



Field Records

March 1985

by George W. Gove, Robert H. Stymeist, Lee E. Taylor

March 1985 was very much like February - mild, dry, and very sunny. The temperature averaged 40.4°, 2.0° above normal. The high mark was 74° on March 28, and the low was 18° on both March 4 and 19. The 60° mark on March 2 tied the record for that date set in 1973. Precipitation totaled 2.27 inches, 1.86 inches less than normal. The January to March total now stands at only 5.22 inches, a new record low in the 115 years of official records, and is second only to 3.48 inches in 1834 for 168 years of total record. Snowfall was but 3.7 inches, 4.1 inches under normal. The season total is now 24.6 inches, 16.2 inches under normal; only about one season in eight has this little snowfall - all in all, a very dry year thus far. March winds averaged only 12.4 mph with a peak gust of 55 mph on the twelfth during a squall from the northwest in which small hail fell and some suburbs reported thunder.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

Good numbers of both Common and Red-throated loons represented migrants as well as winterers at Nantucket at the end of the month. An Arctic Loon was found in Rockport, perhaps the same individual reported there in December and January. A Western Grebe was reported off Gooseberry Neck in South Dartmouth where it was present the last eight days of the month. Red-necked Grebe numbers were average with the high count of 42 reported from Swampscott to Marblehead on March 17. Good numbers were also reported from Dennis and North Scituate. A few Double-crested Cormorants reported at month's end were returning residents.

Hérons began to arrive around March 24 when Great Blue Herons returned to their nesting grounds at Westboro. The first Snowy Egrets were reported from Nantucket on March 27 and from mainland areas on March 30. Great Egrets were noted from four locations after March 28, and the first Glossy Ibis returned to the "new" Squantum on the thirty-first.
R.H.S.

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>MARCH 1985</u>
Red-throated Loon:				
27,30	Nantucket, Westport	75, 28	D.Holt, SSBC(S.Higginbotham)	
Arctic Loon: (details submitted)				
3	Rockport	1	L.Robinson	
Common Loon:				
3,17	Gloucester, P.I.	20, 25	L.Robinson, E.Nielsen	
25,27	Manomet, Nantucket	75, 400	D.Evered, D.Holt	
Pied-billed Grebe:				
20,23	Wayland (2 locations)	1, 1	R.Forster	
Horned Grebe:				
3;9	Gloucester; P.I., Winthrop	50; 16, 11	L.Robinson; BBC, M.Atkinson	
17	Swampscott-Marblehead	28	R.Forster	
23	N.Scituate, Plymouth Beach	50+, 55+	R.Abrams, D.Evered	
29,30	Manomet Beach, S.Dartmouth	107, 150+	D.Evered, SSBC	
Red-necked Grebe:				
2,3	N.Scituate, Gloucester	24, 35	W.Petersen, L.Robinson	
17,30	Dennis	31, 25	B.Nikula#	
17	Swampscott-Marblehead	42	R.Forster	
23,27	N.Scituate, Nahant	32, 18	R.Abrams, L.Pivacek	
Western Grebe:				
24-31	S.Dartmouth	1	fide D.Brown + v.o.	
Gannet:				
16,23	Nantucket, Stellwagen	325, 60	BBC, I.Giriunas#	

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MARCH 1985
Great Cormorant:				
17,24	N.Scituate	35, 100+	R.Abrams#	
29	Westport area	45	SSBC	
Double-crested Cormorant:				
9,29	Newbypt, Westport	1, 3	M.Lynch#, SSBC	
31	Squantum	4	R.Abrams	
American Bittern:				
26	S.Carver	1	R.Turner	
Great Blue Heron:				
24,27	Westboro, Dover	9, 6 mig.	B.Blodget, R.Forster	
Great Egret:				
28	Eastham, Chatham	2, 1	E.Gill, R.Prescott#	
29,30	Nantucket, Westport	1, 6	J.VanVorst, P.Trimble	
Snowy Egret:				
27,28	Nantucket	1, 4	E.Andrews#, D.Beattie	
30	Scituate, Westport	6, 1	M.Litchfield, P.Trimble	
31	Gloucester, Squantum	2, 3	M.Farrow#, R.Abrams	
Black-crowned Night-Heron:				
16,27	Nantucket, Cambridge	5, 4	BBC, L.Robinson	
29	Hingham	3	R.Emery#	
Glossy Ibis:				
31	Squantum	10	R.Abrams	

