

BIRD SIGHTINGS

January-February 2017

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

Both January and February were warmer than usual with near normal rainfall and normal snow amounts. A warm front arrived in New England on January 11, setting record-high temperatures across the state. Temperatures in Boston reached 61°, tying previous records set in 1913 and 1975, and Worcester's high of 57° surpassed 55° in 1980. In Boston the temperature averaged 35° for January, 6.6° above normal. Rainfall totaled 3.9 inches in Boston during January, and snowfall totaled 8.9 inches. Most of the snow came on a nor'easter January 6–7. It dumped seven inches in Boston, but hit the south shore hard with 14–19 inches and 9–11 inches on Cape Ann, where gusts were reported at 65 mph in Rockport.

February was a mixed bag, from frequent snow to record warm temperatures. The temperature averaged 37°, five degrees above normal. The high of 73° on February 24 set a new record for the month of February, and Worcester also experienced an all-time high of 68° that day. Rainfall for the month totaled 3.22 inches. Snow turned to rain on February 7–8 bringing hazardous conditions that caused multiple road accidents. A blizzard on February 9 dumped as much as 18 inches of snow in some areas. Nantucket reported winds out of the northeast at 68 mph, and a burst of 55 mph was reported from the Blue Hills in Milton.

R. Stymeist

WATERFOWL THROUGH ALCIDS

It was another great month for geese, with reports of several rarities. The **Pink-footed Goose** that spent most of the previous reporting period in northeast Essex County lingered through January and February. There was an exceptional number of reports of **Ross's Goose**. The individual originally found on Plum Island at the end of December along with a **Ross's X Snow Goose** hybrid, continued in nearby Ipswich through January 6. It was followed by reports of single birds from Saugus (Essex County), Longmeadow (Hampden County), Northbridge (Worcester County), and Concord (Middlesex County). It is impossible to determine how many individuals were involved since only one date overlapped, but given the distance between the different reports, it is likely that multiple birds were involved. Good numbers of **Cackling Geese** were reported; as usual most were in the western part of the state.

The **Tufted Duck** that lingered in Essex County through the end of 2016 was not reported, but the Nantucket bird discovered on December 31 stayed through February, and another bird was reported from New Bedford and nearby Lakeville. Impressive numbers of **Barrow's Goldeneye** were seen throughout the state. **Pacific Loons** were sighted from Nantucket, Rockport, and Provincetown.

Shearwaters are rarely reported in winter, but regular sea watchers at Andrews Point in Rockport and Race Point in Provincetown were lucky to see a few. Rick Heil has been sea watching at Andrews Point for many years but tallied his first January records for both Great and Sooty shearwaters. A regular sea watcher at Race Point, Peter Flood, reported a single Sooty Shearwater on January 1 and two Manx Shearwaters on January 15.

A **Yellow Rail** on the Nantucket Christmas Bird Count was exceptional as was a **Purple Gallinule** found dead in South Truro. The only **Sandhill Cranes** reported during this period were two in East Bridgewater, possibly the breeding pair from nearby Burrage Pond.

A **Mew Gull** is always an exciting find, but the one discovered in Nahant on February 25 was banded. It turned out to have been banded as a chick in Iceland on June 23, 2013.

The late January storm brought conditions ideal for viewing sea birds at coastal locations. Nathan Dubrow and Miles Brengle took advantage of school cancellation on January 24 to go to Andrew's Point in Rockport, where they reported a good Dovekie flight with 29 individuals. On January 25 Blair Nikula spent the morning at First Encounter Beach in Eastham and reported:

highlights (from 6:50 11:20 a.m.) included 3 very late jaegers (2 Pomarine and one unidentified), 58 Dovekies (some at almost point-blank range), 10 Thick-billed Murres (plus an additional 15 unidentified murres, most of which appeared to be Thick-billed), 22 puffins, and 330 kittiwakes. . . The diversity of alcids that has been around for the past week or so is quite amazing - I can't recall anything quite like it before. To have a shot at seeing all six Atlantic alcids in a day is quite a treat.

Sadly, the storm that was exciting for birders was tough on a number of alcids that were forced onto land, in particular Dovekies. Wild Care on Cape Cod reported 35 Dovekies brought in for rehabilitation, the highest number they had ever received. More than half died, but they were able to release 14 on January 26. A single living individual was photographed inland in Lincoln on January 24 but was not seen again, likely the victim of exhaustion.

