

## REGIONAL REPORTS

The Winter Season      December 1, 1970 to March 31, 1971

### NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION / Davis W. Finch

The winter was an early one and one of prolonged and severe cold. By the beginning of Christmas Bird Count period there was snow over the better part of the Region, and most fresh waters were frozen. Conditions worsened during



Christmas week, with two heavy snowstorms in n. New England and New Brunswick, and January and the first week of February were also snowy, and very cold. Many bays and coves along the coastline from the Maritimes to Connecticut were solidly frozen. In Nova Scotia Phyllis Dobson noted that ice kept seabirds invisibly distant offshore, while landbirds simply weren't there, except perhaps for a crow at intervals of many miles. Throughout the Region the snow was slow to leave, and the winter seemed very long to most observers.

**FLIGHTS, POPULATION TRENDS**—Species present in unusual numbers this winter included some of the northern sea ducks, white-winged gulls, and many species of hawks. Snowy Owls and N. Shrikes staged modest to good flights. Boreal Chickadees and Bohemian Waxwings were entirely absent, and most of the winter finches virtually so. Fish Crow is perhaps a species to watch.

**CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS**—These totaled 107 in the Region, of which 64 were published in *AMERICAN BIRDS*, and produced a list of 184 species, with 7 others noted as present during count period. This total of 191 is 14 below last year's 206. Despite the thorough coverage—nearly

2400 party-hours for the 64 counts (infra "CBCs"), published in *AMERICAN BIRDS* alone—several more or less expected species were not recorded, among them Shoveler, King Rail, Red-headed Woodpecker, E. Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Long-billed Marsh Wren, and Seaside Sparrow. The absence of some of these from coastal areas in the s. part of the Region can certainly be attributed to the early winter.

**GREBES, FULMAR, SHEARWATER**—In Gloucester, Mass., the Eared Grebe of many winters' residence at Bass Rocks had returned by Dec 7. (DH, et al., fide RPE) but was seen no more after Jan. 11 (NAC, fide RPE). Probably few individual birds have been seen, studied, and listed by so many people. It and another also seen on the Cape Ann CBC were the only Eared Grebes reported in the Region. One of the rarities of the season was a **Western Grebe** at Martha's Vineyard, seen off Nashaquitsa Cliffs on the CBC, Jan. 3 (A B-D & GGD). George Daniels, previously familiar with the species in the west, furnished satisfactory details of this observation, mentioning among other things the bird's extremely long, straight, white neck. The most recent W. Grebe in the Region was a bird at Jamestown, R.I., Feb.–April, 1967. Two records of Pied-billed Grebe were notable, an individual that wintered on a small stretch of open river as far n. as Danforth, Washington Co., Me., present Dec. 22 through March (Muriel L. Gillis) and another seen on the Androscoggin R. at Berlin, N.H. on Feb. 28 (VHH). The latter bird was probably a very early migrant, but it may have wintered nearby. Among the first notable bird records to come from the "Prince of Fundy", the relatively new ferry service between Yarmouth, N.S. and Portland, Me., was that of 60+ Fulmars counted by members of the D.V.O.C. on a Yarmouth–Portland transit Feb. 14 (fide JKM). These were light phase birds in ones and twos passing the ship over a period of five hours or so, with high SW winds and heavy seas. This count furnishes an interesting comparison with those made in recent winters on "Bluenose" crossings in the Bay of Fundy, where 2-5 are the rule, and suggests that the latter are just a token of far greater numbers farther out in the Gulf of Maine. Also notable was the close and leisurely observation of a late Manx Shearwater on Cape Cod at First Encounter Beach in Eastham, Dec. 6 (MLG & PKD).

