



Black Vulture
Photo by A. H. Morgan
Courtesy of MAS

Field Records

April 1985

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

April showers were not in evidence this month. Only 1.62 inches of rain were recorded, 2.11 inches less than the normal. This was the least amount of rain for April since 1.24 inches in 1966, in fact April 1985 ranked ninth driest in 115 years of official record. Total precipitation for the year to date now stands at just 6.84 inches, a new record low for this period. Snowfall totaled 2.0 inches, 1.1 inches less than normal, and all of this fell on one date, April 8. The season total now stands at 26.6 inches, a full 15.0 inches less than average.

The temperature averaged 49.3° , 0.6° above normal. Highest was 84° on April 30. The low was 26° on April 10, which was the date of the last freeze in the Boston area two days later than the average. At inland locations the last freeze may occur as much as a month later in some areas. R.H.S.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

The Western Grebe, first noted on March 24, could still be found at Gooseberry Neck South Dartmouth at 11:15 A.M. on April 6, where it was watched by many observers as it fed in a very heavy and choppy sea. During the afternoon of April 6, the bird was picked up dead and the specimen was brought to the Lloyd Center for Environmental Studies where a study skin was prepared, providing the official documentation of a Western Grebe in Massachusetts. Red-necked Grebes were still around in fair numbers off Dennis early in the month and Pied-billed Grebes were noted in eight different locations.

Double-crested Cormorants were moving early with the best flights from mid-month on at both coastal and inland locations. Great Cormorants were noted most of the month, but with far fewer adults reported by month's end.

Herons are always a big attraction during April with increasing numbers noted as the month goes on. No unusual species like last year's White-faced Ibis this year, but a Least Bittern on April 28 was a little on the early side. Displaying American Bitterns were observed at Belle Isle, East Boston, where a Tricolored Heron was seen by many on April 20. The only other Tricolored reported was of a dead bird picked up on Nantucket. Five adult Little Blue Herons were tallied and an adult Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was found on two occasions in Marshfield. R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>APRIL 1985</u>
Red-throated Loon: 14,30	P.I., Falmouth	11, 10	BBC, P.Trimble	
Common Loon: 21,28	Braintree, Lakeville	1, 3	G.d'Entremont, W.Petersen#	
Pied-billed Grebe: thr.	8 locations	9 birds	v.o.	
Horned Grebe: 6;14,20	Squantum; Lakeville, Scituate	1; 1, 12	J.Cumming; W.Petersen	
Red-necked Grebe: 2,4 13,20	N.Scituate, Dennis Nantucket, Scituate	6, 22 1, 4	R.Titus, B.Nikula A.Williams, W.Petersen#	
<u>Western Grebe:</u> 6(A.M.) 6(P.M.)	S.Dartmouth S.Dartmouth	1 (alive) 1 (dead)	R.Stymeist, J.Heywood, C.Floyd, T.Martin R.Marshall, R.Maker, (Lloyd Center)	

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1985
Northern Gannet:				
6,7	Rockport, P.I.	15-20, 30+	D.Briggs#, P.Roberts	
13,14	Nahant, Barnstable (SN)	1, 150	J.Cumming, P.Trimble	
Great Cormorant:				
6,21;20	N.Scituate; Newbypt	80, 10; 20	R.Abrams,G.d'Entremont;BBC	
Double-crested Cormorant:				
5,7	Lakeville, P.I. area	1, 40	W.Petersen, BBC	
13,19	Wachusett Reservoir, Millis	14, 285	M.Lynch#, B.Cassie	
27	Mt.A., Middleboro	44, 60	R.Stymeist, K.Holmes	
28	Mt. Wachusett, Blue Hills	120, 150+	P.Roberts#, G.d'Entremont#	
American Bittern:				
1,13	E.Boston (Belle Isle)	1, 2 (display)	K.Norris, C.Jackson	
20,21,26	P.I.	1, 1, 1	R.Forster, S.Bolton#, J.Grugan	
21	Lancaster, W.Newbury	2, 1	S.Carroll#, J.Berry	
Least Bittern:				
28	Mashpee	1	P.Trimble	
Great Blue Heron:				
thr.	Saugus, P.I.	max. 4 (4/12), max. 9 (4/14)	J.Berry,J.Nove# + v.o.	
14,20	S.Hanson, Boxford	5, 7	W.Petersen, BBC (G.Gove)	
	Other reports of 1-2 individuals from many locations.			
Great Egret:				
6	E.Boston, Westport	2, 2	J.Cumming, R.Stymeist#	
7,11	Manchester, M.V.	1, 2	J.Berry, V.Laux	
13,15	P.I., E.Orleans	1, 1	H.Weissberg#, D.Williams	
21	N.Scituate, Ipswich	1, 1	G.d'Entremont#, M.Lynch#	
Snowy Egret:				
1	Marshfield, M.V.	1, 1	D.Clapp, fide V.Laux	
2,3	Cohasset, Squantum	1, 1	R.Titus, D.Brown	
6	Ipswich, Squantum	7, 20	I.Giriunas#, R.Abrams	
6	E.Boston, Revere	5, 8	J.Cumming	
27	Ipswich	22	A.Bennett	
Little Blue Heron:				
13,15	Nantucket, Newbypt	1 ad., 1 ad.	A.Williams, W.Petersen	
20,22	Ipswich	1 ad.	R.Forster, R.Alexander	
20,27	S.Duxbury, Scituate	1 ad., 1 ad.	W.Petersen, P.Trimble	
Tricolored Heron:				
13	Nantucket	1 (dead)	A.Williams	
20	E.Boston (Belle Isle)	1	D.Desmond# + v.o.	
Cattle Egret:				
7,14	Marshfield, Essex	2, 2	M. + B.Litchfield,I.Giriunas#	
19,20	Squantum, Rockland	1, 2	G.d'Entremont#, W.Petersen	
Green-backed Heron:				
19,20-30	WBWS, Mt.A.	1, 2-5	D.Reynolds,R.Stymeist# + v.o.	
23,27	Norwell, Middleboro	1, 1	B.Litchfield, K.Holmes	
28	Belmont, M.V.	1, 1	L.Taylor, V.Laux	
Black-crowned Night-Heron:				
1,7,14	E.Boston (Belle Isle)	17, 10, 26	K.Norris, J.Cumming + v.o.	
9,22	Milton, P'town	9, 9	O.Kerr#, K.Holmes	
19-30	Brookline (Halls Pond)	max. 8 (4/26)	R.Stymiest + v.o.	
21-30	Mt.A.	4-6	v.o.	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:				
8,13	Marshfield	1 ad.	D.Clapp	
Glossy Ibis:				
thr.	Ipswich, Essex	max. 36 (4/6)	I.Giriunas# + v.o.	
7	P.I., Squantum, GMNWR	56, 14, 20	M.Lynch#, R.Abrams, A.Correnty	
13,27	Nantucket, S.Dartmouth	12, 7	J.Riccio, R.Maker	

