

# THE WINTER SEASON

DECEMBER 1980—FEBRUARY 1981



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

December was cold, dry, and sunny; the temperature averaged 28.6°, 4.4° below normal and 8.1° colder than December 1979. This was the lowest since 25.9° in 1963, and this December also tied for the eighteenth coldest in 110 years. The high mark was 61° on the 9th; the low was -7° on the 25th. Who could forget Christmas Day! The -7° was the coldest in Boston since January 15, 1957 and the coldest Christmas since 1972. It was the coldest so early in the season since December 20, 1942; also this was the first December with sub-zero temperatures since 1968. The Christmas daytime high was but -2°, one of the lowest of record. Precipitation totaled only 0.97 inch, 3.27 inches under normal. This was the sixth driest December in 163 years and the third driest in 110 years of official record. Snowfall totaled 5.6 inches, 2.3 under normal but nearly three times the 2.0 inches of December 1979. Maximum snow depth was but 3 inches on December 16.

January was extremely cold and dry with lots of sunshine. The temperature averaged only 21.4°, 7.8° below normal, and the lowest for this month since 21.0° in January 1920. The low of -4° on both January 4 and 5 broke the record of -3° set in 1910. The 20 days ending January 18 made a continuous stretch of sub-normal days; it was the coldest 20 day period since Logan Airport began keeping records for January. Precipitation totaled only 0.95 inch, 2.74 inches below normal. This was the fifth driest January in 111 years of records. Snow totaled 11.9 inches. The most in any 24 hours was 3.7 inches on January 16 and 17. Snow covered the ground nearly all month, much longer than average.

February was unseasonably warm and wet and quite cloudy. The temperature averaged 36.4°, 6.0° above normal, and tied with 1954 as the third warmest February in 111 years of record. This abrupt change from previous cold averaged 15.0° higher than January's mean, the largest jump ever recorded. Daily maximum records were broken on 4 days: 62° and 57° on February 11 and 12 broke the marks of 58° and 55° set in 1925; 61° on the 17th broke the 60° of 1883, and the month's high of 66° on the 18th broke the 63° of 1880. Though mild weather dominated the month, the latter half was especially warm, averaging over 10° above normal. Precipitation totaled 6.65 inches, 3.11 inches more than normal to make this the fourth wettest February in 111 years and the wettest since the record 7.08 inches in 1969. This was the wettest month since January 1979. Measurable amounts fell on 12 days with 3.8 inches, the most in any 24 hour period, falling on February 24-25. Snow totaled 1.9 inches, 10 less than average. The ground was bare almost all month. Heavy fog came on 6 days in a row, February 19-24, a new record string. This was the most in any month since 8 days in June 1972.

## LOONS THROUGH HERONS

The early winter freeze apparently displaced many of the usual winter birds as numbers and reports were down and unusual species were scarce. An Eared Grebe reported from Provincetown on January 1 was the sole rarity. Red-throated Loon reports were sparse as probably were the birds, particularly north of Boston. Reports of Pied-billed Grebes were also sparse probably reflecting the frozen condition of fresh water bodies. Red-necked Grebe numbers built up in late February along the coast. Double-crested Cormorants were sparsely reported on several CBCs and several were present in February. A Great Egret on the Nantucket CBC January 3 was extremely late. Black-crowned Night Herons seem to be able to survive and are usually found in a particular roost; e.g., those on Buzzards Bay are regularly found in a particular pine grove. G.W.G.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Common Loon: 12/7,30	Ipswich, Plymouth	16, 27	BBC, CBC

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
<u>Common Loon (continued):</u>			
1/1,31	P.I., Nahant	6, 9	BBC
2/1,22	Cape Ann	7, 2	R.Forster, J.Berry
2/7,8	Nahant, Gloucester	10, 4	R.Forster, J.Berry
2/19,22	Scituate, Rockport	5, 6	W.Petersen, P.Hallowell
<u>Red-throated Loon:</u>			
12/6	Rockport	2	J.Berry
Jan.	4 locations	singles	v.o.
2/14,22	Gloucester, Nantucket	2, 2	BBC, C.Jackson
<u>Red-necked Grebe:</u>			
12/6	Gloucester, Rockport	3, 1	G.Gove#, J.Berry
12/7,13	Duxbury, Plymouth	1, 1	W.Petersen
12/27	Marshfield	10	CBC
1/1,24,31	P'town	1, 30+, 1	W.Bailey, B.Nikula, W.Petersen
1/3,4,31	Rockport; Gloucester	5; 2, 3	BBC; G.Gove, J.Kenneally
1/24,25	Salisbury	1	v.o.
2/1,7,18	Cape Ann	23, 42, 42	R.Forster, R.Heil, R.Emery#
2/14,20	Dennis	24, 140	J.Aylward, B.Nikula
2/15,28	Nahant, Manomet	51, 32	R.Forster, G.Gove
<u>Eared Grebe:</u>			
1/1	P'town	1	W.Bailey
<u>Horned Grebe:</u>			
12/6,7	Wollaston, P.I.	18, 150+	SSBC, R.Heil
1/1,24;24	P.I.; P'town	4,20; 50+	BBC; B.Nikula
2/1,16	Cape Ann, Marblehead	20, 5	R.Forster, J.Berry
2/7,28	Winthrop, Lakeville	20+, 4	BBC, W.Petersen
<u>Pied-billed Grebe:</u>			
12/6,7	Braintree, Chestnut Hill	1, 1	SSBC, R.Heil
12/24;2/11,17	Somerville	1; 1	J.Berry
1/4,31	Wareham, Plymouth	1, 1	SSBC, W.Petersen
thr.Feb.,2/15,16	Lakeville, M.V., Plymouth	1, 2, 2	W.Petersen, V.Laux, S.Higginbotham
<u>Gannet:</u>			
2/28	Nantucket	4	BBC
<u>Great Cormorant:</u>			
12/7,20	Monomoy, Quincy	125, 337	B.Nikula, CBC
12/20,21	Buzzard's Bay, Gr.Boston	38, 126	CBC
1/24	Nahant, N.Scituate	80, 100	BBC, W.Petersen
2/7,8	Cape Ann, Quincy	38, 81	N.Komar#, TASL
2/19	Hull-Scituate	175+	W.Petersen
<u>Double-crested Cormorant:</u>			
12/20	Buzzards Bay (N.Falmouth)	1	CBC (R.Veit)
12/21	Gr.Boston	7	CBC (D.Brown#)
1/3,2/16	Nantucket	4, 1 imm.	CBC, R.Veit#
<u>Great Blue Heron:</u>			
12/20,21	Buzzards Bay, Gr.Boston	51, 8	CBC
12/21	Cape Ann, Cape Cod	3, 88	CBC
12/28,30	Concord, Plymouth	5, 7	CBC
thr.Jan	7 locations	15 ind.	v.o.
2/15-25,28	4 locations, Nantucket	singles, 4	v.o., BBC
<u>Great Egret:</u>			
1/3	Nantucket	1	CBC
<u>Black-crowned Night Heron:</u>			
1/20,21	Buzzards Bay, Gr.Boston	14, 2	CBC
1/1,2	Everett, Somerville	2, 1	M.Sharpe, J.Berry
2/7,28	Eastham, Scituate	5, 1	W.Bailey, BBC
<u>American Bittern:</u>			
12/6,27	P.I., Newburyport	1, 1	BBC, CBC
12/21;1/12,23	Cape Cod; Eastham	2; 1	CBC; R.Forster, R.Scott
1/3,2/15	Nantucket, W.Harwich	1, 1	CBC, B.Goddard

#### WATERFOWL

Mute Swans were seen courting and nest-building on February 28 which seems to be an early date. Four Whistling Swans were observed flying between Ipswich and Plum Island in December and another was seen in Nantucket on the CBC. Strange that we do not see more of these native swans as thousands winter in the Chesapeake Bay region. Brant were present at a number of locations with a high of 3518 on the Cape Cod CBC.

