

BIRD SIGHTINGS

January-February 2016

Seth Kellogg, Marjorie W. Rines, and Robert H. Stymeist

January and February were warmer than usual with near normal rainfall and low snow accumulation. In January there were 19 days with above average temperatures and a high of 58° on January 10, 22° degrees above normal; the low was 8° on January 5. Rainfall measured 3.27 inches, slightly below the average, while snowfall in Boston was 9.5 inches, with 6.1 inches on January 23. On February 1, the mercury hit a balmy 65° in Boston, 29° degrees above average. There were 15 days in February with above normal temperatures. A deep freeze hit between February 12 and 15, and many areas saw the temperatures well below zero. Boston had a low of minus 9° on the 14th. Precipitation was near normal at 3.78 inches, and snowfall was 15 inches with most falling on February 5 and 9, each with 6.8 inches.

R. Stymeist

WATERFOWL THROUGH ALCIDS

The **Pink-footed Goose**, originally discovered in November at Turners Falls, returned to Connecticut for the first half of January but made a cameo appearance in Agawam on January 16, and again on February 21. Given the rarity of this species there is little reason to speculate that more than one bird was involved. A **Tufted Duck** in Haverhill was undoubtedly the same individual reported in nearby Groveland as early as November 15.

A first-winter **Yellow-billed Loon** was discovered on February 27 at Race Point in Provincetown, for a first state record. In addition, up to three **Pacific Loons** were in the same area. Although this species is annual, three individuals is possibly a first. This caused a lot of excitement in the birding community, as numerous birders scored a first four-loon day for Massachusetts. On February 7, a **Western Grebe** was discovered on Winthrop Beach but was not reported subsequently.

A Little Blue Heron lingered at Belle Isle Marsh in East Boston for the first few days in January, a rare sighting for the month. On January 11, a distressed **Purple Gallinule** was discovered at Hathaway Pond in Barnstable, and was taken to a wildlife rehabilitator where it was treated for anemia.

On February 1, James Smith discovered an intriguing adult gull at Turners Falls. It was listed in the records as "**Yellow-legged Gull**," but given the difficulty of identifying this species, a final identification may never be reached. James commented as follows:

It was clearly darker mantled than the adult Herring Gulls but was also obviously paler than the typical Lesser Black-backed Gull....In addition, the head was gleaming white and clean, offset against a bright egg-yolk yellow bill and particularly large bright red gonys spot. Overall, the bird looked immaculately clean. Finally I checked the legs, which were certainly yellow, but appeared to be dull mustard yellow rather than bright yellow. The bird looked to be in full breeding plumage though I expected the legs to be brighter, especially if I was going to entertain thoughts of a Yellow-legged Gull! On the other hand, if I was sorting through Yellow-legged and Armenian Gulls on a beach in Northern Israel I doubt very much if I'd consider this bird to be a hybrid, especially from an American Herring x Lesser Black-backed Gull pairing!

What to make of this gull? Well I just don't know at this stage. We do know that Lesser Black-backed Gulls are hybridizing to some extent with American Herring Gulls in the Northeast and a 'perfect' hybrid seems (to me) to be much more plausible than a Yellow-legged Gull from the Mediterranean region of Europe. Another population of Yellow-legged Gull breeds in the Azores, a form which I've never seen, but should be rather more likely as a vagrant to eastern North America than the Mediterranean form.

Numerous photos and additional comments are on James's blog at: <http://pioneerbirding.blogspot.com/2016/02/ma-interesting-yellow-legged-type-gull.html>.

M.Rines

Pink-footed Goose				Blue-winged Teal			
1/16, 2/21	Agawam	1	Robblee, Motyl	1/1	Chatham	1	R. Schain
Greater White-fronted Goose				1/31	Marstons Mills	1	R. Debenham
thr	Ipswich	1	v.o.	Northern Shoveler			
1/1	Agawam	1	S. Motyl	thr	Arlington Res.	6	v.o.
1/4	Melrose	1	R. Stymeist	1/1-2/23	Marstons Mills	3	v.o.
1/14	Quincy	1	D. Brown	1/1	GMNWR	4	W. Martens
1/14-17	Lynnfield	1	C. Martone	1/3	E. Boston	5	P. Peterson
1/27-2/11	Bolton Flats	1	M. Lynch#	2/29	Littleton	3	S. Miller
1/31-2/7	Longmeadow	1	S. Motyl + v.o.	Northern Pintail			
2/thr	Falmouth	2	P. Wolter#	thr	P.I.	150 max	v.o.
Snow Goose				1/15	Sudbury	22	T. Spahr
1/1	Amherst	2	v.o.	2/17	Acoaxet	85	M. Lynch#
1/6	Hadley	3	B. Lafley#	2/22	Northampton	4	L. Therrien
1/30	Ipswich	4	J. Berry	2/25	Bolton Flats	6	B. Kamp
2/21	Saugus	2	S. Zende#	Green-winged Teal			
2/thr	Falmouth	3	P. Kyle#	1/3	E. Boston	12	P. Peterson
Brant				1/4	P.I.	65	T. Wetmore
1/3	Fairhaven	64	R. Stymeist#	1/17	Williamstown	2	M. Morales
1/4	E. Boston (B.I.)	50	P. Peterson	2/25	Bolton Flats	15	B. Kamp
1/17	Swansea	212	J. Sweeney	2/29	GMNWR	14	J. Forbes
1/17	Fairhaven	91	M. Lynch#	Canvasback			
Cackling Goose				1/1-7	Reports of indiv. from 5 locations		
1/1	Sheffield	1	G. Hurley	thr	Nantucket	37 max	v.o.
1/4	Ipswich	1	T. Murray	1/11	Brewster	5	S. Finnegan
1/22	Swansea	1	M. Lynch#	1/24	Shrewsbury	5	K. Bourinot
1/31	Longmeadow	2	S. Motyl	2/29	Sheffield	1	C. Blagdon
2/22	Amherst	1	D. Griffiths	Redhead			
2/29	Rochester	1	N. Marchessault	thr	Haverhill	3 max	v.o.
Wood Duck				thr	Everett	3 max	v.o.
1/2	Jamaica Plain	42	P. Peterson	1/1-11	Waltham	4 max	v.o.
1/14	GMNWR	27	A. Bragg#	1/24-27	Shrewsbury	1	J. Lawson
1/17	W. Roxbury	20	P. Peterson	1/28-2/29	Gloucester (E.P.)	2 m	v.o.
1/29	Brookline	33	R. Mayer	2/7	Nantucket	16	S. Kardell
2/13	Sandwich	10	P. Trimble	2/17-29	Sheffield	2	C. Jones
2/28	Bolton Flats	26	M. Lynch#	2/20	Falmouth	7	J. Trimble#
Gadwall				Ring-necked Duck			
thr	P.I.	125 max	v.o.	1/7	Lynnfield	100	J. Berry
1/3	Fairhaven	60	R. Stymeist#	1/9, 2/4	Waltham	140, 230	J. Forbes
1/9	Quincy	9	P. Peterson	1/15	Arlington	30	J. Layman
1/26	E. Gloucester	6	J. Berry	1/25	Haverhill	140	J. Berry#
2/15	Acoaxet	42	G. d'Entremont	Tufted Duck			
2/20	Plymouth	26	M. Lynch#	1/6-25	Haverhill	1 m ad S. Mirick + v.o.	
Eurasian Wigeon				Greater Scaup			
1/2	P.I.	1 m	T. Martin	1/3, 2/4	Waltham	25, 8	J. Forbes
1/7	Marstons Mills	3	S. Matheny	1/8	Wachusett Res.	100	J. Liller
1/17	Nantucket	3	B. Harris#	1/17	Mattapoisett	1080	M. Lynch#
1/17-31	Swansea	1 m	J. Sweeney + v.o.	1/30	Wachusett Res.	72	M. Illif
1/23	Haverhill	1 m	S. Mirick	2/20	Falmouth	1050	J. Trimble#
2/20	Falmouth	3	J. Trimble#	Lesser Scaup			
2/21	Tyringham	1	M. Lynch#	1/2	Plymouth	20	G. d'Entremont#
American Wigeon				1/17	Lakeville	28	J. Sweeney
1/1	P.I.	20	T. Wetmore	1/31	Nantucket	44	T. Pastuszak
1/3	Fairhaven	66	R. Stymeist#	2/4	Lancaster	13	K. Bourinot
1/9	Waltham	6	J. Forbes	2/23	Mashpee	340	J. Trimble
1/22	Swansea	111	M. Lynch#	King Eider			
2/5	Turners Falls	2	S. Kellogg	thr	Gloucester (B.R.)	1	v.o.
2/17	Westport	23	M. Lynch#	thr	Rockport (A.P.)	2-3	v.o.

