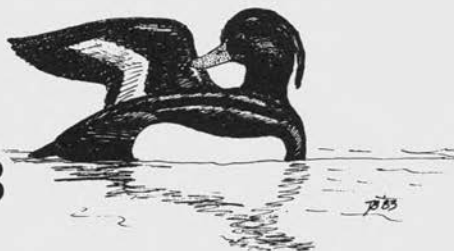


Field Records

February 1983



by George W. Gove, Robert H. Stymeist, Lee E. Taylor

February temperatures averaged 32.8° , 2.1° above normal; the high mark was 57° on the third, just one degree short of the record for this date which was set in 1970; the lowest temperature this month was 7° on the eleventh. Precipitation totaled 5.0 inches, 1.3 inches more than normal. Snow was on the heavy side with a total of 22.3 inches, nearly double the past average of 11.6 inches. All the measurable snow came in two big storms. The storm on February 6-8 dumped 8.8 inches of heavy wet snow, and the storm of the eleventh and twelfth brought 13.5 inches of light fluffy snow. The depth of the snow reached 18 inches on February 12, the deepest in Boston since early March 1978. The 13.5 inches of measurable snow in this second storm came in less than 24 hours, to become the thirteenth greatest 24-hour total since 1891. This winter of 1982-83 ties with that of 1889-90 for the ninth warmest in 112 years.

GREBES THROUGH WATERFOWL

The Western Grebe continued at Third Cliff Scituate throughout the month. Double-crested Cormorants continued to winter in a wide variety of locations throughout eastern Massachusetts.

A Blue-winged Teal reported from Nantucket was unusual for midwinter. The highlight of the month was the drake Tufted Duck found at Cockeyard Pond in the Acoaxet area of Westport near the month's end. King Eiders and Harlequin Ducks continued at many of the same locations they have been at since November 1982. R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Horned Grebe:			
27	Gloucester (Bass Rocks)	32	C.Floyd
Red-necked Grebe:			
22,27	Dennis, Gloucester (Bass Rocks)	16, 18	B.Nikula, C.Floyd
Western Grebe:			
thr.	Scituate	1	v.o.
Northern Gannet:			
20	P'town, Rockport	6, 1	W.Smith#, D.Briggs#
Great Cormorant:			
19	Hull	130	R.Titus
Double-crested Cormorant:			
6,9-15	Nantucket, Somerville	1 imm., 1	E.Andrews#, J.Berry
13,20	Squantum, Cape Ann	2, 1	BBC(D.Brown), M.Greenwald#
American Bittern:			
28	P.I.	1	D.Spencer, NWR staff
Brant:			
27	Squantum	800	G.Wilson
American Black Duck:			
28	P.I.	833	D.Spencer, NWR staff
Northern Pintail:			
28	P.I., Belmont	13, 1	NWR-D.Spencer, L.Robinson
<u>Blue-winged Teal:</u>			
6	Nantucket	1 m.	C+E Andrews
Gadwall:			
thr.	Gloucester	4-5	v.o.
Canvasback:			
27	Westport	225	W.Petersen#
Redhead:			
6,27	Lakeville, Westport	3, 1	K.Holmes, W.Petersen

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
<u>Tufted Duck:</u>			
27-28	Westport (Cockeast Pond)	1 m.	S.Garrett, E.Pyburn+v.o.
<u>Greater Scaup:</u>			
13	Quincy	1100	BBC(D.Brown)
<u>Common Eider:</u>			
19	Plymouth	3800	R.Titus
<u>King Eider:</u>			
1-27;27-28	Gloucester (Bass Rocks)	1 imm.m,1 f.; 2 imm.m.,1 f.	v.o.
13-21	Quincy-Hull	1 ad. m.	G.Gove + v.o.
27,28	Marblehead, E. Orleans	1 ad.m., 2 imm.m.	S.Fulghum, A.Williams
<u>Harlequin Duck:</u>			
19	Scituate, Rockport (town)	1 f., 1 imm.m.	R.Titus, W.Smith#
20+27	Rockport (Folly Cove)	3 m., 2 f.	N.Komar# + BBC
28	E. Orleans	2	A.Williams
<u>Oldsquaw:</u>			
13,20	Newburyport	75, 40	BBC
<u>Barrow's Goldeneye:</u>			
thr.	Newburyport Harbor	max. 7	v.o.
6,20	Gloucester Harbor	2, 1	SSBC, N.Komar
<u>Hooded Merganser:</u>			
14,22	Somerville, Lakeville	5, 3	J.Berry, D.Briggs#
<u>Common Merganser:</u>			
13+20	Newburyport	50, 50	BBC
20,28	Boston, Belmont	9, 16	J.Paputseanos, L.Robinson

