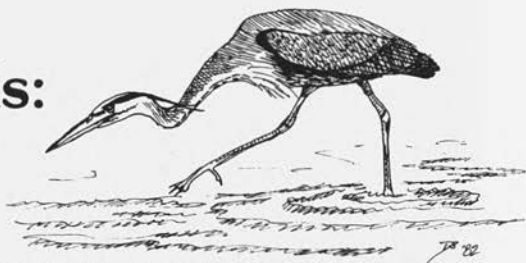


Field Records:

April 1982



by George W. Gove, Richard S. Heil, Robert H. Stymeist

April 1982 will be remembered for the devastating snowstorm of April 6 and 7 that resulted in high bird mortality. Snow totaled 13.3 inches, 12.6 inches more than average and set a new record for the month. The old record was 9.1 inches in 1917. The snow came in one storm on the 6th and 7th, and 13.2 inches fell in 24 hours. More snow would have accumulated had not the large amount of heat in the ground rapidly melted it. The winter seasonal total now stands at 61.8 inches, 19.9 inches over the average and the thirteenth greatest in 92 years of records. More on the storm later.

The temperature in April averaged 48.2°; the high of 83° on the 25th topped the old mark of 81° in 1897. The low of 16° on the 7th was the lowest for April; the previous low was 20° in 1943. Precipitation totalled 3.42 inches, just 0.07 inch under normal. Thus many records were broken in this memorable April of 1982.

The deep snow cover and low temperatures immediately following the blizzard created a severe hardship for many of the early spring migrants. Some of these included Wood Duck, Killdeer, American Woodcock, Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, American Robin, Eastern Bluebird and blackbirds. The lack of available food during the day, despite the considerable efforts of many people to keep feeders filled and food spread in feeding areas, made it very difficult for birds to maintain a normal body temperature, especially at night. The birds became concentrated in the few areas that afforded food and shelter. American Woodcocks and American Robins were seen in unusual numbers on plowed streets, and with many birds undoubtedly in weakened condition, there were many road-kills, particularly of robins. A check of several open and semi-open brooks in the South Peabody-Salem-Lynn area by Rick Heil revealed unprecedented concentrations of birds there. Twenty-nine Wood Ducks, seventeen Killdeer, and twenty-nine American Woodcock were noted in this survey; one woodcock was found dead. Of two Eastern Phoebes seen, one was picked up from the snow, barely alive; this bird died a few minutes later. The 260+ American Robins counted during the day were concentrated both along open brooks and in thickets of Staghorn Sumac and greenbrier that still had berries from last fall. Of these robins, fifty or more were moribund and nine were found dead.

Rick Heil also observed a male Rusty Blackbird feeding on the flesh of a dead robin. The chest cavity had been exposed, and it was apparent that much of the carcass had been consumed. The rusty fed for about two minutes, pecking off tiny bits of flesh. On the south shore, there were many reports of American Robins dead as well as Tree Swallows and a Little Blue Heron. In the Sudbury River Valley, traditional sites for Eastern Phoebes were devoid of birds after the storm although this species had been present earlier. American Robins totaled 443 on melted areas at Concord's Nine Acre Corner on April 9. Lillian Files of Tyngsboro (Massachusetts Bluebird Society) reported the very sad discovery of seventeen Eastern Bluebirds found dead.

Following the storm, on April 7 and 8, bird feeders were bustling with activity, and many Fox Sparrows were noted. R.S.H. and R.H.S.

LOONS THROUGH MERGANSERS

Red-necked Grebes accumulated in favored coastal spots with a maximum of 320 counted in Dennis. Horned Grebes were reported with many in breeding plumage which is a rare sight for most observers in this area except during this month. The Scituate Western Grebe, present since March 22, was last reported on April 4. Great Blue Herons were seen refurbishing nests at the heronry in Westboro where ten nests were occupied by April 3, and a pair was observed copulating on that date. Green Herons were first reported on the 19th as were Little Blues. Cattle Egrets appeared on the 16th as did Great Egrets, both in Marshfield, and a Louisiana Heron was seen on the same date in Chatham. An adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron was noted in Provincetown on the 18th.

Glossy Ibis were searching for food along a brook in Middleboro in the snow after the blizzard.

Two "Blue" Geese were first seen inland in Essex County and subsequently made their way to the coast. An all white duck was seen with two male Gadwall at Plum Island and was presumed to be of that species. Four European Wigeon were reported from three locations. The early April blizzard, as noted in the introduction, concentrated such species as Wood Duck with 29 counted in the South Peabody area, an unprecedented number according to the observer. Ring-necked Ducks continued throughout the month and Harlequin Ducks were present throughout on the vineyard where a maximum of 12 were seen.

