged Hawk	1	Goldfinch	1
Ring-necked Pheasant	2	Red-eyed Towhee	1
Herring Gull	118	Slate-colored Junco	78
Rock Dove	15	Oregon Junco	1
Mourning Dove	4	Tree Sparrow	89
Hairy Woodpecker	3	Song Sparrow	2
Downy Woodpecker	8		

Total number of species: - 33  
Total number of individuals: - 1133

Towns represented: - 11  
Observers: - 11

- Ethel S. Fleming

# RECORD OF CLUB ACTIVITIES 1956

January 19. At the regular monthly meeting held at the Natural History Museum, Davis Crompton gave members a review of the birds seen on his trip to Florida and California. He was fortunate in finding the Spotted-breasted Oriole which is now nesting in Florida.

The Sinclair Bird Festival was presented in cooperation with the Massachusetts Audubon Society at Horticultural Hall.

Friday, February 3: "Penguin Summer" - Olin S. Pettingill, Jr.

Friday, March 2: "Hawaii, U.S.A." - Fran Hall.

March 1. Meeting at the Museum again, club members gained ideas for the Sanctuary when David Miner, Director of Cook's Canyon Sanctuary spoke on ways to accommodate birds.

April 26. The 25th annual meeting was held at Meeting House, Princeton. After a buffet supper reports were read and officers were elected.

## Treasurer's Report (Abridged)

<u>BALANCE</u>			\$ 641.39
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Reserve Lecture Account April 1, 1955	\$77.07		
Plus Lecture Money	<u>6.43</u>	\$ 83.50	

Sanctuary Account	\$500.00		
Less S. Walker Recording Fee	<u>8.25</u>	<u>491.75</u>	<u>575.25</u>

BALANCE Checking Account April 1, 1956			\$ 66.14
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## SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Balance April 1, 1955	\$ 3291.05
Dividends	99.47
10 Patron Members at \$2.00	<u>20.00</u>
	\$ 3410.52

Transfer to Checking Account	<u>2000.00</u>
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Balance Savings Account April 1, 1956	\$ 1410.52
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It was appropriate to celebrate our 25th anniversary with the report on the purchase of the W. Elmer Ekblaw Bird Sanctuary in Paxton. Also Mr. Lawrence Fletcher of Cohasset who knew Edward Howe Forbush well, spoke feelingly about him. His lecture and film on Hummingbirds was unusual and most interesting.

April 21. Field trip to Irish Dam, Lake Quinsigamond, Mrs. Leon Marshall, leader. 24 species, 222 individuals. The usual early warblers were missing this year with only Myrtle and Yellow Palm noted. About 100 Tree Swallows braved the first day of the fishing season.

April 22. Field trip to Boylston, Bill McAllister, leader. 29 species, 292 individuals. This was a real hawk day as Coopers, Red-shouldered, Broad-winged, Marsh, Sparrow Hawks and Osprey were observed. Again warblers were missing, only one Myrtle being seen.

- April 28. Field trip to Ekblaw Sanctuary, Paxton, Leader Wallace Wetherbee. 27 species, 137 individuals. An enjoyable day but for our first day here, not very productive. Again early warblers were scarce.
- April 29. Field trip to West Boylston. Leaders, Margaret and Laura Drown. Species 42, individuals 375. The Reservoir produced 3 Loons, 2 Black-crowned Night Herons, 2 Lesser Scaup Ducks, 5 American Mergansers and 60 Herring Gulls. 7 species of sparrows were recorded and a count of 30 Robins indicated an increase in that species.
- May 6. Field trip to Holden. Leaders, Mr. and Mrs. Sven Holmblad. Species 37, (individuals 241). Due to the backwardness of the season there were fewer species and fewer individuals in most species than could be expected on this date in a more normal season. The number of Myrtle Warblers (40) was the most notable exception and seemed to suggest the beginning of the warbler migration.
- May 12. Field trip to Lake Park. Mrs. Kenneth Wetherbee, leader. 33 species, 216 individuals. This is wonderful territory but like so many trips this year, not outstanding. It showed the birds were arriving at a very slow rate and in small numbers.
- May 13. Field trip to Ekblaw Sanctuary. Leader, Lloyd Jenkins. Species 55, individuals 220+. A cook-out breakfast and good birding was enjoyed by a large group. Warblers began arriving and 14 species were seen, among them a Cape May. It was interesting to find so many species on our property at this time.
- May 19. Field trip to Tory Fort Lane, Tatnuck and Holden Reservoir. Leader, Mary Lou Winters. Species 51, individuals 232. A large number of Myrtle Warblers was observed (50) which seemed to be true during the spring migration. While the other warblers came eventually their numbers were few.
- May 20. Field trip to River Road, Oakdale. Wallace Wetherbee, leader. 68 species, 348+ individuals. A good birding day. 5 species of swallows were seen, the first club report of a Black-billed Cuckoo (which seemed scarce this year) and 14 species of warblers with Myrtle Warblers again predominating in numbers. This has proved to be good territory for many different species of birds.
- May 26, 27. Field trip to Cook's Canyon. Barre. Leader, Louise Sibley. 36 species, 131 individuals. The weather was cold and cloudy followed by rain and the birding was poor though a few unusual birds were seen, an Olive-sided Flycatcher, a Gray-cheeked Thrush and a Blue-winged Warbler.
- June 2. Field trip to Newburyport, Salisbury and Plum Island. Leader, Wallace Wetherbee. Species 86. The highlight of the trip was the successful stalking of the Lawrence's Warbler at Warbler Corner. Roseate Terns and Ruddy Turnstones were easily seen at Salisbury while Black-crowned Night Herons were numerous at Newburyport and 1 Gannet was seen.
- August 4. Field trip to Spencer filter beds. Leader, Davis Crompton. 27 species, 312 individuals. Semipalmated Sandpipers predominated, 200 being recorded.



