

FIELD RECORDS

MARCH 1990



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by Richard A. Forster and George W. Gove

March 1990 was sunny, dry, and mild. The temperature averaged 40.1 degrees, 1.7 degrees above normal. The high was 73 degrees on March 13, tying the record high for the date set in 1945. The low mark was 12 degrees on March 17. Precipitation totaled 1.71 inches, 2.42 inches less than normal. Measurable amounts fell on eight days. Snow totaled 4.1 inches, 3.3 inches less than average. This brings the seasonal total to 38.7 inches, just 1.2 inches shy of the average. The ground was bare most of the month. Fog was frequent in the middle portion of the month. Southwest winds on March 15 and again on March 24 brought several Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallows, and flocks of blackbirds.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

Red-necked Grebe numbers built up at coastal locations, with more than 200 at Nantucket and at Scituate. The Great Blue Heron rookery in Westboro was active by midmonth. Both Great and Snowy egrets typically appeared by the end of the month, and a Glossy Ibis in Rochester on March 24 established the earliest date for the observer.

Snow Geese appeared in small numbers in Newburyport. In Wayland, a "Richardson's" Canada Goose was noted, possibly the same bird that was seen in the Sudbury River Valley last year. Two Eurasian Wigeons were noted, both carryovers from winter. A count of 85 Redheads was made in Yarmouth. G.W.G.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MARCH 1990
Red-throated Loon				
12, 24	Ipswich, Scituate	1, 1	D. Rimmer, T. + J. Cameron	
Common Loon				
thr	Ipswich	4-35	D. Rimmer	
10, 16	Sagamore, Plymouth	22, 10	R. Abrams, K. Anderson	
3, 24	Cape Ann, Lakeville	12, 2	BBC (R. Vernon), BBC (D. Davis)	
Pied-billed Grebe				
1, 17	Marston Mills, P.I.	1, 1	T. Aversa, P. + F. Vale	
24, 27	Lakeville, Waltham	1, 1	BBC (D. Davis), R. Forster	
30, 31	Lynnfield, P.I.	2, 1	P. + F. Vale, R. Stymeist#	
Horned Grebe				
3, 10	Gloucester, Dennis	4, 70	M. Lynch#, B. Nikula	
24, 27	Lakeville, S. Dartmouth	1, 15	BBC (K.Holmes), T. Aversa	
Red-necked Grebe				
3	Cape Ann, Marblehead	42, 18	BBC (R. Vernon), I. Lynch#	
11, 28	Winthrop	25, 27	P. + F. Vale, T. Aversa	
12, 24	Nantucket, Scituate	200, 215	B. Perkins, T. + J. Cameron	
Northern Gannet				
3, 10	Cape Ann, Provincetown	12, 500	BBC (R. Vernon), R. Abrams	
10	Dennis	200	B. Nikula	
24, 25	N. Scituate	130, 20	T. + J. Cameron, W. Petersen	
Great Cormorant				
4, 10	Nahant, Provincetown	69, 35	J. Brown, R. Abrams	
24, 27	Lakeville	4, 5	W. Petersen#, T. Aversa	
Double-crested Cormorant				
3, 9	Rockport, Somerset	1, 1	M. Lynch#, K. Machado	
13-31	Falmouth	6 max 3/13	T. Aversa + v. o.	
31	Beverly, Lakeville	3, 2	I. Lynch#, H. Wiggin#	
Great Blue Heron				
8-28	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	2-4	LCES (J. Hill)	
11-28	Westboro	22 max 3/20	E. Taylor	
17-31	Falmouth	3 or 4	v. o.	
24	Lakeville	4	BBC (D. Davis)	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MARCH 1990
Great Egret 27	Westport	1	T. Aversa	
Snowy Egret 15, 24 27	Lynn, P.I. Westport	1, 1 1	C. Tilley, H. Wiggin# T. Aversa	
Black-crowned Night-Heron 31	Newburyport, Ipswich	1, 1	P. + F. Vale, I. Lynch#	
Glossy Ibis 24	Rochester	1 (early)	W. Petersen	
Mute Swan 8-28 10-31 18, 24	S. Dart. (Allens Pd) Gloucester Scituate	8-10 11 max 31, 27	LCES (J. Hill) J. Berry# + v. o. R. Titus#, R. Forster	
Snow Goose 18-31	Newburyport vicinity.	24 max 3/25	BBC (W. Drummond) + v. o.	
