

THE BIRD OBSERVER SUMMARY FOR JANUARY, 1976

The weather during January was a continuation of the very cold and wet weather that began in the third week of December. The average temperature was 26.1°, 3.1° below normal. 5.29 inches of rain and 15.0 inches of snow fell during the course of the month; most of the snow (twelve inches) fell during a storm on the 12th-13th. The lowest temperatures were recorded during a period of Northwesterly winds on the 22nd-23rd, when the thermometer read -1° and -4° respectively. Thaws did not occur until the end of the month, when, from the 20th-29th, the temperatures averaged 12° above normal. Due to these low temperatures and heavy snow cover for the greater part of the month, very few lingering passerines remained beyond the end of December.

An Eared Grebe was present at Sandy Neck, Barnstable, on the 16th. Although three reports of Arctic Loon were received, the writers feel that this species, extremely rare within our area, is not distinguishable from small Common Loons in winter plumage. Contrary to a now popular belief, Common Loons can also be devoid of any white markings around the eye, in addition to being virtually identical in size and coloration to the Arctic on occasion.

Due to the freezing of most inland ponds during the month, most of the waterfowl moved out. However, 2 Snow Geese remained on the Cape and 5 separate Blue-winged Teal were reported. Single Tufted Ducks were seen at Salisbury and at Falmouth; it is up to the reader to speculate as to their origin.

Red-shouldered Hawks seem to be making a comeback after their drastic decline during the early 70's. Six individuals were reported this January as opposed to 2 and 5 reported during the same month of 1974 and 1975, respectively. Two immature Bald Eagles were found, and the Gyrfalcon was seen on the 10th at Orleans.

Lingering shorebirds included two American Woodcocks, a Spotted Sandpiper and a Red Phalarope off Cohasset. An adult Lesser Black-backed Gull was seen in Newburyport Harbor on the 6th, this being the first record for this species for the harbor, despite its increased occurrence at numerous other localities along the east coast. The Ivory Gull reduced itself to the role of a beggar by the end of the winter, accepting virtually any handout from numerous birders and passers-by.

Considering the severe weather which dominated the month, the following passerine records are of particular interest: Eastern Phoebe at Sandwich on the 6th, 7 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Loggerhead Shrike at Salisbury remaining until the 25th, an Ovenbird in Framingham on the 3rd, and a Chipping Sparrow which spent the month at E. Wareham.

RRV

Common Loon:			
4	Cape Ann, P.I.	65, 22	CBC,CBC
Red-throated Loon:			
2	Orleans (North Beach)	20	W. Petersen
4	Cape Ann, P.I.	5, 4	CBC
25	Hull-Cohasset	3	B. Sorrie
Red-necked Grebe:			
3-11, 4	Orleans, Magnolia	7, 10-12	C. Goodrich, G. Gove
11,21	Rockport, N. Scituate	11, 8	D. Brown#, W. Cornwell#
31	Marshfield	6	W. Petersen
<u>Eared Grebe:</u>			
16	Barnstable (S.N.)	1	V. Laux
Horned Grebe:			
4,21	Cape Ann, Hull	71, 56+	CBC, B. Sorrie
Pied-billed Grebe:			
4,17	Bourne, Cape Ann	6, 18	SSBC(Anderson), BBC(D'Entremont)
Gannet:			
10	Cohasset	3	R. Emery & G. Wilson
Great Cormorant:			
4,24	Cape Ann, off Long I.	122, 150	CBC, D. Brown#
21,25	Weymouth, Hull	175+, 25+	B. Sorrie, W. Petersen
23	Nahant	30	V. & S. Zende
Great Blue Heron:			
20	Hingham	8	B. Sorrie
Snowy Egret:			
1-8	Eastham	1	v.o.

