



Field Records: February 1982

by George W. Gove, Robert H. Stymeist

February was gloomy, a little on the mild side and somewhat dry. The temperature averaged 30.8°, 0.4° above normal; the first week averaged nearly 5° above normal, while the rest of February was on the cold side. The high mark was 54° on the 3rd, the low was 15° on both the 25 and 26th. Precipitation totaled 2.66 inches, 0.88 inch less than normal and well under half that of the very wet February of last year. Totals were near normal in some suburbs. Snowfall totaled 7.6 inches, 4.1 inches less than average; the most in any storm was 4.0 inches on the 9-10th. Winds were rather strong during several of the colder periods to produce prolonged intervals of very low wind-chill values, this was especially noticeable on the 25-26th.

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

An Arctic Loon was reported from Salisbury on the 20th but details on the sighting are not available. Only one Red-throated Loon was reported. A total of 59 Red-necked Grebes from six locations were reported with 22 seen at Cape Ann on the 12th. One Pied-billed Grebe was seen early on the month; most inland waters have been frozen and Pied-billed Grebes have little suitable habitat in which to winter this season. Several Great Blue Herons managed to sustain an existence inland with four individuals reported from locations away from the coast.

Five White-fronted Geese were found in the Newburyport area on the 8th and remained through the month. Details provided by R.Heil attributed these geese to the Western US race as opposed to the Greenland race. They had pink bills, orange legs, no eye ring, white around the base of the bill but not high onto the forehead and the underparts were darkly mottled. The plumage was fresh and unbraided and the birds were not banded. Thus they would appear to be valid vagrants.

G.W.G.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Common Loon:			
6,21	E.Gloucester,Manchester-Rockport	10, 30	J.Berry#, BBC
23,27	Salisbury, Ipswich	11, 2	J.Hines, BBC
Arctic Loon: (no details)			
20	Salisbury	1	D.Brown#
Red-throated Loon:			
7	P.I.	1	BBC
Red-necked Grebe:			
7,18;24	N.Scituate; Brant Rock	1, 4; 2	W.Petersen; S.Higginbotham
7,21	Gloucester	8, 10	SSEC, B. "
12	Cape Ann	22	J.Hines
7,21,28	P.I.	max. 3	BBC
21	Salisbury	9	R.Heil
Horned Grebe:			
15,19	Barnstable, P.I.	35, 15	J.Aylward, W.Petersen
21	Manchester-Rockport	12	BBC
Pied-billed Grebe:			
2	Framingham	1	R.Forster
Great Cormorant:			
6,12	Winthrop-Revere,Cape Ann	35, 40	BBC, J.Hines