Brant thr 11, 25 25-30	Ipswich Squantum, Marblehead Nahant	180 max 3/18 600, 88 500 max 3/30	J. Berry + v. o. R. Abrams#, R. Stymeist# I. Lynch# + v. o.	
"Richardson"s" Canada Goose 27	Wayland	1	S. Perkins#	
Wood Duck 11; 14, 16 17, 24 29, 31	Wayland; GMNWR, Stoneham Quabbin (G40), (G37) E. Middleboro, GMNWR	3; 7, 7 6, 12 7 m + 4 f, 16	S. Perkins#; T. Aversa M. Lynch# K. Anderson, BBC (B. Wicks)	
Green-winged Teal 3, 15, 22 22, 24	Wayland, SRV, Bolton P.I., Middleboro	3, 28, 140 120, 150	R. Forster W. Drew#, W. Petersen	
American Black Duck 3, 17-24 8-28 18	S. Hanson, New Braintree S. Dart. (Allens Pd) P.I.	250, 160 max 272 max 3/8 205	W. Petersen, M. Lynch# LCES (J. Hill) BBC (I. Giriunas)	
Northern Pintail 3, 24; 24 14; 22	S. Hanson; New Braintree P.I., Ipswich; Bolton	6, 2; 20 10, 34; 10	W. Petersen; M. Lynch# R. Forster	
Blue-winged Teal 21, 26 24	Halifax, Arlington Halifax	2, 2 2	T. Aversa BBC (D. Davis)	
Northern Shoveler 24, 31	Halifax, Ipswich	1, 2	BBC (D. Davis), I. Lynch#	
Gadwall 3, 31; 11	Marblehead, Ipswich; P.I.	10, 15; 2	I. Lynch#; H. Wiggin#	
Eurasian Wigeon thr 17	Plymouth Chatham	1 m 1	v. o. B. Nikula	
American Wigeon 8, 14, 18 10, 11 18, 25	Acoaxet, Lynnfield, Concord Wellfleet, Gloucester Arlington, Plymouth	6, 6, 8 12, 2 15, 60	R. Forster R. Abrams, S. Perkins L. Taylor, W. Petersen	
Canvasback 1, 3 8, 31	Yarmouth, Westport Lakeville, Falmouth	260, 150 9, 2	K. Hamilton, R. Abrams# R. Forster, I. Giriunas#	
Redhead 1, 3, 25	Yarmouth, Westport, Plymouth	85, 1 m, 2	K. Hamilton, T. Cameron#, W. Petersen	
Ring-necked Duck 3, 24 11-25 17 18, 24	S. Hanson Wachusett Res. W. Newbury Holden	150, 75 507 max 3/25 150 158, 138	W. Petersen B. Blodget + v. o. J. Brown B. Blodget	
Greater Scaup 4, 8 8-25 17, 18-25	Acoaxet Lakeville Falmouth, Wachusett Res.	570 max 3/8 400 max 3/24 700, 42 max	R. Forster + v. o. W. Petersen + v. o. BBC (J. Bryant), M. Lynch#	
Lesser Scaup 17 18-31, 24	Chatham Wachusett Res., Lakeville	6 17 max 3/31, 4	B. Nikula M. Lynch#, BBC (D. Davis)	
Common Eider 24	Manomet	200	K. Machado	
King Eider thr	Rockport	1 m + 1 f	v. o.	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MARCH 1990
Harlequin Duck thr; 10, 17	Rockport; N. Scituate	8 max; 3	v. o.; R. Titus#	
Oldsquaw 17-31 18	Newburyport Ipswich	300 max 3/31 80	P. + F. Vale BBC (I. Giriunas)	
Black Scoter 3, 7	Gloucester, P.I.	7, 2	M. Lynch#, W. Drew#	
Surf Scoter 4; 10	Marblehead, Nahant; Rockport	6, 6; 12	J. Brown; J. Berry	
White-winged Scoter 25	Nahant	450	R. Stymeist#	
Common Goldeneye thr 4, 13 11-31	Newburyport Sudbury, Wayland Wachusett Res.	550 max 3/4 50, 21 32 max 3/11	S. Perkins# + v. o. R. Forster, S. Perkins M. Lynch#	
Barrow's Goldeneye 4, 18 11	Newburyport Framingham	3 m, 2 1 f	S. Perkins#, BBC (I. Giriunas) E. Morrier#	
Bufflehead thr 8, 18 17	S. Dart. (Allens Pd) Lakeville, Newburyport N. Scituate, Falmouth	25-31 51, 117 192, 150	LCES (J. Hill) R. Forster, BBC (I. Giriunas) R. Titus#, BBC (J. Bryant)	
Hooded Merganser 2, 3 10, 11 16	Boston, Halifax Belmont, Bolton Holden	3, 5 6, 3 m + 2 f 19	J. Young, W. Petersen BBC (S. Sanders), M. Lynch# B. Blodgett	
Common Merganser thr 4, 10 18, 22-30	Framingham, Wachusett Res. Braintree, Belmont Norton, Marlboro	20-35, 127 max 3/18 42, 50 66, 38 max 3/27	E. Taylor, M. Lynch# R. Abrams, BBC (S. Sanders) B. Sorrie#, R. Graefe	
Red-breasted Merganser thr 10, 31	Ipswich Rockport, Falmouth	6-100 70, 54	D. Rimmer J. Berry, I. Giriunas	
Ruddy Duck 17, 18	W. Newbury, Arlington	1, 4	J. Brown, L. Taylor	