M. Rines

Pink-footed Goose				Gadwall			
thr Ipswich	1	v.o.		1/2 Newbypt H.	50	G. d'Entremont#	
Greater White-fronted Goose				1/12 P.I.	23	R. Heil	
1/1-1/29 Essex County	3	v.o.		1/21 Sandwich	16	G. d'Entremont#	
1/2-2/28 CRV	1	v.o.		1/22 Fairhaven	39	R. Stymeist#	
1/17-2/7 Harwich	1	S. Finnegan + v.o.		1/27 Quincy	11	P. Peterson	
1/28-2/28 Topsfield	1	M. McCarthy + v.o.		1/28 Wareham	15	M. Lynch#	
Snow Goose				2/2 Marlboro	6	G. Perkins	
1/1 Longmeadow	2	M. Moore		American Wigeon			
1/14 Danvers	2	P. Fee		1/2 Newbypt H.	4	P. + F. Vale	
1/14, 2/26 Saugus	5, 4	S. Zende#		1/16 Acushnet	4	M. Lynch#	
1/30 Topsfield	2	M. Watson		1/21 Sandwich	35	G. d'Entremont#	
Ross's Goose				1/22 Fairhaven	65	R. Stymeist#	
1/1-6 Ipswich	1	v.o.		1/31 Northboro	2	T. Spahr	
1/14 Saugus	1 ph	S. Zende#		2/5 Acoaxet	70	M. Lynch#	
1/18 Longmeadow	1 ph	D. Holmes		Eurasian Wigeon			
2/23-24 Northbridge	1 ph	Kittredge + v.o.		1/1-2/19 Sandwich	1	R. Doherty#	
2/24 Concord	1 ph	J. Keyes#		American Black Duck			
Ross's Goose x Snow Goose				1/12 P.I.	1630	R. Heil	
1/1-6 Ipswich	1	v.o.		2/5 Acoaxet	462	M. Lynch#	
Brant				Blue-winged Teal			
1/16 Fairhaven	401	M. Lynch#		2/4 N. Truro	1	P. Flood	
1/22 Quincy	98	P. Peterson		Mallard			
1/22 Fairhaven	78	R. Stymeist#		1/4 Topsfield	100	P. + F. Vale	
1/23 S. Boston	100	J. Battenfeld		1/13 Ipswich	140	J. Berry	
2/3 Nahant	100	L. Pivacek		1/28 Acushnet R.	260	M. Lynch#	
2/25 Duxbury B.	300	R. Bowes		2/8 Waltham	245	R. Stymeist	
Cackling Goose				Northern Shoveler			
1/2 Ipswich	1	J. Smith#		1/3, 26 E. Boston	1, 2	P. Peterson	
1/4 Southwick	1	D. Holmes		1/6-30 Marstons Mills	2	M. Keleher ,v.o.	
1/5 N. Dighton	1	J. Eckerson		1/22 Nantucket	2	S. Santino#	
1/16 Agawam	4	A. Griffiths		2/21 Salisbury	5	J. Berry#	
1/30 Turners Falls	1	J. Smith		2/23 Southwick	7	S. Kellogg	
2/18 Northampton	2	G. LeBaron		2/24 P.I.	2	N. Landry	
2/24 Amherst	3	K. Yakola		Northern Pintail			
Mute Swan				1/2 Marlboro	13	G. Perkins	
1/1 Westboro	55	M. Lynch#		1/13 P.I.	66	T. Wetmore	
1/22 Acushnet	45	R. Stymeist#		1/28 Acoaxet	21	G. d'Entremont	
1/28 Acoaxet	52	G. d'Entremont		2/2 Westport	20	J. Hoye#	
Wood Duck				2/20 Sudbury	6	K. Dia	
1/6 Boston	13	R. Stymeist#		2/22 Lakeville	4	S. Miller#	
1/10 Jamaica Plain	34	P. Peterson		Green-winged Teal			
2/23 GMNWR	9	K. Dia#		1/29 Saugus	4	S. Zende#	
2/27 Sheffield	11	M. Lynch#		2/1, 27 Sheffield	2, 14	Ward, Lynch	

Green-winged Teal (continued)				1/23	Rockport (A.P.)	57	R. Heil
2/21	Salisbury	32	J. Berry#	2/8	Boston (Deer I.)	15	S. Zendeh
2/25	GMNWR	33	J. Forbes	2/28	P.I.	80	T. Wetmore
2/27	P.I.	150	T. Wetmore	Bufflehead			
Eurasian Green-winged Teal				1/1	Nantucket	1200	I. Davies#
2/10-15	Nantucket	1	T. Pastuszek	1/16	Fairhaven	324	M. Lynch#
Canvasback				1/28	Acushnet R.	130	M. Lynch#
1/1-15	Cambr. (F.P.)	1	v.o.	2/4	Falmouth	203	G. d'Entremont
1/21	Harwich	1 m	G. d'Entremont#	2/25	Rockport	117	M. Lynch#
Redhead				Common Goldeneye			
thr	Waltham	1	v.o.	1/13	Agawam	35	S. Kellogg
1/16-2/19	Falmouth	1	J. Davis, J. Pratt	1/16	Fairhaven	377	M. Lynch#
1/21	Nantucket	30	S. Santino#	1/22	S. Quabbin	92	L. Therrien
1/29	Chilmark	7	R. Culbert	1/28	Acoaxet	60	G. d'Entremont
Ring-necked Duck				2/20	Westport	83	M. Lynch#
1/8	Agawam	18	S. Motyl	2/21	Newbyp	25	J. Berry#
1/21, 2/23	Waltham	155, 120	J. Forbes	Barrow's Goldeneye			
1/28	Randolph	36	P. Peterson	thr	Boston (Deer I.)	1	v.o.
2/23	Southwick	55	S. Kellogg	1/1-16	Fairhaven	1	M. Sovay
2/26	New Salem	60	B. Lafley	1/1-2/11	Dighton	1	J. Ekerson
2/27	Sheffield	70	M. Lynch#	1/4, 15	Agawam	1	L. Richardson
Tufted Duck				1/5	Orleans	2	J. Hoye#
thr	Nantucket	1	v.o.	1/14	Gloucester	1	P. + F. Vale
1/1-22	New Bedford	1	MacKinnon + v.o.	1/16	Cohasset	1	V. Zollo
2/19-24	Lakeville	1	J. Sweeney + v.o.	1/22	Northfield	1	E. Huston
Greater Scaup				1/31	Halifax	2	J. Sweeney
1/2	Cambr. (F.P.)	18	A. Gurka	2/5	Hull	2	S. Williams
1/15	New Bedford	200	G. d'Entremont	2/14	Scituate	2	K. Rawdon
1/15	Wachusett Res.	14	T. Pirro	2/19	Lakeville	1	J. Sweeney#
1/16	Fairhaven	328	M. Lynch#	Common X Barrow's Goldeneye			
1/28	Marion	238	M. Lynch#	1/2	Boston (Deer I.)	1	J. Layman
2/4	Falmouth	450	G. d'Entremont	2/19	Winthrop	1	F. Forbes
2/8	Boston (Deer I.)	15	S. Zendeh	Hooded Merganser			
Lesser Scaup				1/5	Waltham	38	P. + F. Vale
1/2	Cambr. (F.P.)	4	A. Gurka	1/7	Quabog IBA	81	M. Lynch#
1/14	Plymouth	25	G. d'Entremont#	1/10	Medford	125	M. Rines
1/28	Acushnet R.	10	M. Lynch#	1/16	Acushnet	61	M. Lynch#
2/22	Lakeville	20	S. Miller#	1/22	S. Quabbin	77	L. Therrien
2/25	Gloucester	18	M. Lynch#	2/23	Southwick	45	S. Kellogg
2/28	Wakefield	9	L. Ireland	Common Merganser			
King Eider				1/10	Medford	125	M. Rines
thr	Rockport	7 max	v.o.	1/14	Plymouth	105	G. d'Entremont#
1/14, 29	P'town (R.P.)	1, 1	Petersen, Trimble	1/22	S. Quabbin	322	L. Therrien
1/25-2/25	Gloucester	1	v.o.	1/28	Randolph	100	P. Peterson
Common Eider				2/27	Sheffield	150	M. Lynch#
1/20	Ipswich (C.B.)	550	J. Berry	Red-breasted Merganser			
1/28	Bourne	600	M. Lynch#	1/2	P.I.	125	T. Wetmore
2/8	Boston (Deer I.)	750	S. Zendeh	1/3	Pittsfield (Onota)	2	T. Collins
2/25	Gloucester	277	M. Lynch#	1/16	Fairhaven	125	M. Lynch#
Harlequin Duck				1/20	Quabbin Pk	1	L. Therrien
thr	Rockport	71 max	v.o.	2/4	Wachusett Res.	2	T. Pirro
1/20	Duxbury B.	3	R. Bowes	2/15	Waltham	1	J. Forbes
1/24	Cohasset	1	M. Hliff	2/25	Gloucester	122	M. Lynch#
2/5	Westport	3	M. Lynch#	Common Goldeneye x Hooded			
2/5	Hull	9	SSBC (Fitzgerald)	1/14	Pembroke	1	L. Schibley
Surf Scoter				Ruddy Duck			
1/4	Cambr. (F.P.)	1	B. Miller	1/4	Quabbin Pk	1	L. Therrien
1/16	Fairhaven	39	M. Lynch#	1/4	Cambr. (F.P.)	13	B. Miller
1/28	Marion	580	M. Lynch#	1/8	Medford	11	M. Rines
White-winged				1/10	Medford	2	P. Roberts
1/2	Wellfleet	14000	V. Zollo	1/14	Jamaica Plain	5	C. Cook#
1/16	Fairhaven	32	M. Lynch#	1/22	Acushnet	2	R. Stymeist#
1/20	Ipswich (C.B.)	200	J. Berry	2/4	Jamaica Plain	2	T. Bradford
1/28	Scusset B.	15	M. Lynch#	2/20	Ludlow	1	S. Motyl
Black Scoter				Ruffed Grouse			
1/2	Wellfleet	14000	V. Zollo	1/21	Quabog IBA	2	M. Lynch#
1/8	Nahant	8	L. Pivacek	2/17	Westport	1	R. Couse
1/23	Rockport (A.P.)	288	R. Heil	2/28	Freetown	2	L. Abbey
2/20	P.I.	35	R. Doherty	Wild Turkey			
Long-tailed Duck				1/15	Westford	43	S. Selesky
1/1	Nantucket	7850	B. Lagasse#	1/22	P.I.	10	P. + F. Vale
1/6	Quabbin Pk	2	L. Therrien	1/31	Mt.A	25	R. Stymeist
1/16	Fairhaven	45	M. Lynch#	2/2	S. Quabbin	30	M. Lynch#

