

BIRD SIGHTINGS

January–February 2018

Neil Hayward and Robert H. Stymeist

Birders who were geared up for a new year of birding awoke to some bone-chilling temperatures; in Boston, the high for the day was a raw 13 degrees, and the western part of the state and the hill towns of Worcester County saw in the New Year with temperatures below zero. A powerful winter storm on January 4 brought blizzard conditions up the East Coast from Virginia to Maine. Meteorologists dubbed this a “bomb cyclone”: masses of cold air colliding with warm air to produce hurricane force winds. Gusts of 76 miles per hour were noted on Nantucket and 75 miles per hour in Wellfleet. Coastal areas experienced extreme high tides—associated with the super moon on January 1—and major flooding was noted in Scituate and Marshfield causing severe damage to homes. The high tide in Boston reached an all-time high of 15.16 feet, breaking the previous record of 15.1 feet set during the Blizzard of 1978. The bomb cyclone brought snow too: 13.4 inches in Boston, 16.6 inches in Worcester, and over 15 inches in parts of the south coast where Taunton exceeded 17 inches. Despite the cold start, temperatures for the month of January ended near normal with an average of 29 degrees. The high in Boston was 61 degrees on January 13 and the low was minus two on January 7. Rainfall totaled 4.92 inches in Boston, 1.56 inches above average, and the total snowfall was 17.8 inches, most of which fell during the January 4 storm.

February opened with a mild reading of 46 degrees. The month averaged 38 degrees, six degrees above normal. The high for the month was 72 degrees on February 21, the second highest reading in record keeping. (The previous record of 73 degrees was set just last year!) Don’t let the mild temperatures fool you though; on Groundhog Day, Phil saw his shadow and predicted six more weeks of winter! Rainfall totaled 3.77 inches, almost an inch above normal. Boston recorded 8.3 inches of snow during the month, most of it falling during a fast-moving storm on February 17–18. Snowfall totals were highest north and west of Boston with areas in Middlesex and Essex Counties receiving more than seven inches. The highest snowfall was nine inches in Haverhill.

R. Stymeist

WATERFOWL THROUGH HERONS

No longer a news flash these days: all eight species of goose on the Massachusetts State List were reported this period. **Ross’s Geese** were found in four counties, including the continuing Boston bird from December, which represented the first record for Suffolk County. The **Barnacle Goose** in Westfield held on for the first day of the year before disappearing and then possibly reappearing a couple of days later on the Connecticut coast. A **Pink-footed Goose** in Berkley/Dighton in January and February is the first record for Bristol County. This area, along the banks of the Taunton River, also hosted some of the many **Greater White-fronted Geese** reported this period as well as a **Cackling Goose**.

This continues to be an excellent winter for **King Eider**, with birds reported from at least seven locations, including five individuals in Rockport. The male **Tufted Duck** continued through the period on Nantucket.

The rest of the duck news was mainly for subspecies aficionados. A male Eurasian Green-winged Teal was photographed at Peabody on February 20. This subspecies, *crecca*, considered

by the International Ornithological Union (IOU) to be a full species, is recorded annually in the state with birds sighted from November through June. Only the male—with a horizontal white stripe along the lower scapulars and lacking the vertical white stripe on the breast—is separable in the field from our native subspecies *carolinensis*.

Flocks of Common Eider continue to receive scrutiny from birders on the lookout for the rare northern *borealis* subspecies. Northern Common Eiders breed in Greenland and Arctic Canada and winter around Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. There are reports as far south as Long Island, New York, and over a dozen reports from Massachusetts. At least three birds were reported this period: a male and female along the Cape Cod Canal and a female in Rockport. *Borealis* eiders are relatively easy to separate from our regular *dresseri* subspecies—the males have brighter yellow (not green) bills with more white (and less green) in the face, whereas females are grayer than *dresseri*. Importantly, in both sexes the bill tapers to sharp points at the base, unlike the more rounded frontal lobes of *dresseri*. Females of the aptly named *sedentaria* subspecies of Hudson Bay are similarly cold gray in color, but have yet to be shown to reach the East Coast.

Winter storms brought impressive numbers of alcids close to shore. Flying past Andrews Point in Rockport, 1,972 Dovekies were counted on February 25. This is the third highest count this century, with the record going to 3,470 in November 2012, also from Andrews Point. These numbers are dwarfed, however, by the historical “wrecks” of the 1950s and 1960s when upwards of 10,000 birds appeared after winter storms. Razorbills put on a similarly impressive show, with an exceptional 8,500 spotted at Race Point on January 27. **Atlantic Puffins** were well represented including a rare chaseable bird sitting off Bass Rocks in Gloucester on February 10.

Lynn Beach was the place to be in February to “mews” over rare gull subspecies. This larid hot spot provided an almost unique opportunity to compare gulls from opposite sides of the planet. A European Mew Gull or “Common Gull”, *Larus canus canus*, was present from February 18–24. A ring on the bird showed this to be the same Common Gull spotted last February on the same beach. The bird was banded as a chick on June 23, 2013, in Akureyrarflugvöllur, Iceland. On February 19, a second Mew Gull was found. The larger size, darker mantle color, greater spotting on the head and neck, thicker and yellower bill, paler eye, and the “string of pearls” wing pattern indicated the Kamchatka subspecies *L. c. kamtschatschensis* from Northeast Asia. This too may be a returning visitor to Lynn Beach: it closely matches “Bird A”, the smaller of two possible Kamchatka Mew Gulls present in March 2015, and may even be the same Kamchatka Gull seen at this location as far back as 2009. Both the Kamchatka and Common gull subspecies have darker mantles than our native Mew Gull, *L. c. brachyrhynchus*, which breeds in the northwest of the continent. To add to the confusion, there is a fourth subspecies of Mew Gull, *heinei*, from Central Russia. Although never recorded in North America, its similarity to *kamtschatschensis* means that we probably can’t rule it out, hence the conservative acceptance of records of the latter by the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee as *kamtschatschensis/heinei*.

Digital photography and eBird have made it much easier to stalk individual birds. Gull sleuths were able to reconstruct the flight plan of a **Slaty-backed Gull** originally discovered at Fresh Pond on February 16. Three days later the same bird was spotted again, this time loafing around with the gulls in Gloucester Harbor. It didn’t hang around there for long; four days after visiting Cape Ann, the bird had upgraded its diet of fish for trash when it was relocated 127 miles northeast (as the gull flies) at a landfill site in Augusta, Maine. Slaty-backed Gulls breed in coastal northeast Asia and Alaska. This century has seen a marked increase in sightings in the Lower 48 (see Figure 1): Florida accepted its first record in 2002, New Hampshire in 2003, and Massachusetts in December 2007, when three birds were found in the space of only two days.

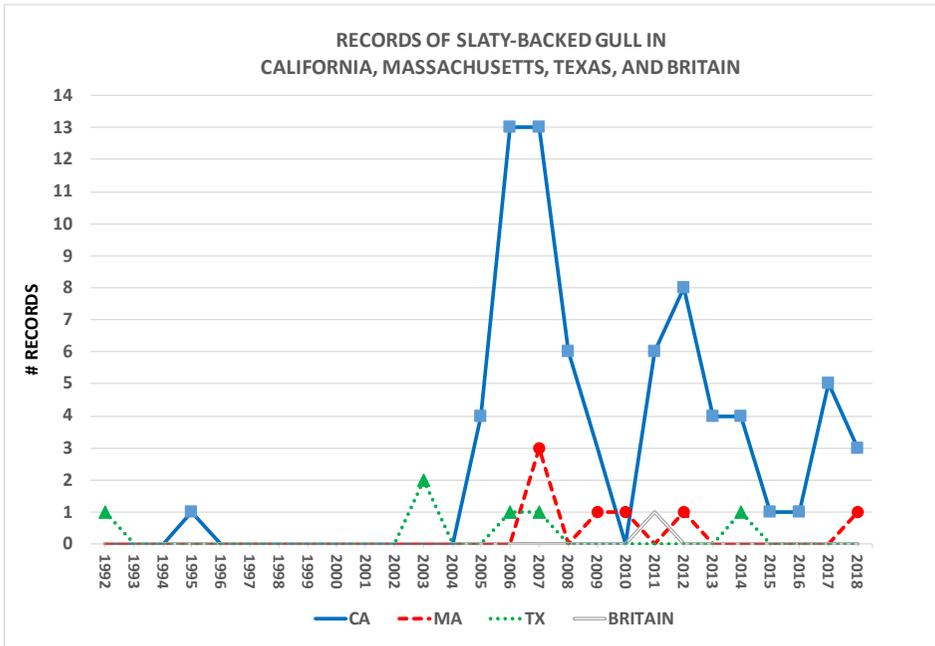


Figure 1. Increased occurrence of Slaty-backed Gull in California (solid line), Massachusetts (dashed line), Texas (dotted line) and Britain (double line). Although Texas and California recorded their first individual in the 1990s, it wasn't until the 2000s that a pattern of repeated vagrancy was established. This is also when birds started to appear in Massachusetts and elsewhere. There is even a record of this northeast Asian gull from Britain (London) in 2011. (2018 records for Massachusetts and California are provisional and yet to be reviewed and published by the relevant state committees.)