Snow Geese, another species which winters in the mid-Atlantic region, were spotty. Up to 80 Pintail were found in Yarmouth through December, and a maximum of 30 were there through January and February. Two Blue-winged Teal on December 24 were extremely late. The only European Wigeon report came from Nantucket in late February. A maximum of 52 American Wigeon were seen in Belmont throughout the period. There was a scattering of Wood Duck reports with 28 being found on the Nantucket CBC. Redheads were seen in various locations with 140 seen in Nantucket in late February. There were many Canvasback reports mostly from Cape Cod and southeastern Massachusetts where 4000 were seen in late February. Greater Scaup were seen in large rafts and 5188 were found in Winthrop. A few lesser Scaup were also seen. Many reports of Barrow's Goldeneye were received with 8 found on the Nantucket CBC and 7 seen in Newburyport. There were also many reports of Harlequin Ducks from at least eight locations with a maximum of 7 birds seen on Martha's Vineyard. Large numbers of Common Eider were seen with reports of 10,000 from three different locations. King Eiders were observed in several locations with up to 4 females in Rockport and up to 3 birds seen in Marblehead. Scoter numbers were not impressive and only 2 Ruddy Ducks were reported. Hooded Mergansers wintered well and 54 were seen in Eastham in December. An inland report of a Red-breasted Merganser was unusual. G.W.G.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Mute Swan:			
thr.Dec.,12/15-24	Plymouth, Salem	max. 44, 3	v.o.
thr.Jan.-Feb.	Manchester, Westport	2, 71	v.o., G.Gove#
2/28	Plymouth	2 prs. nest building	G.Gove
Whistling Swan:			
12/27	M.V.	1	CBC
12/7	P.I., Ipswich	4	M.Argue#, B.Principe
Canada Goose:			
12/6,26	P.I., Chatham	300+, 540	BBC, F.+M.Worrell
Brant:			
12/5,6	Wollaston	500+	G.Wilson, BBC
12/13,21	Plymouth-Kingston, C.Cod	1000+, 3518	W.Petersen, CBC
1/4,8	Buzzards Bay, Newbypt	300, 5	SSBC, R.Heil
1/29;31	Cohasset; Revere, Westport	67; 55, 80	R.Emery#; BBC, G.Gove
2/8,20	Quincy, Squantum	490, 1200	TASL, R.Emery#
Snow Goose:			
12/6,14;18,20	P.I.; Marion, Millis	2, 3; 12, 9	BBC; Mrs.A.Parks, CBC
1/3,4	Nantucket, Marion	1, 1	CBC, SSBC
Black Duck:			
12/13	S.Duxbury-Plymouth	1500+	W.Petersen#
1/8,13	Newburyport, Cape Ann	2850, 920	R.Heil
Gadwall:			
12/13,30	Plymouth	37, 17	W.Petersen, CBC
1/3-17,1/4-31	Gloucester, Plymouth	max.7, max.30	v.o., v.o.
2/7,14;2/1-8	Salem, Gloucester	2, 14; max.10	R.Forster,R.Heil;v.o.
Pintail:			
thr.Dec.,12/7	Yarmouth, Braintree	max.80, 2	J.Aylward, W.Cornwell
12/30,1/1	Plymouth, Everett	7, 1	CBC, M.Sharpe
thr.Jan.-Feb.	Yarmouth	max. 30	J.Aylward
2/21,28	P.I., Bridgewater	5, 3	BBC, W.Petersen
Green-winged Teal:			
12/21	Jamaica Plain	9	CBC
2/1	Mattapoisett River	1	K.Anderson
Blue-winged Teal:			
12/21,24	Hamilton	1, 2	N.Nash, J.Berry
European Wigeon:			
2/27-28	Nantucket	1	BBC
American Wigeon:			
thr.Dec.-Feb.	Belmont	max. 52	v.o.
1/1,3	Cohasset, Gloucester	14, 3	N.+S.Osborne, BBC
1/8,18	Swampscott, Falmouth	1, 1	R.Heil, N.Komar#
2/1,28	Plymouth, Nantucket	12, 40	W.Petersen, BBC
Northern Shoveler:			
12/21	Cape Ann	1	CBC
1/4;18,24	Plymouth; Falmouth	1; 1	BBC;N.Komar#,M.Argue#
Wood Duck:			
12/6,7	Milton, Woburn	3, 3	SSBC, J.Young
12/21,28	Gr.Boston, Concord	9, 5	CBC

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
<b>Wood Duck, continued:</b>			
1/1,3	Boston, Nantucket	2, 28	H.Wiggin, CBC
1/24	E.Sandwich	3.	J.Aylward
<b>Redhead:</b>			
12/4,13	Falmouth, Plymouth	1, 2	R.Forster, W.Petersen
1/3,4	Nantucket, Plymouth	50, 4	CBC, BBC
1/18,31	Woods Hole, Westport	1, 6	N.Komar, G.Gove
2/28	Nantucket	140	BBC
<b>Ring-necked Duck:</b>			
12/6,7	Braintree, Medford	2, 1	SSBC, J.Young
12/13, 1/4	Plymouth	8, 2	W.Petersen, BBC
2/1,15-18	Plymouth, Lakeville	14, max.8	W.Petersen, v.o.
2/22,28	Nantucket	4, 5	C.Jackson, BBC
<b>Canvasback:</b>			
12/4,6	Falmouth, Braintree	125, 9	R.Forster, SSBC
12/20,21	Quincy, Cape Cod	14, 78	CBC
12/27,30	Taunton, Plymouth	91, 4	CBC
1/4	Plymouth, Wareham	100+, 75	BBC, SSBC
1/12,18;19	Dennis; Orleans	35, 20; 40	R.Forster,N.Komar#;S.Higginbotham
1/31	Westport	100+	G.Gove#
2/7,16	Chatham, Falmouth	30, 100+	W.Petersen,S.Higginbotham#
2/22,28	Assonet, Nantucket	4000, 70	D.Emerson, BBC
<b>Greater Scaup:</b>			
12/20,21,28	Quincy, Boston, Concord	2462, 4064, 1	CBC
1/4,25	Marion, Marblehead	25, 50	SSBC, O.Komar#
1/31	Westport	1000+	G.Gove
2/7,8	Winthrop	max. 5188	TASL
2/10,22	Salem, Assonet	1150, 2000	R.Heil, D.Emerson
2/28	Nantucket	350	BBC
<b>Lesser Scaup:</b>			
12/21,30	Cape Cod, Plymouth	4, 1	CBC
1/18;31	Plymouth, Woods Hole	1, 1	O.Komar#
1/13,2/14	Lakeville	1 m., 1	G.Gove#, BBC
<b>Common Goldeneye:</b>			
12/20,21	Buzzards Bay, Boston	1066, 373	CBC
1/4,17	Plymouth, Cape Ann	53+, 125	BBC
1/24	Newburyport, Nahant	120, 150	BBC
2/7,8	Winthrop, Boston Harbor	200, 676	BBC, TASL
2/13,15	Newburyport, Lakeville	475, 15	R.Heil, SSBC
2/28	Nantucket	325	BBC
<b>Barrow's Goldeneye:</b>			
12/13	Gloucester	1 pr.	BBC
12/20,21	Buzzard's Bay, Cape Ann	1, 1	CBC
12/27	Newburyport, Taunton	2, 1	CBC
12/30	Plymouth	3	CBC
1/3;4	Nantucket; Gloucester	8; 1 m., 2 f.	CBC; G.Gove
1/7,24,25	Marblehead	1 m., 1 f.	v.o.
1/24,25,30	Newbypt, Chatham, Yarmouth	1, 2, 1	B.Nikula, v.o.
1/25	Salisbury, Cape Ann	2, 2	K.Hamilton
thr.	Dennis	1	v.o.
2/1-14	Newburyport	max. 3 m., 4 f.	G.Gove#
2/2-16	Marblehead	1 m., 1 f.	v.o.
2/1,7-18	Plymouth, Gloucester	1 f., max. 1 m., 2 f.	W.Petersen, v.o.
<b>Bufflehead:</b>			
12/14	Newburyport	100+	J.Berry
12/20,21	Buzzards Bay, Boston	1468, 573	CBC
1/1,24	Newburyport, Nahant	102, 300	BBC
2/7;8	Cape Ann, Winthrop; Quincy	100, 98; 428	BBC,O.Komar#; TASL
2/28	Lakeville, Halifax	50+, 25	W.Petersen
<b>Oldsquaw:</b>			
12/20	Buzzards Bay	1154	CBC
1/1,24	Newburyport	22, 50	BBC
2/21	Nantucket	300	C.Jackson
<b>Harlequin Duck:</b>			
12/7,13,21	Duxbury, Gloucester, Hull	1 f., 2 pr., 1	W.Petersen,BBC,S.Higginbotham#
1/3-31	Magnolia	1 pr.	v.o.
1/3,12	Nantucket, Gloucester	3, 2	CBC, BBC