Wild Turkey (continued)				Turkey Vulture			
2/25 Ipswich	14	J. & N. Berry		1/19 Westport	12	J. Hoye#	
Red-throated Loon				1/22 Blackstone	23	G. Gove#	
1/2 Nantucket	1550	I. Davies#		2/19 Quabog R.	12	M. Lynch#	
1/2 P.I.	20	T. Wetmore		2/27 Ware	17	M. Lynch#	
1/18 Rockport (A.P.)	30	R. Heil		2/27 Sheffield	10	M. Lynch#	
1/26 Lincoln	1	N. Levey		2/28 Ipswich	4	J. Berry	
1/28 Scusset B.	11	M. Lynch#		Osprey			
2/7 Woburn (HP)	1	D. Williams#		1/2 Mashpee	1	J. Ghabban	
2/16 Everett	3	N. Dorian		1/2 Wellfleet	1	CBC	
Pacific Loon				2/26 Amesbury	1	K. Elwell	
1/2 Nantucket	1	L. Seitz#		Bald Eagle			
1/13, 2/19 Rockport (A.P.)	1	Bertrand, Smith		1/1 Wachusett Res.	3	M. Lynch#	
1/14-2/28 P'town (R.P.)	1-2	B. Nikula#		1/7 Medford	5	v.o.	
Common Loon				1/29 Newbypt	5	MAS (P. Roberts)	
1/2 Wachusett Res.	8	N. Paulson		2/2 S. Quabbin	3	M. Lynch#	
1/20 Ipswich (C.B.)	35	J. Berry		2/17 Manchester	3	S. Hedman	
1/28 Scusset B.	38	M. Lynch#		Northern Harrier			
2/5 Hull	17	SSBC (Fitzgerald)		1/13 Wayland	2	B. Harris	
2/8 P.I.	35	MAS (D. Moon)		1/14, 2/19 Saugus	2, 2	S. Zende#	
2/17 Quabbin Pk	3	L. Therrien		1/22 Bolton Flats	2	M. Lynch#	
Pied-billed Grebe				1/29 P.I.	12	T. Wetmore	
1/1 Medford	1	M. Rines		2/5 Concord (NAC)	2	S. Perkins	
1/15 Somerville	1	J. Forbes		2/26 Cumb. Farms	4	G. d'Entremont#	
1/28 Lynn	1	P. + F. Vale		Sharp-shinned Hawk			
2/5 Orange	1	D. Small		thr Reports of indiv. from 14 locations			
2/25 Turners Falls	1	J. Coleman		Cooper's Hawk			
Horned Grebe				1/2 Marshfield	2	G. d'Entremont#	
1/12 Cambr. (F.P.)	1	J. Connelly		Northern Goshawk			
1/16 Fairhaven	3	M. Lynch#		1/2 Marlboro	1	T. Spahr	
1/25 Wakefield	1	D. McGillicuddy		1/31 Goshen	1	N. Houlihan	
1/30, 2/23 P.I.	8, 7	T. Wetmore		Red-shouldered Hawk			
2/25 Rockport	7	M. Lynch#		thr Reports of indiv. from 12 locations			
Red-necked Grebe				Red-tailed Hawk			
1/2, 2/18 P.I.	6, 5	T. Wetmore		1/22 Saugus	6	S. Zende#	
1/14 Quabbin Pk	1	L. Therrien		1/22 Bolton Flats	7	M. Lynch#	
1/23 Rockport (A.P.)	8	R. Heil		1/26 Quabog IBA	6	M. Lynch#	
2/2 Wachusett Res.	1	B. Robo		Rough-legged Hawk			
Great Shearwater				thr Reports of indiv. from 16 locations			
1/3 Rockport (A.P.)	1	R. Heil		thr P.I.	2-3	v.o.	
Sooty Shearwater				thr Cumb. Farms	2-3	v.o.	
1/1 P'town (R.P.)	1	P. Flood#		Golden Eagle			
1/23 Rockport (A.P.)	1	R. Heil		2/2 New Salem	1	M. Lynch#	
Manx Shearwater				Virginia Rail			
1/12 P'town (R.P.)	2	P. Flood#		2/4 IRWS	2	M. Iliif	
Northern Gannet				Yellow Rail			
1/13, 2/5 P.I.	12, 10	T. Wetmore		1/1 Nantucket	1	CBC	
1/14 P'town (R.P.)	75	B. Nikula		Virginia Rail			
1/23 Rockport (A.P.)	206	R. Heil		1/2 N. Truro	7	P. Flood#	
Double-crested Cormorant				2/4 IRWS	2	M. Iliif + v.o.	
1/4 Cambr. (F.P.)	2	B. Miller		Sora			
1/4 Jamaica Plain	2	T. Bradford		2/23-2/25 WBWS	1	C. Franklin#	
1/22 Wellfleet	2	B. Nikula		Purple Gallinule			
Great Cormorant				1/29 S. Truro	1 dead	P. Erickson	
1/3 Waltham	1	J. Forbes		Common Gallinule			
1/14 Gloucester	10	P. + F. Vale		1/21 Nantucket	1	S. Kardell	
1/16 Rockport	11	J. Berry#		American Coot			
2/20 Westport	12	M. Lynch#		1/5 Westboro	3	S. Miller	
2/27 Medford	1	R. LaFontaine#		1/12 Woburn (HP)	15	M. Rines	
American Bittern				1/21 Harwich	4	G. d'Entremont#	
1/11 Eastham (F.H.)	2	K. Yakola		2/4 Jamaica Plain	9	T. Bradford	
1/13 Barnstable	1	P. Trimble		2/22 Woburn (HP)	14	S. Hedman#	
2/18 Orleans	1	K. Yakola#		Sandhill Crane			
Great Egret				2/25 E. Bridgewater	2	G. d'Entremont	
2/18 Orleans	1	K. Yakola		Black-bellied Plover			
Black Vulture				1/1 Nantucket	11	P. Trimble#	
1/15 Easthampton	2	L. Halasz		1/19 Westport	2	J. Hoye#	
1/22 Westport	8	R. Stymeist#		Semipalmated Plover			
1/23 Sheffield	68	J. Pierce		1/25 P.I.	1	T. Wetmore	
2/1 Blackstone	17	S. Miller#		1/28 Plymouth	2	J. Forbes	
2/20 Northboro	3	B. Abbott		Killdeer			
2/25 Northbridge	1	T. Pirro		2/24 Ipswich	7	J. Berry#	
2/25 Egremont	32	B. Harris#		2/24 N. Dighton	4	A. Eckerson	

