

THE BIRD OBSERVER SUMMARY FOR MARCH, 1974

The warmer than usual weather continued during the first week of March, with a south-westerly flow on the 1st and 2nd. Generally fair weather continued through March 13th. At midmonth, it became windy and cold with another winter storm which deposited from 1.00 to 3.00 inches of moisture. Below normal temperatures continued until the weekend of the 23rd, when seasonal temperatures returned. Precipitation averaged above normal, occurring mainly with a fast moving storm on the 21st which dumped 2.07 inches of snow in Boston. At months end, there was another warming trend with a southwesterly flow on the 30th & 31st.

For most birders, March signals the start of the migration period. Winter weather is nearly over and anticipation of new arrivals awaits the observer. An early southwesterly flow brought the first Woodcocks, while the blackbirds and Song Sparrows became much more numerous. However, the first real push came at the end of the month.

Snowy Egrets were reported from only two localities, but this is still slightly early, and the report of two dead Black-crowned Night Herons is especially discouraging since they were very scarce on Cape Cod this winter. The roost at Fort Hill, Eastham had only a few birds while the one at Muddy Creek, Chatham had just six. Waterfowl numbers were more promising with 1200 Brant, 3000 Black Duck, 60 Gadwall, 107 Green-winged Teal, 250 Pintail, 2500 Greater Scaup, 5000 Common Goldeneye, 1000 Bufflehead and 400 Oldsquaw.

The movement of early spring hawks was unremarkable, with the first Ospreys returning to Westport on the 24th of the month. Shorebirds were reported in fair numbers, with the first Woodcocks reported early in the month. Killdeer were seen in good numbers after the 20th, and Piping Plovers showed up in only two localities. A Ruff and a Reeve were found in the Rowley area, the only bonus shorebirds reported. The number of Sanderlings at Revere remained a constant 800 all winter.

No month, however unseasonal, is without its special birds. Two Whistling Swans, two European Wigeons, King Rail, two Common Gallinules, Mew Gull, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Boreal Chickadee, Black-headed Grosbeak and three Hoary Redpolls were reported.

R.H.S.

Common Loon:			
16	P.I.	11	BBC(H.Weissberg)
Red-throated Loon:			
2	Orleans-Chatham	6	W.Petersen
Red-necked Grebe:			
thr.	Dennis	22	B.Nikula#
Horned Grebe:			
31	Chatham	200	B.Nikula#
Pied-billed Grebe:			
2,9	So.Dartmouth,Westport	4,6	P.Regan,PBC(R.Howland)
Gannet:			
10	Eastham	100	B.Nikula
Great Cormorant:			
17	North Scituate	30+	C.Clark
Great Blue Heron:			
10	Chatham	55	B.Nikula#
Snowy Egret:			
28,31	Manchester,Marshfield	4,4	P.Parsons,R.Ames
Black-crowned Night Heron:			
22	Eastham	2 dead	E.Pearson
American Bittern:			
18,23	Lakeville,Marshfield	1,1	R.Turner, SSBC(W.Harrington)
23-30	P.I.	1	v.o.
Mute Swan:			
9	Acoaxet	47	PBC(R.Howland)
Whistling Swan:			
3-31,4	Acoaxet,Magnolia	1 imm.,1	v.o.,M.Listman
Canada Goose:			
23	P.I.	1000	BBC(I.Giriunas)
Brant:			
18	Squantum	1200	D.Brown
Snow Goose:			
13,27	Falmouth,P.I.	8,12	C&B Holdridge,D.Brown

