

remained in the vicinity until late Jan; another was at Howick 3 Feb (J. May, LS); and finally one was at Sainte-Julie from mid-Feb into Mar (G. Veilleux, ph., m.ob.). A few Rusty Blackbirds were seen into Feb, but sizeable flocks of 14 at Lachenaie 17 Dec on the Longueuil C.B.C. and 40 at Saint-André-Est 15 Dec (LS, É. Normandeau) were unusual. A well-studied female **Bullock's Oriole** was at Saint-François-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud 9 Dec–13 Jan, only a 3rd documented record for the province (M. Lavoie, m.ob., ph.). Five Baltimore Orioles were reported in Dec, one of them making it to 17 Jan at Chandler (R. Garrett, m.ob.). White-winged Crossbills remained abundant throughout the boreal and mixed forests; ads. gathering nest material were reported in Feb, and a male was seen feeding 2 juvs. as early as 9 Feb in the Gaspésie Park (R. Guillet).

Addenda: Two **Trumpeter Swans** were photographed at L. Duparquet (Abitibi) 8-15 Oct 2006, furnishing the 8th Regional record since 1990 (J. Lecours, *fide* D. Lepage). A **White-winged Dove** accompanying Mourning Doves made a brief pause at a Saint-Anne-de-Baupré feeder 17 Nov 2006 (C. Tremblay, M. Lagacé, *fide* GLo).

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New England



Pamela Hunt

The New England weather once again lived up to the old Yankee adage: if you don't like it, wait a minute. Or in this case a few weeks. The season started out exceptionally warm, with record temperatures through early January. In fact, December as a whole was the first or second warmest on record in all states except Maine. The southern portion of the Region pushed the 70-degree mark on 6 January, only to plunge into typical colder temperatures a week later, but the month as a whole still averaged in the warmest 20%. February picked up where January ended and actually averaged among the coldest 25% on record. December was dry, es-

pecially in the south, and the lack of snow was again cause for concern. January was about normal in terms of precipitation, although snow was still scarce. In February, two major snowstorms finally coated the ground in our accustomed winter color. Taken as a whole, the season was in the top 20% in warmth and bottom 20% in precipitation.

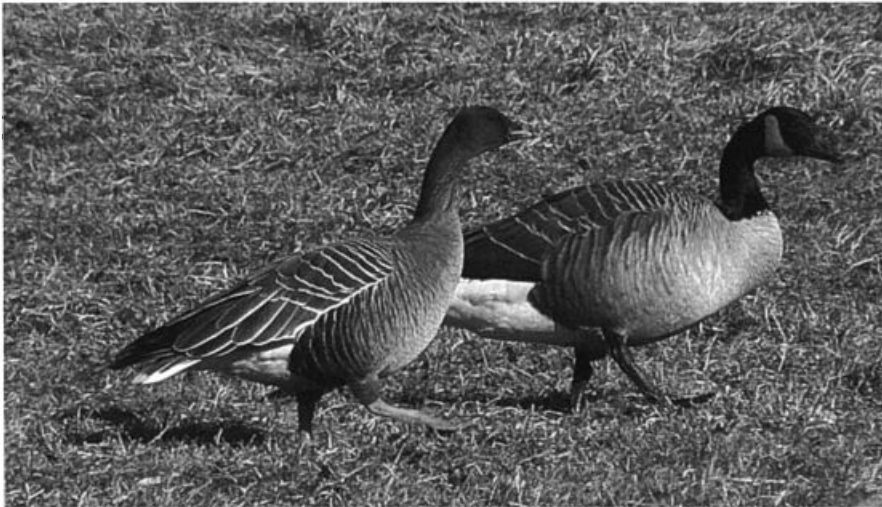
As for avian phenomena, there was no repeat of last winter's profusion of half-hardies, and given the exceptional warm early in the season, it is reasonable to assume that all the catbirds and thrushes in 2005-2006 were not lured to linger by the New England climate. Otherwise wouldn't they have been even more common this year? Granted, this is an oversimplification, but the point is that while temperature may allow birds to survive, it is rarely likely to put them here in the first place. The exception may be when birds feel the urge to reproduce. This season there were two breeding records. One was nest-building behavior by White-winged Crossbills in Maine and Vermont, an activity that has never been tied to temperature and is not unexpected in midwinter. In contrast, a female Ruffed Grouse with downy young in December—which survived into early February—is perhaps more indicative of what is possible when winter gets put on hold. One wonders how many grouse try to pull off a clutch in the wake of the brief fall drumming season but normally fail once December's icy grip sets in.