Killdeer (continued)				1/18	Cohasset	5	D. Peacock
2/25	Middleton	4	J. Keeley	2/11	Worcester	1	M. Lynch#
2/25	P.I.	6	T. Wetmore	2/23	Wachusett Res.	1	M. Lynch#
Western Willet							
1/16, 2/18	Barnstable H.	1	J. Trimble#	1/thr	Westboro	1	v.o.
Ruddy Turnstone				1/6, 2/4	Turners Falls	1	v.o.
1/26	Revere B.	3	P. Peterson	1/14	P'town (R.P.)	1	B. Nikula
Sanderling				1/19	Wilmington	1	S. Sullivan
1/26	Revere B.	10	P. Peterson	1/22, 2/22	Lunenburg	2, 1	T. Pirro, D. Small
1/29	P'town (R.P.)	420	B. Nikula#				
2/4	Nahant	38	R. Stymeist#	1/1	P'town (R.P.)	1	P. Flood#
2/24	P.I.	125	J. Smith	1/18	Rockport (A.P.)	1	R. Heil
Purple Sandpiper				1/25	Eastham (F.E.)	2	B. Nikula#
1/4	P.I.	7	MAS (D. Moon)				
1/16	Fairhaven	4	M. Lynch#	1/25	Eastham (F.E.)	1	B. Nikula#
1/17	S. Boston	4	P. Peterson				
1/26	Gloucester (B.R.)	60	G. Dysart	1/18	Rockport (A.P.)	21	R. Heil
1/26	Revere B.	6	P. Peterson	1/21	P'town	18	B. Nikula#
Dunlin				1/24	Lincoln	1	W. Cunningham
1/12	P.I.	395	R. Heil	1/24	Rockport (A.P.)	29	M. Brengle
1/20	Duxbury B.	1500	R. Bowes	1/25	Eastham (F.E.)	58	B. Nikula#
1/29	P'town (R.P.)	300	B. Nikula#	1/29	P'town (R.P.)	77	J. Trimble#
2/3	Ipswich (C.B.)	57	J. Berry				
2/5	Westport	35	M. Lynch#				
Wilson's Snipe							
1/12	Newbyp H.	1	K. Elwell	1/3, 23	Rockport (A.P.)	89, 39	R. Heil
2/6	Cumb. Farms	1	P. Peterson	1/28	Scusset B.	4	M. Lynch#
American Woodcock				1/29	P'town (R.P.)	142	J. Trimble#
2/8	Dighton	3	A. Eckerson	2/3	Ipswich (C.B.)	1 dead	J. Berry
2/24	Milton	7	P. Peterson	2/9	Rockport (A.P.)	4	N. Dubrow#
2/25	Burlington	10	M. Rines				
2/26	W. Roxbury (MP)	3	J. Battenfeld	1/24	Rockport (A.P.)	9	M. Brengle
2/27	N. Reading	6	A. Bean	1/25	Eastham (F.E.)	10	B. Nikula#
Black-legged Kittiwake				1/29	P'town (R.P.)	46	J. Trimble#
1/1	Nantucket	2100	I. Davies#				
1/19	P'town (R.P.)	700	B. Nikula				
1/23	Rockport (A.P.)	340	R. Heil				
1/25	Eastham (F.E.)	330	B. Nikula#				
Bonaparte's Gull							
1/4	Newbyp H.	2	P. + F. Vale	1/10, 2/23	P.I.	40, 30	T. Wetmore
1/29	P'town (R.P.)	74	J. Trimble#	1/14, 2/18	Boston (Deer I.)	3, 5	Mesick, Dalton
Black-headed Gull				1/14, 29	P'town (R.P.)	300, 3400	v.o.
1/2	Hyannis	1	R. Debenham	1/16, 2/20	Cohasset	2, 4	V. Zollo
1/22, 29	Wellfleet	1	B. Nikula	1/18, 23	Rockport (A.P.)	245, 89	R. Heil
1/29	P'town (R.P.)	1	P. Flood#	1/20	Duxbury B.	3	R. Bowes
Little Gull				1/28	Scusset B.	80	M. Lynch#
1/29	P'town (R.P.)	1(1w)	P.Flood#				
Mew Gull							
2/25-28	Nahant	1 b ph	Quigley + v.o.				
Iceland Gull							
1/1	Nantucket	52	J. Trimble				
1/18	Wilmington	3	S. Sullivan	1/3, 23	Rockport (A.P.)	2, 2	R. Heil
1/19	Boston (Deer I.)	7	P. Peterson	1/14, 21	P'town (R.P.)	1, 2	B. Nikula
1/19	Westboro	3	S. Williams	1/22	Gloucester	1	S. Sullivan#
1/21	P'town (R.P.)	50	B. Nikula#	1/23	Rockport (A.P.)	2	R. Heil
2/18	Turners Falls	6	T. Pirro	1/25	Eastham (F.E.)	22	B. Nikula#
2/19	Winthrop	5	J. Forbes				
Lesser Black-backed Gull							
thr	Turners Falls	1-2	v.o.	1/14, 26	P'town	2100, 1950	B. Nikula
1/1	Nantucket	104	I. Davies#	1/25	Eastham (F.E.)	260	B. Nikula
				1/26	N. Truro	1100	B. Nikula