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Harlequin Duck, continued:			
1/25	Cape Ann	6	K.Hamilton
2/1-28	M.V.; Magnolia, Orleans	max. 7; 2, 2	V.Laux#: v.o.
2/1;7-8	Plymouth; Gloucester	2; 1 m., 1 f.	BBC; v.o.
2/15,28	Nahant, Manomet	1, 1 m.	R.Forster#, G.Gove#
Common Eider:			
12/7	Duxbury-Plymouth	<u>10,000</u>	W.Petersen
12/20	Buzzards Bay	562	CBC
12/21	Boston Harbor, Cape Cod	5704, 1100	CBC
12/30	Plymouth	5595	CBC
1/24	Manomet, Nahant	200, 250	H.Wiggin#, BBC
2/1	Plymouth	3000+	BBC
2/7,8	Winthrop	max. <u>10,000</u>	BBC, TASL
2/19,28	Hull, Duxbury	5000+, <u>10,000</u>	W.Petersen, BBC
King Eider:			
12/21	Winthrop	1 m., 1 sub-ad.	CBC
1/13,31	Rockport	1 imm.m., max. 4 f.	BBC, R.Heil
1/17-25	Marblehead	1 m.	v.o.
1/24	Sandwich, Manomet	1 imm. m., 1	D.Briggs#, M.Argue
2/1,7	Manomet, Rockport	1, 1 f.	BBC, G.Soucy
2/7-16	Marblehead	max. 3	v.o.
White-winged Scoter:			
12/13,20	Plymouth, Buzzards Bay	300+, 1006	W.Petersen, CBC
1/3,24	Nantucket, Nahant	700, 20	S.Higginbotham, BBC
2/10,19	Marblehead, Scituate	360+, 300	R.Heil, W.Petersen
Surf Scoter:			
12/20	Buzzards Bay	619	CBC
1/13	Nantasket	150	S.Higginbotham
1/1-31	M.V.	350	V.Laux
2/7,19	Marblehead, Scituate	45, 50	R.Forster, W.Petersen
2/21	Nantucket	50+	C.Jackson
Black Scoter:			
2/7,21	P.I.	2	G.Soucy#, BBC
2/21	Nantucket	40+	C.Jackson
Ruddy Duck:			
12/7,21	Medford, Cape Cod	1, 1	J.Young, CBC
Hooded Merganser:			
12/6;14	Braintree; Lakeville, Eastham	8; 14, <u>54</u>	SBC;W.Petersen#,B.Nikula
12/20	Quincy, Buzzards Bay	8, <u>175</u>	CBC
12/21	Cape Cod, Cape Ann	39, 1	CBC
12/28,30	Concord, Plymouth	2, 11	CBC
1/1;4	Everett; Falmouth, Rochester	7; 3, 1	M.Sharpe; BBC, SBC
1/12;18	Eastham; Dennis, Falmouth	3; 2, 2	R.Forster;N.Komar#
2/2-16	Medford	1 m., 2 f.	D.Lange
2/6,14-28	Falmouth, Lakeville	10, max. 6	S.Higginbotham#,W.Petersen
2/15,19,22	Wayland,Brookline,Nantucket	1 m., 1 m., 2	R.Walton,C.Johnson,C.Jackson
2/28	Halifax, GMNWR	11, 1 m.	W.Petersen, H.Wiggin
Common Merganser:			
12/7	Medford, Chestnut Hill	6, 1	J.Young, N.Komar#
12/14	Lakeville	250	W.Petersen
12/21,27	Cape Cod, W.Newbury	950, 326	CBC
12/27,28	Taunton, Concord	72, 7	CBC
1/1-31	Newburyport	max. 150	v.o.
1/4	Buzzard's Bay	20+	SBC
1/12,24	Eastham, Falmouth	5, 5	R.Forster, M.Argue#
2/1	Lakeville	21	BBC
2/18,22	Braintree, Wayland	45, 55	R.Langley, E.Morrier
2/24	Lincoln	63	R.Forster
Red-breasted Merganser:			
12/20,21	Quincy, Cape Cod	737, 950	CBC
1/24	Newbypt, Nahant	80, 120	BBC
2/8	Winthrop, Quincy	161, 593	TASL
2/28	<u>Lakeville</u>	1 m.	W.Petersen

#### HAWKS THROUGH RAILS

An early Turkey Vulture was reported from Newburyport on February 28. Thirty-five

reports of Goshawks were received including 3 immatures perched in one tree. An immature Cooper's Hawk was seen pursuing a Rock Dove across the Merrimac and catching it in mid-stream. An amazing 91 Red-tailed Hawks were seen on the Concord CBC and 40 were counted in the Bridgewater area in February as were 26 American Kestrels. Rough-legged Hawks were reported from twenty-four locations with maximum numbers in the Newburyport-Salisbury area, and many were described as to light or dark phase. Wintering Bald Eagles are apparently increasing with as many as 1 adult and 6 immatures on the Merrimac and reports from at least nine locations being received. One Gyrfalcon was reported from outer Cape Cod in January. As many as 13 Merlins were reported with 4 seen on the Nantucket CBC. On the Millis CBC, 48 Ruffed Grouse were counted. The only reports of Clapper Rail were two individuals found dead as was a Sora. Many Virginia Rails were seen with 17 found on the Nantucket CBC.