G.W.G.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Common Loon:			
1;4	Marshfield; Scituate, P.I.	7; 3, 2	D.Clapp; SSBC, BBC
10, thr.	Manomet, Rockport	7, 7 migr.	G.Gove#, P.Stangel
Red-throated Loon:			
3;4,10,25	Scituate; P.I.	1; 2, 1, 1	BBC
Red-necked Grebe:			
3,4,11	Dennis	260, 320, 90	B.Nikula
4,10	Scituate, Manomet	17, 48	N.Komar#, G.Gove#
Horned Grebe:			
9,19	N.Scituate	20, 25	W.Petersen
4,10	Scituate, P.I.	17, 6	N.Komar#, BBC
Western Grebe (from March):			
3,4	Scituate	1	R.Campbell + v.o.
Pied-billed Grebe:			
3,4	6 from six loc., 2 at P.I.		v.o.
9,10,11	Duxbury, Lakeville, W.Bridgewater	2, 3, 1	K.Ryan, G.Gove#, W.Petersen
Gannet:			
3,4	Scituate, P.I.	6, 2	BBC
20	Ipswich	2	J.Berry
Great Cormorant:			
4	Scituate	94	N.Komar#
Double-crested Cormorant:			
3	Scituate, S.R.V., P.I.	1, 25, 1	BBC, R.Walton, E.Morrier
4	N.Scituate, P.I., Marshfield	18, 30, 90	N.Komar#, BBC, D.Clapp
15,24	Framingham, P.I.	100, 150	K.Ryan, BBC
Great Blue Heron:			
thr.	Westboro	20	v.o.
3	Scituate, Saugus	9, 3	BBC, C.Jackson
3	P.I., S.R.V.	5, 4	E.Morrier, R.Walton
5,9	Marshfield, N.Scituate	16, 6	D.Clapp, W.Petersen
Green Heron:			
19,20;25-27	Mt.A.; P.I.	2, 1; 2	R.Stymeist, BBC
Little Blue Heron:			
19,29-30	Chatham, Duxbury	1, 1	B.Nikula, W.Petersen
Cattle Egret:			
16-22	Marshfield	1-3	v.o.
18,30	Brewster, Nantucket	1, 1	R.Pyle, E.Andrews
Great Egret:			
16;25	Marshfield, Yarmouth; P.I.	1, 1; 1	W.+ B.Klunk, C.Smith; BBC
12,24	Chilmark	1	V.Laux#
Snowy Egret:			
3;4	Marshfield, P.I.; Scituate	4, 2; 7	BBC, E.Morrier; N.Komar#
16,18	Squantum, Weymouth	5, 12	D.Brown, BBC
24,25	Ipswich, P.I.	5, 2	BBC
Louisiana Heron:			
16,18-19	Chatham, WBWS	1, 1	B.Nikula#, C.Goodrich#
Black-crowned Night Heron:			
4,24	P.I.	3, 30	BBC, V.Albee
18,19	Weymouth, Saugus	2, 4	BBC, J.Berry
Yellow-crowned Night Heron:			
18	P'town	1 ad.	D.Reynolds#
American Bittern:			
1,10;11,16	P.I.; Squantum	1, 1; 1, 1	R.Heil, BBC; S.Smith, D.Brown
8,15	S.Peabody, GMNWR	1, 1	R.Heil, M.Noland
22,25	Marshfield, W.Newbury	1, 2	W.Petersen, BBC
Glossy Ibis:			
5;4;19,22	Chilmark; Marshfield	1; 6; 37, 45	W.Manter; N.Komar#; W.Petersen
18,27	P.I.	13, 58	R.Stymeist#, F.Bouchard

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBERS</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Glossy Ibis (continued):			
9,22	Middleboro, Rowley	2, 32	D.Briggs, R.Heil
10-31	Cape Cod	9	v.o.
23,29	Scituate, Nant.	27, 1	D.Clapp, K.Coffin
Mute Swan:			
thr.	Ipswich	pr. on nest	J.Berry#
14	Acoaxet	115	W.+ B.Klunk
Canada Goose:			
thr.	P.I.	300-600	v.o.
Brant:			
2,4	Winthrop, Scituate	98, 77	F.Bouchard, N.Komar#
16,24	Squantum, Newbypt	222, 227	D.Brown, G.Gove
Snow Goose:			
4,10,24	P.I.	63, 100, 34	G.Gove, BBC, G.Gove#
3,4	GMNWR, Scituate	2, 1	H.Wiggin, N.Komar#
"Blue" Goose:			
11,18,24	W.Newbury, Newbypt-Scotland Rd., Newbypt Harbor	2 ad.	J.Soucy+ L.Jodrey,R.Stymeist#, G.Gove#
3,20	P.I., Newbypt	2, 2 ad.	E.Morrier#, W.Petersen
Black Duck:			
	P.I.-PRNWR	643	D.Spencer
Gadwall:			
4,22	P.I.	36, 10	G.Gove, D.Spencer
1-20,9	Ipswich, N.Scituate	5, 3	J.Berry, W.Petersen
4,14	Marston's Mills, W.Harwich	8, 10	B.Nikula
Pintail:			
3,22	P.I.	25, 11	E.Morrier, D.Spencer
Green-winged Teal:			
22,24	P.I., SRV	159, 31	D.Spencer, R.Walton
Blue-winged Teal:			
4;15	P.I.	7 m., 2 f.; 18	G.Gove; BBC
18,20	Marshfield, GMNWR	6, 4	D.Clapp, J.Carter
24	Ipswich	16	J.Berry
European Wigeon:			
1,4;3,19	Ipswich; Wayland	1 m.; 1 m., 1	J.Berry; J.Heywood#,BBC
18,24	E.Orleans, M.V.	1 m., 2 m.	A.Williams, V.Laux
American Wigeon:			
1,4	Ipswich	33, 20+	J.Berry
3,11	Scituate, W.Bridgewater	12, 6	BBC, W.Petersen
Northern Shoveler:			
4;22,24	P.I.	7 m., 2 f.; 3, 5	G.Gove; D.Spencer, BBC
19	Wayland	3	BBC
Wood Duck:			
3,8,10	Saugus, S.Peabody, SRV	3, 29, 19	C.Jackson,R.Heil,R.Walton
9-25	Duxbury	2-25(4/25)	K.Ryan
12,13	Easton, IRWS	5, 4	K.Ryan, BBC
Ring-necked Duck:			
1,3	W.Newbury, Middleboro	24, 75	R.Heil, W.Petersen
3	S.Hanson, SRV	115, 17	W.Petersen, R.Walton
4,11	Newbypt, W.Bridgewater	80, 60	BBC, W.Petersen
14,27	W.Peabody, Manchester	36, 13	R.Heil
17,17-19	W.Newbury, GMNWR	23, 26	BBC, G.Gove
Canvasback:			
10	Cambridge	1	BBC
Greater Scaup:			
2;4,10	Winthrop; Newbypt	160; 50, 20	F.Bouchard; BBC
Lesser Scaup:			
1,24	Newbypt	13, 1	R.Heil, BBC
Common Goldeneye:			
4	Scituate, Newbypt	20, 200+	SSBC, BBC
Barrow's Goldeneye:			
4-22	Newbypt	max. 3 m. + 4 f. on 4/11	v.o.
19,22	N.Scituate	1 m.	W.Petersen
Bufflehead:			
4,10	Newbypt	35, 20	BBC
2,4	Duxbury	30,20	K.Ryan, BBC
Oldsquaw:			
thr.	Newbypt	250+	BBC
Harlequin Duck:			
thr.	M.V.	max. 12	v.o.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Common Eider:			
4,25	Scituate, P.I.	45, 40	SSBC, BBC
King Eider:			
10,19	Rockport, N.Scituate	1 ad. m., 1 f.	S.Smith, W.Petersen
White-winged Scoter:			
4	Scituate	15	SSBC
Surf Scoter:			
4	Scituate	50	SSBC
Black Scoter:			
4	P.I., Scituate	12 m. + 18 f., 5	G.Gove, SSBC
Ruddy Duck:			
2,4	Cambridge, P.I.	2, pr.	F.Bouchard, G.Gove
Hooded Merganser:			
3	Scituate, Medford; P.I.	1, 2; pr.	BBC; E.Morrier
11	Milton, Squantum, W.Bridgewater	1 f., pr., 12	P.O'Neil, S.Smith, W.Petersen
13,16	Cambridge, Duxbury	pr., 18	F.Bouchard, K.Ryan
Common Merganser:			
3	Lakeville, Medford	3, 7	W.Petersen, BBC
4,11	Lincoln, Wayland	8, 14	A.Ellis, E.Morrier
10,25	Newbypt, Duxbury	8, 11	BBC, K.Ryan
Red-breasted Merganser:			
4	P.I., Scituate	200, 45	BBC, SSBC
10,20	Manchester, Ipswich	23, 24	BBC, J.Berry