RAPTORS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Three immature Bald Eagles were identified as individuals by an observer in Lakeville. Plumage variations were noted and representations of the birds were made using the sketches from the December 1982 B.O.E.M. (pages 322, 323). On February 13, two of the birds were noted by the same observer soaring together and diving toward each other with legs down and talons extended, possibly in courtship flight. As many as four immature Bald Eagles were reported from Lakeville, and the Massachusetts Eagle Survey conducted January 8 counted 23 Bald Eagles and 3 Golden Eagles; 20 of the Bald Eagles and the Golden Eagles were at Quabbin with the remainder at Lakeville and Great Meadows Refuge. This was nearly twice as many eagles as were censused last year, according to the Boston Globe (March 24, 1983:30). An adult Cooper's Hawk was seen in Sudbury, and Northern Goshawks were reported from four locations. On a hawk census in the Sudbury River Valley, 23 Red-tailed Hawks were counted, and a Peregrine Falcon was noted in Chatham. The South Shore Bird Club was fortunate to see 26 Turkeys at Quabbin.

No rails, gallinules or coots were reported this month, and only three species of shorebirds appear in the records - highly unusual. Both Little and Black-headed gulls were noted and New Gulls were reported from two locations; details were provided for January for the Newburyport bird. The bird seen in Provincetown was superficially like a Ring-billed Gull, but the mantle was a shade darker, there was more white on the trailing edge of the wings, there were more dark feathers on the head, and the bill was small and plain according to notes supplied by the observer.

Thayer's Gulls were reported this month from Plum Island and Gloucester. The former bird was with similarly aged Iceland (Kumlien's) Gulls and was the color of "cafe au lait" (coffee, regular) with dark outer webs of the primaries, a dark secondary bar, and a dark subterminal tail band. The Kumlien's Gulls had less dark feathering in the wings and tail. The Gloucester bird had the small-headed appearance of an Iceland Gull and a greenish bill with a dark tip but otherwise was similar to a very pale Herring Gull of the same age, had dark outer webs of the primaries on the upper (dorsal) surface, and also had dark eyes. The above was taken from notes supplied by the observer. Much more detailed notes were submitted on the Gloucester gull and are on file with the records. These notes, in addition to providing a detailed description, considered behavior, consorting species and plumages, alternative identification and the observer's experience with the species. It was also noted that photos were obtained. There also have been one or two Thayer's Gulls reported in Rhode Island. The foregoing suggests that (1) they are extending their range, (2) observers are becoming more discriminating, and (3) they have recently been elevated to the status of species. If they were to be lumped with the Iceland Gull, reports would probably decline. The Lesser Black-backed Gull continued on the Cambridge Reservoir and a Glaucous Gull was seen there also. It would be interesting to know where it goes when it isn't at the Reservoir; certainly it doesn't feed there nor does it roost there at night, in all probability, since gulls in general seem to go to the coast at night and return inland in the early morning. Studying this distinctive bird's movements would be

challenging and informative.