WATERFOWL

A Tundra Swan was present at Nantucket through March 7, and a female Mute Swan was found sitting on a nest with nine eggs as early as March 27. Snow Geese were present from midmonth at Plum Island where a maximum of nine birds was counted. Brant continue to be present in exceptional numbers, especially in the Plymouth and Wollaston areas. Wood Ducks were reported from a wide area after March 15 as were increasing numbers of both species of teal. Eurasian Wigeon were found at four locations, three of which have been regular locations during recent years. As many as 162 Redhead were counted at Nantucket, where 75 Canvasback were also tallied. Over fifty thousand Oldsquaw were seen flying to an evening roost off Nantucket, and Oldsquaw numbers built up to twenty-five hundred individuals in Newburyport Harbor. Unusual waterfowl included three King Eider, six Harlequin Duck, and eighteen Barrow's Goldeneye, fifteen of which were found in Newburyport Harbor. R.H.S.

Tundra Swan:				
1-7	Nantucket	1	E.Andrews	
Mute Swan:				
27	West Carver	1 f. on 9 eggs	R.Turner	
Snow Goose:				
17-31	Newburyport-P.I.	max. 9	v.o.	
23	Plymouth Beach	6	D.Evered	
Brant:				
thr.	Squantum area	max. 3000+ (3/11)	v.o.	
thr.	Plymouth area	max. 3000+ (3/23)	D.Evered	
24	Winthrop, Ipswich	1000, 6	J.Cumming, J.Berry	
Canada Goose:				
23,31	Newburyport	1, 5	J.Grugan, M.Smith	
These birds had yellow neck bands - banded in Delaware during the winter of 1984.				
Wood Duck:				
2,4	Concord, Raynham	1, 4	M.Atkinson, T.Raymond	
9,18	Lakeville, S.Hanson	2, 7	W.Petersen, R.Turner	
There were other reports of 1 - 4 individuals from various locations after March 15.				
Green-winged Teal:				
3	Newbypt, Wayland (Heards Pd.)	30, 3	BBC, R.Forster	
9	E.Orleans	30	J.Aylward	
16,17	P.I., E.Orleans	200, 40	R.Forster, A.Williams	
Northern Pintail:				
thr.	P.I.	max. 115 (3/16)	SSBC (J.Kenneally) + v.o.	
10,13	Yarmouthport, S.Monomoy	41, 10	J.Aylward, J.Russell# + v.o.	
9,30	S.Hanson, GMNWR	11, 11	W.Petersen, J.Cumming	
Blue-winged Teal:				
24,31	Bolton Flats, P.I.	2, 12	M.Lynch#, S.Carroll#	
Northern Shoveler:				
13,23	S.Monomoy	4, 7	J.Russell# + v.o.	
18,26	E.Orleans, Wayland	1, 3	A.Williams, R.Forster	
Gadwall:				
13,23	S.Monomoy	35, 15+	J.Russell#	
24	Ipswich (2 locations)	55	J.Berry	
Other reports of 2 - 10 individuals from various locations.				