**CORMORANTS, HERONS**—Great Cormorants have always been birds of the coast, not occurring



inland even accidentally. This winter, however, there was a series of substantiated reports in inland Maine and New Hampshire. On Feb. 7 an immature Great Cormorant was seen standing on the ice in Laconia, N.H. by Vera Hebert, who was of course aware of the unusual nature of the occurrence. She noted the heavy yellowish bill, solid brown breast, and white belly with a few brown spots. On Feb. 12 a roadkilled immature Great Cormorant was recovered at the w. limit of the Region in Charlestown, N.H. (WWK, specimen to U.N.H. and identification confirmed, RWS, ACB). The same day, Feb. 12, a cormorant was roadkilled in Northwood Narrows, Rockingham Co., N.H., and while the specimen was discarded before being identified as anything but "cormorant", a newspaper photograph shows it to be almost certainly an adult Great Cormorant. Finally, in mid-February an adult cormorant was present for four or five days, standing on the ice or swimming in an open stretch of the Kennebec R. in Skowhegan, Me. (CBT), and though not positively identified, it was almost certainly Great Cormorant. The inevitable conclusion is that these 4 unusual inland records occurring in the space of a week or so were related, but there seems to be no obvious explanation of them. Undoubtedly the birds had left a coastal locality, possibly being frozen out of a tidal bay and departing inland. Or were they perhaps very early migrants far off course? A late Green Heron was present at Charlestown Pond, R.I., Jan. 3-9 (FP, CW, et al.), and even more remarkable was an adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron discovered on Martha's Vineyard at Chilmark, Jan. 22 (MBH & EG) and picked up dead on Feb. 12 (ARK, RMS, et al.). Bona fide winter records of this species in the Region are very few.

**WATERFOWL**—A Mute Swan wintered successfully as far north as Kennebunkport, Me. (Mrs. H. A. Bixby, et al., fide CMP), and two of these birds spent a fourth consecutive winter at Portsmouth, N.H. (v.o., fide HCA). Brant, among the earliest migrants to reach e. Maine and the Maritimes arrived at Quoddy Bay on Feb. 26, when 50 were seen (Pike, fide CMP), and 11 were found a bit farther north at Point Lepreau, N.B. on Feb. 28 (CLJ & JGW, fide DSC). A Barnacle Goose appeared on Jan. 23 on the Bass R. in Beverly, Mass., where during subsequent days it was eagerly visited by more than 300 observers. It was soon claimed, however, by the Middlesex Fells Zoo 12 miles away at Spot Pond in Stoneham, whence it and several other exotic and unbanded waterfowl, had recently escaped (Mr. and Mrs. Roy E. Kimball). The only Blue Geese reported in the Region were seen in Massachusetts, 4 immatures at Plum I. on Dec. 12 (Edward Moses, fide RPE), 3 at Wenham Lake in Beverly on Mar. 9 (v.o., fide GLS & RPE) and 2 at Plum I. on Mar. 16 (Kim Smith, fide RPE). The four Com. Teal reports came from the same state, single birds

being seen at Muddy Creek in East Harwich, Feb. 21-26 (MLG, PKD, et al.), at Plum I., Mar. 21 through at least Apr. 4 (RSJ, et al., fide RPE), on the Merrimack R. at the Newburyport-Amesbury line on Mar. 23 (TTA, fide RPE), and at Nine-acre Corner in Concord on Mar. 27 (HC & HTW, fide RPE). A total of 254 Green-winged Teal on the Nantucket CBC was unusually high, far exceeding any other in the Region, and at the same place the 271 Am. Widgeon seen on the CBC were reported to have diminished to 50 by mid-March (EA). A ♂ Eur. Widgeon in Nova Scotia at Halifax (east) was unique on Regional CBCs (LBMaccp, et al.), but single birds were seen in Massachusetts, at Cohasset, Dec. 5-20 (GAW, et al., fide RPE) and again Mar. 14 (Ellen Sabin, et al., fide RPE), and at Allen's Pond in South Dartmouth, Mar. 6-21 (MLG, et al.). Probably commensurate with their long-term increase in the northeast, late-lingering and wintering Wood Ducks now seem more frequent than formerly. Only one of the 18 individuals occurring this year on CBCs in the southern part of the Region was underscored as unusual by the compiler. The traditional ♂ Tufted Duck was first seen on Jan. 3 at Sider's Pond in Falmouth, Mass. (WSE, et al.) where it remained to Jan. 9, reappearing on Feb. 15 and 20. It was last seen nearby at Pocasset on Mar. 21 (MLG). Another ♂ **Tufted Duck** was discovered at the mouth of Smith's Cove in the Thames R. in Quaker Hill (New London) Conn. on Jan. 11 (James A. Slater, et al.). It was seen by many observers until Feb. 7 (GB, fide RCD), and furnished a second state record. The New London bird's presence during the Falmouth bird's absence is probably no more than coincidence. Numbers of Barrow's Goldeneyes along the coast s. to Massachusetts were higher than normal this year, and an especially impressive concentration was carefully noted on 22 dates from December through Apr. 12 at Dalhousie, N.B. The birds were discovered by Jean-Paul Lebel on Dec. 27, when 85 were seen on a few small areas of open water around the Inch Arran Light House. All but about 12 of these birds were females or immature drakes. On the CBC there 3 days later, Fr. Lebel and Allan Madden counted 6 Com. Goldeneyes and 96 Barrow's, and David Christie pointed out that the latter total exceeded by 90 the previous CBC high in the province! Cold weather further concentrated these birds on a small area kept open by a plant discharging hot water, and numbers increased in later winter to a peak of 245+ on Feb. 26, at least 90 percent of which were Barrow's and most of these adult drakes. Thereafter as more water opened up, counts dropped rapidly. There appear to be no East Coast counts nearly as high as these, with the exception of 1500 said to have been seen on the lower St. Lawrence R. in October of an unstated year prior to 1944, and included in a thorough tabu-