HAWKS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Turkey Vultures are apparently increasing in eastern Massachusetts, at least during migration, with 32 reported from 25 locations, and one observer noted that it was the first time in the state in his experience that these birds had been seen perching together. An immature Cooper's Hawk was seen feeding on a pigeon in the Middlesex Fells. The hawk migration this spring was generally disappointing with no large numbers reported. Analysis of the weather patterns would undoubtedly explain this phenomenon although good numbers of kestrels were seen at coastal locations; 30 were counted at Plum Island in one hour on the first and 95 in Wellfleet in one hour on April 18. Ospreys were on nesting territory in several locations including at least 20 occupied nests in the Westport area and one inland pair in Lakeville although many apparently good inland locations were vacant. Two Peregrine Falcons were reported, both adults, and Ruffed Grouse were heard drumming on two occasions in Saugus.

As noted previously, woodcock may not have fared well in the blizzard; 29 were counted immediately after the storm including at least one dead in the Peabody-Lynn-Salem area. A record high count of 300 Snipe was reported from West Bridgewater, and large numbers were seen in other locations. According to one observer, these numbers probably reflect perfect conditions at the precise time of this species' migration rather than an unusually large population. Habitats where these birds were seen were wet or flooded corn fields. Solitary Sandpiper was first reported on April 3, Upland on the 19th and Spotted on April 24. Pectoral Sandpipers were present but in nothing like the unprecedented numbers of the spring of 1981. Least Sandpipers were noted on the early date of April 2. Two very early Stilt Sandpipers were reported at the end of the month at two locations, and three or four Ruffs, including one Reeve, were seen, one from Bridgewater and the rest in the Newburyport area. G.W.G.

Turkey Vulture:

Thirty-two reported from 25 loc. from Ashburnham to Cape Cod by various observers.		
15	Quincy; Sudbury	11; 5
17-19,25	Mt.Wachusett	6, 5
18	Milton	5

Goshawk:

11;17-19,25	Stoughton; Mt.Wachusett	1 ad.; 1, 1	R.Kikus; P.Roberts#
16;24	ONWR; W.Newbury, Lexington	1; 1 ad. 1 ad.	S.Carroll#;R.Heil,J.Andrews

Sharp-shinned Hawk:

3,4	W.Bridgewater, S.Hanson	2, 1	W.Petersen, SSBC
9,19,24	Rockport, Wayland, Dover	1 f., 1, 1	P.Stangel, BBC, F.Hamlen
17-19,25	Mt.Wachusett	11, 9	P.Roberts#
17;18,19	Ashburnham; P.I.	4; 6, 17	R.Stymeist#; P.Roberts
24	SRV, Ipswich	2, 1	R.Walton, BBC

Cooper's Hawk:

2,4	Bolton, Bridgewater	1, 1	M.Lynch#, SSBC
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<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Cooper's Hawk (continued):			
15	Winchester, Newton	1 imm., 1	G.Gove, N.Komar
16,18	W.Roxbury, W.Peabody	1, 1	M.Greenwald, R.Heil
Red-tailed Hawk:			
thr.	Ipswich	ad. on nest	J.Berry
11;17-19,25	Wayland; Mt.Wachusett	6; 3, 5	E.Morrier#, P.Roberts#, BBC
Twenty-one individuals reported from 10 locations.			
Red-shouldered Hawk:			
14,15	W.Peabody, Quincy	2 migr., 1	R.Heil, D.Brown
17-19,25	Mt. Wachusett	1, 1	P.Roberts#, BBC
24,27	Marshfield, M.V.	2, 1	W.Petersen, V.Laux
Broad-winged Hawk:			
17-19,25	Mt. Wachusett	74, 7	P.Roberts#, BBC
18	W.Peabody	9	R.Heil
Nineteen individuals reported from 10 locations.			
Rough-legged Hawk:			
10;17	P.I., Ipswich; P.I.	3, 2; 1	BBC
11,16;18,19	Marshfield; Chilmark	1, 1; 1, 1	D.Clapp, W.+ B.Klunk; V.Laux
Bald Eagle:			
23	Drumlin Farm W.S.	1	R.Forster
Northern Harrier:			
thr.	P.I.	max. 6	v.o.
5,11	Newton, Wayland	1, 2	N.Komar, E.Morrier
4	W.Bridgewater, Scituate	1, 1	SSBC
10,14	Hamilton, Salem	1 f., 1 f.	J.Berry#
25,29	Mt. Wachusett, Mt.A.	1, 1	BBC
Osprey:			
14,17-19	W.Peabody, Mt.Wachusett	8, 3	R.Heil, P.Roberts#
15	SRV	6	R.Forster
Nesting pairs reported from Lakeville (1 pr.), Wareham (1 pr.), and Westport.			
Twenty-five individuals reported from 11 locations.			
Peregrine Falcon:			
18;30	P'town; P.I., Medford	1 ad; 1 ad, 1	B.Nikula; C.Floyd#, C.Jackson
Merlin:			
16;17;18,19	ONWR; P.I.	1; 1; 4, 1	M.Lynch#; BBC; P.Roberts
17-19,30	Plum Island	1, 3	P.Roberts#, C.Floyd+ L.Taylor
American Kestrel:			
1;18,19	P.I.	30; 172, 43	R.Heil; P.Roberts
18	Wellfleet	95	B.Nikula
Ruffed Grouse:			
9,25	Sudbury	2, 1	K.Ryan
3+11	Saugus	1 drumming	C.Jackson
5	Newton	4	N.Komar
Bobwhite:			
3	Sudbury	2	H.Wiggin
Virginia Rail:			
24,28	Ipswich, W.Roxbury	1, 1	BBC, M.Greenwald
25	Wareham	1	D.Briggs#
Sora Rail:			
19,20	P.I., GMNWR	1, 1	S.Smith, J.Carter
24,30	Ipswich, W.Roxbury	2, 2	J.Berry, M.Greenwald
American Coot:			
15,20	GMNWR	2, 2	W.+ B.Klunk, J.Carter
Piping Plover:			
4,10	Scituate, P.I.	7, 1	N.Komar#, F.Hamlen#
Killdeer:			
4	SRV, Scituate, Marshfield	24, 14, 18	R.Walton, D.Clapp, N.Komar#
10	Manchester-Ipswich	16	BBC
	8 loc.	56	
Black-bellied Plover:			
4,22	Scituate, Duxbury	4, 8	SSBC, W.Petersen#
27	P.I.	25	F.Bouchard#
American Woodcock:			
2,4,5	Bolton, Newton, Saugus	4, 2, 1	M.Lynch#, N.Komar, C.Jackson
8	S.Peabody	29 (1 dead)	R.Heil
9;10	Ipswich; Cambridge, W.Newbury	1; 3, 1	W.Sumner; BBC
13,16	IRWS, Squantum	8, 7	BBC, D.Brown
Common Snipe:			
3,16	W.Bridgewater	85, 300	W.Petersen#
3,17	Bolton	35, 80	R.Stymeist#

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Common Snipe (continued):			
3,18	Marshfield	36, 28	BBC, D.Clapp
13-30	W.Roxbury	max. 46 (4/20)	M.Greenwald
11,25	Cambridge, SRV	6, 18	L.Taylor, R.Walton
Thirty-nine individuals reported from seven locations.			
Upland Sandpiper:			
19,24,29	Marshfield, Newbury, S.Natick	3, 5, 1	W.Petersen, L.Taylor, F.Hamlen
Spotted Sandpiper:			
24,28	Marblehead, Mt.A.	1, 1	R.Heil, M.Reinstein
Solitary Sandpiper:			
3,28	Topsfield, Edgartown	1, 1	R.Veit#, V.Laux#
Greater Yellowlegs			
3;4	Marshfield; Rowley, Newbypt	2; 6, 3	BBC; G.Gove, BBC
29	Newbypt	350+	R.Heil
Lesser Yellowlegs:			
3,4	W.Bridgewater	2, 6	W.Petersen, SSBC
17,19,22	Newbypt, Marshfield, P.I.	5, 6, 2	BBC, W.Petersen, D.Spencer
Purple Sandpiper:			
3,5	Scituate, Chilmark	250, 17	BBC, A.Brown
4,24	N.Scituate	325, 100+	N.Komar#, W.Petersen
Pectoral Sandpiper:			
1,3	Rowley, W.Bridgewater	5, 13	R.Heil, W.Petersen
4,22	Marshfield	7, 4	N.Komar#, W.Petersen#
17,18	Bolton, W.Newbury	2, 5	G.Gove#
24,28	Newbypt, IRWS	35, 13	R.Heil
Least Sandpiper:			
2,22	Bolton (well observed), Newbypt	4, 1	S.Carroll + M.Lynch, R.Heil
Dunlin:			
17,29	Newbypt	100, 450	BBC, R.Heil
Short-billed Dowitcher:			
23,29	Yarmouth, P.I.	5, 2	J.Aylward, R.Heil
Stilt Sandpiper:			
27,29	M.V., Newbypt	1, 1 (details)	V.Laux, R.Heil
Ruff:			
4;18,22	W.Bridgewater; W.Newbury	1 m.; 1 m., 1 m.	W.Petersen; G.Gove#, R.Heil
29	Newbypt Harbor	1 f.	R.Heil
Red Phalarope:			
7	Eastham	3	C.Goodrich

GULLS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS

A first winter Thayer's Gull in transitional plumage was carefully studied in Newburyport on April 22. The overall coloration of the bird was a uniform pale buff, paler than all nearby Herring Gulls. The outer 3-4 primaries were a pale creamy brown, much lighter than in similarly aged Herring Gulls. The primaries had pale tips and light areas on the inner webs forming the characteristic "J" markings. The flight feathers were creamy white beneath when observed in flight although the pale brownish areas on the upper surface of the primaries showed through when the bird wheeled. The resulting effect was not unlike the pattern of an Arctic Tern in that there was a narrow subterminal band of markings the length of the primaries. The tail band was solid and of the same pale color as the primaries and was narrower than that of a Herring Gull. Presumably the bird was nearly in first summer plumage, the basal half of the bill was already light colored, and the distal half was dark, the two tones fusing gradually. The mantle was scalloped with buffy brown, and the underparts were lightly spotted. The legs were flesh colored and the eye was dark.