Black-crowned Night Heron:			
5,10	Wollaston, Eastham	3, 4	D. Brown, J. Bryant
11,12	N. Scituate, Dorchester	9, 2	S. Higginbotham, J. Murphy
American Bittern:			
2,4	S. Peabody, Newburyport	1, 1	R. Heil, CBC (P. Miliotis)
7-25,10	Falmouth, Eastham	1, 1	A. Clarke#, J. Bryant
Mute Swan:			
25	E. Falmouth	56	BBC (A. Clarke)
Canada Goose:			
1-31,4	Framingham, Newburyport	380+, 855	K. Hamilton, CBC
Brant:			
10,11	Orleans, Boston (L.I.)	400+, 101	A. Clarke, R. Stymeist
16	Duxbury	50	B. Sorrie
Snow Goose:			
thr.,11	Chatham, Falmouth	1, 1	v.o., R. Forster
Black Duck:			
4,12	Cape Ann, Dorchester	865, 375	CBC, J. Murphy
Gadwall:			
1,2	Cohasset, E. Orleans	2, 1	Litchfields, W. Petersen
13,17	Marion, Cohasset	1f., 2m.	G. Gove, W. Petersen
Pintail:			
3-20	9 localities	12 individuals	v.o.
Green-winged Teal:			
thr.,10	Woburn, Framingham	1m., 2	G. Gove, K. Hamilton
Blue-winged Teal:			
1,6	Marshfield, Sandwich	1, 3	B. Cassie, R. Pease
10	Hingham	1	R. Emery, G. Wilson
European Wigeon:			
thr.	Cohasset, Nantucket	1m., 4m.	v.o., E. Andrews#
American Wigeon:			
3	Wareham	42	SSBC (Anderson)
Northern Shoveler:			
1-11, 2-31	Yarmouth, Barnstable	4, 2prs.	V. Laux, R. Pease
Wood Duck:			
thr.	8 localities	13 individuals	v.o.
Redhead:			
4	Falmouth (Sider's Pond)	40	R. O'Hara
Ring-necked Duck:			
4,10	Eastham	25, 30+	CBC, A. Clarke
13	Sandwich	85	R. Pease
Canvasback:			
11	Falmouth	250	R. Forster
Greater Scaup:			
24,25	Boston, W. Harwich	800, 800+	W. Cornwell, A. Clarke
Lesser Scaup:			
6	Mattapoisett	220(details rec'd)	D. Brown#
31	Lakeville	1	W. Petersen
Tufted Duck:			
3,1-17	Falmouth, Salisbury	1, 1	T. Lawrence & T. Leverich, v.o.
Common Goldeneye:			
13,25	Marion, Newburyport	1000, 5000+	G. Gove, R. Veit
Barrow's Goldeneye:			
thr.	5 localities	singles	v.o.
thr.,6	Newburyport, Plymouth	2, 3	v.o., D. Brown#
25	Nahant/Lynn	2	S. Zende
Oldsquaw:			
4	Newburyport	162	CBC
Harlequin Duck:			
9on,2-11	Magnolia, E. Orleans	11, 2-3	K. Hamilton#, v.o.
Common Eider:			
10,11	Dennis, Scituate	2500+, 650	J. Bryant, R. Stymeist#
21,24	Weymouth, Boston	1000+, 2300	B. Sorrie, D. Brown & W. Cornwell
King Eider:			
2,3-10	E. Orleans, Rockport	1m., 1m.	W. Petersen, v.o.
11-20,14on	Magnolia, Cohasset	2, 1m.	M. Gardier#, D. Brown#
21	Weymouth	1m.	B. Sorrie
White-winged Scoter:			
4	Cape Ann	118	CBC
Surf Scoter:			
13	Marion	200	G. Gove