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Great Blue Heron:			
2;4,16	Framingham; Marshfield	1; 1	R.Forster, W.Petersen
13,22;7	Belmont; Milton	1, 2; 2	L.Taylor,L.Robinson;C.Floyd#
5,21	Everett, Manchester	1, 1	J.Berry, BBC
Mute Swan:			
21,27	Manchester, Ipswich	3, 1	BBC, BBC
27	Westport	29	G.Gove
Canada Goose:			
19,26	Newburyport, Beverly	250, 200	W.Petersen, J.Berry
Brant:			
5,7	Scituate, Quincy	80, 1368	S.Higginbotham, TASL
14,20	Squantum	225, 210	BBC, L.Taylor#
23	Plymouth	50	K.Anderson
White-fronted Goose:			
8-28	Newburyport	5	A.Altman + v.o.
Black Duck:			
6,7	Winthrop, Quincy	303, 980	BBC, TASL
Gadwall:			
thr.,6	Weston,Marston's Mills	1 f., 3	J.Hines, J.Aylward
Pintail:			
26	Wayland	pair	J.Hines
American Wigeon:			
7	Gloucester, Boston Harbor	2, 1 m.	SSBC, L.Taylor
20	Belmont	13	F.Bouchard
Wood Duck:			
6,8	Marston's Mills,Wellesley	1, 1 m.	J.Aylward, K.Winkler
Ring-necked Duck:			
2,16	Framingham, Wayland	2, 1 m.	R.Forster, J.Hines
17;27	Lakeville	1; 25 m., 2 f.	W.Petersen, G.Gove
Canvasback:			
6,14	Cotuit, Wollaston	600, 8	J.Aylward, BBC
28	Newburyport	6	BBC
Greater Scaup:			
7	Quincy, Winthrop-Revere	1116, 1472	TASL
17	Wollaston	1200	G.Wilson#
Common Goldeneye:			
19-28	Newburyport	max. 1200	v.o.
7	Cape Ann, Quincy	250, 453	SSBC, TASL
Barrow's Goldeneye:			
7-20	Newburyport	max. 7(4 m., 3 f.)	v.o.
7,11	Quincy, Manomet	5, 1 f.	TASL, B.Harrington
24,28	Scituate, Chatham	1 f., 1	S.Higginbotham, B.Nikula
Bufflehead:			
19-28	Newburyport	max. 800	v.o.
Oldsquaw:			
21-28	Newburyport	max. 800	v.o.
Harlequin Duck:			
7-13	Gloucester (Bass Rocks)	max. 6	v.o.
5	N.Scituate	1 m., 1 f.	S.Higginbotham
Common Eider:			
7	Winthrop-Revere	5616	TASL
5,23	Marshfield, Salisbury	3000, 110	S.Higginbotham, J.Carter
King Eider:			
6,19	P.I.	1 f.	G.Gove#, W.Petersen
5,17	Marshfield, Scituate	1 f., 1 f.	S.Higginbotham
7,22	Quincy	1 imm. m., 1 ad. m.	TASL,S.Higginbotham
White-winged Scoter:			
23	Salisbury	80	J.Carter
Surf Scoter:			
12	Cape Ann	16	J.Hines
Ruddy Duck:			
23	Watertown	2	F.Bouchard
Hooded Merganser:			
4	Belmont	4	L.Robinson
17;27	Lakeville	1; 1 m., 1 f.	W.Petersen, M.Reinstein
Common Merganser:			
7-28	Newburyport	max. 115	v.o.
4;28	Weston; Wayland	2 m.; 3 m., 4 f.	J.Hines
7,28	Hingham, Lakeville	15, 7	TASL, D.+J.Briggs

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS
Red-breasted Merganser:			
19-28	Newburyport	max. 400	v.o.
7	Hingham	770	TASL

VULTURES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Turkey Vultures were seen moving late in the month. Two immature and one adult Golden Eagles were reported from Quabbin where a maximum of 18 Bald Eagles, with a ratio of about 3 immatures to one adult, were seen feeding on the many deer carcasses on the ice through the month. A maximum of 4 Bald Eagles wintered on the Merrimac with the age ratio being the same as above. Three Cyrfalcons were reported from as many locations; the one at Squantum having been tentatively identified on the 7th during the TASL harbor census and found again the following weekend when it was seen by many observers for those two days only. An adult Peregrine Falcon was seen at the North River in Scituate-Marshfield where a Marbled Godwit continued in the frozen marshes since January 31 through at least February 21st; two rare birds for Massachusetts particularly in the winter.

American Woodcock, probably winterers, were reported at the end of the month from two locations and Dunlin were seen moving along the coast.

G.W.G.

Turkey Vulture:

27,28	New Braintree, Quabbin	7, 1	W.Byrne, SSBC (W.Petersen)
20	Millbury	1	E.Morrier

Goshawk:

6,19	P.I.	1 ad. imm.	C.Floyd#, W.Petersen
7;17,21	Quabbin; Newbury	1 ad.; 1 imm.	R.Heil

Sharp-shinned Hawk:

12,20	Rockport, Ipswich	1 imm., 1	J.Andrews, J.Berry#
23,28	Kingston, Quabbin	1, 1	K.Anderson, SSBC

Cooper's Hawk:

7	Eastham	1 imm.	B.Nikula
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Red-tailed Hawk:

21	Whitman-Bridgewater	15	SSBC
thr.	reports of 1 to 4 from 14 locations		

Red-shouldered Hawk:

thr.	Orleans	1 ad.	v.o.
15,28	Newburyport	1 ad., 1	R.Forster, BBC (E.Nielsen)
5;6,7	Belmont; Wellesley	1 ad., 1 ad.	L.Robinson, K.Winkler
21	Whitman-Bridgewater	1	SSBC (W.Petersen)