lation of records of Barrow's Goldeneye in the East by E. M. Hasbrouck (*Auk* 61: 544). Maine's high CBC total of 71 Barrow's included a remarkable 30 at Eastport, and in late winter there were high counts farther s., such as that of 9+ at Newburyport, Mass. throughout February and early March (MLG, et al.) and a number of scattered individuals, e.g. at Nantucket Jan. 23 and for a week thereafter (Chester Faunce, EA) and at Charlestown Pond, R.I., Feb. 28-Mar. 1 (KBK, DLK, FP, CW, et al., fide SSD). Harlequin Ducks also occurred this winter in numbers somewhat above the average, and a CBC total of 44 along the rocky shore of York county, Me. on Jan. 2 was probably a record for the East Coast s. of Newfoundland. In Massachusetts the usual flock on Cape Ann at Magnolia increased through February to a high of 30 on Mar. 6 (A. W. Horn, fide RPE). In Nova Scotia a ♂ Harlequin at Point Aconi, Cape Breton Co., on Feb. 13 (WPN, et al.) was the only one to be recorded in the province, where of course the species is quite uncommon. Another notable feature of the season was the presence along the New England coast of a number of small flocks of ♀ and young ♂ King Eiders, as shown in the accompanying table. There were, as well, many other reports of from 1 to 5 birds at localities other than the six tabularized. The total number of King Eiders involved was unusual even if none of the indi-

vidual counts was per se extraordinary. In 1941 off Sachuest Point in Middletown, R.I. a slowly increasing late-winter flock of King Eiders reached a peak on Apr. 13 of 78 birds. Several other King Eider reports this winter were noteworthy. In Nova Scotia, where the species is rare, an adult ♂ which was discovered west of Three-Fathom Harbor, Halifax Co., remained to Mar. 6 (EHC, et al., fide PRD), and 2 others were seen at Pinkney's Point, Yarmouth Co., on Mar. 14 (MWH, et al., fide PRD). On Dec. 13, a young ♂ was seen inland at Laconia, N.H. (HCA) and even more unusual was a ♀ King Eider which wintered on open water there, eventually becoming associated with a large flock of tame Mallards, and remaining until at least Mar. 22 (HCA, et mult al.).

**VULTURES, HAWKS, EAGLES**—An interesting record of Turkey Vulture was that of a bird seen flying in from the sea at Plymouth, Mass. on Jan. 24 (RL, et al., fide RPE), and the same or another was seen nearby on Jan. 30 (Mr. & Mrs. DDC, fide RPE). Table 2 shows that most hawk species were present at CBC time in larger numbers than in the last two years, and the abundance of these birds throughout the season was specifically noted by Phyllis Dobson in Nova Scotia, David Christie in New Brunswick, and Chris Packard, Cook Anderson and Ruth Emery in Maine, New Hampshire and Massa-

