

# New England



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Once again, New England birders were left wondering what “winter” really meant in 2001-2002. In fact, the season as a whole was the warmest in 122 years, with only one winter averaging warmer in the 138 years for which consistent records have been kept for the Region. As a result, even northern lakes remained open well into Feb (New Hampshire’s Lake Winnepesaukee never completely froze for “the first time in memory”), and waterfowl lingered north and inland in largely unprecedented numbers. Sorting through some of these numbers is a largely mind-boggling task, but suffice it to say that loons, grebes, and ducks set records throughout the Region. Not to be left out, unexpected wading birds were reported from coastal areas as far north as New Hampshire. Finally, as has become expected in this column in recent years, half-hardies were everywhere. In addition to multiple Yellow-rumped Warblers in Vermont and interior New Hampshire, there was no better an indication of this trend than a single feeder in Rye, New Hampshire. Starting in late January, when a Yellow-breasted Chat was called in to the Audubon Society of New Hampshire, this single yard hosted the chat, a Gray Catbird, an Eastern Towhee, and a

Carolina Wren—often all at the same time. If anyone needs further evidence of the decidedly unwinterlike conditions, several species set record “late” dates for the Region, including species as varied as Lesser Yellowlegs, Pomarine Jaeger, and Northern Waterthrush. Meanwhile, there was a moderate invasion of Bohemian Waxwings, Pine Grosbeaks, White-winged Crossbills, and Common Redpolls, some of which even made it to southeastern Massachusetts and its offshore islands. In among all the broader Regional trends, there were of course a few rarities, including, but certainly not limited to, Rhode Island’s second winter Brown Pelican, a veritable invasion of Barnacle Geese (pending the usual discussion of origins), *Selasphorus* hummingbirds in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, Maine’s Sage Thrasher continuing a few days beyond November, and the first Bullock’s Oriole in New Hampshire in over 25 years.

**Abbreviations:** Charlotte (Charlotte Town Beach, Addison, VT), First Encounter (First Encounter Beach, Barnstable, MA), M.V. (Martha’s Vineyard, MA), Nantucket (Nantucket I., MA), Ogunquit (Ogunquit, York, ME), P.I. (Plum I., Essex, MA), P’town (Provincetown, Barnstable, MA), Quabbin (Quabbin Res., w. MA), Rockport (Rockport, Essex, MA).

## LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

Noteworthy Red-throated Loons included 2 birds lingering on L. Champlain at Charlotte through at least 16 Feb (TM). As another indication of the amount of open water on L. Champlain, 103 Common Loons and 87 Horned Grebes were at Charlotte 2 Dec and 19 Feb, respectively (TM). In w. Massachusetts, 14 Common Loons were still on Quabbin 11 Jan. Along the coast, Pacific Loons were reported from Rockport 24 Jan—16 Feb, P’town 24-26 Feb, and Ogunquit 5 Jan. Eared Grebes were at Sandy Neck, Barnstable, MA 13 Jan; E. Lyme, New London, CT early Dec—4 Jan (2nd year at this location); and Third Beach, Newport, RI 24 Jan (JSJ); the Gloucester, Essex, MA, bird returned for its 7th winter. Yet another Eared Grebe was reported from Grande Isle, Grande Isle, VT 4 Dec (D. Hoag) and awaits review by the Vermont Records Committee. Meanwhile, Western Grebes made brief appearances in Portland, Cumberland, ME 18 Dec and Rye, NH 24 Feb.

Regular pelagic trips aboard a research vessel studying hagfish allowed birders a rare opportunity to sample the avifauna around Jeffrey’s Ledge off New Hampshire and ne Massachusetts. On 3 Dec, this trip tallied 75 Northern Fulmars, 2 Greater Shearwaters, and 250 Northern Gannets (JB), while on 17 Jan there were 25 fulmars and numerous alcids. At the other end of the season, observers at First Encounter tallied 85 fulmars and 350 gannets 18 Feb. Greater Shearwaters were also seen from shore in Dec, with one at Gloucester 10 Dec and 5 from Cape Elizabeth, Cumberland, ME 15 Dec. There were some exceptional onshore counts of Northern Gannets in mid-Dec, many on C.B.C.s. On 15 Dec, there were 400 from Cape Elizabeth and 800 from First Encounter. A few days earlier, there were an estimated 4200 at Nantucket on 12 Dec. A total of 9 Double-crested Cormorants in Newburyport, Essex, MA 25 Jan (JB) is unusual for mid-winter, even in Massachusetts. However, the pelecaniform of the season is without doubt the **Brown Pelican** seen at Fort Wetherill, Jamestown, Newport, RI 15 Jan (J. Powell), the 3rd consecutive winter record for the Region and the 2nd for the Ocean State.