WATERFOWL

Snow Geese were moving north with a peak number of 425 at Plum Island on April 14, a peak of 400 Snow Geese was found at Plum Island on the same date last year. Numbers of Brant were present all month in the Squantum and Duxbury areas with lesser concentrations in the Newburyport area. Migrant waterfowl included increasing numbers of Wood Duck, Green-winged and Blue-winged teal and late reports of Redhead, Ring-necked Duck and both species of scaup. Special waterfowl included four Eurasian Wigeon and four Harlequin Duck; and as many as three Barrow's Goldeneye continued in Newburyport Harbor until midmonth. On the night of April 29, Oldsquaw were heard ("ow owdle-ow") calling as they flew over Concord. R.H.S.

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1985
Mute Swan:				
14	S.Hanson, Halifax	2, 1	W.Petersen	
Snow Goose:				
1-24	P.I.-Newbypt	max. 425 (4/14)	P.W.Smith# + v.o.	
20,21	Plymouth Beach,Lancaster	1 ad., 2	S.Dolder#, M.Lynch#	
"Blue Goose":				
14	P.I.	1 ad.	I.Giriunas#	
Brant:				
thr.	Squantum-Wollaston	max. 1000 (4/7)	R.Abrams + v.o.	
thr.	P.I.-Newbypt	max. 120 (4/20)	G.Gove# + v.o.	
14	Revere, Plymouth	300, 420	J.Cumming, L.Robinson	
20	Duxbury, Wellfleet	1000+, 472	W.Petersen#, M.Lynch#	
Canada Goose:				
22	S.Dartmouth	4 goslings	R.Maker#	
Wood Duck:				
thr.,2	Dedham, Milford	2-8, 3	J.Marshall, R.Hildreth	
6,11	Concord, Carver	25+, 6	M.Lynch#, D.Briggs	
13,15,21	Lakeville,Wayland,Norwell	6, 8, 6	SSBC, BBC, M.Litchfield	
	Other reports of 1-4 individuals from a wide variety of areas.			
Green-winged Teal:				
1,6	E.Boston, SRV	7, 78	K.Norris, R.Forster	
7,13	P.I., E.Orleans	125+, 55	M.Lynch#, A.Williams	
20,28	P.I./Ipswich, S.Monomoy	285, 40	R.Forster, B.Nikula	
"Common Teal":				
14-20	P.I.	1 m.	P.W.Smith# + v.o.	
Mallard:				
28	Saugus	5 (3 yg)	C.Jackson	
Northern Pintail:				
thr.	P.I., GMNWR	max. 8 (4/7+24),	max. 25+ (4/6) v.o.,	S.Carroll#+v.o.
28	S.Monomoy	10+	B.Nikula + v.o.	
Blue-winged Teal:				
6-30	P.I.	max. 17 (4/14)	J.Nove# + v.o.	
11,13	Middleboro, GMNWR	14, 12	D.Briggs#, R.Forster	
Northern Shoveler:				
thr.	P.I.	max. 15 (4/20)	R.Forster + v.o.	
6	Wayland,Rowley,Plymouth	2, 2, 1	R.Forster, J.Berry, W.Petersen	
17,28	P'town, S.Monomoy	1, 10+	P.Trimble, B.Nikula	
Gadwall:				
thr.	P.I.	max. 28 (4/13)	H.Weissberg# + v.o.	
24;28	Ipswich;M.V.,S.Monomoy	36; 10, 46	R.Forster; V.Laux, B.Nikula	
Eurasian Wigeon:				
6,11	Plymouth, Chilmark	1, 3	W.Petersen#, V.Laux#	
American Wigeon:				
2,5	N.Scituate, Wayland	11, 5	R.Titus, R.Forster	
13,28	GMNWR, S.Monomoy	19, 6	R.Forster, B.Nikula	
	Other reports of 1-4 individuals from many locations.			
Redhead:				
6	Plymouth	1	W.Petersen	
Ring-necked Duck:				
6	W.Peabody, Concord	20, 20+	G.d'Entremont, S.Carroll#	
13,14	Lakeville, Petersham	24, 27	J.Flaherty#, M.Lynch#	
Greater Scaup:				
7	Newbypt, Braintree	50, 40	BBC, R.Abrams	
14+28,21	Lakeville, Newbypt	20 + 2, 10	W.Petersen#, M.Lynch#	
Lesser Scaup:				
2,6	Scituate, Plymouth	1, 18	D.Evered, W.Petersen#	
6,13	Milton, Lakeville	6, 40	R.Abrams, SSBC	
Common Eider:				
6	Winthrop	35	J.Cumming	
Harlequin Duck:				
2-21	N.Scituate	4 (3 f., 1 m.)	v.o.	
Oldsquaw:				
thr.	Newbypt	max. 500+ (4/7)	v.o.	
29	Concord	flying over calling at night		H.C.Floyd
Black Scoter:				
16	Nantucket (Low Beach)	600	E.Andrews	
Surf Scoter:				
21	N.Scituate	35	G.d'Entremont#	
White-winged Scoter:				
14,20,21	Nahant,P.I.,N.Scituate	100+, 450, 50	J.Cumming,R.Forster,R.Campbell#	
Common Goldeneye:				
7	Newbypt	100+	V.Hilbee#	

