

THE SPRING SUMMARY, 1978

March was cool, snowy and sunny. The temperature averaged 36.2°, 1.9° below normal, the lowest for March since 1969 (35.4°). The high mark was 60° on the 21st and the low was 26° on the 2nd and 5th. This "lamb-
-lion" month began with the first 10 days all on the cold side, averaging 8° below normal. Mid-month warmed to near normal while the final weeks averaged 2.5° on the warm side. Precipitation was but 2.46", 1.55" under normal, but the driest March only since 1976. Snow totaled 16.1", double the past average of 8.1" and the most in March since 1970 (18.2"). The heaviest snowfall was 9.2", on the 3-4th. Easter Day, the 26th, brought 1.3", the most snow on Easter since the record 7.3" in 1970 and the 4th greatest Easter total in 98 years. Seasonal snowfall reached 85.1", the second greatest in 88 years of record (89.2" in 1947-48). Snow covered the ground continuously for 65 days ending March 19. This broke the 62-day record set in 1976-1977.

April was sunny and dry with near normal temperatures. The mercury averaged 48.8°, just 0.2° above normal and 2.5° colder than last April. The warmest day was the 13th, when 75° was registered--12° above normal. The lowest temperature was 29° on the 3rd, which was the only day below 32° all month. Precipitation totaled only 1.79"; this was the driest April since 1968 (1.72"). Southwesterly winds occurred on the 4th, 17th and 20th.

The month of May was a little on the warm side, with plenty of rain and sunshine. The temperature averaged 59.3°, 0.7° above normal but 3.3° cooler than May 1977. The high was 86° on the 29th. This year's 80° readings did not come until the 20th, unusually late. The low was 37° on the 1st. Rain totaled 4.50", 1.03" over normal. The most in any day was 1.73" on the 15th. Winds from the south, southeast and southwest occurred on the following days: 4, (SE); 6, (S); 8, (SW); 9, (S); 12, (S); 19, (SE); 20, (SE); 24, (SW); the 28th, 29th and 30th (SW).

A waft of particularly early shore-bird and passerine migrants, principally species wintering in the southeastern United States, characterized the latter portion of March and early April; although this pattern far from typified the spring migration as a whole. In terms of pronounced "waves," this year's migration was notably meager--the overall impression being that the bulk of the passerine migrants either trickled through slowly or by-passed eastern Massachusetts altogether. Whereas many species arriving from comparatively proximate wintering quarters during April did so somewhat ahead of schedule, those species returning from the tropics tended to arrive either on schedule or slightly later--and frequently in diminutive numbers. A northeast storm on May 15 brought a waylaid "wreck" of phalaropes to Essex County, though apparently intercepted few other migrant pelagics. Unseasonal northeasters in May will hopefully continue to give valuable insight concerning the migratory periods of the various pelagic species of the continental shelf.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS

Ten lingering Common Loons were reported from the shoal waters of Martha's Vineyard May 27-29 (SSBC-JFK#), with 8 noted as late as May 14 in Clinton (HLM). Six Red-throated Loons were counted at P.I. May 23 (RAF,

RHS, RRV). Red-necked Grebes, although abundant, were more locally distributed this year than last, with maximum counts of 248, 237 and 253 at Manomet Point March 28, April 7 and April 16, 66 at Marblehead April 16-30 (MJK), 140+ at Dennis April 4 (BN), but few elsewhere. Counts of migrant Horned Grebes included 125+ at Marblehead April 9 (MJK) and 118+ at Manomet April 18 (staff), a bird occurred inland at Framingham April 4 (KSH), and one lingered at Dennis until May 25 (Peter Trull). Three Northern Fulmars were seen off Provincetown April 22 (HHD'E), one in Cape Cod Bay April 29 (VL), and four were seen from shore at Rockport May 15 during the NE storm (RHS). A Sooty Shearwater at First Encounter Beach April 28 (VL) was perhaps a northern hemisphere winterer; otherwise the earliest perceived were 3 from Provincetown May 25 (HLM) and 8 at Martha's Vineyard May 28 (CJ). Single Manx Shearwaters were noted at Marion May 13 (RAF, ICTN), Winthrop May 14 (SZ, CJ), Sandy Neck May 15 (RFP) and P.I. May 20 (HC) and May 28 (HLM). A Leach's Storm-Petrel was seen from Rockport May 15 (RHS) and 5 were noted there the next day (GLS). One thousand Gannets April 13 at Provincetown (R. Prescott) was the largest total noted, while 143 were counted at P.I. May 14 (PMR) and 400 were seen from Rockport the next day (RHS). One hundred Great Cormorants were seen migrating north at Eastham April 15 (CAG), while May stragglers included four immatures at Scituate on the 6th, where one remained until the 20th (WRP), and 3 adults in breeding plumage seen flying past Rockport on the 15th (RHS). A Double-crested Cormorant at E. Harwich March 19 was quite early (BN), while migrants were noted throughout April and during the first week of May, with the maximum counts being 172+ (JB, v. o.) at Littleton and 380 at P.I., both April 13, 350 at N. Scituate April 24 (GRF), 1000+ at Scituate (WRP), 85 at Clinton April 19 (HLM), 22 at Cambridge April 29 (MD) and 75 at P.I. and 20 at Plymouth May 6 (ES, SG #).

HERONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

Great Blue and Green Herons were both reported in near-average numbers; as usual, quantification of these species is impossible due to the arbitrary nature of our reporting procedures, and therefore only drastic fluctuations in totals are ultimately detectable. The following is an enumeration of the other, more gregarious, and therefore more accurately censused, species:

Little Blue Heron:

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|------------------|-------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| April 4, 8 | Manchester, N. Scituate | 1 ad., 1 ad. | PP#, RRV + MJL |
| April 27, 30 | Essex | 2, 1 | R. King, MB + DB |
| May 6, 13-20 | Duxbury, Nantucket | 1, 1 ad. | WRP, EFA + CA |
| May 14-18, 14-16 | Squantum, Bolton | 1-2, 1 ad. | LJR#, HLM |
| May 20, 23 | Manchester, P.I. | 1, 1 ad. | G. Hotz#, JM |

Cattle Egret:

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|-----------|--------------|------------------------|-------|
| April-May | 9 localities | 27 ⁺ indiv. | v. o. |
|-----------|--------------|------------------------|-------|

Great Egret:

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|-----------|--------------|------------------------|-------|
| April-May | 7 localities | 19 [±] indiv. | v. o. |
|-----------|--------------|------------------------|-------|

Snowy Egret:

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|----------------|-------------------|------------|------|
| April-May | 4 localities | 90± indiv. | v.o. |
| April 1+11, 24 | Bolton, Lancaster | 1+1, 1 | HLM |

Louisiane Heron:

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|----------------|----------------------|---------|----------------|
| April, 26, 29 | Nantucket, P.I. | 1, 1 | EFA + CA, FRH# |
| May 10, 20, 27 | Nantucket | 1, 1, 1 | CA#, EFA |
| May 11, 20 | Orleans, N. Scituate | 1, 1 | VL#, WRP |

Black-crowned Night Heron:

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|----------|-----------------------|-----------------|------|
| April 10 | Clark's Is., Plymouth | 1st egg in nest | BAH# |
|----------|-----------------------|-----------------|------|

Yellow-crowned Night Heron:

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|-----------------|------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| April 16-25, 30 | Marshfield, P.I. | 1 ad., 1 ad. | Cynthia Krusell#, HLM |
| May 23 | P.I., Cambridge | 2, 1 imm. | PI, LJR |
| May 28 | Nantucket | 1 imm. | CJ |

Least Bittern:

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|--------|------|---|-----|
| May 17 | P.I. | 1 | GLS |
|--------|------|---|-----|

American Bittern:

| | | | |
|-----------|---------------|-----------|------|
| April-May | 10 localities | 13 indiv. | v.o. |
|-----------|---------------|-----------|------|

Glossy Ibis:

| | | | |
|-----------|--------------|-------------|------|
| April-May | 8 localities | 190± indiv. | v.o. |
|-----------|--------------|-------------|------|

The migrating peak of Canada Geese at P.I. was 2000 noted there April 15 (BBC, VA). Brant totalled 500 in Newburyport Harbor throughout April, dwindling to 150 by May 31, and elsewhere 3 flocks totalling 730 birds were counted along the coast from Squantum-Eastham during April. The P.I. Snow Goose flock built up to a maximum of 1130, with 3 "Blue Geese" April 16 (RRV); additional reports included 63 in Framingham April 1 (KSH), 34 at Concord April 3-5 (Dave Hill), 450 with 1 "Blue" over Lincoln April 12 (RAF), 110 the same day at Concord (JB), and 80-90 over MNWS April 11 (MJK). The only concentrations of Gadwall were 28 at P.I. March 22 (v.o.) and 10 at Plymouth March 10 (SH), while "several" pairs were present at P.I., as was one pair at Framingham (RAF), throughout April. Pintails peaked at 120 at P.I. April 20 (v.o.), where one pair was sporadically observed through May as well. Additional likely breeding waterfowl at P.I. were one pair of Green-winged Teals observed throughout May, several pairs of Blue-winged Teals, at least one pair of N. Shovelers and 18 Ruddy Ducks were seen there May 20 (HTW). Two Green-winged Teals were also observed in Scituate May 21 (SSBC, RL). Three "Eurasian" Green-winged Teals occurred in the state this spring: one adult male with 180 Green-winged Teals at P.I. March 23 (WRP, RAF#), and two adult males at Marshfield with 300 Green-wingeds April 2 (WRP#). Intriguing was the discovery of an adult male Garganey at Marshfield

