

Exotics

A Northern Bobwhite observed at Repentigny, *Montreal* from late November to early December was probably of captive origin (N. Langlois). A Monk Parakeet was observed at Chicoutimi until Dec. 19 (R. Demers, R. Dufour). A Canary survived this exceptionally cold winter at a feeder in Beauport. The bird spent the night under the roof of a sheltered balcony; it disappeared in early March (J.-F. Rousseau). Three sightings of European Goldfinch in the Montreal area were reported.

Addenda

An adult Emperor Goose was killed by a hunter at Sainte-Marie-de-Beauce in October (N. Woo, ph.). This is the first ever recorded for the province. The condition of the bird did not indicate captivity. A live Purple Gallinule was reported from Sainte-Lucie de Beaugard, *Montmagny* Oct. 30–31 (L. Leclerc). It was described as olive-gray with several purplish feathers on the belly and the neck.

Corrigenda

Last spring Black-bellied Whistling Duck observations were coming from Commune-de-Berthier I. instead of Dupas I. The last sentence of the S.A. concerning Yellow Rail in the Summer Regional Report (AB 47: 1087) should have read: "Among them was a male banded at Cacouna June 17, recaptured there July 7, and again recaptured July 20, but this time on I. aux Grues, located about 125 km w. of the banding site (MR, PL)."

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New England Region

BLAIR NIKULA

Whew, what a winter! It was a season that will be long remembered—though more for its weather than its birds; meteorological highlights were many, but avian highlights few. Most significant among the former was over 96 inches of snow in Boston, breaking a more than 100-year record. It's not clear who was impacted more, birds or birders.

December began innocently enough, the first 25 days averaging almost 4° F above average. A couple coastal storms mid-month blew in a few pelagics and a variety of birds remained well past their normal departure dates, presumably seduced by the mild late fall and early winter. However, winter arrived with a vengeance just after Christmas and persisted unrelentingly until the third week of February. By mid-January virtually all bodies of fresh water were frozen solid, and by month's end even the larger salt water bays were solidly encrusted. The cold was accompanied by abundant snow, and even south coastal sections were buried under a deep, intractable snow cover by the end of January.

The weather's effect on the wintering avifauna is always difficult, at best, to determine, but many of the species that would have been most severely impacted, such as ground-dwellers, seemed to have vacated the area long before things turned onerous.

The bird of the winter was Bohemian Waxwing, which invaded New England in numbers far exceeding anything previously recorded. It was also a significant flight year for Common Redpolls and Pine Grosbeaks, while Boreal Chickadees, though not numerous, staged their largest incursion since 1981–1982. Although not typically considered an irruptive species, the pattern of Varied Thrush appearances in the northeast has similar characteristics, and this could certainly have been termed a flight year for

that species. Boreal raptors, on the other hand, were generally scarce this season.

Vagrants were few, but included a pair of peregrinating American White Pelicans, two Townsend's Solitaires, two Townsend's Warblers, and a Chestnut-collared Longspur. Somewhat less rare were Pacific Loon, Western and Eared grebes, Tufted Duck, Black Vulture, Yellow Rail, Painted Bunting, and Harris' Sparrow.

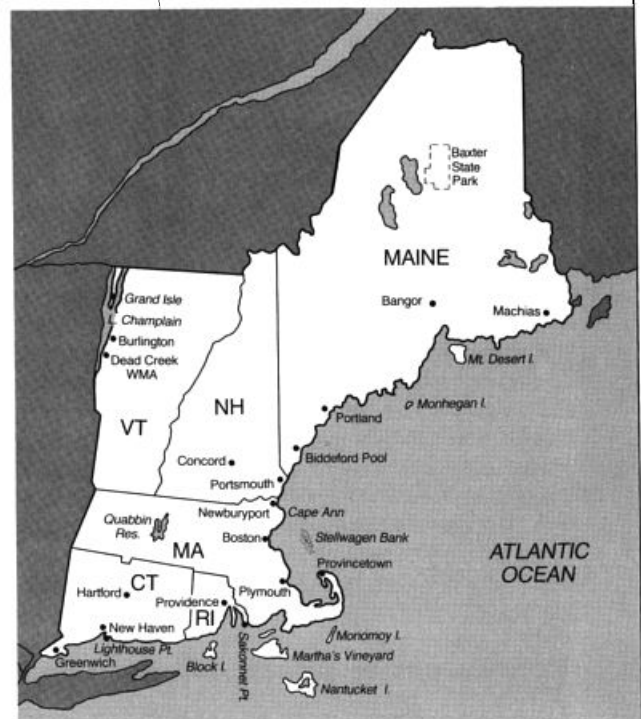
Except for a few rarities, CBC data are not included in this summary.