G.W.G.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
<u>Turkey Vulture:</u>			
2/28	Newburyport	1	B.Horn#
<u>Goshawk:</u>			
12/1	Framingham, Lexington	1 imm., 1 imm.	E.Morrier, E.Stowe
12/5	Salisbury	1	S.Carroll#
12/6,9	Melrose, W.Boxford	1 imm., 1	C.Jackson, R.Chadwick
12/7,12	Chatham, S.Orleans	1, 1 imm.	C.Goodrich, D.Scholl
12/9,15	Littleton	1 f.	J.Baird
12/14	Wellesley, P.I.	1, 1 imm.	C.Ewer, G.Gove#
12/20	Millis, Worcester	1, 1	CBC
12/27,28	Newbypt, Concord	3, 4	CBC
1/1+13,2	Rowley, Hingham	1, 1	D.Alexander, N.+S.Osborne
1/3	Framingham, Barre	3 imm. in one tree, 1 ad.	R.Forster#, M.Lynch#
1/5,10	Concord, P.I.	1 imm., 1 imm.	J.Baird#, G.Gove
1/11	Georgetown, Newburyport	1 imm., 1	R.Stymeist#, D.Arvidson#
1/12,29	S.Peabody, Dover	1 imm., 1	R.Heil, P.Hallowell
2/15,17	Framingham, W.Concord	1 imm., 1	B.Byrne, D.Hale
2/16	Lexington, Lynn	1 imm., 1 imm.	J.Berry#, R.Heil
2/21	P.I.	1	BBC
<u>Sharp-shinned Hawk:</u>			
12/2	S.Peabody	1 imm.	R.Heil
12/14	Wellesley, Lakeville	1, 1	C.Ewer, W.Petersen
12/20	Millis, Worcester	1, 1	CBC
12/27,28	Taunton, Middleboro	3, 1	CBC, K.Anderson
12/28,30	Lancaster, Plymouth	1	S.Carroll#, CBC
1/1	Marshfield, Manchester	1, 1	N.+S.Osborne, P.Campbell
1/2,11	E.Middleboro, Scituate	1, 1	K.Anderson, SSBC
1/31	Westport	1	G.Gove
2/1,28	Pembroke, Nantucket	1, 1	E.Pearson, BBC
<u>Cooper's Hawk:</u>			
12/21,27	Boston, Taunton	1, 2	CBC
1/4,16	Sudbury, Framingham	1 imm., 1 imm.	R.Forster#, W.Petersen#
2/3,7	Manchester, Newburyport	1 imm., 1 imm.	fide J.Nove, G.Gove
<u>Red-tailed Hawk:</u>			
12/6	P.I., Belmont	1, 2	BBC
12/14	Newburyport	7	BBC
12/15,24,28	Norwell, Halifax, E.Middleboro	1, 1, 6	K.Anderson
12/20;21	Millis, Quincy; Boston	24, 12; 31	CBC
12/27,30	Taunton, Plymouth	15, 3	CBC
12/28	Concord	91	CBC
1/1	E.Middleboro-Bridgewater	11	K.Anderson
1/10,25	Essex, P.I.-Newburyport	10, 7	H.Wiggin#, P.Roberts#
2/13,15	Newburyport, Bridgewater	14, 40	R.Heil, SSBC
<u>Red-Shouldered Hawk:</u>			
12/14,19	Wellesley, E.Middleboro	1, 1	C.Ewer, G.Mock
12/21	Newburyport, Cape Ann	1, 1	CBC
12/27	Taunton, Newburyport	3, 1	CBC
12/30	Plymouth	1 ad.	CBC
Jan.-Feb., 1/1	Orleans, E.Middleboro	1 ad., 1	v.o., K.Anderson
2/15	Bridgewater	5	SSBC
2/18,27	Millis, Burlington	1, 1	B.Cassie, R.Heil
<u>Rough-legged Hawk:</u>			
12/5,6	Squantum, P.I.	1, 7	G.Wilson, M.Argue#

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
<b>Rough-legged Hawk, continued:</b>			
12/14	P.I., Salisbury	5, 4 lt.	BBC, J.Berry
12/24,28	E.Middleboro	1, 3 lt.	K.Anderson
12/27	Newburyport, Marshfield	12, 5	CBC
12/28,30	Concord, Plymouth	4, 1	CBC
12/31	Saugus, Bridgewater	1, 2	J.Berry, W.Petersen
thr.	Salisbury	max. 12 (1/11)	D.Arvidson#+v.o.
thr.	Newbypt-P.I.	max. 9	v.o.
1/1	Middleboro,Bridgewater	5, 2	K.Anderson
Jan.	14 other locations	17 ind.	v.o.
2/15	Bridgewater, Holden	8, 3	SSBC, K.Anderson
<b>Golden Eagle:</b>			
12/7	Newbury	1 imm.	H.Wiggin#
<b>Bald Eagle:</b>			
12/8,20	Canton, Lakeville	1, 1 imm,	D.Skeels, M.Kelleher
thr.	Merrimac R.-Newbypt	max. 7(1 ad.,6 imm.)	v.o.
1/1,3	Lakeville, S.Peabody	2 imm., 1 ad.	L.Dahlberg, R.Heil
1/17,20	Middleboro, Danvers	2 imm., 1 ad.	D.Briggs, J.Nove
1/20	Squantum	1 ad.	C.Quinlan
thr. Feb.	Orleans	max. 5	v.o.
2/14,15	M.V., Lakeville	2, 2	V.Laux#, SSBC
<b>Northern Harrier:</b>			
12/14	Salisbury-P.I.	5-6 (1 m.)	BBC, v.o.
12/21	Boston, Cape Ann	2, 6	CBC
12/27,30	Taunton, Plymouth	5, 1	CBC
thr.	Newbypt-Salisbury	max. 6	G.Gove + v.o.
1/1	E.Middleboro, Bridgewater	2, 1	K.Anderson
1/9,31	Manomet, Westport	1, 4	K.Anderson, G.Gove#
2/28	Nantucket	3	C.Jackson
<b>Gyr Falcon:</b>			
1/27,30	S.Wellfleet, Eastham	1 (brown)	W.Bailey, C.Goodrich
	No other details.		
<b>Peregrine Falcon:</b>			
12/24,27	Boston, M.V.	1, 1	J.Grugan, CBC
1/3,25	Nantucket; M.V.	3; 1 ad., 1 imm.	V.Laux; CBC
2/1,6	Orleans, Boston	1, 1	R.Prescott, R.Heil
2/14	M.V.	2	V.Laux
<b>Merlin:</b>			
12/4,6	Falmouth, Boston	1, 1	R.Forster, SSBC
12/21,27	Boston, Taunton	1, 1	CBC
1/1,11	Cohasset, Salisbury	1, 1 ad.	N.+S.Osborne,R.Stymeist#
1/3	Nantucket	4	CBC
1/20	Eastham	1	S.Higginbotham
2/1,18	Salisbury, Rockport	1, 1	N.+O.Komar,S.+R.Higginbotham
<b>American Kestrel:</b>			
12/20,21	Quincy, Boston	9,19	CBC
12/27,28	Taunton, Concord	18, 19	CBC
12/30	Plymouth	7	CBC
1/1	Newburyport area	5	BBC
2/1,15	Bridgewater	6, 26	BBC, SSBC
<b>Ruffed Grouse:</b>			
12/5,30	Manomet, Plymouth	4, 14	MBO, CBC
12/20,28	Millis, Concord	48, 11	CBC
1/12	Topsfield-IRWS	4	R.Heil
<b>Bobwhite:</b>			
12/7,27	Abington, Taunton	1, 55	W.Cornwell,CBC
<b>Clapper Rail:</b>			
1/1	Squantum	1 dead	W.Petersen
2/7	Marshfield	1 dead	E.Long
<b>Virginia Rail:</b>			
12/6	Braintree,Plymouth	1, 1	SSBC, W.Petersen
12/13	S.Peabody	4+	R.Heil
12/20	Quincy	1	CBC
12/26,27	Ipswich, Newbypt	3, 3	J.Berry, CBC
12/27,28	Medfield, Concord	1, 2	J.Marshall, CBC
1/1-10,5	Ipswich, S.Peabody	1-2, 4	H.Wiggin+v.o.,R.Heil
1/3	Nantucket	17	CBC

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS
Sora Rail:			
2/7	Marshfield	1 dead	E.Long
American Coot:			
12/6,14	Braintree, Lakeville	50, 50	SSBC, W.Petersen
12/30	Plymouth	17	CBC
1/4,5	Plymouth, Lynn	40, 20+	BBC, R.Heil
1/18	Falmouth	30	N.Komar#

#### SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDS

A full basic plumaged Western Sandpiper, carefully identified in Duxbury, was unique this winter; other recent late dates for this species were December 1-7, 1974, and the latest record was December 21, 1975. Other interesting shorebird records include a Willet, present through December 21 at Wollaston, a Lesser Yellowlegs on December 21 and 22, and a Marbled Godwit present through December 6 at Plum Island. Certainly our cold weather kept the numbers of Killdeer way down; only 10 were noted this winter compared with 59+ last winter.