VULTURES THROUGH ALCIDS

Turkey Vultures appeared as migrants in many locations, as did Ospreys with at least 12 near nesting poles in Westport by March 24. Cooper's Hawks were noted in at least six locations, and nesting Red-shouldered Hawks were seen at two or three locations with many other individuals seen. An adult rufous-morph Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) was seen in Sudbury on March 15. The following is excerpted from the reporter's notes:

In checking the Sudbury River Valley on March 15, 1990, the highlight of the day occurred at about 11 A.M. in a brushy field along Old County Road near the Sudbury dump. One of the observers spotted a hawk perched about 15 feet up in a sapling about 100 feet away. The hawk was viewed head on with binoculars.

It appeared as a large *buteo* with dark breast and belly and rusty chest. A telescope was set up and through it the breast and belly appeared black or dark brown extending to the undertail coverts. The upper breast was very rusty, perhaps getting paler near the head. There was a faint but noticeable superciliary beginning behind the eye. The legs were bright yellow.

We began approaching the bird across the field, stopping several times to wave and clap, but the bird remained. When we got to within about 75 feet of the bird, it dropped off the perch and flew perpendicular to our line of sight for about 100 feet before it disappeared behind some trees. The most obvious field mark in flight was the bright red tail indicative of an adult Red-tailed Hawk. The white scapulars typical of Red-tailed Hawk were not obvious nor noted.

Later the Clark and Wheeler *Field Guide to Hawks* was consulted. The bird matched the rufous-morph Red-tailed Hawk. Further inspection of *American Birds* (Lisk and Voelker, Summer 1986; Kaufman, Winter 1989) and studying skins at the MCZ courtesy of Dr. Raymond Paynter confirmed the supposition. Based on skins examined and the degree of variation described in the literature, it was decided that the bird was a slightly darker than normal rufous-morph Red-tailed Hawk.

The Golden Eagle at Quabbin continued into March, and several Peregrine Falcons were noted in addition to the birds in Boston. Piping Plovers and oystercatchers appeared by mid to late March, and two early Lesser Yellowlegs were noted in the Newburyport-Plum Island area. An early Laughing Gull was seen in Falmouth, and a Little Gull was noted in Newburyport. The Mew Gull continued at Raccoon Island in Quincy. Three Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported from as many locations, and a Glaucous x Herring cross was noted in Gloucester.