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Barrow's Goldeneye:				
7-15	Newbypt	1-3	v.o.	
Bufflehead:				
20,28	Nantucket, S.Monomoy	18, 100	E.Andrews, B.Nikula	
Hooded Merganser:				
3,10	Milton, Halifax	4, 2	O.Kerr, K.Anderson	
11-14	Cambridge (Mt.A.)	pr.	J.Paputseanos + v.o.	
Common Merganser:				
20,21	Eastham, Quincy	2, 5	M.Lynch#, G.d'Entremont	
Red-breasted Merganser:				
20,27	Chatham, off P.I.	30+, 200+	M.Lynch#, J.Berry	
Ruddy Duck:				
thr.,14	P.I., Braintree	max. 4 (4/27), 2	v.o., R.Abrams	
28	S.Monomoy	10	B.Nikula	

RAPTORS

A Black Vulture was observed flying over Essex on April 24. The observer noticed "the distinctive shape, the obvious white patches of the wing tips, and the short tail was well seen. The pale whitish legs were obvious as a V against the tail and extended almost to the tip of the tail. The bird soared in tight circles - Broad-winged (Hawk) fashion - and gradually gained height as it slowly drifted northward. The wings were held in a slight dihedral and only once did it flap - two flaps - in distinctive Black Vulture manner. The bird was in sight for three to four minutes, originally at a distance of about 200 yards."

On the more routine raptor migration, Turkey Vultures were reported from many locations with no large numbers tallied. Ospreys were back on the traditional nesting sites on Martha's Vineyard where twenty-seven pairs were on their nests before the end of the month. Ospreys were also nesting at Lakeville and in their stronghold in the Westport area. Sharp-shinned Hawks were moving along our coast on April 20-21, when the best numbers were recorded. Three Cooper's Hawk and nine Northern Goshawks were also noted. Red-shouldered Hawks were noted on territory in Boxford, Ashby, E.Middleboro, and Petersham, most of these areas nesting locations of recent years. R.H.S.

Black Vulture:

24 Essex 1 R.Forster

Turkey Vulture:

4;6 S.Dartmouth;Ipswich,Wayland 2; 1, 1 R.Maker#;I.Giriunas,R.Forster
7,9 Petersham, Littleton 1, 1 S.Sweet, J.Marshall
21,23 Mt. Watatic, Leominster 7, 7 R.Stymeist#, J.Baird
Other reports of 1-4 individuals after April 9.

Osprey:

thr. Lakeville max. 4, 1 pr. nesting D.Briggs# + v.o.
thr. M.V. 27 pairs on nests by end of month L.Laux#
thr. Westport max. 40 (4/6) R.Stymeist# + v.o.
16,21 Mt. Wachusett, Mt. Watatic 9, 4 T.Lipsky, R.Stymeist#
Other reports of 1-2 individuals from a wide area.

Northern Harrier:

thr. P.I. area max. 5 (4/7) P.Roberts# + v.o.
1,17,21 W.Roxbury,Mt.A.,Lincoln 1, 1, 1 M.Murphy#,S.Perkins#,J.Carter
20 Truro (Pilgrim Heights) 11 P.Trull#
Other single individuals from four other locations.

Sharp-shinned Hawk:

6,7 Uxbridge, P.I. 1, 4 R.Hildreth, P.Roberts
16,20 Mt. Wachusett, Mt.A. 8, 1 T.Lipsky, J.Clancy#
20 Scituate, Truro, P.I. 16, 11, 18 W.Petersen#,P.Trull#,R.Forster
21 Mt. Watatic 17 R.Stymeist#
27,28 Ipswich, Mt. Wachusett 4-5, 29 BBC, P.Roberts

Cooper's Hawk:

20,21 Truro, Mt. Watatic 1, 1 D.Arvidson#, R.Stymeist#
28 Quincy (Buck's Hill) 1 G.d'Entremont#

Northern Goshawk:

5,6 Lakeville, GMNWR 1, 1 ad. W.Petersen, R.Forster
18,20 Truro, Holliston 1, 1 P.Trull#, R.Hildreth
21,22 Mt. Watatic, Halifax 1, 1 S.Perkins#, W.Petersen
28 Holliston, Mt. Wachusett 2, 1 R.Hildreth, P.Roberts#

Red-shouldered Hawk:

thr.,7 E.Middleboro, Petersham pr., 2 K.Anderson, E.Nielsen
7-31 Boxford (State Forest) pr. A.Bennett + v.o.
20-21 Mt. Watatic pr. M.McClellan# + v.o.

