

Pipit, Waxwings, Shrikes: A Water Pipit was found at Corn Hill, Truro, on the 10th and is still present (RF); 2 Bohemian Waxwings were found at Plymouth on the 3rd and were seen off and on up to the 18th, another was at Sandwich on the 4th (RP), and over 100 Cedar Waxwings were at Plymouth on the 10th (RF). Northern Shrikes were reported from many localities, a total of 16 in all. A Loggerhead Shrike was reported from P.I. on the 24th (RPE, M&AA)

Warblers: Four species of warblers were observed during the month; the Orange-crowned continued at a feeder in Eastham (v.o.); an amazing count of 500+ Myrtle Warblers was made at Nantucket on the 16th (ES), 2 Pine Warblers were seen at Nantucket (RV), and 1 was seen throughout the month at Chatham (v.o.); Palm Warblers were at Gloucester on the 3rd-1 (PP-BBC) and 1 at Middleboro on the 28th (RM).

Blackbirds, Tanager, Fringillids: An unreported wintering flock of 50 Redwings was at West Roxbury on the 17th (PM, RHS); a Baltimore Oriole visited a feeder in Norwell on the 6th (BL); and a Rusty Blackbird was at GWNWR on the 17th (AA); the Western Tanager continued at Annisquam (v.o.), but was reported less frequently than in Jan. The Plymouth Painted Bunting was observed up to the 11th but not since (v.o.); a Dickcissel visited the feeder at WBWS in Wellfleet on the 10th (RF); Evening Grosbeaks totaled 100 at Plymouth on the 3rd (RF); 17 Purple Finches were banded at Manomet; and 50 House Finches were at Falmouth on the 10th (AAC). Reports of Pine Grosbeaks were way down, but continued in good numbers at various places, with 100 at Boxford (AP). Only 1 Pine Siskin was reported from our area, at Lincoln on the 5th (WH), while there were many reports from the Conn. Valley and the Berkshires. Twelve Red Crossbills were at Brookline on the 18th (AA), 1 at Belmont on the 24th (HTW), and 2-3 at Brewster on the 25th (MG). A Towhee continued throughout the month at Hardwick (BB), and 2 were seen at Falmouth on the 3rd (M&AA); 2 Ipswich Sparrows were in Scituate at Humarock on the 3rd (M&AA), and 2 were photographed at Duxbury (BS); Savannah Sparrows totaled 10 at Fort Hill on the 10th (RF). A wintering Grasshopper Sparrow was at WBWS on the 5th (WB); 7 Sharp-tailed Sparrows and 1 Seaside Sparrow were reported on the 5th from the Scituate Sewage Plant (GLS), and 3 Chipping Sparrows were observed at Middleboro on the 15th (DB). A Clay-colored Sparrow was reported from Westport on the 24th (VL); 2 White-crowned Sparrows visited a feeder throughout the month in Ipswich (fide ML); Fox Sparrow reports were way down with only 3 reports; and Lapland Longspurs continued at Salisbury Beach with high counts of 50+ on the 24th and 13 Snow Buntings there on the 10th.

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PREVIEWS

April is a time when we welcome signs of spring and the gradual return of our summer birds. Our yards once again are full of songsters such as chipping sparrows, song sparrows and house wrens; towhees and catbirds stake out their claims before the onrush of May's warblers, thrushes and vireos. Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge is a good place to visit in April to see a wide variety of woodland sparrows in great numbers. A trip to Westport along the river and beach will yield nesting ospreys, singing Carolina wrens, migrating broad-winged hawks, early snowy egrets, laughing gulls and herons.