King Eider (continued)				1/4	Westboro	500	G. Gove#
1/thr	Bourne	1 m	v.o.	1/15	Southwick	85	S. Kellogg
2/1-13	Weymouth	1	v.o.	1/23	S. Quabbin	130	L. Therrien
2/10	Sandwich	1	J. Glydon	2/28	Quabog IBA	201	M. Lynch#
Common Eider				Red-breasted Merganser			
1/6	Ipswich	110	J. Berry	1/9	Acoaxet	66	M. Lynch#
1/26	E. Gloucester	130	J. Berry	1/15	P.I.	115	R. Heil
2/7	Monomoy	30000	BBC (Iliff)	1/15-23	Quabbin Pk	1	L. Therrien
2/7	Nant. Shoals	30525	BBC Pelagic	1/17	Fairhaven	176	M. Lynch#
2/17	Scusset B.	350	R. Stymeist#	1/17	P'town	800	B. Nikula
Harlequin Duck				1/26	E. Gloucester	33	J. Berry
1/thr	Rockport	70 max	v.o.	Ruddy Duck			
2/thr	Rockport	70 max	v.o.	1/1	Quabog IBA	22	M. Lynch#
1/9	Westport	2	M. Lynch#	1/1	Brewster	68	D. Clapp
Surf Scoter				1/1	Melrose	14	D. + I. Jewell
1/26	E. Gloucester	11	J. Berry	1/9	Arlington	51	J. Forbes
2/7	Nant. Shoals	350	BBC Pelagic	1/14	Haverhill	25	P. + F. Vale
2/17	Westport	22	M. Lynch#	2/27	Eastham	43	J. Trimble#
2/20	Plymouth	74	M. Lynch#	Northern Bobwhite			
White-winged Scoter				2/15	Yarmouth	3	A. Middleton
1/9	P'town	1500	B. Nikula	Ring-necked Pheasant			
1/9	Westport	37	M. Lynch#	1/1	Newbypt	1	BBC (de la Flor#)
2/7	Monomoy	3500	BBC	1/15	Cheshire	1	M. Lynch#
2/7	Nant. Shoals	4548	BBC Pelagic	Ruffed Grouse			
2/20	Plymouth	62	M. Lynch#	1/28	Camp Edwards	2	J. McCumber
Black Scoter				Red-throated Loon			
1/9	Orleans	150	SSBC (W. Petersen)	1/2	Stockbridge	1	J. Pierce
1/17	N. Truro	350	B. Nikula	1/6	Pittsfield (Onota)	1	G. Hurley
2/2	Rockport	45	J. Berry#	1/9	Westport	61	M. Lynch#
2/7	Nant. Shoals	50	BBC Pelagic	1/15	P.I.	27	R. Heil
2/21	P'town	1100	S. Arena	2/27	P'town (R.P.)	113	S. Arena
2/28	P.I.	25	T. Wetmore	Pacific Loon			
Long-tailed Duck				1/9	Aquinnah	1	S. Santino
1/2	Quabbin (G5)	2	CBC (J. Rose)	2/20	Plymouth	1	M. Lynch#
1/6	Ipswich	23	J. Berry	2/21	P'town (R.P.)	3 ph	S. Arena#
1/17	Mattapoisett	26	M. Lynch#	Common Loon			
2/2	Rockport	32	J. Berry#	1/9	Wachusett Res.	9	K. Bourinot
2/7	Nant. Shoals	2725	BBC Pelagic	1/15	Gloucester (B.R.)	42	J. Nelson
2/27	P.I.	35	T. Wetmore	1/15	P.I.	86	R. Heil
Bufflehead				2/7	Nant. Shoals	139	BBC Pelagic
1/2	P.I.	40	T. Wetmore	2/21	P'town (R.P.)	40	S. Arena
1/6	Ipswich	36	J. Berry	Yellow-billed Loon			
1/14	Newbypt	12	J. Berry	2/27-29	P'town (R.P.)	1 1W ph	S. Arena#
1/26	E. Gloucester	54	J. Berry	Pied-billed Grebe			
2/20	Plymouth	460	M. Lynch#	1/thr	Reports of indiv. from 6 locations		
Common Goldeneye				1/2	Plymouth	2	G. d'Entremont#
1/8	Wachusett Res.	43	J. Liller	1/7	Lynn	2	L. Pivacek
1/14	Newbypt	30	J. Berry	Horned Grebe			
1/17	Fairhaven	245	M. Lynch#	1/2	Arlington	1	S. Miller#
1/21	Turners Falls	100	J. Rose	1/9	S. Quabbin	12	L. Therrien
1/28	P.I.	30	T. Wetmore	1/9	Westport	12	M. Lynch#
Barrow's Goldeneye				2/2	Rockport	2	J. Berry#
thr	Fairhaven	2	C. Longworth	Red-necked Grebe			
thr	Turners Falls	1	J. Smith + v.o.	1/6	Winthrop	15	R. Stymeist
1/9	Agawam	1	S. Motyl	2/4	P.I.	20	T. Wetmore
1/17	Dighton	1 m	J. Sweeney	2/6	Quabbin Pk	1	L. Therrien
1/18	Everett	1	J. Layman	2/7	Gloucester (B.R.)	9	H. Miller
1/26-2/29	Gloucester	1 m ad	v.o.	2/21	P'town	7	S. Arena
1/28-2/29	Boston	1 m	v.o.	Western Grebe			
1/29	Hadley	1	L. Therrien	2/7	Winthrop	1	C. Jackson#
2/7	Newbypt.	1	B. Harris	Northern Fulmar			
2/17	Westport	1	M. Lynch#	1/1	P'town	1	S. Arena#
Hooded Merganser				1/10	Rockport (A.P.)	3	R. Heil
1/2	P.I.	70	N. Landry	1/24	Eastham (F.E.)	3	B. Nikula
1/7	Lynn	76	L. Pivacek	2/7	Nant. Shoals	5	BBC Pelagic
1/14	Haverhill	150	P. + F. Vale	Great Shearwater			
1/15	S. Quabbin	64	L. Therrien	1/3	N. Truro	4	B. Nikula#
1/22	Swansea	72	M. Lynch#	1/3	P'town (R.P.)	4	P. Flood
1/25	Medford	82	P. Roberts	Sooty Shearwater			
1/30	Turners Falls	30	v.o.	1/4	P'town (R.P.)	1	A. Lamoreaux#
Common Merganser				2/7	Nant. Shoals	1	BBC Pelagic
1/1	Arlington	354	M. Rines	Manx Shearwater			
1/2	Randolph	260	P. Peterson	1/1	P'town	30	S. Arena#

