

BIRD SIGHTINGS

March–April 2018

Neil Hayward and Robert H. Stymeist

March came in like a lamb. The first of the month registered 60 degrees, which would end up being the high for the whole of March. A nor'easter on March 2, coming on the heels of one in late February, brought heavy rains and cold temperatures to eastern Massachusetts together with significant snowfall at higher elevations in Worcester, Franklin, and Berkshire counties. Wind gusts exceeding 50 mph felled many trees, and approximately 67,000 homes were without power. This storm was followed by another nor'easter on March 7–8 that dumped over six inches of snow on Boston and up to 18 inches on parts of Worcester County. Another nor'easter, the third in less than two weeks, brought another 14 inches of snow to Boston on March 13–15. Heavy, wet snow fell in Bristol County, the South Shore, and Cape Cod. Combined with high winds in these areas (gusts of 81 mph were recorded in Falmouth), many power lines and trees were knocked down leaving thousands without power for several days. The average temperature in Boston for March was 37 degrees, just one degree below normal. Total rainfall was 5.07 inches, almost an inch above normal. Snowfall in Boston for the month was 23.3 inches.

April weather was a great improvement over that of March with no major storms. The average temperature for the month was 45 degrees in Boston, three degrees cooler than normal. The high was 70 degrees on April 28, and the low was 29 degrees on April 6. Rainfall for the month in Boston was 4.62 inches, nearly an inch above normal, and snowfall totaled 1.3 inches, with most of that falling on April 6. Strong southwest winds aided migration at the end of the month.

R. Stymeist

WATERFOWL THROUGH HERONS

Numbers after dates reflect the number of days early (-) or late (+) compared to average arrival date. Thus, Piping Plover (March 24, +10) means the earliest record this year was March 24, 10 days later than the average arrival date (i.e., March 14). Average arrival dates are calculated from eBird data for the period 2000-2017 inclusive.

Wild geese were still being chased this period as they started to make their return journeys north. The highlight was a **Pink-footed Goose** at Rehoboth on March 26. Based on the coloration and pattern of the bill, this is likely the same individual that was present at nearby Dighton between January 28–February 1, and at Swansea on February 21. With earlier records at Hadley, Westfield and Turner's Falls, this has been a good winter for this now annual visitor. **Greater White-fronted Geese** were reported from seven locations and **Cackling Geese** from six different counties.

Tundra Swan is an uncommon spring visitor to the state. This year's long-staying individual at Carver is the ninth eBird record for Plymouth County and the first since 2007.

Duck highlights this period were mostly of the Green-winged Teal variety. The Eurasian subspecies *crecca* was reported from an impressive six counties. American x Eurasian hybrids, or intergrades, have been reported annually in March and April since 2009. This year a high of three individuals were found distributed among Hampshire, Essex and Plymouth counties. More unusual was the continuing Green-winged Teal x Gadwall hybrid at Marion on the South Coast.

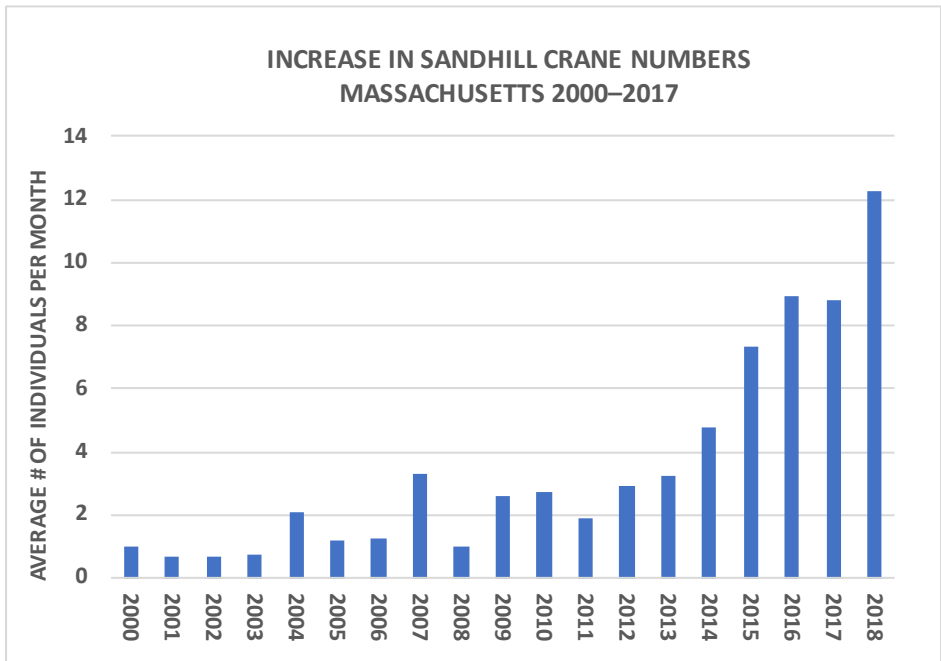


Figure 1. Sandhill Crane numbers in Massachusetts, 2000–2017. The average number of individuals per month are shown for each year. The average for 2018 is calculated for the months January–April. Data based on Bird Observer records.

This bird was found by Nate Marchessault on December 20, 2017 and described by him in *Bird Observer* 46 (2): 113–115. Despite geographic overlap of the (presumed) parents, this hybrid offspring is rare with only four other North American records documented by eBird.

The male **Tufted Duck** first reported on December 10 successfully over-wintered on Nantucket, continuing through at least the end of April. **King Eiders** were found up and down the North and South Shore, with a count of three birds at Plum Island on April 30 tying the previous April high count set in 1998. Large counts of Black Scoter (2,310) and Long-tailed Duck (2,440) were reported in April from Rockport and Plum Island, respectively. Three reports of the northern *borealis* subspecies of Common Eider were received from Cape Cod.

A Black-billed Cuckoo photographed at Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary in Marshfield on April 17 is the earliest record this century—by a long way. This species typically arrives around May 6. The only other April record for the 2000s was last year on April 30. Historically, though, such an early record is not without precedent; in 1973, following coastal storms, birds appeared on April 4 and April 7.

Common Gallinule is a rare breeder and uncommon migrant in the state, typically appearing around May 2. This year, three early birds were found in April.

In 1973, at the inception of this publication, **Sandhill Cranes** were rare visitors to the state. Historically, however, the species may have been a common migrant and regular nester in New England. Indeed, some of the colonists at Plymouth reported that on February 21, 1621 they ate “a very fat goose...a fat crane, and a mallard” (Bradford and Winslow 1622). Other historical texts, where the authors seem able to discriminate between cranes and herons, suggest that cranes arrived *en masse* in Massachusetts in early March, in numbers sufficient to be hunted and sold

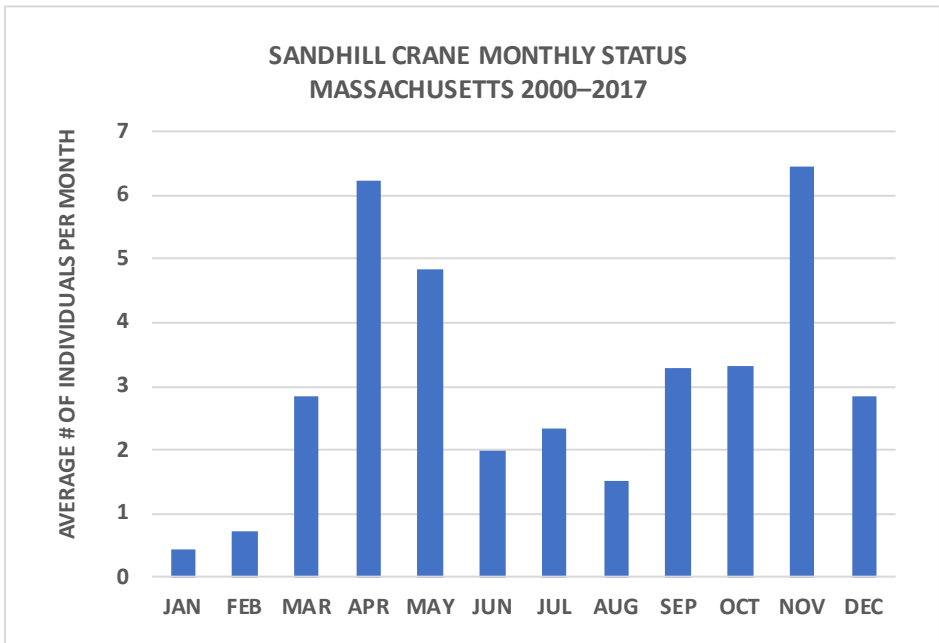


Figure 2. Sandhill Crane monthly status in Massachusetts. Average number of individuals per month are shown for the years 2000–2017 inclusive. Data based on Bird Observer records.