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DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

The two **White-winged Doves**, first noted on December 11, continued throughout the period at the Fenway Victory Gardens in Boston. 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 four areas with as many as five individuals noted from Bear Creek in Saugus.

Tim Spahr and Sean Williams had an amazing night of owling in the Desert Natural Area in Marlboro. The object was to record Northern Saw-whet Owls using playback calls. They estimated an impressive 41 Saw-Whets and five Barred Owls. Other good numbers of Saw-whets were noted in Lincoln and Concord. Another owl initially identified as a Saw-whet turned out to be a **Boreal Owl**; it was found at the Ipswich River Audubon Sanctuary during the Super Bowl of Birding. This was the first sighting report of a Boreal Owl in Massachusetts since October 2000 in Boston. A **Rufous Hummingbird**, first noted in November 2016, continued at a feeder in Falmouth through the end of this period.

Boreal Chickadee, a very irregular migrant to our area, was reported from Peru in western Massachusetts. It remained for most of the period to the delight of many observers. This was the first report since December 2010. Other unusual birds in Berkshire County included a **Bohemian Waxwing** in Dalton and a **Harris's Sparrow**, which spent most of January at a feeder, also in Dalton. A **Sedge Wren**, first discovered on October 29 at Fort Hill in Eastham, continued through January 26. Rounding out the unusual were two reports of **Painted Buntings** at feeders on Nantucket and East Orleans.

The continued mild weather into January and February certainly benefitted several lingering passerines such as Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Gray Catbirds, Eastern Towhees, and Chipping and Lincoln sparrows. An Ovenbird, first noted on December 10 at Horn Pond in Woburn, was able to survive through several snowstorms at a feeder set in the woods. Other unusual birds for the period included a Northern Waterthrush in Wellfleet, a Lark Sparrow in Eastham, and a Grasshopper Sparrow in Barnstable. There were reports of **Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warbler** in North Truro and Orleans. Winter finch reports were few and far between with the exception of Red Crossbills that were noted in good numbers in Salisbury–Plum Island and in Royalston.

R. Stymeist

White-winged Dove				1/14-20	Belchertown	1	L. Therrien
thr	Boston (Fens)	2	v.o.	Short-eared Owl			
Eastern Screech-Owl				thr	P.I.	1	v.o.
1/1	Marshfield	6	G. d'Entremont#	1/14, 2/26	Saugus	5, 5	S. Zende#
Great Horned Owl				1/21	Barnstable	1	E. Lipton
1/1	Belmont	3	R. Stymeist#	1/29	Cumb. Farms	4	K. Rawdon#
1/15	Bolton Flats	5	M. Lynch#	Boreal Owl			
1/17	P.I.	4	T. Wetmore	1/28	IRWS	1 ph	v.o.
Snowy Owl				Northern Saw-whet Owl			
thr	P.I.	1	v.o.	1/1	Ware R. IBA	3	M. Lynch#
1/1	Nantucket	5	H. Young#	1/2	Lincoln	5	N. Levey
1/17	Westport	1	L. Abbey	1/2	Concord	6	C. Winstanley
1/19	P'town (R.P.)	1	B. Nikula	1/17	P.I.	2	T. Wetmore
1/25	Duxbury B.	1	R. Bowes	1/19	Sudbury	2	J. Hoye#
1/29	Burlington	1 ph	fide J. Keeley	2/6	Marlboro	41	T. Spahr
2/5	Boston (Logan)	2	P. + F. Vale	Rufous Hummingbird			
2/22	Edgartown	2	L. Johnson#	thr	Falmouth	1	M. Mann
Barred Owl				American Kestrel			
1/1	Ware R. IBA	2	M. Lynch#	1/1, 2/19	Saugus	4, 3	S. Zende#
2/14	Ipswich	2	J. Berry	Merlin			
Long-eared Owl				thr	Reports of indiv. from 15 locations		
1/1	Nantucket	1	P. Trimble	1/15	P.I.	2	D. Larson#
1/1-21	Shutesbury	1	B. Emily	Peregrine Falcon			
1/2	Concord	1 ph	CBC (E. Nielsen)	1/16	P.I.	2	N. Landry
1/8-17	P.I.	1	S. Selesky + v.o.	2/1	Boston	2	R. Stymeist