Nantucket takes the honors this winter for the "gull show" as Dick Veit calls the concentration of gulls at Low Beach, Nantucket. Twelve species of gulls were present there with 111 Iceland, 3 Lesser Black-backed, a Tayer's, 3 Black-headed, a Mew, and a Little Gull reported as highlights on the CBC. Another "gull show" during February at Eastern Point, Gloucester, included as many as 7 Glaucous, 140+ Iceland, a Black-headed, and 170+ Bonaparte's gulls. At Provincetown, good numbers of Black-legged Kittiwakes were present throughout the winter. Other highlights included a Lesser Black-backed Gull on Martha's Vineyard and over 1800 Bonaparte's Gulls at Revere in early December. A Forster's Tern on December 14 was a late sighting. Sixty-two Razorbills, the highest concentration of alcids reported this winter, were seen from the Nantucket ferry in late February. An oiled Dovekie, found on North Beach, Chatham, was the only one reported this winter. A Common Puffin at Eastham was the only one noted. Black Guillemots were present all winter in Provincetown Harbor, Cape Ann, and 32 were seen off Marblehead. R.H.S.

Semipalmated Plover:			
12/21	Cape Cod	1	CBC
Killdeer:			
12/20,21,1/1	Buzzards Bay, C.Cod, Orleans	1, 7, 2	CBC, CBC, B.Nikula
Black-bellied Plover:			
12/1,6,7	Wollaston	15, 8, 4	W.Cornwell#
12/7;21	Duxbury; Winthrop, Cape Cod	15; 2, 18	W.Petersen; J.Grugan#, CBC
12/30,2/7	Plymouth, Eastham	1 (alt.pl.), 3	W.Petersen, W.Bailey
Ruddy Turnstone:			
12/1,6	Wollaston	5, 1	W.Cornwell#
12/7, 1/3	Duxbury, Rockport	8, 1	W.Petersen, BBC
American Woodcock:			
12/8,19	Sudbury, Wayland	1, 1	S.Fennell, D.Long
12/20,21	Buzzards Bay, Brookline	5, 2	CBC, M.Greenwald#
12/21	Cape Cod	4	CBC
Common Snipe:			
12/20;21	Buzzards Bay; Gr.Boston, C.Cod	13; 4, 4	CBC
12/26,28	Ipswich, Concord	2, 3	J.Berry#, CBC
1/1,3	Newburyport, Ipswich	2, 1	E.Bolton#, W.Drummond#
1/3,4	Bridgewater, Buzzards Bay	2, 1	K.Anderson#, SSBC
1/5,11	S.Peabody, Scituate	7, 1	R.Heil, SSBC
thr.Feb.,2/17	S.Peabody, Wayland	2, 2	R.Heil, R.Walton
Willet:			
12/1-21	Wollaston	1	R.Emery#+v.o.
Greater Yellowlegs:			
12/2,21	Wollaston, Cape Cod	2, 9	D.Brown#, CBC
2/6-19	Orleans	1	W.Bailey#+v.o.
Lesser Yellowlegs:			
12/21-22	Chatham	1	C.Cod CBC (B.Nikula, J.Aylward)
Red Knot:			
12/7	Duxbury Beach	100	W.Petersen
Purple Sandpiper:			
12/6,13	Gloucester (E.P.)	35, 39	G.Gove#, C.Corley#

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
<u>Purple Sandpiper, continued:</u>			
1/3	Nahant, Rockport	100, 12	G.Gove, BBC
1/7,13	Marblehead, Gloucester	32+, 45+	R.Heil
1/24,25	N.Scituate, Marblehead	350, 80+	H.Wiggin#,O.+N.Komar#
1/31,thr.Feb.	Rockport, Cape Ann	100, max. 55(2/1)	BBC, v.o.
2/7,8	Marblehead, Winthrop	200, 75	R.Forster, TASL
<u>Dunlin:</u>			
12/1,7	Wollaston, Duxbury	225, 500+	W.Cornwell#,W.Petersen
12/21	Gr.Boston, Cape Cod	87, 924	CBC
1/31	Westport, Orleans	170, 75	G.Gove#,W.Petersen#
2/7,15	P'town, Lynn	100, 60	W.Bailey,R.Forster
<u>Long-billed Dowitcher:</u>			
12/21	Cape Cod	1	CBC
<u>Western Sandpiper:</u>			
12/7	Duxbury	1 full basic pl.	W.Petersen
	Full details on file.		
<u>Marbled Godwit:</u>			
12/6	P.I.	1	G.d'Entremont#
<u>Sanderling:</u>			
12/7;21	Ipswich; Revere, C.Cod	17; 185, 130	J.Nove#; CBC
1/31,2/8	P'town	40, 100	W.Petersen#,W.Bailey#
2/15;28	Lynn, Swampscott; Nant.	85, 20; 30	R.Forster; BBC
<u>Great Skua:</u>			
2/1	Eastern Point, Gloucester	1	J.Barton
	Full details on file.		
<u>Glaucous Gull:</u>			
12/6,22	Newburyport	1, 3	H.Wiggin#, R.Heil
12/13,21	Gloucester, Gr.Boston	1, 1	BBC, CBC
thr.Jan.	Gloucester	max. 5 (1/13)	v.o.
1/1,18	P'town, Millis	1, 1	W.Bailey, B.Cassie
thr.Feb.	Gloucester (Brace's Cove)	1-3	v.o.
2/1	Chatham, Quincy	1, 1	B.Nikula#,L.Taylor
2/14	Salem, Newburyport	1, 1	R.Heil#, H.Wiggin#
2/22	Barnstable(S.N.),Gloucester(E.P.)	1, 7	J.Aylward,R.Heil#
<u>Iceland Gull:</u>			
12/13,30	Gloucester, Concord	8, 1	BBC, CBC
1/1,3	P'town, Nantucket	6, 111	W.Bailey, CBC
1/4,8	Gloucester, Newburyport	12, 10	G.Gove#, R.Heil#
1/17,31	Cape Ann	57, 118	BBC, SSBC
thr.Feb.	Gloucester(E.P.)	max. 140+	R.Heil# + v.o.
2/21	P.I., Nantucket	32, 7	BBC, C.Jackson
<u>Herring Gull:</u>			
12/21,30	Gr. Boston, Concord	16305, 1621	CBC
<u>Thayer's Gull:</u>			
Jan.	Nantucket	1	R.Veit#
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull:</u>			
1/3,2/16	Nantucket, M.V.	3, 1	CBC, V.Laux
<u>Ring-billed Gull:</u>			
12/13,21	Plymouth, Gr.Boston	500+, 657	W.Petersen, CBC
1/5,8	Lynn, Newburyport	120+, 25+	R.Heil
2/13	Newburyport	175+	R.Heil
<u>Black-headed Gull:</u>			
12/7,21	Ipswich, Winthrop	1, 1	BBC(J.Nove),CBC(J.Grugan)
1/3	Nantucket	3	CBC
1/11,17	Chatham	1 ad.	B.Nikula
1/13,2/22	Gloucester (Brace's Cove)	1 ad.	R.Heil#+v.o.
2/14	Newburyport	1	G.Gove
<u>Mew Gull:</u>			
1/3	Nantucket	1	CBC (R.Veit)
<u>Bonaparte's Gull:</u>			
12/3,4	Revere, Falmouth	1800, 175	D.Brown#,R.Forster
12/5,20	Nahant, Buzzards Bay	300+, 4	R.Heil, CBC
12/21,1/1	Gr.Boston, P'town	200, 100	CBC, W.Bailey
1/4,13,17	Gloucester	8, 7, 44	G.Gove,R.Heil,BBC
2/1-7	Gloucester	max. 170+	v.o.
<u>Little Gull:</u>			
1/3,4	Nantucket, Chatham	1, 1	CBC, B.Nikula

