

THE BIRD OBSERVER SUMMARY FOR JANUARY 1974

The month of January showed much fluctuation in temperature, from a low of -3°F . on the 17th and 18th to highs in the 50's & 60's on the 21st through the 27th. The first snowfall of the season started as an icestorm on December 31st, changing into snow by Jan. 2nd. Other major snowfalls occurred on the 9th, along with many flurries throughout the month.

Horned Grebe was notably deficient in numbers throughout the state, while Red-necked Grebe was present in small numbers off the rocky North Shore, occurring in numbers only on the Cape (14 at Dennis).

The mild month of December was probably responsible for the continued presence of five American Bitterns, as well as a count of 32 Black-crowned Night Herons apparently wintering in Quincy.

Unusually high numbers of several species of dabbling ducks were recorded; such as 45 Gadwall at Plum Island, 23 Pintail at Yarmouth and three Blue-winged Teal at Sandwich.

The bay and sea ducks were present in normal numbers, with a possible increase in Barrow's Goldeneye there being 17 individuals scattered along the coast.

Eleven Goshawks were reported; whether this high total represents a true incursion or rather the general increase in numbers of this species, is indeterminate. However, for comparison, no Goshawks were printed in Bird Observer records for January 1973. This was clearly not a flight year for Rough-legged Hawk, with only 10 individuals reported.

The Gyr Falcon continued at the southern outer-Cape region; the possibility of this being the same individual which was present last winter has been suggested - this bird being identical in plumage to last years bird.

Noteworthy was an immature Purple Gallinule trapped and photographed in New Bedford, as well as a concentration of six Common Gallinules in West Harwich.

Wintering shorebirds included 230 Red Knot at Revere, two Semipalmated Sandpipers and a Marbled Godwit lingering on the Cape.

The Mew Gull returned for its third consecutive year at Newburyport Harbor towards the end of the month.

There was no flight of alcids after December; Dovekies being notably absent throughout this winter in our region. A Black Guillemot at Manomet Point was unusually far south, although this area does serve as suitable habitat for this species in winter.

Two Barn Owls were reported, one being the bird roosting in the pine groves of Long Island in Boston Harbor.

A Red-bellied Woodpecker in South Natick was unique, whereas five individual Red-headed Woodpeckers were observed. These may represent lingering birds from the flight of last fall.

The unusually high temperatures in the fourth week of the month were probably responsible for a Barn Swallow seen flying over Plum Island. It is interesting to note that several other Barn Swallows were found in the Northeast during this period.

Other passerines of note included: five Long-billed Marsh Wrens in Harwich, four Ruby-crowned Kinglets, eight Orange-crowned Warblers, 38 Palm Warblers, two Western Tanagers in Chatham and Rockport, and three Dickcissels.

The Redpoll flight arrived in mid-month bringing with it two Hoary Redpolls to Orleans.

Wintering sparrows on the Cape included 20 Seaside at Fort Hill, Eastham, a Lark Sparrow at Orleans, and a Clay-colored Sparrow at the same area in Orleans.

R.R.V.