April 1 (GRF#). Although the date of occurrence is suggestive of a bona fide vagrant, captive Garganeys are so numerous on this side of the Atlantic as to preclude true determination of any individual bird's origin. Observers are hereby warned that "apparently wild" behavior on the part of a duck or other bird is by no means proof of its natural origins. As an example, a Ruddy Shelduck (a species of eastern Europe which could not possibly be expected to reach North America on its own) was seen at P.I. in April, 1977. This escaped cage bird was wary in the extreme, was associating with Canada Geese, and could not be approached any closer than 400 yards without flushing. Since proof regarding the origins of potential vagrant waterfowl may only be presented in the negative sense, the dilemma regarding the identification of bona fide vagrants may remain unresolvable. This should not, however, discourage observers from reporting these species which may in fact be actual vagrants; the accumulation of records of a certain species at a likely season (as in the case of Tufted Duck) may ultimately lead to valuable insight regarding the nature of migratory patterns. A sight record of an adult male Cinnamon Teal at Monomoy May 11 was received (Seth Mott); although lacking in corroborating details, it would represent a first Massachusetts record. A female Wood Duck with 12 young was observed April 5 in Norfolk (RMB). Migrant Ring-necked Ducks were somewhat more plentiful than usual in the Sudbury Valley, where a peak of 336 was noted April 9 (RAF). Other totals included 200+ at Carver April 2 (BBC-DD) and 80+ at Lakeville April 9 (WRP), while two lingered at P.I. until May 20, as has seemed typical in recent years.

Canvasback:

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| April 1-9 | Newburyport | 120 | PMR |
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Lesser Scaup:

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| March 18, 26 | Falmouth, Halifax | 50, 2 | HLJ, WRP |
| April 13, 17 | Halifax, Wayland | 21, 2 | WRP, RAF |

Common Goldeneye:

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|-------------------|-------------|--------------|----------|
| March 25, April 9 | Newburyport | 5000+, 4500+ | WRP, RSH |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------|----------|

Barrow's Goldeneye:

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| March-April 23 | Newburyport | 3 (1 ad. m., 1 ad. f., 1 imm. m.) | v.o. |
|----------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|------|

Oldsquaw:

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| April 9, May 27 | Newburyport | 4000, 17 | RSH#, JWB |
|-----------------|-------------|----------|-----------|

Harlequin Duck:

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| Thr. March until May 11 | E. Orleans, Magnolia | 5, 6 | v.o., v.o. |
| March 12-18, 18 | Marblehead, Martha's V. | 3, 1 | MJK, Klunks |
| March 5-April 30 | N. Scituate-Cohasset | 1-2 | BAL, MFL |
| May 14, 20 | Gloucester, Rockport | 1 m.+ 2 f., 2 | MLB, RH + DH |

Common Eider:

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|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| March 31, April 7 | Plymouth, Scituate | 6000, 1500 | HLM, RRV# |
| April 8, 29 | Plymouth, N. Scituate | 1000+, 600+ | MBO staff, WRP# |
| May 20 | Wollaston Bay | <u>3000+</u> | WRP |

King Eider:

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|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|----------------|
| March 5, March 5- April 8 | Plymouth, N. Scituate | 1, 2-1 | JJC, WRP + RRV |
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White-winged Scoter:

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| April 27 | Nantucket | 200 | CJ |
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Surf Scoter:

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| April 13, 27 | Nahant, Nantucket | 25, 30 | RHS#, CJ |
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Black Scoter:

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| April 14 | P.I. | 75 | HLM# |
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Hooded Merganser:

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| March | | 40 indiv. | v.o. |
| May 14 | Lakeville | 1 f. | WRP |

Common Merganser:

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|-------------|------------------------|----------|------------|
| March 4, 12 | Chatham, Newburyport | 25, 100+ | KSA#, WRP# |
| April 8, 9 | E. Douglas, Brookfield | 42, 50 | NEM, HLM |
| May 4 | Lincoln | 10 | RAF |

Red-breasted Merganser:

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|---------------|-------------------|--------|--------------|
| May 14, 27-29 | P.I., Martha's V. | 85, 35 | HLM, BBC-JFK |
| May 28 | Monomoy | 150 | WRP |

RAPTORS

One of the major problems in interpreting field records is evaluating the extent to which larger totals reveal an increase in the number of "observer hours" rather than in the actual bird population. This is particularly true for the hawk reports this spring. Totals for most species were unexceptional during March, but April was a different story. Participants in the Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch (EMHW) devoted more than 225 hours to observation during that month. With this organized coverage far exceeding that of previous springs, totals for many species were considerably higher than those recorded during the past five years. Fewer watches were held during May, and that, in conjunction with the normal decline in hawk migration, produced more typical May counts.

Turkey Vulture reports were normal for March (9), with 4 observed in Sharon on the 29th (NTW). Any lingering doubts about the successful

expansion of the Turkey Vulture into the northeast should be resolved by the April total of 75 (cf. 6, 5, 16, 10 & 17, since 1973), a sum which drew little from the EMHW reports. Sixteen were seen at Quabbin on the 9th (KSA, TLL'E), and 7 in S. Harwich on the 24th (VL). Eight singles were reported in May. The first spring Black Vulture report in two years came from W. Harwich on April 24th, when the bird was seen in a flock of 7 Turkey Vultures (VL).

Seven Goshawks were reported during March, and 11 in April, including a nesting pair in Framingham and one nesting pair in the Boxford vicinity (RAF). Seven were seen in May. Sharp-shinned Hawks were sparse in March (7), but plentiful in April (180). Twenty-five were seen in Truro on the 21st (BN, VL), and a major flight occurred on April 29th, when 24 were seen at Plum Island (PMR, JSR), and 20 in N. Scituate (WRP). The peak flight of the season occurred on May 1st, when 96+ were counted at P.I. (MHM + v.o.). The May total was 113. Cooper's Hawk reports were quite heartening. Five singles were reported in March, but 23 were seen in April, including 2 in Ashburnham on the 21st (WRP, PMR), and 2 at P.I. on the 29th (PMR, JSR). If these reports are accurate, the Cooper's-Sharpshinned ratio for the month was greater than 1:8, an extraordinary figure considering the status of the Cooper's Hawk in the northeast. Only 1 was reported in May.

Thirty-six Red-tailed Hawks were reported in March, 26 in April, and only 18 in May, with the peak count, 5, in Marshfield on April 23rd (SSBC, MFL, BAL). Red-shouldered counts were up substantially; only 10 were reported from March through May, 1977, but this year 10 were reported in March, 23 in April, and 19 in May. Three were seen in Bridgewater on April 13th (GRF), and 3 in Ashburnham on the 30th (PMR, JSR). Encouraging numbers of immature "shoulders" were seen in late May, including 3 in Belmont on the 28th (NC#) and 3 in Essex County on the 29th (NC#). Broad-winged Hawk tallies clearly reflect the more extensive field observation. The first Broad-winged Hawk of the season was reported on April 13th, with 249 birds reported for the month. The biggest April flights were seen in Ashburnham, with 46 on the 21st, 64 on the 23rd and 25 on the 30th (PMR, JSR). Scattered reports indicate that the peak Broad-winged Hawk migration probably occurred between April 23rd and 25th, but the latter two days were not well-covered. Most May Broad-winged Hawk reports came from the Cape, where 60 were seen between Wellfleet and Provincetown on the 20th (BN). Seventy-five, presumably many of them repeats from the previous day, were seen flying in the reverse direction on the 21st (BN), but 40 Broad-winged Hawks were still seen at Provincetown on the 22nd (PTA). Fifteen Rough-legged Hawks were seen in March, including 3 at Bridgewater on the 5th (WRP), but only 1 was reported in April, from Marshfield on the 2nd (DTB), and 1 on the 21st of May, also in Marshfield (SSBC, RL).

An adult Golden Eagle was frequenting the W. Newbury region between April 5th-10th (HW, v.o.). Seven Bald Eagles were reported during March, including 5 immature birds seen at Quabbin on the 25th (CJ). An immature Bald Eagle was discovered feeding on fish carcasses on the melting ice at the GMNWR on March 29th (SAP). Early the following morning, another immature Bald Eagle joined the first on the ice, competing with crows and gulls for the scattered fish remains (PMR). Five were seen in April, including 3 at Quabbin on the 9th (TLL'E), KSA), and 1 immature bird was seen at Provincetown on May 27th (WRP).