Winter 2005-2006 showed few if any broad patterns in bird distribution. Except for White-winged Crossbills (which stayed up north), there was no movement of winter finches or Bohemian Waxwings. In terms of rarities, New Hampshire hosted its second Eared Grebe and second and third Slaty-backed Gulls. Connecticut had its first Lazuli Bunting and the Region's first winter Cave Swallow. Among the usual plethora of surprises in Massachusetts were a Black-throated Gray Warbler and third state record of Bell's Vireo. A Sooty Shearwater off Cape Cod in early January is also worthy of note. Geese made the news in Rhode Island, with a single site hosting both Pink-footed and Barnacle, among more mundane fare. Maine had the honor of hosting three Western Tanagers in December.

Abbreviations/locations: Eastham (Barnstable, MA), Gloucester (Essex, MA), M.V. (Martha's Vineyard, Dukes, MA), P.I. (Plum Island, Essex, MA), Ptown (Provincetown, Barnstable, MA), Rockport (Essex, MA), Rye (Rockingham, NH).

WATERFOWL THROUGH VULTURES

It was the "Winter of the Goose" in Rhode Island in 2006-2007, with seven species reported on Aquidneck I., Newport Jan-Feb. Maxima during this period were as follows: 2500 Canada Geese (including 6 apparent Giant Canada Geese), 4 Greater White-fronted



Among the multitude of geese that frequented the Newport, Rhode Island area during January and February 2007 were two Pink-footed Geese (one at left). These birds were in the area from 6 January–19 February (here 9 January), along with a Barnacle Goose, four Greater White-fronted Geese, and six Cackling Geese. Photograph by Richard Johnson.

Geese, 2 Pink-footed Geese, a Barnacle Goose, 6 Cackling Geese, 7 Snow Geese and 50 Brant. The Pink-footed Geese were first found 6 Jan (R. Weaver) and frequented the area through 19 Feb (ph., m.ob.). The final sighting was from farther n. in the state at Richmond, *Providence* 28 Feb. The Barnacle Goose was present 13 Jan–28 Feb (ph. DF, m.ob.).

Connecticut also hosted a Barnacle Goose, at Newtown, *Fairfield* through the period (ph., m.ob.), plus a probable first state record Ross's Goose at both West Haven 11 Dec and Westport, *Fairfield* 16–29 Dec. The Nutmeg State also had 9 Greater White-fronted Geese and at least 5 Cackling Geese. Other Greater White-fronted Geese included at least a dozen in Massachusetts, one in far n. Maine at Caribou (*Aroostook*) 1 Dec, and a cross-border wanderer at Fryberg, *Oxford*, ME and Chatham, *Carroll*, NH 6–9 Dec. It's hard to compare totals of Cackling Geese for the Region, as birders were not paying as much attention to them prior to the split, but along with the Connecticut and Rhode Island birds, there were an additional 5 reported in Massachusetts and 2 in New Hampshire. Perhaps an indication of the continued mild weather into Dec was the seasonally high total of 10,000 Snow Geese from Burlington, *Chittenden*, VT 8 Dec.

Northern Shoveler numbers were similar to last winter's and included at least 28 in Massachusetts, 14 in Rhode Island, 10 in Connecticut, and one on the Connecticut R. in Hinsdale, *Cheshire*, NH 31 Jan. A male Tufted Duck appeared on n. L. Champlain for a 2nd consecutive winter at South Hero, *Grand Isle* 23 Feb (TM, AS). A count of 1000 Common Eiders at Mystic, *New London*, CT 1 Jan was

well above the normal tallies for Connecticut (C. Taylor). Counts of Harlequin Ducks from the species' traditional spots were roughly normal, but less expected were 4 singles at inland locations: a male along the Kennebec R. in Waterville, *Kennebec*, ME that lingered from the fall through at least 10 Jan (Don Mairs, m.ob.); a female at Barkhamsted Res., *Litchfield* 10 Dec (P. Carrier), only the 3rd in-



A popular species in captivity, Red-crested Pochard often turns up in the East with feral Mallards, as here in a backyard in Falmouth, Maine 21 December 2006. Photograph by Derek Lovitch.

land record for Connecticut; and 2 at L. Champlain at Shelburne, *Addison*, VT 18–27 Jan (m.ob.).

