

# BIRD SIGHTINGS

## MARCH 1994

### SUMMARY



by Richard A. Forster, Marjorie W. Rines and Robert H. Stymeist

March was very wet, snowy, and cloudy, a March most of us would like to forget. Temperatures were about the only normal climatological data, averaging 38.2° in Boston, just 0.4° below normal. The high was 67° on the 23rd, and the low mark was 18° on March 1 and 2. Rainfall was 7.49 inches, 3.80 inches above normal and the sixth greatest amount for March in 124 years. Snowfall totaled 14.8 inches, 6.9 inches above normal. The most snow in any 24-hour period was 7.1 inches on March 3-4. The snowfall for the 1993-1994 season stood at 96.3 inches for Boston, well above the former record of 89.2 inches set in 1947-1948.

The first significant movement of birds occurred on the 23rd, the day the temperature reached 67 degrees. The previous night the winds had shifted from the east to the northwest. Another migration pulse occurred on the 28th, when the wind was out of the southeast.

R. H. S.

#### LOONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Both loons and grebes were well reported this month. In particular Common Loon sightings from the North Shore were well above normal. Horned and especially Red-necked grebes were also seen in good numbers. Red-necked Grebe reports were evenly distributed along the coast. The **Eared Grebe** at Rockport was a carryover from January.

Less than 10 years ago arbiters of these reports had to evaluate sightings of Arctic Loon and decide if they were not poorly seen or described Common or Red-throated loons. Recently, however, Arctic Loon has been split into two species: Pacific Loon, which breeds in the arctic regions of western North America and winters commonly along the west coast of the United States, and Arctic Loon, which breeds commonly throughout arctic regions of Eurasia and sparingly in northwestern Alaska. Differentiating between the two species even while in full breeding plumage is tricky except under the most optimal conditions. Only very recently has it been determined that individuals sporting a chin strap are Pacific Loons, and those displaying a prominent white flank patch are Arctic Loons. Admittedly these comments are a gross over-simplification of the identification problems involved, and other less obvious identification criteria exist. A **Pacific Loon** lacking a white flank patch was reported from Provincetown, and an **Arctic Loon**, carefully described by three observers, sporting an obvious white flank patch was seen in Dennis. Arctic Loon has been reported only two, or possibly three, times in the United States during the winter season.

Both herons and egrets began to appear by month's end as usual, but a Glossy Ibis at Nantucket was on the early side. Waterfowl are among the earliest migrants in spring, and thus much emphasis is placed on them in March. Wood Duck, Northern Pintail, and Green-winged Teal are the most numerous, and this month's reports tend to bear this out. Less common species such as Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, and Gadwall were reported in normal numbers. Of the two Eurasian Wigeons reported, the bird in Plymouth was a holdover from the winter, but the Plum Island bird was clearly a migrant. Reports from the remainder of the waterfowl were representative generally of wintering concentrations, although a Harlequin Duck in Osterville on the south side of Cape Cod was an unusual location. Only one migrant flock of Snow Geese was noted, and the Greater White-fronted Geese in New Bedford were birds that have wintered off and on at this location for several years.

Raptor reports were also typical for March. Red-shouldered and Red-tailed hawks were either migrating or returning to breeding locales by midmonth. Turkey Vultures were very widely reported and included some good counts of obvious migrants. The first Ospreys arrived in the Westport area by March 20, and Bald Eagles began appearing at more widespread locations which is typical of this season when ice recedes from inland lakes and rivers. There was a surprising scattering of Rough-legged Hawks following a winter in which they were particularly uncommon.

Each year shorebirds, both returning residents and migrants, figure prominently among our March reports. Piping Plovers and American Oystercatchers began arriving at breeding locations during the latter part of the month. Killdeer began arriving early in the month with sizable flocks reported after midmonth. Among early, but not unexpected, arrivals were a Pectoral Sandpiper at Provincetown and a Lesser Yellowlegs at Plum Island, where a dowitcher, most probably a Long-billed, was also seen. An excellent count of woodcock was made at Marshfield on March 23.

Gull reports were scanty. The only report of Bonaparte's Gull was of two birds at Newburyport after a winter of notable scarcity. Iceland Gulls were concentrated at traditional locations, while Glaucous Gulls were concentrated south of Boston including several inland locations. Reports of alcids were limited to Provincetown, where both Thick-billed Murre and the rare **Common Murre** were found, and Cape Ann, where reports included a rare winter Dovekie sighting and a good count of Black Guillemots.

Reports of Snowy Owl were scarce away from Logan airport this winter. Thus the report of three Snowy Owls from Nantucket is even more interesting. Long-eared Owl sightings picked up, especially at the end of the month, and concentrations of Short-eared Owls were found at both Nantucket and Cumberland Farms. Two Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers found at the end of the month likely represented early migrants. R. A. F.