Alcids were sparingly represented this month; an oiled Common Murre in breeding plumage was seen in Provincetown. A Barn Owl was found dead in East Orleans and a Snowy Owl spent the month in downtown Worcester. Great Horned Owls were giving a hoot in Baldwinville, and the Barred Owl in Cambridge did provide the interesting anecdote; it was seen on several occasions by R.H.S.'s mother in the Harvard MBTA station (Red Line) before the first train arrived. The owl gained access through the construction opening. When the first train arrived, it departed - presumably to get to its first class. A Red-headed Woodpecker has been in Stoneham since November and is now molting into adult plumage; two others were also reported, one from the Vineyard where two Red-bellied Woodpeckers were noted. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers have been reported every month this winter. In 1940 and 1946 one or two birds spent the winter according to W. Bailey. Apparently that's becoming usual. G.W.G.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Bald Eagle:			
thr.	Quabbin	max. 8 sightings (5 ad. +3 imm.)	v.o.
thr.	Lakeville	max. 4 imm.	K.Holmes + v.o.
17	Newburyport	1 ad.	M.Schoene
28	Barnstable	1 imm.	N.Hayes
Northern Harrier:			
5-28	P.I.	max. 3 (2/6)	v.o.
13,22	Quincy, Salisbury	1, 2	BBC
Sharp-shinned Hawk:			
26,27	Newburyport, Brookfield	1, 1 ad.	BBC, M.Lynch#
Cooper's Hawk:			
19,22	Sudbury	1 ad.	R.Forster
Northern Goshawk:			
13,25	Harvard, Stoughton	1, 1 ad.	S.Carroll#, R.Titus
26,28	Newburyport, Chatham	1, 1	BBC, W.Bailey
Red-tailed Hawk:			
5-28	Newburyport P.I.	max. 6	v.o.
27	SRV	23	R.Walton#
	Five individuals from as many locations.		
Rough-legged Hawk:			
thr.	Newburyport-P.I.	max. 5	v.o.
13	Quincy, Malden	1, 1	BBC, D.Gibson
20,22	Wayland	1	E.Morrier#
Golden Eagle:			
20	Quabbin	1 imm.	P.Roberts
American Kestrel:			
thr.	Newburyport-P.I.	2	v.o.
13	Quincy	7	D.Brown
	Four individuals from as many locations.		
Merlin:			
3	Belmont	1	L.Robinson
Peregrine Falcon:			
26	Chatham	1	W.Bailey
Ruffed Grouse:			
6	Needham	2	O.Komar#
Wild Turkey:			
19	Quabbin	26	SSBC
Greater Yellowlegs:			
13	Orleans	2	B.Nikula
Purple Sandpiper:			
6	N.Scituate, E. Gloucester	500, 110	v.o., J.Berry#
13,26	P.I.	14, 17	BBC
27	Cape Ann	40	BBC
Dunlin:			
3,5	Nantucket, P.I.	2, 3	J.+E. Andrews, BBC (Giriunas)
Little Gull:			
5,21	Newburyport	1, 1	BBC, D.Briggs
Common Black-headed Gull:			
21	Newburyport	1	D.Briggs
Bonaparte's Gull:			
5,17	Newburyport	76, 6	BBC, F.Bouchard
Mew Gull:			
5,20	Newburyport, P'town	1 ad., 1 ad.	H.Wiggin+M.Argue,W.Smith#
Ring-billed Gull:			
26	Newburyport	45	BBC