Common Loon:			
26	Plymouth Harbor	13	M.B.O.
Red-throated Loon:			
27	Eastham	18	B.Nikula
Red-necked Grebe:			
thr.	Dennis	max. <u>14</u> (Jan. 24)	B.Nikula#
25, 26	Gloucester, Winthrop	2, 1	M. McClellan, R. Veit#
Horned Grebe:			
5	Cape Ann	max. <u>10</u> (low)	BBC (L. Jodrey)
Pied-billed Grebe:			
5, 6	Woburn, Falmouth	14, 18	BBC (D. Weaver), BBC (R. Pease)
11	Lakeville	13	P. Alden
Great Cormorant:			
1	Long Island	36	BBC (E&H Donovan)
5, 19	Cape Ann, Magnolia	50, 25	BBC (L. Jodrey), BBC (E. Pyburn)
Great Blue Heron:			
20, 23	S. Chatham, Oak Bluffs (M.V.)	20, 13	CCBC (Baines), M. Hancock
Black-crowned Night Heron:			
8, 28	Eastham, Quincy	12, <u>32</u>	R. Pease#, D. Brown
American Bittern:			
1, 18; 6	Ipswich; P. I.	1, 1; 1	M. Wood, E&M Foster; M. McClellan
8, 20	Eastham, S. Chatham	1, 1	R. Pease, CCBC (D. Baines)
Whistling Swan:			
5-20	Manchester (Black Beach)	1	S. Garrett, E. Pyburn# & v.o.
Canada Goose:			
thr.	Plymouth Harbor	500±	M.B.O.
Brant:			
22	Plymouth Beach	max. <u>40</u> (low)	J. Loughlin
Snow Goose:			
24	Newburyport	2	M. Gardler
Gadwall:			
thr.	Orleans	7	B. Nikula
6, 26	P. I., Monomoy	<u>45</u> , 3	M. McClellan, W. Harrington#
Pintail:			
thr., 6, 26	Yarmouth, P. I., Monomoy	max. 23, 9, 15	B. Nikula, M. McClellan, v.o.
Green-winged Teal:			
5	Sandwich	26	R. Pease#
<u>Blue-winged Teal:</u>			
5	Sandwich	<u>3</u>	R. Pease
European Wigeon:			
thr.	Cohasset, Orleans	1, 1	v.o., B. Nikula, W. Bailey
American Wigeon:			
thr., 15, 19	Orleans, Plymouth, Squantum	50, 19, 6	v.o., M.B.O., R. Veit#
Northern Shoveler:			
26	Monomoy, Winthrop	3, 1	W. Harrington#, R. Veit#
Wood Duck:			
thr., 1, 22	Falmouth, Chatham, Belmont	1 m., 3, 1	v.o., V. Laux, S. Raabe
Redhead:			
20	Plymouth, Falmouth	14, 7	B. Sorrie, D. Burrough#
Ring-necked Duck:			
6, 26	Falmouth, Pocasset	55, 23	BBC (R. Pease), M&A Argue#
Canvasback:			
6, 13	Falmouth, Acoaxet	145, 75	BBC (R. Pease), BBC (T. Athearn)
Greater Scaup:			
thr.	Newburyport, Revere	4,000+; 12,000	v.o., R. Veit#
Lesser Scaup:			
thr.	Revere	6+	R. Veit
12, 26	Orleans, Monomoy	15, 30	C&B Holdridge, W. Harrington
Barrow's Goldeneye:			
2-19	Newburyport	max. 3 (Jan. 16)	R. Forster, v.o.
2, 6	Wareham (river), Falmouth	1 m., 1 f.	R. Maxim, BBC (R. Pease)
12&13	Magnolia	1 m.	H. D'Entremont#, W. Petersen#
19	Manchester, Quincy	1, 1	BBC (E. Pyburn), L. DeWald
23	Plymouth Harbor	1	H&D Carmichael
Bufflehead:			
thr.	Newburyport, Revere	600, 250	BBC (W. Van Cor), R. Veit
Oldsquaw:			
6, 25	Marion, Manomet	40, 100	SSBC (Anderson), M.B.O.

Harlequin Duck:			
thr.	Magnolia	4	v.o.
Common Eider:			
25,26	Boston Harbor, Chatham	4500;15,000	D.Brown, C.Goodrich
26	Plymouth Harbor, Winthrop	4000±, 1800	M.B.O., R.Veit
King Eider:			
thr.	Nauset	1 f.	B.Nikula
3,5-6	Manomet, S.Chatham	1 m., 1 m.	W.Petersen, v.o.
20,25	Woods Hole, Long Island	1 m., 1 m.	D.Briggs, D.Brown
26	Winthrop	1 f.	R.Veit
White-winged Scoter:			
1	Wollaston	455	BBC(E&H Donovan)
Surf Scoter:			
5,6	Cape Ann, Marion	3,14	BBC(L.Jodrey), SSBC(Anderson)
26	Winthrop	6	R.Veit
Black Scoter:			
5	Cape Ann	2	BBC(L.Jodrey)
Ruddy Duck:			
6	Falmouth	18	BBC(R.Pease)
Hooded Merganser:			
6,13	Wareham, Rockport	15,2	SSBC(Anderson), W.Petersen#
17,19	Cohasset, Newburyport	4,2	R.Veit#, BBC(E.Pyburn)
26	Monomoy	20	W.Harrington#
Common Merganser:			
1,16	Littleton, Newburyport	18,20	J.Baird, R.Forster
20;25	Plymouth, S.Chatham; Squantum	5,1;9	M.B.O., D.Baines; D.Brown
Red-breasted Merganser:			
20	Chatham	150	CCBC(D.Baines)
Goshawk:			
thr.	11 localities	<u>11</u> individuals	v.o.
Sharp-shinned Hawk:			
thr.	7 localities	singles	v.o.
Cooper's Hawk:			
thr., 16,24	Orleans, Sandwich, Chatham	1,1,1	v.o., R.Pease, V.Laux
Red-tailed Hawk:			
thr.	16 localities	21 individuals	v.o.
Red-shouldered Hawk:			
13-27,25	Topsfield, Lincoln	1,1	G.Soucy, P.Butler
Rough-legged Hawk:			
thr.	8 localities	<u>10</u> individuals(low)	v.o.
Bald Eagle:			
1	Orleans	1 imm.	v.o.
Marsh Hawk:			
thr.	6 localities	9 individuals	v.o.
<u>Gyr Falcon:</u>			
thr.	Outer Cape	1 gray phase	W.Bailey# & v.o.
Merlin:			
6,20	Fairhaven, P.I.	1,1	SSBC(Anderson), R.Emery#
20	Brewster	1	CCBC(Baines)
American Kestrel:			
thr.	6 localities	12 individuals	v.o.
Ruffed Grouse:			
thr.	6 localities	17 individuals	v.o.
Clapper Rail:			
1-6,6,6-8	Duxbury, Bourne, Eastham	1,1,1	M.B.O., R.O'Hara, v.o.
15,20	Wellfleet(WBWS), Hyannisport	2,2	W.Bailey, R.Pease
Virginia Rail:			
thr.	5 localities	11 individuals	v.o.
Sora:			
thr., 14	W.Harwich, Ipswich	max.5,2	B.Nikula#, BBC(J.Berry)
<u>Purple Gallinule:</u>			
4	New Bedford	1	J.Fernandez#
Common Gallinule:			
thr.	W.Harwich	max.6	B.Nikula
Piping Plover:			
20	Gay Head(M.V.)	1	M.Hancock
Killdeer:			
thr.	12 localities	16 individuals	v.o.