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
<b>Black-legged Kittiwake:</b>			
12/21	Cape Ann, Cape Cod	13, 2412	CBC
1/1,20,31	P'town	500+, 600+, 250+	W.Bailey,S.Higginbotham,W.Petersen
1/11,13	P.I., Gloucester	3, 80+	J.O'Regan,R.Heil#
2/7,8	Rockport, P'town	450, 1000	G.Soucy#, W.Bailey#
2/15,18	Nauset, Gloucester (Niles P.)	250+, 1	J.Aylward,S.Higginbotham#
<b>Forster's Tern:</b>			
12/14	Dennis	1	J.Aylward
<b>Razorbill:</b>			
thr.Jan.,2/1	P'town	1-2, 8+	v.o.,B.Nikula#
2/28	Nantucket Sound	62	BBC (C.Jackson)
<b>Thick-billed Murre:</b>			
Dec.	M.V.	1	CBC
<b>Dovekie:</b>			
1/29	Chatham (North Beach)	1 oiled	R.Prescott
<b>Black Guillemot:</b>			
12/6	Rockport	9+	J.Berry
thr.Jan.-Feb.	Rockport	max. 10	v.o.
1/20,31,2/1,8	P'town	20, 4, 2, 4	S.Higginbotham#+v.o.
2/7,10	Gloucester, Marblehead	9, 32	R.Heil#
2/19	Scituate	2	W.Petersen
<b>Common Puffin:</b>			
12/4	Eastham (F.E.)	1	W.Bailey

#### OWLS THROUGH WRENS

Snowy Owls were very much in evidence all winter in their traditional locations in the Newburyport-Salisbury and Squantum areas as were Short-eared Owls in the same places. The highlight of the winter was the roost of Long-eared Owls at Dunback Meadow in Lexington where a maximum of 22 were found. Several studies of this roost were going on and we hope to have a more detailed report of this phenomenon in a later issue of BOEM.

A Red-bellied Woodpecker continued at a feeder in Westminster and a late Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was present throughout January on Martha's Vineyard. Other highlights included a late Western Kingbird, as many as 9 Boreal Chickadees, a House Wren, and a Short-billed Marsh Wren (Sedge Wren) continued throughout December into early January on Nantucket. R.H.S.

<b>Barn Owl:</b>			
12/5,6	Harwich, Boston (Long I.)	1, 1	J.Aylward, SSEC
12/27	<u>Newburyport</u>	1	CBC
Jan.	Middleboro	1 dead	G.Flaherty
2/15,18	Monomoy, Centerville	1, 1 dead	fide R.Prescott
<b>Screech Owl:</b>			
12/6,8	Saugus, Scituate	3, 2	C.Jackson,W.Petersen
12/21,30	Gr.Boston, Concord	22, 10	CBC
2/15	Middleboro	7	W.Petersen
<b>Great Horned Owl:</b>			
12/21,30	Gr.Boston, Concord	9, 8	CBC
1/1	Bolton Flats area	4	S.Carroll, M.Lynch
Feb.	4 loc.	5 ind.	v.o.
<b>Snowy Owl:</b>			
thr.Dec.-Feb.	P.I.-Salisbury	1-4 (max. 2/13)	v.o.
thr.Dec.-Feb.	Squantum	1-5 (max. 12/21)	v.o.
thr.Dec.-Feb.	E.Boston-Revere	1-2	v.o.
12/6,7	Rockport, Duxbury	1, 1	G.Gove#,W.Petersen#
12/7,8	Monomoy, Hingham	1, 1	B.Nikula, R.Lamond
12/29	Plymouth	1	T.Lloyd-Evans
2/21,22	Orleans, S.N.	1, 1	R.Comeau
<b>Barred Owl:</b>			
12/21-1/3	Hamilton	2	J.Berry + v.o.
12/21,1/24-2/28	Waltham, Nahant	1, 1	W.Drummond,W.Foley#+v.o.
1/1,1/26	Rutland, Sudbury	2, 1	S.Carroll#,R.Forster
Feb.	3 loc.	singles	v.o.
<b>Long-eared Owl:</b>			
12/14-2/28	E.Lexington	max.22 (1/10)	J.Andrews + v.o.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Long-eared Owl, continued:			
12/5,21	Nahant, Melrose	1, 1	R.Heil, J.Andrews
1/10,16	P.I., Chatham	1, 1	J.Gavin, B.Nikula
2/13	M.V.	4	V.Laux
Short-eared Owl:			
thr.Dec.-Feb.	Squantum area	max. 9 (1/23)	v.o.
thr.Dec.-Feb.	P.I.-Salisbury	max. 4+	v.o.
thr.Dec.-Feb.	Bridgewater	max. 2+	v.o.
12/7,20	Duxbury, Millis	1, 1	W.Petersen, CBC
12/21,2/28	Revere, N.Scituate	1, 1	J.Grugan, BBC
Saw-whet Owl:			
12/14,20	P.I., Athol	1, 1	BBC, CBC
12/21,28	Orleans, Concord	1, 1	CBC
1/10-20	P.I. (Hellcat)	1-2	W.VanCor# + v.o.
2/16	E.Lexington	1	J.Berry, I.Giriunas
Belted Kingfisher:			
12/20,21	Buzzards Bay, Gr.Boston	22, 5	CBC
Common Flicker:			
12/20	Millis, Buzzards Bay	6, 46	CBC
12/21	Gr.Boston, Cape Cod	13, 73	CBC
thr.Jan.	4 loc.	6 ind.	v.o.
2/1	Newburyport	1	J.Berry
Pileated Woodpecker:			
12/5,15	Lincoln, Beverly	1, 1	F.Bouchard, F.Burnett
12/20	Millis, Norton	1, 1	CBC,P.Joyce
12/28	Concord	3	CBC
thr.Jan.	4 loc.	singles	v.o.
thr.Feb.	2 loc.	singles	v.o.
Red-bellied Woodpecker:			
Dec.	Westminster (from Nov.)	1	CBC
Red-headed Woodpecker:			
12/21	Cape Ann	1	CBC
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:			
thr.Jan.	M.V.	1	V.Laux
Hairy Woodpecker:			
12/28	Concord	161	CBC
Downy Woodpecker:			
12/28	Concord	458	CBC
Western Kingbird:			
1/2	Chatham	1 (well described)	E.Fuller, fide B.Nikula
Horned Lark:			
12/6,14	P.I.	10, 21	BBC
12/20,21	Buzzards Bay, Gr.Boston	69, 39	CBC
12/28	Concord	61	CBC
1/1,10,25	P.I.	15, 30, 13	BBC,H.Wiggin#,P.Roberts#
Blue Jay:			
12/20	Millis, Buzzards Bay	826, 785	CBC
12/21;28	Gr.Boston,C.Cod; Concord	544, 3560; 2042	CBC
2/15	Whitman-Bridgewater	200+	SSBC
Common Crow:			
12/20	Millis, Buzzards Bay	1255, 493	CBC
12/21,28	Gr.Boston, Concord	661, 1705	CBC
2/15	Bridgewater	300+	SSBC
Fish Crow:			
12/7,14	Newton, Wellesley	2, 5	N.+O.Komar,C.Ever
12/28	Concord	12	CBC
2/19	Scituate	1	W.Petersen
Black-capped Chickadee:			
12/2,1/3	Belmont	50+, 100+	BBC
12/20	Millis, Buzzards Bay, C.Cod	1036, 795, 1107	CBC
12/21;28	Gr.Boston, Cape Ann;Concord	1007, 600; 3220	CBC
Boreal Chickadee:			
Dec.	Worcester, Westminster	1, 1	CBC
12/6,13	Wellesley	1	K.Winkler
12/27-1/1	W.Newbury (Cherry Hill)	1	R.Stymeist#+v.o.
1/1-2/22	Newburyport (Pump station)	1	R.Stymeist#+v.o.
thr.Jan.	Framingham	1	K.Hamilton#