In many ways the most remarkable avian event of the season was not a vagrant goose or high count of irruptives but a Ruffed Grouse with 3 downy young in Danby, *Rutland*, VT 31 Dec (N. Brown). The chicks survived at least five weeks from the original sighting and were seen again with their parent on 20 Jan and 3 Feb. Pacific Loons were reported from the

now traditional localities of Portland and Ogunquit, *York*, ME and Ptown, MA. New Hampshire's 2nd-ever Eared Grebe frequented the coast at Rye 1 Dec–4 Feb, only to disappear until seen slightly farther n. 28 Feb (ph., m.ob.). E. Gloucester's Eared Grebe returned for a 12th year, officially tying the longevity record for the species reported in *The Birds of North America*. Western Grebes made brief appearances at Old Lyme, *New London*, CT 31 Dec–1 Jan and P.I. 6 Jan.

One wonders what climatic or food-related factors are resulting in the increasing numbers of winter shearwaters in the Region. This season there were 8 Greater Shearwaters at Eastham 2 Dec, along with 2 unidentified large shearwaters (BN); others were at Ptown 3 Dec (BN) and off Portland 16 Dec. Far more remarkable was a Sooty Shearwater at Eastham 2 Jan (BN), one of a small but recently increasing number of mid-winter records for the w. North Atlantic. Pelicans return to the winter summary with two reports of American White Pelican: one at P.I. 10 Dec (P. Roberts) and perhaps the same individual over S. Kingston, *Washington*, RI 3 Jan (P. Capobianco).

The exceptionally mild early winter was almost certainly a factor behind the large number of lingering herons (other than Great Blue) in the Region. Although Great Egrets have become fairly regular in early winter along Long Island Sound, this winter saw the species lingering both longer and farther n. than usual. Four were present in Massachusetts in early Dec, one of which was still on Cape Cod 14 Jan. More remarkable was a bird inland at Worcester, *Worcester*, MA 7 Jan. Late records were from Hamden, *New Haven*, CT 30 Jan and Eastham, MA 1 Feb. A Snowy Egret was in Gloucester through 15 Jan (m.ob.), and another stayed until 19 Jan in Stratford, *Fairfield*, CT (C. Barnard). Not staying quite as long was an imm. Little Blue

Heron in Millbury, *Worcester*, MA 12–26 Dec (R. Johnson), but its inland location was most unexpected. A Green Heron in Lincoln, *Providence*, RI 28 Jan (ph. DF) was only the 2nd Jan record for the Ocean State. Despite the shift to strangely normal temperatures in midwinter, Black Vultures managed to hang on throughout the winter in Massachusetts, including individuals on M.V. in both late Dec and late Feb. As for Turkey Vultures, the n. edge of the wintering population in the



This returning Eared Grebe spent its twelfth winter at Niles Beach, Gloucester, Massachusetts (here 18 February 2007). Photograph by Derek Lovitch.

Northeast can now be safely said to include coastal New Hampshire, as evidenced by a roost in Newmarket, *Rockingham* that persisted throughout the winter. Persistent reports from Jan and Feb suggest that the species wintered in s. Maine as well. The Region's northernmost Black Vulture was over Amherst, *Hillsborough*, NH 4 Dec (T. Young).