Black Scoter:				
27	Dennis	46		A. Clarke
Ruddy Duck:				
7,31	Falmouth, Orleans	40, 40		P. Garrey, T. Lloyd-Evans
Hooded Merganser:				
4,25	Bourne, E. Falmouth	16, 15		SSEC (Anderson), BBC (A. Clarke)
Common Merganser:				
4	W. Newbury	161		CBC
Red-breasted Merganser:				
4	Cape Ann	406		CBC
Goshawk:				
thr.	7 localities	singles		v.o.
Sharp-shinned Hawk:				
1	Lancaster	2-3		H. Merriman
Cooper's Hawk:				
2,15	Barnstable, Eastham	1, 1		R. Pease, B. Nikula
20	P.I.	1		fide M. Kasprzyk
Red-tailed Hawk:				
4	Newburyport	15		CBC
Red-shouldered Hawk:				
thr.	6 localities	singles		v.o.
7-31	Bridgewater	singles, 2 on 10 dates		L. Resmini
Rough-legged Hawk:				
17 31	Marshfield	7		W. Petersen
Bald Eagle:				
1-15,6	Orleans, Assawompset	limm., limm.		D. Brown, C. Goodrich
Marsh Hawk:				
4	Newburyport	7		CBC
<u>Gyr Falcon:</u>				
10	Orleans (North Beach)	1		C. Goodrich
Merlin:				
1	Sandwich	1		R. Pease
American Kestrel:				
4	Newburyport	15		CBC
Ruffed Grouse:				
4,19	Beverly, Lynn	2, 5		CBC, R. Heil
Ring-necked Pheasant:				
24	Squantum	20		W. Cornwell
Clapper Rail:				
1	Salisbury	1		D. Brown, W. Cornwell
Virginia Rail:				
7-16	Concord (GMNWR)	3-6		H. Payson
15,20	Ipswich	3, 2		G. Soucy, J. Berry
Sora:				
16+21	Concord	2		H. Payson
Common Gallinule:				
1	W. Harwich	1		B. Nikula, C. Goodrich
American Coot:				
4	Wareham	76		SSBC
Killdeer:				
4	Cape Ann, Bourne	6, 4		CBC, SSEC (Anderson)
Black-bellied Plover:				
11	Boston	9		R. Stymeist & T. Leverich
Ruddy Turnstone:				
3,11	Squantum, Cohasset	6, 7		E. Morrier, R. Stymeist#
17,25;21	N. Scituate; Hull	2, 20; 3		W. Petersen; B. Sorrie
American Woodcock:				
5,24	Plymouth, Brewster	1, 1		S. Parsons, J. Byrant
Common Snipe:				
4,31	Bourne, Buttermilk Bay	5, 6		SSEC (Anderson), J. Loughlin
9,22	Tewksbury	7, 4-12		M. Wilson, R. Gleason
<u>Spotted Sandpiper:</u>				
1-3	Chatham	1		C. Goodrich, V. Laux
Greater Yellowlegs:				
1-8,4-10	Eastham, Chatham	2, 1		v.o., CCBC (Baines)#
10	Dartmouth	1		W. Petersen
Red Knot:				
1,17	N. Scituate	75, 70		S. Higginbotham#, W. Petersen
2	Orleans (N. Beach)	25+		W. Petersen#