Abbreviations: C.C.L.&P.W.S. (*Cape Cod Lake & Pond Waterfowl Survey*); F.E. (*First Encounter Beach, Eastham, MA*); H.B.S.P. (*Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison, CT*); M.V. (*Martha's Vineyard*).

Loons to Pelicans

Red-throated Loons are among the last of the fall migrants, but >600 moving W past M.V., Jan. 12 (VL) were exceptionally late and presumably responding to the extreme weather. Perhaps related were >45 Red-throateds at Old Saybrook, CT Feb. 7 (GH), a good concentration for Long Island Sound. Meticulous details were provided for a Pacific-type loon in Brattleboro, VT Dec. 18 (W. Nichols) and one was described from Provincetown, MA Dec. 4–11 & 18 (Gd'E, v.o.). Others were reported, without details, from Westport, MA Dec. 18 (RB *et al.*) and Sachuest Pt., RI Jan. 3 (C. Raithel).

Eighty Pied-billed Grebes on the C.C.L.&P.W.S. Dec. 4–5 (CCBC) was the highest total on that survey since 1987. The sudden, severe ice-up in January resulted in



the grounding of Horned Grebes in the Berkshires of Massachusetts, where 16 birds were picked up Jan. 19–30 (*vide* SK); most survived and were later released on the coast or in the Connecticut R. Several Horned Grebes also were found along the L. Champlain shoreline in late January (*vide* JP). On the coast, the only aggregations of this species were 100 in Barnstable, MA Dec. 3 (RAF), and 98 in Fairhaven, MA Dec. 18 (JBo).

Red-necked Grebes routinely are found in small numbers on the larger inland lakes during migration, but 30 in Addison, VT Dec. 9 (S. Wetmore) was exceptional, as was a single bird in W. Springfield, MA on the curious date of Feb. 19 (*vide* SK). Perhaps related were single Red-neckeds grounded at 2 inland sites in New Hampshire Feb 16: one found in the woods at a New London ski area where it was fending off a crow (R. Leavitt), and another brought to a vet in Winchester, where it reportedly died of starvation (M. Colby). Along the coast, the species was scarce, and at least three were found dead on Cape Cod late in the period. The Eared Grebe found in Charlestown Breachway, RI in late November remained through Dec. 9 (B. Gearhart *et al.*), and another was present in Rockport, MA Jan. 25–February (D. Lane, v.o.). The amazing Western Grebe of Georgetown, ME was seen sporadically throughout the period, its 17th consecutive year there—an extraordinary example of longevity and chronic vagrancy!

The only tubenoses reported were a N. Fulmar found beached in Gloucester, MA Jan. 16 (J. Steigar), and a late, storm-blown Leach's Storm-Petrel at Pt. Judith Dec. 11 (MM). Northern Gannets again penetrated Long Island Sound: 44 were off Waterford, CT Dec. 11 (DP), and seven were off Niantic, CT Dec. 16 (DP). However, gannets apparently vacated the remainder of the Region early, 800 in Eastham, MA Dec. 6 (BN) being the only sizable concentration seen. Two American White Pelicans, presumably the same birds seen on Cape Cod in November, were seen at various locations on the Rhode Island coast Dec. 31–Feb. 28 (*vide* DE), and at H.B.S.P., Feb. 18 (JG *et al.*).

Hérons to Waterfowl

Only 4 species of herons were reported this season. Late, solitary Great Egrets at Fairfield, CT Dec. 3 (C. Barnard) and Greenwich, CT Dec. 16 (B. O'Toole) may have been the same bird; another was in Fall River, MA Dec. 24 (S. Davis). A total of six Black-crowned Night-Hérons in Massachusetts during January was further evidence of that species' continuing decline as a winterer in the Region. An Am. Bittern in Harwich Feb. 8 (BN) had somehow survived the season's brutality.