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Herring Gull: 28	P.I.-PRNWR	417	D.Spencer
<u>Thayer's Gull:</u> 19	P.I.	1 (1 w)	W.Smith#
19-21	Gloucester	1 (2 w)	W.Smith# + v.o.
<u>Iceland Gull:</u> thr.	Gloucester	max. 100 (2/19)	v.o.
thr.	Newburyport-P.I.	max. 25 (2/26)	v.o.
20	P'town	15	W.Smith#
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull:</u> thr.	Waltham-Cambridge Res.	1 ad.	v.o.
<u>Glaucous Gull:</u> thr.	Gloucester	max. 5 (2/27)	v.o.
6	Waltham-Cambridge Res.	1 (2 w)	O.Komar
17,19,26	Newburyport-P.I.	1	v.o.
13,14	P'town, SRV	2, 1	B.Nikula, R.Walton
<u>Great Black-backed Gull:</u> 28	P.I.-PRNWR	104	D.Spencer
<u>Black-legged Kittiwake:</u> 20	P'town	200	W.Smith#
<u>Common Murre:</u> 20	P'town	2	W.Smith#
<u>Thick-billed Murre:</u> 18	P'town	1	B.Nikula
<u>Razorbill:</u> 20	P'town	1	W.Smith
<u>Black Guillemot:</u> 6	W.Gloucester	2	J.Berry#
20,27	Rockport, Cape Ann	1, 3	N.Komar#, BBC
<u>Mourning Dove:</u> 7,8	Chelmsford, Brookline	50, 41	W.+ M. Harris, B.Reilly#
<u>Common Barn-Owl:</u> 19	E. Orleans	1 (dead)	fide G. Adami
<u>Eastern Screech-Owl:</u> thr.	Lakeville	1	K.Holmes
15,20	Ipswich, Topsfield	1, 1	J.Berry, BBC
<u>Great Horned Owl:</u> 2,5	Mt.A., Stoughton	1, 1	M.Argue#, R.Titus
13,23	Milton, Baldwinville	1, 2	BBC, J.O'Regan
<u>Snowy Owl:</u> thr.	Newburyport-P.I.	max. 2	v.o.
10; 13,28	Saugus; Squantum	1; 1	J.Berry; BBC
thr.	Worcester	1	M.Lynch + S.Carroll
27	Barnstable	1	fide B.Sorrie
<u>Barred Owl:</u> thr.	Cambridge	1	v.o.
<u>Short-eared Owl:</u> 13-27	Squantum	max. 2	v.o.
thr.	P.I.	max. 3	v.o.
<u>Northern Saw-whet Owl:</u> 5,6	P.I.	1	BBC, SSBC
<u>Belted Kingfisher:</u> 1,10	Belmont, Needham	1, 1	L.Robinson, N.Karnstein
<u>Red-headed Woodpecker:</u> thr.	Stoneham	1 (from Nov.)	C.Libby
21,27	Westwood, M.V.	1, 1	F.Bouchard, V.Laux#
<u>Red-bellied Woodpecker:</u> 27	M.V.	2	V.Laux#
<u>Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:</u> 24-28	Mt.A.	1	C.Jackson + v.o.
<u>Downy Woodpecker:</u> 6	Needham	18	O.+N.Komar#
<u>Hairy Woodpecker:</u> 6	Needham	4	O.+N.Komar#
<u>Northern Flicker:</u> 13,23	Squantum, Lincoln	5, 1	BBC, P.Swift
<u>Pileated Woodpecker:</u> 6	Weston	1	S.Farlow