Purple Sandpiper:			
29	N. Scituate	500	G. Wilson
Dunlin:			
10	Westport, Cohasset	400, 200	J. Clancy, G. Wilson
Sanderling:			
1,31	Squantum, Manomet	30, 28	BBC (Donovan), W. Petersen
<u>Red Phalarope:</u>			
10	Cohasset	1	R. Emery & G. Wilson
Glaucous Gull:			
thr.	6 localities	7 individuals	v.o.
4,20	Cape Ann, P.I.	4, 4	CBC, M. Gardler
Iceland Gull:			
4,15	Cape Ann, P.I.	35, 40	CBC, W. Petersen
31	P.I.	75+	R. Veit#
		and many scattered individuals	
Great Black-backed Gull:			
4	Cape Ann, Newburyport	1154, 340	CBC
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull:</u>			
6	Newburyport Harbor	1ad.	F. Oatman
Herring Gull:			
4	Cape Ann, Newburyport	6939, 3243	CBC
Black-headed Gull:			
thr.	5 localities	singles	v.o.
11	Wollaston	11	S. Higginbotham
Bonaparte's Gull:			
4	Cape Ann, Newburyport	51, 370	CBC
<u>Mew Gull:</u>			
1-16	Newburyport	1ad.	J. Baird & v.o.
Little Gull:			
31	Newburyport	4ad.	R. Veit#
<u>Ivory Gull:</u>			
thr.	Salisbury	1imm.	v.o.
Black-legged Kittiwake:			
1,4	Salisbury, P.I.	60+, 103	W. Petersen#, CBC
12,10	Sandwich, Rockport	53, 60	R. Pease, M. Gardler
Razorbill:			
12	Sandwich	2	R. Pease
Thick-billed Murre:			
11	N. Scituate	1	S. Higginbotham
Black Guillemot:			
thr.	Rockport (A.P.)		D. Brown# & v.o.
11,25	N. Scituate	10, 3	D. Brown#, W. Petersen#
17-24	P.I.	1	J. Murphy# & v.o.
Common Puffin:			
31	Nauset Marsh	1imm.(dead)	J. Loughlin
Barn Owl:			
11	Boston (Long I.)	1	Y. & T. Martin#
Screech Owl:			
thr.	reports of single birds from 9 other localities		
3,12	Framingham, Peabody	8, 3	K. Hamilton, R. Heil
Great Horned Owl:			
thr.	8 localities	singles	v.o.
Snowy Owl:			
thr.	Salisbury-P.I., Squantum	2-3, 2	v.o.
23,26	Haverhill, Burlington	1, 1	W. Drummond, R. Robinson
30,31	Lancaster, Duxbury	1, 1	R. Christoph, W. Petersen
Barred Owl:			
3,14	Framingham, Belmont	2, 1	K. Hamilton, A. Head & v.o.
22on,28	Nahant, Dorchester	1, 1(photographed)	D. Bangs#, E. Sullivan
Long-eared Owl:			
1,3	Cambridge, Framingham	1, 1	H. Pratt# & v.o., K. Hamilton
10on	Bridgewater	1	W. Petersen# & v.o.
Short-eared Owl:			
thr.,2	Squantum, Chatham (North Beach)	4, 2-3	E. Morrier# & v.o., W. Petersen#
10	S. Dartmouth-Westport	3	B. Sorrie#
11,31	Bridgewater, W. Gloucester	1, 1	J. Flaherty, G. Wilson
Saw-whet Owl:			
1-4,26	P.I., Weston	1, 1(found dead)	G. Soucy# & v.o., L. Lazzari
Belted Kingfisher:			
thr.	16 localities	30 individuals	v.o.