Continuing from the fall were as many as 11 Tundra Swans in Little Compton, RI Dec. 1–18 (DE *et al.*), and two were in Coventry, RI Feb. 4 (J. Zbyrowski). Farther north, three Tundras overwintered in Naples, ME (v.o., *vide* JD). The season's token Greater White-fronted Goose was in Hamilton, MA Dec. 1 (B. Drew). As is now customary, a few Snow Geese, mostly singles, were found in s. New England in December and January, but were the nine over Hinsdale, NH Feb. 24 (D.&B. Peak) overwintering or extremely early migrants? A "Blue" Snow Goose overwintered in Southbury, CT (RN, v.o.). A Barnacle Goose in S. Dartmouth, MA Feb. 6 (*vide* RHS) was unbanded.

A "Eur." Green-winged Teal was in White Brook, RI Jan. 18 (RB), the 3rd consecutive year at that locale. Eighty-six N. Pintail in Westport, MA Dec. 5 (MB) was a sizable seasonal gathering. Tardy Blue-winged Teal were found on Nantucket Dec. 8 (JP *et al.*); at Sakonnet Pt., RI Dec. 18 (DE); and in Marstons Mills, MA Jan. 30 (PT). A total of 30 N. Shovelers in Rhode Island during December (*vide* DE) was exceptional. But Gadwall numbers seemed down somewhat from recent peaks, although 150 on the C.C.L.&P.W.S. was just short of the 10-year high on that survey (C.C.B.C.). Eurasian Wigeon numbered a modest one–two in Connecticut, two in Rhode Island, and four in Massachusetts.

Redheads totaled >40 birds in Connecticut, >20 in Massachusetts, and two in Rhode Island where they are quite rare. A Ring-necked Duck in Charlotte, VT Jan. 10 (JP) was very late that far n. A ♂ Tufted Duck appeared again in Greenwich, CT Feb. 12 & 26–27 (T. Burke *et al.*) and another was in Narrow R., RI Jan. 26–Feb. 28 (W. Eddelman *et al.*). The wintering flock of Greater Scaup in Greenwich Harbor, CT was estimated at >10,000 birds Feb. 12 (GH, m.ob.). Common Eider were generally scarce, although many thousands were in Cape Cod Bay off Dennis in late January (A. King, v.o.), and 8000 between Sakonnet Pt. and Sachuest Pt. was "by far the largest number ever recorded" in Rhode Island (DE). King Eiders were very few, numbering three in Rhode Island, only two in Massachusetts, and about seven in Maine.

Peak counts of Harlequin Ducks at some traditional sites were 87 in the area of Sachuest Pt., RI Dec. 18 (*vide* DE); 37 on M.V. during January (VL); 17 in Rockport, MA during January (RAF, v.o.); and 24 in Ogunquit, ME (*vide* WT). A ♀ Harlequin in Burlington, VT Dec. 20 († S. Morrill) was a good find inland. Three thousand Com. Goldeneyes on Nantucket Jan. 12 (E. Andrews *et al.*) was the largest regional aggregation in many years, and presumably

reflected the severe icing farther north Barrow's Goldeneyes returned to their now traditional sites on the Connecticut R.: a male was in Holyoke, MA Dec. 18–Jan. 12 for the 4th consecutive winter (*vide* SK), and one–two were in Enfield, CT Jan. 23–Feb. 28 (C. Ekroth, m.ob.). Although Barrow's were numerous along the coast, the peak of 48 at their regional stronghold in Belfast, ME (*vide* WT), was more than found at all other sites combined. Ruddy Ducks continued to be found in below-normal numbers, with the exception of 40 in W. Newbury Dec. 8 (RH).