for food. (In 1634 a crane would have cost you two shillings.) But such bounty didn’t last long. Edward Howe Forbush, Massachusetts State Ornithologist, wrote of them, “The great Sandhill Crane once roamed the Atlantic coast in migration, and probably was the only crane that was ever common in any part of New England. Like the wild turkey, it disappeared with the coming of settlement and civilization.” (Forbush 1925)

The past couple of decades have seen a marked uptick in New England sightings of Sandhill Cranes (see Figure 1). This is likely a result of range expansion of a population based in the midwestern United States and Ontario. The first confirmed breeding record for New England in post-colonial times was Maine (2000) followed by: Vermont (2002); New York (2003); Massachusetts (New Marlboro, 2007); and New Hampshire (2014). In March and April this year Sandhill Cranes were reported from a record 18 locations, and the species can now be considered a regular spring and fall migrant with peaks in April and November, summer visitor or rare breeder, and occasional winterer (see Figure 2). As such, after this reporting period, the species will no longer warrant the bold type in the listing section that is typically reserved for rarer birds. We hope this action won’t spell the kiss of death for these majestic birds.

Shorebirds were slow to return to the region this year. Piping Plovers appeared on March 24, 10 days after the average arrival date this century. Other late-returning shorebird species included: Lesser Yellowlegs (March 31, +6); Pectoral Sandpiper (April 1, +8); American Oystercatcher (March 17, +9); and Least Sandpiper (April 29, +13) with the latter two logging the latest arrival records for these species this century. Meanwhile, 50 Purple Sandpipers were still hanging out at Plum Island on April 29.

Shorebird highlights included three reports of American Golden-Plovers in April. This species is typically recorded only once or twice in the spring, as the majority of migrants fly much farther west of the state than they do in the fall when they are more frequently reported.

Whimbrel has a similar pattern of occurrence in the state, and the one spring record this year, in East Boston on April 19, is about average. The shorebird highlight was arguably a Western Willet that was carefully documented at Yarmouth on April 14. This subspecies is a rare spring migrant for Massachusetts, with only five previous spring records: April 1933, March 2003, May 2013, April 2016 and March 2017 (an overwintering bird). With the exception of the March 2003 bird at Salisbury, all records are from Cape Cod and the Islands.

Strong northeasterly winds on March 2–3 brought good numbers of seabirds close to shore with Race Point scoring: 47 Dovekies, an Atlantic Puffin (with two others reported from Orleans), and 620 Black-legged Kittiwakes.

For the second consecutive period **Mew Gull** stole the front page in gull news. This time, though, there was a twist: the action moved from Lynn Beach to the South Shore and the subspecies mix was shaken up. As well as the nominate European “Common Gull,” *Larus canus canus*, reported from Cohasset and Provincetown, there was an adult of the North American subspecies, *L. c. brachyrhynchus*. The latter, perhaps surprisingly, is considerably rarer than either the European subspecies, or the East Asian *kamtschatschensis* form. A *brachyrhynchus* adult seen and photographed at Cohasset on April 15–16 (confusingly at the same time as a European *canus*) would constitute only the second photographic record for the state. The first was probably an adult photographed at Race Point last year, also on April 15, that had initially been identified as the Kamchatka subspecies. There are two historical reports of *brachyrhynchus* noted by Veit and Petersen (1993) which have yet to be reviewed by MARC, both first-cycle birds at Nantucket Harbor in October 1980 and September 1981.

Almost as rare for the state as American Mew Gulls are inland sightings of **Little Gull**. Despite multiple reports every year for Massachusetts, there are only four records away from the coast. Two of these were spring migrants, with the first being found by Ludlow Griscom at Pittsfield on April 20, 1946 and the second on April 29, 2016, also at Pittsfield. The two other inland records were from Turner’s Falls in December 2008 and November 2016. Remarkably, there were three reports this spring from these same two sites. Iceland Gulls were well represented along the coast, including 19 reported from Deer Island. An adult of the Thayer’s subspecies was photographed at Provincetown on March 15.

With the exception of Common Tern (April 26, +3), terns returned to the state about a week earlier than average: Caspian Tern (April 14, -6), Roseate Tern (April 27, -6), and Least Tern (April 28, -5). The first tubenoses of the year were even earlier in their return, some considerably so: Manx Shearwater (March 24, -23), Leach’s Storm-Petrel (April 16, -35) and Sooty Shearwater (April 26, -5).

Up to three **Pacific Loons** were present at Race Point and Herring Cove Beach through March and April. Provincetown has become the most reliable place to find this species, and birds have been reported there throughout this winter since late December.

A Least Bittern discovered at West Harwich on April 14 was the earliest record this century, a full three weeks ahead of its average arrival date. Snowy and Great egrets were three or four days later than average, and Little Blue Herons were a week late. Prior to this century, there were only three or four records of **White-faced Ibis** for the state. Since then the species has expanded its range into the Great Plains and up the Atlantic Coast as far north as Maine and Nova Scotia. Since 2007 White-faced Ibis has been recorded annually in Massachusetts, most reliably in Essex County. This year the pattern continued, with up to three birds roaming the marshes of Ipswich and Essex. Breeding has yet to be confirmed, although a bird was seen tending a nest at Kettle Island in 2009.