A maximum of seven adult Little Gulls was present on April 29 in Newburyport Harbor. A Gull-billed Tern was reported on the 30th at Quaise, Nantucket, where the first Common Terns were noted on the same day.

Nine Black Guillemots were observed near Grave's Ledge in Boston Harbor, and a Common Puffin was noted in Cape Cod Bay on the 19th.

Great Horned Owls were reported nesting in many localities, and the one individual in the Dell at Mt. Auburn Cemetery became a familiar sight to many birders.

A Whip-poor-will arrived on April 26 at Mt. Auburn Cemetery, the same date of arrival that has been recorded there for nine years excluding one year when one was found dead beneath the tower on April 27. A Chuck-will's-widow was noted at Manomet on the 25th.

R.S.H. and R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
<u>GULLS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS</u>			
Glaucous Gull: 4	P.I.	1 (2W)	G.Gove
Iceland Gull: 4	P.I., E.Bridgewater	5, 1 imm.	BBC, SSBC
Great Black-backed x Herring Gull hybrid (details on file): 13	S.Peabody	1 ad.	R.Heil
<u>Thayer's Gull</u> (excellent details on file): 22	Newbypt	1 (1W-1S)	R.Heil
Ring-billed Gull: 4	Bridgewater area, Newbypt area	350, 100+	SSBC, BBC
Little Gull: thr.	Newbypt	max. 7 ad. (4/29)	R.Heil# + v.o.
Gull-billed Tern: 30	Nantucket (Quaise)	1	E.+ C.Andrews
Common Tern: 30	Nantucket	12-15	D.Briggs, D.Davis
Black Guillemot: 25	Boston Harbor (near Grave's Ledge)	9	W.Petersen#
Common Puffin: 19	Cape Cod Bay	1	R.Prescott
Screech Owl: 2	Bolton Flats	5	M.Lynch, S.Carroll
3	Hopedale, Lincoln	2, 4	T.Lipsky, R.Stymeist#
Great Horned Owl: thr.	Mt. A., Lexington (2 loc.)	1+, 2 pr. nesting	C.Jackson#+v.o., L.Taylor#
3,19	Westboro, Rockport	pr. on nest, 2	R.Stymeist#, P.Stangel
Barred Owl: 21	Carlisle	1	J.Rolfe
Short-eared Owl: 4,10,14	E.Boston; P.I.	2; 1	C.Jackson; N.Komar#
14	S.Dartmouth	1	W.+ B.Klunk
Whip-poor-will: 26	Mt. A.	1	L.Robinson#+v.o.
Chuck-will's-widow: 25	Manomet	1	MBO staff

SWIFTS THROUGH MARTINS

The first Chimney Swifts arrived in small numbers by April 20, increasing at the end of the month. Maximum counts of migrating Common Flickers occurred during the third week of April. The Red-headed Woodpecker remained at Horn Pond, Woburn, all month. There were very few Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers noted during the month, and some of the reports were of birds that normally nest in those areas in north central Massachusetts.

The blizzard of April 6 had a very damaging effect on Eastern Phoebes with very few reported after the storm, and many observers noted that phoebes were missing from their traditional nesting locations. The storm had a similar effect on the numbers of Tree Swallows reported. This species did not appear again in good numbers until after April 21. Purple Martins returned to Plum Island on April 15. R.H.S.

Chimney Swift: 20,22,28	Middleboro, Mt.A., Woburn	1, 1, 10	D.Briggs, F.Bouchard, G.Gove
Belted Kingfisher: thr.	1-2 ind. reported from many locations.		
Common Flicker: 16,24	Squantum, Mt.A.	26, 9	D.Brown, M.Noland#
24,25	Ipswich, P.I.	10-12, 19	BBC, BBC
Pileated Woodpecker: 11,19	Milton, Wayland	1, 1	P.O'Neil, BBC
21	Lincoln (DFWS), Carlisle	2, 2	R.Forster, J.Rolfe
Red-headed Woodpecker: thr.	Woburn (Horn Pond)	1	G.Gove + v.o.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 16	Squantum, Mt.A.	2, 3	D.Brown, M.Noland#
17-25,19	Mt.Wachusett, Ashburnham	2+, 1	P.Roberts#, G.Gove#
25	Princeton	1	L.Taylor#
Eastern Kingbird: 27	Dover	1	F.Hamlen