Black-bellied Plover:			
1	Orleans	18	V.Laux
Ruddy Turnstone:			
1	N.Scituate	6	R.Forster#
American Woodcock:			
1	Sandwich	1	R.Pease
Common Snipe:			
thr.	9 localities	46 individuals	v.o.
Greater Yellowlegs:			
1-8	Squantum	1	D.Brown
Red Knot:			
26	Revere	230	R.Veit#,S.Perkins
Purple Sandpiper:			
5,19,27	Cape Ann,N.Scituate,Revere	400,600,120	BBC(L.Jodrey),J.Nichols#,R.Veit#
Dunlin:			
26,27	Revere,Cohasset	200,400	R.Veit#,J.Nichols#
<u>Semipalmated Sandpiper:</u>			
6,10	Chatham,Barnstable	1,1	v.o.,V.Laux
<u>Marbled Godwit:</u>			
thr.	Chatham	1	v.o.
Sanderling:			
thr.	Revere	750-800	R.Veit#
Glaucous Gull:			
thr.,1	Gloucester,Barnstable	2,1	v.o.,R.Pease
Iceland Gull:			
thr.	6 localities	30 individuals	v.o.
Ring-billed Gull:			
28	Squantum	100	D.Brown
Black-headed Gull:			
thr.;20	Squantum;Orleans	max.17(Jan.26);1	D.Brown;C.Goodrich,B.Nikula
Bonaparte's Gull:			
16	Newburyport	100	R.Forster
<u>Mew Gull:</u>			
29	Newburyport	1 ad.	M.Gardler
Laughing Gull:			
20	Chatham	1	D.Baines
Little Gull:			
29	Newburyport	1 ad.	M.Gardler
Razorbill:			
13	Gloucester	1	W.Petersen#
Dovekie:			
13	Rockport	2	S.Swaebe
Black Guillemot:			
3,13	Manomet,Cape Ann	1,16	W.Petersen
<u>Barn Owl:</u>			
1-26,20&28	Long Island,Orleans	1,1	G.Soucy# & v.o.,B.Nikula#
Screech Owl:			
1,6	E.Middleboro,Saugus	1,1	K.Anderson,A.Agush#
20,23	Topsfield,Milton	1,1	S.Garrett#,R.Emery#
Great Horned Owl:			
1,3,29	Littleton,Milton,Middleboro	2,2,3	J.Baird,D.Brown#,D.Briggs
Snowy Owl:			
thr.,15,17	P.I.,Squantum,Wellfleet	1-3,1,1	v.o.,E.Morrier,fide B.Nikula
Barred Owl:			
5,26,29	Belmont,Danvers,Middleboro	singles	R.Veit#,G.Soucy,D.Briggs
Short-eared Owl:			
thr.	P.I.,Squantum,Eastham	1,1-5,2	v.o.
thr.	Middleboro	2	D.Briggs#
Saw-whet Owl:			
thr.,10,20	P.I.,Belmont,Orleans	singles	v.o.,R.Stymeist#,C.Goodrich#
Belted Kingfisher:			
thr.	14 localities	21 individuals	v.o.
<u>Red-bellied Woodpecker:</u>			
12-23	South Natick	1	H.Biggart & v.o.
<u>Red-headed Woodpecker:</u>			
thr.	Woburn,Rockport	1,2	v.o.
thr.	Dover,Yarmouth	1,1	v.o.