Broad-winged Hawk:

7,19 Acton, Milton 1, 1 E.Nielsen, W.Petersen#

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1985
Broad-winged Hawk (cont.):				
16,28	Mt. Wachusett	2, 170	T.Lipsky, BBC	
21,28	Mt. Watatic, Quincy	75, 11	R.Stymeist#, G.d'Entremont#	
28	Reports of migrants from many locations.			
Red-tailed Hawk:				
5;21,22	Bridgewater;Belmont,Newbypt	nesting pairs	W.Petersen; R.Stymeist	
13,28	Canton, M.V.	5, 13	K.Anderson, V.Laux	
Rough-legged Hawk:				
27	Wayland	1	SSBC (R.Walton)	
American Kestrel:				
7,20	P.I.	38, 44	P.Roberts#, R.Forster	
13,20	Middleboro, N.Scituate	12, 47	SSBC, W.Petersen#	
Merlin:				
6,20	P.I.	1, 2	E.Nielsen, R.Forster	
13,28	Nantucket, M.V.	1, 3	A.Williams, V.Laux	
Peregrine Falcon:				
6,7	Boxford, Wellesley	2, 1 m.	G.d'Entremont#, L.Robinson	
7,24,29	N.Monomoy	1, 2, 2	R.Humphrey# + v.o.	
9,13	E.Middleboro, IRWS	1, 1	K.Anderson, G.d'Entremont#	
20	S.Duxbury	1	W.Petersen	
23,27	Nantucket, Ipswich	1, 1-2	E.Andrews, BBC	
28	S.Monomoy	1 ad.	B.Nikula	

RAILS THROUGH ALCIDS

Early arriving Lesser Golden-Plovers are becoming the norm in recent years, so the two at Monomoy produced no raised eyebrows as they did formerly. Excellent counts of Piping Plover and Killdeer were made at Monomoy and Concord respectively. Otherwise, shorebird counts were about as expected. The turnstones in N.Scituate were overwinterers, and the Red Knot in Plymouth probably falls in the same category. Both Semipalmated and White-rumped sandpipers at Monomoy were unusual early arrivals. The Pectoral Sandpiper flight was poor by recent standards, but the Dunlin in Concord was both early and unusual in an inland site in spring. A Long-billed Dowitcher in breeding plumage adds to the growing number of spring reports. Common Snipe numbers were modest due to lack of rain-flooded fields where they concentrate.

Noteworthy were the scanty reports of Bonaparte's Gull, and no Little Gull was seen, very unusual for April. For the fifth consecutive month Mew Gull was reported. All sightings of this difficult-to-identify species (see Eirik Blom. BOEM 13, April 1985: 78) should be accompanied with a detailed description. A few "white-winged" gulls lingered as expected. Small numbers of Caspian Tern passed by the coast during the expected time period, and other terns arrived at nesting areas late in the month. A report of Common Murre in Scituate was accompanied by details.

Clapper Rail:				
20	E.Boston	1 (heard)	J.Cumming	
Virginia Rail:				
4-18	GMNWR	max. 5 (4/18)	v.o.	
5,18	Lancaster, Wayland	1, 1	M.Lynch#, R.Forster	
20,28	Belmont, Saugus	1, 1	L.Taylor, BBC	
27,28	Lynnfield, P.I.	4, 12	A.Bennett	
Sora:				
7,27	P.I., Lakeville	1, 2	D.Briggs, K.Holmes	
29	Wayland	1	R.Forster	
American Coot:				
6	Concord, Plymouth	6, 6	S.Carroll#, R.Titus	
15,26	GMNWR	2, 3	V.Albee#, J.Cumming	
Black-bellied Plover:				
14,20	P.I., Wellfleet	5, 51	BBC, M.Lynch#	
24,28	N.Monomoy	200, 400	B.Nikula	
Lesser Golden-Plover:				
26	N.Monomoy	2	B.Nikula	
Semipalmated Plover:				
27,29	P.I., N.Monomoy	1, 1	W.Petersen, B.Nikula	
Piping Plover:				
3,15,24	N.Monomoy	14, 35, 30	R.Humphrey#	
7,13	Gloucester, Nantucket	1, 2	C.Leahy, A.Williams	
25,27	New Seabury, Plymouth	3, 5	W.Strahle, B.Howell	
Killdeer:				
5,6	Concord, E.Boston	37, 4	R.Forster, J.Cumming	
14,21	P.I., Holliston	14, 4	BBC, R.Hildreth	
American Oystercatcher:				
thr.	N.Monomoy	max. 18 (4/26)	B.Nikula#	