N. Hayward

Snow Goose				Northern Pintail			
3/4-3/24	DWWS	4	S. Avery + v.o.	3/4	Acton	18	J. Forbes
3/10-3/21	Edgartown	3	L. Johnson#	3/5	PI	45	T. Wetmore
3/12	Concord (NAC)	3	D. Williams	3/26	Newbury	40	J. Berry
3/25-4/30	Hyannis	1	S. Matheny	4/23	S. Monomoy	14	Y. Laskaris#
3/31	Newbury	50	D. Chickering	Green-winged Teal			
4/2	Ipswich	44	12 blue	3/4	Bolton Flats	60	J. Forbes
Greater White-fronted Goose				3/5	PI	50	T. Wetmore
3/1-3/30	Lexington/Arlington	1 ph	J. Forbes + v.o.	3/17	Concord (NAC)	51	C. Cook
3/1-3/6	Paxton	1 ph	C. Bailey + v.o.	3/31	Newbury	225	D. Williams
3/19-3/23	Amherst	1 ph	K. Yakola + v.o.	3/31	Burrage Pd WMA	125	SSBC (N. Marchessault)
3/24-3/31	Essex/Ipswich	1 ph	M. Goetschkes + v.o.	4/1	Ashley Falls	18	K. Schopp
3/28	Lancaster	1 ph	B. Robo + v.o.	Green-winged Teal (Eurasian)			
4/14-4/22	W. Newbury	1 ph	C. Leuchtenburg + v.o.	3/10-3/18	Concord (NAC)	1 ph	T. Swain + v.o.
4/15-4/17	Rutland	1 ph	T. Purcell	3/15-3/19	Topsfield	1 ph	J. Hoye + v.o.
Pink-footed Goose				3/16	W. Boxford	1	N. Walker#
3/26	Rehoboth	1 ph	J. Sweeney#	3/18-4/5	Seekonk	1 ph	A. Eckerson+ v.o.
Brant				3/23-3/31	Burrage Pd WMA	1-2 ph	J. Sweeney + v.o.
3/20	BHI (Deer I.)	900	P. Peterson	3/25	Bridgewater	1 ph	N. Marchessault#
3/26	PI	100	T. Wetmore	3/29-3/31	Newbury	1 ph	D. Prima + v.o.
4/7	S. Harwich	290	B. Nikula	4/thr	Bolton Flats	1 ph	N. Dowling + v.o.
4/17	Plymouth B.	250	T. Evans	Green-winged Teal (Eurasian x American hybrid)			
4/24	Barre Falls	30	D. Schilling#	3/27-3/28	Hadley	1 m	phL. Therrien+v.o.
Cackling Goose				3/15-3/19	Topsfield	1 m	ph J. Hoye + v.o.
3/3-3/24	Amherst Area	1 ph		3/31	Burrage Pd WMA	1 m	N. Marchessault + v.o.
3/5	Amherst	2 ph	K. Yakola	Gadwall x Green-winged Teal (hybrid)			
3/6-4/1	Boston (FPK)	1 ph	S. Jones + v.o.	3/29-4/11	Mattapoiset/ Marion	1 m	ph N. Marchessault+v.o.
3/10	Topsfield	1 ph	S. Sullivan	Canvasback			
3/10-3/15	Turner's Falls	1 ph	J. Layfield + v.o.	3/1-3/26	Braintree/Randolph	1	P. Peterson + v.o.
3/11-4/3	Concord (NAC)	1 ph	S. Lakshminarayanan+v.o.	3/1-3/3	Sharon	1 m	W. Sweet
3/19	Montague	1	M. Lynch#	3/23, 4/29	Nantucket	18, 2	T. Pastuszak, E. Rudden
3/28-3/31	Lancaster	1 ph	E. Kittredge + v.o.	Redhead			
Mute Swan				3/11	Nantucket	16	J. Blyth#
3/9	Westport	46	C. Molander	3/16-3/26	Eastham	2	R. Debenham + v.o.
4/7	Acoaxet	77	M. Lynch#	Ring-necked Duck			
4/27	Framingham	43	J. Forbes	3/9	New Salem	110	B. Lafley
Tundra Swan				3/10	Boxborough	70	R. Grossman
3/10-3/26	Carver	1 ph	B. Zajda + v.o.	3/23	Burrage Pd WMA	322	J. Sweeney
Wood Duck				3/25	Northboro	100	M. Lynch#
3/18	Northampton	120	M. Lynch#	4/29	Pittsfield	15	K. Schopp
3/23	Carlisle	40	J. Keeley	Tufted Duck			
4/8	Bolton Flats	67	R. Lockwood	thr	Nantucket	1 m	phT. Pastuszak+v.o.
4/26	W. Newbury	27	P. + F. Vale	Greater Scaup			
Blue-winged Teal				3/11	Bourne	62	M. Lynch#
3/31	PI	3	N. Landry	3/17	Randolph	50	G. d'Entremont
4/8	Cumb. Farms	2	1m, 1f	4/21	Fairhaven	33	M. Lynch#
4/15	Arlington Res.	2	D. Williams	Lesser Scaup			
4/23	S. Monomoy	2	Y. Laskaris#	3/17	Wakefield	5	B. Lee
Northern Shoveler				4/7	Acoaxet	13	M. Lynch#
3/27	Salisbury	13	J. Berry#	4/22	PI	6	T. Wetmore
4/1	Nantucket	5	S. Kardell#	4/23	Sharon	22	L. Waters
4/8-4/22	PI	19	T. Wetmore + v.o.	King Eider			
4/12	GMNWR	8	A. Bragg#	3/1	PI	1	imm m ph M. Goetschkes#
4/23	S. Monomoy	3	Y. Laskaris#	3/1-4/22	Cohasset	1	ad m ph D. Burton + v.o.
Gadwall				3/3	Winthrop B.	1	f ph M. Iliff
3/1	PI	70	M. Goetschkes#	3/4	Rockport (AP)	1	imm m ph D. Walters
3/11	Wareham	33	M. Lynch#	3/7-3/29	Sandwich	1	ad m ph J. Glydon + v.o.
3/18	Seekonk	167	A. Eckerson	3/16-3/29	Scusset B.	1-2	ad m ph R. Stowe + v.o.
4/23	S. Monomoy	12	Y. Laskaris#	3/18	Winthrop B.	1	imm m ph S. Williams
Eurasian Wigeon				3/20-4/2	Bourne	1	ad m ph K. Amaral + v.o.
3/4-4/22	Newbury	1 m	phK. Elwell + v.o.	3/26-3/27	Gloucester (EP)	1	imm m N. Dubrow + v.o.
3/7	Yarmouth	1 m	ph P. Kyle	4/30	PI	2	1m imm, 1f D. Adrien
3/12-3/24	Salisbury	1 m	phH. Burns + v.o.	Common Eider			
4/22	Nantucket	1	T. Pastuszak#	3/11	Bourne	3950	M. Lynch#
American Wigeon				3/31	Winthrop	90	C. Cook
3/1	PI	12	M. Goetschkes#	4/3	Ipswich	210	J. Berry
3/26-4/4	Newbury	30	J. Berry + v.o.	Common Eider (Northern, borealis)			
4/22	Bolton Flats	15	R. Hodson	3/1-3/24	P'town (RP)	1	f ph S. Williams#
American Black Duck				3/17	Chatham	1	f ph K. Yakola#
3/26	Stockbridge	61	M. Lynch#	4/7	Sandwich	2	m, f ph S. Williams#
4/7	Westport	162	M. Lynch#	Harlequin Duck			
4/24	PI	40	R. Heil	3/1	Orleans	4	D. Gray