Eighteen Marsh Hawks were seen during March, including 12 between Wellfleet and Provincetown on the 29th (BN, CAG). The April harrier count reflects the work of the EMHW. Forty-seven were reported during the month, with 6 migrants tallied daily on the 2nd, 9th and 13th (PMR, JSR), and 7 on the 29th (RMB), all at Plum Island. Twenty-two were observed during May. The first Osprey was reported from Wellfleet on March 29th (BN, CAG), with April producing the best spring tally for at least 6 years, 136 (cf. 9, 33, 25, 42,--). Twenty-two migrating Ospreys were observed in Ashburnham on April 17th and 23 on the 21st (PMR, JSR). Six nesting pairs were reported in Westport (SPG). Apart from that breeding colony 10 Ospreys were seen in May, including 8 on the outer Cape on the 20th (BN).

An immature gray Gyrfalcon was seen in Newburyport, on March 12th (RCH#). The bird had apparently just taken a Black Duck, and was discovered flying to Woodbridge Island, where it spent 1 1/2 hours eating the duck in full view of a small army of observers. Peregrine reports have to be considered disappointing, in view of the coverage. Only 1 bird, an adult, was seen during March, at Dennis, on the 14th (VL). Five singles were reported in April and 4 in May, the totals in May being average with 2,5,3,2, and 4 reported during the past five years. Six Merlins, all singles, were observed in March, but there was a good flight in April (53). Eight were seen at P.I. on the 12th, and 12 on the 29th (PMR, JSR). On the latter date, an adult male was observed eating prey while in flight (prey item unidentified). Thirty-eight Merlins were seen during May, including a report of 25 on P.I. on the 1st, the date of the big sharpshin flight (DCA). American Kestrels totalled 32 during March, including 12 migrants at P.I. on the 23rd (RSH). Three hundred thirty-nine+ American Kestrels, an apparent state record, were observed at P.I. on April 12th (PMR). Regrettably, the count did not begin until 8:45 a.m.; casual observers reported a steady stream of kestrels moving up the island as early as 8 a.m.. The published state record was 152, seen in the Sudbury Valley by Karplus on 4/24/47 (LG). Another good flight, 119, was observed on the 29th (PMR, JSR). The April total was 904, of which more than 800 were seen at Plum Island. Forty-five were reported during May, including 29 on May 1st at P.I. (MHM#).

GROUSE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Following an apparently prolific breeding season last year (see New England CBC results), two Ruffed Grouse were seen unusually close to urbanization in Belmont April 11 (PRB#). Single Clapper Rails were found at Marion May 28 (GWG) and at P.I. May 29 (JWB, JN). King Rails, however, seem to be gradually withdrawing as a breeding species from eastern Massachusetts. Only two reports were received this spring, one at Harwich May 19 (BN) and one reportedly heard at Lynnfield May 20-27 (BK, RPE#). King Rails have not been recorded from their former breeding ground at P.I. since the building of the wooden boardwalk through the nesting habitat at Hellcat Swamp, and have not been seen at Lynnfield, their second stronghold, since at least 1976. Observers are urged to use extreme caution in identifying large rallids on the basis of vocalizations, as King and Virginia Rails utter at times virtually identical calls (much more similar than any field guide recording would lead one to believe). Those who make little of the difficulties involved need only be reminded of the "kicker" call, a vocalization uttered by the Virginia Rail, and

most likely other species, which led many outstanding ornithologists astray for some 50 years. It would be most unfortunate, and perhaps acutely embarrassing, if the King Rail would disappear from before our eyes as a local breeder with no one being the wiser. Most bizarre of all the early migrants was a Black Rail picked up dead on Nantucket March 31 (Bruce Bartlett, specimen to EFA). Two of the firmly established Nantucket American Oystercatchers arrived there on the unprecedentedly early date of March 24 (GF#). At Monomoy, 14 oystercatchers were present throughout May (v.o.), while two at Plymouth Beach May 20 (WRP) and 2 at Nauset throughout May (v.o.) may have been prospecting for future nesting sites. One hundred Semipalmated Plovers at Newburyport May 14 (MFC, BAZ#) represented the only peak count for that species, and 55 Killdeers in the Newburyport-P.I. area March 23 (RSH) was inconsistent with the general arrival noted throughout the state. Reports of three Golden Plovers were received, none accompanied by details definitively eliminating Greater Golden Plover, a species whose occasional occurrence in Massachusetts must be suspected. They were: one at Scituate April 19 (GRF) and singles at P.I. May 6 and 23 (SG, DTG). The Eurasian Curlew discovered in February on Menemsha Pond, Martha's Vineyard, was last seen by HLJ on March 18. Three species of shorebird arrived remarkably early: a Lesser Yellowlegs at Newburyport March 12-25 constituted the earliest record as did a Pectoral Sandpiper at Newburyport the same day (WRP#). Finally, a Short-billed Dowitcher was found at P.I. March 23 (RSH, MJK). Two alternate plumaged Long-billed Dowitchers at the P.I. basin April 15-23 (WRP#) raised eyebrows and suggested the possibility of last winter's birds returning. Although unprecedented in Massachusetts, April Long-billed Dowitchers have occurred in Maine on at least two separate occasions, including one bird at Mt. Desert Island this year. Two Reeves and 1-2 male Ruffs occurred in Newburyport Harbor April 29-May 12 (SAP, RAF, Bonnie Gard+#) and an alternate plumaged Curlew Sandpiper was there May 18-20 (AAC#). Note in particular the high counts of White-rumped Sandpipers this spring at Newburyport and Monomoy, eclipsing all previous spring totals in Massachusetts.

Black-bellied Plover:

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|----------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| May 12, 14, 21 | Newburyport | 380, 1200 [±] , 4000 | RRV, SAP |
| May 28 | Newburyport, Monomoy | 2500, 1500 | HLM, WRP# |

Ruddy Turnstone:

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|---------------|---------------------------------|---------|--------------|
| May 14, 17;18 | Newburyport, Squantum; 6, 10; 1 | | RRV, CJ; HLM |
| | <u>Bolton</u> | | |
| May 20, 28 | Thompson's Is., Monomoy | 35, 400 | JM, WRP |

American Woodcock:

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|--------|--------------|---------------|-----|
| May 14 | South Carver | f. with young | KSA |
|--------|--------------|---------------|-----|

Common Snipe:

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|----------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| April 9, 11 | Newburyport, Concord | 33, 32 | RSH, RAF |
| April 1, 2, 12 | Marshfield, Lancaster, | 30, 20, <u>127</u> | WRP, NEM, BB |
| | Bolton | | |
| May 18 on | Whitman | "pr. prob. nesting" | WRP |

Whimbrel:

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|-------------|------------------------------|----------|------|
| April 21-25 | Chatham | 7 | BN# |
| May 7-23 | 4 localities (3 Cape Cod) | 4 indiv. | v.o. |

Upland Sandpiper:

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|--------------------|-----------------------|----------|-----------|
| April 17 on, 22-24 | Marshfield, Nantucket | 3-6, 2-3 | BAL#, SAP |
| May 10, 12 | Duxbury, Eastham | 6, 2 | JWL#, RAF |
| May 16-20 | Lancaster | 1 | HLM |

Solitary Sandpiper:

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------|------|
| April 13-May 21 | 8 localities | 17 indiv. | v.o. |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------|------|

Willet:

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|------------------|---------------------------------|---------|-------------|
| May 14, 20 | Squantum, Plymouth; Squantum | 1, 1; 1 | SZ, WRP; SZ |
| May 21-28, 27-29 | Newburyport, M.V. | 3, 1 | GWG, JFK# |

Greater Yellowlegs:

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|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------------|------|
| April 29, May 12, 13, 14 | Newburyport | 80, 140, 175, 175 | RRV# |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------------|------|

Lesser Yellowlegs:

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|----------------|------------------------|----------|---------------|
| April 29 | Truro, Newburyport | 1;15 | BN, CAG; RRV# |
| May 12, 13; 30 | Newburyport; Salisbury | 10, 4; 1 | RRV# |

Red Knot:

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|----------------|-------------------|-------------|------|
| May 12, 13, 14 | Newburyport | 30, 15, 10 | RRV# |
| May 28, 29 | Monomoy, Scituate | 1 (low!), 4 | WRP |

Purple Sandpiper:

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|------------|------------|---------|----------|
| May 13, 14 | Lynn, P.I. | 300, 30 | RHS, RRV |
| May 23 | P.I. | 6 | JM |

Pectoral Sandpiper:

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|-------------|---------------------|--------|----------|
| April 9, 15 | Newburyport, Bolton | 56, 13 | PMR, HLM |
| May 7 | Essex, Eastham | 3, 12 | MA, SZ |

White-rumped Sandpiper:

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|---------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| May 7; 12, 14 | P.I.; Newburyport | 7; 150, 250 | WRP#; RRV, RSH# |
| May 11; 28 | Monomoy | 150+; 30 | BN, CAG; WRP |

Least Sandpiper:

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|---------------|----------|
| April 29-30; May 12, 14 | Newburyport | 1; 2000, 2500 | GWG; RRV |
|----------------------------|-------------|---------------|----------|