G.W.G.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MARCH 1990
Turkey Vulture				
3, 4	Framingham, Westport	1, 1	L. Tarlow, J. Gordon#	
10, 17	Franklin, Hardwick	4, 5	W. Riley#, M. Lynch#	
16, 19	Canton, Barre	6, 8	R. Titus#, B. Blodget	
22, 24	Bolton, Melrose	5, 4	R. Forster, C. Jackson	
4-31	Reports of 1 or 2 from 18 locations.			
Osprey				
2; 19, 24	W. Harwich; Westport	2; 3, 12	F. Dunford; G. Fernandez, G. Gove#	
17, 24	Falmouth, Lakeville	1, pair	BBC (J. Bryant), W. Petersen#	
23, 28	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1, 2	LCES (J. Hill)	
Bald Eagle				
3-8	Newburyport vicinity	6 max 3/3	v. o.	
4, 19	Quabbin (G43), Canton	9 imm + 3 ad, 1 ad	M. Lynch#, L. Landers	
24	Westport	1 ad	G. Gove#	
Northern Harrier				
8-28	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1 or 2	LCES (J. Hill)	
7, 22; 10, 24	P.I.; Provincetown, Middleboro	3, 2; 3, 4 or 5	W. Drew#; R. Abrams, W. Petersen	
Sharp-shinned Hawk				
3, 4	S. Hanson, Sudbury	1, 1	W. Petersen, R. Forster	
10, 11	Belmont, Newburyport	2, 2	BBC (S. Sanders), (I. Giriunas)	
8, 23	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1, 1	LCES (J. Hill)	
Cooper's Hawk				
4, 10	N. Dartmouth, Worcester	1, 1	M. Boucher, M. Lynch#	
11, 17	Wayland, Halifax	1, 1	S. Perkins#, G. Gove#	
20, 31	Sharon, Fairhaven	1, 1	B. Sorrie#, K. Machado	
Northern Goshawk				
16, 17	E. Middleboro, Concord	1, 1 ad	K. Anderson, R. Forster#	
24	S. Hanson, Middleboro vicinity	pair, 1	W. Petersen, BBC (D. Davis)	
Red-shouldered Hawk				
thr	E. Middleboro	pair	K. Anderson	
11-18, 25	Boxford	3 or 4, 1	J. Berry# + v. o., BBC (W. Drummond)	
15, 17	Middleboro, Holliston	2, 2 ad	B. Sorrie, S. Perkins#	
17, 24	Quabbin (G40), Groveland	2, 1 ad	M. Lynch#, H. Wiggin	
Reports of individuals from 6 locations.				
Red-tailed Hawk				
4, 24	SRV, Middleboro vicinity	21, 8	R. Walton#, BBC (D. Davis)	
15	Sudbury	1 ad rufous morph	R. Forster#	
Rough-legged Hawk				
3-24	Middleboro	5 max 3/18	v. o.	
7, 10, 16	P.I., Ipswich, Sudbury	2, 1 dk, 1 lt	W. Drew#, J. Berry, R. Walton#	
Golden Eagle				
4	Quabbin (G43)	1 ad	M. Lynch#	
American Kestrel				
9, 25, 31	Somerset, Middleboro, Fall River		1, 2, 1 K. Machado	
24	Middleboro vicinity	8	BBC (D. Davis)	
Peregrine Falcon				
7, 10	Fairhaven, Eastham	1, 1 ad	M. Boucher, R. Abrams	
22, 24; 25	S. Monomoy; P.I.	1; 1	D. Houghton#; BBC (W. Drummond)	
Ruffed Grouse				
2-31	E. Middleboro	3 max 3/10	K. Anderson	
11	Ipswich, Canton (F.M.)	2, 3	J. Berry, R. Abrams	
Wild Turkey				
17, 18	Quabbin (G40), New Braintree	7, 7	M. Lynch#, B. Blodget	
Virginia Rail				
31	GMNWR	1	BBC (B. Wicks)	