Northern Gannet				Red-shouldered Hawk			
1/8	P'town	500	B. Nikula	2/20	Westport	2	J. Hoye#
1/10	Rockport (A.P.)	111	R. Heil	2/29	Boxboro	pr	R. Grossman
2/7	Nant. Shoals	50	BBC Pelagic	Red-shouldered X Red-tailed Hawk			
Double-crested Cormorant				2/17	W. Boylston	1	T. Pirro
1/1	Arlington	10	K. Hartel	Rough-legged Hawk			
1/3	Salem	6	D. Ely	thr	P.I.	2	v.o.
1/9	Boston	27	O. Burton	1/7	Windsor	1	J. Pierce
1/29	Cambridge	7	J. Layman	1/15	Quabbin (G35)	1	B. Lafley
2/19	Boston	3	M. Iliif	1/17	Cumb. Farms	1	J. Sweeney
Great Cormorant				1/24	Amherst	1	L. Therrien
1/2	Manomet	6	G. d'Entremont#	2/1	Wayland	1	M. Mulqueen
1/9	Westport	12	M. Lynch#	2/6	Hadley	1	L. Therrien
2/7	Nant. Shoals	11	BBC Pelagic	2/21	Tyringham	1	M. Lynch#
2/11	Medford	1	R. Stymeist	2/25	Lee	1	T. Collins#
2/20	N. Scituate	15	BBC (S. Martin)	Clapper Rail			
Great Blue Heron				1/1	Barnstable	2	A. Lamoreaux#
1/3	Saugus	4	S. Zende#	Sora			
1/4	E. Boston (B.I.)	3	P. Peterson	1/3	Barnstable	1	M. Iliif
1/6	Haverhill	3	S. Mirick	1/6	Harwich	1	B. Nikula
1/7	GMNWR	3	A. Bragg#	Purple Gallinule			
1/24	Jamaica Plain	4	J. Novak	1/11	Barnstable	1 imm	fide Boedeker
2/17	Westport	3	M. Lynch#	Common Gallinule			
Great Egret				2/6	Nantucket	1	S. Kardell
1/2	Aquinnah	2	R. Stymeist#	American Coot			
1/2	Chilmark	2	T. Spahr	1/1	Somerville	14	R. Stymeist#
1/22	Falmouth	1	G. Hirth	1/2	Medford	30	P. + F. Vale
Little Blue Heron				1/5	Jamaica Plain	10	P. Peterson
1/1-04	E. Boston (B.I.)	1 imm	v.o.	1/25	Haverhill	26	J. Berry#
Black-crowned Night-Heron				2/6	Woburn (HP)	50	P. Ippolito
2/4	Everett	1	J. Layman	Sandhill Crane			
2/7	Nant. Shoals	1	BBC Pelagic	thr	E. Bridgewater	1	E. Giles + v.o.
Black Vulture				1/10	Barnardston	1	S. Power
1/6	Dartmouth	10	G. Gove#	Black-bellied Plover			
1/9	Westport	12	M. Lynch#	1/15	P.I.	2	R. Heil
1/26	P'town	1	E. Hoopes	Semipalmated Plover			
Turkey Vulture				1/1	Plymouth	3	P. Trimble
1/30	Essex	2	J. Berry	1/11	Chatham	2	P. Kyle#
2/6	Westfield	6	E. Goodkin	Killdeer			
2/17	Westport	50	M. Lynch#	2/20	Longmeadow	3	M. Moore
2/21	Reading	2	D. Oliver#	2/25	Bolton Flats	4	B. Kamp
2/25	GMNWR	2	K. Dia#	2/27	Concord	5	G. Gove#
2/28	Milton	4	R. Mussey	2/27	Arlington Res.	3	J. Forbes
Osprey				2/27	Cumb. Farms	4	G. d'Entremont#
2/28	Eastham	1	E. Lewis#	2/29	Ipswich	13	W. Tatro
Bald Eagle				American Oystercatcher			
1/15	Quabbin (G35)	7	B. Lafley	1/1	Wollaston B.	2	E. Lipton
1/19	P.I.	3	T. Wetmore	1/17	Falmouth	1	P. Swigart#
1/20	Medford	5	G. Campbell	Spotted Sandpiper			
1/23	Amesbury	3	MAS (P. Roberts)	1/1	Stockbridge	1	G. Ward#
1/23	Newbypt H.	4	MAS (P. Roberts)	Greater Yellowlegs			
2/1	Wachusett Res.	4	M. Lynch#	1/2	Barnstable	8	E. Hoopes
2/7	Dalton	3	M. Lynch#	Lesser Yellowlegs			
2/29	Warren	3	M. Lynch#	1/2	Upton	1	N. Paulson
Northern Harrier				1/2	Hopkinton	1	J. Forbes
thr	P.I.	8 max	v.o.	1/3	E. Boston (B.I.)	1	P. Peterson
1/3	Concord	2	E. Lipton	Ruddy Turnstone			
1/9	S. Weymouth	2	P. Peterson	1/9	Manomet	2	N. Marchessault
1/17	Cumb. Farms	14	J. Sweeney	1/12	S. Boston	3	P. Peterson
1/20	Saugus	3	S. Zende#	Sanderling			
1/24	Northampton	5	L. Therrien	1/15	P.I.	85	T. Wetmore
2/7	Boston (Logan)	2	P. + F. Vale	1/15	Duxbury B.	45	R. Bowes
2/15	Westport	3	B. Cassie	1/27	Nantucket	275	T. Pastuszak#
Sharp-shinned Hawk				2/13	Wollaston B.	10	V. Zollo
thr	Reports of indiv. from 12 locations			2/20	P'town (R.P.)	250	L. Waters#
Cooper's Hawk				Purple Sandpiper			
1/7	Danvers	1	J. Berry	1/9	Acoaxet	9	M. Lynch#
1/17	Fairhaven	2	M. Lynch#	1/20	Rockport (A.P.)	50	MAS (B. Gette)
1/25	Ipswich	1	J. Berry#	1/26	E. Gloucester	40	J. Berry#
2/15	Concord	2	R. Stymeist	2/7	S. Boston	7	TASL (S. Zende#)
2/25	Newton	1	R. Stymeist	Dunlin			
2/27	Fairhaven	4	SSBC (GdE)	1/1	P'town (R.P.)	700	B. Nikula#