Rough-legged Hawk:

8-28	Salisbury-Newburyport	max. 7	v.o.
4-17	E.Middleboro	max. 2	K.Anderson
27,15	Wellfleet, Orleans	2, 1	B.Nikula, J.Aylward
thr.	reports of 1-4 from 14 locations		

Golden Eagle:

7,21;28	Quabbin	1, 1 imm.; 2 ad+ 1 imm	M.Lynch#, D.Brown#+v.o. §SSBC(W.Petersen)
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Bald Eagle:

thr.	Quabbin	max. 18	v.o.
7	Rochester	1 imm.	D.Briggs
thr.	Newburyport	max. 4	v.o.

Marsh Hawk (Northern Harrier):

thr.	Newburyport-P.I.	max. 3	v.o.
12,13	Rockport, S.Peabody	1 f., 1 f.	J.Hines, R.Heil
3;6	Squantum;Duxbury;Marshfield	1 m, 1 f; 1 m, 1 f G.Wilson;W.Petersen#	

Cyrfalcon:

15-25	Quabbin	1	v.o.
13,14	Squantum	1 gray	D.Brown#
23	Middleboro	1 gray (details received)	D.Briggs

Peregrine Falcon:

21	Scituate	1 ad.	S.Carroll + M.Lynch#
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Merlin:

7	Quincy	1	TASL
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American Kestrel:

21	Whitman-Bridgewater	29	SSBC
thr.	1-2 individuals from 5 locations		

Ruffed Grouse:

1,27	Millis, Weston	10, 4	B.Cassie, J.Hines
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<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Ruffed Grouse (continued):			
12;17,21;26	Rockland;Halifax;Abington	2; 1, 1; 1	W.Petersen
Bobwhite:			
thr.	Middleboro, E.Middleboro	7,7	F.Otto, E.+F.Cushman
21	Halifax	27	D.Briggs
American Coot:			
20	Belmont	1	F.Bouchard
Killdeer:			
28	Medfield	1	J.Marshall
American Woodcock:			
28	Orleans, Dover	1, 1	R.Scott#, F.Brewer
Common Snipe:			
2, thr.	Belmont, S.Peabody	1, 3	J.Damian, R.Heil
Purple Sandpiper:			
7	Winthrop, Hingham	140, 300	TASL
12,18	Magnolia, N.Scituate	90, 150	J.Hines, W.Petersen
Dunlin:			
18,27	Scituate, Westport	50, 100	W.Petersen, G.Gove#
Marbled Godwit:			
18,21	Scituate	1	W.Petersen#

GULLS THROUGH OWLS

An immature Glaucous Gull was found far inland at Lakeville and two others were found at Wenham also an inland location. The Iceland Gulls along with about 200+ Herring Gulls were feeding upon crabs caught in the surf along the beach at the north end of Plum Island. It was interesting to note that virtually no Great Black-backed Gulls took part in this activity, could it be that they are not as agile in flight as the smaller gulls? An adult albino Herring Gull was described in detail by Rick Heil, who noted an adult whose head, underparts, back and most of the wing mantle was a solid, slightly off-white color. An adult Lesser Black-backed Gull was reported from Quincy early in the month.

Three Common Murres, two of them oiled, were reported south of Boston and two Dovekies were seen off Scituate. Black Guillemots were reported from the standard localities in North Scituate, and Andrew's Point in Rockport.

R.H.S.