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MARCH 1985
Eurasian Wigeon:				
1,17-18	Nantucket, E.Orleans	1 m., 1 m.	E.Andrews, A.Williams	
22,23-29	M.V., Wayland(Heard's Pd.)	2, 1 m.	W.Manter, R.Forster	
American Wigeon:				
1,14,21	Nantucket	37, 6, 2	E.Andrews	
16,30	P.I.	35, 7	SSBC, BBC	
23-31,30	Wayland(Heard's Pd.),GMNWR	max.9(3/25), 6	R.Forster, J.Cumming	
Canvasback:				
16,29	Nantucket	75, 2	BBC, E.Andrews	
24	Falmouth, Westport	35, 35	P.Trimble, M.Lynch#	
Redhead:				
thr.	Nantucket	max. 162 (3/21)	E.Andrews	
Ring-necked Duck:				
26	Concord (GMNWR)	25	R.Forster	
27	West Carver	150+	R.Turner	
Greater Scaup:				
4,23	Squantum area	1000+	R.Abrams	
27,30	W.Newbury, Newburyport	85, 200	BBC	
Lesser Scaup:				
1,17	Nantucket	40, 2	E.Andrews, BBC	
16	Ipswich, W.Newbury	3, 1	R.Forster, BBC	
Common Eider:				
3,24	Winthrop	250+, 200	J.Cumming	
23	Hull	1000	R.Abrams	
King Eider:				
9,17-24	Sandwich, Scituate	1 imm. m., 1 m.	D.Briggs#, D.Clapp#	
14-17	Nantucket	1 m.	M.Sohol# + v.o.	
Harlequin Duck:				
1-24	N.Scituate	1 m., 2 f.	W.Petersen + v.o.	
2,24	Gloucester, Winthrop	1, 2	R.Vernon#, J.Cumming	
Oldsquaw:				
thr.	Newburyport Harbor	max. 2500 (3/1)	P.W.Smith# + v.o.	
16,17	Nantucket	50,000±	BBC(C.Jackson)	
Black Scoter:				
17,29	Nantucket, S.Dartmouth	200, 50	BBC, SSBC	
Surf Scoter:				
16,17	Nantucket	250	BBC(C.Jackson)	
17	Swampscott-Marblehead	25	R.Forster	
29,30	Westport, P.I.	30, 1	SSBC, BBC	
White-winged Scoter:				
16,17	Nantucket	5000	BBC	
Common Goldeneye:				
3,10,17	Newburyport	1200+, 3200+, 1200+	J.Grugin + v.o.	
30	Wayland (Heard's Pond)	1 m.	J.Cumming	
Barrow's Goldeneye:				
thr.	Newbypt	max. 15 (8 m., 7 f.) (3/1 +3/10)	P.W.Smith# + v.o.	
2,9	Scituate, Plymouth	1 m., 1 m. + 1 f.	W.Petersen, P.W.Smith	
19	Yarmouth	1	J.Aylward	
Bufflehead:				
9	Lakeville, Newbypt	75, 100+	W.Petersen#, M.Lynch#	
17	Nahant, E.Orleans	500, 80+	R.Forster, A.Williams	
30	GMNWR, Wareham	10, 30	J.Cumming, L.Robinson	
Hooded Merganser:				
9	Wellesley;Lakeville,Halifax	5; 7, 5	R.Forster; W.Petersen	
17	Lakeville, E.Quabbin	6, 16	D.Briggs#, W.Drummond#	
26,28	GMNWR, Sudbury	2, 2	A.Bennett, R.Forster	
Common Merganser:				
2,3	Wayland, Winchester	42, 51	R.Forster, L.Taylor	
16,17	Westwood, Waltham	47, 21	W.Reagan, R.Forster	
23,24	Wayland, Marshfield	43, 30	R.Forster, D.Clapp	
Red-breasted Merganser:				
17,24	Nantucket, Falmouth	300, 500	BBC, P.Trimble	
27,29	Newburyport, Westport	7, 300	BBC, SSBC	
Ruddy Duck:				
2,17	Norton, Nantucket	1, 1	B.Cassie, BBC	
23,28	S.Monomoy, Waltham	5, 1	B.Nikula#, M.Paine	

RAPTORS

Turkey Vultures were reported from nine locations with a maximum of eighteen noted from the Quabbin area. Ospreys were back in their nesting sites as early as March 17 at Lakeville, and over twenty individuals were back at nests on the Westport River by

by March 28. As many as fifteen Bald Eagles were counted with ten noted from the Quabbin area. Red-shouldered Hawks were found in ten locations, and at least one of these birds was on the nest by March 31 in Norwell. Highlights included Golden Eagles in Lakeville and Quabbin, and the gray Gyrfalcon was present at Monomoy most of the month.

R.H.S.