Vultures to Shorebirds

As many as four Black Vultures were in New Milford, CT Jan. 27–Feb. 28 (GH *et al.*) Turkey Vultures again overwintered in good numbers, despite the severe weather: they were numerous in Connecticut with counts of ≤40 birds (*vide* BK), ≥35 were present in Alton, RI during February (DK), a few were found in e. Massachusetts, and singles were at 2 sites in Maine during late January (*vide* JD). Ospreys lingered in Barnstable, MA Dec. 4 (TA), and Athol, MA Jan. 1 (D. Chickering). Bald Eagles continued to thrive as evidenced by 75 in Connecticut on the statewide eagle census in early January.

The accipiter picture was mixed. Sharp-shinned Hawks were reported in above average numbers in w. Massachusetts (*vide* SK), but seemed very scarce elsewhere. Cooper's continued to be numerous just about everywhere, but N. Goshawks were few and far between. Overwintering Red-shouldered Hawks continued to increase; there were no less than 16 in Massachusetts, five in New Hampshire, and one in Freeport, ME Jan. 1 (*vide* WT). Rough-legged Hawks were scarce in December, but there was a noticeable influx, at least in s. coastal areas, during January Two Golden Eagles (one adult, one immature) wintered at Quabbin, MA (*vide* SK), and up to two immatures were found in Canaan, CT Feb. 19–28 (*vide* BK). Peregrine Falcons numbered about three in Rhode Island, nine in Massachusetts, a "few" in Vermont, and two each in New Hampshire and Maine. It was definitely an off year for Gyrfalcons; two were reported in Maine (*vide* WT), and "just a few" in Vermont (*vide* JP), but none elsewhere.

During an extreme storm-tide, a Yellow Rail flew across the road in front of an observer in W. Barnstable, MA Dec. 16 (G. Martin). A Clapper Rail in Fairhaven, MA Jan. 2 (DZ) was the only one reported, as were two Com. Moorhens in Chatham, MA Dec. 1 (JS *et al.*). Although the total of eight Am. Coot on the C.C.L.&P.W.S. Dec. 4–5 was the 2nd lowest in 10 years (CCBC), numbers elsewhere in s. New

England were the highest in recent memory; maximum counts included >90 in Litchfield, CT Dec. 5 (GH); 212 in Portsmouth, RI Dec. 3 (DE); 125 in S. Kingston, RI Dec. 26 (DK); and 160 in Plymouth, MA Jan. 15 (ML). A Sandhill Crane in Sharon, CT Dec. 14 (W. Grinrod) was a fall holdover.

The shorebird variety was better than in recent winters. Procrastinating plovers included a Semipalmated in Eastham, MA Dec. 12–19 (JS *et al.*), and another in Old Lyme, CT Dec. 8–25 (HG *et al.*), the latter joined by a Piping Plover Dec. 8–31 (HG *et al.*). Northernmost of the several wintering Killdeer were two birds in Pembroke, ME Jan. 17 (*vide* WT); singles in Cape Elizabeth, ME and at 2 sites in Vermont during a brief warm spell Feb. 19–21 likely were early migrants. Tardy Am. Oystercatchers were at H.B.S.P., Dec. 5 (JG); on the Old Lyme CBC Jan. 2 (*vide* BK); and in Fairhaven, MA Dec. 25–Jan. 1 (DZ). Ten Greater Yellowlegs in Hyannis, MA Dec. 4 (TA *et al.*) was a good early winter count; four persevered until at least Jan. 29 (PT). Two Hudsonian Godwits on Plum I., Dec. 4 (S. Moore) established a record-late date for Massachusetts and apparently the Region.

Ruddy Turnstones numbered 30 at Sachuest Pt., RI Feb. 2 (S. Mitra) and 58 at 3 sites in Massachusetts (*vide* RHS). A lingering W. Sandpiper joined the plovers in Old Lyme, CT Dec. 29–Jan. 2 (HG *et al.*). Unprecedented was a Short-billed Dowitcher heard and studied at point-blank range on M.V., Jan. 18–Feb. 28 (VL, v.o., ph.); the previous late date for the Region was from the same location Dec. 2, 1979. Late storm-blown Red Phalaropes at F.E. numbered 16 Dec. 16 (W. Bailey), two Dec. 17 (RAF), and three Dec. 22 (KJ).