Date	Location	Number	Observers	Date	Location	Number	Observers
<b>Red-throated Loon</b>				<b>Double-crested Cormorant</b>			
6	Gloucester	2	J. Hoye#	20	Westport	2	R. Forster
6	Marblehead	1	R. Forster	26	Somerville	2	D. Brown#
13	Boston H.	11	TASL (M. Hall)	29	Essex	2	T. Young
27	Duxbury B.	3	G. d'Entremont#	<b>American Bittern</b>			
<b>Arctic Loon</b>				27	Bolton Flats	1	M. Lynch#
26	Dennis	1	E. Salmela#	<b>Great Blue Heron</b>			
<b>Pacific Loon</b>				16	Westboro	5	E. Taylor
15	P'town (R.P.)	1 basic pl	R. Forster#	30	Littleton	20	E. Taylor
<b>Common Loon</b>				31	P.I.	5	K. Disney
6	Cape Ann	14	J. Hoye#	<b>Great Egret</b>			
6	Marblehead area	24	R. Forster	24	Harwich	1	K. Hamilton
13	Ipswich (C.B.)	59	J. Berry	25	Duxbury	1	D. Clapp
13	Newbypt area	18	M. Lynch#	25	Gloucester	2	C. Leahy
14	Osterville	15	R. Forster	26	Boston (B.I.)	1	L. Rogers
14	Dennis	25	R. Forster	28	Nantucket	1	D. Sutherland
24	S. Carver	1	J. Shaw	29	Essex	1	T. Young
<b>Pied-billed Grebe</b>				31	P.I.	1	K. Disney
6	Lakeville	2	S. Arena	<b>Snowy Egret</b>			
12	Plymouth	2	H. Wiggin#	25	Falmouth	1	P. Trimble
23	W. Bridgewater	1	K. Ryan	30	Harwich	2	K. Hamilton
24	Worcester	1	R. Quimby	<b>Black-crowned Night-Heron</b>			
25	Belmont	2	M. Rines	30	Harwich	2	K. Hamilton
30	Winchester	1	M. Rines	<b>Glossy Ibis</b>			
<b>Horned Grebe</b>				31	Nantucket	1	H. Faria
5	Rockport	12	J. Berry	<b>Whooper Swan</b>			
6	Swampscott	42	R. Forster	28	P.I.	1	F. Morrison
13	Plymouth	9	K. Anderson	30	Ipswich	1	C. Leahy
13	Boston H.	76	TASL (M. Hall)	<b>Bar-headed Goose</b>			
14	Dennis	40	R. Forster	6	Lynn	1	R. Forster
28	P.I.	12	J. McLaughlin	<b>Greater White-fronted Goose</b>			
<b>Red-necked Grebe</b>				16	New Bedford	2 ad	G. Mock
6	Cape Ann	27	J. Hoye#	<b>Snow Goose</b>			
6	Marblehead area	61	R. Forster	thr	Boston	1 imm	v. o.
13	Boston H.	23	TASL (M. Hall)	20	Newburyport	5	H. Wiggin#
14	Dennis	15	R. Forster	20	W. Bridgewater	1	W. Petersen#
14	Barnstable (lake)	2	R. Forster#	23	Hull	1	R. McCreedis
15	Provincetown	25	R. Forster#	23	Concord	50	R. Walton
20	Plymouth	20	K. Anderson	24	Easton	1	G. d'Entremont
<b>Eared Grebe</b>				25	Lancaster	1	E. Salmela
1-7	Rockport	1	v. o.	28-31	Ipswich	1	T. Young
<b>American White Pelican</b>				<b>Brant</b>			
1	Hyannis	1	F. + M. LeBaron#	5	Rockport	5	J. Berry
<b>Northern Gannet</b>				13	P.I.	17	J. Berry
26	Westport	7	E. Nielsen#	13	Boston H.	1777	TASL (M. Hall)
<b>Great Cormorant</b>				20	Plymouth	40	K. Anderson
5	Halifax	1	W. Petersen	<b>Barnacle Goose</b>			
12	Lakeville	1	K. Anderson	1-20	S. Dartmouth	1	v. o.
12	Arlington	4	M. Rines	<b>Wood Duck</b>			
20	Westport	5+	G. d'Entremont#	6	Rochester	8	M. LaBossiere