Harlequin Duck (continued)				4/6	Fairhaven	1	N. Marchessault
3/17	Nantucket	12	F. Gallo#	4/8	Hamilton	1	J. Berry
3/19	Cohasset	13	D. Burton	4/11	Lincoln	2	M. Rines
3/25	Rockport (AP)	54	R. Heil#	4/17	Sudbury Res.	3	M. Lynch#
4/19	Westport	2	M. Iliff	4/18-4/23	W. Newbury	1	P. + F. Vale + v.o.
4/21	Aquinnah	5	A. Lin-Moore	4/19	Pelham	1	B. Laffley
Surf Scoter				4/26	GMNWR	2	A. Bragg#
3/11	Sandwich	230	M. Lynch#	Horned Grebe			
4/16	Rockport (AP)	560	R. Heil	4/21	Fairhaven	37	M. Lynch#
White-winged Scoter				4/29	Pittsfield	21	K. Schopp
3/11	Sandwich	170	M. Lynch#	4/29	Quabbin (G5)	12	A. Hulsey
3/31	Winthrop	18	C. Cook	4/29	Wachusett Res.	14	M. Lynch#
4/29	Pittsfield	2	K. Schopp	4/30	Manomet	36	A. Kneidel
Black Scoter				Red-necked Grebe			
3/11	Sandwich	310	M. Lynch#	3/7	Rockport (AP)	11	R. Heil
4/16	Rockport (AP)	2310	R. Heil	4/8	N. Scituate	13	AthBC (E. LeBlanc)
4/26	Scituate	60	D. Peacock	4/29	Pittsfield	17	K. Schopp
Long-tailed Duck				Black-billed Cuckoo			
4/24	PI	2440	R. Heil	4/17	DWWS	1 ph	L. Norton
4/29	Pittsfield	2	K. Schopp	Eastern Whip-poor-will			
4/29	Orange	4	B. Laffley	4/29	Plymouth	5	P. Briggs
4/29	Quabbin Pk	53	L. Therrien	Chimney Swift			
Bufflehead				4/14	Norfolk	1	J. Alberta
4/7	Westport	98	M. Lynch#	4/26	PI	1	R. Secatore#
4/8	PI	32	T. Wetmore	Ruby-throated Hummingbird			
4/14	Wakefield	55	P. + F. Vale	4/25	Uxbridge	1 m	J. Huntington
4/29	Pittsfield	19	K. Schopp	4/29	Easton	1 m	K. Ryan
Common Goldeneye				4/29	Plympton	1 m	T. Lloyd-Evans
3/4	Gill	32	M. Lynch#	Virginia Rail			
3/10	Nbpt	23	J. Berry#	4/21	Hamilton	2	J. Berry
3/11	Bourne	17	M. Lynch#	4/24	Stockbridge	3	M. Lynch#
3/25	Wachusett Res.	52	M. Lynch#	4/25-4/28	Bolton Flats	2	B. Kamp + v.o.
Barrow's Goldeneye				4/27	Marshfield	2	D. Peacock
3/1-4/5	Sharon	1 m	L. Waters + v.o.	4/28	Ashley Falls	4	K. Schopp
3/6-3/20	Mashpee	1 m ph	M. Keleher + v.o.	4/29	Quabog IBA	6	M. Lynch#
3/17	Halifax	2 m ph	J. Sweeney	4/30	Cambr. (Danehy Pk)	2	R. Stymeist
3/19	Cohasset	4 1m, 3f ph	D. Burton#	Sora			
Hooded Merganser				4/1	GMNWR	1	K. Dia
3/6	GMNWR	15	M. Stone#	4/26	Brookfield	1	R. Jenkins
3/10	W. Newbury	16	J. Berry#	4/30	Cotuit	1	P. Crosson
3/10	Quabog IBA	36	M. Lynch#	Common Gallinule			
3/11	Sharon	66	W. Sweet	4/20-4/29	Nantucket	1 ph	T. Pastuszak#
Common Merganser				4/27-4/30	Hatfield	1 ph	T. Gessing
3/10	W. Newbury	106	J. Berry#	4/28	Gloucester	1	B. Harris
3/18	Southwick	350	M. Lynch#	American Coot			
3/18	Arlington	129	K. Hartel	3/23	Marlborough	1	D. Williams
3/23	Quabog IBA	160	M. Lynch#	4/2	Woburn (HP)	3	D. Williams
Red-breasted Merganser				4/3	GMNWR	1	C. Martone
3/6	Gloucester	14	J. Berry	4/5	PI	1	D. Prima
3/11	Bourne	83	M. Lynch#	Sandhill Crane			
3/31	Winthrop	15	C. Cook	3/9, 3/13	Amherst	2,1	J. Jorgensen#, M. Cushing
Ruddy Duck				3/26	W. Roxbury (MP)	2	T. Bradford#
4/1	Waltham	18	J. Forbes	3/29-thr	Burrage Pd WMA	2	E. Vacchino + v.o.
4/1	Pembroke	13	G. d'Entremont	3/30	Lee	3	G. Hurley
4/18	W. Newbury	20	MAS (D. Moon)	3/31	Tolland	2	D. Holmes
4/28	Chestnut Hill	6	R. Doherty	3/31, 4/22	Bolton Flats	6,2	J. Bourget + v.o.
Ring-necked Pheasant				4/2	DWWS	1	J. Chisolm
3/31	Quabog IBA	1 m	M. Lynch#	4/7	Concord	2	G. Dupont
4/18-4/22	Nbpt	1	MAS (D. Moon) + v.o.	4/8-4/27	New Marlborough 1	1	K. Schopp
4/22	Norfolk	1	B. Sullivan	4/8	Newbury	3	D. Moon#
Ruffed Grouse				4/8	Rutland	4	C. Bailey
3/31	Ashby	1	J. Forbes	4/12	Ashley Falls	1	K. Schopp
4/4-4/28	Freetown	1	L. Abbey + v.o.	4/14	Gill	2	J. Smith#
4/8	Barre	7	L. Allen	4/19	Plymouth	3	C. Jackson
4/11	Worc. (BMB)	1	J. Liller	4/20	Quabbin (G46)	2	W. Howes
4/21	Wompatuck SP	1	D. Peacock	4/21, 4/26	Worthington	3	E. Lewis, L. Therrien
4/29	Quabbin (G45)	1	S. Schwenk	4/28	Westhampton	1	M. Lynch#
Wild Turkey				4/28	Dover	3	E. Nielsen
3/10	W. Newbury	28	J. Berry#	American Oystercatcher			
3/17	Canton	34	G. d'Entremont	3/17	Tisbury	1	R. Culbert
3/23	Charlton	54	M. Lynch#	3/28-3/31	Winthrop	8	P. Peterson + v.o.
Pied-billed Grebe				4/8	Quincy	3	D. Burton#
3/26, 4/13	Randolph area	1	P. Peterson, E. Nielsen	4/21	Fairhaven	10	M. Lynch#

American Oystercatcher (continued)									
4/23	S. Monomoy	5	Y. Laskaris#	3/31, 4/21	W. Harwich	1,15	Villone, Eckerson#		
Black-bellied Plover									
4/28	Duxbury B.	2	W. Lackey	3/31, 4/29	E. Boston (BI)	2,4	A. Trautmann, P. Peterson		
4/29	Essex	8	C. Marchant	4/9	PI	1	K. Seymour		
American Golden-Plover									
4/14	P'town (RP)	1 ph	P. Flood	4/14	Nbpt	11	P. + F. Vale		
4/14	Fairhaven	1 ph	S. Walas#	4/22	Bolton Flats	3	B. Abbott		
4/29	Edgartown	2 ph	L. Johnson#	4/30	Fairhaven	4	C. Molander		
Semipalmated Plover									
4/28	PI	1	C. Morgan	4/22	Fairhaven	3	J. Barrett		
4/29	Ipswich (CB)	1	I. Pepper	4/29	Ipswich (CB)	8	I. Pepper		
Piping Plover									
3/24, 4/22	PI	1,26	T. Wetmore + v.o.	4/30	PI	12	T. Mara#		
4/8	Hull	12	M. McInnis	Willet					
4/21	S. Dart. (APd)	4	B. King	4/14	Mashpee	1	K. Fiske		
4/29	Ipswich (CB)	10	I. Pepper	4/22	Fairhaven	3	J. Barrett		
Killdeer				4/28	Ipswich (CB)	5	J. Berry		
3/29	PI	12	T. Wetmore	4/28	Ipswich	5	J. Berry		
4/1	Rutland	12	M. Lynch#	Parasitic Jaeger					
4/2	Ipswich	9	J. Berry#	4/26-4/28	P'town (RP)	5 max	S. Arena + v.o.		
Upland Sandpiper				4/27	P'town (RP)	5	S. Arena		
4/16	W. Roxbury (MP)	1 ph	T. Bradford#	Dovekie					
4/28	Edgartown	1	R. Culbert#	3/4	P'town (RP)	47	P. Flood#		
4/28	Bedford	2	P. + F. Vale	3/4	Orleans	34	P. Crosson		
Whimbrel				3/25	Rockport (AP)	11	R. Heil#		
4/19	E. Boston (BI)	1	B. Burke	Common Murre					
Sanderling				3/10	Salisbury	1 d	D. Burton		
3/11	Sandwich	8	M. Lynch#	3/11	Stellwagen	40	B. Thompson		
4/24	PI	20	R. Heil	3/21, 3/25	Rockport (AP)	68,38	N. Dubrow, R. Heil#		
Dunlin				3/29	Stellwagen Bank	2	R. Batterson		
4/7	Westport	40	M. Lynch#	4/17	Plymouth	1 d	J. Rofe		
4/17	PI	150	T. Wetmore	4/27	P'town (RP)	8	S. Arena		
Purple Sandpiper				Thick-billed Murre					
3/11	Rockport (AP)	12	J. Miller	3/9-3/11	Gloucester	5	J. Keyes + v.o.		
3/13	S. Boston	10	T. Bradford#	3/11	Stellwagen Bank	4	Z. Coeman		
4/7	Westport	2	M. Lynch#	3/11	Rockport (AP)	1 d	J. Miller		
4/8	N. Scituate	125	AthBC (E. LeBlanc)	3/15, 3/24	P'town	36,43	S. Williams#		
4/29	PI	50	A. Steenstrup	3/15	Winthrop B.	1 d	C. Jones		
Least Sandpiper				3/21	Rockport (AP)	17	N. Dubrow		
4/22	Bolton Flats	2	R. Hodson	Razorbill					
4/29	W. Harwich	4	M. Keleher#	3/25, 4/16	Rockport (AP)	54,24	R. Heil#		
Pectoral Sandpiper				3/29	Stellwagen Bank	10	R. Batterson		
4/1	PI	2	R. Heil	4/2	PI	10	T. Wetmore		
4/4-4/22	Newbury	3	S. Babbitt + v.o.	Black Guillemot					
4/6	Fairhaven	4	C. Molander	3/6	Gloucester	7	J. Berry		
Short-billed Dowitcher				3/10	Barnstable	1	M. Iliiff#		
4/21	W. Harwich	1	A. Eckerson#	3/11	Gloucester (EP)	18	K. Hartel		
American Woodcock				Atlantic Puffin					
3/1-3/3	Washington	3	E. Neumuth	3/3	Orleans	2	B. Nikula		
3/9	Salem	3	L. Ferraresso	3/4	P'town (RP)	1	P. Flood#		
3/20	Ipswich	3	J. Berry	3/7	Rockport (AP)	1	R. Heil		
3/23	Stoughton	3	G. d'Entremont	Black-legged Kittiwake					
3/25	W. Roxbury (MP)	6	J. Battenfeld	3/3	Orleans	620	B. Nikula		
4/1	Rutland	22	M. Lynch#	3/11	Stellwagen	150	B. Thompson		
4/7	MSSF	4	G. d'Entremont#	3/25	Rockport (AP)	101	R. Heil#		
Wilson's Snipe				Bonaparte's Gull					
3/31	W. Bridgewater	9	SSBC (N. Marchessault)	4/27	P'town (RP)	425	S. Arena		
4/2	Fairhaven	27	G. Gove#	4/29	Pittsfield	29	K. Schopp		
4/7	Newbury	67	J. Offermann	4/29	Quabbin Pk	54	L. Scherrien		
4/8	Saugus	15	S. Zende#	Black-headed Gull					
4/21	Ipswich	21	N. Dubrow	3/11-4/12	Hyannis	1-2	1W, ad phS. Matheny#		
4/28	Bolton Flats	12	M. Sovay#	4/27	P'town (RP)	1	S. Arena		
Spotted Sandpiper				Little Gull					
4/17	Somerville	1	E. Goodrich	4/11	Turner's Falls	1 ad ph	J. Smith		
4/18	Burlington	1	J. Keeley	4/15, 4/29	Pittsfield	1 ad ph	K. Schopp+v.o.		
4/28	Huntington	2	M. Lynch#	Laughing Gull					
4/28	Bolton Flats	2	M. Sovay#	3/29	P'town (RP)	1	S. Williams#		
4/29	Saugus	3	S. Zende#	4/1	Vineyard Haven	1	R. Bierregaard		
Solitary Sandpiper				4/4	Plymouth	14	D. Furbish		
4/13-4/15	Arlington Res.	1	K. Hartel + v.o.	4/28	P'town (RP)	450	B. Nikula		
4/14	Waltham	1	J. Forbes + v.o.						
4/14	Dover	1	E. Nielsen						