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MARCH 1985
Turkey Vulture:				
2,17	Shrewsbury, Hardwick area	2, 18	M.Lynch, S.Carroll	
21	Middleboro, Essex, Milford	1, 1, 1	D.Briggs, D.Brown, B.Sorrie	
26	W.Tisbury, Nantucket	1, 1	V.Laux, D.Holt	
28,29	Sudbury, Milton	2, 2	R.Forster#, D.Morimoto	
Osprey:				
17,23	Lakeville	1, pair on nest	R.Turner# + v.o.	
20,28	M.V., Westport	1, 20+	J.Taylor#, S.Higginbotham#	
31	Nantucket	1	J.VanVorst	
Bald Eagle:				
3	Quabbin(Gate 43)	4 ad. + 6 imm.	M.Lynch + S.Carroll	
9	Lakeville	1 imm. (1st year)	W.Petersen	
10	Near P'town	1 ad.	N.Waldron	
14	Walham (Camb. Res.)	1 ad.	J.Clancy + v.o.	
17-22	Lakeville	1-2 ad. (3/22)	D.Briggs, R.Turner + v.o.	
Northern Harrier:				
2,3	Norton, Middleboro	1, 1	K.Ryan, K.Holmes	
9,16-17	Salisbury-P.I., Nantucket	4, 7	M.Lynch#, BBC(C.Jackson)	
30	Marshfield (Dwyer Farm)	7	D.Clapp, K.Anderson# + v.o.	
Sharp-shinned Hawk:				
16-31	6 locations	6 singles	v.o.	
Cooper's Hawk:				
1,29	Nantucket, E.Middleboro	1, 1	E.Andrews#, K.Anderson	
Northern Goshawk:				
10,24	Mt. Wachusett	1, 1 imm.	T.Lipsky, P.Roberts	
16	Newburyport	1 imm.	W.Petersen# + v.o.	
Red-shouldered Hawk:				
4-31	E.Middleboro	1-2 seen daily	K.Anderson	
9,9-31	Bridgewater, Boxford	1, pr.	W.Petersen, E.Nielsen + v.o.	
10	Hardwick, Petersham	2, 2	E.Nielsen	
10,14	near P'town, Lincoln (DFWS)	1, 2	N.Waldron#, R.Forster	
18,21	Millis, Easton	1, 2	M.Paine, K.Ryan	
31	Norwell	1 on nest	R.Abrams + v.o.	
Red-tailed Hawk:				
9,10	P.I.	5, 4	F.Bouchard#, P.Roberts#	
16,17	Nantucket	5	BBC(C.Jackson)	
Other reports of 1-2 individuals from many locations.				
Rough-legged Hawk:				
thr.	Marshfield(Dwyer Farm)	max. 8 (5 dk. phase)	D.Evered# + v.o.	
1-17	Middleboro	1-2	v.o.	
1-16	P.I. area	max. 4 (3/10)	P.Roberts# + v.o.	
5,10,23	Bourne, Nant., Falmouth	1, 1, 1	P.Anderson, E.Andrews, P.Trimble	
Golden Eagle:				
3	Lakeville; Quabbin	1; 1 ad.	K.Holmes#; M.Lynch + S.Carroll	
American Kestrel:				
thr.	P.I. area	max. 4 (3/9), (3/30)	v.o.	
31	Middleboro	4	K.Holmes	
Merlin:				
3,10,23	P.I., Lakeville, S.Monomoy	1, 1, 1	BBC, BBC, B.Nikula#	
Peregrine Falcon:				
10 + 24	Nantucket	1	E.Andrews# + D.Holt	
15	Chatham	1	J.Russell# + v.o.	
18,25	Boston	1 ad.	W.Reagan, J.Grugan	
Gyrfalcon:				
11,13;18	Monomoy	1 gray	J.Russell + v.o.; D.Holt	

COOT THROUGH ALCIDS

As usual a few Piping Plovers were reported from nesting areas late in the month. American Oystercatchers are now well established as breeding residents in the state. Normally first arrivals appear in mid-March with this year's arrivals being slightly on the early side. Reports of both yellowlegs species reflect a recent trend of late March records while counts of Dunlin and Sanderling were almost certainly of overwintering birds. Reported numbers of Purple Sandpipers continued on the low side. Common Snipe were generally lacking until the warm spell at month's end. Woodcock were seen and heard displaying.

Two Mew Gulls were reported again this month bringing to five the number of locations from which this species has been reported since December. The following text is excerpted from the details provided by H. C. Floyd.

This bird may have been the same individual observed six weeks earlier at the same location. At that time, the rising tide was covering the nearby flats, and Ring-billed Gulls were coming in to roost. Two aspects of one bird caught the observer's attention; no ring could be seen on the bird's all-yellow bill and the amount of white in the wing, particularly between the gray mantle and the black outer primaries. The sighting was brief with both 10X binoculars and a telescope used. The bird was seen the following day by several observers.

Up to twenty Iceland Gulls were reported from the Newburyport area, and Lesser Black-backed Gulls continued at Manomet and at Nantucket. Over one thousand kittiwake were seen from Provincetown on March 10. The only spring/summer record of Dovekie for Martha's Vineyard was established on March 12. Two Common Murres were reported from Nantucket, and one was reported from Stellwagen Bank as were twelve Razorbills. At North Scituate, twenty-nine Black Guillemot were seen. G.W.G.