Jaegers to Alcids

The December storms also produced a number of Pomarine Jaegers at F.E.: 48 Dec. 6 (BN); 21 Dec. 12 (RAF); and a total of 11 others through Dec. 22. Six or more additional jaegers, unidentified to species, were seen there through Dec. 17, while a Parasitic Jaeger was reported from Charlestown Breachway, RI Dec. 19 (MM).

The season's only Laughing Gulls were two on Nantucket Dec. 31 (JPa). Single Little Gulls were in New Haven, CT Jan. 3 (N. Currie), and Pemaquid, ME Feb. 1 (*vide* WT). Common Black-headed Gulls totaled a well below average ≥ 20 Regionwide, with peaks of eight in Winthrop, MA (*vide* RHS) and six at Watchemoket Cove, RI (*vide* DE), their 2 strongholds. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were found at 4 sites in Connecticut, one site in Rhode Island, 5 sites in Massachusetts, and one in Maine. A color-banded

Glaucous Gull was an intriguing find 5 mi. e. of Boston Jan. 12 (D. Breen), its origins as yet unknown. Adult-plumaged gulls identified as Herring x Great Black-backed hybrids were in Lynn, MA Jan. 1 (J. Quigley) and New Bedford, MA Jan. 31 (JBo). Two Black-legged Kittiwakes were a rare find in Long Island Sound at Niantic, CT Dec. 16 (DP), and storm-blown birds at F.E. numbered 1100 Dec. 6 (BN) and 800 Dec. 22 (KJ); however, the species was virtually absent from the Region after the first of the year.

Thirty or so Dovekies were reported from Maine to Cape Cod during December, but only three were found after Jan. 1. No murres of either species were reported until the end of January, when there was a small influx from Maine to Cape Cod, involving primarily Thick-billed and numbering perhaps 2 dozen birds. Razorbills were scarce, except for 400 at F.E., Dec. 17 (RAF) and 500 in Provincetown, MA Jan. 30 (R. Abrams). A total of eight Atlantic Puffins on Cape Cod on 4 dates was above average.

Owls to Woodpeckers

The only Barn Owls outside of their island strongholds were two in Massachusetts and one in Connecticut. Snowy Owls were widely distributed in only modest numbers; approximate statewide totals were one in Connecticut, two in Rhode Island, ≥ 30 in Massachusetts, "just a few" in Vermont, two in New Hampshire, and about six in Maine. A N. Hawk Owl was reported without details from Nobleboro, ME Feb. 14 (*vide* JD, WT). The only Great Gray Owl sightings were in Vermont, where one was in Braintree Jan. 17 (B. Carter); perhaps the same bird was in Sharon Jan. 26 (K. McKeever) and one was well-described from S. Londonderry Feb. 6 (WN). Long-eared Owls numbered six in Connecticut (including four at H.B.S.P. throughout most of the period); seven in Massachusetts; two in Vermont; and one in Maine. Once again there was a dearth of Short-eared Owls, the Regionwide total apparently <20 birds.

Four Red-headed Woodpeckers were in Winter Harbor, ME Dec. 1–Feb. 10+ (E. Hodgkins); Marstons Mills, MA Dec. 28 (R. Jenkins *et al.*); Lonsdale, RI Dec. 4–Feb. 28 (R. Enser); and Mansfield, CT throughout the period (L. Bevier *et al.*). Red-bellied Woodpeckers continued to consolidate their hold in c. New England: no less than 55 were found in Massachusetts, and >9 were reported from the n. 3 states. Six Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers carried into January, two in Rhode Island and four in Massachusetts, and one was reported from Mt. Desert I., ME Feb. 13 (*vide* WT). A Black-backed Woodpecker in Watertown, MA Jan. 13 (A. Bennett) was the only one s. of n. New England.

Flycatchers to Thrushes

As usual, a few E. Phoebes lingered into December, but none was noted after the first of the year. A W. Kingbird in S. Boston Dec. 19 (D. Brown) was unique. Four December Tree Swallows included three on Nantucket Dec. 28 (W. Cochran). A Fish Crow in Durham, NH Feb. 19 (M. Davis) was out-of-place. As many as 18 Com. Ravens in Canaan (JG) apparently established a record-high count for Connecticut. For the first time since 1981–1982, Boreal Chickadees moved S in numbers: there were perhaps >14 in Massachusetts, and one at a feeder in Little Compton Dec. 27 (C. Mercer, *vide* DE) furnished a very rare Rhode Island occurrence. A profusion of Red-breasted Nuthatches was present throughout most of the Region; in Rhode Island they staged the "largest irruption in years" (DE), while in w. Massachusetts Kellogg described an "unbelievable abundance; twice previous highs."