Horned Lark:				
8,13	P.I., Westport	60,100		M&A Argue, BBC (T. Athearn)
<u>Barn Swallow:</u>				
31	P.I.	1		H&M Lewis, P. Parsons, L. Jodrey
Fish Crow:				
thr.	West Roxbury	max. 134 (Jan. 16)		D. Brown
<u>Boreal Chickadee:</u>				
6-28	P.I.	1		v.o.
Red-breasted Nuthatch:				
1,2,5	Chatham, P.I., Squantum	5,1,2		V. Laux, G. Soucy#, H.D'Entremont#
11,20,26	Lincoln, Annisquam, Long Isl.	2,2,4		H. Foley, M&A Argue, D. Brown
<u>House Wren:</u>				
13	Orleans	1		C. Goodrich, B. Nikula
Winter Wren:				
1;12	Tewksbury, Littleton; Eastham	1,1;1		M. Wilson, J. Baird; CCBC
13;20	Middleboro, Lakeville; Ipswich	singles		D. Briggs, R. Turner; J. Berry
Carolina Wren:				
1,6,7	Littleton, Falmouth, Carlisle	singles		J. Baird, R. Pease, K. Hart
10,13	Attleboro, S. Dartmouth	singles		B. Keil, BBC (T. Athearn)
23	Rochester	1		J. Stairs
<u>Long-billed Marsh Wren:</u>				
thr., 5	W. Harwich, N. Sandwich	5,1		B. Nikula#, B. Sorrie#
Gray Catbird:				
thr.	Falmouth	1-7		v.o.
7,19	Bedford, Mattapoissett	1,1		P. Wade, G. Mock
Brown Thrasher:				
thr.	6 localities	8 individuals		v.o.
American Robin:				
19	Marion	20+		D. Buckman
Hermit Thrush:				
thr.	10 localities	11 individuals		v.o.
Eastern Bluebird:				
thr., 12	W. Yarmouth, S. Chatham	12,3		D. Baines#, CCBC (D. Baines)
21,27	Lincoln, E. Dennis	1,4		A. Davis, BBC (A. Tait)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet:				
6,20	Falmouth, Vineyard Haven	2,1		R. Pease, M. Hancock
28	Manomet	1		M. B. O.
Cedar Waxwing:				
7,10	Bedford	4,8		P. Wade
Northern Shrike:				
thr., 10	Orleans, Barnstable	1,1		C. Goodrich, B. Nikula, V. Laux
20,22,23	Cambridge, W. Newbury, P.I.	singles		T&U Marvin, C. Simmons, W. Drummond
25,26-30	Weymouth, P.I.	1,1		J. O'Regan, v.o.
Loggerhead Shrike:				
21,29	Barnstable, Ipswich	1,1		R. Pease, P. Parsons
Orange-crowned Warbler:				
2;6	Brewster; Falmouth, Sandwich	4;1,3		C. Goodrich#; v.o.
Yellow-rumped Warbler:				
1,3	Long Island, Bridgewater	15,10		G. Soucy#, D. Briggs#
6,13	Marion, P.I.	10,12		SSBC (K. Anderson), S. Swaebe
Pine Warbler:				
thr.	W. Harwich, Chatham	1-2,1		B. Nikula, V. Saunders
6	Falmouth	3		BBC (R. Pease)
Palm Warbler:				
1,6	Orleans, Falmouth area	10,28 (total)		V. Laux, BBC (R. Pease)
<u>Northern Waterthrush:</u>				
6	Topsfield	1		J. Thomas
Common Yellowthroat:				
6,13	Falmouth, Marion	1,1		BBC (R. Pease), D. Buckman
Yellow-breasted Chat:				
1-20,10	Lanesville, Milton	1,1		L. Jodrey# & v.o., M. Hackett
Eastern Meadowlark:				
thr.	13 localities	80 individuals		v.o.
Redwinged Blackbird:				
thr.	Abington	200		E. Pearson
2,12	Pembroke, Ipswich	20,4		W. Petersen#, BBC (J. Berry)