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1985
Greater Yellowlegs:				
1,7	Marshfield, Squantum	2, 17	D.Clapp, R.Abrams	
14,21	P.I.	29, 30+	BBC, S.Carroll#	
27	Newbypt	100	W.Petersen	
Lesser Yellowlegs:				
5,7	Bridgewater, W.Newbury	1, 12	W.Petersen, A.Bennett	
13,27	S.Dartmouth, P.I.	6, 2	R.Maker, W.Petersen	
Solitary Sandpiper:				
6,19	Concord, Braintree	1, 1	R.Forster, R.Campbell	
20,28	W.Newbury, Wayland	1, 1	I.Giriunas, R.Walton#	
Spotted Sandpiper:				
14,19	Squantum, Braintree	1, 1	R.Abrams, R.Campbell	
26,28	Mt.A., Halifax	1, 1	BBC, K.Holmes	
Upland Sandpiper:				
5,22	Newbypt, Concord	1, 3	D.Briggs#, J.Carter	
25,27	Middleboro, Newbypt	2, 4	K.Holmes, v.o.	
28	S.Natick	3	P.Hallowell	
Ruddy Turnstone:				
6	N.Scituate	5	R.Abrams#	
Red Knot:				
20	Plymouth	1	P.W.Smith#	
Sanderling:				
thr.	N.Monomoy	max. 600 (4/29)	B.Nikula	
14,17	Plymouth, Chatham	30, 2	L.Robinson, P.Trimble	
Semipalmated Sandpiper:				
21-29	N.Monomoy	1	R.Humphrey#	
Least Sandpiper:				
7,21	P.I.	1, 1	BBC, J.Cumming	
29	N.Monomoy	12+	B.Nikula	
White-rumped Sandpiper:				
29	N.Monomoy	1	B.Nikula	
Pectoral Sandpiper:				
6,14	P.I., Bridgewater	6, 4	R.Heil, G.d'Entremont#	
20,27	Ipswich, Newbypt	5, 10	R.Forster, W.Petersen#	
Purple Sandpiper:				
27	P.I.	30	BBC	
Dunlin:				
thr.	N.Monomoy	max. 800 (4/26,29)	B.Nikula	
6	Concord	1	R.Forster	
7,24	Newbypt	35, 260	M.Lynch, R.Forster	
dowitcher sp.:				
17,27	Chatham, Newbypt	1, 1	P.Trimble, W.Petersen#	
Short-billed Dowitcher:				
13,20	Plymouth	1, 1	P.W.Smith#	
21;24,29	Newbypt; N.Monomoy	3; 1	BBC; R.Humphrey	
Long-billed Dowitcher:				
24	Newbypt	1 (breeding pl.)	R.Forster	
Common Snipe:				
5,6	Concord	25, 35	G.Gove, R.Forster	
7,8	Newbypt, Squantum	40, 16	A.Bennett, R.Abrams	
14,20	W.Bridgewater, P.I.	15, 60	G.d'Entremont, R.Forster	
29	Millis	24	B.Cassie	
American Woodcock:				
1,5	E.Boston, Lancaster	1, 3	K.Norris, S.Carroll#	
16,28	IRWS, Groveland	2, 4	BBC, W.Drummond	
Laughing Gull:				
16,20	Osterville, Chatham	2, 30	P.Trimble, M.Lynch#	
23	P'town	25	K.Holmes	
Common Black-headed Gull:				
8,13	N.Monomoy	1 ad.	R.Humphrey	
15,24,27	Newbypt	1 imm., 1 ad., 1 imm.	W.Petersen, R.Forster, W.Petersen	
Bonaparte's Gull:				
13,23	Newbypt, P'town	3, 10	BBC, K.Holmes	
Mew Gull:				
7,12	Newbypt	1 (details), 1	C.Floyd, H.Wiggin + M.Argue	
Iceland Gull:				
13	Newbypt, Nantucket	1, 3	G.d'Entremont#, A.Williams	
26,27	M.V., Newbypt	1, 1	W.Manter, BBC	
Glaucous Gull:				
9;14,26	Woods Hole; M.V.	2; 1, 1	W.Strahle; V.Laux#	
Caspian Tern:				
15,22	Manomet, P'town	1, 2	B.Harrington, K.Holmes	
27	Plymouth, P.I.	4, 1	B.Howell, W.Petersen	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>APRIL 1985</u>
Roseate Tern: 27	M.V.	"several"	V.Laux	
Common Tern: 26,30	M.V., Yarmouthport	20, 250	V.Laux, P.Trull	
Common Murre: 2	N.Scituate	1 (details)	R.Titus	
Black Guillemot: 6,27	Magnolia, N.Scituate	1, 4	D.Briggs#, P.Trimble	

OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A Great Horned Owl nest with one young bird was noted in the median strip of Route 495 in Milford and a Barred Owl was heard calling at noon in Ipswich. A pair of Long-eared Owls was nesting at Nantucket where two Northern Saw-whet Owls were also seen. The first reported date for Whip-poor-will was April 21 and that for Chimney Swift was April 7, a very early date for that species. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird was reported from Martha's Vineyard on April 28. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were much in evidence after April 17 and more than a thousand Flickers were estimated on the Cape on April 20.

G.W.G.

Common Barn-Owl: thr.	M.V.	9 breeding pr.	fide V.Laux
Eastern Screech-Owl: 6,22	Norwell	1 (red ph.)	M. + B.Litchfield
21,27	Lakeville	12, 11	K.Holmes
Great Horned Owl: 3,4	Milford	1 ad. + 1 yg	A.Williams
20,27	Brookline, Lakeville	1, 2	H.Wiggin, K.Holmes
Snowy Owl: 18	P.I.	1	M.McClellan
Barred Owl: 13,28	Boxford	1-2	v.o.
5,16	Lakeville, Ipswich	pr., 1	W.Petersen, M.McClellan
Long-eared Owl: thr.	Nantucket	nesting pr.	D.Holt
Short-eared Owl: 21	N.Monomoy	1	P.Trull
Northern Saw-whet Owl: thr.	Nantucket	2	D.Holt
Whip-poor-will: 21,29	Wayland, M.V.	1, 1	J.Hines, V.Laux
Chimney Swift: 7,9	P'town, Chatham	1, 1	H.Stabins#, D.Holt
19,28	Oxbow NWR, W.Newbury	2, 4	S.Carroll#, C.Floyd#
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 28	M.V.	1	V.Laux
Belted Kingfisher: 5,6	Lancaster, Concord	2, 1	S.Carroll#, M.Lynch#
13,15	S.Dartmouth, Wayland	1, 2	R.Maker, BBC
27	Lakeville, Ipswich	2, 1	K.Holmes, BBC
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 7,17-23	P.I., Mt.A.	1, 4	M.Lynch#, v.o.
20	Wellfleet, P.I., MNWS	5, 3, 3	S.Carroll#, BBC, J.Smith
19-22	9 locations	1-2 (total 11)	v.o.
30	Nantucket	1 m.	E.Andrews
Hairy Woodpecker: 28	Boxford	3 pr.	J.Berry
Northern Flicker: thr.	Mt.A.	max. 16 (4/21)	fide R.Stymeist
19	MNWS, Squantum	40, 25	J.Smith, G.d'Entremont
20	Osterville to Truro	1000+	D.Arvidson#
21	P.I./Newbypt	25	BBC
Pileated Woodpecker: 14,15-28	Barre, Boxford	1, 1	M.Lynch#, v.o.
21,22	Milton, Tyngsboro	1, 2	G.d'Entremont, K.Johnson
28	Princeton	2	BBC