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MARCH 1985
American Coot:				
24,29	Falmouth, Nantucket	1, 2	P.Trimble, E.Andrews	
Black-bellied Plover:				
2,31	Nantucket, P.I.	4, 1	E.Andrew, M.Lynch#	
Piping Plover:				
30,31	Westport, Duxbury	1, 1	P.Trimble, P.W.Smith#	
Killdeer:				
2	Concord, Medfield	3, 1	R.Forster, W.Reagan	
9,17	Nantucket, Rowley	5, 4	T.+ M.Sutherland#, J.Berry	
24,31	Marshfield, Salisbury	4, 12	D.Clapp, S.Carroll#	
American Oystercatcher:				
11	Chatham	2	P.Trull	
17-19, 18	Nantucket, Chatham	2, 2	BBC, fide R. Forster	
23,28	N.Monomoy	3, 7	B.Nikula#	
Greater Yellowlegs:				
27,31	P.I., Squantum	1, 3	BBC	
Lesser Yellowlegs:				
18,30	P.I.	1, 4	J.Grugan#, BBC	
22	Yarmouthport	1	J.Aylward	
Ruddy Turnstone:				
16,17	Nantucket	20	BBC	
Sanderling:				
3;16,17	Nantucket	250; 5	E.Andrews#; BBC	
Purple Sandpiper:				
2;16,17	Rockport; Nantucket	20; 10	BBC	
30	Winthrop	23	J.Cumming	
Dunlin:				
13,30	Plymouth, Acoaxet	186, 110	D.Evered, SSBC	
Common Snipe:				
11,16	Marshfield Concord	3, 4	D.Evered#, M.Lynch#	
31	W.Bridgewater, Squantum	20, 29	W.Petersen, R.Abrams	
American Woodcock:				
8-27	Hopkinton	max. 12	J.Gordon	
9	Bridgewater-Middleboro	8	W.Petersen	
11,21	Marshfield, Lancaster	5, 9	D.Evered#, M.Lynch#	
Laughing Gull:				
23,28	Woods Hole, Chatham	1, 15	P.Trull, B.Nikula	
Common Black-headed Gull:				
thr.	Newburyport	max. 4 (2 ad. + 2 imm.) (3/2)	v.o.	
21,24	Quincy, E.Boston	1 (1W), 1 ad.	D.Brown, J.Cumming	
Bonaparte's Gull:				
9	Newburyport	8	S.Carroll#	
Mew Gull:				
2,3;23	Newburyport	1 (details); 1 (1W)	H.C.Floyd#; J.Grugan	
16,21	Quincy	1 ad.	R.Abrams#, D.Brown	
Ring-billed Gull:				
3-17	Newburyport	max. 1175 (3/10)	v.o.	
6-26	E.Middleboro	max. 150 (3/26)	K.Anderson	
Iceland Gull:				
thr.	Gloucester	max. 3 imm. (3/31)	v.o.	
thr.	Newburyport-P.I.	max. 20	v.o.	
10,24	P'town, Falmouth	4, 2	P.Trimble	
Lesser Black-backed Gull:				
3;16,17	Manomet; Nant.	1 ad., 1 ad.	D.Evered#, BBC	

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MARCH 1985
Glaucous Gull:				
16,17;18	Nantucket; Newbypt	1 (1W); 1	BBC; J.Grugan	
31	Braintree	1 (1W)	R.Abrams	
Black-legged Kittiwake:				
10,23	P'town, Stellwagen	1000+, 5	P.Trimble, BBC	
Dovekie:				
12	Martha's Vineyard	1	F.Harrington + S.Whiting	
Common Murre:				
16-19	Nantucket	max. 2	v.o.	
23	Stellwagen	1	BBC	
Thick-billed Murre:				
2,30	Gloucester, Nant.	2, 1	BBC, E.Andrews#	
Razorbill:				
10, 16-19	P'town, Nantucket	3, max.17 (3/17)	P.Trimble, v.o.	
23	Stellwagen	12	BBC	
Black Guillemot:				
2	N.Scituate, Rockport	29, 9	W.Petersen, BBC	
23	Stellwagen	1	BBC	

DOVE THROUGH WOODPECKER

A Mourning Dove was seen on a nest in Concord on March 16. In the Middleboro-Bridgewater area, six screech, four Great Horned, two Barred, and one Long-eared owls were counted on March 9. Great Horned Owls were also present in five other locations, including one on a nest in the heron rookery in Westboro. Snowy Owls were noted at four locations, including one inland, after a winter of relatively few except at Logan International Airport. Up to three Long-eared Owls spent a good portion of the month in Belmont and eleven Short-eared Owls were noted on Nantucket. A Northern Saw-whet Owl was heard calling in Brookline. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was reported from Boston and Pileated Woodpeckers were noted from four locations. G.W.G.