September 20. Club members met at the Ekblaw Sanctuary for their first Fall meeting and enjoyed a cook-out and get-together. It was most encouraging to hear the report that 90 species of birds had been seen on the Sanctuary property in the seven months we have been in possession and it should be even better in a good year.

September 23. Field trip to Goat Peak, Mt. Tom. Recorder, Mrs. Walter Fleming. Species 27. Because of the bad weather the group did not get together until afternoon at Arcadia Sanctuary. Those who did go to Goat Peak saw nothing. It was a very poor day for hawk flight. Mr. Mason at the Sanctuary reported that the flight had begun a week earlier than usual.

October 7. Field trip to Plum Island. Leader, Wallace Wetherbee. 61 species. At Artichoke Reservoir 150 Baldpates, a Wilson's Snipe and many Pipits made the trip over the swampy ground worth while. A Duck Hawk tried unsuccessfully to get an easy lunch from several gulls at Newburyport.

October 18. Regular monthly meeting at the Museum when members gave summaries of the Fall field trips. Two work days were planned for the Sanctuary.

November 15. Meeting at the Natural History Museum the club inaugurated a new feature, "Typical Bird of the Month". Recordings of bird songs accompanied by kodachromes featured the program.

December 14. The annual Christmas party was held at the Museum. Members enjoyed hunting for familiar faces as old pictures of club activities were shown. These were followed by recent kodachromes of field trips.

- Mary Lou Winters

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IN MEMORIAM - MRS. GEORGE FERGUSON

Members of our club were saddened by the recent death of one of our older members, Mrs. George Ferguson. Her modest, happy personality and thoughtful, helpful ways will be deeply missed at our gatherings.

Our sympathy goes out to Mr. Ferguson in his time of sorrow. They had recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary and had shared through the years their interest in birds, flowers and church activities.

# 1955 BIRD BANDING REPORT

This report is a summary of the work of Mr. Lawrence B. Chapman of Princeton and Mr. Richard C. Hayes of Lunenburg. 719 individuals in 22 species were banded. 102 returns were recorded.

## Banded were:

Tree Swallow	51	Evening Grosbeak	291
Barn Swallow	1	Purple Finch	60
Blue Jay	47	Goldfinch	48
Black-capped Chickadee	40	Slate-colored Junco	56
White-breasted Nuthatch	3	Tree Sparrow	38
Catbird	1	Chipping Sparrow	2
Starling	1	Field Sparrow	1
Redstart	1	White-throated Sparrow	38
Red-wing	1	Fox Sparrow	4
Bronzed Grackle	3	Lincoln's Sparrow	1
Cowbird	17	Song Sparrow	13

## Returns were:

Tree Swallow	28	one for the 6th time (Chapman)
Blue Jay	3	
Black-capped Chickadee	31	
White-breasted Nuthatch	3	
Cowbird	1	
Evening Grosbeak	3	
Purple Finch	12	
Slate-colored Junco	5	one banded in Oct. 1952 (Hayes)
Tree Sparrow	16	one banded in Feb. 1953 (Hayes)

## Recoveries banded by someone else:

Evening Grosbeak	11	(Chapman)
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Mr. Hayes reported an odd coincidence of a Song Sparrow banded by him in July 1954 at Chatham, Mass. being recovered by a bander in E. Greenwich, R. I. in March 1955 and an Evening Grosbeak banded by him in Dec. 1954 in Lunenburg being recovered at the same banding station in E. Greenwich in March 1955.

- Ethel S. Fleming