Mew Gull				4/27	Marshfield	230	M. Waters
3/9	Scituate	1 ad ph	MAS(D)Ludlow	Double-crested	Cormorant		
Mew Gull (European, <i>canus</i>)				4/7	PI	18	T. Wetmore
4/14-4/26	P'town (RP)	1 ad ph	N.Marchessault#	4/17	Sudbury Res.	34	M. Lynch#
4/15-4/16	Cohasset	1 ad ph	M. Iliff + v.o.	4/21	Fairhaven	166	M. Lynch#
Mew Gull (American, <i>brachyrhynchus</i>)				4/30	Medford	64	M. Rines
4/15-4/16	Cohasset	1 ad ph	M. Iliff + v.o.	Great Cormorant			
Iceland Gull				3/17	Arlington	8	J. Forbes
3/3	Wakefield	4	T. Swain#	3/23-3/24	Cambridge	1	J. Ferrari
3/4	Cohasset	5	D. Burton	3/24	PI	3	J. Keeley#
3/9	Scituate	5	MAS (D. Ludlow)	3/24, 4/16	Medford	31,4	P. Roberts
3/9	BHI (Deer I.)	19	T. Bradford#	4/8	N. Scituate	22	AthBC (E. LeBlanc)
3/21	Gloucester	5	MAS (D. Moon)	American Bittern			
4/14	Lawrence	4	D. Duxbury-Fox#	3/25-thr	Reports of indiv. from 7 locations		
4/18	Westport	3	M. Iliff	3/31	Bolton Flats	2	J. Bourget
4/27	P'town (RP)	37	S. Arena	4/22	W. Newbury	2	J. Hoyer#
Iceland Gull (Thayer's)				4/26	Brookfield	2	R. Jenkins
3/15	P'town (RP)	1 ad ph	S. Williams#	Least Bittern			
Lesser Black-backed Gull				4/14-4/24	W. Harwich	1 ph	E. Hoopes + v.o.
4/16	Cohasset	7	L. Waters#	4/27	Marshfield	1	D. Peacock
4/27	P'town (RP)	17	S. Arena	Great Blue Heron			
4/28	Cape Ann	3	B. Harris	3/29	Danvers	17 n	P. + F. Vale
Glaucous Gull				3/31	Stoneham	7 n	D. Olivaria
3/4-3/26	Cohasset	2	D. Burton	4/7	W. Bridgewater	6 n	K. Ryan
3/11	Gloucester	3	B. Thompson	4/14	GMNWR	21	B. Harris
4/17	New Bedford	2	L. Waters	4/23	Quabog IBA	24	M. Lynch#
4/30	Revere B.	2	T. Bradford#	4/26	Peabody	7 n	P. + F. Vale
Least Tern				Great Egret			
4/28	Winthrop B.	6	S. Zende#	3/20	Marblehead	2	E. Smith
4/29	E. Boston (BI)	1	T. Bradford#	3/20	Gloucester	1	C. Marchant
Caspian Tern				3/20	Scituate	2	J. Feeney
4/14	GMNWR	1 ph	B. Harris#	3/31, 4/3	PI	9,25	D. Williams, T. Wetmore
4/17	Scituate	1	D. Peacock	Snowy Egret			
4/22-4/25	Burrage Pd WMA1	2 ph	D. O'Brien	3/30	N. Dighton	4	A. Eckerson
4/23	Mashpee	1 ph	K. Fiske	3/30, 4/30	Ipswich	1,25	N. Dubrow + v.o.
4/23	Plymouth	1	B. Winn	3/31	Sandwich	5	S. Paventy
Roseate Tern				4/18	Newbury	29	P. + F. Vale
4/27	Marshfield	2	M. Waters	4/29	PI	7	E. Labato
4/28	P'town (RP)	2	J. Johnson	Little Blue Heron			
Common Tern				4/7-4/14	Plymouth	2 max	L. Schibley + v.o.
4/26	P'town (RP)	15	M. Waters#	4/13	E. Boston (BI)	1 ad	J. Richards#
4/29	Saugus	4	S. Zende#	4/24	Gloucester H.	6	C. Haines
4/29	Revere B.	3	L. Ferrareso	Tricolored Heron			
4/30	Revere	35	B. Burke	4/20-4/24	Barnstable	1	S. Matheny + v.o.
Red-throated Loon				Green Heron			
3/5	Medford	5	P. Roberts	4/14	Malden	1	G. Richards
3/19	Hull	96	D. Burton	4/14	Plymouth	1	J. Offermann
4/15	Rockport (AP)	90	R. Heil	4/20	Carlisle	1	J. Keeley
Pacific Loon				4/23	DWWS	1	M. Noiseux
3/1-4/28	P'town (RP)	2 max ph	M.Waters+v.o.	Black-crowned Night-Heron			
3/1-4/27	P'town (HCB)	1 ph	S. Williams + v.o.	3/25	Milton	2	L. Meyer
Common Loon				3/29, 4/8	W. Harwich	3,60	P. Kyle, P. Trimble
3/24, 4/29	PI	24,16	J. Keeley#	4/8	Watertown	10	M. Sterling
4/7	Westport	32	M. Lynch#	4/9	Plymouth	9	G. Gove#
4/8	Wachusett Res.	19	M. Lynch#	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron			
4/27	Marshfield	20	M. Waters	4/24	Nantucket	1	T. Pastuszak
Northern Fulmar				Glossy Ibis			
3/3	Orleans	92	B. Nikula	3/30	PI	3	P. + F. Vale
3/4	P'town (RP)	9	P. Flood#	3/31	Dartmouth	1	L. Waters
3/6	Barnstable	1	P. Crosson#	4/3	Bolton Flats	3	E., Kittredge
Sooty Shearwater				4/13	N. Dighton	9	J. Eckerson#
4/26, 4/27	P'town (RP)	1,5	S. Williams# + v.o.	4/19	Manomet	18	A. Kneidel
Manx Shearwater				4/20	Ipswich	105	K. Elwell
3/24, 4/27	P'town (RP)	1,13	B.Nikula#, S. Arena	4/20	DWWS	3	R. Bowes
3/30, 4/29	Revere B.	6,16	P. Peterson + v.o.	4/21-4/23	Concord	1	J. Grant + v.o.
4/16	Rockport (AP)	1	R. Heil	White-faced Ibis			
Leach's Storm-Petrel				4/18-4/30	Ipswich/Essex	3 max ph	P.Brown+v.o.
4/16	Rockport (AP)	2 ph	R. Heil	4/21	Rowley/Newbury	1	L. Waters# + v.o.
Northern Gannet							
4/16	Rockport (AP)	227	R. Heil				

VULTURES THROUGH FINCHES

The town of Sheffield, in Berkshire County, has always been the place to go to see Black Vultures. Fifty-two of them were counted on March 26, although this is still short of the record 77 Black Vultures recorded in Sheffield on January 1, 2016.