Curlew Sandpiper:

May 18-20 Newburyport 1 AAC#

Dunlin:

May 6, 14 Duxbury, Newburyport 250+, 500 WRP, RRV

Short-billed Dowitcher:

April 21, 23 Eastham, WBWS 1, 1 VL#, BN
April 29-31 Newburyport 1 GWG
May 12-14, 18 Newburyport, Bolton 65, 250+ RRV#, Eric Salmela#

Long-billed Dowitcher:

April 15-23 P.I. 2 WRP, RRV#

Stilt Sandpiper:

April 27 P.I. 1 JJC

Semi-palmated Sandpiper:

May 12, 14; 21 Newburyport 15, 200; 2500 RRV#; SAP
May 18 Bolton 4 ES

Hudsonian Godwit:

May 25-26 Bolton 1 1st yr. HLM#
2nd Worcester County record

Ruff:

April 29-May 12; Newburyport; Essex 1-2 f.; 2 f. SAP, RAF#; RCH
April 30
May 10-14 Newburyport 1-2 Bonnie Gard+#

Sanderling:

May 13, 28 Lynn, Monomoy 400, 1800 RHS, WRP

Red Phalarope:

May 15 Rockport 15 RHS

Wilson's Phalarope:

May 10, 17, 20 GMNWR, Bolton, Newburyport 1 f., 1, 1 f. PG, ES, HW#
May 23, 24 Newburyport, Topsfield 1 f., 1 f. DTB, RAF#

Northern Phalarope:

May 15 Scituate, Rockport, S.N. 12, 250, 461 WRP, RHS, RFP

Northern Phalarope cont.:

| | | | |
|------------|------------------|------------|---------------|
| May 16, 18 | Rockport; Nahant | 500+; 2000 | GLS; RSH, MJK |
| May 19 | Boylston | 1 | HLM |

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS

Two Parasitic Jaegers were seen from Monomoy May 14 (RAF, ICTN), and 9 were seen the same day from S.N. (RFP), while a single Pomarine was reported from Nantucket May 17 (Chester Faunce fide EFA). Six Glaucous Gulls were at P.I. March 21 (JG), where one 2nd-year bird remained until at least April 22 (WRP#). Iceland Gulls numbered 38 at Gloucester March 21 (LC), 50+ at Newburyport March 12 (WRP), 30 were there throughout April (v.o.), and two immatures remained at P.I. until at least May 24 (RRV#). An adult Lesser Black-backed Gull was found at Nantucket April 22 (SAP) for the second island record. Ring-billed Gulls in Newburyport Harbor numbered 400 March 12 and 800 March 25 (WRP), and Black-headed Gull reports included 2-3 in Newburyport Harbor throughout March (v.o.), one adult at Falmouth April 15 (MBO staff), an adult at Newburyport May 14 (BAL#), and a sub-adult at Monomoy May 28 (WRP). An immature Laughing Gull at the Hyannis Airport March 17 (VL) may well have been an undetected winterer, but 5 adults at Chatham March 30 were clearly early arrivals (HCR). Fifty Laughing Gulls were at Nahant May 27 (BEC-WF), and four additional migrants occurred along the outer coast May 13-20 between Newburyport and Boston. Little Gulls included two at Newburyport March 18-28 (v.o.), building up to a maximum of 8 adults there May 7 (RRV) with apparently no further influx later in May, one at Provincetown April 23 (MBO staff) and an immature at Monomoy May 11 (BN, CAG). An adult Sabine's Gull was seen from Sandy Neck during the NE storm May 15 (RFP). As has been the case for the last three years, 40 Black-legged Kittiwakes, predominantly sub-adults, were noted on the flats at Monomoy throughout May (v.o.); storm-blown migrants included 275 at Rockport May 15 (RHS). Terns at Monomoy numbered 1500 Common and 500 Roseate May 14 (RAF + ICTN), and 500 Commons with 300 Roseates comprised the breeding population at Bird Island, Marion, May 13 (RAF, ICTN). In addition, 8 Arctic Terns were seen at Monomoy May 28 (WRP). Twenty Common Terns were noted from Boylston on May 17 and 6-8 Roseate Terns were noted there--this being the 3rd Worcester County record. A Forster's Tern was at Chatham March 30 (BN, HCR), this being the third consecutive early spring Forster's Tern to appear; the 1976 and 1977 individuals were both in Newburyport Harbor. A Caspian Tern was at Newburyport April 22 (WRP#), one was at N. Scituate April 28 (RSH) and a third was at Newburyport May 13 (RRV#). Six wintering Black Guillemots were still at Provincetown March 11 (BN), and stragglers included one at N. Scituate May 6 (WRP) and one at P.I. May 17 (GLS). Single Common Murres appeared at Provincetown April 1 (BN, CAG) and at Nantucket in the "end of May" (EFA). Surprising were 7 Thick-billed Murres reported near Stellwagen Bank April 17 (R. Prescott). Single Black Terns were at Marion May 13 and Monomoy May 14 (RAF, ICTN).

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo:

| | | | |
|----------|--------------|-----------|------|
| May 7-31 | 9 localities | 12 indiv. | v.o. |
|----------|--------------|-----------|------|

Black-billed Cuckoo:

| | | | |
|----------|---------------|-----------|------|
| May 7-31 | 10 localities | 16 indiv. | v.o. |
|----------|---------------|-----------|------|

Only rarely discovered nesting due to their elusive and retiring nature, two Long-eared Owls were found at their nest once again in Barnstable where they were present throughout March (RFP). Furthermore, the four seen at Martha's Vineyard May 27-29 strongly suggest a nesting pair with 2 young (JFK#),

| | | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| Barn Owl: | | | | |
| 3/18-5/29 | Martha's Vineyard | 1 | | v.o., |
| Great Horned Owl: | | | | |
| 4/17,5/7 | Saugus,Peabody | 2ad.& 2yg., 1 ad.& 2 downies | | CJ,RSH |
| 5/14 | Melrose | 1 yg. | | CJ,SZ |
| Snowy Owl: | | | | |
| 3/23,25 | P.I.,Squantum | 1,1 | | MJK#,EAM |
| Barred Owl: | | | | |
| thr.Mar.,4/18 | Boston,E.Middleboro | 1,1 | | v.o.,KSA |
| 4/27,5/8 | Boxford,Boston | 2 prs.on nests,1 | | RAF,HC# |
| Long-eared Owl: | | | | |
| 3/1-21,thr.Mar. | E.Lexington,Barnstable | 2,2 | | JMA,RFP |
| 3/18,21 | Martha's Vineyard,Marblehead | 1 decd., 1 | | HLJ#,MJK staff,HW |
| 4/12,5/7 | MBO,Manchester | 1b.,1 | | JFK# |
| 5/27-29 | Martha's Vineyard | 4 | | |
| Short-eared Owl: | | | | |
| thr.Mar.,3/25 | Bridgewater,P.I. | 4,3 | | v.o.,BBC-WVC |
| 4/11-12,13 | N.Scituate | 1,1 | | PT,GRF |
| 5/27-29 | Martha's Vineyard | 1 | | JFK# |
| Saw-whet Owl: | | | | |
| thr.Mar. | Eastham,Brewster,Barnstable | 2-3,2,1 | | BN |
| 4/8,12 | MNWS | 1 | | CB# |
| 5/7 | Rockport,Truro | 1b.,1 | | ON,SZ# |
| Whip-poor-will: | | | | |
| 4/18 | Eastham | 1 | | CAG |

Virtually inexplicable was the occurrence of an as of yet unidentified Selasphorus hummingbird in Newton April 15-17 (Alison McGowan). The observer, and owner of the yard in which it fed, was quite unfamiliar with the bird, but took several excellent photographs, from which a specific identification should be readily forthcoming. The bird is either a Rufous or an Allen's Hummingbird, the range of the former favoring it as the most likely of the two to occur in the east. The first Ruby-throated Hummingbird reported was in Mt.Auburn Cemetery April 28 (JG); peak numbers were noted late in the month with 14 and 10 in Mt.Auburn on May 22 and 23, respectively (RHS).