Common Flicker:			
thr.	12 localities	31 individuals	v.o.
Pileated Woodpecker:			
thr.,2	Lancaster, Manchester	1, 1	H. Merriman, P. Parsons
21,30	Lincoln, Carlisle	2, 1	Namin, W. Davis
Red-bellied Woodpecker:			
thr.,8	Natick, Marston's Mills	1, 1 (dead)	H. Drury# & v.o., T. Preston
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:			
1, 7-8	Cambridge (Mt. A.)	lad., limm.	R. Stymeist# & S. Zende#
7on,	Cambridge	lad.	T. Lawrence
9+11	Vineyard Haven (M.V.)	1	M. Hancock
13,18,23	Sandwich, Braintree, Dennis	1, 1, 1	R. Pease, R. Alley, B. Nikula
Eastern Phoebe:			
6	Sandwich	1	R. Pease
Horned Lark:			
4,10	Newburyport, Concord	129, 75	CBC, R. Forster
Blue Jay:			
4	Cape Ann, Newburyport	203, 577	CBC
Common Crow:			
thr.	Natick	400	E. Taylor
4	Cape Ann, Newburyport	580, 224	CBC
4	Bridgewater	350+	L. Resmini
Fish Crow:			
thr.	Natick, W. Roxbury	50, 30	E. Taylor, G. Soucy# & v.o.
11,19	Weston, Middleboro	2, 1	L. Robinson, D. Briggs
Black-capped Chickadee:			
4	Cape Ann, Newburyport	638, 439	CBC
19	Lynn (Lynn Woods)	225	R. Heil
Boreal Chickadee:			
thr.	Jamaica Plain (A.A.)	max. 7	L. Jodrey# & v.o.
1,2,4	P.I., Walpole, Hamilton	1, 1, 2	v.o., R. Barrett, CBC
11,18	Wellesley, Ipswich	1, 1	C. & L. Robinson, J. Berry
19,25	Lynn, Clinton	2, 1	R. Heil, H. Merriman
Tufted Titmouse:			
4	Cape Ann, Newburyport	76, 40	CBC
White-breasted Nuthatch:			
4	Cape Ann, Newburyport	40, 59	CBC
Red-breasted Nuthatch:			
thr.	7 localities	26 individuals	CBC
4	Cape Ann, Newburyport	17, 9	CBC
27	Jamaica Plain (A.A.)	3	S. Zende#
Brown Creeper:			
4	Cape Ann, Newburyport	12, 14	CBC
Winter Wren:			
1+16,1-2	Sandwich, Westport	1, 1	R. Pease, R. O'Hara
4	Boxford, Topsfield	1, 1	CBC, M. Kasprzyk
7,10	Falmouth, Lincoln	1,1	P. Garrey, R. Forster
16,25	Plymouth, Concord	1, 1	B. Sorrie, H. Payson
Carolina Wren:			
thr.,1	Sandwich, Lancaster	1, 1	R. Pease, H. Merriman
2,6	Walpole, Falmouth	1, 2	R. Bassett, M. Kasprzyk#
13	Marion	1	G. Gove
Mockingbird:			
4	Cape Ann, Newburyport	26, 35	CBC
Gray Catbird:			
4,5	Rockport, Plymouth	1, 1	CBC, S. Parsons
6,10,13-28	Falmouth, Brewster, Bridgewater	2, 1, 1	M. Kasprzyk, J. Bryant, L. Resmini
Brown Thrasher:			
4,10	Topsfield, Westport	1, 2	CBC, J. Clancy
13	Peabody, Chatham	1, 1	M. Kasprzyk, B. Nikula
20,26	Stoneham, Weymouth	1, 1	R. Parks, W. Follansbee
American Robin:			
thr.	several flocks of 15-30 at various locations	v.o.	
1,1	Boston (Fenway), Framingham	45,41	R. Stymeist, K. Hamilton
Hermit Thrush:			
3;4	Westwood; Marion, Rockport	1; 1, 1	A. Beale; K. Anderson#, CBC
10,25	Rockland, Dartmouth	1, 1	J. Clancy#, P. Regan
Eastern Bluebird:			
10,13	Westport, Dennis	4, 5	J. Clancy#, P. Aiken
27	Barnstable, Stoughton	7, 1	R. Pease, B. Cline