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Eastern Phoebe:			
2-20,3	Mt. A., Hopedale	max. 5 (4/3), 5	v.o., T.Lipsky
Very few reported after the April 6 snowstorm.			
Horned Lark:			
3,4	Halifax, W.Bridgewater	20, 10	W.Petersen, SSBC
Tree Swallow:			
1,2	Manomet, Duxbury	1, 25	MBO staff, K.Ryan
3	SRV, GMNWR	119, 40	R.Walton, H.Wiggin
3	S.Hanover, Middleboro	100, 100	W.Petersen
4	Wayland, P.I.	300, 10	E.Morrier#, BBC
Very few reported after the April 6 snowstorm until April 10.			
16,20	Duxbury, GMNWR	35, 50+	K.Ryan, J.Carter
21,24	S.Hanson, P.I.	800, 200	W.Petersen, BBC
Reports from many locations after April 24.			
Bank Swallow:			
18,21	W.Peabody, S.Hanson	2, 3	R.Heil, W.Petersen
28	Woburn (Horn Pond)	2	G.Gove
Rough-winged Swallow:			
15+17,18	GMNWR, S.Peabody	1 + 3, 2	M.Noland+v.o., R.Heil
18	Edgartown	1	V.Laux
19	Wayland, Marshfield	1, 1	C.Turin#, W.Petersen#
22,28	Rockport, Woburn	5, 4	P.Stangel, G.Gove
Barn Swallow:			
14;15	MBO, Wollaston; GMNWR	3, 1; 1	MBO,D.Brown;W.+ B.Klunk
19,28	Wayland, Woburn	6, 17	C.Turin#, G.Gove
Cliff Swallow:			
22,28	S.Hanson, Woburn	1, 2	W.Petersen#, G.Gove
Purple Martin:			
7,15 on	Middleboro, P.I.	4, 1-15	J.Steill#, R.Heil + v.o.
16,22	Squantum, Marshfield	1, 5	D.Brown, D.Clapp#
22	W.Newbury, Hanson	1, 5	R.Heil, W.Petersen#
18	Chilmark, M.V.	7	V.Laux, A.Brown#

CROWS THROUGH GNATCATCHERS

Reports of Fish Crows south of Boston continue to increase, and a pair was again building a nest at Mt.Auburn Cemetery. A Boreal Chickadee, obviously migrating back north, was found at Squaw Rock, Squantum.

The April 6-7 snowstorm took its toll of American Robins as revealed by the numbers reported dead or moribund, and remarkable numbers of this species appeared on snow-cleared areas after the storm. Unfortunately, many of the weakened robins died on plowed streets as they were probably unable to escape from moving vehicles.

Lillian Files of Tyngsboro reported a real tragedy among Eastern Bluebirds in her area after the blizzard. It had promised to be a good year for Lil Files and her Bluebird Trail project when seventeen arrived at the houses around March 19. After the April 6 snowstorm which dumped twenty inches of snow with winds gusting to 50 mph for three days, all seventeen birds were wiped out. Mrs. Files went out on skis to put out canned dog food, raisins, doughnuts, and sumac in her boxes--to no avail. On April 7 she found a male bluebird hiding in a garage for shelter, tried to force-feed it some dog food, but it died within an hour. She found two males and a female huddled together in a box frozen; another female was discovered just sitting frozen on a completed nest. Lillian Files is a board member of the North American Bluebird Society and offers a slide lecture program, "Bring Back the Bluebirds." If you are interested in information on how your community can start a Bluebird Trail Project, contact her at Scribner Hill, Tyngsboro, Massachusetts 01879, telephone: 617 692-2520.

An unprecedented flight of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers was reported this year with fourteen banded at Manomet, nine noted in one tree at Mt. Auburn, fifteen in Rockport and thirteen in Marshfield. Nest building was reported by the month's end at Boxford State Forest.

R.H.S.

Fish Crow:			
thr., 3	Mt. A., Halifax	pr. nesting, 5+	v.o., W.Petersen
16,21	Blue Hills, S.Hanson	10, 6	R.Campbell, W.Petersen
Boreal Chickadee:			
16	Squantum	1	D.Brown
House Wren:			
23,30	S.Peabody, W.Roxbury	1, 1	R.Heil, M.Greenwald

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Winter Wren:			
5 on, 10	Dover, Boxford	1-2, 1	F.Hamlen#, N.Komar#
13,16,24	S.Peabody, Squantum, Mt.A.	1, 1, 1	R.Heil,D.Brown,J.Barton#
Gray Catbird:			
19,29-30	Manomet, Mt.A.	1 (b), 1-3	MBO staff, v.o.
Brown Thrasher:			
7,20	Cohasset, Mt.A.	1, 1	E.Phillips, J.Heywood
24,25	P.I., S.Natick	1, 1	BBC, F.Hamlen
27,28	Woburn, W.Roxbury	3, 3	G.Gove, M.Greenwald
American Robin:			
4	Whitman, Newbypt area	55, 250+	SSBC, BBC
3,9	SRV	128, 433	R.Walton
11,18	Marshfield	140, 380	D.Clapp
Hermit Thrush:			
14	Newton, Brookline	1, 1	O.Komar, J.Paputsiano
15,16	SRV, Squantum	1, 11	R.Walton, D.Brown
16-30,19	Mt.A., N.Scituate	1-6 max. 4/19, 4	v.o., W.Petersen
Other reports of single individuals from seven locations.			
Eastern Bluebird:			
2	Middleboro (2 loc.)	1, 2	fide D.Briggs
14,19+26	Wollaston, Rockport	2, 2+1	D.Brown, P.Stangel
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:			
16-30,17-30	MBO, Mt.A.	14 b., max. 9 4/23	MBO staff,R.Stymeist+v.o.
17;19	P.I.; Rockport, ONWR	1, 15, 2	BBC; P.Stangel, M.Lynch#
19,20	Marshfield, Boxford	2, 1	W.Petersen#
20	P'town, WBWS	3, 2	B.Nikula#
22,23	Marshfield, Rockport	13, 8	W.Petersen, V.Albee
This was an unprecedented flight; there were reports from most everywhere.			

KINGLETS THROUGH WARBLERS

Golden-crowned Kinglets completed migration through our area by the third week of the month, about the same time the maximum counts of Ruby-crowned Kinglets were recorded. A few reports of Water Pipits were sent in with as many as 25 in West Bridgewater on the 4th. The only Cedar Waxwings noted were found in Rockport on the 14th. An adult Northern Shrike was found in Newton on the first, and a Loggerhead Shrike was reported from Fort Hill in Eastham.