Pileated Woodpecker:

| | | |
|------|---------------|------------------------|
| Mar. | | 5 individuals reported |
| Apr. | 10 localities | 11 individuals |
| May | 7 localities | 8 individuals |

Red-bellied Woodpecker:

| | | | |
|---------|---------|---|--------------------|
| 5/6,17 | Natick | m.& f. on nest, usurped by Starlings | EWT |
| 5/24-26 | Eastham | 1 | Bartlett's fide BN |

| | | | |
|--|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Red-headed Woodpecker: | | | |
| thr, Mar., 12-31 | Gloucester, Weston | 1, 1 | v, o, LJR |
| 3/25, thr, Apr, | Woburn | 1, 2 | GWG & v, o, |
| 5/3, 7, 14 | Gloucester, Woburn, P.I. | 1, 1, lad, | JMacD, GWG, HLM |
| 5/12, 20 | S, Easton, Lynnfield | lad, , lad, | Trish Horwart, BK# |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: | | | |
| 3/18 | Martha's Vineyard | 1 | B. Klunk# |
| 4/12-5/3 | 11 localities | 15 individuals | v, o, |
| <u>Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker:</u> | | | |
| 3/13 | Dennis | 1 | H&D Baines |

PASSERINES

The 1978 migration is perhaps best exemplified by the results obtained by the Manomet Bird Observatory; they banded a total of 2,098 birds of 96 species - fully 33% below the total for the same period in 1977. More or less pronounced wave-days occurred on May 5-6, 12-13, and 19-20, but the number of birds present at a given locality on each of those days, with the exception of the 20th, was decidedly below average. Overshooting warblers of a southern affinity were notably absent -- no Kentucky Warblers were observed, and the only Cerulean, as well as both of the Yellow-throated Warblers, occurred peculiarly during the very last days of May. Yet other southern vagrants, such as Blue Grosbeak and Summer Tanager, which typically occur earlier in the season, were recorded in near-normal numbers and at a typical season. Furthermore, a pronounced incursion of locally-breeding, later migrating species such as Indigo Bunting and Rose-breasted Grosbeak was obvious in the latter two weeks of April. The overall implication, if one may be extracted from such a seemingly voluminous assortment of records, is that meteorological conditions in late March and late April were particularly conducive to inciting migrating passerines in the southeastern United States to embark upon their flights and to continue moving north, whereas in May, they were not. Most species tended to either trickle through in small numbers throughout their typical migrating period, or bypass our region altogether.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRUSHES

A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher appeared for one day only in Rochester May 3 (Jane Stair#). MBO banded 7 Acadian Flycatchers May 20-June 5, and one other was seen and heard at P.I. May 21 (PMR). There seems little room for doubt that this species will become firmly established as a breeder on the coastal plain within the foreseeable future. The distribution of Willow and Alder Flycatchers within the state continues to perplex, with few if any consistent patterns coming to light. Habitat separation does not seem sufficient as an isolating mechanism locally, unless more rigorous habitat analysis has more to reveal. Willows were recorded at GMNWR, Lynnfield, Milton, W. Newbury, Ipswich, and Newburyport May 20-31, while Alders were recorded from Ashburnham, W. Newbury, Lexington, Belmont and Cambridge May 27-31. Note the early Purple Martins on Cape Cod. Two separate Fish Crow nests were located in Mt. Auburn Cemetery during April and May (RAF, RSH). As wild food crops dwindled towards the end of the winter, previously undetected Varied Thrushes began appearing at feeders including one at Ayer throughout March until April 3 (Robin Yates#), one at Melrose throughout March (from Dec.) (JA#), one at Bridgewater Mar. 1-19

(Mrs,McGlarnery #), one female at Swampscott March 4 (THA), one at Yarmouth-port April 1-2 (fide RAF), Reading April 2-4 (Edward Finnerty), 1 male at Berkely April 3 (F.Sweeney), Avon April 1-18 (M.Gormley) and Framingham April 13 (S.Tully), Hylocichla thrushes were generally scarce, or undetected. Following is a selective enumeration of the records:

Great Crested Flycatcher:

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| 5/11 | Dover,Newburyport | 1,1 | FRH,RPE |
| Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: | | | |
| 5/21,23,27 | P.I.,Mt,Auburn,P.I. | 4,1,1 | RHS, v.o. |
| Acadian Flycatcher: | | | |
| 5/20-6/5 | MBO | 7b. | Staff |
| 5/21 | P.I. | 1 | PMR |
| Least Flycatcher: (entire reports) | | | |
| 5/9,10 | Mt.Auburn | 1,2 | RHS,ESo |
| 5/14,16 | Middlesex Fells,Boxford | 1,4 | GWG,RHS# |
| Eastern Wood Pewee: | | | |
| 5/21,23 | Scituate,E.Middleboro | 1,1 | SSBC-RL,KSA |
| 5/26-27 | bulk of migrants | | |
| Olive-sided Flycatcher: | | | |
| 5/20-27 | 5 localities | 5-6 reported | v.o. |
| Horned Lark: | | | |
| 3/23 | Newburyport-P.I.-Salisbury | 125 | RSH,MJK |
| Tree Swallow: | | | |
| 3/19,22,23 | Eastham,Chatham,P.I. | 1,1,2 | PWC,SAP,RSH |
| Purple Martin: | | | |
| 3/22,26 | Chatham,Centreville | 1,1 | SAP,VL |
| 5/15 | Clinton 1(rare in Worc.County) | | HLM |
| Bank Swallow: | | | |
| 4/16,17 | W.Newbury,Wayland | 1,1 | RRV#,RAF |
| 4/17,22 | Westport,Concord | 1,5 | RRV#,RAF |
| 5/14 | Clinton | 200 | HLM |
| Rough-winged Swallow: | | | |
| 4/13,15 | Halifax,W.Newbury | 2,1 | WRP,WRP |
| 4/17,21 | Wayland,P.I. | 2,4 | RAF,RMB |
| Barn Swallow: | | | |
| 4/12 | | general arrival | |
| Cliff Swallow: | | | |
| 4/11 | Lynnfield | 1 | NC |
| 5/12,13 | Ipswich,P.I. | 2 prs.nest-building,5 | JWB,RPE |
| 5/27 | Eastham,P.I. | 1, "nesting colony" | WRP,PMR |
| Fish Crow: | | | |
| 3/11,12 | A.A.,Weston | 4,4 | RPD,LJR |
| 4/10 | Plymouth | 6 (1 w/nesting mat'l) | staff |
| thr.Apr.,5/1-22 | Mt.Auburn | 1 nest,1 nest(seprte) | RHS,RAF |
| 5/10,14,20 | Abington,Jamaica Plain,Hanover | 2,1-2,6 | WRP,CJ#,WRP |
| Common Crow: | | | |
| 5/11 | W.Roxbury | 1692 | RMB |
| Boreal Chickadee: | | | |
| 4/2;29 | W.Boylston;N.Scituate,Boxford | 1,1,1 | NEM#;WRP#,HTW# |
| 5/3 | Rockport | 1b. | ON |

| | | | |
|------------------------|--|-------------------|------------------|
| Red-breasted Nuthatch: | | | |
| thr. Apr. | Mt. Auburn | pr. building nest | MJL# |
| 5/29 | Lakeville | pr. nesting | WRP |
| Brown Creeper: | | | |
| Mar, | birds on territory by end of month | | |
| May | 11 localities | 12 individuals | v.o. |
| House Wren: | | | |
| 4/19,21 | Lexington, Winchester | 1,1 | MJL, GWG |
| 4/28,29 | Middlesex, Lancaster | 1,1 | NBK, HLM |
| Winter Wren: | | | |
| 4/12;13 | Wayland; P.I., Salem | 1;1,1 | DL; JJC, RSH |
| 4/13-14,16 | MNWS, P.I. | 1-2,1 | MJK, PMR |
| 5/1 | P.I. | 1 | MLB, DB |
| Carolina Wren: | | | |
| 4/9,17 | Whitman, Westport | 1,3 | SH, RRV# |
| 5/6,27-29 | Westport, Martha's Vineyard | 3,20 | RHS, JFK# |
| Gray Catbird: | | | |
| 3/8 | Martha's Vineyard, Lexington | 1,1 | G&H Champoux, PS |
| Wood Thrush: | | | |
| 5/7 | Mt. Auburn, MNWS | 1-2,1 | OK, CB |
| 5/10-12 | general arrival on breeding localities | | |
| Swainson's Thrush: | | | |
| 5/20,23 | Thompson's Is., Mt. Auburn | 16,9 | BBC-JM, RHS |
| 5/20 | Mt. Auburn, Dover | 4,6 | HHD'E, FRH |
| Gray-cheeked Thrush: | | | |
| 5/20 | Thompson's Is., Nahant, Dover | 1,5,1 | JM#, HTW#, FRH# |
| 5/22-23,27 | Mt. Auburn, Ashburnham | 1,1 | JB, RHS, HLM |
| Veery: | | | |
| 5/7-8 | first arrivals | | |
| Eastern Bluebird: | | | |
| Mar. | 4 localities | 10 individuals | v.o. |
| Apr. | 5 localities | 12 individuals | v.o. |

GNATCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS

The multitude of Northern Shrikes lingering late into April this year amplified more than ever the difficulty in reviewing the reports of early spring Loggerhead Shrikes north of the southeast coastal plain. Of the five reports received, two were in Essex County, and none were accompanied by substantiated details or even acknowledgement of rarity. Please include details with reports of this rare and difficult to identify species.