Dunlin (continued)			1/25	Shrewsbury	2	J. Lawson	
1/12	S. Boston	112	P. Peterson	1/26	E. Gloucester	6	J. Berry#
1/15	Duxbury B.	1250	R. Bowes	2/7	Nant. Shoals	25	BBC Pelagic
1/24	Eastham (F.E.)	220	B. Nikula	2/21	P'town	154	S. Arena
2/1	P.I.	180	T. Wetmore	Lesser Black-backed Gull			
2/21	P'town (R.P.)	125	B. Nikula	thr	Turners Falls	2	J. Smith + v.o.
Long-billed Dowitcher				1/11	Sharon	2	L. Waters
1/6	Westport	4	G. Gove#	1/24	Nantucket	69	P. Trimble#
Wilson's Snipe				2/7	Nant. Shoals	10	BBC Pelagic
1/15	E. Boston (B.I.)	1	P. Peterson	2/13	P'town (R.P.)	4	S. Arena#
1/27	Saugus	1	L. Waters#	Glaucous Gull			
2/9	Sandwich	2	P. Crosson	1/7	Lunenburg	1	B. Kamp
2/13	Williamstown	1	M. Morales	1/13	Lowell	1	S. Sullivan
2/21	Sheffield	3	M. Lynch#	1/15	Sharon	1	L. Waters
American Woodcock				1/15	Turners Falls	1	D. Schell
2/27	Canton	6	P. Peterson	1/20	Saugus	1	S. Zende#
2/28	Burlington	3	M. Rines	1/30	Gloucester (E.P.)	1	P. + F. Vale
2/28	Bolton Flats	16	M. Lynch#	2/19	P'town (R.P.)	3	S. Arena#
2/28	N. Reading	3	P. + F. Vale	Pomarine Jaeger			
2/28	Cambr. (Alewife)	3	R. Stymeist#	1/24	Eastham (F.E.)	7	S. Arena#
2/29	Brewster	6	C. Bates	Dovekie			
Black-legged Kittiwake				1/thr	P'town	6 max	v.o.
1/9	P'town	350	B. Nikula	1/9	N. Truro	2	B. Nikula
1/23	Rockport (A.P.)	860	R. Heil	1/10	Rockport (A.P.)	4	R. Heil
2/7	P'town (R.P.)	150	B. Nikula	1/24	Eastham (F.E.)	2	S. Arena#
2/7	Nant. Shoals	1350	BBC Pelagic	Common Murre			
Bonaparte's Gull				1/23	Rockport (A.P.)	340	R. Heil
1/2	Fairhaven	100	V. Zollo	2/7	Nant. Shoals	17	BBC Pelagic
1/3	Brewster	55	J. Young	2/19	P'town (R.P.)	108	S. Arena
1/6	Ipswich	7	J. Berry	Thick-billed Murre			
1/9	N. Truro	35	S. Finnegan#	thr	Rockport	6 max	v.o.
1/12	Barnstable (S.N.)	75	P. Crosson#	2/thr	Gloucester	4 max	v.o.
Black-headed Gull				2/21	P.I.	1	E. Nielsen
1/6	S. Dartmouth	1	G. Gove#	2/28	P'town (R.P.)	16	M. Iliif#
1/11	Yarmouth	1	P. Crosson#	Razorbill			
1/14	Bourne	1	D. Heitzmann	thr	P'town	12400	v.o.
1/16-2/29	Orleans	1	B. Lagasse	thr	P.I.	50 max	v.o.
1/17-2/29	Nantucket	1	v.o.	thr	Rockport	580 max	v.o.
1/20-2/6	Gloucester (E.P.)	1 W	v.o.	1/31	Sandwich	5	M. Lynch#
1/22	Eastham	1	J. Hoye#	2/7	Nant. Shoals	672	BBC Pelagic
2/10-13	Harwichport	1	B. Nikula	Black Guillemot			
Laughing Gull				1/5	Gloucester	5	P. + F. Vale
1/1	N. Weymouth	1	E. Lipton	1/10	Rockport (A.P.)	2	R. Heil
Yellow-legged Gull				2/6	P'town (R.P.)	4	P. Flood#
2/1-10	Turners Falls	1	J. Smith#	2/14	Marshfield	5	SSBC (GdE)
Iceland Gull				Atlantic Puffin			
1/1	Turners Falls	2	J. Smith	1/10	Rockport (A.P.)	4	R. Heil
1/6	Boston (Deer I.)	6	R. Stymeist	1/24	Eastham (F.E.)	1	B. Nikula#
1/9	Lunenburg	2	K. Bourinot	2/7	Nant. Shoals	6	BBC Pelagic

DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

A dead Barn Owl was picked up in Danvers; this is only the fourth record for mainland Massachusetts in the last ten years. Some recovery for this species was noted on Martha's Vineyard after last winter's horrific weather, and there's hope that this winter's mild temperatures will continue to help. Long-eared Owls were noted from five locations; this species may be more common but often goes unnoticed as it roosts in dense vegetation. Short-eared Owls were found in six areas with as many as four individuals tallied at Plum Island. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were noted from five locations, four of which overwintered changing from immature to bright adults.

The bird of the period was a **Hammond's Flycatcher** in Fairhaven on New Year's Day, only the third record for the state. The first was found in Wellesley on December 19, 1988, and the second on Tuckernuck Island on November 1, 2003. Holdovers from December included **Ash-throated Flycatchers** in Cambridge until January 6 and at Manomet last seen on January 4. **Western Kingbirds** were holdovers at four locations. The **Mountain Bluebird** continued throughout the period at the Crane Wildlife Management area in Falmouth. The **Townsend's**

Solitaire at Corn Hill Beach in Truro lingered through January 14. A **Varied Thrush** visited a feeder in Rutland during the first three days of the year.

Several noteworthy birds appeared at feeders but were not easily accessible to the general birding community. These included a **Summer Tanager** in Saugus, **Western Tanagers** in Rowley and Eastham, two female **Painted Buntings** at a feeder in Orleans and a bright male on Nantucket, and a **Bullock's Oriole** in Newburyport.

The second runner-up for bird of the period was the **Smith's Longspur** found and identified on January 17 at Bear Creek Wildlife Sanctuary in Saugus. Photographs of a longspur taken at Bear Creek the day following the Boston CBC on December 21 proved to be this same individual. Thanks to Soheil Zende, who arranged with Geoff Wilson of Wheelabrator for a special trip on January 20, a group of 33 birders enjoyed prolonged views of this rare visitor. This was just the third state record. The first was at Salisbury Beach in October 1968; the second, on November 9, 2014, occurred at East Point, Nahant. Subsequent arranged tours to look for the longspur were unsuccessful.

The continued mild weather into January and February certainly benefitted several lingering passerines such as a House Wren, Black-throated Blue and Prairie warblers, an Orchard Oriole, and Baltimore Orioles in 17 different areas. Winter finch reports were few and far between with the exception of Purple Finches.

R. Stymeist

Barn Owl				American Kestrel		
1/1 Chilmark	2	R. Stymeist#		1/thr Newbypt.	1	v.o.
1/28 Danvers	1 dead	M. Oppelt		1/12 Nahant	1	J. Paluzzi.
Eastern Screech-Owl				1/15 Somerville	1	M. Resendes
1/2 Aquinnah	3	R. Stymeist#		1/18 Everett	1	J. Layman
2/2 Reading	2	I. Giriunas		1/21 Hadley	1	J. Rose
2/15 S. Dartmouth	2	G. d'Entremont		2/21 Saugus	1	S. Zende#
Great Horned Owl				Merlin		
thr Mt.A.	2	v.o.		1/2 Arlington Res.	1	H. Yelle
1/2 P.I.	2	T. Wetmore		1/15 P.I.	2	R. Heil
1/20 Waltham	2	J. Forbes#		1/17 Nahant	1	L. Pivacek
Snowy Owl				1/19 Westboro	1	J. Lawson
thr Reports of indiv. from 8 locations				1/20 Ipswich	1	J. Berry#
thr P.I.	1-2	v.o.		2/7 Hadley	1	R. Stymeist
1/1 P'town (R.P.)	2	S. Arena#		2/10 Waltham	1	J. Forbes
1/2 Nantucket	3	S. Kardell#		2/18 Cumb. Farms	1	J. Hoye#
1/12 S. Boston	2	P. Peterson		2/23 Wayland	1	G. Dysart
Barred Owl				Peregrine Falcon		
1/14 Boxford	1	T. Martin		1/21 Medford	2	P. Roberts
1/15 Cheshire	1	M. Lynch#		1/30 Worcester	2	M. Lynch#
1/26 Woburn	1	M. Rines		2/18 Woburn	2	C. Gibson
1/27 Medford	1	R. Stymeist		Red-headed Woodpecker		
2/27 Canton	1	P. Peterson		thr W. Roxbury (MP)	1	v.o.
2/29 ONWR	1	J. Hoye#		thr Ipswich	1	v.o.
Long-eared Owl				thr Worc. (BMB)	1	v.o.
1/2 P.I.	1	T. Wetmore		thr Longmeadow	1-3	v.o.
1/3 Nantucket	1	D. Bates#		1/11 Millbury	1	H. Beaumont
1/25 Hatfield	1	B. Geryk		Red-bellied Woodpecker		
2/21 Amherst	1	L. Therrien		1/30 Uxbridge	3	M. Lynch#
2/27 Hamilton	2	J. Berry#		2/15 Ipswich	5	J. Berry#
Short-eared Owl				2/20 Plymouth	3	M. Lynch#
1/thr Northampton	2	L. Therrien + v.o.		2/28 Quabog IBA	3	M. Lynch#
1/2 Cumb. Farms	1	G. d'Entremont#		Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		
1/8 Chatham	1	S. Arena		1/2 Chappaquiddick	2	L. Johnson#
1/22 P.I.	4	P. + F. Vale		thr Reports of indiv. from 12 locations		
2/7 Revere B.	1	E. Harrison		Pileated Woodpecker		
2/15 Orleans	1	K. Yakola#		thr Stoneham	2	D. + I. Jewell
Northern Saw-whet Owl				2/15 Merrimac	2	B. + B. Buxton
1/1 Ware R. IBA	1	M. Lynch#		2/19 Ipswich	2	J. Berry
1/1 Sudbury	1	B. Harris		Hammond's Flycatcher		
1/2 N. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien		1/1-02 Fairhaven	1 ph	Zimmerlin + v.o.
1/17 P.I.	1	T. Wetmore		Eastern Phoebe		
				1/2 Chappaquiddick	1	L. Johnson#