Mourning Dove:				
16	Concord	1 (on nest)	R. Forster	
Common Barn-Owl:				
30	Nantucket	1	D.Holt	
Eastern Screech-Owl:				
9	Worcester, Topsfield	1 gray, 1	S.Carroll#.G.d'Entremont	
9,16	Bridgewater, W.Newbury	6, 1	W.Petersen, BBC	
27,30	Newbury, W.Barnstable	1, 1gray	BBC, P.Trimble	
Great Horned Owl:				
3,9	P.I., E.Middleboro	1, 4	J.Cumming, K.Anderson	
2,9	Rockport, Braintree	2, 2	J.Nove, M.Murphy#	
16,31	Westboro, Milton	1 (on nest), 1	M.Lynch#, BBC	
Snowy Owl:				
thr.	P.I.	1	v.o.	
9,12	Plymouth, N.Middleboro	1, 1	S.Dolder#, K.Holmes	
14	M.V.	1	R.Fountain	
Barred Owl:				
9,9-16	Bridgewater, Boxford	2, 2	W.Petersen, v.o.	
24	Hamilton	1	P.Arriago	
Long-eared Owl:				
10,11,27	Belmont	3, 3, 1	v.o.	
9,30-31	E.Middleboro, Nantucket	1, 2	K.Anderson, D.Holt	
Short-eared Owl:				
11;21	Marshfield; M.V.	2; 1, 1	D.Evered; V.Laux	
20-31	Nantucket	11	D.Holt	
Northern Saw-whet Owl:				
17,25	Nantucket, Brookline	1, 1	BBC, H.Wiggin	
29,29-30	Wellfleet, Nantucket	1, 1	P.Trull, D.Holt	
Belted Kingfisher:				
10	Salisbury	1	P.Roberts	
Red-headed Woodpecker:				
thr.	Dover	1 (from Feb.)	F.Hamlen#	
9	W.Newbury	1	BBC	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:				
21	Boston	1	M.Atkinson	
Downy Woodpecker:				
23,31	Hardwick, Milton	5, 6	S.Carroll#, G.d'Entremont#	
Northern Flicker:				
2	Ipswich, Harvard	3, 2	I.Giriunas#, M.Lynch#	
Pileated Woodpecker:				
thr.	Milton	2	D.Brown#	

SPECIES/DATE	LOCATION	NUMBER	OBSERVERS	MARCH 1985
Pileated Woodpecker cont.:				
3,10	Quabbin (Gate 43)	2	M.Lynch#	
17-30	Quabbin (Gate 40)	1-3	S.Carroll#	
28	Sudbury	1	fide R.Forster	

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH EVENING GROSBEAK

There were two notable pulses of first arrival migrants at the beginning and at the end of the month. On the first weekend, and presumably associated with the warm south-westerly winds prevailing, single Eastern Phoebes and Tree Swallows and a few Fox Sparrows were reported. Phoebe and Fox Sparrow movement continued throughout the month. General Tree Swallow arrival occurred from March 26 on. High numbers of Brown Creeper were reported throughout the month. During the last few days of the month, a remarkable early Eastern Kingbird was seen on Nantucket and first Hermit Thrushes, an early Brown Thrasher, a number of Pine Warblers in Wareham, and Chipping Sparrows were reported. Northern Shrikes were lightly reported during most of the winter; the few which were seen in March may well have been returning after wintering farther south.

Some of the regular winter species continued this year's trend of low numbers. American Tree Sparrows were noticeable in this respect, as were all of the winter finches. Of the few winter finch species which were reported, including Red Crossbill, Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak, most reports were from the interior--Worcester County. A female redpoll on Nantucket presented quite an anomaly. It was carefully scrutinized to ascertain its identity. It was almost certainly a Common Redpoll as Hoary Redpoll has never been recorded in a nonflight year of Common Redpoll and is very rare even during major irruptions.

Rarities for the month included the single, and now expected, Nantucket Jackdaw, a Bohemian Waxwing in Ipswich, and a Lark Sparrow at Squantum. The latter bird was probably the same individual as was discovered in January, though no intervening February sightings were reported. L.E.T.