A total of six records have now been accepted for the state, with the most recent being an adult at Wellfleet in January 2012.

If you're sliding down the slippery slope that is gull identification (you're still reading!), then hybrid gulls provide the ultimate in esoterica. This period saw three interesting examples, all adults and probably offspring from hybridization with Herring Gulls: a Lesser Black-backed x Herring Gull and a Great Black-backed x Herring Gull, both at Race Point; and a Glaucous x Herring Gull (also known as "Nelson's Gull") in Lowell. Despite suffering the ignominy of being downgraded from a full species to a subspecies (of Iceland Gull) **Thayer's Gull** still shows its face in the state and this period saw two different adults at Race Point and a first winter bird at Gloucester.

Pacific Loon still makes headline news in the state despite multiple birds reported each winter. Its identification, however, remains a challenge; distant loons are frequently misreported as Pacific. Indeed, away from Race Point, the go-to place in the state to find this vagrant, the number of misidentified reports of Pacific Loon significantly exceeds that of genuine ones. Birders are encouraged to take photos of any suspected Pacific Loon—even to rule out Arctic Loon for which there are records as far east as Ohio and Vermont. This period at least one Pacific Loon was recorded off Race Point.

N. Hayward

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--------|---------------------------|
| Snow Goose | | | | 2/22 | Rockport (AP) | 2 m, f | R. Heil |
| 1/1-1/21 | Saugus/Revere | 2 | S. Zende# + v.o. | 2/23-2/24 | PI | 1 m ph | T. Wetmore + v.o. |
| 1/1-1/24 | Eastham (FE) | 3 | C. Wagner + v.o. | American Wigeon | | | |
| 1/3 | Westfield | 3 | J. Hoye# | 1/1 | Marston Mills | 32 | P. Trimble |
| 1/11, 2/13 | Nantucket | 3 | H. Young | 2/4 | Plymouth | 25 | S. van der Veen |
| 1/12-2/9 | Wachusett Res. | 2 | max B. Abbot + v.o. | 2/23 | Acoaxet | 34 | M. Lynch# |
| 1/20 | Chilmark | 5 | B. Shriber | 2/23 | PI | 14 | T. Wetmore |
| 2/26 | E. Boston (BI) | 4 | P. Banducci | American Black Duck | | | |
| 2/26 | Winthrop | 2 | S. Jones | 1/15 | PI | 160 | T. Wetmore |
| 2/28 | DWWS | 4 | R. Bowes | 1/20 | Bourne | 295 | M. Lynch# |
| 2/28 | Concord (NAC) | 1 | blue P. Gilmore# | 2/4 | Saugus | 300 | J. Berry# |
| Ross's Goose | | | | 2/10 | Marion | 121 | M. Lynch# |
| thr-1/29 | Boston | 1 | ph A. Bean + v.o. | 2/23 | Westport | 598 | M. Lynch# |
| thr-2/19 | Nantucket | 2 | max ad ph v.o. | Northern Pintail | | | |
| thr-2/3 | Nantucket | 1 | imm ph J. Trimble | 1/1 | Marlborough | 11 | B. Lee |
| 2/4-2/11 | Longmeadow | 1 | ph D. Holmes + v.o. | 1/20-2/11 | Pittsfield | 5 | max G. Hurley + v.o. |
| 2/23-2/26 | Hadley | 1 | ph L. Therrien + v.o. | 2/17 | Barnstable | 7 | P. Crosson |
| Greater White-fronted Goose | | | | 2/20 | Wachusett Res. | 38 | M. Lynch# |
| 1/3-2/25 | Fairhaven | 9 | max ph C. Longworth + v.o. | 2/22 | GMNWR | 11 | M. Stone# |
| 1/11-1/20 | P'town | 1 | ph W. Sprauve + v.o. | 2/23 | Acoaxet | 48 | M. Lynch# |
| 1/12-1/14 | Nahant | 5 | ph D. Wilkinson + v.o. | 2/23 | Chilmark | 9 | B. Shriber |
| 1/21, 2/4-2/5 | Dighton/Somerset | 1, 1 | ph F. Morello + v.o. | 2/24 | PI | 85 | T. Wetmore |
| 2/16-2/26 | Arlington Res. | 1 | ph C. Gras + v.o. | Green-winged Teal | | | |
| 2/19 | Longmeadow | 2 | ph S. Motyl | 1/21 | Somerset | 3 | J. Eckerson |
| 2/22 | Sheffield | 1 | ph K. Schopp | 2/4 | Plymouth | 6 | S. van der Veen |
| 2/23 | Hadley | 1 | L. Therrien | 2/21 | PI | 45 | D. Adrien |
| 2/24-2/27 | Acton, Concord | 2 | ph T. Swain + v.o. | 2/23 | Westport | 6 | M. Lynch# |
| 2/26-2/28 | Paxton | 1 | ph M. Lynch + v.o. | 2/28 | Bolton Flats | 20 | M. Lynch# |
| Pink-footed Goose | | | | Green-winged Teal (Eurasian) | | | |
| 1/28-2/1 | Dighton | 1 | ph G d'Entremont + v.o. | 2/20 | Peabody | 1 | m ph R. Heil |
| 2/21 | Swansea | 1 | ph L. Waters | Canvasback | | | |
| Brant | | | | 2/21-2/28 | Norfolk Co. | 1 | m W. Sweet, D. Burton |
| 1/3 | Fairhaven | 494 | M. Lynch# | 2/23 | Chilmark | 2 | B. Shriber |
| 1/11 | Boston | 86 | J. Layman | 2/28 | Nantucket | 38 | T. Pastuszak# |
| 1/20 | Bourne | 84 | M. Lynch# | Redhead | | | |
| 2/19 | Cohasset | 68 | V. Zollo | 1/1 | Nantucket | 13 | S. Williams# |
| 2/19 | Ipswich | 32 | J. Berry# | 1/2-2/10 | Falmouth | 1 | K. Fiske + v.o. |
| Barnacle Goose | | | | 1/17-2/15 | Easthampton | 1 | M. McKittrick + v.o. |
| 1/1 | Westfield | 1 | ph L. Richardson | 2/22 | Rockport (AP) | 2 | m, f R. Heil |
| Cackling Goose | | | | Ring-necked Duck | | | |
| 1/1 | Westfield | 1 | L. Richardson | 1/7 | Mashpee | 175 | S. Finnegan |
| 1/3 | Fairhaven | 1 | M. Lynch# | 1/8 | Waltham | 28 | J. Forbes |
| 1/13 | Nahant | 1 | L. Kramer# | 2/20 | PI | 3 | T. Wetmore |
| 1/16-1/21 | Somerset | 2 | J. Eckerson | 2/22 | Southwick | 85 | S. Kellogg |
| 2/3-2/25 | Berkley/Dighton | 1 | ph I. Smith + v.o. | 2/22 | GMNWR | 15 | M. Stone# |
| 2/24 | Arlington Res. | 1 | K. Hartel | 2/28 | Sudbury Res. | 78 | M. Lynch# |
| Mute Swan | | | | Tufted Duck | | | |
| 1/6 | Falmouth | 100 | J. Ghadban | thr | Nantucket | 1 | m ph T. Pastuszak + v.o. |
| 1/9 | Acoaxet | 163 | M. Lynch# | Greater Scaup | | | |
| Wood Duck | | | | 1/3 | Fairhaven | 840 | M. Lynch# |
| 1/2 | Brookline | 5 | T. Bradford | 1/20 | Falmouth | 700 | G. d'Entremont# |
| 2/22 | GMNWR | 15 | M. Stone# | 1/20 | Boston H. | 330 | S. Lamonde |
| 2/27 | Concord | 12 | D. Williams | 1/20 | Gloucester | 120 | P. + F. Vale |
| 2/27 | Uxbridge | 12 | N. Demers | 1/21 | Chatham | 261 | R. Schain# |
| 2/28 | Bolton Flats | 9 | M. Lynch# | 2/1 | Nantucket | 320 | T. Pastuszak# |
| Blue-winged Teal | | | | 2/10 | Marion | 708 | M. Lynch# |
| 2/13-2/28 | Barnstable | 2 | P. Crosson | Lesser Scaup | | | |
| Northern Shoveler | | | | 1/8 | Gloucester | 10 | J. Berry# |
| 1/9 | Clinton | 5 | M. McNamara | 1/20 | Falmouth | 11 | G. d'Entremont# |
| 1/26 | Plymouth | 4 | L. Schibley | 2/23 | Acoaxet | 13 | M. Lynch# |
| 2/8 | Nantucket | 5 | S. Kardell | 2/28 | Quabbin Pk | 3 | L. Therrien |
| 2/22 | GMNWR | 4 | M. Stone# | King Eider | | | |
| 2/24 | Cheshire | 2 | J. Pierce | 1/2 | Wellfleet | 1 | m B. Lagasse# |
| Gadwall | | | | 1/21-2/26 | Cohasset/Hull | 1 | ad m ph D. Burton# + v.o. |
| 1/11 | Quincy | 7 | P. Peterson | 1/24 | Rockport | 1 | imm m J. Berry# |
| 1/20 | Bourne | 8 | M. Lynch# | 1/25-1/26 | Bourne | 1 | f ph S. Williams# |
| 1/27 | Gloucester (EP) | 16 | J. Nelson | 1/25, 2/18 | Sandwich | 1, 1 | ad m, imm m D. Furbish# |
| 2/4 | Plymouth | 18 | S. van der Veen | 2/10-2/17 | Gloucester (BR) | 1 | m ph M. Waters# + v.o. |
| 2/20 | Peabody | 14 | R. Heil | 2/10 | Rockport | 5 | 1 imm m, 4 f E. LeBlanc |
| 2/28 | PI | 51 | T. Wetmore | 2/12-2/26 | Winthrop | 1 | f ph T. Bradford + v.o. |
| Eurasian Wigeon | | | | Common Eider | | | |
| 1/20-2/27 | Eastham | 1 | m ph J. Hoye# + v.o. | 1/14 | Scusset B. | 2140 | M. Lynch# |
| 2/3 | Somerset | 1 | m ph V. Zollo | 1/20 | Chatham | 10800 | M. Faherty |