Northern Oriole:				
thr.	5 localities	singles		v.o.
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Rusty Blackbird:			
1,30	Orleans,Middleboro	1,5	V.Laux# & v.o.,D.Elkin
Common Grackle:			
1,6	Orleans,Fairfield	1,17	V.Laux,K.Anderson
13	Chilmark(M.V.)	1	M.Hancock
Brown-headed Cowbird:			
2,27	Pembroke,Lynnfield	130,300+	W.Petersen#,R.Veit#
<u>Western Tanager:</u>			
1-12,1-27	Rockport,Chatham	1,1	L.Jodrey & v.o.,V.Saunders & v.o
Cardinal:			
thr.	Vineyard Haven(M.V.)	2	M.Hancock
Dickcissel:			
thr.,1,12	Beverly,Orleans,Ipswich	singles	J&D Day,V.Laux,BBC(J.Berry)
Evening Grosbeak:			
4,6,13	Byfield,Marion,Dartmouth	125,25,20	T.Joyce,K.Anderson,T.Athearn
Purple Finch:			
6,20	Marion Ipswich	7,5	K.Anderson,J.Berry
House Finch:			
5,20	Lexington,Lanesville	25,12	BBC(E.Taylor),R.Emery#
Pine Grosbeak:			
20	W.Falmouth	7	D.Briggs
<u>Hoary Redpoll:</u>			
30	Orleans	2	R.Clem,W.Bailey
Common Redpoll:			
1&2,12	Beverly,Middleboro	1,4	G.Soucy#,D.Briggs#
26,28	Squantum,Ipswich	8,20	R.Veit#,E.Foster
30,31	Orleans,P.I.	22,40	R.Clem#,L.Jodrey#
Pine Siskin:			
1,3,5	Beverly,P.I.,Rockport area	100,200,300	G.Soucy,L.Jodrey#,BBC(L.Jodrey)
Red Crossbill:			
1;6	Chatham;Falmouth,P.I.	28;10,12	V.Laux;R.Pease,M.McClellan
13,23	Chilmark,Edgartown(M.V.)	9,26	M.Hancock
White-winged Crossbill:			
26,28	Chatham,P.I.	25,28	B.Nikula,M.McClellan
Rufous-sided Towhee:			
thr.	16 localities	41 individuals	v.o.
Savannah Sparrow:			
4,6	Duxbury,Fairhaven	2,20	W.Petersen#,SSBC(K.Anderson)
22	Plymouth Beach	2	J.Loughlin
Sharp-tailed Sparrow:			
thr.	Eastham(F.H.)	10+	B.Nikula & v.o.
<u>Seaside Sparrow:</u>			
thr.	Eastham(F.H.)	max.20+(Jan.12)	B.Nikula & v.o.
Vesper Sparrow:			
5	Fairhaven	3	G.Mock
8	Middleboro,Barnstable	1 b., 1	D.Briggs,R.Pease
Lark Sparrow:			
thr. 15	Orleans	1 ad.	V.Laux & v.o.
Dark-eyed Junco:			
thr.,11	Dartmouth,Lincoln	20-30,20-30	P.Regan,H.W.Foley
Tree Sparrow:			
thr.	Middleboro,Marion	130(55 b.),300-400	D.Briggs,R.Harlow
<u>Clay-colored Sparrow:</u>			
1	Orleans	1(from Dec.)	B.Nikula & v.o.
Field Sparrow:			
thr.,20	Beverly,Brewster	5,12	G.Soucy,CCBC(D.Baines)
White-crowned Sparrow:			
thr.,1	Danvers,Chatham	1,1	E.Pyburn,V.Laux & v.o.
Fox Sparrow:			
thr.,1	Manchester,Chatham	3,4	H.Weissberg,V.Laux
3,5	Brookline,Lexington	1,1	A.Agush,E.Taylor
20,30	Lanesville,Beverly	1,2	M.Argue#,J&D Day
Swamp Sparrow:			
6,12	Duxbury,Ipswich	1,3	M.B.O.,BBC(J.Berry)
Lapland Longspur:			
thr.,4,22	P.I.,Duxbury,Plymouth Bch.	max.30,3,9	v.o.,W.Petersen#,M.B.O.
Snow Bunting:			
13,14	Dartmouth, Barnstable	30,400+	BBC(T.Athearn),R.Pease