RAPTORS THROUGH ALCIDS

Despite the mild weather into Jan, all the Osprey reports were from Dec, totaling 4 in Massachusetts and 2 in Maine. There was an exception: a bird in Portland 10 Feb, which given the cold snap during that period is all the more remarkable. Rough-legged Hawks seemed more common than usual in some parts of the Region. Four frequented the s. Connecticut R. valley of New Hampshire in mid-Feb, and elsewhere in the Granite State one to 2 were reported from both the Merrimack Valley and Seacoast. These birds may have been part of a late-season influx from farther n., as Maine noted a concentration in early Feb and most of Connecticut's records were from a "flurry at the end" (GH). The only other raptor of note was a possible Gyrfalcon from Dover, *Strafford*, NH 13 Feb, albeit without details.

An amazing 4 Yellow Rails showed up in the Region this season. The first was a bird photographed in Scituate, *Plymouth*, MA 1 Dec (D. Ludlow). It was followed by Connecticut's first winter record from Stonington, *New London* 17 Dec (P. Rusch, J. Restivo). And finally, 2 were found on the Nantucket C.B.C. 29 Dec (RV, m.ob.). Nantucket also hosted, as is fairly typical in recent years, a Common Moorhen at roughly the same time, while another was at Narragansett, *Washington*, RI 18-23 Dec. The only

Sandhill Cranes this season were in Connecticut and s. Maine. For a winter with such an extended warm spell, it was somewhat surprising that relatively few shorebirds lingered far into the season. Among the exceptions was Rhode Island's first Jan Semipalmated Plover at Narragansett 2-7 Jan. Farther w., a Lesser Yellowlegs stayed through 19 Jan at Stratford, CT (C. Barnard). Six Long-billed Dowitchers made a one-day appearance at the latter location 16 Jan. Far to the n., an extremely out-of-place Dunlin at Hinesburg, *Ad-dison*, VT 30 Dec was not even along the shoreline of L. Champlain. Two American Woodcocks were displaying well away from the coast in nw. Connecticut on the early date of 4 Jan (*fide* GH).

Pomarine Jaegers appeared in numbers after their relative absence in 2005-2006. The high count of 32 came from Eastham 27 Dec (BN), which location also hosted the season's latest 16 Jan. Throughout Dec and early Jan, up to 4 were reported from other coastal locations in Massachusetts. The only other jaeger was a Parasitic reported from Phillipsburg, *Sagadahoc*, ME 11 Dec, although no details accompanied the sighting. A Thayer's Gull from Ptown 21-29 Dec (ph. T. Johnson, m.ob.) awaits evaluation by the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee. But the gulls of the season were the 2 Slaty-backed Gulls (an ad. and third-cycle bird) that visited the Rochester W.T.P., *Strafford*, NH 2-18 Jan (ph. MH, SM, JT, m.ob.). This is the same location that hosted the first state record two winters ago.

Although the days of massive Dovekie wrecks appear to be long gone, there was a slight influx of this littlest Atlantic alcid in ear-

coastal Massachusetts in the 2nd half of that month. Numbers had dwindled somewhat by early Jan, by which point 3 were found in Rhode Island. Two of the latter were found grounded well away from the immediate coast, as was the season's last report from Salisbury,



Rare in the Rhode Island in winter, this Green Heron in Lincoln furnished only the second winter record for the state (here 28 January 2007). Photograph by Susan Talbot.

Essex, MA 27 Feb. Common Murres have been outnumbering Thick-billed in recent winters, but a count of 233 from Rockport 15 Jan (RH) is among the highest ever recorded in the Bay State. In comparison, there were only 289 Razorbills that same day, with an additional 108 unidentified large alcids. High counts of Razorbills throughout the season at traditional seawatching spots like Rockport and Ptown tended to range between 1000 and 1500 birds—if one assumes that most unidentified large alcids were this species.

DOVES THROUGH WRENS

A White-winged Dove at a feeder in Branford, *New Haven*, CT 20 Feb-Mar (ph. D. Lorello) showed foot and bill damage indicative of a possible captive provenance. Up to 6 Snowy Owls were at Boston's Logan Airport this winter (N. Smith), a rather low number, and given our increasing knowledge about within-winter movements of this species, many other reports from P.I. to Cape Cod may represent the same pool of individuals. Four more Snowies visited cen. and n. Maine. While Long-eared Owls are fairly regular in



Only the second ever documented in the state, this Eared Grebe wintered off the coast in Rye, New Hampshire 1 December 2006 through 4 February 2007 (here 2 December). Photograph by Stephen Mirick.

ly winter. Higher-than-usual numbers were reported in s. Maine starting in early Dec (*fide* JD, WT), and there were multiple reports from

the s. portion of the Region, they are scarce in the n. states; one in Pittsburg, *Coos*, NH 19 Dec (PB) was worthy of note.