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|---|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----|------------------|
| Common Eider (continued) | | | | Ruddy Duck | | | |
| 1/20 | Bourne | 3375 | M. Lynch# | 1/1 | Somerville | 1 | R. Stymeist |
| 2/19 | Ipswich | 950 | J. Berry# | 1/20 | Eastham | 20 | M. McCarthy |
| Common Eider (Northern, borealis) | | | | 1/28 | Quincy | 1 | D. Burton |
| 1/14 | Bourne | 1 f ph | S. Williams# | 2/3 | Eastham | 2 | G. d'Entremont# |
| 2/16 | Sandwich | 1 m ph | K. Yakola | 2/27 | Uxbridge | 2 | N. Demers |
| 2/16-2/25 | Rockport (AP) | 1 f ph | R. Heil | Ring-necked Pheasant | | | |
| Harlequin Duck | | | | 1/28 | Dighton | 1 m | G. d'Entremont |
| 1/7 | Manomet | 17 | G. Gove# | 2/10 | Cumb. Farms | 1 m | N. Marchessault |
| 2/4 | Westport | 9 | M. Iliff | 2/13 | W. Newbury | 1 m | J. Nathan |
| 2/5 | Rockport | 90 | P. Peterson | 2/26 | Quabog IBA | 1 m | M. Lynch# |
| 2/10 | Cohasset | 5 | J. Baur | Ruffed Grouse | | | |
| 2/20 | Gloucester (BR) | 19 | D. Burton | 2/16 | Quabog IBA | 1 | M. Lynch# |
| Surf Scoter | | | | Wild Turkey | | | |
| 1/1 | Nantucket Sound | 3500 | F. Gallo | 2/5 | Rockport | 30 | P. Peterson |
| 1/20 | Sandwich | 300 | G. d'Entremont# | 2/12 | Woburn | 40 | J. Brown# |
| 2/10 | Marion | 180 | M. Lynch# | 2/16 | Quabog IBA | 58 | M. Lynch# |
| White-winged Scoter | | | | 2/21 | Yarmouth | 52 | E. Hoopes |
| 1/14 | Scusset B. | 300 | M. Lynch# | 2/26 | Quabbin | 42 | M. Lynch# |
| 1/20 | Sandwich | 1750 | G. d'Entremont# | Pied-billed Grebe | | | |
| 1/20 | Gloucester | 76 | J. Berry# | 1/20 | Wareham | 1 | M. Lynch# |
| Black Scoter | | | | 2/24 | Fairhaven | 3 | G. d'Entremont# |
| 1/1 | Nantucket Sound | 3800 | F. Gallo | Horned Grebe | | | |
| 1/16 | Rockport | 70 | J. Berry# | 1/3 | Agawam | 1 | L. Rich |
| 1/20 | Sandwich | 750 | G. d'Entremont# | 1/8 | Quabbin (G5) | 1 | L. Therrien |
| Long-tailed Duck | | | | 1/28 | Everett | 2 | T. Sackton |
| 1/1 | Nantucket Sound | 450 | F. Gallo | 1/28 | Somerville | 1 | J. Forbes |
| 2/10 | Marion | 44 | M. Lynch# | 2/14 | PI | 11 | R. Heil |
| 2/24 | P'town (RP) | 380 | B. Nikula | Red-necked Grebe | | | |
| 2/24 | PI | 130 | T. Wetmore | 1/13-1/14 | S. Quabbin | 1 | S. Surner |
| Bufflehead | | | | 1/18 | Turner's Falls | 1 | J. Rose |
| 1/21 | Chatham | 475 | R. Schain# | 1/21 | P'town (RP) | 12 | B. Nikula# |
| 2/10 | Marion | 215 | M. Lynch# | 2/10 | Gloucester (BR) | 26 | L. Waters# |
| 2/23 | Westport | 389 | M. Lynch# | 2/10 | Cohasset | 5 | J. Baur |
| Common Goldeneye | | | | 2/14 | PI | 10 | R. Heil |
| 1/1 | Nantucket Sound | 80 | F. Gallo | Virginia Rail | | | |
| 1/3 | Fairhaven | 140 | M. Lynch# | 1/1, 2/20 | Peabody | 3.4 | R. Heil |
| 1/20 | Bourne | 42 | M. Lynch# | 1/2 | Truro | 9 | CBC (M. Faherty) |
| 2/10 | Marion | 36 | M. Lynch# | American Coot | | | |
| 2/20 | Wachusett Res. | 22 | M. Lynch# | 1/15 | Marlborough | 2 | A. Loveless |
| Common x Barrow's Goldeneye (hybrid) | | | | 1/17 | Brookline | 1 | P. Peterson |
| 2/16 | Dorchester | 1 m | J. Layman | 2/20 | Peabody | 1 | R. Heil |
| Barrow's Goldeneye | | | | Sandhill Crane | | | |
| 1/1-2/15 | Dighton/Somerset | 1 m ph | B. King + v.o. | 1/1 | Rehoboth | 2 | B. King# |
| 1/2-1/14 | Lowell | 1 m ph | A. McDermott+v.o. | Black-bellied Plover | | | |
| 1/3 | Wellfleet | 2 | O. Moss | 1/2 | Truro | 1 | P. Crosson |
| 1/11 | Winthrop B. | 1 m ph | M. Sovay | 1/21 | Chatham | 3 | R. Schain# |
| 1/13-1/20 | Agawam | 2 m, f ph | D. Holmes | Killdeer | | | |
| 1/14, 1/20 | Bourne | 1 m | M. Lynch# | 1/29 | Dighton | 1 | J. Gordon# |
| 1/16 | Salisbury | 1 f ph | P. Roberts | 2/15 | Nantucket | 5 | T. Pastuszak# |
| 1/20-2/16 | Gloucester | 1 m P. + F. Vale + v.o. | | 2/21 | Northboro | 2 | B. Robo |
| 1/20 | Westport | 2 imm m, f | M. Iliff | 2/23 | Chilmark | 2 | B. Shriber |
| 1/1-2/4 | BHI (Deer I.) | 1 m ph | D. Adrien# | 2/24 | Fairhaven | 2 | G. d'Entremont# |
| 2/7 | Nantucket | 2 | T. Pastuszak# | 2/26 | Falmouth | 2 | P. Kyle |
| 2/8-2/28 | Cohasset | 2 m, f ph | D. Burton + v.o. | Ruddy Turnstone | | | |
| 2/20 | Fairhaven | 2 m, f | D. Hlousek# | 1/16 | Osterville | 28 | N. Villone |
| 2/25 | New Salem | 1 m ph | J. Johnstone# | 1/29 | Revere B. | 4 | P. Peterson |
| Hooded Merganser | | | | 2/6 | Fairhaven | 22 | C. Longworth |
| 1/7 | Quabog IBA | 32 | M. Lynch# | Sanderling | | | |
| 1/9 | Westport | 85 | M. Lynch# | 1/20 | Osterville | 35 | J. Hoye# |
| 1/20 | Bourne | 49 | M. Lynch# | 2/1 | PI | 75 | T. Wetmore |
| 2/3 | Eastham | 55 | G. d'Entremont# | 2/10 | Nahant | 22 | P. + F. Vale |
| Common Merganser | | | | 2/23 | Westport | 61 | M. Lynch# |
| 1/1 | Mashpee | 50 | M. Keleher | Dunlin | | | |
| 2/23 | Arlington | 310 | K. Hartel | 1/21 | P'town (RP) | 500 | S. Williams# |
| 2/25 | Medford | 425 | J. Forbes | 2/1 | PI | 145 | T. Wetmore |
| 2/28 | Sudbury Res. | 94 | M. Lynch# | Purple Sandpiper | | | |
| Red-breasted Merganser | | | | 1/20 | Westport | 13 | M. Iliff |
| 1/3 | Fairhaven | 400 | M. Lynch# | 1/21 | S. Boston | 3 | J. Taylor |
| 1/4-2/28 | Quabbin Pk | 3 max | L. Therrien# | 1/24 | Rockport | 41 | J. Berry# |
| 1/14 | Scusset B. | 73 | M. Lynch# | 1/27 | PI | 10 | T. Wetmore |
| 1/20 | Bourne | 126 | M. Lynch# | 2/13 | Gloucester (BR) | 83 | P. + F. Vale |
| 2/9-2/24 | Wachusett Res. | 2 | B. Robo + v.o. | 2/19 | Cohasset | 15 | V. Zollo |