Peregrine Falcon (continued)			1/22	Boston (A.A.)	4	P. Peterson	
2/5	Hull	2	SSBC (Fitzgerald)	2/15	P.I.	15	T. Wetmore
2/10	Cambridge	2	R. Stymeist	2/17	Hamilton	3	J. Berry
2/19	Saugus	2	S. Zende#	Brown Creeper			
Red-headed Woodpecker			1/12	GMNWR	2	K. Dia	
thr	Belchertown	1	v.o.	1/14	Mt.A.	2	Friends of Mt.A.
thr	Northampton	1	v.o.	2/2	IRWS	2	J. Nelson
1/2	Quabog IBA	1	M. Lynch#	2/24	Milton	7	P. Peterson
2/14-28	Ipswich	1	J. Berry + v.o.	2/25	Hamilton	3	J. Berry
Red-bellied Woodpecker			Carolina Wren				
1/1	Marshfield	10	G. d'Entremont#	1/16	Acushnet	5	M. Lynch#
1/10	Ipswich	5	J. Berry	1/22	Fairhaven	5	R. Stymeist#
1/12	GMNWR	7	K. Dia#	2/4	Falmouth	11	G. d'Entremont
1/22	Bolton Flats	8	M. Lynch#	Winter Wren			
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			1/1	Medford	3	M. Rines#	
thr	Mt.A.	1-4	v.o.	2/19	Newton	3	P. Gilmore
1/9	Boston (A.A.)	1	G. Denton	Sedge Wren			
1/29	Nantucket	1	B. Andrews	1/1-26	Eastham (F.H.)	1	v.o.
2/18	Milford	1	B. Parette	Marsh Wren			
2/19	Winchester	2	R. LaFontaine#	1/11	Marshfield	1	D. Peacock
2/19	Vineyard Haven	1	P. Uhlendorf	1/13	Wayland	1	B. Harris
2/25	Worcester	1	D. Gleason	1/26	GMNWR	2	J. Stoner#
Northern Flicker			2/23	N. Truro	1	S. Broker	
1/21	Eastham (F. H.)	7	G. d'Entremont#	Golden-crowned Kinglet			
1/22	Bolton Flats	5	M. Lynch#	1/22	Boston (A.A.)	4	P. Peterson
Pileated Woodpecker			1/22	P.I.	3	A. Bean	
1/10	Ipswich	2	J. Berry	1/22	Worc. (BMB)	5	J. Liller#
2/19	S. Quabbin	3	M. Lynch#	2/1	Waltham	4	J. Forbes
2/19	Milton	2	R. Mussey	2/15	Ipswich	3	P. Peterson
2/25	Hamilton	2	J. Berry	Ruby-crowned Kinglet			
Eastern Phoebe			thr	Reports of indiv. from 16 locations			
thr	Barnstable	1	S. Matheney, v.o.	1/2	Camb. (Danehy)	2	K. Hartel
1/14	Nantucket	1	S. Kardell	1/22	Fairhaven	2	R. Stymeist#
Northern Shrike			Eastern Bluebird				
thr	Reports of indiv. from 15 locations		1/15	Andover	9	J. Berry#	
1/2	Concord	2	CBC (S. Perkins)	1/22	Bolton Flats	15	M. Lynch#
2/22	P.I.	2	S. Pierce	1/22	DFWS	19	P. Sowizral
Fish Crow			1/25	Quabog IBA	16	M. Lynch#	
1/4	Worcester	21	J. Lawson	2/6	Cumb. Farms	8	P. Peterson
1/14	W. Roxbury (MP)	1	P. Peterson	2/24	Ipswich	9	J. Berry#
1/28	Plymouth	30	J. Forbes	Hermit Thrush			
2/1	Blackstone	40	S. Miller#	1/1	Marshfield	2	G. d'Entremont#
2/26	Fairhaven	8	SSBC (GdE)	2/5	Acoaxet	2	M. Lynch#
2/27	Dorchester	19	P. Peterson	Gray Catbird			
Common Raven			1/1	Southwick	1	T. Carter	
1/2	Wellfleet	2	M. Faherty#	2/2	Westport	1	J. Hoye#
1/4	Ipswich	2	P. + F. Vale	2/4	Falmouth	3	G. d'Entremont
1/8	Peru	2	M. Lynch#	2/18	Gloucester	1	B. Harris
1/16	Natick	2	J. Benson	2/18	Rockport	1	B. Harris
1/21	Waltham	2	J. Forbes	American Pipit			
2/27	Sheffield	2	M. Lynch#	1/2	Truro	3	M. Faherty
Horned Lark			1/11	Waltham	3	C. Martone	
1/1, 2/19	Saugus	150, 150	S. Zende#	1/14	Saugus	2	S. Zende#
1/2	Newbury	200	P. + F. Vale	1/28	Gloucester (E.P.)	3	N. Dubrow
1/3, 2/18	Acton	140, 75	Stymeist, Forbes	2/11	Woburn (HP)	1	R. Hodson
1/4	Ipswich	150	J. Berry#	2/19	Saugus	1	S. Zende#
1/26	Quabog IBA	150	M. Lynch#	2/24	Northboro	1	T. Spahr
2/6	Cumb. Farms	50	P. Peterson	Bohemian Waxwing			
2/11	Hadley	400	S. Surner	2/18	Dalton	1	J. Pierce
2/14	Gloucester (B.R.)	40	L. Ferraresso#	Cedar Waxwing			
2/18	Sutton	40	R. Brady	1/2	Old Furnace	30	M. Lynch#
Tree Swallow			1/14	Bedford	40	J. Forbes	
1/29	Chilmark	1	R. Culbert	1/29	Athol	42	G. d'Entremont#
2/27	Yarmouth	1	E. Hoopes	1/29	Ipswich	57	J. Berry
2/25	GMNWR	4	J. Forbes#	2/4	Falmouth	35	G. d'Entremont
2/25	Cumb. Farms	4	J. Offermann	2/11	Wachusett Res.	40	M. Lynch#
2/27	Framingham	1	C. Ewer	Lapland Longspur			
Boreal Chickadee			1/5	Egremont	1	R. Wendell	
1/2-2/28	Peru	1	R. Guthrie	1/6	Montague	1	J. Rose
Red-breasted Nuthatch			1/7	Northampton	1	L. Therrien	
1/7	Ware R. IBA	4	M. Lynch#	1/7	Acton	3	J. Layman
1/8	Peru	4	M. Lynch#	1/10	P.I.	2	T. Wetmore
1/14	Mt.A.	3	Friends of Mt.A.	1/15	Newbury	5	M. Brengle