New Hampshire's (and New England's!) second Slaty-backed Gull was an adult at the Rochester wastewater treatment plant 2 January 2007 (left; here 10 January). This adult was joined briefly by a third-cycle individual (right; here 18 January) before both disappeared after 18 January. Photographs by Mike Harvey.

Hummingbirds continue to amaze. A first state record **Calliope Hummingbird** was in New Haven, *New Haven*, CT 2-7 Dec (ph. D. Sosensky, m.ob.); concurrently, Massachusetts's 2nd record of this species continued from the fall through 26 Jan at S. Dartmouth, *Bristol* (ph. G. Dennis, m.ob.). After a good fall flight, 3 Rufous Hummingbirds were in Connecticut, with the latest staying through 16 Jan at Somers, *Tolland* (m.ob.), while Massachusetts hosted 2, including one in Cataumet, *Barnstable* for the entire season. Unidentified hummers include a *Selasphorus* in Rhode Island through 26 Jan and an *Archilochus* (Ruby-throated or Black-chinned) in Plymouth, *Plymouth*, MA 16-31 Dec (ph. D. Baptista). To the far n., where hummers fear to tread (at least in winter), American Three-toed Woodpeckers were in Stockholm, *Aroostook*, ME 1 Dec and Moose Bog, *Essex*, VT through mid-Jan. Red-bellied Woodpeckers seem to have slowed their recent advance into Maine (*vide* JD) but are still setting C.B.C. records in s. New Hampshire (*vide* DD).

Barely making it into the season was a **Least Flycatcher** in Cambridge, *Middlesex*, MA through 2 Dec (R. Stymeist), providing the 2nd latest record for the state. Although widespread, Eastern Phoebes did not show up in anything resembling the numbers from last winter. Reports from Massachusetts were evenly spread through the season, with 3-5 in each month. Elsewhere in s. New England, there were at least 8 in Rhode Island, with one persisting for the entire season, while a bird in Connecticut lingered until 27 Jan. More notable were 2 phoebes in Vermont: at Grand Isle 17 Dec (DH) and Brattleboro, *Windham* 9 Jan. **Ash-throated Flycatchers** were widespread (at least in a Regional context), with four records in Dec. Northernmost was a bird in Saco, *Cumberland*, ME through 12 Dec (ph. D. Lovitch). In Massachusetts, birds were at Annisquam, *Essex* 9-19 Dec (m.ob.) and E.

Orleans, *Barnstable* 19 Dec (D. Reynolds). Last but not least was one in Stamford, *Fairfield*, CT 17-20 Dec (ph., m.ob.). Western Kingbirds were slightly more numerous, with 3 in Massachusetts (latest 24 Dec at Gloucester), one in Rhode Island (17-19 Dec at Napatree Pt., *Washington*), and one in Connecti-



This Western Kingbird at Napatree Point, Rhode Island 17 (here) through 19 December 2006 was one of an impressive five that lingered in New England this winter. Photograph by Richard Farren.

cut (*vide* GH).

A cooperative **Bell's Vireo** in Falmouth, *Barnstable* through 16 Dec (m.ob.) provided Massachusetts with its 3rd state record. Also lingering into the early part of the season was a **White-eyed Vireo** in Rockport through 5 Dec and 3 **Blue-headed Vireos** (2 in Massachusetts, one in Connecticut). Given the regularity with which **Cave Swallows** have been visiting the Region in fall, it was only a matter of time before the species was recorded in the winter period; single birds in New Haven, CT 2-3 Dec (R. Bell) provided the state and Region with a first winter record. Like so many other half-hardies, House Wrens were in lower numbers than last winter, despite the

milder conditions, with 2 in Massachusetts and 4 in Rhode Island. Carolina Wrens continue to increase in s. New Hampshire, with numbers on C.B.C.s about three times the 1996-2005 average (*vide* DD).