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|--|-------------------|--------------|--------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| American Woodcock | | | | | | | |
| 2/21 | N. Reading | 2 | P. + F. Vale | | | | |
| 2/27 | Tewksbury | 2 | D. Prima | | | | |
| Wilson's Snipe | | | | | | | |
| 1/2 | Truro | 1 | M. Faherty | | | | |
| 2/9 | Mashpee | 2 | M. Keleher | | | | |
| Dovekie | | | | | | | |
| 1/29, 2/25 | Rockport(AP) | 188,1972 | R. Heil | | | | |
| 2/1 | Westport | 1 | L. Waters | | | | |
| 2/4, 2/24 | P'town (RP) | 12,4 | L. Waters#, B. Nikula | | | | |
| 2/12, 2/19 | Gloucester (BR) | 5,3 | D. Burton | | | | |
| 2/14 | Revere (POP) | 1 | E. Harrison | | | | |
| 2/27 | Stellwagen Bank | 105 | P. Flood# | | | | |
| 2/27 | PI | 2 | T. Wetmore | | | | |
| Common Murre | | | | | | | |
| 1/21, 2/24 | P'town (RP) | 17,22 | S. Arena, L. Waters# | | | | |
| 1/29, 2/25 | Rockport (AP) | 99,66 | R. Heil | | | | |
| 2/23 | PI | 2 | T. Wetmore | | | | |
| 2/27 | Stellwagen Bank | 31 | P. Flood# | | | | |
| Thick-billed Murre | | | | | | | |
| 1/13, 2/25 | Rockport (AP) | 6,19 | R. Heil | | | | |
| 1/21, 2/4 | P'town (RP) | 8,9 | S. Williams#, L. Waters# | | | | |
| 2/10-2/25 | Cohasset | 1 | J. Baur + v.o. | | | | |
| 2/10 | Gloucester | 2 | A. Bean | | | | |
| 2/15 | Revere (POP) | 1 d | T. Bradford | | | | |
| 2/17-2/28 | Nahant | 2 | C. Dalton + v.o. | | | | |
| 2/18 | Salisbury | 2 | M. Watson# | | | | |
| 2/27 | Stellwagen Bank | 2 | P. Flood# | | | | |
| Razorbill | | | | | | | |
| 1/8 | Cohasset | 2 | D. Burton | | | | |
| 1/13, 2/25 | Rockport (AP) | 860,395 | R. Heil | | | | |
| 1/14 | Scusset B. | 2 | M. Lynch# | | | | |
| 1/27, 2/7 | P'town (RP) | 8500,1500 | P. Flood, B. Nikula# | | | | |
| 2/4 | Westport | 2 | M. Iliff | | | | |
| 2/12 | Gloucester (BR) | 7 | D. Burton | | | | |
| 2/28 | PI | 18 | J. Willis# | | | | |
| large alcid sp. | | | | | | | |
| 1/13 | Rockport (AP) | 1570 | R. Heil | | | | |
| Black Guillemot | | | | | | | |
| 1/7, 2/19 | Cohasset | 1,1 | D. Burton, V. Zollo | | | | |
| 1/20 | Boston H. | 3 | MAS (D. Burton) | | | | |
| 1/20 | Bourne | 1 | M. Lynch# | | | | |
| 2/10 | Gloucester (BR) | 8 | L. Waters# | | | | |
| 2/25 | Rockport (AP) | 7 | R. Heil | | | | |
| 2/27 | Stellwagen Bank | 2 | P. Flood# | | | | |
| Atlantic Puffin | | | | | | | |
| 1/13, 1/29 | Rockport (AP) | 4,6 | R. Heil | | | | |
| 1/27, 2/4 | P'town (RP) | 1 ph | P. Flood# | | | | |
| 2/1 | Gloucester (EP) | 1 | C. Johnson | | | | |
| 2/5, 2/10 | Gloucester (BR) | 1 ph | P. Brown + v.o. | | | | |
| 2/27 | Stellwagen Bank | 1 | P. Flood# | | | | |
| Black-legged Kittiwake | | | | | | | |
| 1/27 | PI | 4 | T. Wetmore | | | | |
| 1/29, 2/25 | Rockport (AP) | 344,145 | R. Heil | | | | |
| 2/27 | Stellwagen Bank | 2 | P. Flood# | | | | |
| Bonaparte's Gull | | | | | | | |
| 1/12-1/13 | Rockport (AP) | 1 | R. Heil | | | | |
| 1/16 | Gloucester | 1 | J. Berry# | | | | |
| Black-headed Gull | | | | | | | |
| 1/3 | Fairhaven | 1 adW | M. Lynch# | | | | |
| 1/3-2/23 | Osterville | 2 ad max ph | S. Matheny | | | | |
| 1/22-1/27 | Hyannis | 2 | E. Hoopes + v.o. | | | | |
| Mew Gull (European, canus) | | | | | | | |
| 1/20, 2/18-2/24 | Nahant/Swampscott | 1 ph | S. Williams + v.o. | | | | |
| Mew Gull (kamtschatschensis / heinei) | | | | | | | |
| 1/15 | Nantucket | 1 ph | J. Trimble# | | | | |
| 2/19 | Swampscott | 1 ph | P. + F. Vale + v.o. | | | | |
| Herring x Lesser Black-backed Gull (hybrid) | | | | | | | |
| 2/4 | P'town (RP) | 1 ad ph | B. Nikula# | | | | |
| Herring x Glaucous Gull (hybrid) | | | | | | | |
| 2/9 | Lowell | 1 ad ph | S. Sullivan | | | | |
| Herring x Great Black-backed Gull (hybrid) | | | | | | | |
| 2/4 | P'town (RP) | 1 ad ph | B. Nikula# | | | | |
| Iceland Gull | | | | | | | |
| 1/2 | BHI (Deer I.) | 3 | P. Peterson | | | | |
| 1/11-2/28 | Turner's Falls | 8 max | v.o. | | | | |
| 1/12 | Lowell | 13 | R. Stymeist# | | | | |
| 1/14 | Nantucket | 22 | J. Trimble# | | | | |
| 1/20 | Westport | 2 | M. Iliff | | | | |
| 1/27 | P'town (RP) | 78 | R. Heil | | | | |
| 1/27 | Lawrence | 2 | J. Berry# | | | | |
| 2/1 | Gloucester (EP) | 3 | R. Heil | | | | |
| 2/3 | Lynn/Swampscott | 3 | J. Keeley | | | | |
| 2/10 | Rockport | 6 | R. Heil | | | | |
| 2/11 | Needham | 3 | D. Burton | | | | |
| 2/27 | Quabbin Pk | 2 | L. Therrien | | | | |
| Iceland Gull (Thayer's) | | | | | | | |
| 1/21, 1/28 | P'town (RP) | 1,1 ad ph | Williams#, Nikula# | | | | |
| 2/19 | Gloucester | 1 1W, ph | S. Williams + v.o. | | | | |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull | | | | | | | |
| 1/1-2/28 | Turner's Falls | 1 | v.o. | | | | |
| 1/4 | Boston | 1 | S. Jones# | | | | |
| 1/11-2/9 | Lowell | 1 1W | C. Floyd + v.o. | | | | |
| 1/15 | Nantucket | 54 | J. Trimble# | | | | |
| 1/17-2/17 | Needham | 1 ad | M. Iliff | | | | |
| 1/20 | Westport | 1 | M. Iliff | | | | |
| 1/21 | Cohasset | 1 | K. Rawdon | | | | |
| 1/28 | Sharon | 1 | W. Sweet | | | | |
| 2/10-2/24 | P'town (RP) | 3 2 ad, 1-2W | B. Nikula# | | | | |
| 2/15 | GMNWR | 1 ad | A. Scholten | | | | |
| 2/16 | Cambr. (FP) | 1 | J. Trimble# | | | | |
| 2/19 | Gloucester | 1 | E. Nielsen | | | | |
| Slaty-backed Gull | | | | | | | |
| 2/16 | Cambr. (FP) | 1 3cy ph | J. Trimble# | | | | |
| 2/19 | Gloucester | 1 3cy ph | S. Williams# | | | | |
| Glaucous Gull | | | | | | | |
| thr | Gloucester | 2 max | E. Nielsen | | | | |
| 1/6-2/24 | Lowell | 3 | v.o. | | | | |
| 1/10-1/15 | Rockport (AP) | 1 | A. List + v.o. | | | | |
| 1/13 | Medford | 1 | J. Layman | | | | |
| 1/21 | Blackstone | 1 | J. Young | | | | |
| 1/27 | Lawrence | 2 | J. Berry# | | | | |
| 2/4-2/28 | Turner's Falls | 2 max | v.o. | | | | |
| 2/6-2/24 | Revere B. | 1 1W | R. Heil + v.o. | | | | |
| 2/9 | Needham | 2 1 ad, 1W | M. Iliff | | | | |
| 2/9 | W.Roxbury | 2 1 ad, 1W | M. Iliff | | | | |
| Red-throated Loon | | | | | | | |
| 1/13-1/18 | Somerville | 5 | C. Kaynor + v.o. | | | | |
| 1/20 | Rockport | 3 | J. Berry# | | | | |
| 1/21 | P'town (RP) | 20 | B. Nikula# | | | | |
| 1/28 | PI | 5 | T. Wetmore | | | | |
| 2/18 | Cambridge | 3 | J. Forbes | | | | |
| 2/21 | Milton | 1 | D. Burton | | | | |
| 2/28 | Medford | 3 | R. LaFontaine | | | | |
| Pacific Loon | | | | | | | |
| 1/16-2/1 | P'town (RP) | 1 ph | B. Nikula# + v.o. | | | | |
| 1/27 | P'town (RP) | 2 ph | P. Flood# | | | | |
| Common Loon | | | | | | | |
| 1/20 | Boston H. | 43 | MAS (D. Burton) | | | | |
| 1/21 | Gloucester (BR) | 16 | J. Smith | | | | |
| 1/31 | Cambr. (FP) | 1 | M. Sinclair | | | | |
| 2/1 | PI | 17 | T. Wetmore | | | | |
| 2/4-2/6 | Medford | 1 | A. Gurka + v.o. | | | | |
| 2/10-2/13 | Wachusett Res. | 2 | E. Kittredge + v.o. | | | | |
| 2/10 | Marion | 14 | M. Lynch# | | | | |
| 2/19 | Ipswich | 41 | J. Berry# | | | | |
| 2/23 | Quabbin Pk | 1 | L. Therrien | | | | |
| Northern Gannet | | | | | | | |
| 1/13, 2/25 | Rockport (AP) | 37,4 | R. Heil | | | | |
| Double-crested Cormorant | | | | | | | |
| 1/6 | Rockport | 1 | S. Grinley# | | | | |
| 1/13 | Salisbury | 2 | R. Richards# | | | | |
| Great Cormorant | | | | | | | |
| 1/20 | Rockport | 12 | J. Berry# | | | | |
| 1/20 | Bourne | 3 | M. Lynch# | | | | |
| 1/24 | E. Gloucester | 11 | J. Berry# | | | | |