American Coot				
4	Natick	4	E. Taylor	
Piping Plover				
21-31, 19-31	Ipswich, P.I.	3-10, 3-7	D. Rimmer, v. o.	
27	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	5	T. Aversa	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MARCH 1990
Killdeer				
9, 11	Somerset, Wayland	3, 2	K. Machado, S. Perkins	
18-31	Wachusett Res.	5 max 3/25	M. Lynch#	
18, 22	Newbypt area, P.I.	18, 14	BBC (I. Giriunas), W. Drew#	
American Oystercatcher				
19, 24	Nantucket	8, 2	K. Hamilton, F. Bouchard	
25	Monomoy	2	B. Nikula	
Greater Yellowlegs				
11, 18	Squantum, Newburyport	1, 2	R. Abrams#, BBC (I. Giriunas)	
24, 27	P. I., Halifax	2, 1	W. Wiggin, T. Aversa	
Lesser Yellowlegs				
22, 31	Newburyport, P.I.	1, 1	P. + F. Vale, W.Drew#	
Ruddy Turnstone				
19	Nantucket	300	K. Hamilton	
Sanderling				
4, 11	Lynn, Newburyport	250, 30	J. Brown, BBC (I. Giriunas)	
12-31	Ipswich	3-7	D. Rimmer	
Pectoral Sandpiper				
21, 31	Halifax, Topsfield	1, 1	T. Aversa, P. + F. Vale	
Purple Sandpiper				
8, 28	Acoaxet, Winthrop	125, 75	R. Forster, T. Aversa	
Dunlin				
3	Westport	520	R. Abrams#	
8, 28	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	45, 35	LCES (J. Hill)	
Common Snipe				
18, 20	Middleboro, Ipswich	4, 61	T. + J. Cameron, J. Brown	
24, 31	Middleboro vicinity, Newbury	11, 8	BBC (D. Davis), P. + F. Vale	
American Woodcock				
10; 12, 15	S. Dartmouth; N. Dartmouth	2; 3, 3	M. Boucher	
10, 16	Middleboro, Lexington	2, 8	W. Petersen, T. Aversa	
16, 18	Ipswich, Millbury	3, 4	M. Lynch#, J. Berry	
24	Middleboro vicinity	4	BBC (D. Davis)	
Laughing Gull				
17	Falmouth	1 ad	BBC (J. Bryant)	
Little Gull				
20-22	Newburyport	1	fide W. Drew	
Common Black-headed Gull				
3, 28	Lynn, Winthrop	3, 8 ad	J. Quigley, T. Aversa	
31	Danvers	1	I. Lynch#	
Bonaparte's Gull				
3, 18	Newburyport	40, 40	S. Perkins#, BBC (I. Giriunas)	
Mew Gull				
11	Quincy	1	fide D. Ludlow	
Ring-billed Gull				
17, 23	Bridgewater, E. Middleboro	1000, 500	E. Taylor, K. Anderson	
24	Lynn	197	J. Quigley	
Iceland Gull				
4-11	Newburyport	8 ad max 3/10	M. Lynch# + v. o.	
10-31	Cape Ann	18 max 3/31	R. Stymeist# + v. o.	
10	Provincetown	4	R. Abrams	
Lesser Black-backed Gull				
3, 10	Rockport, Lynn	1, 1 ad	M. Lynch#, J. Quigley	
18	Wellesley	1 ad	C. Quinlan	
Glaucous Gull				
11, 31	Gloucester	6 imm, 1	S. Perkins#, R. Stymeist#	
10, 17	Provincetown, Barre	1 ad, 2	R. Abrams#, B. Blodgett	
18	Fitchburg, Norton	1, 1 (1W)	R. Forster#, B. Sorrie#	
Glaucous x Herring Gull				
11	Gloucester	1 imm	S. Perkins	
Black Guillemot				
3, 4	Cape Ann, Marblehead	9, 2	BBC (R. Vernon), J. Brown	
10	Rockport, E. Gloucester	4, 1	J. Berry	