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

Weather conditions favored migration for periods beginning on April 6, 15, 19-20 and 25. Little movement was apparent from the reports for the first two periods, but the period of April 19-20 produced good counts of Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Solitary Vireo, and Palm Warbler. The last few days of the month saw

significant first arrivals. Included were Eastern Kingbird, Wood Thrush, Warbling and Red-eyed vireos, and eleven species of warbler. Another seven varieties of warbler arrived earlier, for a monthly total of eighteen species. Observers at Provincetown had a particularly good day on April 25, with notably high counts of 40 Brown Creepers, 60 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and 35 Palm Warblers. Other good counts included monthly totals of 38 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and 167 Cedar Waxwings, and a single day count of 56 Pine Warblers at Wareham on the fifteenth. The gnatcatcher count ties for the second highest monthly total in the last eight years; the waxwing count constitutes the highest monthly total in the last eight years, and should be compared with the more typical value of 35.

Reports for the month included no astonishing passerine rarities. The single Nantucket Jackdaw continued to be reported. A shrike observed fleetingly on Martha's Vineyard on April 23 was not conclusively identified, but given the time of occurrence was most likely a Loggerhead. Uncommon southern warbler species reported included Yellow-throated and Worm-eating. L.E.T.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>APRIL 1985</u>
Eastern Phoebe:				
thr., 6	Mt. A., Ipswich	max. 5 (4/17), 10	v.o., I.Giriunas#	
7, 15	Petersham, Wareham	12, 10	E.Nielsen, L.Robinson	
20, 30	Boxford, E.Middleboro	4, nest/eggs	BBC, K.Anderson	
Eastern Kingbird:				
28	Lakeville, Middleboro	1, 1	W.Petersen#, K.Anderson#	
Horned Lark:				
22	P.I.	12	R.Alexander#	
Purple Martin:				
10, 19	Middleboro, M.V.	1, 1	J.Stiehl, W.Manter	
21, 24	P.I.	2, 4	BBC	
Tree Swallow:				
5, 7-27	Lancaster, P.I.	50+, max. 60 (4/7)	M.Lynch#, v.o.	
11, 17	GMNWR, P'town	1000, 60	R.Forster, P.Trimble	
20, 27	S.Hanson, Holliston	600, 21	W.Petersen, R.Hildreth	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow:				
1, 2	Stoughton, W.Peabody	2, 1	R.Titus, G.d'Entremont	
15, 19-30	Falmouth, MNWS	2, 2	P.Trimble, J.Smith	
20-30, 21	Mt. A., Scituate	1-2, 5	R.Stymeist#, R.Campbell#	
Bank Swallow:				
19, 23	Millis, Wayland	1, 5	B.Cassie, R.Forster	
28, 30	Quincy, Middleboro	2, 24+	S.Perkins#, D.Briggs	
Barn Swallow:				
4, 11	M.V., Wayland	1, 2	W.Manter#, R.Forster	
19, 21	Middleboro, Manchester	14, 2	D.Briggs, I.Giriunas	
Fish Crow:				
thr., 5	Mt. A., Middleboro	nesting pr., 2	v.o., W.Petersen	
6, 6-28	Milton, 10 locations	6, 18 total	R.Abrams, v.o.	
Common Raven:				
6, 14	Braintree (Blue Hills), Petersham	1 (details), 1	R.Titus, S.Carroll#	
20-21	Ashby (Mt. Watatic)	2	v.o.	
Jackdaw:				
thr.	Nantucket	1	E.Andrews#	
Red-breasted Nuthatch:				
13, 13-28	Ipswich, Boxford	2, max. 6 (4/28)	BBC, J.Berry#	
14, 15	Petersham, Mashpee	5, 3	M.Lynch#, P.Trimble	
Brown Creeper:				
6-28, 13	Boxford, Wayland	max. 12 (4/12), nestbuilding pr.	v.o., R.Forster	
20, 25	Mt. A., P'town	4, 40	BBC, P.Trull	
Carolina Wren:				
9, 20	S.Dartmouth, Eastham	2, 1	R.Maker#, S.Carroll#	
21, 27	Marshfield, Holliston	1, 1	G.d'Entremont#, R.Hildreth	
House Wren:				
21	Lincoln, Halifax	1, 2	P.Swift, K.Holmes	
22-30, 30	9 locations, MNWS	10 total, 2	v.o., J.Smith	
Winter Wren:				
7-27, 18-20	MNWS, Boxford	1, 2	v.o.	
19-21, 20	Mt. A., Needham	1, 1	v.o., J.Marshall	
21	Braintree, Marshfield	1, 1	G.d'Entremont#	
26, 27	Brookline, Chatham	1, 3	v.o., R.Clem	
Marsh Wren:				
15-30	Wayland	1	C.Turin#	
Golden-crowned Kinglet:				
7-21, 12-24	P.I., Mt. A.	max. 6 (4/7), max. 5 (4/12)	v.o.	
13-21, 15	Boxford, Mashpee	max. 10 (4/13), 10	BBC, P.Trimble	