The Plum Island hawkwatch at Lot 1 was well covered for the month of April. Some of the more impressive totals included: 167 Northern Harriers, 76 Merlins and 378 American Kestrels. Two **Golden Eagles** were recorded at the Barre Falls hawkwatch: an adult on April 5 and a sub-adult on April 11.

Snowy Owls were reported from over 30 localities, with five individuals present at Nantucket on March 25. A Barn Owl was noted in Harwich and another was found dead in Chatham. Records of Barn Owls away from the islands of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket are unusual. A Barred Owl was found at the Sheriff's Meadow Sanctuary in Edgartown on March 9. This is the first sighting of Barred Owl on Martha's Vineyard since 1948.

Favorable winds on April 12–14 delivered the first push of migrants. Good numbers of Eastern Phoebes were noted in several locations including a count of 30 on Plum Island on April 13, when the temperature was a balmy 69 degrees. The first Purple Martins returned on April 13 to Rehoboth. This year an additional 12 gourds were added to the existing 84 at the Crestwood Country Club, making this the largest colony in Massachusetts. Other traditionally early April migrants arriving in high numbers during this period were: Blue-headed Vireo, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush and Pine Warbler. A Northern Parula found in Truro on April 14 was notably early.

Significant waves of migrants also arrived during the last week of April. Following a stretch of cool temperatures and easterly winds, the mercury shot up on April 22. Temperatures stayed in the 60s through the end of the month, with a high of 70 on April 28, providing favorable conditions for migration.

The highlight of the period was a **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** found in East Sandwich on April 13. This is only the second April record for the state, with the first being from Brighton on April 12–15, 2014. Among the other vagrant and noteworthy sightings was the long-staying **Townsend's Solitaire** at Demarest Lloyd State Park in South Dartmouth. This bird was first found on November 12, 2017. With the last sighting on April 22 this bird was present for over five months! A **Bullock's Oriole** visited a feeder at a Nahant home adjacent to the Mass Audubon Sanctuary, delighting many birders during its two-day stay. Two male **Painted Buntings** were reported from Marstons Mills and nearby Cotuit.

Reports of Red Crossbills nesting in Berkshire County this spring are particularly exciting. In the Montague Wildlife Management Area as many as nine individuals were reported and nest building was documented on March 15. Other Red Crossbills were noted in Washington and Windsor.

R. Stymeist

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Eastern Phoebe				Cliff Swallow			
4/1-4/24	PI	19 b	B. Flemer#	4/5	W. Newbury	1	M. Densmore
4/13	PI	30	T. Wetmore	4/8	IRWS	1	W. Tatro
4/13	Quabog IBA	22	M. Lynch#	4/10	Wayland	1	J. Forbes
4/14	Tolland	16	M. Lynch#	4/23	Quabog IBA	1	M. Lynch#
4/14	Duxbury B.	19	R. Bowes	4/25	W. Newbury	1	MAS (D. Moon)
Great Crested Flycatcher				4/29	New Salem	1	B. Lafley
4/21	Southwick	1	A. Robblee	Barn Swallow			
4/29	Boxford (CP)	1	D. Larson	3/31	Barnstable	3	S. Matheny
Eastern Kingbird				3/31	Edgartown	2	L. Johnson#
4/17	Nantucket	1	S. Fee	4/28	PI	20	T. Wetmore
4/28	W. Newbury	1	J. Berry#	4/29	Quabog IBA	31	M. Lynch#
4/28	Arlington Res.	1	J. Forbes, M. Rines#	Red-breasted Nuthatch			
Fork-tailed Flycatcher				3/28	PI	2	T. Wetmore
4/13	Sandwich	1 ad ph	W. Newstead#	4/1	Harvard	4	M. Lynch#
Northern Shrike				4/24	Stockbridge	3	M. Lynch#
3/12	Westboro	1	B. Robo	4/28	Fall River	3	G. d'Entremont
3/22-3/30	Medfield	1	E. Nielsen + v.o.	Brown Creeper			
4/3	PI	1	R. Murphy#	3/29	Hamilton	10	J. Berry#
Blue-headed Vireo				4/13-4/23	PI	12 b	B. Flemer#
4/13	Worc. (BMB)	1	B. Robo#	4/14	Wompatuck SP	8	G. d'Entremont
4/14	Boxford (CP)	1	A. Bean#	House Wren			
4/14	Quabbin Pk	1	J. Young	3/28	Watertown	1	A. Gurka
4/23	Boxford	6	J. Berry	4/12	Dartmouth	1	B. King
4/28	Chester	4	M. Lynch#	4/12	Hingham	1	K. Rawdon
Warbling Vireo				4/26	Scituate	2	D. Peacock
4/24	Pittsfield	1	L. Master	Winter Wren			
4/27	Framingham	1	J. Forbes	4/1	PI	1 b	B. Flemer#
4/28	Arlington Res.	2	M. Rines#	4/14	Wompatuck SP	2	G. d'Entremont
4/28	W. Warren	1	B. Zajda	4/23	Boxford	4	J. Berry
Red-eyed Vireo				4/23	MBO	1 b	T. Lloyd-Evans #
4/22	E. Brookfield	1	D. Lusignan	4/24	P'town	2	B. Nikula
Fish Crow				4/28	Boxford	2	J. Berry#
3/1	Milton	140	P. Peterson	4/28	Huntington	3	M. Lynch#
3/11	Bourne	31	M. Lynch#	Marsh Wren			
3/30	Needham	75	M. Iliff	4/2	Marshfield	1	D. Furbish
4/7	Plymouth	50	L. Schibley	4/13	Rehoboth	3	M. Eckerson
4/10	Lawrence	30	D. Duxbury-Fox#	4/29	PI	4	J. Keeley
Common Raven				Carolina Wren			
3/6	P'town (RP)	6	K. Sutherland#	4/7	Westport	7	M. Lynch#
3/18	Ware	4	M. Lynch#	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher			
3/23	Burrage Pd WMA	3	N. Marchessault	4/13	Weston	1	J. Forbes
4/22	Arlington	3 1pr, 1juv	A. Golden	4/15	Burlington	1	M. Rines
4/24	Milton	5	P. Peterson	4/18	MBO	1 m bT	Lloyd-Evans#
4/28	W. Warren	4	B. Zajda	4/27	Westboro	5	P. Gilmore#
4/30	Easton	6 1pr, 4yg	K. Ryan	4/28	Cape Ann	6	B. Harris
Horned Lark				4/29	Medford	6	M. Rines
3/10	Acton	50	G. d'Entremont#	Golden-crowned Kinglet			
3/18	Saugus	150	S. Zende#	3/9	Hamilton	2	J. Berry
3/23	PI	20	S. Sullivan	4/1-4/22	PI	54 b	B. Flemer#
4/2	Cumb. Farms	45	J. Sweeney	4/14	PI	55	T. Wetmore
Purple Martin				4/14	Duxbury B.	18	R. Bowes
4/13	Rehoboth	1	R. Marr	Ruby-crowned Kinglet			
4/23	Norfolk	5 4m, 1f	M. Linck	3/3	Natick	1	M. Locher
4/30	PI	10	T. Mara#	3/6	Nantucket	1	T. Pastuszak
Tree Swallow				3/7-3/28	Lexington	1	K. Hartel + v.o.
3/1	Fall River	1	L. Abbey	4/13-4/28	PI	90 b	B. Flemer#
3/27	PI	3	A. Steenstrup	4/14	Medford	20	M. Rines#
3/31	W. Bridgewater	150	SSBC (N. Marchessault)	4/22	Boston (Olmsted Pk)	7	C. Cook
4/8	IRWS	75	W. Tatro	4/23	Quabog IBA	23	M. Lynch#
4/18	Quabog IBA	604	M. Lynch#	4/24	MNWS	18	J. Smith#
Northern Rough-winged Swallow				Eastern Bluebird			
3/30	Northampton	1	D. Pritchard	3/18	W. Newbury	8	S. McGrath#
3/31	Fitchburg	4	R. O'Hara	4/12	DFWS	10	MAS (P. Sowizral)
4/10	Freetown	6	L. Waters	4/28	W. Warren	12	B. Zajda
4/18	Manomet	6	A. Kneidel	Townsend's Solitaire			
4/29	Quabog IBA	8	M. Lynch#	3/1-4/22	Dartmouth	1 ph	v.o.
Bank Swallow				Veery			
4/14	Sheffield	1	J. Pierce	4/18	Nantucket	1	T. Pastuszak
4/17-4/19	Manomet	1	E. Dalton + v.o.	Hermit Thrush			
4/19	E. Falmouth	2	S. Williams#	3/11	Sandwich	1	M. Lynch#
4/25	W. Newbury	1	MAS (D. Moon)	4/thr	PI	56 b	B. Flemer#