Carolina Wrens continued to set records in December, but by season's end there was some evidence that the deep, persistent snow cover had put a dent in numbers. Several House Wrens lingered into December, and at least two Marsh Wrens remained on Nantucket Jan. 2 (Gd'E). Golden-crowned Kinglets were sparsely distributed across the Region; a seasonal total of 26 in w. Massachusetts was the lowest since 1982 (*vide* SK). Ruby-crowned Kinglets, on the other hand, seemed to be just about everywhere in s. New England in December, and at least seven lingered into January in Massachusetts.

Eastern Bluebirds drew very mixed reviews, from "another big year" in w. Massachusetts (SK) to "sharply down" in Vermont (JP). A Townsend's Solitaire in Southbury Dec. 18 through at least Feb. 10 (N. Currie, v.o.) provided Connecticut's first confirmed record; 2 previous reports (May 7–8, 1939 and Nov. 12 & 24, 1983) are considered hypothetical by Zeranski and Baptist (*Connecticut Birds*, 1990). Massachusetts' 5th Townsend's Solitaire, first discovered in November, remained in Hingham through Jan. 1 (D. Cooper, m.ob.). The heavy snows apparently forced Hermit Thrushes out into the open, as at least 22 were noted in e. Massachusetts during January; one particularly hardy individual was in Shaftsbury, VT Feb. 2 (L. Johnson). As many as 2000 Am. Robins were counted going to roost in the Great Swamp in Rhode Island during late February (*vide* DE), but otherwise the species was relatively scarce. After last year's complete absence, Varied Thrushes returned in force; no less than 11 individuals comprised the species largest invasion since 1977–1978. As usual, most were in Massachusetts, where at least seven were found;

Vermont had one in Shaftsbury Feb. 5+ (C. Van Kellren *et al.*); Connecticut had two, one in Avon Jan. 15–Feb. 28 (J. Kaplan *et al.*) and another in Killingworth Jan. 19–25 (m.ob., *fide* BK); and Maine had a single bird in Wiscasset from mid-January through at least Feb. 8 (J. Frank, m.ob.).

Thrashers to Shrikes

At least ten Brown Thrashers in January—three in Maine, one in New Hampshire, and six in Massachusetts—was well above normal.

SA Bohemian Waxwings staged the largest flight ever recorded in New England. Their abundance this winter perhaps was best summarized by the comments of some contributors who compared them—only somewhat facetiously—to starlings! Peak numbers invariably occur in Maine, particularly in Orono where as many as a few hundred can be found some years. This year the flock at Orono was estimated at over 1000 birds (*fide* WT) and another flock farther south in Lewiston numbered 1200 Dec. 30 (D. Haines). Flocks of >100 birds were reported from at least 14 other Maine locations. In New Hampshire flocks of ≤250 were found (*fide* RS), while in Vermont there were flocks numbering >300 birds (*fide* JP).

In Massachusetts, the total number of Bohemians present probably exceeded 3000. To put this in perspective, consider the statewide total of >330 during 1968–1969, the year of the largest previously recorded flight. Indeed, that statewide total was surpassed in a single locale this year: 415 in Hardwick (ML, v.o.)! Although the birds were found nearly statewide, including outer Cape Cod and Nantucket (but not on M.V.), they apparently ran into a wall at Massachusetts' s. border: Observers in Rhode Island were disappointed to find none, and the only birds in Connecticut were in a single flock of up to a dozen birds in the state's n.w. corner in Goshen Feb. 14–28 (N. Proctor, m.ob.).

Although Bohemians were present in the northern 3 states at the beginning of the season and were recorded on many CBCs, none were found in the s. half of the Region in December (although a couple of reports in late November presaged what was to come). The first flocks appeared, curiously, on Cape Cod; it was not until late January, however,

that flocks arrived in interior Massachusetts. Despite their abundance, the birds were characteristically nomadic and some observers invested considerable effort tracking them down.