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1985
Ruby-crowned Kinglet:				
2-30,6-30	Mt.A., MNWS	max. 25 (4/28), max.	65 (4/19)	v.o., J.Smith#
20	P.I., Marshfield	40, 30		BBC, W.Petersen#
25	P'town	60		P.Trull
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:				
10-11,12	P.I., Cambridge	1, 1		M.McClellan#, J.Paputseanos
19-28,21-23	17 locations, Mt.A.	24 total, max. 1		v.o.
21-29,28	Wayland, Boxford	max. 8 (4/29), 3		R.Forster, J.Berry#
Eastern Bluebird:				
2,6	E.Middleboro, Plymouth	1 pr, 1		K.Anderson, R.Titus
12,13	Medford, Milton	4, 3		P.Roberts, R.Stymeist#
14,15	Harwick, Newbypt	2 pr., 1		M.Lynch#, W.Petersen
20,28	Boxford, Milford	1 m., 1 pr.		v.o., R.Hildreth
Hermit Thrush:				
6-20,7-27	MNWS, P.I.	max. 35 (4/19), max.	4 (4/21)	J.Smith, v.o.
12-30,20	Mt.A., Boxford	max. 13 (4/21), 12		v.o., BBC
Wood Thrush:				
26	Waltham	1		L.Taylor
American Robin:				
14,20	Petersham, Essex	175, 325		S.Carroll#, R.Forster
Gray Catbird:				
20	Mt.A., Eastham	1, 2		BBC, M.Lynch#
Brown Thrasher:				
from Mar.-7,19	MNWS, Mt.A.	1, 1		J.Smith, D.Lange
21-30	5 locations	9 total		v.o.
Water Pipit:				
9,20	Concord, Ipswich	8, 14		R.Forster
21,27	P.I., Plymouth	2, 4		J.Cumming, B.Howell
Cedar Waxwing:				
3,13	Lincoln, Boxford	65, 50		R.Forster, BBC
28,30	Middleboro, Mt.A.	50, 2		v.o., R.Stymeist
shrike sp.:				
23	M.V.	1		G. Ben David
White-eyed Vireo:				
16	P.I.	1		M.McClellan
Solitary Vireo:				
19-30,20-30	Mt.A., 5 locations	max. 5 (4/19), 5 singles		v.o.
28	Boxford	5		J.Berry#
Warbling Vireo:				
30	Cambridge	1		J.Paputseanos
Red-eyed Vireo:				
25,28	Chatham, Newbypt	1, 1		H.Rich, v.o.
Nashville Warbler:				
29-30	Mt.A.	1		R.Stymeist#
Northern Parula:				
27,28	Ipswich, Middleboro	1, 1		BBC, D.Briggs
28,29-30	Bridgewater, Mt.A.	1, 1-2		K.Holmes, v.o.
Yellow Warbler:				
26,28-29	Middleboro, 6 locations	4, 12 total		D.Briggs, v.o.
Cape May Warbler:				
28	Middleboro	1		D.Briggs
Black-throated Blue Warbler:				
23,30	S.Monomoy, Mt.A.	1 (dead), 1		R.Humphrey, R.Stymeist
Yellow-rumped Warbler:				
5,19-30	Holliston, Mt.A.	3, max. 50 (4/28)		R.Hildreth, v.o.
23,28	P'town, Wayland	75, 75		P.Trull#, R.Forster
28,29	Princeton, Brookline	40, 20		BBC, J.Paputseanos
Black-throated Green Warbler:				
27,28-30	Dedham, Mt.A.	1, max. 3		J.Marshall, v.o.
28,30;28	Boxford; Princeton	5, 12; 3		J.Berry#; BBC
Yellow-throated Warbler:				
15,27	Wareham, Newbypt	1 m., 1		L.Robinson, J.Grugan
Pine Warbler:				
6-15,6	Wareham, MNWS	max. 56 (4/15), 3		L.Robinson, J.Smith#
7,13	Carver, Harvard	7, 3		L.Robinson, S.Carroll#
19-30,20	Mt.A., P'town	max. 5 (4/19), 10		v.o., M.Lynch#
Prairie Warbler:				
28	Quincy	2		G.d'Entremont
Palm Warbler:				
6,7	Ipswich, P.I.	1, 1		I.Girunus, BBC
7,13-20	Petersham, Boxford	2, 13-25		E.Nielsen, BBC
13-30,19	Mt.A., Braintree	max. 28 (4/19), 20		v.o., M.Litchfield#
20,25	Marshfield, P'town	50, 35		W.Petersen#, R.Trull#

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1985
Black-and-white Warbler:				
13,25	P.I., P'town	2, 1	R.McHale, B.Nikula	
26-30,28-30	12 locations, Mt.A.	24 total, max. 4	v.o.	
American Redstart:				
26,30	Middleboro, Osterville	2, 2	D.Briggs, P.Trull	
Worm-eating Warbler:				
30	Mt.A.	1	R.Hamburger#	
Ovenbird:				
29,30	E.Middleboro, MNWS	2, 1	K.Anderson, J.Smith	
Northern Waterthrush:				
27-30,28	Mt.A., Holliston	2, 2	v.o., R.Hildreth	
29,30	E.Middleboro, MNWS	3, 1	K.Anderson, J.Smith	
Louisiana Waterthrush:				
12-30,14	Boxford, Petersham	max. 6 (4/13), 2	v.o., M.Lynch#	
15,18-30	M.V., 8 locations	1, 12 total	V.Laux, v.o.	
Common Yellowthroat:				
28	S.Dartmouth	1	R.Maker	