Eastern Phoebe:				
2,10	Millis, Medfield	1, 1	B.Cassie, W.Reagan	
13-28, 29	15 locations, Wareham	17 total, 4	v.o., L.Robinson	
30, 31	Hardwick, Mt. Auburn	4, 5	M.Lynch#, R.Stymeist	
Eastern Kingbird:				
29	Nantucket	1	D.Beattie	
Horned Lark:				
9-17, 10-31	P.I., Salisbury	16 max. (3/9), 23 max. (3/10)	v.o.	
17	Hardwick	6	S.Carroll#	
Tree Swallow:				
2, 16; 23	Medfield; Plymouth	1, 8; 1	W.Reagan; D.Evered	
26, 30	GMNWR, W.Peabody	50+, 20+	A.Bennett, G.d'Entremont	
30, 31	SRV, Lakeville	300, 11	R.Forster, K.Holmes	
American Crow:				
6-11, 16-31	E.Middleboro, Milton	150 max., 100	max. K.Anderson, R.Abrams	
23	Medford	275	P.Roberts	
Fish Crow:				
3, 9-31	Dover, 4 locations	15, 4 singles	R.Forster, v.o.	
23, 27	Medford, Wrentham	4, 5	P.Roberts, B.Sorrie	
Common Raven:				
3, 10	Hardwick, Princeton	1, 2	M.Lynch#, T.Lipsky	
Jackdaw:				
thr.	Nantucket	1	E.Andrews#	
Red-breasted Nuthatch:				
14-24, 10-17	Hamilton, Hardwick	2, 24 max.	J.Berry, S.Carroll#	
Brown Creeper:				
10, 17	Weston, Hardwick	10, 25	L.Robinson, W.Drummond	
28, 31	Nantucket, Boxford	6, 10	D.Holt, J.Berry	
Caroline Wren:				
2, 18	Milton, S.Dartmouth	1, 3	G.d'Entremont, R.Maker	
24, 30	Falmouth, Westport	4, 3	P.Trimble, SSBC	
Winter Wren:				
23	Hardwick	1	M.Lynch#	
Golden-crowned Kinglet:				
2-31, 14	Milton, Hamilton	5 max. (3/2), 2	G.d'Entremont, J.Berry	
17, 24	Hardwick, Boston	16, 2	W.Drummond, J.Cumming	
31	Boxford, Mt.Auburn	4, 26	J.Berry, R.Stymeist	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet:				
10, 30	Carver, Sandwich	1, 1	BBC, P.Trimble	
31	MNWS	3	J.Smith	

<u>SPECIES/DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>	<u>MARCH 1985</u>
Eastern Bluebird:				
17-23,21-28	Petersham,Marshfield	2, 1 m.	v.o.,D.Clapp	
29	Bridgewater	2	B.Cushman	
Hermit Thrush:				
30-31,31	Sandwich,Bridgewater	2, 2	P.Trimble,K.Holmes	
American Robin:				
17,18	SRV,Newton	75, 10	R.Forster,M.Murphy#	
21,30	Marshfield,Newbypt.	120, 200	D.Clapp,BBC	
Gray Catbird:				
from Feb.-17,22	E.Orleans,Yarmouthport	1, 1	A.Williams,J.Aylward	
23	Ipswich,Nantucket	1, 1	J.Paputseanos,D.Holt	
Brown Thrasher:				
31	MNWS	1	J.Smith	
Water Pipit:				
23,31	Plymouth,Halifax	1, 100	D.Evered,K.Anderson	
Bohemian Waxwing:				
17-21	Ipswich	1 (details)	J.Berry#	
Cedar Waxwing:				
thr.,9	Ipswich,Medfield	80 max. (3/30),	160 J.Berry#,W.Reagan	
18,22	Newton,Yarmouthport	14, 28	M.Murphy#,J.Aylward	
Northern Shrike:				
10,18	Medfield,Duxbury	1, 1	W.Reagan,A.Bennett	
23,24	Provincetown,Ipswich	1, 1	N.Waldron,J.Berry#	
Yellow-rumped Warbler:				
9,21	Sandwich,Falmouth	30+, 3	D.Briggs#,P.Trimble	
28,30	S.Dartmouth,GMNWR	5, 2	R.Maker,J.Cumming	
Pine Warbler:				
10,28	Lakeville,Nantucket	1, 1	BBC,D.Holt	
29	Wareham	4	L.Robinson	
Dickcissel:				
6-21	Manchester	1 f.	H.Weissberg#	
Rufous-sided Towhee:				
1-5,31	S.Dartmouth,Milton	1, 1 f.	R.Maker,R.Abrams	
31	MNWS	1	J.Smith	
American Tree Sparrow:				
thr.	Nantucket,6 locations	1, 16 total	E.Andrews,v.o.	
19	Scituate	20	R.Abrams	
Chipping Sparrow:				
30,31	Newton,Mt. Auburn	1, 1	M.Vaughan,R.Stymeist#	
Field Sparrow:				
thr.	Middleboro	3	D.Briggs	
Lark Sparrow:				
31	Squantum	1	BBC	
Savannah Sparrow:				
2,29	Medfield,S.Dartmouth	1, 1	W.Reagan,R.Maker	
"Ipswich" Sparrow:				
9,13	Plymouth,S.Monomoy	1, 3	W.Smith#,B.Nikula#	
23,29	S.Monomoy,Nantucket	2, 1	B.Nikula#,D.Holt	
Fox Sparrow:				
2,2-31	Carver, 20 locations	4, 31 total	L.Robinson,v.o.	
17,27	Hardwick,Nahant	14, 6	S.Carroll#,L.Pivacek	
Song Sparrow:				
24,29	Falmouth,Westport	25, 20	P.Trimble,SSBC	
30,31	Nahant,Squantum	24, 30	W.Crawford,BBC	
Swamp Sparrow:				
31	GMNWR	3	A.Bennett	
White-throated Sparrow:				
thr.	Ipswich,E.Middleboro	7 max. (3/3),	12 J.Berry,K.Anderson	
24	Falmouth,Boston	5, 15+	P.Trimble,J.Cumming	
Dark-eyed Junco:				
2,3	Sharon,P.I.	41, 35	B.Sorrie,BBC	
17,24	Hardwick,Boston	48, 15	S.Carroll#,J.Cumming	
Lapland Longspur:				
3,9	Hardwick,P.I.	8, 3	M.Lynch#,v.o.	
Snow Bunting:				
1-16,9	P.I.-Salisbury,Plymouth	50 max. (3/1),	60 v.o.,W.Smith	
9,23	Middleboro,Princeton	250, 20	W.Petersen,T.Lipsky	
Red-winged Blackbird:				
2-16,3	P.I.,Nantucket	100 max. (3/2),	14 m. + 1 f. v.o.,E.Andrews	
12,24	Braintree,Bolton	500, 150	G.Wilson,S.Carroll#	