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: | | | |
| 4/15-29 | 9 localities | 20 individuals | v.o. |
| 5/2-24 | 7 localities | 15 individuals | v.o. |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet: | | | |
| 4/1 | MNWS | 12 (maximum count) | CB |
| 5/27 | Mt. Watatic | 5 (breeders?) | HLM |
| 5/29 | Lakeville | 1-3 prs. on territory | WRP |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet: | | | |
| 4/13,16,25 | P.I., Salem, MNWS | 30,50,60 | JJC, PW, CB |
| 5/20 | Newburyport | 1 | BBC-HW |
| Water Pipit: | | | |
| 3/25,4/2 | Provincetown, Lancaster | 1,15 | JG#, NEM# |

| | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 4/12,17 | Bolton,S.Dartmouth | 11,1 | HLM,DB |
| 5/19,21 | Framingham | 2,1 | RAF |
| Northern Shrike: | | | |
| Mar.-4/13 | 10 localities | 17+individuals | v.o. |
| 4/13 | P.I., | 5 | NBK#,MBO# |
| Loggerhead Shrike: | | | |
| 3/25 | Essex | 1 | PP |
| 4/1+9,8 | Wellfleet,Eastham | 1+1,1 | BN,CAG |
| 4/9,5/3 | P.I.,Wellfleet | 1,1 | R,Frescott,CAG |
| White-eyed Vireo: | | | |
| 4/30,5/13 | MNWS,Newburyport+P.I., | 1,1+2 | CB,WRP#+RCH# |
| 5/21,27 | Marshfield,W.Newbury | 1,1 | SSBC-RL,GLS |
| 5/30,31 | Framingham,Ipswich | 1,1 | RAF & KSH,JWB |
| Yellow-throated Vireo: | | | |
| 5/12,27 | Mt.Auburn,P.I., | 1,2 | BBC-JR,SJC# |
| 5/28 | Newton | 1 | MVS,Tenney Lehman |
| Solitary Vireo: | | | |
| 4/25-5/12 | 7 localities | 45 individuals | v.o. |
| 5/11,12 | Newburyport,Mt.Auburn | 12,10 | RPE,PMR |
| Philadelphia Vireo: | | | |
| 5/20 | P.I.,Newbury | 2,1 | BBC-HW,HLM |

WARBLERS

The only parulid apparently arriving early due to the weather patterns affecting so many other species was a Northern Parula found dead at Westport April 1 (Linda Liddy). An adult male Townsend's Warbler was discovered in Mt.Auburn Cemetery May 4 (MR,CJ,SZ & v.o.), where it was subsequently seen by many and identifiably photographed in color. This is the first documented state record, the only others being a sight record from Naushon Island Nov.26,1927, and of a bird purportedly banded on Nantucket in September circa 1966. A remarkable four Orange-crowned Warblers were reported from the Newburyport area May 20 (HW#).

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--|----------------|-----------------|
| Black-and-white Warbler: | | | |
| 4/29,30 | Mt.Wachusett,E.Middleboro | 1,3 | IG#,KSA |
| 4/30 | Newbury,Plymouth | 1,4 | HLM,RHS |
| Worm-eating Warbler: | | | |
| 5/10,13 | Dover,P.I. | 1,1 | J.Hallowell,RPE |
| 5/23-on | Weston | 1 | LJR,EWT# |
| Golden-winged Warbler: | | | |
| 5/13-on,19-on | W.Newbury,Framingham & Ashland, Lancaster | 1-4,1+1,1 | RCH#,RAF#,HLM |
| 5/20,25 | Lynnfield,Dover | 1,1 | BK,FRH |
| 5/29 | Ipswich | 1 | BBC-IG |
| Blue-winged Warbler: | | | |
| 5/12-21 | 5 localities | 9+ migrants | v.o. |
| 5/27-29,28 | Martha's Vineyard,W.Newbury | 12,9 | JFK#,RSH+MK |
| "Brewster's Warbler": | | | |
| 5/28 | Framingham | 1 m, | RAF |
| Tennessee Warbler: | | | |
| 5/12-28 | 8 localities | 18 individuals | v.o. |
| 5/23 | Mt.Auburn | 35 | RHS# |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|--------------------|
| <u>Orange-crowned Warbler:</u> | | | |
| 5/18,20 | Mt.Auburn,P.I. | 1,2 | NW+RPE,PMR |
| 5/20 | Newburyport,Mt.Auburn | <u>4</u> ,1 | HJ#,RHS# |
| <u>Nashville Warbler:</u> | | | |
| 5/6-20 | 8 localities | 15 individuals | v.o. |
| 5/9 | Mt.Auburn | 5 | ES |
| <u>Northern Parula:</u> | | | |
| 4/1,27-30 | Westport,Mt.Auburn | 1 dead,1 | L,Liddy,P,Spencer# |
| <u>Yellow Warbler:</u> | | | |
| 5/13,21 | W.Newbury,Saugus | 40,20 | RSH,CJ |
| <u>Magnolia Warbler:</u> | | | |
| 5/11-28 | 12 localities | 50-55 individuals | v.o. |
| <u>Cape May Warbler:</u> | | | |
| 5/10-23 | 4 localities | 12 individuals | v.o. |
| <u>Black-throated Blue Warbler:</u> | | | |
| 5/7-23 | 12 localities | 28 individuals | v.o. |
| <u>Yellow-rumped Warbler:</u> | | | |
| 4/17,30 | Saugus,Mt.Auburn | 20,40 | CJ,CCM |
| 5/8,12 | Wayland,Mt.Auburn | 75,50+ | RAF,JR# |
| <u>Townsend's Warbler:</u> | | | |
| 5/4 | Mt.Auburn | 1 ad.m. | MR,CJ,SZ,& v.o. |
| <u>Black-throated Green Warbler:</u> | | | |
| 4/29-30 | Boxford | 1-2 | RHS# |
| 5/6-29 | 12 localities | 48+ migrants | v.o. |
| <u>Cerulean Warbler:</u> | | | |
| 5/27 | Mt.Auburn,Lancaster | 1,1 | LJR+FRH#,HIM |
| <u>Blackburnian Warbler:</u> | | | |
| 5/9-28 | 9 localities | 21 migrants | v.o. |
| <u>Yellow-throated Warbler:</u> | | | |
| 5/22,30 | Mt.Auburn,MBO | 1,1b. | LJR+EWT,staff |
| <u>Chestnut-sided Warbler:</u> | | | |
| 5/9-28 | 9 localities | 20 individuals | v.o. |
| <u>Bay-breasted Warbler:</u> | | | |
| 5/13-27 | 7 localities | 50+ individuals | v.o. |
| 5/20,23 | Mt.Auburn | 10,30 | RHS# |
| <u>Blackpoll Warbler:</u> | | | |
| 5/11-on | 16 localities | 120+ individuals | v.o. |
| 5/23,26 | Mt.Auburn | 35,20 | RHS# |
| <u>Pine Warbler:</u> | | | |
| 4/6-25 | 8 localities | 28 migrants | v.o. |
| 5/27-29 | Martha's Vineyard | 25 | JFK# |
| <u>Prairie Warbler:</u> | | | |
| 5/10,18,20 | Sharon | adults,nest w/2 eggs, nest w/4 eggs | RMB |
| <u>Palm Warbler:</u> | | | |
| 4/11-5/3 | 6 localities | 105+ individuals | v.o. |
| 5/10,20 | Mt.Auburn,Milton | 1,1 | RMB,JO'R |
| <u>Ovenbird:</u> | | | |
| 5/7-on | | 25 individuals | v.o. |
| <u>Northern Waterthrush:</u> | | | |
| 4/23,29 | MNWS,Milton | 1,1 | MJK,MJL |
| 4/30 | E.Middleboro,Fall River | 3,1 | KSA,SPG |
| 5/6-25 | 20 localities | 26 individuals | v.o. |
| <u>Louisiana Waterthrush:</u> | | | |
| 4/17-on,23-24 | Boxford,Brookline | 3,1 | GLS#,D.Arvidson# |

| | | | |
|--|-------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| 4/25-31,29 | Mt,Auburn,Lancaster | 2,1 | KN#,HLM |
| plus breeding pairs in Ashland,Milton,Framingham,Dover,Lancaster | | | |
| Mourning Warbler: | | | |
| 5/21-31 | 6 localities | 8 individuals | v.o. |
| Common Yellowthroat: | | | |
| 5/9,13,21 | Mt,Auburn,Milton,Saugus | 3,16,40 | RHS,RCV,CJ |
| Yellow-breasted Chat: | | | |
| 5/13 | Bolton | 1 | N,Sampson,fide HLM |
| 5/18 | Mt.Auburn | 1 | fide CJ |
| Hooded Warbler: | | | |
| 4/22-30,5/11 | MNWS,Mt.Auburn | 1 m.,1 m. | CJB#,SD# |
| Wilson's Warbler: | | | |
| 5/11-28 | 14 localities | 24 individuals | v.o. |
| Canada Warbler: | | | |
| 5/12-on | 12 localities | 38 individuals | v.o. |
| American Redstart: | | | |
| 5/10-on | | 70 reported | v.o. |
| 5/12,20 | Mt.Auburn,Newburyport | 12,17 | PMR,HW# |

BOBOLINK THROUGH TOWHEE

Four hundred migrant Bobolinks at Plum Island May 13 was an exceptional total (PMR) and 280 were also counted in Framingham May 19 (RAF). Spring Yellow-headed Blackbirds are a comparative novelty in Massachusetts; the three adult males this spring were: one at Newburyport April 10 (R.McHale), one at Melrose April 11-12 (Beverly Stewart), and one at Medford Apr.14-23 (Mary Kelley). Of 10 spring Yellow-headed Blackbirds in Massachusetts since 1973, 2 have been adult males, 2 females, and 6 unspecified, in comparison to the vast preponderance of immature males that occurs here in the fall.