While pelagic species and inland loons made headlines in the east and north, Connecticut birders probably had flashbacks to the breeding season, at least as far as heron diversity was concerned. All the following species were reported in the Nutmeg State at one point or another: American Bittern, Great Egret, Snowy Egret (Groton, New London through 9 Jan), Little Blue Heron (Stratford, Fairfield through 1 Jan), and Green Heron, as well as the more expectable

Black-crowned Night-Heron and Great Blue Heron. Great Egrets were also in Rhode Island, se Massachusetts, and inland at Longmeadow, *Hampden*, MA 15-18 Dec. Rounding out the Region's list of winter ardeids were a Cattle Egret at Falmouth, *Barnstable*, MA 8 Dec, and another on M.V. throughout Dec. Black Vultures made a major move to the east, if a group of 10-15 roosting with Turkey Vultures in Ashway, *Washington*, RI 26 Jan is any indication. Even farther afield were one in Westport, *Bristol*, MA 3 Dec, and 2 in Maine: Popham Beach, *Sagadahoc* 21 Jan (ph. G. Pennington); and Portland 28 Feb (*vide* J. Walker). Turkey Vultures in weird places, whether overwintering birds or migrants with unusual timing, included individuals at Brandon, *Rutland*, VT 20 Jan; Hancock, *Hillsboro*, NH 25 Jan; and Bar Harbor, *Hancock*, ME 10 Feb (WT).

## WATERFOWL

Open fresh water was everywhere in New England this winter, and as a result so were waterfowl. At least 11 Greater White-fronted Geese spent part of the winter in the Region, including at least 5 in Massachusetts, one in Connecticut, and 5 in Rhode Island. These numbers are about usual for the Region, although 2 of Massachusetts' birds were in the w part of the state at Southwick, *Hampden* throughout Feb. A **Ross's Goose** at Trustom Pond 4-12 Dec provided the first fully documented record for the Ocean State (ph., JSJ).

A group of 15 Tundra Swans appeared in

Colchester, *Chittenden*, VT 3 Dec (TM). By late Dec, this flock had split in 2, with a group of 11 to the s. in Shelburne and a group of 4 to the n. in Milton (both *Chittenden*), where they remained into mid-late Jan. Five spent most of the winter at Coventry, *Kent*, RI, and 4 appeared briefly at Westport, MA at the end of Feb. A Whooper Swan of captive origin swan appeared St. Albans, *Chittenden*, VT 30 Dec and was seen again at Ferrisburgh, *Addison*, VT 2 Feb (TM). The bird in question spent the winter in the company of 2 Mute Swans, thus giving the Green Mountain State the dubious honor of hosting three species of swan this winter.

Many dabbling ducks remained n. or inland in higher than usual numbers, but none more so than Northern Shovelers. At least 37 were reported in the Region this winter, including 7 in Connecticut, 9 in Rhode Island, 17 in Massachusetts, 3 in New Hampshire (Rochester, *Strafford*, 18 Dec—20 Feb), and one in Maine (Lamoine, *Hancock*, 13 Feb). Gadwall were much more common in Vermont than is usual in winter, with up to 17 reported at various locations on L. Champlain. Eurasian Wigeon numbers were roughly normal, including 2 in New Hampshire, 7 in Massachusetts, 4 in Rhode Island, and 3 in Connecticut. Is Common Teal (the Eurasian race of Green-winged Teal) increasing in North America? There were 4 reported in s. New England this winter: 2 in Massachusetts and one each in Rhode Island and Connecticut. The latter was briefly accompanied by a hybrid Common x Green-winged Teal.

Among the diving ducks, the star of the show was Ring-necked Duck. On the early C.B.C.s, this species was seemingly everywhere where there was an open pond or two, and many continued in the n. well into Feb. The high counts came from the s. states, including a tally of roughly 200 at Coventry, RI 2 Feb. Like Gloucester's Eared Grebe, the Tufted Duck that has frequented Wachusett Res., *Worcester*, MA for the last six years returned for a 7th. The only other report for the Region was from Bourne, *Barnstable*, MA 5-12 Jan. While Redheads winter regularly in s. coastal areas, they are good finds over most of the Region at any time of year. Five were at Milton, VT 13 Jan (TM), and singles rewarded birders at Chimney Point, *Addison*, VT 16 Feb and Easthampton, *Hampshire*, MA 22 Feb. Interestingly enough, only a single Redhead was reported from Rhode Island, where the species is usually more common, for the entire season.