Black Duck:				
9	P. I.	3000		BBC(L. Jodrey)
Gadwall:				
12,14	Concord(GMNWR), P. I.	20,40		L. Robinson, R. Arnold
Pintail:				
5	P. I.	250		N. Claflin
Green-winged Teal:				
5,12,16	P. I., Concord, Wayland	55,30,22		P. Butler#, L. Robinson, R. Forster
Blue-winged Teal:				
23,24	West Roxbury, Rowley	3 m., 7		F. Atwood, R. Forster#
European Wigeon:				
thr., 8	Orleans, Cohasset	2,1		v. o., M. Litchfield
American Wigeon:				
thr., 9	East Orleans, Concord	40,58		v. o., J. Pickup
Northern Shoveler:				
thr., 3-10	P. I., Ipswich	2,3		v. o., J. Berry
Wood Duck:				
8,16	Hingham, Wayland	6-8,10		N. Osborne, R. Forster
Redhead:				
16,30	Wellesley, So. Groveland	1 m., 1		R. Forster, J. O'Regan
Ring-necked Duck:				
16	Wayland	27		E. Taylor
Canvasback:				
10	Acoaxet, Falmouth	110,100		W. Petersen#, J. Robertson
Greater Scaup:				
2	Newburyport	2500+		BBC(G. Soucy)
Common Goldeneye:				
24	Newburyport	5000+		W. Petersen, R. Forster
Barrow's Goldeneye:				
thr., 2	Plymouth, Newburyport	7,3		B. Sorrie, BBC(G. Soucy)
Bufflehead:				
2	Newburyport	1000+		BBC(G. Soucy)
Oldsquaw:				
24	Newburyport	400		W. Petersen, R. Forster
Harlequin Duck:				
30	Magnolia	12		E. Morrier#
Common Eider:				
2,3	P. I., Wollaston	2000+, 2000		BBC(G. Soucy), BBC(H. Donovan)
10	Plymouth Harbor	1000		D&R Emerson
King Eider:				
thr.; 10	E. Orleans; Westport	3 f., 3 m., 1 f.		W. Petersen; R. Forster
Surf Scoter:				
17	Cohasset	6		E. Morrier
Black Scoter:				
23	P. I.	50		BBC(I. Giriunas)
Ruddy Duck:				
13	Falmouth	10		B. Holdridge
Hooded Merganser:				
28	Brewster	25		B. Nikula
Common Merganser:				
16	Lincoln	24		V. Albee
Goshawk:				
3,10,13	Harwich, Rehoboth, Eastham	1,1,1		B. Nikula, D&R Emerson, H. Rowell
17;28,31	Brookline; Plymouth, Manomet	1;1,1		A. Agush; M. B. C. Staff
Sharp-shinned Hawk:				
thr.	6 localities	singles		v. o.
Cooper's Hawk:				
15	Milton	1		D. Brown
Red-shouldered Hawk:				
thr.; 2	6 localities; Orleans	singles; 1		v. o.; W. Petersen, C. Goodrich
Rough-legged Hawk:				
thr., 30	East Orleans, West Newbury	1,1		v. o., N. Claflin
Marsh Hawk:				
thr.	7 localities	9 individuals		v. o.
Osprey:				
24,31	Westport	1,3		P. Regan, H. D'Entremont
American Kestrel:				
thr.	8 localities	31 individuals		v. o.

Ruffed Grouse:				
6	Canton	1		D. Brown
King Rail:				
9	Plymouth	1		C. Goodrich, B. Nikula
Virginia Rail:				
19, 23	Gloucester, Marshfield	1, 1		H. French, W. Harrington
Common Gallinule:				
19	West Harwich	2		B. Nikula
Piping Plover:				
24, 26	Acoaxet, Plymouth	3, 2		S&J Harrison, M. B. O. Staff
Killdeer:				
24	Rowley-Newburyport	40		W. Petersen & R. Forster
Woodcock:				
2	Cambridge (Mt. A.), Lincoln	2 (first), 1		R. Stymeist, I. Nisbet
3 on	19 localities	37 individuals		v.o.
Common Snipe:				
23, 24	W. Roxbury, Rowley	6, 9		F. Atwood, W. Petersen
Greater Yellowlegs:				
9	Orleans	3		C. Goodrich#
Purple Sandpiper:				
5	Manomet	1		M. B. O. Staff
Dunlin:				
9, 17	Revere, Cohasset	200, 1000+		R. Veit#, C. Clark
24	Dartmouth	200		S&J Harrison
Ruff:				
14-29	Rowley	1 m., 1 f.		D&R Alexander, J. Kieran, G. Soucy
Sanderling:				
9	Revere	800		R. Veit, S. Perkins
Glaucous Gull:				
thr.; 9	P. I., Gloucester; Lynn	1, 4 imm.; 1		v.o.; R. Veit
Iceland Gull:				
9, 17	Lynn, P. I.	2, 25		R. Veit, D. Brown
Great Black-backed Gull:				
30	West Roxbury Dump	500		F. Atwood
Herring Gull:				
9	Lynn Dump	<u>20,000+</u>		R. Veit#
Ring-billed Gull:				
14, 16	West Roxbury, Newburyport	51, 370		J. Pickup, BBC (H. Weissberg)
Black-headed Gull:				
2	Newburyport; Orleans	5 ad., 1 imm.; 1		R. Veit; W. Petersen
Bonaparte's Gull:				
9	Newburyport	100		BBC (L. Jodrey)
Mew Gull:				
2-24	Newburyport	1 ad.		v.o.
Laughing Gull:				
6	Brookline	2 imm.		H. Coolidge
Little Gull:				
3	Newburyport	2 imm.		J. Berry
Black-legged Kittiwake:				
2	Gloucester	1 ad.		R. Veit#
Dovekie:				
24	Rockport	1		D. Brown
Black Guillemot:				
2	Gloucester	3		R. Veit#
Canary-winged Parakeet: (Exotic)				
3	New Bedford	1		P. Regan
Monk Parakeet: (Exotic)				
2	Haverhill	1		BBC (G. Soucy)
Ring-necked Parakeet: (Exotic)				
24	Plymouth	1		G. Soucy#
Screech Owl:				
7, 17 on	Concord, Brookline	1, 1 (nesting)		D. Brown, H. Wiggin#
22 on	Foxboro	1 (nesting)		W. DeHaro
Great Horned Owl:				
22	Needham	1		J. Pickup