Orchard Oriole:

| | | | |
|------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| 5/7;11-20 | Mt.Auburn,Waltham;Nantucket | 1 im.m., 1 ad.m.; 1-2 im.m. | WRP,RHS;EFA. |
| 5/13;19,22 | Rowley;Woburn | 1;1 im.m.,1 ad.m. | RCH#;GWG |
| 5/20 | Whitman,Nahant | 1,1 | WRP,BK |
| 5/27-29,28 | Martha's Vineyard,Chatham | 1,3(1 im.m.,2 f.) | JFK#,WRP# |

The larger flocks of migrating Rusty Blackbirds were 20 in Lancaster March 26 (HLM), 32 at P.I. April 9 (PMR), 50 at Saugus April 9 (CJ), 45 at Lancaster April 14 (HLM), 50 at Provincetown April 30 (CAG), and 35 at Wayland May 4 (RAF). A male Brewer's Blackbird at Nantucket April 3 was surprising as to date (EFA#). Four male Summer Tanagers were noted: one at Wellfleet April 13 (fide WWB), one at Yarmouth in mid-April (fide WWB), one at Melrose and one at Nahant, both May 20 (JMA,HC#). From April 20-31 at least 7 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found on Cape Cod; additional records were one at Nahant April 22, one at Manomet April 29 (RRV#), and one at Plymouth April 30 (WRP). Blue Grosbeaks numbered 11 during the period April 14-May 11, all along the immediate coast from Gloucester to Cape Cod. Similarly, no less than 20 Indigo Buntings arrived on Cape Cod from April 13 on (fide BN); 8 others were scattered along the coast north to P.I. during the period April 20-28 (v.o.). An adult male Painted

Bunting was present at a feeder in Hyannis until at least March 5 (Mr. Mycock#). Dickcissels included one at the Hyannis feeder March 1-19 (Mycock#), one in Walpole April 23-26 (Stein), and one at Nahant which was present until May 1 (William Crawford). Evening Grosbeaks were noted migrating from mid-April through mid-May, with maxima of 115 at Framingham May 6-10 (RAF), 47 at Lexington May 7 (JMA), and 30 at Westwood May 2 (Mrs. Mawn). The May total for migrant Purple Finches was 75 from 8 localities, with none reported from Cape Cod, Pine Grosbeaks remaining into March included approximately 140 individuals from 14 localities (v.o.). One to three Hoary Redpolls were reportedly present at Beverly March 5-7 (GLS), and 2-3 in Hyannis March 11 (JJC), although, remarkably, neither included substantiating details. Observers are urged to exercise particular caution in identifying this species. As the degree of hybridization between Hoary and Common Redpolls in their region of sympatry is high, intermediate individuals are frequent. Although a "pure" Hoary Redpoll is quite unmistakable upon close examination, other individuals not so strikingly marked quite muddle the picture.

Common Redpoll:

| | | | |
|-----------|--------------|---------|---------|
| thr.Mar. | Woburn | 100 | GWG |
| 3/2,7 | DFWS,Beverly | 105,20 | RAF,GLS |
| 3/16,4/14 | Stoneham | 140,100 | MM,MM |
| 4/19 | Woburn | 30 | MM |

Of the hundreds of Pine Siskins present through mid-April and the stragglers into May, 4 nests were found in Waltham and 3 in Cambridge April 9 (RHS), and a pair with 3 young was noted in Middleboro May 14 (KSA). Similarly, Red Crossbills persisted late into the season, and a flock of up to 12 birds in Framingham throughout May (RAF), and 2 birds, including a singing adult male, at P.I. May 24 (RRV#), were each suspected of breeding, although this supposition could never be proved. The largest single flock was of 50 in Lynn April 1 (RSH). White-winged Crossbills were noted from Mt.Auburn on April 9 and 23 (TMV). Rufous-sided Towhees arrived almost two weeks behind schedule on their nesting grounds in Middleboro on May 8 (KSA), but a general arrival of migrants was noted elsewhere April 17-30.

SPARROWS THROUGH SNOW BUNTING

Migrant Fox Sparrows were particularly numerous as spring migrants following a meager fall flight and winter populations, whereas Lincoln's Sparrows were particularly scarce, reflecting a pattern exhibited by many northerly breeding passerines in May.

Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow:

3/25 P.I. 1 WRP#

Grasshopper Sparrow:

5/27,27-29 Truro,Martha's Vineyard 1,10 WRP,JFK#

Sharp-tailed Sparrow:

5/14 Monomoy 1 RAF,ICTN

Vesper Sparrow:

3/21 Newburyport 1 JG#
 4/11-on;4/16 P.I.;Framingham 2-6;3 NC#;RAF,KSH
 4/17,18 Westport,Cambridge 4,1 RRV,FB

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 4/15,22 | Woburn,S.Wellfleet | 1,10 | GWG,HHD!E |
| 4/23,29 | Marshfield,Lancaster | 1,2 | MFL,HLM |
| <u>Lark Sparrow:</u> | | | |
| until 4/16 | Needham | 1 at feeder | D.Hottle |
| <u>Tree Sparrow:</u> | | | |
| 4/22,27 | MNWS,Wayland | 1,1 | MJK,RAF |
| 5/9,10,17 | Medfield (well described) | 2,2,1 | RMB |
| <u>Chipping Sparrow:</u> | | | |
| 3/18 | Sandwich | 1 (probable winterer) | RFP |
| 3/13; 4/17,18 | Lynn;Sudbury,S.Wayland | 1;1,3 | RSH; RAF |
| <u>Dark-eyed Junco:</u> | | | |
| 5/10 | Mt.Auburn | 2 | BBC-E,Soja |
| <u>White-crowned Sparrow:</u> | | | |
| thr.Apr.-5/7 | Danvers | 2 | E.Pyburn |
| 5/26,27 | Stoneham | 1,2 | MM |
| 5/11-23 | 10 localities | 14 individuals | v.o. |
| <u>Fox Sparrow:</u> | | | |
| 4/1 | S.Peabody,Norwell | 12,8b. | RSH,BAL+MFL |
| 4/4,10 | Stoneham,MBO | 20,10+ | MM,staff |
| 4/13,20 | Mt.Auburn,MNWS | 40,1 | LT,RSH |
| 5/4 | Mt.Auburn | 1 | D.Arvidson |
| <u>Lincoln's Sparrow:</u> | | | |
| 5/14,20 | Boxford,Manchester | 1,2 | SSBC-BAL,G.Hotz# |
| 5/20 | P.I.,Boxford | 1,1 | IG,A.Scott |
| 5/24 | P.I. | 1 | RRV# |
| <u>Lapland Longspur:</u> | | | |
| 3/11,18 | Spencer,P.I. | 30,200 | D.Dineen,IG |
| 4/1,15 | P.I.,Salisbury | 50,26 | BBC-Sid Wilson, DD+DB |
| <u>Snow Bunting:</u> | | | |
| 3/13 | P.I. | 160 | RMB |
| 4/9 | P.I. | 20 | PMR |

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TIDE CHART

Here is the tide table for Boston Harbor; add one hour for Daylight Savings Time.

1978 AUGUST TIDES 1978

| Morning | BOSTON | Afternoon | Morning | BOSTON | Afternoon |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|--|---|-----------|---|
| High 5.49 Low 11.58 Sunset 4.48 | 13 | High 6.16 Height 10.2 Sunset 6.49 | High 6.09 Height 11.9 Sunset 4.56 | 20 | High 12.24 Height 11.1 Low 6.30 Height -1.5 Sunset 6.38 |
| High 6.49 Low 12.41 Sunset 4.48 | 14 | High 7.15 Height 10.5 Sunset 6.48 | High 12.47 Height 11.4 Low 6.58 Height -1.6 Sunset 4.37 | 21 | High 1.14 Height 11.1 Low 7.22 Height -1.3 Sunset 6.37 |
| High 7.52 Low 1.42 Sunset 4.50 | 15 | High 8.14 Height 10.9 Sunset 6.46 | High 1.38 Height 10.9 Low -1.1 Height 4.58 | 22 | High 2.04 Height 10.8 Low 8.15 Height -0.9 Sunset 6.35 |
| High 8.50 Low 2.40 Sunset 4.51 | 16 | High 9.13 Height 10.8 Sunset 6.44 | High 2.30 Height 10.4 Low 8.35 Height -0.5 Sunset 4.59 | 23 | High 2.54 Height 10.4 Low 9.08 Height -0.3 Sunset 6.34 |
| High 9.48 Low 3.36 Sunset 4.52 | 17 | High 10.09 Height 11.7 Sunset 6.43 | High 3.22 Height 9.6 Low 9.28 Height 0.1 Sunset 4.57 | 24 | High 3.47 Height 10.0 Low 10.03 Height 0.2 Sunset 6.32 |
| High 10.42 Low 4.28 Sunset 4.51 | 18 | High 11.02 Height 11.8 Sunset 6.41 | High 4.17 Height 9.0 Low 10.22 Height 0.1 Sunset 4.51 | 25 | High 4.40 Height 9.5 Low 10.59 Height 0.2 Sunset 6.30 |
| High 11.34 Low 5.20 Sunset 4.52 | 19 | High 11.55 Height 11.6 Sunset 6.41 | High 5.17 Height 8.5 Low 11.13 Height 0.1 Sunset 4.52 | 26 | High 5.38 Height 8.9 Low 11.59 Height 0.9 Sunset 6.29 |