Lapland Longspur (continued)				2/22	Westwood	1	E. Nielsen
2/10	Gloucester	2	P. Peterson	Field Sparrow			
2/11	Hadley	2	S. Surner	1/21	Lancaster	2	B. Robo
Snow Bunting				1/22	S. Dartmouth	5	R. Stymeist#
thr	Acton	77 max	v.o.	1/23	Canton	2	M. Iliiff
thr	P.I.	55 max	v.o.	2/5	Wachusett Res.	2	K. Bourinot
1/8	Ipswich (C.B.)	110	J. Berry	2/24	Lancaster	2	B. Robo
1/8	S. Boston	20	E. del Solar	Vesper Sparrow			
1/16	Wachusett Res.	20	R. Quimby	thr	Barnstable	1-2	v.o.
1/26	P'town	70	B. Nikula	2/15	Sheffield	2	J. Pierce
2/13	Deerfield	100	E. Huston	2/21	Cumb. Farms	1	S. Martin
2/16	Lincoln	50	D. Brownrigg	Lark Sparrow			
2/19	Gloucester	45	S. Hedman	1/1-4	Eastham (F.H.)	1	v.o.
Ovenbird				Savannah Sparrow			
thr	Woburn (HP)	1	v.o.	1/5	Concord (NAC)	1	B. Lee
Northern Waterthrush				1/6	Acton	1	G. Dupont
1/2	Wellfleet	1 ph	V. Zollo	1/10	P.I.	1	T. Wetmore
Orange-crowned Warbler				1/14	Saugus	9	S. Zende#
1/1	Nantucket	1	L. Seitz	1/26	Lincoln	1	K. Dia#
1/1-5	Arlington	1	K. Hartel	2/14	Hadley	2	M. Lynch#
1/2	Nahant	1	L. Pivacek	Ipswich Sparrow			
1/3	Revere	1	P. Peterson	1/8	Ipswich (C.B.)	2	J. Berry
1/10-29	Roslindale	1	D. Sullivan	1/16	Salisbury	1	T. Purcell
2/8	Woburn (HP)	1	B. Lee	1/20	Duxbury B.	1	R. Bowes
2/22	Boston (A.A.)	2	C. Hartshorn	Grasshopper Sparrow			
Common Yellowthroat				1/5	Barnstable	1	P. Trimble
1/thr	Rockport	1	B. Harris	Fox Sparrow			
1/13-16	Barnstable	1	P. Trimble#	thr	Woburn (HP)	1	v.o.
1/14	W. Roxbury (MP)	1	P. Peterson	2/10	Nantucket	3	T. Pastuszak
1/16	Braintree	1	V. Zollo	2/20	Concord	2	W. Martens
2/5	Acoaxet	1	M. Lynch#	Lincoln's Sparrow			
Palm Warbler				1/9-2/28	Essex	1	P. Brown
1/1	Nantucket	2	P. Trimble	Swamp Sparrow			
1/11-31	Plymouth	1	L. Meeks	1/14	Boston (Fens)	2	C. Cook#
Pine Warbler				1/19	GMNWR	6	J. Stoner#
1/1	Salisbury	1	S. Glynn	1/22	Quincy	3	P. Peterson
1/2	Salem	1	D. Ely	2/8	Northboro	3	S. Miller#
1/2	Arlington	2	K. Hartel	Harris's Sparrow			
2/10	Newton	1	J. Sender	1/1-25	Dalton	1	G. Hurley
2/11	Concord	1	W. Martens	White-crowned Sparrow			
Yellow-rumped Warbler				1/16	Acushnet	1	M. Lynch#
1/12	P.I.	4	R. Heil	1/21	Concord	1	J. Keyes
1/12	Longmeadow	2	M. Moore	Painted Bunting			
1/22	Fairhaven	20	R. Stymeist#	1/1-22	Nantucket	1 f	v.o.
2/3	Ipswich (C.B.)	14	J. Berry	2/5-20	E. Orleans	1 m	L. Schibley#
2/4	Falmouth	5	G. d'Entremont	Dickcissel			
2/5	Acoaxet	4	M. Lynch#	1/1	Nantucket	1	P. Trimble#
Audubon's Warbler				2/19	Nantucket	1	S. Kardell
2/4-9	N. Truro	1	D. Spang	Red-winged Blackbird			
2/18	Orleans	1	K. Yakola	1/4	Ipswich	200	J. Berry#
Yellow-breasted Chat				1/22	Bolton Flats	403	M. Lynch#
thr	Nahant	1	v.o.	1/22	Saugus	200	S. Zende#
1/4	Barnstable	1	S. Matheny	2/22	Cumb. Farms	120	S. Miller#
1/22	S. Dartmouth	1	R. Stymeist#	2/25	GMNWR	200	J. Forbes
1/29	Westport	1	E. Nielsen	Eastern Meadowlark			
2/4	Nahant	1	R. Stymeist#	1/9	Essex	8	P. Brown
2/4	Falmouth	2	G. d'Entremont	1/15	Plymouth	4	R. Timberlake
Eastern Towhee				1/15	Cumb. Farms	9	L. Schibley
1/15	S. Hamilton	1	P. + F. Vale	1/16	Weymouth	1	V. Zollo
1/22	S. Dartmouth	2	R. Stymeist#	1/22	Saugus	2	S. Zende#
1/28	Acoaxet	1	G. d'Entremont	2/18	DWWS	4	V. Zollo
2/4	Falmouth	2	G. d'Entremont	2/26	S. Dart. (A.Pd)	12	E. Nielsen
2/14	Sharon	1	M. Walters	Rusty Blackbird			
2/19	Dedham	1	C. Ullrich	1/14	Northboro	8	J. Bourget
American Tree Sparrow				1/19	N. Plymouth	9	L. Schibley
1/2	Salisbury	86	G. d'Entremont#	1/19	Cohasset	12	S. Avery
1/2	Hardwick	20	M. Lynch#	2/1	W. Barnstable	10	P. Trimble
1/10	P.I.	48	T. Wetmore	2/10	Wayland	50	A. McCarthy#
Chipping Sparrow				2/20	Woburn (HP)	22	B. Lee
1/4	Wayland	1	A. McCarthy#	2/25	Lynnfield	10	L. Ireland
1/26	Orleans	4	M. Faherty	Common Grackle			
1/31	Mt.A	1	R. Stymeist	1/4	Ipswich	100	J. Berry#
2/17	W. Peabody	1	A. Bean	1/22	Bolton Flats	300	M. Lynch#