Golden-crowned Kinglet:			
19	Lynn (Lynn Woods)	60	R. Heil
Ruby-crowned Kinglet:			
4	Bourne	2	SSBC (Anderson)
Cedar Waxwing:			
6,21	Norwell, Framingham	100+, 60	J. Flaherty, K. Hamilton
Northern Shrike:			
1	Lancaster, Bourne	1, 1	H. Merriman, J. Loughlin
5	Littleton, Athol	1, 1	J. Baird
8;11	Concord; Marshfield, Assonet	1; 1, 1	H. Payson; R. Stymeist, R. Forster#
22,24	Chelmsford, Boston (Long I.)	1, 1	R. Gleason, D. Brown#
<u>Loggerhead Shrike:</u>			
1-25	Salisbury	1	M. Moore & v.o.
Yellow-rumped Warbler:			
4,10	Cape Ann, Chatham	20, 120+	CBC, J. Bryant
24	Squantum, Brewster	30, 45	W. Cornwell, J. Bryant
<u>Ovenbird:</u>			
3	Framingham	1	C. Quinlan, R. Forster# & v.o.
Yellow-breasted Chat:			
10,10-12	Orleans, S. Wellfleet (WBWS)	1, 1	C. Goodrich, W. Bailey
13	Falmouth	1	A. Clarke
Eastern Meadowlark:			
2	Dartmouth	15	R. O'Hara
4	Ipswich, Bridgewater	16, 18	CBC, L. Resmini
Red-winged Blackbird:			
3,17	Harwich, Whitman	100, 20+	B. Nikula, W. Petersen#
Northern Oriole:			
1-20,3-12	Natick, Framingham	1, 5	R. Naticchioni, K. Hamilton
Rusty Blackbird:			
2	W. Roxbury, Wellfleet	1, 1	R. Stymeist#, B. Nikula#
3,4	Concord (GMNWR), Wenham	2, 1	H. Payson, CBC
13,27	Framingham, Barnstable	5, 9	K. Hamilton, R. Pease
<u>Brewer's Blackbird:</u>			
2-31	Katama (M.V.)	2m.	G. Daniels
Common Grackle:			
thr.,13	Lancaster, Framingham	2, 10	R. Kongorski, K. Hamilton#
Brown-headed Cowbird:			
4	Beverly, W. Newbury	20, 12	CBC
13	Framingham	200+	K. Hamilton
Cardinal:			
4	Cape Ann, Newburyport	82, 40	CBC
Dickcissel:			
1-11,4	Byfield, Ipswich	1, 1	H. Wiggin# & v.o., CBC
Evening Grosbeak:			
4	Cape Ann, Newburyport	159, 254	CBC
Purple Finch:			
4	Cape Ann, Newburyport	66, 25	CBC
21	Framingham	30	K. Hamilton
House Finch:			
10,11	Westport, Annisquam	40, 125	J. Clancy#, D. Brown#
27	Jamaica Plain(A.A.)	50+	S. Zende#
Pine Grosbeak:			
1	Cambridge (Mt.A.), P.I.	8, 1	T. Marvin#, D. Brown#
8,17on	S. Wellfleet (WBWS), Lancaster	1, 4-17	W. Bailey, H. Merriman
23,26	Sherborn, Groton	25, 20	K. Hamilton, P. Miliotis
Common Redpoll:			
2	Westport, W. Roxbury	3, 10	R. O'Hara, H. Wiggin#
2	Chatham (N. Beach)	8	W. Petersen
4on	Cambridge (Hell's Half Acre)	80-100	S. Zende#, C. Jackson, R. Stymeist
Pine Siskin:			
4	Cape Ann	131	CBC
American Goldfinch:			
4	Cape Ann, Newburyport	156, 125	CBC
30	Bridgewater	100	J. Flaherty
Red Crossbill:			
thr.	Cambridge (Mt.A.), P.I.	15-20, max.30	v.o.
2	Westport, Jamaica Plain (A.A.)	25, 10	R. O'Hara, H. Wiggin#
White-winged Crossbill:			
thr.	P.I., Cambridge (Mt.A.)	max.12, 10-20	v.o.

Rufous-sided Towhee:			
thr.	Dartmouth, Carver	1, 1	P. Regan, M. Mosher
4	Cape Ann, Newburyport	4, 1	CBC
Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow:			
2	Chatham (N. Beach)	2	W. Petersen#
Dark-eyed Junco:			
4	Cape Ann, Newburyport	247, 182	CBC
Tree Sparrow:			
4	Cape Ann, Newburyport	182, 382	CBC
<u>Chipping Sparrow:</u>			
thr.	E. Wareham	1	J. Ladd, R. Maxim
Field Sparrow:			
10,25	Plymouth, Bridgewater	6, 7	R. Emery#, J. Flaherty
<u>White-crowned Sparrow:</u>			
12,24on	Concord, Dartmouth	1, 1	H. Payson, G. Briggs
White-throated Sparrow:			
4	Cape Ann, Newburyport	145, 114	CBC
Fox Sparrow:			
thr.,4	E. Wareham, Manchester	4, 4	J. Ladd#, CBC
Swamp Sparrow:			
4	Cape Ann, Newburyport	50, 29	CBC
7	Squantum	28	D. Brown#
Lapland Longspur:			
thr.	P.I.+Salisbury	max.40-45	v.o.
31	Marshfield	1	W. Petersen
Snow Bunting:			
thr.	P.I.+Salisbury	max.106	v.o.
2	Chatham, (N. Beach)	250+	W. Petersen#
4	Cape Ann	86	CBC

Corrigenda for October 1975

American Robin:			
thr.	Weston, Lancaster	25-50+, <u>5000+</u> (roost)	H. Merriman, L. Robinson
			should read
American Robin:			
thr.	Weston, Lancaster	<u>5000+</u> (roost), 25-50+	L. Robinson, H. Merriman