Wood Duck (cont.)				24	Framingham	36	J. Hoye#
24	Wenham	8	J. Brown#	25	Wayland	65	N. Patterson
25	Wayland	33	N. Patterson	27	W. Bridgewater	100+	W. Petersen
25	W. Roxbury	8	T. Aversa	29	Concord (NAC)	250+	S. Perkins
26	Rutland	8	R. Jenkins#	Greater Scaup			
27	Bolton/Oxbow	14	M. Lynch#	12	Lakeville	250	W. Petersen
thr	Reports of 1-6 indiv. from 10 locations			13	Boston H.	656	TASL (M. Hall)
Green-winged Teal				20	New Bedford	130	M. Lynch#
12-31	Cumb. Farms	120 max	T. Aversa	26	Westport	147	E. Nielsen
20, 27	W. Bridgewater	12, 20	W. Petersen	Lesser Scaup			
23	Harwich	19	B. Nikula	5	Lakeville	17	F. Garretson#
23	P.I.	41	W. Drew#	20	Acoaxet	4	M. Lynch#
24	Boston (B.I.)	18	L. Rogers	20	New Bedford	3	M. Lynch#
25	W. Roxbury	19	T. Aversa	26	Westport	10	E. Nielsen
30	Concord (NAC)	55	S. Perkins	scaup species			
"Eurasian" Green-winged Teal				25	Falmouth	600+	P. Trimble
30	Concord (NAC)	1	S. Perkins#	Common Eider			
American Black Duck				5	Rockport	650	BBC (J. Nove)
13	Boston H.	1351	TASL (M. Hall)	13	Salisbury	210+	M. Lynch#
20	W. Bridgewater	200	W. Petersen	13	Boston H.	7993	TASL (M. Hall)
20	Westport	600+	M. Lynch#	20	Westport	220+	M. Lynch#
23	P.I.	345	W. Drew#	25	Falmouth	200	P. Trimble
Northern Pintail				Harlequin Duck			
23	W. Bridgewater	21	K. Ryan	6	Cape Ann	12	J. Hoye#
23	P.I.	17	W. Drew#	14	Osterville	1 m	R. Forster
24	Concord (NAC)	6	L. Nachtrab	26	Manomet	1	W. Petersen#
26	New Braintree	5	R. Jenkins#	Oldsquaw			
thr	Reports of 1-2 indiv. from 6 locations			13	Newbypt/Salis.	200+	M. Lynch#
Blue-winged Teal				20	New Bedford	1	D. Brown#
24	Wayland	2	K. Hamilton	Black Scoter			
26	W. Bridgewater	1	W. Petersen	13	Plymouth	1 m	K. Anderson
27	Concord (NAC)	2	K. Hamilton	13	Boston H.	15	TASL (M. Hall)
28	Rowley	3	J. Whittall	20	P.I.	20+	J. Berry
30	Harwich	2	K. Hamilton	20	Westport	2 m	G. d'Entremont#
31	P.I.	3	K. Disney	Surf Scoter			
Northern Shoveler				13	Boston H.	135	TASL (M. Hall)
10	Belmont	2 f	M. Rines	20	Westport	20	M. Lynch#
19	Easton	1 m	T. Aversa#	White-winged Scoter			
24-31	Arlington Res.	2 f	M. Rines	13	Boston H.	192	TASL (M. Hall)
Gadwall				Common Goldeneye			
15	Plymouth	6	T. Aversa	6	Sudbury	10	S. Perkins#
20	Newburyport	4	H. Wiggin#	13	Newbypt/Salis.	200+	M. Lynch#
23	DWWS	5	D. Clapp	13	Boston H.	1221	TASL (M. Hall)
23	P.I.	7	W. Drew#	24	Winchester	21	M. Rines
26	Boston (B.I.)	2	L. Rogers	25	Wayland	9	N. Patterson
Eurasian Wigeon				Barrow's Goldeneye			
1-14	Plymouth	1	v. o.	1	Winthrop	1	C. Paine
26	P.I.	1 m	B. Wicks + v. o.	13	Newburyport	1	M. Lynch#
American Wigeon				20	Westport	1 m	M. Lynch#
9	Medford	6	M. Rines	Bufflehead			
12	Plymouth	200	W. Drew#	12	Lakeville	35	K. Anderson
13, 20	Arlington Res.	5, 3	L. Taylor	13	Newbypt/Salis.	350+	M. Lynch#
19	Duxbury	22	D. Clapp	13	Boston H.	1331	TASL (M. Hall)
25	Wayland	2	N. Patterson	Hooded Merganser			
30	Concord (NAC)	10	S. Perkins	11	Newton	8	R. Tormey
Canvasback				12	Plymouth	6	W. Drew#
5	Gloucester	1	J. Berry#	13	Medford	8	P. Roberts
12	Lakeville	31	K. Anderson	19	Raynham	35	S. Arena
15	Dennis	25	K. Hamilton#	19	Winchester	14	N. Nash
20	S. Dartmouth	5	G. d'Entremont#	31	Rochester	pr n	R. Turner
20	Westport	30	G. d'Entremont#	thr	Reports of 1-4 indiv. from 8 locations		
Redhead				Common Merganser			
13	Easton	4	K. Ryan#	thr	Worcester	30 max	R. Quimby
14	Plymouth	3	K. Hamilton#	thr	Arlington	66 max	M. Rines
19	Raynham	2	T. Aversa#	12	S. Carver	25	J. Shaw
23	Nantucket	12+	C. Leahy	19	Belmont	24	H. Wiggin#
25	Falmouth	2	P. Trimble	19	Raynham	25	S. Arena
Ring-necked Duck				25	S. Natick	35	T. Aversa
thr	Groveland	27 max	S. Charette	Red-breasted Merganser			
12	Plymouth	75	W. Drew#	13	Newbypt/Salis.	60+	M. Lynch#
20	Halifax	120	W. Petersen	13	Boston H.	1096	TASL (M. Hall)