Since the species is more expected at locations in e. New England, an overwintering female King Eider was noteworthy at Hammonasset Beach S.P., *New Haven*, CT. Another interesting

find for Connecticut birders was a female Black Scoter that spent the winter on the Connecticut R. in Hartford. Harlequin Ducks numbers were typical for recent years. The following are seasonal maxima for the traditional hot spots: 20 at Ogunquit; 102 at Rockport; 11 at Orleans, *Barnstable*, MA; 40 at Nantucket; 50 at Sachuest Pt., *Newport*, RI; and 28 at Jamestown, RI. Among noteworthy maximum counts of other waterfowl for the Region, a record-high total of 254,302 Long-tailed Ducks was received from Nantucket Sound (on the Nantucket C.B.C.) 30 Dec, whereas 3100 Common Goldeneye were at Charlotte 2 Dec (TM). A flock of 500 Ruddy Ducks made a nice total for Candlewood L., *Fairfield*, CT 18 Jan.

## RAPTORS THROUGH CRANE

The Region's 3 winter Ospreys included 2 Jan birds in Rhode Island and an individual at Westport, MA 25 Feb that was likely an extremely early spring migrant. With all the open water, Bald Eagles were less concentrated at usual hot spots by the time of the traditional mid-winter eagle survey. This doesn't imply that they were hard to find however, as numbers were at or near record highs over much of New England w. Massachusetts hosted 41, Connecticut birders found 23-24, and the combined New Hampshire and Vermont total was over 100. The Region's high count of Rough-legged Hawks was 52, all found in a day-long survey of parts of *Addison*, VT 2 Feb. Golden Eagles appeared at traditional locations around Quabbin and cen Connecticut, with additional s. individuals at Middletown, *Newport*, RI 28 Dec and W Newbury, *Essex*, MA 25 Dec. In the north, one Golden Eagle made a one-day appearance at Dead Creek W.M.A., *Addison*, VT 4 Dec, while another spent most of the winter at Wilson's Mills, *Oxford*, ME (*vide* C. Martin). There were 4 Gyrfalcons in New England this winter. One took up residence at Sandbar S.P., *Chittenden*, VT 21 Jan to 17 Feb, and single-day sightings came from Richmond, *Sagadahoc*, ME 23 Dec (P. Vickery), and Salisbury, *Essex*, MA 13 Jan. The 4th bird was seen sporadically around Boston 16 Dec through Feb, where it entertained innumerable birders.

A few Virginia Rails regularly spend all or part of the winter in s. coastal areas, and some have even started showing up in w. Massachusetts. They are much less common along the n. coast, but this winter a very cooperative bird frequented a marsh in Hampton, *Rockingham*, NH for much of Jan, where it was regularly observed catching fish through a hole in the ice. Back in the south, a Sora was on Cape Cod 27 Dec, and a Yellow Rail was reported without details from Nantucket in Jan. In addition to the fairly regu-

**SA** There were at least 2 and possibly 3 Barnacle Geese in the Region this winter, with reports from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. The first was seen at Gloucester 2 Dec. Two days later, it (or another individual) appeared at Storrs, *Tolland*, CT, where it remained through mid-Jan. An additional Barnacle Goose was reported from Portsmouth, *Newport*, RI 15 Dec—16 Jan, and another was at Lynnfield, *Essex*, MA 17-20 Feb. This latter bird differed in plumage from the one in Connecticut, but comparison to the Rhode Island bird was not available at press time. All birds await final evaluation by the appropriate state records committees, although there is some evidence that suggests natural vagrancy. The Connecticut Barnacle Goose was associating with Canada Geese that had been banded in Greenland, and there were several other Barnacle Geese in the Canadian Maritime, Hudson-Delaware, and Middle Atlantic regions this winter. Given the species's increasing populations in Greenland, vagrancy to New England is only likely to increase as well.