HORNED LARK THROUGH EVENING GROSBEAK

As during the late winter of 1982, Common Ravens were reported from several areas of the Quabbin Reservoir including the baffle dams accessible from Gate 43. Two ravens were seen in association there on February 25. After not being detected during January, the Nantucket Jackdaw resurfaced, this time at a site on the outskirts of Nantucket Town. The bird was seen intermittently for the remainder of February. The only warbler report besides the expected few Yellow-rumps was of a single Palm in Cohasset. This is a hearty species and a not uncommon winterer. Given the mild weather, it is rather a surprise that no other wintering warblers were found. Purple Finch, conspicuously abundant since the Christmas Bird Counts, remained in considerable numbers and distribution. The winter irruptive finches also continued their trend for this winter -- one of nonoccurrence throughout our region. L.E.T.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Horned Lark: 6-26, 19	P.I./Salisbury, Ipswich	150 max. (2/6), 58	v.o., BBC
Fish Crow: 6, 22	Needham, Cambridge	10, 1	O.Komar, F.Bouchard
Common Raven: 26	Hardwick	2 (together)	L.Taylor#
<u>Jackdaw:</u> From Nov. thru Feb.	Nantucket	1	E.Andrews#
Red-breasted Nuthatch: 20, 26	P.I., Petersham	1, 1	BBC, G.Gove#
Brown Creeper: 6, 22	Needham, Cambridge	9, 2	O.Komar, F.Bouchard
24, 26	SRV, Hardwick	4, 5	R.Walton, G.Gove#
Carolina Wren: 6-17, 10	Kingston, S. Natick	2 (pair), 1	B.Sorrie#, J.Alexander
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 6	Needham, Hardwick	5, 2	O.Komar, BBC
13	P.I.	2	BBC
American Robin: 3, 14	Lexington, Braintree	50+, 10	C.Jefferson, R.Campbell
19, 23	Marshfield, Lincoln	20, 30	R.Titus, P.Swift
Cedar Waxwing: thr., 2	Middleboro, Concord	31, 140	D.Briggs, H.Wiggin#
14, 17	Framingham, Northboro	50+, 130	Picciani, B.Parker
Northern Shrike: 2, 7; 6	Sudbury; Hardwick	1, 1; 1	R.Forster; BBC
6, 28	Wayland, SRV	1, 1	E.Morrison, R.Walton
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 5, 6	P.I., Needham	1, 4	M.Argue#, O.Komar#
12	Middleboro	2	D.Briggs
Palm Warbler: 27	Cohasset	1	R.Titus
Northern Cardinal: 14	Needham	14	N.+O.Komar#
Dickcissel: 12	Ipswich	1	D.Crivello
Rufous-sided Towhee: 12	Milton	2	Dr.McDonough
Field Sparrow: 6	Needham	2	O.Komar
"Ipswich" Sparrow: 13	P.I.	3	BBC
Fox Sparrow: 13	Milton	1	BBC
Song Sparrow: 6, 22	Needham, Cambridge	5, 8	N.+O.Komar, F.Bouchard
Swamp Sparrow: 13	Ipswich	2	J.Berry
White-throated Sparrow: 6, 13	Needham, Milton	13, 7	N.+O.Komar, BBC
Dark-eyed Junco: thr., 6	Mt. A., Needham	120, 51	R.Stymeist, O.+N.Komar#
19	Middleboro	72	R.Titus
Lapland Longspur: 6-13, 21	P.I., Cohasset	4 max. (2/6), 1	v.o., E.Strawm#

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Snow Bunting:			
6,19	P.I., Ipswich	75, 90+	SSBC, BBC
21	Salisbury	15	H.Parker#
Red-winged Blackbird:			
4,6	SRV, Ipswich	6 m., 2	R.Walton, SSBC
7-28,27	Middleboro, Scituate	15 max., 25	D.Briggs, E.Cutler
Eastern Meadowlark:			
5,19	P.I., Ipswich	1, 1	R.Forster, BBC
20	Newburyport	1	BBC
Rusty Blackbird:			
14	Middleboro	1 m.	D.Briggs
Brown-headed Cowbird:			
4,8	SRV, Chelmsford	1, 4	R.Walton, W.Harris
Purple Finch:			
6,14	Needham, SRV	24, 53	O.Komar, R.Walton
20,24	Ipswich, Lexington	16, 17	J.Berry, A.Williams
26	Petersham	30	L.Taylor#
Pine Siskin:			
13	Harvard	3	M.Lynch
Evening Grosbeak:			
7,13	Chelmsford, Newburyport	50, 6	W.Harris, BBC
14,24	Ipswich, Lexington	9, 7	J.Berry, A.Williams
26	Petersham	150	G.Gove#

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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

SEARCH FOR COLOR-MARKED SHOREBIRDS

In spring 1983, shorebirds will be color-marked in South America and at migration stops along the U.S. coastline by the Pan American Shorebird Program. The key species are Sanderling, Red Knot, and Black-bellied Plover. If you observe a color-marked shorebird, try to note the color and location of the dye on the body, the color and leg (left or right) of any leg flags, and color and leg (left or right) of any leg bands. Even incomplete color-marking information will be very useful.

Please send the information to Pan American Shorebird Program, c/o Manomet Bird Observatory, Box 936, Manomet, MA 02345. Please contact MBO if you have questions about this program. Volunteers are urgently needed to participate in searching for marked birds.