**TABLE 1**  
**King Eider Flocks on the New England Coast, Winter, 1970-71**

Locality (North to South)	Date	Number and Sex Where Reported	Observer
Cape Elizabeth, Me. ....	Jan. 22	12 (all imm. ♂)	Vera Scamman
Cape Elizabeth, Me. ....	Feb. 13-early Apr.	13 max. (7 imm. ♂, 6 ♀)	Vera Scamman
Biddeford Pool, Me. (Fletcher's Neck) ....	March 28	18+ (mostly imm. ♂, no ad. ♂)	Vera Scamman
York Nubble, Me. ....	March 13	14 (12 imm. ♂, 2 ♀)	Harold Card
Hampton Beach, N.H.	April 3	13 (5 imm. ♂, 8 ♀)	Davis Finch
Rockport, Mass.* (Halibut Point) .....	Jan. 1-24	16 (no ad. ♂)	Alvah Sanborn
Rockport, Mass. (Andrews Point) ....	Feb. 4	19 (no ad. ♂)	John Rhome
Rockport, Mass. (Folly Cove) .....	Feb. 7	11 (no ad. ♂)	Murray Gardler
Rockport, Mass. (Bearskin Neck) .....	March 12; March 28	12 (6 imm. ♂, 6 ♀); 10 (no ad. ♂)	Murray Gardler v.o.
Nahant, Mass. ....	Jan. 30 Feb. 13	13 (1 ad. ♂, 5 imm. ♂, 7 ♀) 19 (3 imm. ♂, 16 ♀)	Richard Forster Murray Gardler

\*Some duplication is likely in the case of the various Rockport counts.



TABLE 2

Numbers of Hawks and Eagles Reported on 107 Christmas Bird Counts Made in the Northeastern Maritime Region, 1970-71.\*

	Newfoundland NEWFOUNDLAND	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick	Maine	New Hampshire	Eastern Massachusetts	Rhode Island	Eastern Connecticut	Total, 69th CBC	Total, 70th CBC	Total, 71st CBC
Goshawk	11	1	10	5	1	5	—	—	5	17	23
Sharp-shinned Hawk	33	18	17	10	7	16	2	1	23	26	74
Cooper's Hawk	—	1	—	6	1	7	2	1	5	6	18
accipiter sp.	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	0	3
Red-tailed Hawk	—	34	19	14	11	113	22	10	94	135	223
Red-shouldered Hawk	—	—	—	4	—	8	2	—	4	10	14
Rough-legged Hawk	—	18	27	2	1	48	7	1	51	82	104
Golden Eagle	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	0	1	1
Bald Eagle	2	44	8	19	—	—	—	—	51	82	73
Marsh Hawk	—	5	—	—	—	72	36	—	47	59	113
Gyr Falcon	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	0	0	1
Peregrine Falcon	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	2	2
Pigeon Hawk	—	6	1	2	—	7	1	—	10	8	17
Sparrow Hawk	—	4	1	5	10	137	65	12	168	202	234
hawk sp.	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	0	3
Number of Counts:	2	25	23	31	7	14	3	2	84	104	107

\*As the similar tables of the last two years, excludes birds seen count period but not on count day.

achusetts. Cooper's Hawks in particular seemed more frequent than in the recent past, with 30 reported besides those seen on CBCs. Sharp-shinned Hawks were similarly numerous, and no doubt accounted for at least some of the Cooper's Hawk reports. A bird identified as a dark-phase **Swainson's Hawk** was carefully studied at Nanaquaket Pond in Tiverton, R.I. on Feb. 28 (DLE, RE, fide SSD). A detailed description noted the bird's entirely sooty-brown underwings, dark and barred tail, and flight recalling that of a Marsh Hawk. In Massachusetts, a Golden Eagle was recorded on the CBC at Duxbury and other single birds were present in the Dartmouth-Westport area, from mid-December (JF, et al.) to Mar. 15 (SH, fide RPE), and at Quabbin Reservoir on Feb. 6 (MILG & PKD). At the latter place as many as 8 Bald Eagles, 7 of them adults, were seen from Enfield Lookout feeding on deer carcasses on the ice during Feb-

ruary (MLG, PKD, et mult. al.). A dark Gyr Falcon was well seen on the Parker R. at Rowley, Mass. on Dec. 19 (PSM & NP), and another Gyr Falcon occurred on the CBC at Brunswick, Me. (CEH, fide CMP). Peregrine Falcons remained very few, with only 2 reported besides the 2 of the CBCs, but Pigeon Hawks seemed abundant, with 25 well-screened reports besides the 17 of the CBCs.