1/3	IRWS	1	J. MacDougall	2/21	Sheffield	12	M. Lynch#
Eastern Phoebe (continued)				2/28	DFWS	8	P. Sowizral
1/7	Eastham (F.H.)	1	N. Villone	2/28	Quabog IBA	25	M. Lynch#
1/27	Worcester	1	M. Lynch#	Mountain Bluebird			
Ash-throated Flycatcher				thr	Falmouth	1	v.o.
1/1-6	Cambr. (Danehy)	1	v.o.	Townsend's Solitaire			
1/1-4	Manomet	1	v.o.	1/1-14	Truro	1	v.o.
Western Kingbird				Hermit Thrush			
1/1-7	Truro	2	v.o.	1/3	Waltham	3	J. Forbes
1/1-17	Nantucket	1	v.o.	2/11	P.I.	3	T. Wetmore
1/2	Aquinnah	1	I. Davies#	2/15	Acoaxet	5	G. d'Entremont
1/7	Eastham	1	M. Faherty	2/15	S. Dartmouth	2	G. d'Entremont
Northern Shrike				Varied Thrush			
1/thr	Moran WMA	1	J. Luscier + v.o.	1/1-03	Rutland	1	fide J. Bourget
1/1	Sheffield	1	G. Hurley	Gray Catbird			
1/2	N. Quabbin	1	B. Lafley	1/2	Ipswich	2	B. Harris#
1/5	Longmeadow	1	M. Moore	1/2	Aquinnah	4	R. Stymeist#
2/13-29	Wayland	1	B. Harris	Brown Thrasher			
2/19	Sunderland	1	L. Therrien	1/1	Aquinnah	1	I. Davies#
Fish Crow				2/13	Sandwich	1	P. Trimble
1/17	W. Roxbury (MP)	3	P. Peterson	2/24	Amherst	1	J. Rose
1/22	Swansea	6	M. Lynch#	American Pipit			
1/24	Dalton	2	S. Surner	1/3	Concord	30	J. Keyes
2/20	Plymouth	4	M. Lynch#	1/31	Boston	2	A. Trautmann
2/22	Framingham	9	G. Gove	2/25	Cumb. Farms	12	J. Hoye#
2/24	Newbypt.	4	T. Wetmore	Bohemian Waxwing			
Common Raven				2/28	Williamstown	60	C. Jones
1/3	Waltham	2	J. Forbes	Cedar Waxwing			
1/12	W. Roxbury (MP)	2	J. Battenfeld	1/1	Waltham	150	M. Rines
1/15	Haverhill	2	S. Miller#	2/11	P.I.	175	T. Wetmore
1/28	Windsor	10	J. Hoye#	2/12	Spencer	90	M. Lynch#
2/7	Dalton	13	M. Lynch#	2/20	Falmouth	132	J. Trimble#
2/19	Ipswich	2	J. Berry	2/28	Quabog IBA	130	M. Lynch#
2/21	S. Egremont	2	M. Lynch#	Lapland Longspur			
2/22	Easton	pr n	K. Ryan	1/2	Orleans	3	A. Lamoreaux#
Horned Lark				1/9	Hadley	1	L. Therrien
1/1	Rutland	60	M. Lynch#	1/15	P.I.	8	R. Heil
1/2	Ipswich	60	J. Berry#	1/31	P'town (R.P.)	4	S. Arena#
1/15	Newbypt.	66	R. Heil	2/6	Ipswich	2	MAS (S. Wheelock)
1/19	Deerfield	100	J. Rose	2/27	Fairhaven	1	SSBC (GdE)
1/24	Hadley	140	L. Therrien	Smith's Longspur			
2/21	Saugus	35	S. Zende#	1/17-20	Saugus	1 ph	S. Zende#
Red-breasted Nuthatch				Snow Bunting			
1/15	Windsor	11	M. Lynch#	1/1	P.I.	80	T. Wetmore
1/19	Boston (A.A.)	1	P. Peterson	1/3	Boston (Deer I.)	130	P. Peterson
1/23	S. Quabbin	1	L. Therrien	1/7	Williamstown	200	M. Morales
2/15	Hamilton	1	J. Berry#	1/8	Lanesboro	50	G. Hurley
Brown Creeper				1/9	Ipswich (C.B.)	150	J. Berry
1/14	GMNWR	3	A. Bragg#	1/15	Windsor	70	M. Lynch#
2/6	Woburn (HP)	3	P. Ippolito	2/27	Fairhaven	60	SSBC (GdE)
2/27	Hamilton	2	J. Berry#	Orange-crowned Warbler			
2/29	Stoneham	3	R. LaFontaine	thr	Reports of indiv. from 10 locations		
House Wren				1/1	Chilmark	2	I. Davies#
1/2	Aquinnah	1	I. Davies#	Common Yellowthroat			
Winter Wren				1/1	Boston (RKG)	1	M. Birdman
1/2	Aquinnah	2	R. Stymeist#	1/7	Quincy	1	E. Lipton
1/8	Belchertown	2	L. Therrien	1/17	Nantucket	1	B. Harris#
Marsh Wren				Black-throated Blue Warbler			
1/thr	Wayland	2	B. Harris	1/2-14	Needham	1	K. McClelland
1/3	GMNWR	4	S. Zhang	Palm Warbler			
1/7	Harwich	2	B. Nikula	1/3	Falmouth	11	V. Zollo
1/15	Newbypt. H.	1	R. Heil	2/6	Fairhaven	1	C. Longworth
2/20	Falmouth	1	J. Trimble#	Pine Warbler			
Golden-crowned Kinglet				1/9	Falmouth	3	P. Trimble#
1/21	Royalston	2	M. Lynch#	1/27	Salisbury	2	P. + F. Vale
2/4	Stoneham	2	D. + I. Jewell	Yellow-rumped Warbler			
2/6	Woburn (HP)	4	P. Ippolito	1/1	P.I.	3	N. Landry
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				1/17	Mattapoisett	30	M. Lynch#
1/3	Fairhaven	3	R. Stymeist#	1/31	Scusset B.	27	M. Lynch#
2/9	Sandwich	2	P. Crosson#	2/15	Acoaxet	4	G. d'Entremont
Eastern Bluebird				2/15	Longmeadow	4	J. Bourget
1/1	Rowley	7	P. + F. Vale	2/27	Fairhaven	3	SSBC (GdE)
1/7	IRWS	9	J. Nelson				