A White-eyed Vireo was found April 24 on Plum Island, the early date for north of Boston. A Yellow-throated Vireo was banded at Manomet on the 26th, and the first Solitary Vireos arrived at mid-month.

The first southwest wind of the month was recorded on the 16th, and with the wind came the first reports of Black-and-whites, Yellow-rumps, Pines, Palms, and Louisiana Waterthrushes. Southwest winds on April 25-27 blew in much more of the above and two Prothonotaries, Northern Parula, a very early Tennessee, Prairies, Northern Waterthrushes and a Hooded at Squantum. As it turned out, this was the last time we had a southwest wind until May 19. R.H.S.

Golden-crowned Kinglet:			
2,4	Duxbury, Framingham	5, 2	K.Ryan, E.Morrier
16,17	Mt.A., P.I.	5, 2	R.Stymeist, BBC
Ruby-crowned Kinglet:			
10 on,15	Mt.A., SRV	max. 24+ 4/18, 2	v.o., R.Walton
15;16	Braintree; Newton, Duxbury	1; 3, 24	R.Campbell; O.Komar, K.Ryan
16,18	Squantum, Ipswich	12, 3	D.Brown, J.Berry
Many other reports of 1-3 individuals after the 18th.			
Water Pipit:			
1, 4	W.Newbury, W.Bridgewater	5, 25	R.Heil, SSBC
18,23	Newbypt, Bolton	1, 3	R.Stymeist#, M.Lynch#
Cedar Waxwing:			
14	Rockport	9	P.Stangel
Northern Shrike:			
1	Newton	1 ad.	N.Komar
Loggerhead Shrike:			
18	Eastham (Fort Hill)	1	C.Goodrich
White-eyed Vireo:			
24	P.I.	1	S.Sweet + L.Taylor#
Yellow-throated Vireo:			
26	Manomet	1 (b.) /	MBO staff

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
<u>Solitary Vireo:</u>			
16,17-30	Squantum, Mt.A.	1, max. 3	D.Brown, v.o.
17,21	Bourne, Winchester	1, 1	D.Briggs#, G.Gove
<u>Black-and-white Warbler:</u>			
17,19	Mt.Wachusett, WBWS	2, 1	P.Roberts#, D.Reynolds
22,22-30	Winchester, Mt.A.	1, max. 6	G.Gove, J.Heywood# + v.o.
<u>Prothonotary Warbler:</u>			
26,29	Mt.A., Squantum	1, 1	L.Robinson, D.Brown
<u>Tennessee Warbler:</u>			
26	Oak Bluffs (M.V.)	1	S.Whiting + B.Pesch
<u>Northern Parula:</u>			
25	Middleboro	1	D.Briggs
<u>Yellow-rumped Warbler:</u>			
3,4	Clinton, Framingham	1, 1	R.Stymeist#, E.Morrier#
17 on,19	Mt.A., Wayland	max. 50+ (4/25), 10	v.o., C.Turin#
<u>Black-throated Green Warbler:</u>			
24,30	Boxford, Mt.A.	3, 1	L.Taylor#. F. Bouchard
<u>Yellow-throated Warbler:</u>			
27	Lynn	1	R.Heil
<u>Pine Warbler:</u>			
2	Plymouth, Duxbury	1, 1	B.Sorrie, K.Ryan
16-25,17	Mt.A., Belmont	1-2, 1	M.Noland# + v.o., BBC
22;23	Taunton; Dover, S.Peabody	1; 1, 2	J.Sweeney; F.Hamlen, R.Heil
<u>Prairie Warbler:</u>			
26,27	Manomet, MNWS	1 (b.), 1	MBO, R.Heil
<u>Palm Warbler:</u>			
11,12-30	Squantum, Mt.A	1, 1-35 (max. 4/25)	S.Smith, v.o.
16-30	S.Peabody	max. 19 (4/27) incl. 1 "western"	R.Heil
19,24	Wayland, Lexington	12, 6	C.Turin#, J.Andrews
<u>Northern Waterthrush:</u>			
25-30;26,27	Mt.A.; S.Peabody, Nahant	1-2; 1, 2	v.o.; R.Heil
<u>Louisiana Waterthrush:</u>			
17 on,19	Boxford, Mt.A.	1-2, 1	A.Blaissdell+v.o.;H.D'Entremont#
24	Dover	2	F.Hamlen
<u>Common Yellowthroat:</u>			
27	Nahant	1	R.Heil
<u>Hooded Warbler:</u>			
29	Squantum	1	D.Brown

MEADOWLARK THROUGH SNOW BUNTINGS

A very early Northern Oriole was observed at Boxford State Forest on April 11, when southwest winds were gusting to 30 mph. There were no others reported during the month although they normally arrive in small numbers by the end of April. Rusty Blackbirds were seen through the end of the month with most reports before the 15th. An early Scarlet Tanager was reported from Martha's Vineyard on April 29, and Indigo Buntings were noted in five locations. A Dickcissel in Mt. Auburn Cemetery was a pleasant discovery there in the spring.

Pine Siskins were presumed nesting in many areas with actual nesting recorded at Mt. Auburn and in Dover. There were many reports of Red Crossbills throughout the month, and good numbers of Fox Sparrows were noted, especially after the snowstorm when they gathered at feeding stations.

R.H.S.