**GALLINACEOUS BIRDS, RAILS, SHOREBIRDS, JAEGERS**—The only Spruce Grouse recorded on CBCs were a single bird at Halifax (west) and 16 at Blackville, Northumberland Co., N.B., along with 26 Ruffed Grouse. Both Blackville counts were provincial records, and the Ruffed Grouse total was above any other Regional CBC this year. The only Gray Partridge to be found in the Region are a long-established population in the w. counties of Nova Scotia, and principally in the Annapolis Valley. On this year's



CBC at Wolfville, 64 were recorded, somewhat more than usual. Several winter rail records were of interest, among them a King Rail throughout December at Horn Pond in Woburn, Mass., last seen alive Jan. 20 and picked up dead Jan. 23 (HP, et al., fide RPE). Another King Rail was found in Plymouth, Mass. on Feb. 17 (CAG & WRP). A Clapper Rail that was seen on Cape Sable I., N.S. on Dec. 17 (SS, fide PRD) was well beyond the species' normal limits, and a Virginia Rail along Northeast Creek, Mount Desert I., Me. on Feb. 18 (CJ, fide WCT) had wintered farther n. than usual. The Region's first **Lapwing** in over two years was well seen in Newfoundland at QuidiVidi Lake, St. John's, on Jan. 3 (John Maunder, fide WT). Two unseasonable Piping Plovers were seen on Cape Cod at North Beach, Chatham, on Jan. 12 (WB, et al., fide RPE). Ruddy Turnstones continue to occur in winter farther n. than they were formerly known to. On CBCs on Cape Breton, a single bird was seen at the Sydneys and 7 were seen at Louisbourg. A single turnstone was seen on Jan. 31 at Biddeford Pool, Me. (PWG), where the species is known to winter with some regularity. Several observers remarked on the numbers of Am. Woodcock lingering into early winter in the s. part of the Region, and the total of 15 on Massachusetts CBCs would seem to bear this out. An abbreviated list of late shorebirds would include the following: a Semipalmated Plover at Homeville, Cape Breton Co., N.S. on Dec. 15 (Clarence Fergusson, fide PRD), 2 Whimbrels on Nantucket on Dec. 2 (MD, fide WRP), a Spotted Sandpiper at Wedge I., Halifax Co., N.S. on Nov. 29 (C. W. Helleiner, fide PRD) and another at Horn Pond in Woburn, Mass. on Dec. 2 (HP, fide WRP), a Long-billed Dowitcher at Newburyport, Mass. on Dec. 5 (B.B.C., fide WRP), and a Marbled Godwit on Cape Cod at North Beach, also on Dec. 5 (CAG & WRP). An immense flock of 2000 Purple Sandpipers was seen on offshore rocks in Penobscot Bay on the CBC there on Dec. 22 (EVT). The previous national CBC high was 750 (at Pemaquid, Me., Jan. 1, 1967). On Cape Cod at First Encounter Beach, late Parasitic Jaegers were seen as follows: 10 in one flock on Dec. 5 (WB, MLG, CAG, WRP), 9 in 3 flocks the following day (MLG) and 2 jaegers probably of this species as late as Dec. 24 (MLG). A Skua was seen from the n. end of Plum I., Mass. harrying gulls off the Salisbury breakwater, on Jan. 26 (THB & JTL, fide RPE).

**GULLS, TERN, ALCIDS**—This was generally a good season for white-winged gulls, a fact not apparent from the early winter evidence of the CBCs. More exactly perhaps it was a good winter for Iceland Gulls, a species whose increase, despite year-to-year fluctuation, seems almost proportionate to that of the Herring Gull. Two notable counts were 54 on Jan. 10 at Eastport, Me. (WCT) and 45 at Gloucester, Mass.