Yellow-throated Warbler									
1/2	Hingham	1	N. Marchessault						
2/14	Amesbury	1 ph	A. Deacon#						
Prairie Warbler									
1/24	Nantucket	1	P. Trimble#						
Yellow-breasted Chat									
1/thr	Melrose	1	v.o.						
1/2	Aquinnah	1	T. Spahr						
1/2	Nahant	1	M. Watson						
1/6	Eastham (F.H.)	1	M. Keleher						
1/17	Nantucket	1	S. Sullivan#						
2/7	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	1	N. Sylvia						
Eastern Towhee									
1/2	Lincoln	2	N. Levey						
1/2	Aquinnah	7	R. Stymeist#						
1/17	W. Roxbury	2	P. Peterson						
2/28	Newton	2	P. Gilmore						
Chipping Sparrow									
1/3	Concord	2	E. Lipton						
1/5	Bolton Flats	1	D. Ammerman						
1/15	Haverhill	1	C. Norris						
2/thr	Athol	1	D. Small						
2/15	Boylston	1	L. Kimball						
2/15	Tisbury	1	L. McDowell						
Clay-colored Sparrow									
thr	Arlington Res.	1	v.o.						
1/8-2/29	Haverhill	1	C. Norris + v.o.						
Field Sparrow									
1/thr	Wayland	1	B. Harris						
1/1	Worc. (BMB)	1	B. Robo						
1/2	Randolph	1	P. Peterson						
1/2	Uxbridge	1	CBC (C.Rosenblatt)						
2/7	GMNWR	2	D. Swain						
Vesper Sparrow									
1/25	Cumb. Farms	6	J. Hoye#						
Lark Sparrow									
1/1-6	Harwich	1	v.o.						
1/1-2/7	Weymouth	1	v.o.						
1/6	Eastham (F.H.)	1	R. Debenham#						
Savannah Sparrow									
1/3	Concord (NAC)	10	E. Nielsen						
1/17	Northampton	2	S. Surner						
1/20	Westboro	2	T. Spahr						
1/25	Cumb. Farms	12	J. Hoye#						
2/12	Hadley	14	M. Lynch#						
Ipswich Sparrow									
1/9	Ipswich (C.B.)	1	J. Berry						
Grasshopper Sparrow									
1/23	Rockport (A.P.)	1	R. Heil						
Seaside Sparrow									
1/15	Newbypt. H.	1	R. Heil						
Fox Sparrow									
1/3	Lexington	4	H. Yelle						
1/3	Fairhaven	3	R. Stymeist#						
1/26	Belmont	6	R. Stymeist						
2/2	W. Roxbury (MP)	4	M. Iliiff						
2/10	Lexington	4	H. Yelle						
2/20	Westport	3	J. Hoye#						
Swamp Sparrow									
1/1	Westboro	3	N. Paulson						
2/8	Northboro	2	T. Spahr						
2/15	Acoaxet	2	G. d'Entremont						
White-crowned Sparrow									
1/5	Northampton	2	D. Schell						
1/9	Hadley	2	L. Therrien						
1/14	Sheffield	5	J. Pierce						
2/22	Cheshire	3	J. Pierce						
Summer Tanager									
1/10-2/29	Saugus	1	Mary Kinsell						
Western Tanager									
1/4-2/5	Rowley	1	M. Goetschkes						
1/25	Eastham	1 ph	fide O'Connor						
Painted Bunting									
1/25	Orleans	2 f ph	fide O'Connor						
1/29-2/29	Nantucket	1 m ph	C. Witte#						
Dickcissel									
1/7	Plymouth	1	C. Goldthwaite						
1/14	Marlboro	1	T. Spahr						
1/22-2/13	Rockport	1	T. Schottland + v.o.						
2/13	Chatham	1	D. Schain						
Red-winged Blackbird									
1/16	Harwich	160	B. Nikula						
2/20	Salisbury	100	P. + F. Vale						
2/28	Bolton Flats	2680	M. Lynch#						
2/28	Cumb. Farms	2000	G. d'Entremont						
Eastern Meadowlark									
thr	E. Boston (B.I.)	1	v.o.						
1/9	S. Weymouth	1	P. Peterson						
2/17	Falmouth	3	R. Stymeist#						
2/29	Ipswich	2	W. Tatro						
Yellow-headed Blackbird									
1/1	Chicopee	1	R. Gregoire						
2/22-27	Cumb. Farms	1 f	B. Loughlin + v.o.						
Rusty Blackbird									
1/3	Wayland	32	B. Harris						
1/20	Westboro	43	T. Spahr						
2/1	Lynnfield	20	L. Ireland						
2/3	Newton	20	J. Forbes						
2/4	Concord	7	D. Sibley						
2/7	Waltham	16	M. Gooley						
2/11	Milford	8	R. McDaniel						
Common Grackle									
1/12	Newton	200	J. Sender						
1/19	Boston (A.A.)	53	P. Peterson						
1/28	Hamilton	120	J. Berry						
2/28	Bolton Flats	1200	M. Lynch#						
Brown-headed Cowbird									
1/1	Groton	12	T. Murray						
1/8	Sharon	18	L. Waters						
1/16	W. Roxbury (MP)	35	R. Doherty						
1/17	Cumb. Farms	180	P. + F. Vale#						
1/21	Rutland	30	M. Lynch#						
Orchard Oriole									
1/3-12	Manomet	1	P. Trimble + v.o.						
Bullock's Oriole									
2/5-26	Newbypt.	1	S. Grinley#						
Baltimore Oriole									
thr	Reports of indiv. from 14 locations								
1/1	Edgartown	2	I. Davies#						
1/5	Orleans	2	B. Lagasse						
1/24	Barnstable	2	N. Villone						
Purple Finch									
1/1	Ware R. IBA	4	M. Lynch#						
1/8	Cummington	52	T. Gagnon						
1/15	New Salem	6	B. Laffley						
1/21	Royalston	17	M. Lynch#						
1/24	Cummington	13	S. Surner						
2/7	New Salem	28	R. Stymeist#						
Common Redpoll									
1/15	S. Quabbin	3	L. Therrien						
Pine Siskin									
1/3	New Salem	1	B. Laffley						
1/3	Southwick	1	S. Kellogg						
1/10	Pittsfield	14	G. Hurley						
Evening Grosbeak									
1/7	Shelburne	1	J. Coleman						
2/7	Windsor	25	M. Lynch#						
2/28	Williamstown	3	C. Jones						