Common Grackle (continued)				1/2-24	P.I.	17 max	v.o.
2/25 Gloucester	115	M. Lynch#		1/4	Royalston	40	C. Winstanley
2/25 GMNWR	200	J. Forbes#		1/5	Tolland	6	D. Holmes
2/26 Grafton	200	J. Liller		2/25	Montague	5	S. Eaton
Brown-headed Cowbird				Common Redpoll			
1/22 Westport	80	R. Stymeist#		thr	P.I.	1-4	v.o.
1/22 Bolton Flats	20	M. Lynch#		1/2	N. Truro	3	P. Flood#
2/12 Wayland	20	A. McCarthy#		1/20	Newton	1	P. Gilmore
2/22 Cumb. Farms	20	S. Miller#		1/29	Gloucester	1	J. Standley
2/25 GMNWR	50	J. Forbes#		2/12	Woburn	1	M. Rines
Baltimore Oriole				Pine Siskin			
1/thr E. Harwich	1	J. Hensler		1/2	Wellfleet	5	V. Zollo
1/26 Orleans	1	M. Faherty					
1/27 Yarmouth	1	J. Dwelly		Evening Grosbeak			
Purple Finch				1/5	Windsor	10	J. Pierce
1/1 Medway	1	J. Alberta		1/16-2/5	Hardwick	4	A. Barnes
2/2 IRWS	2	J. Nelson		1/22	New Marlboro	20	G. Hurley
2/9 Norfolk	1	N. Crosby		2/21	Ipswich	2	S. Riley#
Red Crossbill							
1/1, 2/8 Salisbury	18, 21	v.o.					



RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD BY RICHARD JOHNSON

ABBREVIATIONS FOR BIRD SIGHTINGS

Locations

Location-#	MAS Breeding Bird Atlas Block	NAC	Nine Acre Corner, Concord
A.A.	Arnold Arboretum, Boston	Newbypt	Newburyport
ABC	Allen Bird Club	ONWR	Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge
A.P.	Andrews Point, Rockport	PG	Public Garden, Boston
A.Pd	Allens Pond, S. Dartmouth	P.I.	Plum Island
B.	Beach	Pd	Pond
Barre F.D.	Barre Falls Dam	POP	Point of Pines, Revere
B.H.I.	Boston Harbor Islands	PR	Pinnacle Rock, Malden
B.I.	Belle Isle, E. Boston	P'town	Provincetown
B.R.	Bass Rocks, Gloucester	Pont.	Pontoosuc Lake, Lanesboro
BBC	Brookline Bird Club	R.P.	Race Point, Provincetown
BMB	Broad Meadow Brook, Worcester	Res.	Reservoir
BNC	Boston Nature Center, Mattapan	RKG	Rose Kennedy Greenway, Boston
C.B.	Crane Beach, Ipswich	S.B.	South Beach, Chatham
CGB	Coast Guard Beach, Eastham	S.N.	Sandy Neck, Barnstable
C.P.	Crooked Pond, Boxford	SRV	Sudbury River Valley
Cambr.	Cambridge	SSBC	South Shore Bird Club
CCBC	Cape Cod Bird Club	TASL	Take A Second Look, Boston Harbor Census
CRV	Cape Cod Regional Vocation-Technical HS	WBWS	Wellfleet Bay WS
Corp. B.	Corporation Beach, Dennis	WE	World's End, Hingham
Cumb. Farms	Cumberland Farms, Middleboro	WMWS	Wachusett Meadow WS
DM	Dunback Meadow	Wompatuck SP	Hingham, Cohasset, Scituate, Norwell
DFWS	Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary	Worc.	Worcester
DWMA	Delaney WMA, Stow, Bolton, Harvard		
DWWS	Daniel Webster WS		
E.P.	Eastern Point, Gloucester		
F.E.	First Encounter Beach, Eastham		
F.H.	Fort Hill, Eastham		
F.P.	Fresh Pond, Cambridge		
F.Pk	Franklin Park, Boston		
G40	Gate 40, Quabbin Res.		
GMNWR	Great Meadows NWR		
H.	Harbor		
H.P.	Halibut Point, Rockport		
HP	Horn Pond, Woburn		
HRWMA	High Ridge WMA, Gardner		
I.	Island		
IRWS	Ipswich River WS		
L.	Ledge		
MAS	Mass Audubon		
MP	Millennium Park, W. Roxbury		
M.V.	Martha's Vineyard		
MBWMA	Martin Burns WMA, Newbury		
MI	Morris Island		
MNWS	Marblehead Neck WS		
MSSF	Myles Standish State Forest, Plymouth		
Mt.A.	Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambr.		

Other Abbreviations

ad	adult
b	banded
br	breeding
dk	dark (morph)
f	female
fide	on the authority of
fl	fledgling
imm	immature
juv	juvenile
lt	light (morph)
m	male
max	maximum
migr	migrating
n	nesting
ph	photographed
pl	plumage
pr	pair
S	summer (1S = 1st summer)
v.o.	various observers
W	winter (2W = second winter)
yg	young
#	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 Sean Williams, 18 Parkman Street, Westborough MA 01581, or by email to seanbirder@gmail.com.