Hermit Thrush (continued)									
4/13	E. Boston (BI)	10	P. Peterson	Lark Sparrow	4/14	N. Truro	1 ph	M. Iliff#	
4/15	Rockport (AP)	9	R. Heil	4/22	Boston (PG)		1 ph	D. Hunneman#	
4/20	Petersham	11	M. Lynch#	Savannah Sparrow	4/17	W. Roxbury (MP)	90	P. Peterson	
4/23	Boxford	8	J. Berry	4/24	PI		59	R. Heil	
Wood Thrush				4/29	Saugus		40	S. Zende#	
4/20	Hadley	1	M. Locher	Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow (<i>princeps</i>)	4/3	PI	1	T. Wetmore	
4/21	PI	1	A. Steenstrup	4/19	Westport		1	M. Iliff	
4/21	MNWS	1	J. Smith	Grasshopper Sparrow	4/30	Ashley Falls	1	K. Schopp	
4/22	Ipswich	1	M. Watson	Saltmarsh Sparrow	4/19	E. Boston (BI)	1	B. Burke	
Gray Catbird				Seaside Sparrow	4/30	PI	2	T. Wetmore	
3/13-3/20	Boxborough	1	A. Bailey	Fox Sparrow	3/4	Saugus	4	S. Zende#	
4/1	Boston	1	K. Hudson	3/4	Lexington (DM)		4	M. Rines#	
4/14	Boston (PG)	1	J. Cushman	3/17	Merrimac		3	B. + B. Buxton	
Brown Thrasher				4/1-4/22	PI		3 b	B. Flemer#	
3/4-4/7	Nantucket	1	T. Pastuszak	4/11	Worc.		11	M. Lynch#	
3/24	Falmouth	1	K. Miller	4/18	MBO		1 b	T. Lloyd-Evans #	
3/31	Dartmouth	2	L. Waters	Swamp Sparrow	3/9	Hamilton	1	J. Berry	
Cedar Waxwing				4/13	PI		2 b	B. Flemer#	
3/15	Quabog IBA	30	M. Lynch#	4/23	Quabog IBA		64	M. Lynch#	
4/7	Hingham	75	SSBC (H. Cross)	4/24	Stockbridge		23	M. Lynch#	
American Pipit				4/28	GMNWR		17	C. Cook	
3/16-4/8	Mashpee	1	W. Knowlton + v.o.	White-throated Sparrow	4/23	Quabog IBA	27	M. Lynch#	
3/17	Concord (NAC)	1	C. Cook	4/24	MBO		13 b	T. Lloyd-Evans #	
3/24	Cumb. Farms	30	N. Marchessault	4/30	Quabbin (G54)		13	B. Zajda	
4/10	Wachusett Res.	6	G. Gove#	White-crowned Sparrow	3/24-4/3	Cumb. Farms	1	N. Marchessault + v.o.	
Evening Grosbeak				4/29	PI		1	A. Steenstrup	
3/19	Royalston	3	E. LeBlanc	Bobolink	4/28	Andover	1	N. Jacob	
4/23	Quabbin Pk	1	L. Therrien	Eastern Meadowlark	3/4	DWWS	6	S. Avery	
4/30	Windsor6 3pr Type 3 au		T. Spahr	4/2	Ipswich		4	J. Berry#	
Purple Finch				4/16	Bolton Flats		2	A. Bitzel	
3/14	Athol	3	D. Small	4/17	Nbpt		2	D. Moon	
4/24	PI	39	R. Heil	4/21	S. Dart. (APd)		4	B. King	
4/28	Huntington	7	M. Lynch#	4/28	Plymouth Airport		2	G. d'Entremont	
Red Crossbill				Orchard Oriole	4/28	Boston (AA)	1	K. Broks	
3/9-4/9	Montague9 max Type 1,2 au J. Rose+v.o.			Bullock's Oriole	4/20-4/21	Nahant	1 ph	V. Patek + v.o.	
3/27	Essex 1 Type 2 au P. Brown			Baltimore Oriole	thr	Brewster	1	D. Gray	
4/30	Washington10 Type 1,2,3,10 au T. Spahr			4/26	Merrimac		1	B. + B. Buxton	
4/30	Windsor4 Type 2,10 au T. Spahr			Rusty Blackbird	3/1	N. Andover	2	B. + B. Drummond	
White-winged Crossbill				3/5	Lynnfield		24	C. Martone	
3/25	Westwood	1	E. Nielsen	3/26	Sheffield		11	M. Lynch#	
Lapland Longspur				3/29	Nantucket		9	S. Kardell	
3/4, 4/22	Saugus	2,3	S. Zende#	4/1	W. Roxbury (MP)		9	M. Iliff	
Snow Bunting				4/18	Lexington		15	M. Rines	
3/16	P'town	45	D. Weber	Ovenbird	4/23	N. Dighton	1	A. Eckerson	
3/24	PI	20	J. Keeley#	4/28	Fall River		9	G. d'Entremont	
4/18	P'town (RP)	3	A. Green	4/30	Ipswich		4	J. Berry	
Eastern Towhee				Worm-eating Warbler	4/27	Wompatuck SP	2	P. Edmundson	
3/1	Newton	1 m	H. Miller	Louisiana Waterthrush	4/5	Marion	1	S. Williams	
3/1-3/17	Needham	1	F. Lehman	4/12	Princeton		1	S. LaBree	
4/13	MBO	1 m b	T. Lloyd-Evans#	4/13-4/14	Sharon		1	M. Waters + v.o.	
4/28	Fall River	34	G. d'Entremont	4/21	Wompatuck SP		2	D. Peacock	
4/28	PI	25	T. Wetmore	4/28	Chester		14	M. Lynch#	
American Tree Sparrow									
4/22	Nbpt	6	J. Trimble#						
4/23	Sudbury	6	B. Black						
4/30	Norwell	1	W. + A. Childs						
Chipping Sparrow									
4/23	Quabog IBA	53	M. Lynch#						
4/30	Ipswich	16	J. Berry						
4/30	Quabbin Pk	14	B. Zajda						
Field Sparrow									
4/1	PI	2 b	B. Flemer#						
4/13	Worc. (BMB)	4	B. Robo#						
4/14	MSSF	4	G. d'Entremont						
4/25	PI	7	T. Wetmore						
Vesper Sparrow									
4/8-4/24	Ashley Falls	1	K. Schopp						
4/14	Orange Airport	2	B. Lafley						
4/14	Dover	1	E. Nielsen						
4/14	Grafton	2	N. Paulson						
4/18	W. Roxbury (MP)	3	A. Trautmann#						