OWLS THROUGH KINGLETS

Resident owls were vocal for those who pursued them. Only a few Snowy Owls lingered after a poor winter showing, but Short-eared Owls were just the opposite with a better than average March showing after a strong winter presence. A movement of Northern Saw-whet Owls occurred at midmonth based on reports from atypical locations. The several Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were unusually early arrivals, and Northern

Flickers arrived in midmonth coincident with warm weather as did Eastern Phoebes. The first Tree Swallows were early in the month and were not numerous until the end of March. The Boreal Chickadee in West Boylston persisted throughout the month. The only Golden-crowned Kinglets were reported from central Massachusetts. R.A.F.

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MARCH 1990
Eastern Screech-Owl				
10	Middleboro	8	W. Petersen	
Great Horned Owl				
thr	P.I.	1 or 2	v. o.	
10	Middleboro	4	W. Petersen	
Reports of 1 or 2 (total 8) from 7 locations.				
Snowy Owl				
7, 11	P.I.	2, 1	W. Drew#, BBC (I. Giriunas)	
11	Boston (Logan Airport)	1	R. Titus	
Barred Owl				
4, 10	Newburyport, Middleboro	1, 1	BBC (R. McHale), W. Petersen	
16, 24	Rochester, Bridgewater	1, 1	B. Sorrie, W. Petersen	
Short-eared Owl				
1, 3-4	Eastham (F.H.), P.I.	1, 1	K. Hamilton, M. Lynch#	
3, 18, 24	Middleboro	3, 3, 1	W. Petersen, T. + J. Cameron, W. Petersen	
23 & 28, 24	S. Dart. (Allens Pd), N. Scituate	1, 1	LCES (J. Hill), T. + J. Cameron	
Northern Saw-whet Owl				
4, 17	Hamilton (2 locations)	1, 1	J. Berry	
9, 10, 11	Eastham, Middleboro, Beverly	1, 2, 1 dead	P. Trull, W. Petersen, S. Perkins	
14, 15	Brookline, Boston (Back Bay)	1, 1	H. Wiggin, L. Morgenworth	
19, 24	Concord, Middleboro	1, 1	J. Kenneally, W. Petersen	
Belted Kingfisher				
5, 10	S. Dartmouth, Wellfleet	1, 1	M. Boucher, R. Abrams	
11	Braintree, Wayland	1, 2	R. Abrams, S. Perkins	
17, 24	Quabbin (G40), (G37)	1, 3	M. Lynch#	
Red-headed Woodpecker				
25	Worcester	1 ad	M. Lynch#	
Red-bellied Woodpecker				
3, 24	Lakeville	1 m	R. Titus#, BBC (D. Davis)	
10	Gloucester	1 m (from Dec.)	J. Berry	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				
10, 17, 31	Cambridge, Brookline, Westport	1, 1, 1	A. Bennett, S. Sesling, H. Wiggin#	
Hairy Woodpecker				
3	Westport	3	R. Abrams#	
Northern Flicker				
3, 16	Middleboro, SRV	3, 7	H. Wiggin, R. Forster	
Pileated Woodpecker				
4-24	Quabbin	1	M. Lynch#	
Eastern Phoebe				
8	Milton	1	R. Abrams	
15	SRV, Sharon	7, 1	R. Forster#, R. Titus	
16	SRV	13	R. Forster#	
17, 18	Quabbin (G40), Mt. A.	10, 4	M. Lynch#, R. Stymeist#	
24, 31	Middleboro vicinity, GMNWR	4, 14	BBC (D. Davis), BBC (B. Wicks)	
Horned Lark				
thr	Ipswich (Crane Beach)	2-10	D. Rimmer	
3, 14	Ipswich	15, 125	J. Berry, R. Forster	
11, 24	Newbury, Middleboro vicinity	50, 9	BBC (I. Giriunas), BBC (D. Davis)	
25	Quincy	5	R. Abrams	
Tree Swallow				
4, 7	Framingham, Westboro	3, 7	E. Taylor	
13, 17	Wayland, Quabbin (G40)	2, 6	S. Perkins, M. Lynch#	
23, 28, 31	Concord (GMNWR)	250, 750+, 185	T. Aversa, R. Forster, R. Titus#	
24	Middleboro	15	W. Petersen	
American Crow				
1-7, 10	Framingham, Haverhill	10,000, 400	E. Taylor, M. Lynch#	
Fish Crow				
4, 9	E. Middleboro, Sudbury	1, 50+	K. Anderson, R. Forster	
8, 9-31	Watertown, Mt. A.	2, 4-6	R. Stymeist#	
18, 19	Attleboro, Mansfield	10+, 1	B. Sorrie	
22, 27	Needham, E. Middleboro	3, 2	E. Taylor, K. Anderson	
Common Raven				
4	Quabbin (G40)	2	M. Lynch#	
24	Oakham, Barre	2, 1	F. McMenemy, M. Lynch#	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MARCH 1990
Boreal Chickadee thr	W. Boylston	1 (from Nov.)	v. o.	
Red-breasted Nuthatch 1-5, 6-31; 4, 17	Brookline; P.I., Hamilton	2, 1; 2, 2	B. Rielly#; J. Berry	
17, 18-31	Quabbin (G40), Wachusett Res.	9, 6	M. Lynch#	
22, 24	W. Boylston, Middleboro	7, 5	P. Iarobino, BBC (D. Davis)	
Brown Creeper 4, 17	Quabbin (G40)	7, 9	M. Lynch#	
Carolina Wren thr	Ipswich, Sherborn	1, 1	J. Berry, E. Taylor	
1-9, 1-15	Natick, Sharon	1, 1	E. Taylor, R. Titus	
11, 18	Gloucester, Georgetown	2, 1	S. Perkins, BBC (I. Giriunas)	
31	Acton	1	R. Forster	
Reports of a total of 18 from 7 southeastern Massachusetts locations.				
Winter Wren 15, 17	Middleboro, Stoneham	2, 1	B. Sorrie, T. Aversa	
25	IRWS	1	BBC (W. Drummond)	
Golden-crowned Kinglet 17, 24	Quabbin (G40), (G37)	13, 13	M. Lynch#	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 24	Middleboro	1	BBC (D. Davis)	