Cedar Waxwings, although generally outnumbered by their larger congeners, were fairly numerous in many areas; flocks of ≤200 were seen in New Hampshire and e. Massachusetts, and 400 were in Williamsburg, MA Jan. 22 (*fide* SK). Northern Shrikes stayed home: Only seven were noted in Maine, none in New Hampshire, “just a few” in Vermont (*fide* SP), and only four in Massachusetts. A sketchy, unconvincing description was received of a Loggerhead Shrike in Sugar Hill, NH Dec. 31–Jan. 1.

Vireos to Towhees

Lingering vireos included a White-eyed in Little Compton Dec. 18 (F. Pratt *et al.*), and a Solitary in Cotuit, MA Dec. 11 (TA). Dawdling warblers were a Nashville in Boston Dec. 1–19 (TA); a Black-throated Blue in Cambridge, MA Dec. 11 (B. Stevens, *fide* RHS); Prairies in Woods Hole, MA Dec. 3 (TA), and on the Thomaston-Rockland CBC Dec. 18 (*fide* WT); an Am. Redstart in New Haven, CT Dec. 24 (RN *et al.*); an Ovenbird in Ipswich Dec. 24–Jan. 4 (JB); and a Wilson's in Woods Hole, MA Dec. 4 (PT). Two Townsend's Warblers appeared: a female at a feeder in Portland Dec. 15–Jan. 5 (D. Frye, ph.), Maine's first or second, pending acceptance of a sight record on Monhegan I. last September, and another female in Barnstable, MA Dec. 28 (†RAF *et al.*). Pine Warblers were widely reported in e. Massachusetts after the first of the year, no less than 22 being reported, most, if not all, at feeders. Following an above-average number of Yellow-breasted Chats on s. coastal CBCs, three were noted in January, two in Rhode Island and one on Cape Cod.

A W. Tanager in Manomet, MA Dec. 29 (J. Atwood) was the only of its clan this season, as was a Dickcissel in Cambridge, MA Jan. 5 (*fide* RHS). No details were received for a Blue Grosbeak which reportedly visited a feeder in Goulsboro, ME throughout most of December (*fide* WT). Painted Buntings again invaded Cape Cod; most astonishing was the reappearance of a male throughout the period at the same feeder in Brewster where presumably the same bird spent last winter (A. Furman *et al.*), while females were discovered in Eastham Dec. 19 (C. Neill *et al.*), and Barnstable Dec. 28 (†RAF *et al.*). Forty-one Rufous-sided Towhees in e. Massachusetts during January was noteworthy.

Sparrows to Icterids

Even before the snow started to pile up, sparrows were scarce—did they know what was coming? Rare sparrows included Clay-colored in Barnstable, MA Dec. 28 (RAF *et al.*), and on Nantucket Jan. 19–Feb. 28 (F. Reed *et al.*); Lark Sparrows in Portsmouth, NH Jan. 24–25 (S. Mirick *et al.*), and in Bridgewater, MA Jan. 1–Feb. 28 (K. Weinheimer); and a Harris' Sparrow in Dartmouth Feb. 4–28 (TA, m.ob.). Late was a Grasshopper Sparrow in Peabody, MA Jan. 3 (RH); Lincoln's Sparrows in Colchester, VT Dec. 19 (C. Provost), and in Sunderland, MA Dec. 26 (*fide* SK); and at least 40 White-crowned Sparrows in Vermont and s. New England. Contrary to the general trend, a total of 32 Savannah Sparrows in w. Massachusetts was termed “a lot” (*fide* SK). An “Oregon” Dark-eyed Junco in Hadley, MA throughout the period (*fide* SK) was the only one reported.