Turkey Vulture									
12	S. Dartmouth	5		W. Petersen					
20, 28	Randolph	20, 27		N. Smith					
21	Lexington	7		T. McCullough					
23	Mt. Watatic	19		T. McCullough					
26	Newburyport	4		H. Wiggin#					
26	Quabbin	35 migr		M. Lynch#					
thr	Reports of 1-3 indiv. from 20 locations								
Osprey									
15	Nantucket	1		B. Perkins					
20	Westport	2		G. d'Entremont#					
23	Wareham	2		M. LaBossiere					
23	DWWS	1		D. Clapp					
25	Falmouth	1		P. Trimble					
26	Lakeville	2		K. Holmes					
Bald Eagle									
9	Nantucket	1 ad		S. Tiffney					
10	N. Chelmsford	1		B. Ruffard					
13, 26	Lakeville	2 ad, 2 imm		K. Holmes					
20	Acoaxet	1 ad, 1 imm		M. Lynch#					
22	Wareham	1		M. LaBossiere					
23	Haverhill	3		A. Hatfield					
23	Mt. Watatic	1		T. McCullough					
25	Concord	1 ad		S. Clark					
25	Norton	1 ad		D. Delare					
28	Newburyport	3		J. McLaughlin					
29-30	Concord (NAC)	1 ad, 2 imm		S. Perkins					
Northern Harrier									
4	S. Dartmouth	2		T. Aversa					
18	Cumb. Farms	5		K. Anderson					
20	W. Bridgewater	2		W. Petersen					
21	Lexington	2		T. McCullough					
23	Nantucket	5		C. Leahy					
23	P.I.	2		W. Drew#					
25	W. Roxbury	1 m		T. Aversa					
Sharp-shinned Hawk									
18	E. Gloucester	3		T. Aversa					
23	Mt. Watatic	2		T. McCullough					
thr	Reports of individ. from 15 locations								
Cooper's Hawk									
thr	Reports of individ. from 14 locations								
Northern Goshawk									
11	Holliston	1		R. Wolanin					
17	S. Natick	1		J. Miller					
19	Concord	1		G. d'Entremont#					
23	Easton	1		K. Ryan					
26	Maynard	1 ad		L. Nachtrab					
26	Quabbin	2		M. Lynch#					
Red-shouldered Hawk									
thr	E. Middleboro	pr		K. Anderson					
4	Acushnet	4		M. LaBossiere					
12	Athol	2		J. Mallet					
16	Halifax	2		R. Forster#					
21	Lexington	17		T. McCullough					
23	Mt. Watatic	10		T. McCullough					
26	S. Hanson	2		W. Petersen					
31	Easton	4		K. Ryan					
thr	Reports of individ. from 11 locations								
Red-tailed Hawk									
19	Framingham	5		M. Lynch#					
19	Concord	6		G. d'Entremont#					
21	Lexington	31		T. McCullough					
23	Mt. Watatic	15		T. McCullough					
27	Mt. A.	pr n		R. Stymeist#					
Rough-legged Hawk									
5	Salisbury	2		J. Hoye#					
9	P'town (R.P.)	1		G. Martin					
12	Middleboro	6		C. Floyd					
13	W. Bridgewater	2		K. Ryan#					
13	Newburyport	1		M. Lynch#					
24	Boston (B.I.)	1		L. Rogers					
26	Westport	1		E. Nielsen					
27	Middleboro	1		W. Petersen					
30	Ipswich (C.B.)	1		D. Rimmer					
American Kestrel									
thr	Essex	pr		T. Young					
24	Taunton	2		G. d'Entremont					
21	Lexington	2		T. McCullough					
thr	Reports of individuals from 6 locations								
Merlin									
5	W. Roxbury	1 m		T. Aversa					
26	Hyannis	1		E. Salmela#					
28	Cambridge	1		J. Shetterly					
Peregrine Falcon									
thr	Boston	2-3		v. o.					
7	Saugus	1		J. Berry					
Ruffed Grouse									
1	Bridgewater	9		T. Aversa					
6	Essex	3		T. Young					
12	Halifax	3		W. Petersen					
12	Ipswich	1-2		J. Berry					
19	Easton	1		T. Aversa					
20	N. Middleboro	2		K. Holmes					
30	E. Boxford	1		K. Disney					
Wild Turkey									
8	Lexington	2		G. West					
13	Arlington	2		L. Madden					
13	Middleboro	65		R. Turner					
21	Sandwich	4		P. Trimble					
26	E. Boxford	3		J. Brown#					
27	Oxbow NWR	17		M. Lynch#					
31	Worcester	2		F. McMenemy					
31	Carver	1		K. Durman					
Northern Bobwhite									
25	W. Roxbury	10		T. Aversa					
Clapper Rail									
24	Wareham	1		M. LaBossiere					
American Coot									
thr	Brockton	14 max		M. Anderson					
12	Plymouth	150		W. Drew#					
13	Medford	6		L. Taylor					
19	Raynham	2		S. Arena					
Piping Plover									
13	P.I.	1		M. Pelikan					
18-31	Westport	1-5		v. o.					
24-31	Ipswich (C.B.)	1-5		D. Rimmer					
27	Hyannis	2		S. Clifton#					
28	S. Dartmouth	2		M. Boucher					
Killdeer									
8	Whitman	1		K. Holmes					
8	Fairhaven	1		M. Boucher					
9	S. Dartmouth	1		L. Nachtrab					
19	Easton	10		S. Arena#					
19	Newburyport	10		R. Forster#					
25	Duxbury	16		D. Clapp					
27	Middleboro	16		W. Petersen					
27	W. Newbury	33		J. Hoye#					
American Oystercatcher									
25	Fairhaven	1		M. LaBossiere					
25	N. Monomoy	1-2		J. Sones#					
28	Falmouth	2		S. Hecker					
29	Nantucket	2		J. Van Vorst					
Greater Yellowlegs									
23	P.I.	1		W. Drew#					
27	Wellfleet	4		E. Banks					
Lesser Yellowlegs									
27	P.I.	1		J. Hoye#					
Sanderling									
9	Dennis	360		K. Hamilton					
13	Boston H.	180		TASL (M. Hall)					
20	Westport	10+		G. d'Entremont#					
24-31	Ipswich (C.B.)	22-40		D. Rimmer					