KINGLETS THROUGH WARBLERS

Ruby-crowned Kinglets seemed somewhat more common than usual in the n. portion of the Region, where 2 lingered into mid-Dec in Vermont and several were tallied on New Hampshire Christmas counts. A total of 24 on Rhode Island's Newport-Westport C.B.C. 16 Dec was the 2nd highest on record. For the 2nd year in a row, Hermit Thrushes seemed noticeably more common than usual in the north. Most definitely not usual by any measure was a **Wood Thrush** in Wells, *York*, ME 21 Jan (DL), observed feeding on rose hips in the same bush as an American Tree Sparrow. Another was in Rockport 28 Jan (M. Burns). The star of last winter's half-hardy show, **Gray Catbird**, was scarce this season: Maine managed to turn up one (compared to 14 in winter 2005-2006), and the other states had either none or single individuals.

In last winter's summary I speculated on the shifting nature of Bohemian Waxwing incursions into New England. Numbers in 2004-2005 were unusually high for an "off-year," and 2005-2006 had perhaps the lowest counts in a decade. If the species was simply re-setting its biennial clock, 2006-2007 should have seen an increase. But it did not, and in fact this winter's "invasion" does not justify the term at all. Even in the traditional stronghold of Maine there were only six reports of no more than 15 individuals, most of which were in the n.-cen. portion of the state late Jan-mid-

Feb. None were reported from New Hampshire at all, and the only Vermont records appear to have been from the w. part of the state in mid-Feb. To the s., there were two reports totaling 4 individuals in w. Massachusetts during the same time frame.

As usual, Massachusetts hosted a number of warblers lingering into early Dec, including a **Nashville** in Boston through the 12th, a **Northern Parula** in Gloucester on the 3rd, and a **Black-throated Blue** in Granby, *Hampshire* through the 19th. Another **Black-throated Blue** spent Jan and Feb in Boxford, *Essex*, MA (ph., m.ob.). Another in Windam, *Cumberland*, ME through 23 Dec furnished only the 2nd winter record for the Pine Tree State.

There were 2 Cape Warblers this season: one in Rye, NH 1 Dec (SM), the other throughout Jan at Orleans, *Barnstable*, MA (JT). Also on Cape Cod was an Audubon's Warbler at Eastham 23 Dec+ (ph., m.ob.). Numbers of Myrtle Warblers were reported as lower than usual in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. Two w. *Dendroica* were found by Massachusetts birders this winter: a **Black-throated Gray Warbler** on Nantucket 4 Feb (E. Andrews) and a **Townsend's Warbler** at a Cambridge feeder 22 Jan+ (ph. J. Orr, m.ob.). To the n., a Yellow-throated Warbler was at Waterville, ME 14 Dec–2 Jan (ph. D. Mairs, m.ob.). (It is worth noting that an out-of-range Black-backed Woodpecker was at the opposite side of town at the same time, providing Maine birders with a rare juxtaposition.) A **Prairie Warbler** in *Middleton*, RI 28 Dec provided one of few winter records for the Region. Wilson's Warblers staged a mini-invasion of sorts, with 3 in e. Massachusetts 3 Dec. Another found at Stamford, CT 14 Dec remained through 18 Jan. There was much speculation on whether the Connecticut bird was of a w. subspecies, as was the season's 5th bird: at Nahant, Essex, MA 3 Jan–14 Feb (ph., m.ob.).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

A remarkable 3 **Western Tanagers** were reported in Maine during Dec: on *Monhegan I.* on the 4th, at *Damariscotta*, *Lincoln* on the 11th, and at *Rockport*, *Knox* on the 15th. Another was at E. Haddam, *Middlesex*, CT 17–19 Dec (C. Taylor, E. Hagen). None of these birds appear to have lingered after Dec. Like so many of the 2005–2006 half-hardies, Eastern Towhees were scarce. However, a bird in *Mapleton*, *Aroostook*, ME 30–31 Dec was over 160 km n. of the species' breeding range in the state. This is perhaps as good a piece of evidence as any that many of these "lingering" birds are actually reverse migrants or otherwise displaced individuals. In other towhee news was a bird in *Falmouth*, *Barnstable*, MA 10 Dec that appeared to be an **Eastern Towhee** × **Spotted Towhee** hybrid (RH et al.). The bird in question had both the white primary spot of an Eastern and the white scapular spots of a Spotted, along with an unmarked black back. A few Clay-colored Sparrows regularly occur in s. New England in the winter, but one in *Concord*, *Merrimack*, NH 17 Dec would be the first winter record for the Granite State (PB). Swamp Sparrows were also more common than usual in the n., with