lar appearance or Common Moorhens on Nantucket, where a bird spent the entire winter, there were single moorhens in Rhode Island and Connecticut in Dec. A **Purple Gallinule** somehow found itself well to the n. at Spruce Head, *Knox*, ME, where it was found injured and sent to a rehabilitator 15 Jan (R. Pelletier). Also in the north, one Am. Coot was found at Milton VT 12 Jan, and an exceptional concentration of 85 was reported from Kingston, *Rockingham*, NH 10 Dec (K. Folsom). The Sandhill Crane that has visited Monroe, *Grafton*, NH for the last three summers lingered this year until 6 Dec, providing the Granite State with a rare winter record. Another crane was at Columbia, *Tolland*, CT 9 Dec, and one wonders if it could have been the same individual moving south.

### SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDS

Although a few Black-bellied Plovers regularly spend the season on Cape Cod, individuals n. of se Massachusetts are quite rare after Dec. Given the mild winter, however, it was not surprising that one was found in Boston 10 Feb (M. Hall). Winter Killdeer along the New England coast are not unusual, but one surviving through at least 3 Feb at Ferrisburgh, *Addison*, VT provided a rare mid-winter record for the Green Mountain State (TM). Among the usual smattering of lingering winter sandpipers were a number of Lesser Yellowlegs. On 15 Dec, 3 were at Sippewisset, *Barnstable*, MA and one was in Stratham, *Rockingham*, NH. These pale by comparison to the 5 that spent the entire winter at P.I., providing the Region with its first record of overwintering birds. One wonders whether these birds included the 3 found at this location in early Dec 2000. Four thousand Dunlin was a good winter count for Chatham, *Barnstable*, MA 2 Dec (B. Nikula), and 2400 of these birds were still in the area 23 Feb. Massachusetts hosted 8 Long-billed Dowitchers in Dec, including a group of 5 at Hyannisport, *Barnstable* 27 Dec. Ten American Woodcock were already displaying on Nantucket by the end of Feb.

Jaegers continue to set wintering records for the Region. A Pomarine at First Encounter 18 Feb is the latest ever recorded in the Bay State. Farther north, a Parasitic and 4 unidentified jaegers were seen from Cape Elizabeth, ME 15 Dec. In the southeast on the same date, 14 Pomarines and 42 unidentified jaegers were tallied from First Encounter (P. Flood). A Laughing Gull at P.I. and vicinity in Jan and early Feb is one of few mid-winter records n. of Cape Cod. A count of 40,000 Bonaparte's Gulls and 25,000 Black-legged Kittiwakes from Lubec, *Washington*, ME 10 Dec is quite impressive, although in all fairness they were shared with New Brunswick. At the other extreme, both geo-

graphically and numerically, was a single Black-legged Kittiwake unusually far up Long I. Sound at Groton, CT 10 Feb. The Region's only Thayer's Gull was at Nantucket 31 Dec and 1 Jan (ph. GdE), although another was reported without details from Lubec ME 9 Dec (*vide* WT). For the 2nd winter in a row, a possible **Yellow-legged Gull** was reported from Nantucket in Jan, although no details were submitted. Two Forster's Terns were in s. New England: one at Trustom Pond N.W.R., *Washington*, RI 6 Dec and another at Stratford, CT 29 Dec. The latter represented a record late date for the Nutmeg State.

Common Murres seem to have staged something of an invasion in Feb, when 18 were found on a pelagic trip off Rhode Island on the 9th, and 21 were reported from P'town on the 24th. The only other alcid records of note were a few Razorbills off Connecticut; counts of this species at traditional hot spots in Massachusetts were unremarkable.

### OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Eastern Screech-Owls are not known to move far from their usual haunts in s. New England (and nw. Vermont), but nonetheless one wandered over 80 km to Springvale, *York*, ME, where it was hit by a car 30 Jan and taken to a rehabilitator. Snowy Owl numbers were the highest in four or five years. Rough numbers for each state are as follows: 4 in Vermont, 6 in New Hampshire, 12-15 in Maine, 30 in Massachusetts, 5 in Connecticut, and 3 in Rhode Island. Not necessarily included in these totals were the 7 Snowies found on the Isles of Shoals C.B.C. (*York*, ME and *Rockingham*, NH) 16 Dec. Unfortunately, many of these owls appeared to be having trouble finding enough food, since several were turned in to wildlife rehabilitators in Massachusetts and Maine. The only other n. strigids were in Maine: a Great Gray Owl in Damariscotta, *Lincoln* 4-20 Feb (ph. B. Twarog) and a dead Boreal Owl in Westfield, *Aroostook* 15 Jan.