<b>Pectoral Sandpiper</b>				27	P'town (R.P.)	2	E. Salmela#
15	P'town (R.P.)	1	R. Forster#	<b>Razorbill</b>			
26	Newbury	2	H. Wiggin#	5	Rockport	2	T. Young
<b>Purple Sandpiper</b>				15	P'town (R.P.)	18	R. Forster#
6	Rockport (A.P.)	3	J. Hoye#	<b>Black Guillemot</b>			
13	Lynn	200	C. Floyd	6	Marblehead	2	R. Forster
13	Boston H.	91	TASL (M. Hall)	6	Cape Ann	17	J. Hoye#
20	N. Scituate	150	F. Bouchard	13	Boston H.	2	TASL (M. Hall)
20	Westport	107	G. d'Entremont#	15	P'town (R.P.)	4	K. Hamilton#
<b>Dunlin</b>				<b>Barn Owl</b>			
9	Dennis	140	K. Hamilton	26	Nantucket	1	E. Andrews
13	Boston H.	120	TASL (M. Hall)	<b>Eastern Screech-Owl</b>			
20	Acoaxet	60	R. Forster#	thr	Mt. A.	2-4	R. Stymeist#
<b>dowitcher species</b>				thr	Reports of indiv. from 9 locations		
27	P.I.	1	J. Hoye#	<b>Great Horned Owl</b>			
<b>Common Snipe</b>				thr	Reports of indiv. from 8 locations		
3	Essex	1	T. Young	<b>Snowy Owl</b>			
15	P'town (R.P.)	1	R. Forster#	7	Malden	1	N. Smith
27	W. Bridgewater	13	K. Ryan	9, 30	P'town (R.P.)	1	G. Martin
26, 29	Cumb. Farms	30, 70	T. Aversa	26	Nantucket	3	M. Litchfield#
<b>American Woodcock</b>				28	Boston (Logan)	4	N. Smith
5	Nantucket	3	G. Perkins	<b>Barred Owl</b>			
13	Peabody	3	D. Hill	4	Easton	1	K. Ryan
20	W. Bridgewater	3	W. Petersen	5	Bridgewater	1	F. Garretson#
23	DWWS	28	D. Clapp	5	Halifax	1	F. Garretson#
24	Sherborn	3	E. Taylor	12	Quabbin	1	M. Lynch#
25	Mt. A.	3	R. Stymeist#	<b>Long-eared Owl</b>			
26	Wayland	3	J. Hoye#	1	Cumb. Farms	1	G. d'Entremont
26	E. Middleboro	10+	K. Holmes	8	Sandwich	1	T. Aversa
<b>Laughing Gull</b>				20	Winthrop	1	fide L. Cocco
25	Fairhaven	1	M. LaBossiere	21, 23	Wayland	1, 1	S. Arena
27	Chatham	6	J. Sones#	25	W. Roxbury	1	T. Aversa
<b>Common Black-headed Gull</b>				25	Mt. A.	1	M. Rines + v. o.
thr	Winthrop	8 max	v. o.	<b>Short-eared Owl</b>			
thr	Newburyport	1	v. o.	12	Cumb. Farms	4	S. Arena#
<b>Bonaparte's Gull</b>				15	Nantucket	5	D. Beattie#
13	Newburyport	2	M. Pelikan	26	Dennis	1	E. Salmela#
<b>Ring-billed Gull</b>				28	P.I.	2	F. Morrison
13	Plymouth	500	K. Anderson	28	Boston (Logan)	1	N. Smith
19	Winthrop	350+	M. Lynch#	<b>Northern Saw-whet Owl</b>			
<b>Iceland Gull</b>				5	Lakeville	1	F. Garretson#
7	Lynn	1	J. Quigley	8-19	Wayland	1	S. Arena
13	Medford	1 ad	P. Roberts	13	Ipswich	1	J. Berry
14	Cambridge (F.P.)	1 imm	M. Rines	26	Middleboro	2	T. Aversa#
15	Truro/P'town	5	R. Forster#	<b>Red-bellied Woodpecker</b>			
19	Newburyport	15	R. Forster#	8	Medford	pr	M. Rines
<b>Lesser Black-backed Gull</b>				15	Acton	2	K. Castle
14	Dennis	2 ad	R. Forster	24	Holliston	2	J. Howe
14	Framingham	1 ad	M. Lynch#	29-31	Cambridge (F.P.)	2	J. Barton#
<b>Glaucous Gull</b>				thr	Reports of indiv. from 4 locations		
4	New Bedford	1 imm	T. Aversa	<b>Yellow-bellied Sapsucker</b>			
12	Bridgewater	1	W. Petersen#	30	Mt. A.	1 m	M. Rines
13	Boston H.	1	TASL (M. Hall)	30	Chatham	1	W. Bailey
15	Truro	2	K. Hamilton#	<b>Hairy Woodpecker</b>			
19	Raynham	1 imm	T. Aversa#	21	Easton	pr	K. Ryan
20	Lakeville	1	G. d'Entremont#	23	Lexington	4	M. Pelikan
<b>Dovekie</b>				<b>Pileated Woodpecker</b>			
5	Rockport (A.P.)	2	J. Hoye#	5	Manchester	2	W. Drew#
<b>Common Murre</b>				11	Wellesley	1	S. Frederick
27	P'town (R.P.)	1	E. Salmela#	13	Westford	1	S. Selesky
<b>Thick-billed Murre</b>				19	E. Boxford	1	J. Brown
thr	Rockport	1-2	v. o.	20	Hamilton	1	D. Chickering
15	P'town H.	1	R. Forster#	26	Quabbin	3	M. Lynch#

#### FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

The first Eastern Phoebe generally get a birder's blood in motion for the spring migration. This year March 20 was opening day, although the general arrival of phoebes was not in full swing until the 24th. Tree Swallows, another hardy spring harbinger, arrived a little earlier on March 13, although good numbers did not appear until after the 24th. Other typical March arrivals and their general arrival dates included

American Robin on March 24, Red-winged Blackbird on March 18, Rusty Blackbird on March 18, and Common Grackle on March 16.

An exceptional report was an Eastern Kingbird on March 30, the earliest arrival of this species on record. The previous early date was April 5, 1969.

Several vagrants continued into March: the Boreal Chickadee in West Boylston, **Varied Thrushes** in Concord and Sudbury, Clay-colored Sparrow on Nantucket, Lark Sparrow in Bridgewater, and **Harris' Sparrow** in South Dartmouth. Other unusual reports included another **Varied Thrush** in Edgartown, a Northern Shrike in Wayland, as many as eight White-crowned Sparrows in South Dartmouth, and Yellow-headed Blackbirds from three locations.

Winter finches continued to be reported, although in significantly lower numbers than earlier in the winter. The great **Bohemian Waxwing** flight (described in the June 1994 issue of *Bird Observer*) subsided a bit in March, with reports from just seven locations.

One disturbing note from the past winter is a dramatic decline in the number of Carolina Wren reports. The weather in both January and February was very cold and snowy, but perhaps more importantly, also featured several ice storms. In the two previous years Cape Cod and Bristol County, traditional Carolina Wren strongholds, had significant snowfall but no ice, and the wren population was high in the spring. In January and February of 1994 icing occurred on several days. This ice created a crusty glaze over the snow and vegetation, making it almost impossible for a Carolina Wren to acquire food among the dense and swampy thickets. I would be interested in hearing from observers who had Carolina Wrens in their neighborhoods last year but not this year.