A bird identified as a Chestnut-collared Longspur was photographed in Salisbury, MA Dec. 31 (G. Purcell) and was seen by a few others through Jan. 9, but no details or photos had been received as of this writing. The heavy snows undoubtedly depressed E. Meadowlark numbers, a total of 29 in e. Massachusetts during January being only about a fifth of last year's elevated levels. As many as 68 Rusty Blackbirds in the Sudbury-Wayland, MA area through at least late January (K. Hamilton *et al.*) was an exceptional winter assemblage. No details were received for a ♂ Brewer's Blackbird reported at a feeder in Springfield, MA Jan. 28–Feb. 25, which was joined by a female Feb. 20 (H. Bates, *fide* SK). Few N. Orioles lingered, although two in Portland, ME Jan. 11 (*fide* WT) were notable at that date and latitude.

Winter Finches

Although the flight of irruptive finches involved primarily 2 species, it nonetheless was the best in many years—which is not saying much. Pine Grosbeaks were one of the featured visitors, and were widely found from n. New England south into the w. half of Massachusetts. In Maine there were over a 100 reports of flocks numbering ≤50 birds (*fide* WT, JD); in New Hampshire the peak count was 75 birds (*fide* RS); while the “many reports” in Vermont were of “mostly small flocks” (*fide* JP). The highest count occurred in Massachusetts, where 170 were estimated in Athol Dec. 12 (B. Fregeau) and there were many other reports from the w. part of the state, mostly in the hills, making it the best flight there in well over a decade. However, the species was virtually absent from e. Massachusetts, completely absent from Rhode Island, and in Connecticut

only a couple of small flocks penetrated into the n.w. corner of the state.

Purple Finches were once again very scarce, most strikingly in Vermont where Peterson indicated that there were "no reliable reports"! Crossbills were similarly few and far between, with Reds marginally more numerous than White-wingeds. Across the n. tier of states only 4–5 reports of Red Crossbills were received, while farther south there were several reports from c. Massachusetts, a few from n. Rhode Island, and a group of ≤ 20 birds in Goshen, CT during the latter half of the period. White-winged Crossbills were even harder to find in n. New England, with only one report each from Maine and New Hampshire, and none from Vermont, several reports from Massachusetts, and single birds in Rhode Island and at 2 sites in Connecticut.

Common Redpolls were far and away the most widespread and abundant of the n. finches; they were found from one end of the Region to the other, in flocks often numbering >100 , up to a maximum of 400 birds. Although there seemed to be some seasonal fluctuation in numbers from one area to another, no obvious Regionwide pattern was apparent. It did seem that in most places the birds stayed away from feeders until the latter half of the season. A redpoll in S. Londonderry Jan. 6–Feb. 7 was identified as the Greenland race *nostrata* (WN), but no details were submitted. Not surprisingly, given the magnitude of the redpoll flight, there was a flurry of Hoary Redpoll reports, most of them, regrettably, lacking documentation. At least a dozen sightings in Maine included an eyebrow-raising report of 15 in Ft. Kent (*fide* WT). New Hampshire had five Hoaries, three of them well documented (*fide* RS), and there were five or six in Vermont (*fide* JP). Southernmost Hoaries were two–three in Massachusetts (*fide* RHS) and one in Little Compton, RI (RB).

Pine Siskins presented a feast or famine scenario, mostly the latter, as very few were present in n. New England and they were essentially absent from the coastal plain in s. New England. However, there were a handful of sizable flocks in c. Massachusetts, including 250 birds in Athol, MA Jan. 9 (D. Small), and a few smaller flocks were noted in the n. portions of Rhode Island and Connecticut. Evening Grosbeaks were widely distributed across interior New England, but were nowhere numerous, and were once again virtually absent from the s. coastal plain.

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Hudson-Delaware Region

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The Great Winter of 1993–1994 combined the record-low temperatures of 1976–1977 with the record snowfalls of 1977–1978. Add in the brutal ice storms in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and especially south Delaware, and it was one of the most difficult birding winters in recent memory.

It was the snowiest winter on record in several areas across the Region. Barnes Corners, New York tallied 350 inches of snow for the season, five feet of which fell in 24 hours January 18–19. Record-low temperatures were set in cities too numerous to mention, with -48° F being the lowest at Crown Point, New York Jan. 27. By mid-January, most major bodies of water—including rivers, bays, and inlets as far as south-central New Jersey—were ice-locked. Avian mortality was surely affected, but the extent of losses, as always, was difficult to gauge. The sub-zero temperatures were prolonged, but not as much as in 1976–1977,