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Boreal Chickadee, continued:			
1/1,6-31	P.I., Littleton	1, 1	BBC, C.Roth
1/27	Billierica	1	R.McLay
Tufted Titmouse:			
12/20	Millis, Buzzards Bay	269, 60	CBC
12/21,28	Gr.Boston, Concord	196, 604	CBC
White-breasted Nuthatch:			
12/20	Millis, Buzzards Bay	119, 35	CBC
12/21,28	Gr.Boston, Concord	129, 408	CBC
Red-breasted Nuthatch:			
12/20	Millis, Buzzards Bay	12, 13	CBC
12/21,28	Gr.Boston, Cape Ann; Concord	78, 75; 68	CBC
1/2,3	Cohasset, Ipswich	9, 3	N.+S.Osborne, J.Berry
1/9,25	Lynn, Newypt	15, 3	R.Heil, O.Komar#
thr.Feb.	6 loc.	22 ind.	v.o.
Brown Creeper:			
12/20	Millis, Buzzards Bay	5, 13	CBC
12/21,28	Gr.Boston, Concord	47, 44	CBC
House Wren:			
12/20	N.Falmouth	1	CBC (M.Litchfield)
Winter Wren:			
12/2,8	Newton, Salem	1, 1	N.+O.Komar, R.Heil
12/13,17	Plymouth, Dunstable	1, 1	W.Petersen, L.Horton
12/20	Cohasset, Millis, Buzz.Bay, Worc.	1, 1, 2, 1	CBC
12/29	Manomet (MBO)	1	MBO
Carolina Wren:			
12/1,6	Gloucester, Canton	1, 1	C.Leahy#, D.Brown
12/4,13	Falmouth, Plymouth	2, 4	R.Forster, W.Petersen
12/20	Buzzards Bay	21	CBC
1/5,15	Framingham, Bridgewater	1, 1	K.Hamilton, J.Flaherty
Long-billed Marsh Wren (Marsh Wren):			
12/13 on; 20	Plymouth; Millis, Buzz.Bay	2; 1, 2	W.Petersen; CBC
Short-billed Marsh Wren (Sedge Wren):			
thr.Dec.-1/3	Nantucket (from 11/17)	1	R.Veit + v.o.

#### MIMIDS THROUGH BUNTINGS

Unlike last winter's unseasonably warm weather, this winter was extremely cold: the net result was far fewer passerine species recorded. By mid-January it was hard to find any sparrows and it seemed as if all the birders were feeling unhappy with the season. There were some bright spots, however, with the return of Pine Grosbeaks and redpolls, two species that for the last few years were virtually absent from our area. The golf course at Nine Acre Corner in Concord was the spot to hit: Bohemian Waxwing, good numbers of American Robins, Cedar Waxwings, and Pine Grosbeaks were present all winter. A Varied Thrush was reported from Marlboro, and Bohemian Waxwings were noted in Nahant, Lexington, and Truro. Yellow-rumped Warblers were well reported on coastal CBCs but were nearly absent after the deep freeze. Other warbler highlights were Cape May, Prairie, 2 Ovenbirds, and a Northern Waterthrush.

A Black-headed Grosbeak was reported from a feeder in Walpole, and Evening Grosbeaks were wished-away from other feeders this winter. A Hoary Redpoll was discovered in a large flock of redpolls at Plum Island on the last day of February. Only 15 Red Crossbills and a single White-winged Crossbill were noted all season. A Lark Sparrow, 10 White-crowned, 6 Chipping, and 2 Grasshopper sparrows as well as a late Lincoln's Sparrow were among the highlights. R.H.S.

Mockingbird:			
12/20,21,28	Buzz.Bay, Gr.Boston, Concord	187, 130, 314	CBC
Gray Catbird:			
12/20,1/8	Buzz.Bay, Falmouth	2, 1	CBC, N.Komar#
2/9	Mattapoisett	1	G.Mock
Brown Thrasher:			
thr.	9 loc.	10 singles	v.o.
Varied Thrush:			
12/21-22	Marlboro	1	M.Purcell

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
Hermit Thrush: thr.	7 loc.	8 singles	v.o.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 12/20,30	Millis, Plymouth	1, 1	CBC
Bohemian Waxwing: 12/1-2,12/23-1/4	Nahant, Concord	1, 1	R.Heil#, R.Forster#
1/7, 1/20	Lexington, Truro	1, 3	W.Morris, S.Higginbotham
Cedar Waxwing: 12/28, thr. Jan.-Feb.	Concord, Middleboro	153, 31 max.	CBC, D.Briggs#
1/12, 2/7	IRWS, Bridgewater	15, 60	R.Heil, W.Petersen
Northern Shrike: 12/28, thr.	Concord, 8 loc.	4, 8 singles	CBC, v.o.
2/27	Yarmouth	1	R.Scott
Starling: 12/20, 21	Quincy, Boston	80000, 100000	CBC
Cape May Warbler: 12/1	S.Wellfleet	1	W.Bailey
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 12/21, 2/22	Cape Cod, Nantucket	800+, 200+	CBC, C.Jackson
Pine Warbler: 12/15-31, 20	Chatham, Falmouth	2, 1	V.Saunders#, CBC
12/26-1/31, 1/3-11	Acton, Harwich	1, 1	D.Verger, R.Comeau
Prairie Warbler: 12/9	Manomet	1	T.Lloyd-Evans#
Palm Warbler: 12/7	Ipswich, Braintree	2, 1	R.Heil#, R.Cornwell#
12/21, 27	Cape Cod, Marshfield	3, 2	CBC
Ovenbird: 12/21, 12/28	Cape Ann, Concord	1, 1	CBC
Northern Waterthrush: 12/7	Ipswich	1	R.Heil, B.Shockey
Common Yellowthroat: 12/8, 13	Salem, S.Peabody	1, 1	R.Heil
12/21	Cape Cod, Revere	9, 1	CBC
2/5	Gloucester	1	F.Bouchard
Yellow-breasted Chat: 12/1-7, 8	Wollaston, Salem	1, 1	W.Cornwell#, R.Heil
12/15, 21	MBO, Cape Cod	1, 4	MBO staff, CBC
Eastern Meadowlark: 12/21, 27, 28	C.Cod, Taunton, Concord	87, 29, 9	CBC
1/6, 25	Halifax, E.Orleans	4, 10	W.Perkins, B.Nikula
2/1	Bridgewater	1	BBC
Red-winged Blackbird: 12/21, 1/1	Gr.Boston, Marshfield	40, 5	CBC, N.+S.Osborne
1/26	Rockland	100 (both sexes)	W.Petersen
2/17, 18	Middleboro, Halifax	35+, 200+	D.Briggs, K.Anderson
2/18, 19	Concord, Scituate	31, 40	R.Walton, W.Petersen
2/22, 28	Halifax, Sudbury Valley	400+, 500+	K.Anderson, H.Wiggin#
Northern Oriole: 12/1-25, 2-24	Ipswich, S.Peabody	1, 1	J.Nove, R.Heil
12/5-31, 17	Cape Cod, Melrose	12, 1 f.	B.Nikula, D.Lavo
12/20, 30	Worcester, Danvers	1, 1	CBC, W.Gabbeiff
Rusty Blackbird: thr. Dec.	4 loc.	5 singles	v.o.
12/27, 1/19	Taunton, Sandwich	5, 2	CBC, S.Higginbotham
thr. Jan.-Feb.	Middleboro	14	D.Briggs#
2/13, 14	Braintree, M.V.	1, 1	R.Campbell, V.Laux#
Common Grackle: 1/5, 13	Medford, Halifax	1, 1 m.	G.Gove, K.Anderson
2/15, 17	Wayland, Concord	2, 50	R.Walton, R.Forster
2/22, 28	Halifax, Marshfield	100+, 12	K.Anderson, BBC
Brown-headed Cowbird: 1/1, 7	Woburn, Hanover	5, 10	G.Gove, W.Petersen
1/31-2/1, 2/1	Ipswich, Cape Ann	2, 8	J.Berry, O.Komar#
Dickcissel: 12/20, 27	Worcester, Marshfield	1, 1	CBC
1/4	Buzz. Bay	1	SSBC