1978 AUG. - SEPT. TIDES 1978

| Morning | BOSTON | Afternoon | Morning | BOSTON | Afternoon |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|--|---|----------|---|
| High 6.13 Low 12.57 Sunset 5.03 | 27 | High 6.35 Height 9.1 Low 12.15 Height 1.4 Sunset 6.27 | High 11.33 Height 9.6 Low 5.23 Height -0.3 Sunset 5.17 | 3 | High 12.10 Height 9.8 Low 5.39 Height -0.1 Sunset 6.13 |
| High 7.12 Low 12.57 Sunset 5.04 | 28 | High 7.29 Height 9.1 Low 1.11 Height -0.4 Sunset 6.26 | High 12.28 Height 10.0 Low 6.00 Height -0.4 Sunset 5.12 | 4 | High 12.10 Height 10.0 Low 6.19 Height -0.3 Sunset 6.12 |
| High 8.04 Low 1.42 Sunset 5.08 | 29 | High 8.21 Height 9.3 Low 2.03 Height 1.2 Sunset 6.22 | High 12.28 Height 10.0 Low 6.39 Height -0.2 Sunset 5.10 | 5 | High 12.49 Height 10.0 Low 7.00 Height -0.3 Sunset 6.10 |
| High 8.55 Low 2.40 Sunset 5.07 | 30 | High 9.07 Height 9.5 Low 2.53 Height 1.0 Sunset 6.21 | High 1.10 Height 9.9 Low 7.19 Height -0.3 Sunset 5.15 | 6 | High 1.29 Height 10.1 Low 7.43 Height -0.2 Sunset 6.05 |
| High 9.36 Low 3.24 Sunset 5.07 | 31 | High 9.51 Height 9.7 Low 3.36 Height 0.7 Sunset 6.19 | High 1.53 Height 10.1 Low 8.01 Height 0.0 Sunset 5.12 | 7 | High 2.14 Height 10.1 Low 8.30 Height -0.2 Sunset 6.04 |
| High 10.17 Low 4.05 Sunset 5.10 | 1 | High 10.31 Height 9.9 Low 4.18 Height 0.4 Sunset 6.17 | High 2.40 Height 9.5 Low 8.48 Height 0.2 Sunset 5.11 | 8 | High 3.01 Height 10.2 Low 9.21 Height -0.1 Sunset 6.03 |
| High 10.56 Low 4.44 Sunset 5.11 | 2 | High 11.10 Height 10.5 Low 5.00 Height 0.1 Sunset 6.15 | High 3.33 Height 9.3 Low 9.39 Height 0.4 Sunset 5.10 | 9 | High 3.54 Height 10.0 Low 10.19 Height 0.0 Sunset 6.02 |

1978 SEPTEMBER TIDES 1978

| Morning | BOSTON | Afternoon | Morning | BOSTON | Afternoon |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|--|---|-----------|---|
| High 4.29 Low 10.37 Sunset 5.19 | 10 | High 4.53 Height 10.2 Low 11.19 Height 0.0 Sunset 4.01 | High 11.13 Height 11.2 Low 4.58 Height -1.6 Sunset 5.28 | 17 | High 11.38 Height 11.2 Low 5.22 Height -1.6 Sunset 5.47 |
| High 5.29 Low 11.36 Sunset 5.21 | 11 | High 5.54 Height 10.1 Low 12.01 Height 0.1 Sunset 5.19 | High 12.00 Height 11.2 Low 6.10 Height -1.5 Sunset 5.47 | 18 | High 12.47 Height 11.1 Low 6.10 Height -1.3 Sunset 5.45 |
| High 6.33 Low 12.21 Sunset 5.22 | 12 | High 6.57 Height 10.3 Low 12.42 Height 0.4 Sunset 5.36 | High 12.26 Height 10.9 Low 6.32 Height -1.2 Sunset 5.39 | 19 | High 12.47 Height 11.1 Low 6.59 Height -1.3 Sunset 5.45 |
| High 7.36 Low 1.23 Sunset 5.23 | 13 | High 8.00 Height 10.7 Low 1.44 Height 0.0 Sunset 5.36 | High 1.14 Height 10.5 Low 7.19 Height -0.7 Sunset 5.30 | 20 | High 1.32 Height 10.7 Low 7.47 Height -0.9 Sunset 5.44 |
| High 8.35 Low 2.21 Sunset 5.24 | 14 | High 8.58 Height 11.0 Low 2.42 Height 0.5 Sunset 5.32 | High 2.01 Height 9.6 Low 8.05 Height -0.1 Sunset 5.31 | 21 | High 2.23 Height 10.3 Low 8.37 Height -0.3 Sunset 5.42 |
| High 9.30 Low 3.17 Sunset 5.25 | 15 | High 9.54 Height 11.3 Low 3.38 Height -1.0 Sunset 5.31 | High 2.52 Height 9.3 Low 8.54 Height 0.3 Sunset 5.32 | 22 | High 3.10 Height 9.8 Low 9.29 Height 0.2 Sunset 5.39 |
| High 10.23 Low 4.09 Sunset 5.27 | 16 | High 10.47 Height 11.4 Low 4.31 Height 0.1 Sunset 5.47 | High 3.43 Height 8.8 Low 9.45 Height 0.4 Sunset 5.32 | 23 | High 4.03 Height 9.3 Low 10.22 Height 0.7 Sunset 5.39 |

1978 SEPT. - OCT. TIDES 1978

| Morning | BOSTON | Afternoon | Morning | BOSTON | Afternoon |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|---|---|----------|---|
| High 4.38 Low 10.40 Sunset 5.24 | 24 | High 4.57 Height 9.0 Low 11.19 Height 1.0 Sunset 5.27 | High 10.21 Height 9.8 Low 4.12 Height -0.1 Sunset 5.42 | 1 | High 10.40 Height 9.9 Low 4.31 Height -0.2 Sunset 5.24 |
| High 5.34 Low 11.38 Sunset 5.24 | 25 | High 5.54 Height 8.8 Low 12.01 Height 0.1 Sunset 5.36 | High 11.00 Height 10.1 Low 4.49 Height -0.3 Sunset 5.42 | 2 | High 11.21 Height 10.0 Low 5.12 Height -0.6 Sunset 5.24 |
| High 6.31 Low 12.15 Sunset 5.26 | 26 | High 6.51 Height 8.8 Low 12.34 Height 1.8 Sunset 5.34 | High 11.39 Height 10.4 Low 5.30 Height -0.4 Sunset 5.43 | 3 | High 11.39 Height 10.4 Low 5.54 Height -0.8 Sunset 5.23 |
| High 7.25 Low 1.17 Sunset 5.26 | 27 | High 7.43 Height 9.0 Low 1.29 Height 1.4 Sunset 5.32 | High 12.03 Height 10.1 Low 6.10 Height -0.4 Sunset 5.44 | 4 | High 12.19 Height 10.6 Low 6.35 Height -0.9 Sunset 5.20 |
| High 8.16 Low 2.02 Sunset 5.28 | 28 | High 8.31 Height 9.2 Low 2.19 Height 1.0 Sunset 5.30 | High 12.45 Height 10.0 Low 6.53 Height -0.3 Sunset 5.45 | 5 | High 13.03 Height 10.6 Low 7.21 Height -0.8 Sunset 5.20 |
| High 9.01 Low 2.47 Sunset 5.29 | 29 | High 9.17 Height 9.5 Low 3.06 Height 0.6 Sunset 5.28 | High 1.30 Height 9.8 Low 7.35 Height -0.2 Sunset 5.46 | 6 | High 1.49 Height 10.6 Low 8.08 Height -0.8 Sunset 5.18 |
| High 9.40 Low 3.30 Sunset 5.40 | 30 | High 9.59 Height 9.7 Low 3.49 Height 0.2 Sunset 5.32 | High 2.21 Height 9.6 Low 8.26 Height 0.1 Sunset 5.47 | 7 | High 2.38 Height 10.4 Low 9.00 Height -0.9 Sunset 5.16 |

Tidal differences from Boston High Tide

- Newburyport 31 minutes later
- Scituate 5 minutes earlier
- Plymouth 5 minutes later
- Chatham (outside) 30 minutes later
- (inside) (1 hr) 54 minutes later
- New Bedford (3 hrs) 15 minutes earlier