on Feb. 4 (John Rhome & Hollis Leverett, fide RPE). With the Iceland Gulls were what several observers considered unusually large numbers of Kumlien's Gulls. This race is highly variable in the extent and intensity of dark pigmentation in the primary tips. Of the two currently popular field guides, one depicts a single version of *kumlieni* while the other omits any mention of the existence of these striking birds. Many *kumlieni*, especially in the Maritimes and occasionally farther south, look in the field like white-winged gulls with a small amount of black in the wingtips. Two such birds, both carefully described, were identified as Thayer's Gulls this season by observers unaware that Thayer's Gull has a mantle darker than the North American race of Herring Gull. A **Mew Gull** which was discovered at Newburyport, Mass. on Jan. 24 by Richard A. Forster, was seen thereafter irregularly on the Merrimack R. until Mar. 13 by a number of other qualified observers (RPE, RF, CAG, WRP). Another Mew Gull was present during CBC period at St. John's Nfld. Black-headed Gulls seemed fewer than last winter, and this was reflected by CBC totals of the last three years in the Maritimes: 88, 282, 74. In New England the only concentration of these birds occurred as last year at Quincy, Mass., where 19 were recorded on the CBC. The 4 Little Gulls reported in the Region this season were 2 on the CBC at Mount Desert I., Me., an immature on Cape Cod at Chatham Dec. 3 (RAF) and the same or another at Orleans, Dec. 24-25 (MLG), and 1 in Rhode Island at Charlestown Pond, Jan. 1-3 (DLK, CW, et al., fide SSD). Among the outstanding observations of the winter were 4 **Ivory Gulls**. The first of these was an immature bird discovered on Jan. 1 at Eastport, Me. by Nellie Ross and Arlo T. Bates. It remained through Jan. 10, and was studied by other observers (EVT, WCT) and photographed (David Libby). Also on Jan. 1, Leon Phinney spotted an immature Ivory Gull on the New Hampshire coast at Great Boar's Head, and despite a raging snowstorm, the bird's fleeting presence was recorded in motion pictures (EWP) for a first definite state record. Later in the season a bird in nearly adult plumage was seen on the Merrimack R. at Amesbury, Mass. on Feb. 20 (HLJ, JFK, GLS), briefly present the following day (JWK & MK). The fourth Ivory Gull was a pure white bird well seen in Maine near the South Portland-Cape Elizabeth town line on Mar. 18 (VS). Convincing details accompanied the latter two records. A certain percentage of reported Sabine's Gulls are probably misidentified young Little Gulls or Black-legged Kittiwakes, but a report of an immature Sabine's Gull on Cape Cod at First Encounter Beach on the unseasonable date of Dec. 24, was quite positive, including among many other details a description of the uninterrupted brown coloration of the upper parts from crown to back (PKD, SLE, MLG). A Com. Tern was seen in Folly Cove at Rockport, Mass. on the





*Ivory Gull, Eastport, Me. Jan. 3, 1971. Photo/ David Libby*

puzzling date of Jan. 23 (Alvah Sanborn, fide RPE). Several records of alcids were noteworthy, the first being the occurrence of as many as 1002 unidentified birds (Razorbills or murre) on this year's excellent CBC on Grand Manan, N.B. (DSC, PAP, et al.). In Maine, another remarkable total from the Penobscot Bay CBC was that of 154 Black Guillemots, the previous national CBC high being 135, at the same place last year (EVT). In Massachusetts, a Black Guillemot at Brewster was the first in the long history of the Cape Cod CBC. A sea trip on Feb. 7 to Jeffreys Ledge, 30 miles off the New Hampshire coast, was made under particularly felicitous weather conditions, and discovered numbers of alcids wintering off shore: 20 Razorbills, 3 **Common Murres** (photographed; 2 previous state records), 45 Thick-billed Murres, 58 Black Guillemots, 3 **Common Puffins** (photographed, first entirely satisfactory state record), and 20 unidentified large alcids (HCA, DWF, RWS, A.S.N.H.).

**OWLS, WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS, CROWS**—An interesting record of Screech Owl came from Bar Harbor, Me., where 2 were reported calling on Mar. 9 & 10 (CJ, fide CMP). This is quite far north for the species. While it was certainly not a great incursion year for Snowy Owls, still there were fair numbers of these birds present in the Region by mid-January. The season totals were approximately as follows: Nova Scotia 8, New Brunswick 5, Maine 9, New Hampshire 5, e. Massachusetts 24, Rhode Island 3, e. Connecticut 4. This totals 58 birds, as compared with 15 last year. Of special interest were 2 **Great Gray Owls**, the first occurring on Feb. 19 at Biddeford Pool, Me., where it was photographed at eight feet on a clothes line post (Chandler Robbins, Jr., et al.).

The second was found dead on March 3, apparently roadkilled, beside Interstate 93 in Franconia, N.H. (Stephen Lillois, specimen examined by Hilbert Siegler and Tudor Richards, and preserved). The only Red-headed Woodpecker reported in the entire Region was an individual apparently resident in Danvers, Mass. (WSE, et al.). That very uncommon woodpecker, the N. Three-toed, was reported from three areas, none of them remote from the species' supposed breeding grounds. Single birds were seen on Mount Lafayette, Grafton Co., N.H. on Jan. 3 (fide HCMcD & RB), at Upsalquitch L., Northumberland Co., N.B. on Mar. 10 (AM, fide DSC), and at Newcastle, Lincoln Co., Me. on Mar. 22 (Hale, fide CMP). In Massachusetts, 2 E. Phoebes wintered in a multiflora rose hedge in Middleboro, present Jan. 31–Mar. 12 (Reginald Maxim, fide DWB), and 2 were seen in West Newbury on Feb. 6, one of them remaining to Feb. 16 (Mary A. Poore, fide RPE). In recent winters, a disjunct and northerly band of Fish Crows has frequented the dump in West Roxbury, Mass., but a count of 400+ roosting there on Mar. 9 (CAG & WRP) was far greater than any previous one, and in all probability represents a record high count for the Northeast. Curiously, this concentration occurred at or very near the northeastern limit of the species' range.