an unprecedented three Jan reports in Maine (*vide* JD), plus higher-than-usual numbers in coastal New Hampshire during Dec (*vide* DD). A **Harris's Sparrow** spent Jan–Feb in *Georgetown*, *Essex*, MA (A. O'Hare).



Yellow-breasted Chats are often more numerous in coastal Massachusetts than at any locale in the East in winter, at least north of Florida. This bird was a lucky find at *Halibut Point*, Massachusetts 4 February 2007. Photograph by Geoff Malosh.

A young male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** appeared in *Farmington*, *Hartford*, CT 4 Feb (C. Donagher). Three **Painted Buntings** graced the Region this season. The first was a male that continued from the fall through 5 Dec at *Huntington*, *Hampshire*, MA (ph. S. Hamlin). Also first found in Nov was a female in *Wal-*



This green Painted Bunting obliged birders by spending most of the winter (here 23 January 2007) at a feeder in *Waldoboro*, *Maine*. Photograph by Derek Lovitch.

doboro, *Lincoln*, ME that persisted until late Dec, then made a brief reappearance in late Jan (ph. C. McIntyre, m.ob.). The 3rd was a green bird at *New Haven*, CT 16–21 Dec (A. Brand, m.ob.), the first of its species in Connecticut in over a decade. Within the Nutmeg State however, the latter record was easily trumped by a very carefully studied yearling male **Lazuli Bunting** just up the coast at *Hammonasset S.P.*, *New Haven*, CT 4 Jan–11 Feb (ph. B. Yule, m.ob.). This bird represents the first state record for Connecticut and a first winter record for the Region. While the

young male was on the Connecticut coast, an ad. male **Lazuli Bunting** appeared at a bird bath in *Hadley*, *Hampshire*, MA 30–31 Jan (ph., L. Currins), representing the 2nd record for the Bay State (and the 2nd Regional winter record). For the 2nd year in a row, a **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was seen in *Stratham*, *Rockingham*, NH, this time 21 Jan. A flock of 22 **Boat-tailed Grackles** in *Stratford*, CT was somewhat higher than usual for this traditional wintering locality.

It was the "winter that wasn't" for winter finches. Pine Grosbeaks were scarce even in Maine, where there were only six reports, most of only 1–2 birds. The high count of 15 was from the n. tip of the Region in *Fort Kent*, *Aroostook* in mid-Jan. Elsewhere in the n., there was only a single report from *New Hampshire* and none from *Vermont*. In light of this scarcity in the n., a Pine Grosbeak that hit a window in *Chatham*, *Barnstable*, MA on Christmas Day was most remarkable (C. Kennedy); luckily, it was uninjured and was photographed before flying off to parts unknown. Common Redpolls showed a similar pattern: a scattering of reports in the single digits from the n. three states and a single report from Massachusetts, of 6 in *Pittsfield*, *Berkshire* 16 Dec. For observers in the n., there were at least crossbills to enjoy. Red

Crossbills were sparsely distributed in *New Hampshire* and *Maine*, although in small numbers (*vide* DD, JD), but the real story was **White-winged Crossbills**. In *Maine*, the flight was considered the "best showing since 2000–2001" (JD). The largest flocks tended to be in the n. and w. parts of the state, with the southernmost report being a small flock in *Wells*, *York* 1 Feb (J. Stevens). Numbers in *New Hampshire* were about average on the state's n. Christmas counts; otherwise there was a maximum of 110 in *Pittsburg*, *NH* 13 Jan (MH). In both *Vermont* and *Maine*, breeding behavior was observed in Jan and Feb.

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