R. H. S.

Date	Location	Number	Observers	Date	Location	Number	Observers
<b>Eastern Phoebe</b>				26	Quabbin	7	M. Lynch#
20	Rochester	1	M. LaBossiere	26	Milton	4	G. d'Entremont
20	Marlboro	2	B. Volkle	<b>Carolina Wren</b>			
25	Wayland	7	N. Patterson	thr	Sherborn	1	E. Taylor
26	Waltham	8	L. Taylor	3	Westford	1	S. Selesky
26-31	Mt. A.	2-6	v. o.	4	Reading	1	E. Bell
24-31	General arrival			6	Natick	1	E. Taylor
<b>Eastern Kingbird</b>				20	Westpt/Dart.	15	M. Lynch#
30	Eastham (F.H.)	1	G. Martin	24	Concord (NAC)	1	S. Perkins
<b>Horned Lark</b>				26	Maynard	1	L. Nachtrab
12	Middleboro	100	W. Petersen#	31	Lincoln	2	M. Rines
13	Salisbury	9	M. Pelikan	<b>Winter Wren</b>			
13	Boston H.	10	TASL (M. Hall)	24	Revere	1	A. Sgroi
21	Sandwich	60	P. Trimble	26	Milton	1	G. d'Entremont
23	P.I.	20	W. Drew#	26	Quabbin	1	M. Lynch#
<b>Tree Swallow</b>				27	Rockport (H.P.)	1	S. Wheelock
13	W. Bridgewater	5	K. Ryan#	30	E. Boxford	1	K. Disney
19	Sudbury	10	D. Diggins	<b>Ruby-crowned Kinglet</b>			
20	Cumb. Farms	8	J. Hoye#	26	Sandwich	1	E. Salmela
23	DWWS	8	D. Clapp	<b>Eastern Bluebird</b>			
25	Wayland	200	N. Patterson	5	Bridgewater	9	W. Petersen
27	Halifax	75	K. Anderson	6	Rochester	10	M. LaBossiere
31	Lakeville	200+	M. Boucher	7	Easton	3	K. Ryan
<b>American Crow</b>				15	Concord	5	R. Walton
5, 26	Framingham	2000, 500	E. Taylor	20	Boxford	3	H. Wiggan#
23	Lexington	220	M. Pelikan	23	DWWS	3	D. Clapp
<b>Fish Crow</b>				thr	Reports of 1-2 indiv. from 10 locations		
thr	Framingham	2	E. Taylor	<b>American Robin</b>			
13	Marshfield	5	S. Perkins	24-25	Marshfield	234	D. Clapp
14	Plymouth	2	R. Forster#	26	Hardwick	100+	M. Lynch#
26	Mt. A.	12-16	R. Stymeist	27	Halifax	100	K. Anderson
27	DWWS	2	G. d'Entremont#	<b>Varied Thrush</b>			
27	Holbrook	2	G. d'Entremont#	1-8	Concord	1	K. Fay
<b>Common Raven</b>				1-18	Sudbury	1	J. Gobbi
12	Quabbin	3	M. Lynch#	15	Edgartown	1 f	J. Verner
<b>Boreal Chickadee</b>				<b>Gray Catbird</b>			
1-12	W. Boylston	1	v. o.	4	Fairhaven	2	T. Aversa
<b>Red-breasted Nuthatch</b>				<b>Brown Thrasher</b>			
1	Bridgewater	7	T. Aversa	8	Sandwich	1	T. Aversa
11	Petersham	30	T. Aversa	27	Rockport (H.P.)	1	S. Wheelock
12	Quabbin	21	M. Lynch#	<b>American Pipit</b>			
31	Rochester	5	M. Boucher	29	Easton	6	T. Aversa
<b>Brown Creeper</b>				<b>Bohemian Waxwing</b>			
25	Holliston	6	T. Aversa	thr	Halifax	50 max	v. o.