Two unidentified *Selasphorus* hummingbirds graced the Region this winter. The first appeared at a feeder in Newport, RI 10 Dec and stayed through 23 Jan (C. Raithel). It was tentatively identified as a Rufous, and photographs are currently being reviewed by hummingbird experts in California. The other bird was at Chatham, MA feeder 1-21 Jan (ph., m. ob.). One wonders how these birds arrived in the Region; they were the first mid-winter records of any hummingbird for New England. Numbers of Red-headed Woodpeckers and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers in s. New England were roughly normal.

### FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

Typically, the only flycatchers in this report are a few Eastern Phoebes from e. Massachusetts in Dec. These were around again, although this time they continued into Feb, but the real phoebe action was elsewhere. Farthest afield was a well-described bird in Barnard, *Windsor*, VT 28 Dec, while the award for persistence goes to one at Rochester, *Strafford*, NH, which was present at least through 16 Feb (D. Abbott). Three **Ash-throated Flycatchers** lingered into Dec after the fall mini-invasion of the Northeast. One was at Bath, *Sagadahoc*, ME 15 Dec (†M Dauphin), and Massachusetts hosted 2 Gloucester 16-22 Dec (†, m. ob.), and M V 22-24 Dec (no details, v. o.). Western Kingbirds were on M.V. and Nantucket in early Dec, while another was present at Wood's Hole, *Barnstable*, MA 4 Dec through 18 Jan (G. Hirth). The only time this species has survived longer than this was in 1953, when 2 frequented a feeder on M V for an entire winter.

Blue-headed Vireos numbered 3 in Dec 2 in Massachusetts and one in Connecticut. Although Northern Shrikes showed early signs of another good winter, overall reports declined after mid-Dec. The Gray Jay that showed up at a feeder in Windsor, *Berkshire*, MA in the fall remained through at least 5 Jan. This season's wayward Fish Crow was reported from Northampton, *Hampshire*, MA in mid-Jan.

After a moderate fall flight, Boreal Chickadees showed up at several locations away from their traditional n. haunts. Closest to home was one at Springfield, *Sullivan*, NH (D. Hayward). Six more were in Massachusetts: 2 each in *Berkshire*, Quabbin, and *Middlesex*. Another was reported without details from Goshen, *Litchfield*, CT 6 Jan. Carolina Wrens were exceptionally well reported from s. parts of Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine, but there are few better indicators of the mild winter than an individual of this species at Caribou, *Aroostook*, ME 7 Dec—16 Jan. Weather enthusiasts will recall that this town, near the extreme n. tip of the Pine Tree State, regularly holds the honor of having the coldest temperatures in New England.

Three Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were found on Cape Cod in Dec, 2 on a C.B.C. 16 Dec and one at P'town 27 Dec. It's worth noting, once again, that Hermit Thrushes showed up n. and inland in respectable numbers. Less expected were the Region's 5 Varied Thrushes. The first was at Westport, MA 15 Dec, with a 2nd for Massachusetts at Southwick 22-23 Dec. Later in the season, a female made a one-day appearance in a fruiting tree outside a McDonald's in Belchertown, *Hampshire*, MA 19 Feb. Farther north, one was at Deer I., *Hancock*, ME throughout Dec (*vide* WT), and another frequented a

feeder in Sutton, *Caledonia*, VT from 3 Jan onward. Still less expected was a **Townsend's Solitaire** at Essex, *Essex*, MA 4 Dec—8 Feb. The thrush of the season, however, was a well-described **Wood Thrush** in Plainfield, *Sullivan*, NH 5 Dec (P. Stettenheim); the first winter record for n. New England.

Maine's **Sage Thrasher** was last reported from Nubble Light, *York* 6 Dec (*fide* P. Vickery). American Pipits again wintered in small numbers in coastal New Hampshire. Early in the winter, Bohemian Waxwings showed signs of a good invasion, but most didn't get far from the n. portions of the n. three states. Exceptions include birds at M.V. and Nantucket on 22 & 29 Dec, respectively. High counts to the n. included 300 in Orono, *Penopscot*, ME and 220 at Thetford, *Orange*, VT.

### WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Despite the aseasonal temperatures, lingering warbler diversity was unremarkable in 2001-2002. A Cape May was found on the Block I., *Washington*, RI C.B.C. 17 Dec, a Pine lingered in Portland through at least 2 Jan, a Palm was inland at Hadley, *Hampshire*, MA 4 Feb, a Black-and-white was at W. Brooksville, *Hancock*, ME 7 Dec (*fide* WT), and an American Redstart was in Portsmouth, RI 15 Dec. A Black-throated Green Warbler at Canton, *Hartford*, CT 5 Jan set a record-late date for Connecticut. Two Wilson's Warblers made it into Dec: one in Falmouth, MA 15 Dec, and the other at Milford, *New Haven*, CT 26 Dec. *Seiurus* warblers were seemingly everywhere, including 4 Ovenbirds (2 in Massachusetts, singles in New Hampshire and Maine) and an unprecedented 3 Northern Waterthrushes: at Milford, CT 20 Jan (D. Sosensky); Bourne, MA 27 Jan (S. Miller); and N Marshfield, *Plymouth*, MA 10 Feb (GdE), all of which set record-late dates for their respective states. Visitors from the West graced three states. The **Audubon's Warbler** at Rye NH, first discovered in late Nov, was still being seen in Feb and appears to have survived the winter. To the s., a **Townsend's Warbler** was at Centerville, *Barnstable*, MA 28 Dec—3 Feb. And to the w., a **MacGillivray's Warbler** was in New Milford, *Litchfield*, CT 15-16 Dec (D. Tripp et al.). Almost a month later, yet another MacGillivray's was at Silver Sands S.P., *New Haven*, CT 12 Jan (†B. Devine). Depending on how one deals with a controversial specimen, and pending review by the state record committee, these may represent the first records for Connecticut. Yellow-breasted Chats were fairly widespread in s. New England, with the northernmost record being the aforementioned bird in Rye, NH. Another chat in the Granite State was a *banded* individual on offshore Star I., *Rockingham* 16 Dec,

sparking speculation that it remained in the area after fall banding activities on nearby Appledore I., *York*, ME.

A **Western Tanager** was reported from Bridgeton, *Cumberland*, ME 29 Dec, while a 2nd was seen sporadically in the Orleans/Eastham area of Cape Cod during Jan. Eastern Towhees, like Hermit Thrushes and Gray Catbirds, were widespread this winter, with an individual on Mount Desert I., *Hancock*, ME 18 Dec (WT) being the farthest north. After their "invasion" in 2000-2001, sparrows as a group provided no remarkable numbers or vagrants. The sole exception, and it was a good one, was an imm. **Lark Bunting** at Middleton, *Newport*, RI 15 Dec (†C. Raithel). At the very end of Feb, the s. parts of the Region were practically swamped with Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles, with peak numbers of 6000 and 2000 respectively. As has become a regular event, 3 Boat-tailed Grackles remained near their breeding areas in Stratford, CT, where they were seen at least through 14 Jan. The Region's only Yellow-headed Blackbird was at Westport, MA 20 Jan. A **Bullock's Oriole** visited a feeder in Dover, *Strafford*, NH during the first half of Jan, providing the Granite State with its first record since 1976. Baltimore Orioles were relatively widespread, with at least 4 in Massachusetts, 2 in Connecticut, and a quite impressive 7 in Maine. Most of these were in Dec, but one made it through 27 Feb at Brunswick, *Cumberland*, ME, suggesting successful overwintering.

The finches of the season were Pine Grosbeaks and Common Redpolls, although numbers were generally lower than during the last invasion (1999-2000). The grosbeaks were confined to the traditional spots of n. New England and w. Massachusetts, with flock sizes generally under 30 birds. Common Redpolls went farther southward, with a few individuals reaching Nantucket and coastal Rhode Island. Except in parts of Maine, redpoll flocks rarely exceeded 100 birds. A few Hoary Redpolls were reported in Maine and New Hampshire. The other finch that moved southward was White-winged Crossbill, which once again seemed to concentrate in se. coastal areas. Flocks of 40 or more were at Salisbury MA and Charlestown RI, and the farthest afield were a dozen or so on Nantucket. Purple Finches were most notable for their absence, and Evening Grosbeaks, while widespread, were generally quite local and in small numbers.

### Addenda

The Pink-footed Goose at Dennis, MA 16 Jan—20 Feb 1999 and the Yellow-legged Gull at Nantucket, MA 28 Dec 2000 were not accepted by the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee.

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