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|-----------------------------|--------------|----|---------------------|------------------|----------------|---|--------------------|
| Great Cormorant (continued) | | | | Great Blue Heron | | | |
| 2/21-2/28 | Medford | 2 | max J.Kovner + v.o. | 1/28 | Dorchester | 3 | P. Peterson |
| 2/23 | Westport | 18 | M. Lynch# | 2/19 | Plymouth | 3 | B. Griffith |
| 2/24 | Boston | 1 | G. Fabbri | 2/28 | Bolton Flats | 3 | M. Lynch# |
| American Bittern | | | | Great Egret | | | |
| 1/1-1/3 | Eastham (FH) | 2 | S. Priestnall | 1/3 | S. Dart. (APd) | 1 | L. Miller-Donnelly |
| 2/27 | W. Harwich | 1 | D. Gray | | | | |

VULTURES THROUGH DICKCISSEL

Raptor highlights for the period included continuing high numbers of Black Vultures, especially in southwest Berkshire County where as many as 35 were counted in Sheffield. Cumberland Farms is a traditional winter hot spot for birds of prey and some high counts this period included: 11 Northern Harriers, five Rough-legged Hawks, and five Short-eared Owls. Golden Eagles were noted from four localities, three more than last year. It was a big year for Snowy Owls with reports from nearly 50 locations, with a maximum of seven noted on Plum Island during January. The most bizarre report involving a Snowy Owl was one struck by a car inside the Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, Jr. Tunnel in Boston; it was captured and taken to Tufts Wildlife Clinic where it unfortunately died a few hours later. In Lexington, up to eight Long-eared Owls continued through the period. This area has a history of hosting winter owl roosts; in 1977 and 1981 a total of 22 Long-eareds were tallied. For more information, see the 1982 article by John W. Andrews "A winter roost of Long-eared Owls" in *Bird Observer* 10 (1): 13–22. A dead **Barn Owl** was picked up in this same grove on January 8, a victim of the blizzard in early January.

A winter roost of crows is an impressive sight. In Lawrence, an estimated 14,300 were tallied in February. These communal roosts may return to a specific location for a few years or may shift elsewhere in response to changing conditions. The crow roost in Lawrence has been studied on many occasions; see the recent 2018 article "A History of Winter Crow Roosts and a Visit to a Roost in Lawrence, Massachusetts" by Dana Duxbury-Fox, *Bird Observer* 46(1): 22–31.

The Truro Christmas Bird Count on January 2 reported some high counts of lingering passerines and an unusually high concentration of Red-breasted Nuthatches. A total of 142 were noted whereas other areas of the state reported very few. The winter storm of January 4, bringing several inches of snow and ice, surely had an effect on some of these hearty birds.

The **Townsend's Solitaire** first reported on November 12 was still present at Demarest Lloyd State Park in Dartmouth through at least mid-February. A **Summer Tanager**, first noted on December 8, continued at a feeder in Plymouth through most of January. Other unusual birds of the period included a Lark Sparrow in Concord, a Lincoln's Sparrow at Manomet, and an Indigo Bunting in Washington, which was a first February record for Berkshire County.

R. Stymeist

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|----|-----------------|------------------|------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Black Vulture | | | | Bald Eagle | | | |
| 1/20 | Blackstone | 15 | B. Abbott | 1/8 | Sandwich | 5 | P. Trimble |
| 2/15 | Sheffield | 35 | C. Johnson | 1/21 | Nbpt | 7 | J. Berry# |
| 2/17 | Westport | 10 | G. d'Entremont# | 1/24 | Webster | 11 | L. Tonna |
| 2/28 | Ashley Falls | 28 | B. Lafley | 1/24 | Dorchester | 3 ad | P. Peterson |
| Turkey Vulture | | | | 1/27 | Quabbin | 10 2 ad, 8 imm | M. Lynch# |
| 1/19 | Blackstone | 4 | E. Kittredge | 1/27 | Groton | 8 | T. Murray |
| 2/17 | Hamilton | 2 | J. Berry | Northern Harrier | | | |
| 2/21 | Boxford | 2 | P. + F. Vale | 1/9 | Westport | 3 | M. Lynch# |
| 2/22 | Hyannis | 8 | S. Matheney | 1/19 | Revere | 2 1 ad m | P. Peterson |
| 2/23 | Westport | 32 | M. Lynch# | 1/29-2/19 | PI | 3 | T. Wetmore + v.o. |
| 2/26 | Quabbin | 29 | M. Lynch# | 2/12 | Lynnfield | 2 m, f | C. Martone |
| 2/28 | Nantucket | 16 | H. Young | 2/17 | Salisbury | 2 | R. Steber |