**CHICKADEES, MIMIDS, THRUSHES, WAXWINGS, SHRIKES**—With the single exception of 2 birds on the CBC at Belmont, Mass., not a single Boreal Chickadee was reported in the Region s. of the species' normal limits. On the Newport County, R.I.–Westport, Mass. CBS, the high totals of Catbirds (33) and Brown Thrashers (44) were CBC records and not explicable by an increase in party-hours, though the fact that this and adjacent areas are particularly suited for these wintering mimids was further demonstrated by counts of 19 Catbirds and 7 Brown Thrashers by a single observer on Prudence I. in Narragansett Bay on Jan. 17 (RLF, fide SSD). Two deep winter and northerly Brown Thrashers were single birds at Glace Bay, Cape Breton, on Feb. 14 (SMacL, fide PRD), and at Bill Townsend's feeder in Sorrento, Hancock Co., Me., the latter surviving on dog food from Nov. 26 to Feb. 20, when it was wiped out by a Sharp-shinned Hawk. Much as two years ago, large numbers of Robins were found on the CBC at St. John's, Nfld., attracted, as usual, to the abundant berries of Mountain-ash. This year's count of 1233 nearly equalled the Robin total of all the other Regional CBCs combined. Three single Varied Thrushes wintered at feeders, one in South Harpswell, Cumberland Co., Me., present Dec. 25 to Mar. 23 (MST, fide CMP), another in Charlestown, N.H., Dec. 19–Apr. 7 (Edna Farrell, WWK, et mult. al.), and a third in Westhampton, Mass., from Dec. 22 until at least Feb. 22 (v.o., fide RPE). After the visitations of the past two winters, this year there wasn't a single report or even a rumor of Bo-



hemian Waxwing in the Region. N. Shrikes were more plentiful than usual. In New Hampshire, Cook Anderson noted a "major invasion" of these birds by mid-December, mentioning reports from 20 towns, and in Massachusetts, Wayne Petersen spoke of a "fine winter flight" apparent after about Dec. 9. The Regional CBC total of N. Shrikes was 76, as compared with 34 last year, 36 the year before last.

**WARBLERS, ICTERIDS**—There were 3 late Black-and-white Warblers in Massachusetts, at Wayland on Dec. 1 (Mrs. Kenneth Rau, fide WRP), at Milton on Jan. 10 (Marion MacDonald, fide RPE), and at Norwell during the week of Jan. 10 (Beverly Litchfield, fide RPE). In Maine, a Wilson's Warbler was still present at Brunswick as late as Dec. 4 (RCA). The Region's only Yellow-headed Blackbird was 1 reported during CBC period at Amherst, N.S. (fide, LBMcp). Baltimore Orioles on CBCs dropped from 37 last year to 12 this year, reflecting the severe early winter.

**FRINGILLIDS**—As previously mentioned, this was a poor year for winter finches, though modest numbers of Evening Grosbeaks were widespread in the Region, occurring on 87 CBCs. There were also generally good numbers of Am. Goldfinches and Purple Finches, at least in the n. part of the Region, but Pine Grosbeaks, redpolls, Pine Siskins and crossbills were almost entirely absent. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak appeared during February at a feeder in Chatham, Mass. (WB, fide RPE), and at a feeder nearby in Wellfleet a Black-headed Grosbeak was present from December through March (WB, et al., fide RPE). Only 10 Dickcissels were found on Regional CBCs, well below last year's total of 54. The rapid increase of House Finches along the Massachusetts coast is illustrated by 4-year CBC totals at Cape Cod (0, 4, 29, 327), Quincy (0, 1, 23, 180) and Cape Ann (0, 1, 1, 64). The northern fringe of this expanding population is presently in New Hampshire, where recent records are those of 3 in North Hampton, Dec. 10–Jan. 2 (v.o., fide HCA & EWP), 1 inland at Hancock, Hillsborough Co., on Mar. 26 (CFW, fide EWP), and 1 at Greenland on Mar. 28 (JEC, fide EWP). In s. Maine, 3 were present at a feeder in Cape Elizabeth, Dec. 5-7 (VS). A **Green-tailed Towhee** remained at a feeder in Westport, Mass. from late December through at least Apr. 10 (Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Stewart Kirkaldy, et mult. al., photographed). This was the eighth state record. Curiously, there seem to be no other records for New England, and only one for the Maritimes, a Nova Scotia specimen. The Westport bird's appearing at a feeder in late December and lingering into April closely followed the pattern of five of the previous occurrences. A Lark Sparrow frequented a feeder in Concord, Mass. from Dec. 23 through February (Paul Lavrakas, PA, et al., fide RPE). Three Oregon Juncos were reported, 2 in Warwick, R.I., Dec. 5-6 (KBK, fide SSD),