<b>Bohemian Waxwing (cont.)</b>			
4	Lincoln	3	M. Rines#
9	P'town (R.P.)	36	G. Martin
9	Wellfleet	12	G. Martin
9, 19	Truro	3, 80	G. Martin#
25	Wayland	1	N. Patterson
28	Framingham	18	K. Hamilton
<b>Cedar Waxwing</b>			
4	Lincoln	60	M. Rines
5	Wayland	50	E. Taylor
11	Halifax	250	T. Cameron
20	Uxbridge	50+	M. Lynch#
<b>Northern Shrike</b>			
19	Wayland	1 imm	G. d'Entremont#
<b>Pine Warbler</b>			
31	E. Middleboro	1	K. Anderson
31	Rochester	1	M. Boucher
<b>Rufous-sided Towhee</b>			
1-20	Nantucket	1	E. Andrews
4	S. Dartmouth	4	T. Aversa
4	Fairhaven	2	T. Aversa
20	Acoaxet	2	R. Forster#
31	Rochester	1	M. Boucher
<b>American Tree Sparrow</b>			
5	Cumb. Farms	28	F. Garretson#
19	Wayland	10+	G. d'Entremont#
25	Belmont	8	M. Rines
<b>Chipping Sparrow</b>			
9	Yarmouthport	6	K. Hamilton
<b>Clay-colored Sparrow</b>			
1-12	Nantucket	1	F. Reed
<b>Field Sparrow</b>			
4	S. Dartmouth	6	T. Aversa
24	Boston (F.Pk)	1	T. Aversa
<b>Lark Sparrow</b>			
1-28	Bridgewater	1	K. Weinheimer
5	Petersham	1	B. Frageau
<b>Savannah Sparrow</b>			
1-4	Nantucket	1	E. Andrews
20	P.I.	3	H. Wiggin#
21	Sandwich	2	P. Trimble
25	W. Roxbury	1	T. Aversa
27	DWWS	1	G. d'Entremont#
<b>Fox Sparrow</b>			
3	Easton	1	K. Ryan
25	W. Roxbury	6	T. Aversa
27	Wayland	4	J. Hoye#
27	Lincoln	3	D. Diggins
30	Medford	2	M. Rines
31	Waltham	2	M. Rines
31	Milton	25+	R. Abrams
23-31	Reports of individ. from 12 locations		
<b>Swamp Sparrow</b>			
thr	Nantucket	1-3	E. Andrews
8	Sandwich	1	T. Aversa
24	GMNWR	4	A. Jones
<b>White-crowned Sparrow</b>			
thr	S. Dartmouth	8 max	T. Aversa
<b>Harris' Sparrow</b>			
1-20	S. Dartmouth	1	T. Aversa + v. o.
<b>Lapland Longspur</b>			
26	Cumb. Farms	5+	T. Aversa#
<b>Snow Bunting</b>			
1	Bolton Flats	70	R. Walton#
9	Saugus	60-75	J. Berry
13	Salisbury	28	M. Lynch#
13	Boston H.	61	TASL (M. Hall)
15	Provincetown	3	R. Forster#
15	Beverly	20	J. Brown#
19	P.I.	120	K. Hamilton
29	Cumb. Farms	1	T. Aversa
<b>Red-winged Blackbird</b>			
7	Cumb. Farms	75	K. Anderson
13	Marshfield	50	S. Perkins
18	Wayland	100	E. Taylor
20	Middleboro	200+	W. Petersen#
21	Lexington	476	T. McCullough
27	Bolton Flats	110+	M. Lynch#
<b>Eastern Meadowlark</b>			
15	Beverly	2	J. Brown#
20	Cumb. Farms	2	M. Lynch#
26	P.I.	2	N. Nash
26	New Braintree	2	R. Jenkins#
28	S. Dartmouth	1	M. Boucher
<b>Yellow-headed Blackbird</b>			
10	Sandwich	1	R. Smith
15	Wellfleet	1 m	M. Rosenbaum
20	Rehoboth	1 m	B. MacDonald
<b>Rusty Blackbird</b>			
4	Wayland	8	S. Arena
5	Middleboro	26	F. Garretson#
18	Hamilton	14	T. Aversa
23	Sudbury	5	S. Perkins#
25	Medfield	25	T. Aversa
25	Lincoln	12	W. Petersen
14-31	Reports of 1-2 indiv. from 10 locations		
<b>Common Grackle</b>			
7	Middleboro	1	K. Anderson
8	Medford	1	M. Rines
9	Whitman	2	K. Holmes
13, 26	Framingham	300, 1100	E. Taylor
13	Braintree	40	S. Perkins
16	Dedham	800	W. Petersen
<b>Brown-headed Cowbird</b>			
5	Lincoln	40	S. Perkins#
14	Easton	150	S. Arena
15	Fairhaven	175	T. Aversa
<b>Pine Grosbeak</b>			
6	Leicester	14	C. Phillips#
6	Belchertown	5	M. Rines
12	Athol	7	J. Mallet
<b>Purple Finch</b>			
12	Halifax	2	W. Petersen
20	E. Boxford	2	J. Brown#
23	P.I.	2	S. Charette
25	W. Roxbury	7	T. Aversa
<b>Red Crossbill</b>			
6	Milton	6	D. Morimoto
<b>White-winged Crossbill</b>			
1-12	W. Boylston	2-6	v. o.
20-31	Mt. A.	40 max	v. o.
<b>Common Redpoll</b>			
thr	Holliston	31 max	J. Howe
thr	Arlington	31 max	M. Rines
13	Lakeville	50+	K. Holmes
15	Pepperell	30	R. Maloney
20	Acoaxet	30	M. Lynch#
25	Wayland	43	N. Patterson
29	Groton	150-200	L. Wright
30	E. Boxford	30	J. Brown#
thr	Reports of 2-16 indiv. from 8 locations		
<b>Pine Siskin</b>			
6	Natick	2	J. Berry#
12	W. Boylston	2	B. Volkle
25	Holliston	9	T. Aversa
26	Quabbin	1	M. Lynch#
31	E. Middleboro	2	K. Anderson
<b>Evening Grosbeak</b>			
11	Hardwick	81	T. Aversa
11	Acushnet	35	M. LaBossiere
17	Framingham	2	K. Hamilton