Snowy Owl:			
2-23,2,9	P.I.,Scituate,Salisbury	1,1,1	v.o.,S.Swaebe,v.o.
10,13-15	Milton,Boston(Logan Airport)	1,1	R.Veit,fide M.A.S.
20,23	Wellfleet,Duxbury	1,1	fide W.Bailey,W.Harrington
Barred Owl:			
3&5,7	Danvers,Concord	1,1	P.Butler#,D.Brown
23	No.Dartmouth	2	R.O'Hara,P.Regan
Short-eared Owl:			
1-15	Squantum	1-2	v.o.
Saw-whet Owl:			
thr.	P.I.	1	v.o.
Pileated Woodpecker:			
2,19	Natick,Weston	1,1	E.Taylor,A.Johnson,Jr.
22,24	Scituate,Topsfield	1,2	R.Small,fide G.Soucy
28,29	Weymouth,Dover	1,1	D.Brown,F.Hamlin
Red-bellied Woodpecker:			
13	S.Natick	1	W.Biggart
Red-headed Woodpecker:			
thr.	Littleton,Wayland,Woburn	singles	v.o.
Eastern Phoebe:			
4,6,9	Salem,Littleton,Salisbury	singles	W.Foley,R.Baird,S.Swaebe
16,20,28	Middleboro,Wayland,Tewksbury	singles	D.Briggs,R.Emery,M.Wilson
30,31	Needham,Cambridge(Mt.A.)	singles	R.Forster,R.Stymeist
Tree Swallow:			
7,18	Bolton,Lakeville	2,6	S.Higginbotham,R.Turner#
23,24	Plymouth,E.Harwich	1,1	B.Sorrie,B.Nikula
Blue Jay:			
16,17	Cambridge,Jamica Plain(A.A.)	40,20	L.Robinson#,BBC(P.Deveau)
Fish Crow:			
6,30	Roslindale,W.Roxbury	86,50	D.Brown,F.Atwood
Boreal Chickadee:			
1-9	P.I.	1	v.o.
Red-breasted Nuthatch:			
8-30,9	P.I.,Ipswich	1,3	v.o.,J.Berry
Brown Creeper:			
2,17	Tewksbury,Brookline	10+,3	M.Wilson,A.Agush
Winter Wren:			
9,22	Sandwich,Plymouth	1,1	C.Goodrich,M.B.O.Staff
Carolina Wren:			
1,4	Brewster,Carlisle	1,1	M.Eddy,K.Harte
10,24	Acoaxet,Westport	1,6	W.Petersen#,S&J Harrison
Long-billed Marsh Wren:			
14,19	W.Harwich	1,3	B.Nikula
Brown Thrasher:			
1,30	Concord,Dedham	1,1	S.Raabe#,F.Atwood
American Robin:			
17,23	Jamaica Plain(A.A.),Marshfield	50,60	BBC(P.Deveau),SSBC(W.Harrington)
Hermit Thrush:			
22	Eastham	1	E.Pearson
Eastern Bluebird:			
thr.	Dennis,Chatham	15,20	Greenlaw,Locatell
15	Lincoln	2(carrying nesting mat'l.)	P.Swift
24,28	Sherborn,W.Roxbury	2,1	J.Willison,J.Pickup
29,31	Plymouth,S.Yarmouth	12,2	L.Bonney,C&B Holdridge
Ruby-crowned Kinglet:			
2	East Orleans	1	W.Petersen#
Cedar Waxwing:			
13	Plymouth	8	M.B.O.Staff
Northern Shrike:			
thr.,2,18	E.Orleans,P.I.,Plymouth	1,1,1	v.o.,BBC(G.Soucy),M.B.O.Staff
23;24	Salisbury;West Newbury	1;1	R.Emery#;R.Forster,W.Petersen
Pine Warbler:			
1-20	Chatham	1	V.Saunders#
Common Yellowthroat:			
2	East Orleans	1	W.Petersen#
Eastern Meadowlark:			
3,29	Fairhaven,Bridgewater	20+,26	PBC(Welling),D.Brown