and a particularly bright ♂ in New Hampton, N.H. from Jan. 14 until April (LRE, et mult. al.). Two other notable feeder birds were a Clay-colored Sparrow in Lincoln, Mass. throughout January and February (Athanas, RAF, et al., fide RPE), and a **Harris' Sparrow** in second winter plumage in South Newington, N.H., Dec. 13–Feb. 11 (Mrs. Everett Wykes, et mult. al., photographed), constituting a second state record. Finally, as many as 1000+ Snow Buntings were seen on several dates in the period Feb. 15-26 at Sable I., N.S. (DW & JB, fide IAMcL).

**SUB-REGIONAL EDITORS, CONTRIBUTORS** (both in bold face), **OBSERVERS AND OTHER ABBREVIATIONS**—Trescott T. Abele, Peter Alden, **R. Christopher Almy, H. Cook Anderson, Edith Andrews, Wallace Bailey, Arlo T. Bates, Augustus Ben-David, Larry S. Benjamin, Theodore H. Benttinen, Grace Bissell, Arthur C. Borrer, Jean Boulva, Robert Bradley, Dorothy W. Briggs, Harold M. Card, Daniel D. Carmichael, James E. Cavanagh, David S. Christie, Nancy A. Clafin, William Bolton Cook, Eric H. Cooke, Hamilton Coolidge, Severyn S. Dana, George G. Daniels, Mabel Depue, Paul J. Desjardins, Robert C. Dewire, Phyllis R. Dobson, Paul K. Donahue, David L. Emerson, Robert Emerson, William S. Emerson, Ruth P. Emery, Loren R. Emmons, Stephen L. Everett, Josephine Fernandez, Richard L. Ferren, Davis W. Finch, Richard A. Forster, Robert Fox, Gail Freese, Constance D. Gallageher, Murray L. Gardler, MLGi, Muriel L. Gillis, W. Earl Godfrey, Elizabeth Goodale, Carl A. Goodrich III, Patrick W. Grace, Marian B. Hancock, Michael Harwood, Vera H. Hebert, Sibley Higginbotham, Marion W. Hilton, Deborah Howard, Charles E. Huntington, Connie Jellison, Rodney S. Jenkins, H. Lawrence Jodrey, Cecil L. Johnston, Allan R. Keith, James W. Key, Mary Key, Walter W. Kidder, John F. Kieran, Roy E. Kimball, Katherine B. Kinsey, Douglas L. Kraus, Ruth Langley, Reynold T. Larsen, Roger W. Lawrence, Jean-Paul Lebel, Paul Lehman, Hollis Leverett, Joseph T. Leverich, Sara MacLean, Lloyd B. Macpherson, Allan Madden, Harry C. McDade, Ian A. McLaren, James K. Merritt, Paul S. Miliotis, Wayne P. Neily, Christopher M. Packard, Harold Payson, Peter A. Pearce, Frances Perry, Wayne R. Petersen, Elisabeth W. Phinney, Leon G. Phinney, Norman Pratt, John Rhome, Nellie Ross, Alvah Sanborn, Richard M. Sargent, Eloise A. Saunders, Vera Scamman, Sanford D. Schemnitz, Robert W. Smart, Sidney Smith, Gerald L. Soucy, Miriam S. Thomas, Edward V. Thompson, William Threlfall, Clinton B. Townsend, William C. Townsend, Daniel Welsh, Henry T. Wiggin, George A. Wilson, James G. Wilson, Charles F. Wolcott, Charles Wood, Audubon Society of New Hampshire, Brookline (Mass.) Bird Club, Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, University of New Hampshire, v.o., various observers.—**DAVIS W. FINCH, Knoll Creek Farm, Route 376, Hopewell Junction, N.Y. 12533.****