<u>Eastern Meadowlark:</u>			
3	Bolton, Marshfield	5, 2	J.Heywood#, BBC
<u>Northern Oriole:</u>			
11(early)	Boxford	1	A.Blaissdell
<u>Rusty Blackbird:</u>			
3,5,8	SRV, Newton, Brookline	19, 3, 2	R.Walton, N.Komar, H.Wiggin
16;26	Mt.A.; P.I., Rockport	2; 2, 3	R.Stymeist; F.Bouchard, P.Stangel
<u>Scarlet Tanager:</u>			
29(early)	Oak Bluffs (M.V.)	1	A.+ E.Brown
<u>Indigo Bunting:</u>			
18,19	Dennis, Chatham	1, 1	fide D.Reynolds, T.Vose
22,23	W.Tisbury (M.V.)	1	E.Waldren
26,30	Nantucket (2 locales)	1, 2	B.Walker, E.Andrews
<u>Dickcissel:</u>			
24	Mt.A.	1	I.Giriunas + v.o.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Evening Grosbeak: thr., 16	Middleboro, ONWR	15-25/day, 12	D. Briggs, M. Lynch#
Purple Finch: 3	Weston	11	R. Stymeist#
Common Redpoll: 3, 8	Whitman, Lynn	2, 1	W. Petersen, R. Heil
Pine Siskin: thr., 10, 19	Mt. A., Middleboro W. Newbury, Dover	max. 15 (nesting?), 4 1, nesting	v.o., D. Briggs BBC, F. Hamlen
Red Crossbill: 2, 16+19 15, 27	Plymouth, Lynn Lexington, W. Tisbury (M.V.)	6, 2 + 12 2, 7	B. Sorrie, R. Heil D. Borison#, W. Manter
Rufous-sided Towhee: 18, 25-30 27	Manomet, Mt. A. P.I.	1, max. 4 13	MBO, v.o. F. Bouchard
Savannah Sparrow: 3, 11 13, 19, 23 25; 30	Bridgewater, Marshfield Newton, Braintree, Bolton P.I., SRV; W. Roxbury	6, 1 4, 15, 12+ 17, 12; 10	S. Higginbotham, D. Clapp O. Komar, G. Wilson, M. Lynch# BBC, R. Walton; M. Greenwald
Vesper Sparrow: 4 16, 19	West Tisbury (M.V.) Newton, Rockport	1 2, 3	V. Laux O. Komar, P. Stangel
Tree Sparrow: 3, 30	Sudbury, Mt. A.	15, 1	R. Stymeist#, J. Barton
Chipping Sparrow: 17, 23-30	Dover, Mt. A.	1, max. 10 (4/30)	F. Hamlen, v.o.
Field Sparrow: 16, 22	Newton, W. Roxbury	4, 5	O. Komar, M. Greenwald
Fox Sparrow: 1, 4, 5 7 8 13, 15	Rowley, W. Newbury, Newton Concord, Wollaston, Brookline Brighton, Brookline, Carlisle S. Peabody, Mt. A.	13, 3, 8 4, 2, 12 5, 8, 14+ 11, 16	R. Heil, BBC, N. Komar R. Walton, W. Cornwell, H. Wiggin J. Paputsiano, H. Wiggin, J. Davis R. Heil, R. Stymeist
Other reports of one to five individuals came from many locations.			
Swamp Sparrow: 16, 17-30	Squantum, W. Roxbury	6, max. 8 (4/30)	D. Brown, M. Greenwald
Song Sparrow: 3, 4, 13	SRV, P.I., Cambridge	37, 12, 25	R. Walton, BBC, F. Bouchard
Lapland Longspur: 4	W. Bridgewater	1	SSBC
Snow Bunting: 16	ONWR	1 br. pl.	M. Lynch + S. Carroll

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List of Abbreviations

ad.	adult	E.P.	Eastern Point, Gloucester
alt.	alternate (plumage)	F.E.	First Encounter Beach, Eastham
b.	banded	F.H.	Fort Hill, Eastham
br.	breeding	F.M.	Fowl Meadow
dk.	dark (phase, morph)	M.V.	Martha's Vineyard
f.	female	Mt. A.	Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge
fl.	fledge	Nant.	Nantucket
imm.	immature	Newbypt	Newburyport
ind.	individuals	P.I.	Plum Island
loc.	locations	P'town	Provincetown
lt.	light (phase, etc.)	R.P.	Race Point, Provincetown
m.	male	S.N.	Sandy Neck, Barnstable
max.	maximum	Stellw.	Stellwagen Bank
migr.	migrating	BBC	Brookline Bird Club
ph.	photographed	BOEM	Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts
pl.	plumage	DFWS	Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary
pr.	pair	GMNWR	Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge
thr.	throughout	IRWS	Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary
v.o.	various observers	MBO	Manomet Bird Observatory
W	winter (2W = second winter)	MNWS	Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary
w/	with	ONWR	Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge
yg.	young	PRNWR	Parker River National Wildlife Refuge
#	additional observers	SSBC	South Shore Bird Club
A.A.	Arnold Arboretum	SRV	Sudbury River Valley
A.P.	Andrews Point, Rockport	TASL	Take a Second Look (BOEM project)
C.Cod	Cape Cod	WBWS	Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary

BIRD OBSERVER PELAGIC TRIPS

Bird Observer will sponsor two pelagic trips this summer. The first trip will be Sunday, July 25, aboard the Yankee, from Harwichport to the vicinity of Pollock Rip. The cost of this trip will be \$20 for subscribers and \$25 for others.

Our second trip will be aboard the Captain John and Son, and is scheduled for Saturday, August 28, from Plymouth leaving at 4:30 A.M. and returning about 6:00 P.M. Our destination will be the Cox's Ledge area of Nantucket Shoals. This will be a unique opportunity to observe seabirds in the productive waters southwest of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. In late summer, water temperatures are considerably warmer here than north of Cape Cod, thus attracting certain pelagic species which require these conditions. Audubon's Shearwater and South Polar Skua are possibilities in addition to most of the more regularly observed species with the remote chance of an albatross. There is a greater chance to observe a good variety of fish and marine mammals than on more traditional Stellwagen Bank trips. Wayne Petersen will provide narration and information while at sea. If you have any questions about this trip, contact Wayne at 22 Hutchinson Terrace, Whitman, MA 02382. The price of this trip is \$30 for subscribers and \$35 for others.

Reservations for these trips can be made by sending your check payable to Herman D'Entremont,
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