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|---|---|--------------|----------|---------------------|
| Northern Harrier (continued) | 1/2 | Truro | 6 | CBC (M. Faherty) |
| 2/19 Cumb. Farms 16 1 m G. d'Entremont | 1/8 | S. Quabbin | 1 | L. Therrien |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | 1/18 | Winchester | 1 | B. Lee |
| thr Reports of indiv. from 18 locations | 1/27 | Essex County | 1 | S. Wheelock# |
| Cooper's Hawk | Red-headed Woodpecker | | | |
| thr Reports of indiv. from 7 locations | thr Northampton | | 1 imm ph | v.o. |
| Northern Goshawk | Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | | | |
| 1/3 PI 1 ph B. Peters | 1/1-1/2 Warren | | 1 | D. Evans |
| 1/29 S. Dartmouth 1 J. Hoye# | 1/1-1/16 Franklin | | 1 | R. Harpin |
| 2/20 Sterling 1 J. Pingeton | 1/2 Ipswich | | 1 ad m | J. Berry + v.o. |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 1/11-1/16 WMWS | | 1 | B. Robo + v.o. |
| thr Reports of indiv. from 11 locations | 1/13 Athol | | 1 | D. Small |
| 1/9 Westport 2 M. Lynch# | 1/27 Wellesley | | 1 | M. Foes |
| 2/19 Plymouth 2 B. Griffith | 1/30 Canton | | 1 | O. Cunningham |
| 2/24 Fairhaven 2 G. d'Entremont# | 2/6-2/8 Rutland | | 1 | D. Wipf |
| Red-tailed Hawk (<i>abieticola</i>) | 2/16 Upton | | 1 | L. Melanson |
| 1/2-1/8 Lexington 1 ph J. Johnson + v.o. | Northern Flicker | | | |
| 1/19 Lawrence 1 R. Heil | 2/9 Cumb. Farms | | 7 | K. Rawdon |
| Rough-legged Hawk | Pileated Woodpecker | | | |
| thr Reports of indiv. from 25 locations | 1/27 Canton | | 2 | P. Peterson |
| 1/9 Lexington 3 2 lt, 1 dk J. Bourget# | 2/26 Quabbin | | 2 | M. Lynch# |
| 1/24-1/27 PI 3 2 lt, 1 dk MAS (D. Moon) | American Kestrel | | | |
| 2/10 Cumb. Farms 5 N. Marchessault | 1/14, 2/5 Saugus | | 1,1 | G. Wilson# |
| 2/19 Ipswich 2 1 lt, 1 dk J. Berry# | 1/19 Revere | | 1 | P. Peterson |
| Golden Eagle | 1/20 Concord | | 1 | C. Winstanley |
| 1/1 Worc. 1 ad M. Lynch# | 1/21-1/27 Lynn/Nahant | | 1 | P. + F. Vale + v.o. |
| 1/14 Belchertown 1 L. Therrien | 1/21 BHI (Spectacle I.) | | 1 | M. Iliff# |
| 1/19, 1/20 PI, Newbypt 1 B. Volke#, A. Steenstrup | 2/10 Nahant | | 1 | P. + F. Vale |
| 1/29 Egremont 1 ad ph G. Ward# | 2/14-2/24 Medford | | 1 | F. Lehman + v.o. |
| Barn Owl | Merlin | | | |
| 1/1-1/8 Lexington 1 d fide M. Rines | thr Reports of indiv. from 10 locations | | | |
| 2/1 Nantucket 1 H. Young | 1/2 PI | | 2 | P. Gilmore |
| Eastern Screech-Owl | Peregrine Falcon | | | |
| 1/16 Plymouth 2 A. Bartolo | 1/20 Boston H. | | 2 | MAS (D. Burton) |
| Great Horned Owl | 1/20 Gloucester | | 2 | P. + F. Vale |
| 1/1-1/22 Cumb. Farms 2 J. Carlisle + v.o. | 1/21 Saugus | | 2 | G. Wilson# |
| 1/1 Stoughton 2 G. d'Entremont | 2/10 Quincy | | 2 | J. Forbes |
| 1/2-1/7 Ipswich 2 J. Berry# | 2/20 Peabody | | 2 | R. Heil |
| 1/3 Marlborough 2 L. Phelps | large falcon sp. | | | |
| 1/27 Barnstable 3 E. Hoopes | 2/7 Rockport (AP) | | 1 | J. Willis# |
| 1/28 PI 2 T. Wetmore | Eastern Phoebe | | | |
| Snowy Owl | 1/11 Barnstable | | 1 | S. Matheny |
| thr Reports of indiv. from 32 locations | 2/27 Millbury | | 1 | S. LaBree |
| 1/1 Saugus 2 S. Zende# | Northern Shrike | | | |
| 1/2 Wellfleet 2 B. Lagasse# | 1/21 Acton | | 1 imm | S. Miller# |
| 1/13-1/28 PI 7 N. Landry + v.o. | 1/25 N. Quabbin | | 1 | D. Monette |
| 1/13-1/19 Revere 2 P. Peterson | 1/26 Uxbridge | | 1 | M. Ess-Why |
| 1/16 Quincy 2 D. Burton + v.o. | Northern Shrike (continued) | | | |
| 1/20 Salisbury 2 R. Rotberg | 1/29 Lancaster | | 1 | M. Lynch# |
| 1/21 Gloucester (BR) 2 J. Smith | 2/14-2/27 Windsor | | 1 | R. Hudson + v.o. |
| 1/28-2/14 Worc. 2 max M. Lynch# | 2/19-2/21 Barnstable | | 1 | N. Villone |
| 2/1 Ipswich (CB) 4 J. Berry | 2/21 Montague | | 1 | B. Kane |
| 2/6 Nantucket 5 H. Young | 2/25-2/26 Pelham | | 1 | B. Lafley |
| 2/7-2/26 Fairhaven 2 C. Longworth | American Crow | | | |
| 2/10-2/24 Westport 3 M. Iliff + v.o. | 2/13 Lawrence | | 14,300 | R. Fox# |
| 2/13 Chatham 5 D. Lyon | Fish Crow | | | |
| Barred Owl | 1/6 Bourne | | 275 | C. Gibson |
| 2/24 Woburn (HP) 2 P. Ippolito | 1/17 Needham | | 210 | M. Iliff |
| Long-eared Owl | 1/19 Lawrence | | 56 | R. Heil |
| thr Lexington 8 max ph v.o. | 1/21 Blackstone | | 30 | J. Young |
| 1/8 Essex 2 J. Berry# | 2/3 Hyannis | | 25 | G. d'Entremont# |
| 2/8 PI 1 M. Halsey | 2/9 W. Roxbury | | 12 | M. Iliff |
| Short-eared Owl | Common Raven | | | |
| 1/1 Northampton 1 L. Therrien | 1/1 Wachusett Res. | | 4 | M. Lynch# |
| 1/3-1/11 S. Dart. (APd) 1 L. Miller-Donnelly | 1/11-2/1 PI | | 2 | S. Miller + v.o. |
| 1/11 Westport 1 B. Adoette | 1/26 Groton | | 16 | T. Murray |
| 1/19 Revere 1 P. Peterson | 1/29 Lakeville | | 5 | G. Gove# |
| 1/28 PI 1 S. Pierce | 2/4 Quabbin | | 3 | M. Lynch# |
| 1/31 Saugus 3 T. Bradford# | 2/6 Easton | | 2 | K. Ryan |
| 2/3 Cumb. Farms 5 B. King# | 2/12 W. Roxbury (MP) | | 2 | M. Iliff |
| 2/17 Canton 1 C. Hartshorn | 2/17 Canton | | 2 | C. Hartshorn |
| Northern Saw-whet Owl | 2/17 Westport | | 2 | G. d'Entremont# |
| 1/1 Tolland 1 D. Holmes | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|-------------------|--|---------------------|-------|--------------------|
| Horned Lark | | | | 1/2 | PI | 1 | J. Bourget# |
| 1/16 | Egremont | 200 | R. Wendell | 1/3-1/6 | Gloucester (EP) | 1 | C. Haines + v.o. |
| 1/19 | Cumb. Farms | 50 | J. Carlisle | 2/6 | Orleans | 1 | D. Gray |
| 1/21, 2/4 | Saugus | 85,200 | G. Wilson# | Evening Grosbeak | | | |
| 1/21 | Newbury | 80 | J. Berry# | 1/1-1/17 | Colrain | 2 | R. Olson |
| 1/25 | Northampton | 150 | B. Lafley | 1/21 | Windsor | 3 | M. Lynch# |
| 1/29 | PI | 60 | T. Wetmore | Purple Finch | | | |
| 2/6 | Acton | 55 | B. Lee | 1/21 | Windsor | 5 | M. Lynch# |
| Tree Swallow | | | | 2/3 | Athol | 1 | D. Small |
| 1/7 | Nantucket | 1 | S. Kardell | Red Crossbill | | | |
| 2/25 | Brookfield | 1 | J. Young | 1/3 | Mt Watatic 4 Type 3 | 3 | T. Spahr |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | | | | 1/25 | Washington5 Type 1 | 1 | G. Hurley + v.o. |
| 1/2 | Truro | 142 | CBC (M. Faherty) | White-winged Crossbill | | | |
| 1/2 | Plymouth | 2 | G. d'Entremont | 1/27 | Mt Watatic | 2 | T. Swain# |
| 1/16 | PI | 2 | T. Wetmore | Pine Siskin | | | |
| 1/21 | Windsor | 11 | M. Lynch# | 1/5 | Wayland | 1 | A. McCarthy# |
| 1/28 | Mt Watatic | 2 | B. Lee | 1/24 | Windsor | 15 | J. Pierce |
| 2/17 | Quabbin (G35) | 4 | M. Ess-Why# | Lapland Longspur | | | |