Glaucous Gull:			
17	Lakeville, Newburyport	1 imm., 1 ad.	W.Petersen, R.Heil
18,20	Scituate, P.I.	2 (1 ad.), 1 ad.	W.Petersen, R.Bowen#
21	Gloucester, Wenham	1, 2	BBC, R.Heil#
Iceland Gull:			
6,19	E.Gloucester, Newburyport-P.I.	28, 16	J.Berry, W.Petersen#
21,27	P.I., P'town	60 (42 ads., 18 imm), 3	R.Heil, B.Nikula
Lesser Black-backed Gull:			
7	Quincy	1 ad.	D.Brown
Herring Gull:			
21	Wenham	1 ad. albino	R.Heil
Ring-billed Gull:			
11,20	Weston, Belmont	56, 87	J.Hines, F.Bouchard
Black-headed Gull:			
7-17,17-28	Squantum, Quincy	1, 1 ad.	v.o., v.o.
Little Gull:			
21	Newburyport	1 ad.	J.Berry
Black-legged Kittiwake:			
7	Hull, Rockport	1 (oiled), 10+	W.Petersen, SSBC
Common Murre:			
17,26,27	Scituate;Orleans,P'town	1;1 oiled, 1 oiled	S.Higginbotham; fide D.Reynolds
Thick-billed Murre:			
2,6	Duxbury, Marshfield	1 dead, 1 oiled	W.Petersen#
17,27	N.Scituate, P'town	1, 1	S.Higginbotham, B.Nikula
Dovekie:			
17	N.Scituate	2	S.Higginbotham
Black Guillemot:			
7,12	N.Scituate, Rockport	6, 2	W.Petersen#, J.Hines
Barn Owl:			
23	Monomoy	1 dead some time	G.Gavutis

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS
Screech Owl: 20	Middleboro	4	W.Petersen#
Great Horned Owl: 4	Marshfield	pair copulating	W.Petersen
	other reports of 1-2 individuals from 7 locations		
Snowy Owl: thr.	P.I.-Newburyport	1-2	v.o.
7	E.Boston, Quincy	1, 1	TASL
Barred Owl: thr., 24	Middleboro, Leominster	pr., 1	R.Protsik, W.Petersen#
Long-eared Owl: 7-28	Salisbury, S.Dartmouth	1-2, 2	v.o., J.Fernandez
7-13, 12	W.Roxbury, Newton	4-2, 1	O.Komar#, L.Tarbak
Short-eared Owl: thr.	Squantum, Salisbury, P.I.	max. 8, max. 4, max. 4	v.o.
thr., 6, 19	Cape Cod; Marshfield, W.Newbury	6+; 1, 1	v.o.; W.Petersen
Saw-whet Owl: 7-8, 11	Salisbury, E.Lexington	1, 1	L.Robinson#, J.Hines
12, ?	Chatham, Yarmouth	1, 1 (injured)	B.Nikula, fide D.Reynolds
14 on, 21	Wollaston, Nantucket	1, 2	D.Brown#, C.Jackson

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SNOW BUNTING

At Quabbin, 1-2 Common Ravens were reported from the baffle dams inside Gates 43, bringing hopes that Ravens may be breeding in eastern Massachusetts. Ravens were seen in courtship behavior two years ago near Mt. Watatic. The Townsend's Solitaire continued at West Tisbury at least until February 10th.

Winter Finches continued in good numbers with five convincing reports of Hoary Redpolls reported among the large flocks of Commons. A flock of over 450 Snow Buntings were reported from Bolton at month's end.

R.H.S.

Pileated Woodpecker: 6, 27	Wellesley, Weston	1, pr.	K.Winkler, J.Hines
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 1-7, 6	Rockport, Natick	1, 1	v.o., L.Robinson
Red-headed Woodpecker: thr., 7	Woburn, Lanesville	1 imm., 1	G.Gove, F.Bouchard
Horned Lark: 7	Salisbury	20	W.Drummond#
<u>Common Raven:</u> 21, 28	Quabbin	1-2	I.Giriunas + v.o.
Fish Crow: 15, 21 28	Natick, Cambridge Weston	5+, 2 4	J.Hines, F.Bouchard J.Hines
Boreal Chickadee: thr., 7 12, 14	Newburyport, Wayland Clinton, Milton	1, 1 2, 1	v.o., E.Morrier B.Blodget, D.Brown#
Red-breasted Nuthatch: thr.	Middleboro, P.I.	8+, 6+	D.Briggs#, v.o.
Brown Creeper: 4-28, 4-16	Weston, Wayland	11, 3	J.Hines
Carolina Wren: 1-20	Middleboro	1	S.MacDonald#
Hermit Thrush: 15	Newbury	1	G.Gavutis
<u>Townsend's Solitaire:</u> 1-10	W.Tisbury, M.V.	1	V.Laux + v.o.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: thr.	small numbers reported from various locations		
Northern Shrike: 9, 15 17-22, 20-21 19-20	Lincoln, Sudbury Littleton, P.I. Wayland	1, 1 1, 1 1 imm.	R.Forster, R.Walton J.Baird, R.Bowen J.Hines#
Pine Warbler: 13	Yarmouth	1 at feeder	C.Smith#
Red-winged Blackbird: 1-22	1-5 wintering individuals reported from 7 locations		