Redwinged Blackbird:			
2,3	Natick, Fairhaven	6,100+	E. Taylor, PBC (Welling)
3,9	P. I.	1,250	G. Soucy#, BBC (L. Jodrey)
9	Wayland, Westport	200,200+	H. Wiggin, PBC (Howland)
23	Marshfield	400	SSBC (W. Harrington)
Northern Oriole:			
thr., 1-13	Haverhill, Orleans	1,2	N. Goodrich#, E&C Lund
Rusty Blackbird:			
3,15	Wayland, Canton (F.M.)	1,1	R. Forster, D. Brown
19,23	Wilmington, Tewksbury	5+, 40+	M. Wilson
24,26	Newburyport, Concord	12,5	R. Forster, S. Raabe#
Common Grackle:			
2,5	Tewksbury, Jam. Plain (A.A.)	5+, 100	M. Wilson, J. Pickup
9,23	Wayland, Marshfield	40+, 100	H. Wiggin, W. Harrington
Brown-headed Cowbird:			
16,22,23	P. I., Braintree, Marshfield	20,15,30	H. Weissberg, D. Brown, W. Harrington
<u>Black-headed Grosbeak:</u>			
1-26	N. Scituate	1 (from Feb.)	B. Litchfield & v.o.
Dickcissel:			
1-11,4,21	Harwich, Newburyport, Tewksbury	1,1,1	B. Nikula, C. Simmons, M. Wilson
Evening Grosbeak:			
3,9	Fairhaven, S. Dartmouth	21,8	PBC (Welling), PBC (Howland)
23	Marshfield	9	SSBC (W. Harrington)
Purple Finch:			
30	Dedham	55	F. Atwood
House Finch:			
23	Marshfield	20	SSBC (W. Harrington)
Pine Grosbeak:			
10	Weston	2	D. Dumaine
<u>Hoary Redpoll:</u>			
1-6;11	Lincoln; Sherborn, Rockport	1;1,1	W. Harrington; E. Taylor, L. Jodrey
Common Redpoll:			
thr.	Beverly, Rockport, Lincoln	100+, 100+, 200	G. Soucy, L. Jodrey, W. Harrington
Pine Siskin:			
thr., 3	Wellesley, Fairhaven	9,10-20	L. Robinson, PBC (Welling)
Red Crossbill:			
3,9	Cambridge (Mt. A.), P. I.	32,20	R. Stymeist#, BBC (L. Jodrey)
10,15	Tewksbury, Brookline	10,3	M. Wilson, H. Wiggin
White-winged Crossbill:			
thr.	Sherborn, P. I.	7, max. 16	E. Taylor#, v.o.
2,22	Middleboro, Annisquam	5(b.), 6	D. Briggs, H. Wiggin
Rufous-sided Towhee:			
17,24	No. Scituate, Wellesley	1,1	C. Clark, R. Forster
Savannah Sparrow: (Ipswich)			
9,23	P. I., Duxbury	1,1	BEC (L. Jodrey), R. O'Hara
Dark-eyed Junco:			
thr.	Cambridge (Mt. A.)	45+ (1 Oregonus)	R. Stymeist#
Tree Sparrow:			
5	P. I.	600	N. Claflin, P. Butler#
Field Sparrow:			
9,25	Wayland, Concord	1,2	H. Wiggin, S. Raabe#
Fox Sparrow:			
thr.	Cambridge (Mt. A.)	max. 3	R. Stymeist
thr.	W. Roxbury, P. I.	6,3	F. Atwood, v.o.
21,25	Sherborn, Littleton	3,2	C. W. Taylor, V. Sprong
Song Sparrow:			
31	Cambridge (Mt. A.)	74	R. Stymeist
Lapland Longspur:			
11	Scusset Beach	50	M. B. O. Staff
Snow Bunting:			
9,24	Scusset Beach, P. I.	20,1	M. B. O. Staff, W. Petersen#