THRUSHES THROUGH FINCHES

Bluebirds and robins became prevalent in midmonth. A stunning male **Varied Thrush** on Martha's Vineyard was a first island record. Holdovers from winter included a Northern Shrike, an Orange-crowned Warbler, a Dickcissel, and a White-crowned Sparrow. A Vesper Sparrow singing in Sharon was an early arrival, but Fox Sparrows passed through in paltry numbers. A scattering of Snow Bunting sightings is typical for the month. As usual, blackbirds were well represented, especially Rusty Blackbird, and a Yellow-headed Blackbird made a surprise visit to Nantucket. Winter finches continued their poor showing, but a flurry of Red Crossbills and Pine Grosbeaks in mid-March was a surprise.

R.A.F.

Eastern Bluebird thr	E. Middleboro	3	K. Anderson	
3, 10	Lakeville, Bridgewater	2, 1	R. Titus, W. Petersen	
15, 16	Concord, Sudbury	4+, 4+	R. Walton#, S. Perkins#	
17, 24	Quabbin (G40), (G37)	5, 4	M. Lynch#	
Hermit Thrush 24	Middleboro	3	W. Petersen	
American Robin 3, 4	Halifax, Wayland	75, 50	W. Petersen, R. Forster	
8, 18	Acoaxet, Newbypt vicinity	50, 163	R. Forster, BBC (I. Giriunas)	
18	Petersham (one field)	300+	R. Forster	
18-31	Wachusett Res.	66 max 3/18	M. Lynch#	
24	Middleboro vicinity	116	BBC (D. Davis)	
31	Hamilton (one pasture)	150+	J. Berry	
Varied Thrush 8	M. V. (Chilmark)	1 m	W. Manter	
Gray Catbird 3, 24	S. Dartmouth, Bridgewater	1, 1	J. Cameron#, BBC (D. Davis)	
Cedar Waxwing 3, 4	Wellesley, Wayland	55, 35	R. Forster	
11, 25, 31	Ipswich	50+, 45+, 50+	J. Berry	
15, 18	E. Middleboro, Wachusett Res.	20, 55	K. Anderson, M. Lynch#	
24	IRWS, E. Middleboro	40-50, 42	J. Berry, K. Anderson	
Northern Shrike 18	P.I.	1	BBC (I. Giriunas)	
Orange-crowned Warbler 1	Harwich (at feeder)	1	K. Hamilton	
Yellow-rumped Warbler 3, 11, 24	Lakeville, Squantum, S. Hanson	3, 12, 1	W. Petersen, R. Abrams, W. Petersen	
Pine Warbler thr, 1	E. Middleboro, Harwich	5, 1	K. Anderson, K. Hamilton	
Northern Cardinal thr	Ipswich	8 max	J. Berry	
Dickcissel 3/11-12	Weymouth	1	R. Campbell	
Rufous-sided Towhee 3, 17; 17	S. Dartmouth, Milton; P'town	4, 1; 2+	R. Abrams#; B. Nikula	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MARCH 1990
American Tree Sparrow				
18, 25	P.I.	5, 4	BBC (I. Giriunas), BBC (W. Drummond)	
24, 31	Middleboro, GMNWR	7, 6	BBC (D. Davis), BBC (B. Wicks)	
Clay-colored Sparrow				
3	S. Dartmouth	1	R. Abrams#	
Field Sparrow				
3, 24, 28	Dighton, Boxford, Sharon	9, 1, 1	R. Titus, H. Wiggin#, R. Titus	
Vesper Sparrow				
15-16	Sharon	1	R. Titus	
Savannah Sparrow				
8, 28	P.I., S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1, 4	BBC (I. Giriunas), LCES (J. Hill)	
"Ipswich" Savannah Sparrow				
8	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	1	LCES (J. Hill)	
Fox Sparrow				
15, 17	Sudbury, P'town	1, 1	R. Walton#, B. Nikula#	
18	Millbury, Wachusett Res.	4, 1	M. Lynch#	
22, 24	Ipswich	2, 1	J. Berry	
24, 25	Boxford, Jamaica Plain	1, 1	H. Wiggin#, J. Young	
Song Sparrow				
14	P.I.	33	R. Forster	
17	Ipswich, Quabbin (G40)	10, 15	J. Berry, M. Lynch#	
18	Newbypt, Wachusett Res.	23, 19	BBC (I. Giriunas), M. Lynch#	
24, 31	Middleboro vicinity, GMNWR	27, 20	BBC (D. Davis), BBC (B. Wicks)	
Swamp Sparrow				
24	Middleboro vicinity	3	BBC (D. Davis)	
White-throated Sparrow				
thr, 12, 17	Ipswich, Sherborn, P'town	7 or 8, 14, 20+	J. Berry, R. Forster, B. Nikula	
White-crowned Sparrow				
thr	N. Dartmouth	1 imm	M. Boucher	
Dark-eyed Junco				
thr, 11-31	Ipswich, Wachusett Res.	3 or 4, 18 max	J. Berry, M. Lynch#	
Lapland Longspur				
24	Middleboro	2+	W. Petersen	
Snow Bunting				
2, 14; 18	Barre, P.I.; Ipswich (Crane Beach)	30, 1; 6	R. Forster; J. Berry	
Red-winged Blackbird				
2, 3	Needham, Halifax	75, 1800	P. Iarrobino, W. Petersen	
11, 17	Bolton Flats, Hardwick	91, 63	M. Lynch#	
24	Middleboro	410	BBC (D. Davis)	
Eastern Meadowlark				
8, 23	S. Dart. (Allens Pd)	6, 1	LCES (J. Hill)	
14, 17	Newbury, Halifax	1, 8	R. Forster, G. Gove	
18, 30	Ipswich, Ipswich (Crane B)	1, 4	J. Berry, D. Rimmer	
Yellow-headed Blackbird				
24	Nantucket	1	F. Bouchard	
Rusty Blackbird				
3	DWWS	1	H. Wiggin#	
11	Wayland, Boxford	8, 2	S. Perkins#, J. Berry	
15, 16	SRV, Sharon	130, 1	R. Forster#, R. Titus	
17, 25	Hardwick, Sudbury	3, 30	M. Lynch#, R. Forster	
31	Lynnfield, GMNWR	3, 20	P. + F. Vale, R. Titus	
Common Grackle				
2, 5-24	Needham, Natick	90, 980 max 3/6	P. Iarrobino, E. Taylor	
11, 13	Wayland, Acton	400, 2500 mig	S. Perkins, R. Forster	
17, 24	Hardwick, Middleboro	50, 135	M. Lynch#, BBC (D. Davis)	
Brown-headed Cowbird				
2, 13	Needham, Concord (Nine Acre Corner)	20, 40	P. Iarrobino, S. Perkins	
17, 18	Hardwick, Sharon	56, 200+	M. Lynch#, B. Sorrie	
24, 28	Middleboro, Sharon	56, 45	BBC (D. Davis), R. Titus	
Pine Grosbeak				
11, 17; 18	Worcester, Quabbin (G40); Petersham	7, 1; 2	M. Lynch#; R. Forster	
Purple Finch				
3, 16, 18	Sudbury, E. Middleboro, Ipswich (Crane B)	3, 3, 15	R. Forster, K. Anderson, J. Berry	
	Reports of 1 or 2 (total 9) from 5 locations.			
House Finch				
14	P.I.	27	R. Forster	
Red Crossbill				
4, 11	Quabbin (G43), Ipswich	4, 1 f	M. Lynch#, J. Berry	
11-20	P.I.	26 max 3/18	I. Giriunas + v. o.	
18, 30; 29	Oakham, Holden; Wakefield	4, 1; 6-9	B. Blodget; J. Young	

DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MARCH 1990
White-winged Crossbill				
8, 11-22	Sharon, W. Boylston	1, 4 or 5	R. Titus, v. o.	
18, 18-31	P.I., Wachusett Res.	1, 11 max 3/18	BBC (I. Giriunas), M. Lynch#	
Pine Siskin				
1-13, 8	Millis, Milton	6 max 3/7, 12	P. Iarrobino, R. Abrams	
18-31, 22	Wachusett Res., W. Boylston	5-9, 15+	M. Lynch#, R. Forster	
Reports of 1-4 (total 21) from 9 locations.				
American Goldfinch				
4	Newburyport	42	BBC (R. McHale)	
Evening Grosbeak				
3, 7, 24	Sudbury, Holliston, Petersham	5, 2, 29	R. Forster, S. Perkins, M. Lynch#	

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ad	adult	F.P.	Fresh Pond, Cambridge
b	banded	F.S.F.	Federation State Forest
br	breeding	G37 or 40	Gate 37 or 40, Quabbin
dk	dark (phase)	H.	Harbor
f	female	I.	Island
imm	immature	M.V.	Martha's Vineyard
ind	individuals	Mt.A.	Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge
juv	juvenile	Nant.	Nantucket
loc	location	Newbypt	Newburyport
lt	light (phase)	P.I.	Plum Island
m	male	Pd	Pond
max	maximum	P'town	Provincetown
mi	mile	Quab.	Quabbin
migr	migrating	Res.	Reservoir
n	nesting	R.P.	Race Point, Provincetown
ph	photographed	S. Dart.	South Dartmouth
pl	plumage	S.N.	Sandy Neck, Barnstable
pr	pair	Stellw.	Stellwagen (Bank)
S	summer (1S = first summer)	BBC	Brookline Bird Club
thr	throughout	BOEM	Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts
v.o.	various observers	CBC	Christmas Bird Count
W	winter (2W = second winter)	CCBC	Cape Cod Bird Club
w/	with	DFWS	Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary
yg	young	DWWS	Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary
#	additional observers	EMHW	Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch
A.A.	Arnold Arboretum	FCBC	Felix Cutler Bird Club
A.P.	Andrews Point, Rockport	GMNWR	Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge
B.	Beach	IRWS	Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary
B.I.	Belle Isle, E. Boston	LCES	Lloyd Center for Environmental Studies
B.R.	Bass Rocks, Gloucester	MAS	Massachusetts Audubon Society
Buzz.	Buzzards Bay	MBO	Manomet Bird Observatory
C.	cape as in Cape Cod	MNWS	Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary
Cambr.	Cambridge	NEHW	New England Hawk Watch
Corp. B.	Corporation Beach, Dennis	ONWR	Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge
C.P.	Crooked Pond, Boxford	PRNWR	Parker River National Wildlife Refuge
E.P.	Eastern Point, Gloucester	SRV	Sudbury River Valley
F.E.	First Encounter Beach, Eastham	SSBC	South Shore Bird Club
F.H.	Fort Hill, Eastham	WBWS	Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary
F.M.	Fowl Meadow	WMWS	Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary

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BIRD OBSERVER FIELD RECORDS

Bird Observer monthly field records represent observations from the ten counties of eastern Massachusetts (Essex, Middlesex, Worcester, Suffolk, Norfolk, Plymouth, Bristol, Barnstable, Duke, and Nantucket). Although space does not permit the inclusion of all sightings submitted, the compilers attempt to present sufficient data to document early and late dates for migratory species, maximum counts for migrants, and high or low numbers for the more common species and to note species outside of their normal ranges.

Please send eastern Massachusetts field records of any given month, no later than the 8th of the subsequent month, to Robert H. Stymeist, 98 Boylston Street, Watertown, MA 02172. The basic information that should be submitted is species name, date and place of observation, an accurate count or careful estimate, sex (if determinable), immature or adult plumage, vocalizations (if any), and observers. Species should be arranged in the current A.O.U. (American Ornithologists' Union) checklist order. Reports of species that can be difficult to identify should include details of the diagnostic characteristics observed or heard that led to the identification.

All field records received by *Bird Observer* are archived at the Massachusetts Audubon Society.