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Red-winged Blackbird (continued):			
27	W.Bridgewater, Westport	100, 5	G.Gove
28	Woburn, Sudbury	3, 15	C.Gove, J.Hines
Rusty Blackbird:			
thr.	S.Peabody	max. 11 (2/11)	R.Heil
Dickcissel:			
17	Brookline	1	H.Wiggin
Evening Grosbeak:			
thr.	Middleboro (1 m E of town center)	35-85 daily	D.Briggs
thr.	Middleboro (5 m S of town center)	50-150 daily	S.MacDonald
Purple Finch:			
4,27	Weston	12, 15	J.Hines
Pine Grosbeak:			
5,6	Wayland, Newburyport	1, 6	J.Hines, G.Gove#
15,26	Newbury, Weston	7, 1	G.Gavutis, J.Hines
Hoary Redpoll:			
6	P.I., Duxbury Beach	1, 1	G.Gove#, W.Petersen#
13,22	Lancaster, Framingham	1, 1	H.Merriman, K.Hamilton#
19+21	P.I.	1	W.Petersen#, R.Howe#
All of the above records were accompanied with excellent convincing details			
Common Redpoll:			
thr. 5-22	P.I., Framingham	max. 40, 200-300 (max 2/22)	v.o., K.Hamilton
5,6	Hopkington, Duxbury	150, 150	B.Cassie, W.Petersen#
5,11	Haverhill, S.Peabody	40, 30	W.Drummond#, R.Heil
13,19	Lancaster, Dedham	60+, 20-60	H.Merriam, J.Marshall
20,21	Squantum, E.Bridgewater	50,60	L.Taylor#, W.Petersen
Many other reports of 1-25 individuals from many locations			
Pine Siskin:			
thr.	Middleboro (2 locales)	30+, 35+ daily	D.Briggs, S.MacDonald
thr.	Dedham	12-30	S.Marshall
Other reports of 2-10 individuals from many other locations			
Red Crossbill:			
7	Mt.A, Squantum	6, 8	J.Peputsiano, TASL
8,11	Truro, W.Boylston	75+, 8	C.Goodrich, B.Blodget
14,20	Milton, P.I.	3, 4	BBC
White-winged Crossbill:			
5,11	Wayland, Mt.A	12, 12	J.Hines, M.Purdy
22,28	Brookline, Weston	4, 24	A.Agush, J.Hines
Other reports of 1-3 individuals from many locations			
Rufous-sided Towhee:			
thr.	Middleboro, S.Peabody	1, 1	D.Elkin#, R.Heil
"Ipswich Sparrow":			
27	Orleans (North Beach)	1	R.Comeau#
Savannah Sparrow:			
23	Newburyport	1	J.Hines
Lark Sparrow:			
6	Falmouth	1	J.+A. Nelson
Field Sparrow:			
5	Weston	3	J.Hines
Fox Sparrow:			
thr., 22	Middleboro, Brookline	1, 1	D.Elkin#, A.Agush
Lapland Longspur:			
thr.	Salisbury, P.I.	max. 16 2/21, max. 17 2/20	v.o.
Snow Bunting:			
thr.	P.I.	max. 300 2/28	v.o.
6,14	Wellesley, Quincy	50, 28	K.Winkler, BBC
19,27	Wayland, Bolton	5, 450	J.Hines, H.Merriman