INDIGO BUNTING THROUGH EVENING GROSBEEK

Only one Indigo Bunting was reported this April as compared with 51 birds last year during April. Likewise there were no reports of tanagers or Blue Grosbeak this year, whereas last year in April four Summer Tanagers and at least seven Blue Grosbeaks were tallied. This can simply be attributed to the lack of coastal storms that originate off the southern Mid-Atlantic coast and transport migrants crossing the Gulf of Mexico to our area weeks ahead of their normal arrival. Dickcissels were reported from Manchester and Orleans and the Lark Sparrow continued to be found in the Squantum area. Other sparrow reports included increasing numbers of Chipping, Field, Vesper, Swamp and Song sparrows and decreasing numbers of American Tree and Fox sparrows. Savannah Sparrows were found in excellent numbers at midmonth.

Female Red-winged Blackbirds were moving in all month, and it was an excellent flight year for Rusty Blackbirds especially so in the Sudbury River Valley, where their total probably exceeded 500 individuals for the month. A Yellow-headed Blackbird was found on Martha's Vineyard, and there were scattered reports of migrating Evening Grosbeaks during the month. A single Red Crossbill was noted. Pine Siskins were observed far inland, and breeding was suspected in the east Quabbin area. R.H.S.

Indigo Bunting:				
18-24	Nantucket	1 m.	fide E.Andrews	
Dickcissel:				
6	Manchester	1 (from Mar.)	I.Giriunas#	
20	Orleans	1	M.Lynch	
Rufous-sided Towhee:				
7,21	MNWS, P.I.	3, 3	B.Hallett#, BBC	
28	Milford, S.Dartmouth	4, 7	R.Hildreth, R.Maker	
American Tree Sparrow:				
26	Waltham	3	L.Taylor	
Chipping Sparrow:				
6,7	Mt.A., E.Middleboro	3, 1	A.Bennett, K.Anderson	
21,27	SRV, Ipswich	12, 10	R.Forster, BBC	
Field Sparrow:				
6	Mt.A., Oxbow NWR	5, 5	A.Bennett, S.Carroll#	
19,28	Belmont, Milford	6, 8	L.Taylor, R.Hildreth	
Vesper Sparrow:				
14,19	New Braintree, Concord	1, 2	M.Lynch#, J.Carter	
21,29	Concord, Millis	1, 1	R.Forster, B.Cassie	
Lark Sparrow:				
3	Squantum	1	D.Brown	
Savannah Sparrow:				
6	Concord, Squantum	2, 2	S.Carroll#, J.Cumming	
19,20	Squantum, Holliston	60, 21	G.d'Entremont, R.Hildreth	
20,21	Newbypt/Ipswich, SRV	105, 185	R.Forster, R.Forster#	
'Ipswich Sparrow':				
13,20	Plymouth, Newbypt	1, 1	P.W.Smith#, R.Forster	
Fox Sparrow:				
7+8,6+13	P.I., Oxbow NWR	2+1, 6+3	BBC, M.Lynch#	
10,13	Ipswich, E.Sandwich	1, 1	J.Berry, P.Trimble	
Song Sparrow:				
3,14	Cambridge, P.I.	20, 34	L.Robinson, BBC	
Swamp Sparrow:				
8,13	P.I., Concord	1, 12	F.Bouchard, M.Lynch#	
20	Holliston, Needham	4, 8	R.Hildreth, J.Marshall	

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	APRIL 1985
Swamp Sparrow (cont.):				
28	Saugus, Middleboro	5, 10	BBC, SSBC	
White-throated Sparrow:				
thr.	Mt.A.	max. 26 (4/29)	R.Stymeist# + v.o.	
thr.	Ipswich	max. 8 (4/17)	J.Berry	
20,28	Norwell, Lincoln	19 b., 25	M. + B.Litchfield, BBC	
Dark-eyed Junco:				
thr.	Mt.A.	max. 42 (4/16)	R.Stymeist# + v.o.	
Lapland Longspur:				
20	P.I.	1 br. pl.	R.Forster	
Snow Bunting:				
13-14	GMNWR	1	M.Baird, G.Gove	
Red-winged Blackbird:				
21,22	Lancaster, E.Middleboro	75+, 50 (all f.)	M.Lynch#, K.Anderson	
Eastern Meadowlark:				
13,17	Middleboro, Boxford	12, 3	SSBC, A.Bennett	
Yellow-headed Blackbird:				
19-20	Chilmark	1 ad. m.	F.Miller	
Rusty Blackbird:				
1,2	Wayland, Sudbury	75, 35	R.Forster	
5	Concord, Lancaster	25, 10+	R.Forster, M.Lynch#	
11,15	GMNWR, Wayland	50+, 60	R.Forster, G.Gove	
Northern Oriole:				
26	Chatham, Middleboro	1, 2-3	H.Rich, D.Briggs	
Purple Finch:				
15	Wayland	24	C.Turin#	
Red Crossbill:				
22	MNWS	1	J.Smith	
Pine Siskin:				
7,11	Petersham	8, 15+	E.Nielsen, M.Lynch#	
Evening Grosbeak:				
6,13	Sudbury	4, 2	R.Forster	
7,12	Petersham, Haverhill	15, 28	E.Nielsen, W.Drummond	
19,21,23	Mt.A.	26, 2, 2	R.Stymeist#	
19,21,27	Waltham, Braintree, Ipswich	5, 1, 7	L.Taylor,G.d'Entremont,J.Berry	

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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