Northern Waterthrush				Palm Warbler (Western)			
4/13 Dedham	1	M. McCarthy		3/25-3/28 Belchertown	1 ph	D. Winckler#	
4/27 Ipswich	2	J. Berry		4/22 Wompatuck SP	1	G. d'Entremont#	
4/28 Fall River	6	G. d'Entremont		Pine Warbler			
Black-and-white Warbler				3/7-3/20 Belchertown	1	D. Griffiths + v.o.	
4/21 Wompatuck SP	2	D. Peacock		3/9-3/31 Milton	1	D. Burton + v.o.	
4/28 Freetown	8	G. d'Entremont		3/31 Walpole	1	B. Lawless	
4/28 PI	1 b	B. Flemer#		4/2 Newton	2	P. Gilmore	
4/28 W. Warren	9	B. Zajda		4/3 Malden	2	P. + F. Vale	
Orange-crowned Warbler				4/4 Ipswich	4	J. Berry	
3/10, 4/14 Eastham	2,1	M. Iliiff#		4/14 Quabbin Pk	18	J. Young	
Common Yellowthroat				4/22 Wompatuck SP	25	G. d'Entremont#	
3/10 Eastham	2	M. Iliiff#		Yellow-rumped Warbler			
4/14 N. Truro	1	M. Iliiff#		3/1-3/27 PI	3	W. Tatro + v.o.	
4/24 MNWS	1	J. Smith#		4/1 PI	5 b	B. Flemer#	
4/26 W. Newbury	2	P. + F. Vale		4/19 GMNWR	15	A. Bragg#	
4/28 Nahant	1	L. Pivacek		4/23 Quabog IBA	37	M. Lynch#	
Hooded Warbler				4/28 W. Warren	33	B. Zajda	
4/22 Chilmark	1	L. Johnson#		Prairie Warbler			
4/30 PI	1 b ph	B. Flemer#		4/23 Plymouth	1	D. Furbish	
American Redstart				4/28 Plymouth Airport	1	G. d'Entremont	
4/28 Pepperell	1	M. Resch		Black-throated Green Warbler			
Cape May Warbler				4/21 Wompatuck SP	1	D. Peacock	
4/29 Nantucket	1	K. Blackshaw#		4/23, 4/29 Boxford	1,2	J. Berry, D. Larson	
Northern Parula				Scarlet Tanager			
4/14 Truro	1	S. Williams#		4/17 Essex	1 f	P. Brown	
4/26 Scituate	1	D. Peacock		4/18 Eastham	2	M. Faherty	
4/28 W. Warren	1	B. Zajda		4/18 Southboro	1	M. Garvey	
Yellow Warbler				Rose-breasted Grosbeak			
4/22 Byfield	1	R. Stevenson		4/15 Andover	1 f	D. Cooper	
4/23 Uxbridge	1	N. Demers		4/18 Lexington	2	R. Rotberg	
4/28 Fall River	3	G. d'Entremont		4/19 WBWS	3	M. Faherty	
4/28 Brighton	2	R. Doherty		4/28 Nantucket	3	K. Blackshaw	
Chestnut-sided Warbler				Blue Grosbeak			
4/28 W. Warren	1	B. Zajda		4/23 Nantucket	2	R. Newman	
Palm Warbler				4/28-4/30 Arlington Res.	1 imm m ph	J. Forbes + v.o.	
4/1 PI	20 b	B. Flemer#		4/29-4/30 MBWMA	1 ad m ph	G. Power + v.o.	
4/1 IRWS	2	L. Manzi		Indigo Bunting			
4/1 Middleton	1	S. Sullivan#		3/1-4/3 Washington	1 m	E. Neumuth	
4/15 Woburn (HP)	32	P. Ippolito#		4/18 Nantucket	1	T. Pastuszak#	
4/21 Arlington Res.	50	J. Childs		Painted Bunting			
4/24 MBO	7 b	T. Lloyd-Evans #		3/28-4/1 Marston Mills	1 m ph	K. Amaral + v.o.	
				4/18-4/25 Cotuit	1 m	J. Spence	

BYGONE BIRDS

Historical Highlights for March–April

Neil Hayward

5 YEARS AGO

March–April 2013



The last of the Nantucket **Northern Lapwings** held on until April 1, although a bird was later spotted from a canoe at Bolton Flats on April 27. Williamstown, in the far northwest corner of the state, hosted a male **Mountain Bluebird**, April 27–May 2.

Best sighting: **Fieldfare**, Carlisle, March 17–23. This was the second record for Massachusetts, the first being at Nine Acre Corner in April 1986.

10 YEARS AGO

March–April 2008



Flocks of **Tundra Swans** were observed in Longmeadow and Sheffield. Manx Shearwaters were copulating on the water at Revere Beach! A **Swallow-tailed Kite** seen on Martha's Vineyard on March 10 was found dead four days later at Chappaquiddick. A **Townsend's Solitaire** at Rockport successfully survived the winter. A feeder in Brewster attracted two **Western Tanagers**. Massive numbers of **Bohemian Waxwings** invaded the state, with a high count of 300 in Northfield.

Best sighting: adult male **Fork-tailed Flycatcher**, Chandler Pond, Brighton, April 12–15.

20 YEARS AGO

March–April 1998



Gyrfalcons were reported from Hanscom Field in Concord, Edgartown, and Logan Airport. Two photogenic **American Avocets** spent ten days in Scituate in March. Up to three **Monk Parakeets** were reported in South Dartmouth in April. A **Black-backed Woodpecker** was a one-day wonder in Uxbridge on March 18. A **Golden-crowned Sparrow** spent a week in April in Weston, and the **Bullock's Oriole** that had spent the winter at a feeder in Reading was last seen on April 19.

Best sighting: the **Hermit Warbler** that overwintered on Martha's Vineyard was last seen on March 4.

40 YEARS AGO

March–April 1978



A male **Garganey** was found at Marshfield on April 1 and stayed until April 18. An adult **Golden Eagle** spent April 5–10 in the West Newbury area. An immature gray **Gyrfalcon** devouring a Black Duck was watched for an hour and a half in Newburyport on March 12. A dead **Black Rail** was picked up on Nantucket on March 31. The **Eurasian Curlew** from the previous period lingered on Martha's Vineyard until March 18. Two **Reeves** and up to two male **Ruff** were in Newburyport Harbor at the end of April. A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was spotted in Rochester on May 3. There were reports throughout the state of 17 Northern Shrikes and four **Loggerhead Shrikes**. Three adult male **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were found in Newburyport, Melrose, and Medford, all in mid-April.

Best sighting: a male **Selasphorus** hummingbird appeared in a yard in Newton, April 15–17. This was the first record of a hummingbird of this genus in the state. It was thought to be a Rufous Hummingbird, but photographs couldn't rule out Allen's Hummingbird. The first definitive records of Allen's and Rufous appeared in 1988 and 1992, respectively. 🐦

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		PI	Plum Island
AA	Arnold Arboretum, Boston	Pk	Park
ABC	Allen Bird Club	Pont.	Pontoosuc Lake, Lanesboro
AP	Andrews Point, Rockport	POP	Point of Pines, Revere
APd	Allens Pond, S. Dartmouth	PR	Pinnacle Rock, Malden
AthBC	Athol Bird Club	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)
HCB	Herring Cove Beach, Provincetown	f	female
HP	Horn Pond, Woburn	fl	fledgling
HPt	Halibut Point, Rockport	imm	immature
HRWMA	High Ridge WMA, Gardner	inj	injured
I.	Island	juv	juvenile
IBA	Important Bird Area	lt	light (morph)
IRWS	Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary	m	male
L.	Ledge	MARC	Massachusetts Avian Records Committee
MAS	Mass Audubon	max	maximum
MBO	Bird Observatory, Manomet	migr	migrating
MBWMA	Martin Burns WMA, Newbury	n	nesting
MI	Morris Island	nfc	nocturnal flight call
MNWS	Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary	ph	photographed
MP	Millennium Park, W. Roxbury	pl	plumage
MSSF	Myles Standish State Forest, Plymouth	pr	pair
MtA	Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambr.	r	rescued
MV	Martha's Vineyard	S	summer (1S = first summer)
NAC	Nine Acre Corner, Concord	subad	subadult
Nbpt	Newburyport	v.o.	various observers
ONWR	Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge	W	winter (2W = second winter)
Pd	Pond	yg	young
PG	Public Garden, Boston	#	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.