ABBREVIATIONS FOR BIRD SIGHTINGS

Taxonomic order is based on AOU checklist, Seventh edition, up to the 53rd Supplement, as published in *Auk* 129 (3): 573-88 (2012) (see <<http://checklist.aou.org/>>).

Locations		Newbypt	Newburyport
Location-#	MAS Breeding Bird Atlas Block	ONWR	Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge
A.A.	Arnold Arboretum, Boston	PG	Public Garden, Boston
ABC	Allen Bird Club	P.I.	Plum Island
A.P.	Andrews Point, Rockport	Pd	Pond
A.Pd	Allens Pond, S. Dartmouth	POP	Point of Pines, Revere
B.	Beach	PR	Pinnacle Rock, Malden
Barre F.D.	Barre Falls Dam	P'town	Provincetown
B.I.	Belle Isle, E. Boston	Pont.	Pontoosuc Lake, Lanesboro
B.R.	Bass Rocks, Gloucester	R.P.	Race Point, Provincetown
BBC	Brookline Bird Club	Res.	Reservoir
BMB	Broad Meadow Brook, Worcester	RKG	Rose Kennedy Greenway, Boston
BNC	Boston Nature Center, Mattapan	S.B.	South Beach, Chatham
C.B.	Crane Beach, Ipswich	S.N.	Sandy Neck, Barnstable
CGB	Coast Guard Beach, Eastham	SRV	Sudbury River Valley
C.P.	Crooked Pond, Boxford	SSBC	South Shore Bird Club
Cambr.	Cambridge	TASL	Take A Second Look, Boston Harbor Census
CCBC	Cape Cod Bird Club	WBWS	Wellfleet Bay WS
Corp. B.	Corporation Beach, Dennis	WE	World's End, Hingham
Cumb. Farms	Cumberland Farms, Middleboro	WMWS	Wachusett Meadow WS
DFWS	Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary	Wompatuck SP	Hingham, Cohasset, Scituate, Norwell
DWMA	Delaney WMA, Stow, Bolton, Harvard	Worc.	Worcester
DWWS	Daniel Webster WS		
E.P.	Eastern Point, Gloucester	Other Abbreviations	
F.E.	First Encounter Beach, Eastham	ad	adult
F.H.	Fort Hill, Eastham	b	banded
F.P.	Fresh Pond, Cambridge	br	breeding
F.Pk	Franklin Park, Boston	dk	dark (morph)
G40	Gate 40, Quabbin Res.	f	female
GMNWR	Great Meadows NWR	fide	on the authority of
H.	Harbor	fl	fledgling
H.P.	Halibut Point, Rockport	imm	immature
HP	Horn Pond, Woburn	juv	juvenile
HRWMA	High Ridge WMA, Gardner	lt	light (morph)
I.	Island	m	male
IRWS	Ipswich River WS	max	maximum
L.	Ledge	migr	migrating
MAS	Mass Audubon	n	nesting
MP	Millennium Park, W. Roxbury	ph	photographed
M.V.	Martha's Vineyard	pl	plumage
MBWMA	Martin Burns WMA, Newbury	pr	pair
MI	Morris Island	S	summer (1S = 1st summer)
MNWS	Marblehead Neck WS	v.o.	various observers
MSSF	Myles Standish State Forest, Plymouth	W	winter (2W = second winter)
Mt.A.	Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambr.	yg	young
NAC	Nine Acre Corner, Concord	#	additional observers

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE BIRD SIGHTINGS TO *BIRD OBSERVER*

Sightings for any given month must be reported in writing by the eighth of the following month, and may be submitted by postal mail or email. Send written reports to Bird Sightings, Robert H. Stymeist, 36 Lewis Avenue, Arlington MA 02474-3206. Include name and phone number of observer, common name of species, date of sighting, location, number of birds, other observer(s), and information on age, sex, and morph (where relevant). For instructions on email submission, visit: <<http://www.birdobserver.org/Contact-Us/Submit-Sightings>>.

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 Matt Garvey, 137 Beaconsfield Rd. #5, Brookline MA 02445, or by email to <mattgarvey@gmail.com>.