| Brown Creeper | | | | 1/1-2/4 | Saugus | 3 max | G. Wilson# |
| 1/3 | Mt Watatic | 3 | T. Spahr | 1/1, 1/10 | Hadley | 1,1 | L. Therrien |
| 2/9 | GMNWR | 2 | M. Stone# | 1/6 | Sheffield | 2 | G. Ward |
| 2/12 | Reading | 3 | D. Williams | 1/7-1/28 | Egremont | 1 | J. Pierce + v.o. |
| 2/14 | Ipswich | 2 | J. Berry | 1/17 | Hatfield | 1 | D. Schell |
| 2/17 | Eastham | 4 | K. Yakola | 1/19 | PI | 4 | T. Wetmore |
| Winter Wren | | | | 1/22 | Greenfield | 1 | B. Kane |
| 1/3 | Leverett | 2 | J. Tyler | 2/6 | Acton | 1 | B. Lee |
| Marsh Wren | | | | 2/9 | Plymouth | 1 | B. Griffith |
| 1/1 | GMNWR | 1 | B. Lee | Snow Bunting | | | |
| 1/16-2/19 | Plymouth | 1 | A. Bartolo + v.o. | 1/2 | Winthrop B. | 60 | P. Peterson |
| 2/4 | Brewster | 1 | J. Pratt# | 1/16 | Egremont | 40 | R. Wendell |
| 2/17 | Eastham (FH) | 1 | P. Kyle | 1/21 | Cohasset | 40 | D. Burton# |
| Carolina Wren | | | | 2/17 | P'town (RP) | 185 | K. Yakola |
| 1/10 | Manomet | 3 | L. Schibley | 2/18 | Northampton | 4000 | D. Allard |
| 1/17 | Brookline | 3 | P. Peterson | 2/22 | PI | 70 | T. Wetmore |
| 1/20 | Falmouth | 6 | G. d'Entremont# | Eastern Towhee | | | |
| 2/21 | Quabog IBA | 9 | M. Lynch# | 1/6-thr | Needham | 2 max | F. Lehman |
| 2/24 | Fairhaven | 11 | G. d'Entremont# | 1/17, 2/19 | Newton | 1 | P. Peterson |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | | | | American Tree Sparrow | | | |
| 1/3 | Mt Watatic | 7 | T. Spahr | 1/3 | Fairhaven | 2 | M. Lynch# |
| 1/7 | Lexington | 10 | J. Trimble | 1/21 | Cheshire | 10 | M. Lynch# |
| 2/12 | Bolton Flats | 7 | M. Lynch# | 2/4 | Saugus | 5 | J. Berry# |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | | | | 2/9 | Hadley | 70 | M. Lynch# |
| thr | Reports of indiv. from 12 locations | | | Chipping Sparrow | | | |
| 2/16-2/24 | Arlington Res. | 2 | B. Lee + v.o. | thr-2/9 | Westwood | 1 | E. Nielsen |
| Eastern Bluebird | | | | 1/4 | Berlin | 3 | J. Gahagan |
| 1/20 | Concord | 14 | C. Winstanley | 1/14 | Scusset B. | 2 | M. Lynch# |
| 1/24 | N. Dighton | 7 | M. Eckerson | 1/15-1/17 | Concord | 2 | T. Swain# |
| 1/27 | New Braintree | 14 | M. Lynch# | 1/16 | PI | 1 | F. Vale |
| 2/3 | Eastham | 7 | G. d'Entremont# | Chipping Sparrow (continued) | | | |
| 2/19 | Ipswich | 9 | J. Berry# | 1/24-1/25 | Easthampton | 1 | K. Yakola |
| Townsend's Solitaire | | | | 2/20 | Sandwich | 3 | P. Kyle |
| 1/1-2/19 | Dartmouth | 1 ph | v.o. | Clay-colored Sparrow | | | |
| Hermit Thrush | | | | 2/9 | Plymouth | 1 | B. Griffith |
| 1/2-1/8 | PI | 2 | T. Wetmore | Field Sparrow | | | |
| 1/2 | Truro | 9 | CBC (M. Faherty) | 1/2 | Truro | 22 | CBC (M. Faherty) |
| American Robin | | | | 1/21 | Uxbridge | 7 | J. Young |
| 1/2 | Truro | 1912 | CBC (M. Faherty) | 1/21 | Sharon | 2 | J. Glover |
| Gray Catbird | | | | 1/26-1/27 | Groton | 2 | T. Murray |
| 1/2 | PI | 2 | T. Wetmore | 1/26, 2/9 | Plymouth | 18 | L. Schibley + v.o. |
| 1/3 | Franklin | 1 | D. Allard | 1/31 | E. Brookfield | 2 | R. Jenkins |
| 2/20 | Boxborough | 1 | A. Bailey | 2/17 | S. Dartmouth | 2 | G. d'Entremont# |
| 2/21 | Boston | 1 | M. Goldberg | Lark Sparrow | | | |
| Brown Thrasher | | | | 1/15-1/16 | Concord | 1 ph | T. Swain + v.o. |
| 1/18-2/19 | Nantucket | 1 | T. Pastuszak | Savannah Sparrow | | | |
| 1/18 | Hadley | 2 | A. Goquan | 1/1 | Bedford | 1 | C. Winstanley# |
| Cedar Waxwing | | | | 1/20 | Fairhaven | 1 | M. Iliff |
| 1/2 | N. Truro | 465 | CBC (M. Faherty) | 2/3 | Cumb. Farms | 5 | B. King# |
| 1/26 | PI | 42 | T. Wetmore | 2/4 | Quincy | 1 | D. Burton |
| 1/29 | Wachusett Res. | 26 | M. Lynch# | 2/9 | Plymouth | 1 | B. Griffith |
| 2/6 | Acton | 80 | B. Lee | Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow (<i>princeps</i>) | | | |
| 2/12 | Lynnfield | 32 | C. Martone | 1/3, 2/1 | Ipswich (CB) | 2,1 | J. Berry |
| American Pipit | | | | 1/12 | PI | 1 | T. Wetmore |
| 1/1 | Saugus | 2 | S. Zende# | | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------|------------|
| Saltmarsh Sparrow | | | 2/12 | Lynnfield | 6 | C. Martone |
| 2/17 | Wellfleet | 2 | K. Schopp | 2/15 | Barnstable | 8 |
| Fox Sparrow | | | 2/28 | Worcester | 5 | P. Trimble |
| thr | Reports of indiv. from 18 locations | | Common Grackle | | | |
| 1/4 | Andover | 2 | D. Cooper | 2/20 | Boxford | 75 |
| 2/28 | Wakefield | 3 | M. Sovay | 2/22 | GMNWR | 90 |
| Lincoln's Sparrow | | | 2/23 | S. Peabody | 65 | 5 purple |
| 1/10-1/19 | Manomet | 1 ph | L.Schibley + v.o. | 2/28 | Bolton Flats | 400 |
| Swamp Sparrow | | | Ovenbird | | | |
| 1/1 | Northboro | 1 | S. Miller# | 2/14 | Barnstable | 1 ph |
| 1/3 | GMNWR | 1 | A. Bragg# | Orange-crowned Warbler | | |
| 1/3 | W. Roxbury (MP) | 1 | M. Iliff | 1/8-1/9 | Ipswich | 1 ph |
| 1/23 | Brookline | 1 | M. Garvey | 1/14 | Revere | 1 ph |
| 2/10-2/17 | Plymouth | 2 | A. Kneidel + v.o. | Palm Warbler | | |
| White-crowned Sparrow | | | 1/2 | Cumb. Farms | 2 | western |
| 1/14-1/19 | Cumb. Farms | 2 | J. Carlisle + v.o. | 1/7 | Sandwich | 1 |
| 1/24 | Sheffield | 9 | G. Ward | Pine Warbler | | |
| 2/9 | Newburyport | 1 | R. Netherton | 1/2 | Plymouth | 6 |
| Eastern Meadowlark | | | | 1/18 | Eastham | 4 |
| 1/1 | Saugus | 1 | S. Zende# | 1/20 | Sudbury | 1 |
| 1/3 | S. Dart. (APd) | 7 | L. Miller-Donnelly | Yellow-rumped Warbler | | |
| 2/10-2/20 | Cumb. Farms | 12 | N. Marchessault + v.o. | 1/2 | Truro | 429 |
| 2/20 | Falmouth | 11 | K. Fiske | 1/10 | Manomet | 9 |
| 2/27 | DWWS | 6 | T. O'Brien | 1/16 | PI | 11 |
| Baltimore Oriole | | | | 1/20 | Falmouth | 6 |
| 1/1-1/2 | Orleans | 1 | C. O'Connor# | 2/10 | Marion | 7 |
| 1/1 | Sunderland | 1 | S. Griesmer | 2/24 | Fairhaven | 11 |
| 2/14-thr | Brewster | 1 | D. Gray | Summer Tanager | | |
| Red-winged Blackbird | | | | 1/1-1/22 | Plymouth | 1 ph |
| 2/19 | Harwich Port | 250 | B. Nikula | Rose-breasted Grosbeak | | |
| 2/22 | GMNWR | 150 | M. Stone# | 1/1-1/4 | Woods Hole | 1 |
| 2/28 | Bolton Flats | 1400 | M. Lynch# | 1/31-2/5 | P'town | 1 imm |
| Brown-headed Cowbird | | | | Indigo Bunting | | |
| 1/9 | Westport | 40 | M. Lynch# | 1/1 | Nantucket | 2 |
| 2/2 | Concord | 15 | J. Keyes | 2/28 | Washington | 1 ph |
| 2/22 | GMNWR | 71 | M. Stone# | Dickcissel | | |
| Rusty Blackbird | | | | 1/1 | Nantucket | 1 ph |
| 1/1-1/17 | Wayland | 42 | A. McCarthy# | 1/15-1/17 | Concord | 1 ph |
| 1/10 | Lexington | 5 | J. Layman | 2/13 | Marshfield | 1 imm |
| 1/19 | Plymouth | 12 | S. Avery# | | | |