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Eastern Meadowlark:				
9	Concord, Newbypt	1, 2	R.Walton#, G.d'Entremont	
17-18,21-31	E.Orleans, Marshfield	9, 6	A.Williams, v.o.	
Rusty Blackbird:				
2,8,27	Bolton,E.Middleboro,Wayland	35, 200, 20+	M.Lynch#,K.Anderson,R.Forster	
Common Grackle:				
2-7,4	P.I., E.Middleboro	70 max., 75	v.o., K.Anderson	
17,27	Rowley, Dover	200, 2000	J.Berry, R.Forster	
28	Nantucket	750+	E.Andrews	
Brown-headed Cowbird:				
2,11	Concord, Cambridge	1, 2	H.Wiggin#, L.Robinson	
17,31	Randolph, S.Dartmouth	50, 26	G.d'Entremont, R.Maker	
Purple Finch:				
7,17	Hardwick, Wayland	32, 21	S.Carroll#, R.Forster	
24,31	Hamilton, Nantucket	40+, 2	J.Berry, E.Andrews	
House Finch:				
16,24	Nantucket, Falmouth	50, 40	BBC, P.Trimble	
Red Crossbill:				
10-23	Hardwick	2	M.Lynch#	
Redpoll sp.:				
11-16	Nantucket	1 f.	E.Andrews#	
Pine Siskin:				
3-30,23	Petersham-Hardwick, Ashburnham	64 max. (3/17), 8	v.o., L.Robinson	
American Goldfinch:				
thr.,17	Milton, Hardwick	20 max. (3/2), 55	v.o., W.Drummond	
Evening Grosbeak:				
10-30,20	Petersham-Hardwick, Sudbury	63 max. (3/23), 18	v.o., R.Forster	
thr.,24	Middleboro, Hamilton	30, 10	D.Briggs, J.Berry	

NEW VOLUME AVAILABLE

The Birds of Sandwich & Barnstable on Cape Cod Bay (Wayside Studio, 1985) is now available. "Anyone who wants to stop by my home to pick up a copy will be most welcome," cordially invites author Robert Pease, a familiar figure at Sandy Neck - especially if a nor'easter is predicted. Bob's address is Howland Lane, East Sandwich, MA 02537, and the price is a reasonable two dollars. The author will mail you a copy if you send him a large, self-addressed, stamped envelope - the slender volume is 6 x 9 inches and requires 44 cents postage. This booklet represents one of the most comprehensive regional works undertaken in several decades, particularly in an area where such work is generally lacking. It is a summary of bird sightings since 1972 - with perhaps a surprise or two! The author has included some unsubstantiated sightings of rarities that in more scholarly works would be categorically rejected. However, in the preface he explains that "whenever there has been doubt, this has been indicated, but the report stayed in. In this way the onus of the decision, to accept or reject, is shifted to the reader." His rationale bears some merit. The book also includes instructions on where to bird in the area bounded by the canal, the mid-Cape Highway, and the Barnstable-Yarmouth line. The author undertook the study because he feels that "almost any serious active birder can select a limited area and by keeping accurate records for that area over a period of years . . . make a valuable contribution to . . . our knowledge of a much larger region." Robert Pease has succeeded in doing just that!

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