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
<u>Black-headed Grosbeak:</u>			
from Dec.-2/27	Walpole	1 m.	Mrs.Colburn, fide R.Langley
<u>Evening Grosbeak:</u>			
12/2,7	S.Peabody, Abington	30+, 25	R.Heil, W.Cornwell#
12/20,21,28	Worcester, C.Cod, Concord	619, 394, 915	CBC
thr.Jan.,1/23	Middleboro, Baldwinville	75 max., 50+	D.Briggs, J.O'Regan
2/1,22	Pembroke, Wayland	29, 30	E.Pearson, E.Morrier
<u>Purple Finch:</u>			
12/5;27,28	Newton; Taunton, Concord	5; 56, 123	N.+O.Komar; CBC
1/4,24	Marion, DFWS	2, 2	SSBC, N.Komar
<u>House Finch:</u>			
1/5,2/28	S.Peabody, Nantucket	32, 55	R.Heil, BBC
<u>Pine Grosbeak:</u>			
12/7,14-23	Boxford, MBO	2, 1 imm. f.	A.Palmer, MBO staff
12/20,27,28	Worcester, Newbypt, Concord	28, 35, 33	CBC
1/1,16-31	Boxford, Lincoln	15, 11 max.	M.Argue#, R.Forster
2/9,2/28	WBWS, Concord	1, 6	W.Bailey#, H.Wiggin#
<u>Hoary Redpoll:</u>			
2/28	P.I.	1	v.o.
<u>Common Redpoll:</u>			
12/7, 14	Braintree, P.I.	15, 35	D.Brown#, BBC+v.o.
12/20,21,28	Worcester, Gr.Boston, Concord	150, 51, 95	CBC
thr.Jan.	P.I., Sudbury	50+, 70	v.o., R.Forster
1/9,2/1	Cambridge, P'town	35, 11	J.Paputseanos, B.Nikula
2/14,28	W.Newbury, P.I.	30+, 100	R.Heil, v.o.
<u>Pine Siskin:</u>			
12/18	Westwood, Wayland	35, 24	Mrs.Wicks, D.Long
12/20,27,28	Worcester, Taunton, Concord	45, 75, 74	CBC
1/4,27	Westwood, Needham	50, 30+	B.Wicks, C.Woodruff
thr.Feb.	6 loc.	27 ind.	v.o.
<u>Red Crossbill:</u>			
12/7,2/14	Ipswich, M.V.	5, 10	R.Heil, V.Laux#
<u>White-winged Crossbill:</u>			
1/24-30	M.V.	1	V.Laux#
<u>Rufous-sided Towhee:</u>			
12/10,18	Weston, Wakefield	1, 1 m.	E.Randle, J.Morse
12/31-2/1,1/2	Manchester, Cohasset	1 m., 2	F.Campbell, N.+S.Osborne
2/5,2/7+15	Gloucester, Nahant	1, 1	F.Bouchard, R.Forster
2/9	Mattapoisett	1	G.Mock
<u>Savannah Sparrow:</u>			
12/21,1/18	Cape Cod, <u>Whitman</u>	26, 1	CBC, W.Petersen
2/28	Nantucket	1	BBC
<u>"Ipswich Sparrow":</u>			
12/7	Duxbury Beach	1	W.Petersen
<u>Grasshopper Sparrow:</u>			
12/7	Ipswich	2	R.Heil + B.Shockey
<u>Sharp-tailed Sparrow:</u>			
12/3,21	Quincy, Cape Cod	1, 7	W.Cornwell, CBC
<u>Seaside Sparrow:</u>			
12/6,7	P.I., Newbypt	1, 1	BBC, K.Able
12/21	Cape Cod	4	CBC
<u>Vesper Sparrow:</u>			
12/27,2/28	M.V., Nantucket	5, 1	CBC, BBC
<u>Lark Sparrow:</u>			
12/20	Marion	1	R.Harlow + K.Anderson
<u>Dark-eyed Junco:</u>			
12/20,28	Quincy, Concord	167, 1200	CBC
<u>Tree Sparrow:</u>			
12/7;20,28	Ipswich;Quincy, Concord	90+; 275, 1486	R.Heil; CBC
1/16,24	Sudbury, Concord	100, 50	W.Petersen#, N.+O.Komar
<u>Chipping Sparrow:</u>			
thr.Jan.,1/4	M.V., Marshfield	5, 1	V.Laux, J.Kricher
<u>Field Sparrow:</u>			
12/7,28	Braintree, E.Middleboro	12, 10	D.Brown#, K.Anderson
12/21,27,28	C.Cod, Taunton, Concord	24, 50, 25	CBC
1/5,18	Salem, Sandwich	2, 5	R.Heil, N.Komar#
2/7	Beverly	3	G.Soucy

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
White-crowned Sparrow:			
12/4-7,7	Yarmouth, Duxbury Beach	1, 1	J.Aylward, W.Petersen
12/7	Ipswich	4 (1 <u>gambelii</u> )	R.Heil#
12/8,20	Quincy, Millis	1, 1	D.Skeels, CBC
thr.Jan.,2/22	DFWS, Nantucket	1, 1	P.Swift#, BBC
White-throated Sparrow:			
thr.Dec.,12/28	Brookline, Concord	11, 263	B.Reilly#, CBC
1/4,24	Milton, Yarmouthport	15, 2	BBC, F.+M.Worrell
2/5,9	Gloucester, WBWS	5, 5	F.Bouchard, W.Bailey#
Fox Sparrow:			
thr.Dec.	15 loc.	31	v.o.
1/2,1/4	E.Middleboro, Westwood	3, 4	K.Anderson, B.Wicks
thr.Jan.-Feb.,2/28	S.Peabody, Marshfield	3, 5	R.Heil, BBC
Lincoln's Sparrow:			
12/7	Ipswich	1	R.Heil
	Good details submitted.		
Swamp Sparrow:			
12/2,thr.Dec.	S.Peabody, 3 loc.	8, 3 singles	R.Heil, v.o.
1/2	Medfield	12	J.Marshall
Song Sparrow:			
12/7,20	Ipswich, Quincy	70, 115	R.Heil#, CBC
2/28	Nantucket	10	C.Jackson
Lapland Longspur:			
12/7	Monomoy	100	B.Nikula
1/1,thr.Jan.	P.I., Salisbury	20, 22 max.	M.Argue#, v.o.
2/9	Orleans	1	W.Bailey#
Snow Bunting:			
12/7,28	N.Scituate, E.Middleboro	6, 100	A.Dickinson, K.Anderson
12/21,29	Cape Ann, Millis	101, 4	CBC, J.Marshall
1/18,19	Falmouth, Hudson	50, 45	N.Komar#, J.Gildea
thr.Feb.,2/21	Lanesville, P.I.	20 max., 17	v.o., BBC

#### List of Abbreviations

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

\*Boston Harbor project sponsored by BOEM