BYGONE BIRDS

Historical Highlights for January–February

Neil Hayward

5 YEARS AGO

Bird Observer

VOLUME 41, NUMBER 3

JUNE 2013



January–February 2013

The Blizzard of '13 (Winter Storm Nemo) dumped more than two feet of snow on Boston, the fifth largest snowstorm on record for the city. It also made birding headlines: 52 Atlantic Puffins were counted whirring past Orleans, a record for Cape Cod. In the aftermath, dozens of Razorbills were washed up on beaches. A gray phase **Gyrfalcon** was found in Hadley on New Year's Day, and despite being present for almost two months, many birding vigils came up empty. A much more cooperative and unseasonal **LeConte's Sparrow** spent five days in Concord in February. A home in Taunton attracted a **Black-throated Gray Warbler** and scores of visiting birders for 20 days in January.

Best sighting: **Northern Lapwing** (again). The two birds on Nantucket were joined by a third (!), setting a new high count for Massachusetts, and tying the high count for all of North America.

10 YEARS AGO



January–February 2008

The photographic highlight of the period was an **American White Pelican** standing in the snow in the Connecticut River on January 9. This is only the second January record for the species. Up to four **Thayer's Gulls** (now considered a subspecies of Iceland Gull) were hanging out in Gloucester and a **Mew Gull** was found on Nantucket on February 10. Two **Western Tanagers** appeared at feeders at the end of January, in Merrimac and Brewster. The massive invasion of Common Redpolls continued, including reports of up to 14 **Hoary Redpolls**.

Best sighting: the adult **Slaty-backed Gull** found at Niles Pond, Gloucester, the previous month stayed throughout the period.

20 YEARS AGO



January–February 1998

An immature **Brown Pelican** fishing in the frigid surf off Nantucket in January was the first winter record of this species for the state. A **Gyr Falcon** arrived at Logan Airport on January 10 for a layover that lasted through February and into March. An Eastern Whip-poor-will on Martha's Vineyard was the first January record for the state, possibly a beneficiary of the mild winter that year, which was attributed to the El Niño effect.

Best sighting: **Ancient Murrelet**, Race Point, Provincetown, January 4. This was the second record for the state of this north Pacific alcid, the first being from Rockport in November 1992.

40 YEARS AGO



January–February 1978

Five **Cattle Egrets** in Westport on January 28 became the first winter record for this species in the state. A high count of 1,500 Canvasbacks in Assonet was not atypical for the period 1975–1981. An impressive 13 Goshawks were counted in January and a gray phase **Gyr Falcon** was present at Orleans February 11–15. Red Knots overwintered, including 50 at Revere Beach. **Boreal Chickadees** were recorded in West Boylston, Waltham and Clinton. A flock of European Starlings on Martha's Vineyard included a male **Brewer's Blackbird**. 1977–1978 saw an excellent flight of winter finches: 1,000+ **Pine Grosbeaks** in the state; 1,258 Pine Siskins on the Concord CBC, and 500 at one feeder in Lincoln; and Plum Island alone hosted 27 Red Crossbills and over 200 White-winged Crossbills.

Best sighting: **Eurasian Curlew**, Menemsha Pond, Martha's Vineyard, February 18. This bird, the second record for Massachusetts, stayed into March. 

ABBREVIATIONS FOR BIRD SIGHTINGS

Taxonomic order is based on AOS checklist, 7th edition, 58th Supplement, as published in *Auk* 2017, vol. 134(3):751-773 (see <<http://checklist.aou.org/>>).

| | | | |
|--------------|--|---------------------|--|
| Locations | | Pk | Park |
| AA | Arnold Arboretum, Boston | Pont. | Pontoosuc Lake, Lanesboro |
| ABC | Allen Bird Club | POP | Point of Pines, Revere |
| AP | Andrews Point, Rockport | PR | Pinnacle Rock, Malden |
| APd | Allens Pond, S. Dartmouth | P'town | Provincetown |
| B. | Beach | R. | River |
| Barre FD | Barre Falls Dam | Res. | Reservoir |
| BBC | Brookline Bird Club | RKG | Rose Kennedy Greenway, Boston |
| BHI | Boston Harbor Islands | RP | Race Point, Provincetown |
| BI | Belle Isle, E. Boston | SB | South Beach, Chatham |
| BMB | Broad Meadow Brook, Worcester | SN | Sandy Neck, Barnstable |
| BNC | Boston Nature Center, Mattapan | SP | State Park |
| BR | Bass Rocks, Gloucester | SRV | Sudbury River Valley |
| BRI Co. seas | Bristol County, offshore | SSBC | South Shore Bird Club |
| Cambr. | Cambridge | TASL | Take A Second Look, Boston Harbor Census |
| CB | Crane Beach, Ipswich | WBWS | Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary |
| CCBC | Cape Cod Bird Club | WE | World's End, Hingham |
| CGB | Coast Guard Beach, Eastham | WMA | Wildlife Management Area |
| Corp. B. | Corporation Beach, Dennis | WMWS | Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary |
| CP | Crooked Pond, Boxford | Wompatuck SP | Hingham, Cohasset, Scituate, Norwell |
| Cumb. Farms | Cumberland Farms, Middleboro | Worc. | Worcester |
| DFWS | Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary | WSF | Willowdale State Forest, Ipswich |
| DM | Dunback Meadow | | |
| DWMA | Delaney WMA, Stow, Bolton, Harvard | Other Abbreviations | |
| DWWS | Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary | * | first state record (pending MARC review) |
| EP | Eastern Point, Gloucester | ! | subject to MARC review |
| FE | First Encounter Beach, Eastham | ad | adult |
| FH | Fort Hill, Eastham | au | heard / recorded |
| FP | Fresh Pond, Cambridge | b | banded |
| Fpk | Franklin Park, Boston | br | breeding |
| G# | Gate #, Quabbin Res. | cy | cycle (3cy = 3rd cycle) |
| GMNWR | Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge | d | dead |
| H. | Harbor | dk | dark (morph) |
| HP | Horn Pond, Woburn | f | female |
| HPt | Halibut Point, Rockport | fl | fledgling |
| HRWMA | High Ridge WMA, Gardner | imm | immature |
| I. | Island | inj | injured |
| IBA | Important Bird Area | juv | juvenile |
| IRWS | Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary | lt | light (morph) |
| L. | Ledge | m | male |
| MAS | Mass Audubon | MARC | Massachusetts Avian Records Committee |
| MBO | Bird Observatory, Manomet | max | maximum |
| MBWMA | Martin Burns WMA, Newbury | migr | migrating |
| MI | Morris Island | n | nesting |
| MNWS | Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary | nfc | nocturnal flight call |
| MP | Millennium Park, W. Roxbury | ph | photographed |
| MSSF | Myles Standish State Forest, Plymouth | pl | plumage |
| MtA | Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambr. | pr | pair |
| MV | Martha's Vineyard | r | rescued |
| NAC | Nine Acre Corner, Concord | S | summer (1S = first summer) |
| Nbpt | Newburyport | subad | subadult |
| ONWR | Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge | v.o. | various observers |
| Pd | Pond | W | winter (2W = second winter) |
| PG | Public Garden, Boston | yg | young |
| PI | Plum Island | # | additional observers |

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE BIRD SIGHTINGS TO *BIRD OBSERVER*

Sightings for any given month should be reported to Bird Observer by the eighth of the following month. Reports should include: name and phone number of observer, name of species, date of sighting, location, number of birds, other observer(s), and information on age, sex, and morph (where relevant). Reports can be emailed to sightings@birdobserver.org or submitted online at <<http://www.birdobserver.org/Contact-Us/Submit-Sightings>>, or sent by mail to Bird Sightings, Robert H. Stymeist, 36 Lewis Avenue, Arlington MA 02474-3206.

Species on the Review List of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, as well as species unusual as to place, time, or known nesting status in Massachusetts, should be reported promptly to the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, c/o Sean Williams, 18 Parkman Street, Westborough MA 01581, or by email to seanbirder@gmail.com.