

New Hampshire BIRD RECORDS



Birds of Deer Hill WMA, Brentwood

This site was one of the birding hotspots in Spring 2020 and we share some of the many great photos taken here. See also the rarities (on the back cover) and the article inside on how to bird this great location.



Black-throated Green Warbler by Scott Heron, 5-12-20.



Bay-breasted Warbler by Steve Mirick, 5-17-20.



Blue-winged Warbler by Len Medlock, 5-18-20.



Orchard Oriole by Jim Sparrell, 5-20-20.



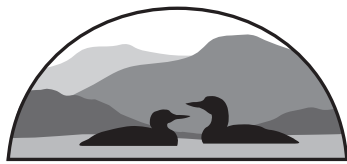
Cape May Warbler by Len Medlock, 5-17-20.

Photo Quiz



Can You Identify This Bird?

Photo by Jon Woolf.
Answer on page 35.



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**IN HONOR OF
ANN KIMBALL**

This issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records* with its color cover is sponsored in appreciation of Ann Kimball by her birding friends. Ann, an avid birder, has shared many birding adventures with friends and in the past, with her dear husband Bill. The birding community is grateful for her volunteer work, and her warmth, caring, friendliness, and positive attitude (see page 2).

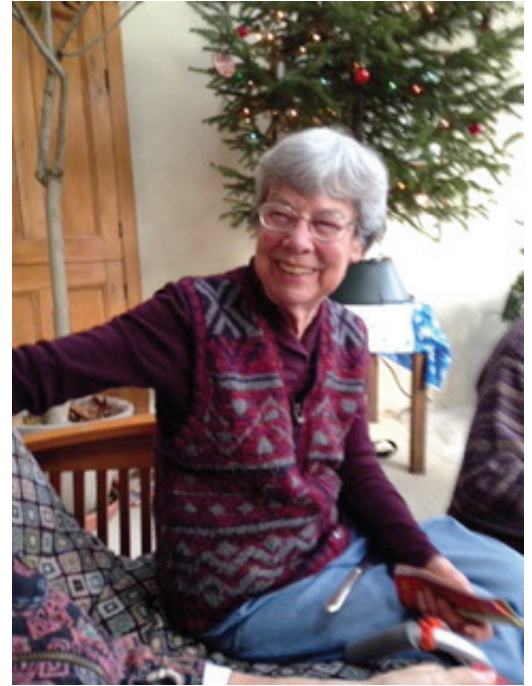


Photo by Sue Bickford.

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Checking the Status of Spring Migrants

by Rebecca Suomala

It's spring and everyone is watching for new arrivals. Circling above is a hawk that looks like a Broad-winged. It's the end of March and it seems reasonable. Other birders, however, raise their eyebrows when they hear a Broad-winged was spotted and eBird asks for details to be added to the report.

It's time to take a second look at how likely a Broad-winged Hawk would be on that date. How can we do that? The eBird bar charts are one place to start. Click on the Explore tab, click Bar Charts, select New Hampshire and the "entire region," and click Continue. Scroll down to Broad-winged Hawk.

The New Hampshire Broad-winged Hawk bar chart (Figure 1) shows a thin line for the end of March indicating it's possible but rare. Now check the eBird maps for up-to-date information on their migration. Our Broad-winged Hawks typically winter in Central and South America (rarely an immature winters in the north). We can follow their migration progress in eBird and see how far north they have traveled by the current date.

On the Explore page, click on Species Map, fill in Broad-winged Hawk and select it. Change the date range by clicking on the down arrow to the right of "Date" and selecting the Current Year. Zoom in to New Hampshire.

Looking at the map for all of March, 2020 (Figure 2) we can see that only a few Broad-winged Hawks had made it as far north as Pennsylvania by the end of March. It is very unlikely that there was a Broad-winged Hawk in New Hampshire in March. Red-shouldered Hawks, however, are back by the end of March and easy to confuse with Broad-wingeds, so that's one candidate for our sighting.

Let's look at another example. We get a glimpse of what looks

like a Yellow Warbler in early April, but it trips the eBird filter asking for more details. Could we have seen a Yellow Warbler? In this case, the bar charts are very helpful. Yellow Warblers do not occur in the first half of April, not even a thin line indicating it's rare. Looking at the eBird map in real time will show their progress north. Palm Warbler arrive much earlier than Yellows and would be a likely alternative candidate.

Birds have wings so you can rarely say "never," and there are anomalies (for example an over-wintering Semipalmated Plover in Rye, NH). If the bar charts or maps, however, indicate a sighting is rare or the species is still far from New Hampshire, try to take a photo for documentation. A little investigation into the eBird data, as described above, will help clarify the likelihood of an early returning migrant.



Figure 1. New Hampshire eBird bar charts for several raptors including Broad-winged Hawk. Image provided by eBird (www.ebird.org) and created 5-4-21.

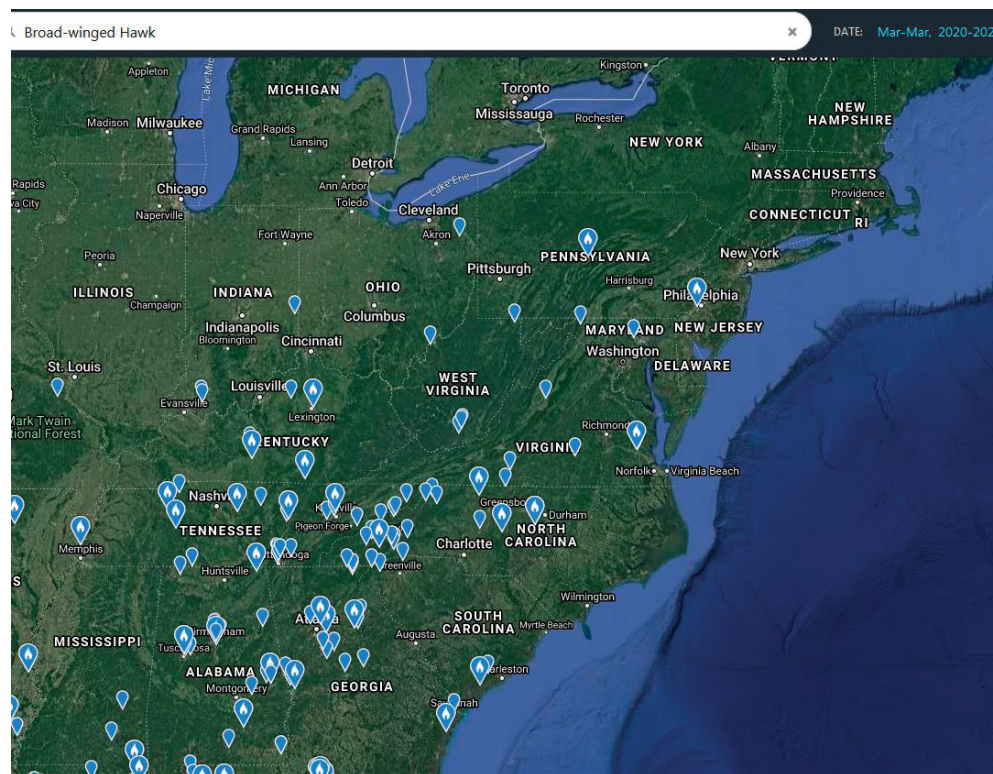


Figure 2. New Hampshire eBird map for Broad-winged Hawk in March of 2020. On real-time maps sightings in the last 30 days will be red pins. Image provided by eBird (www.ebird.org) and created 5-4-21.

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Abbreviations Used

AMC	Appalachian Mountain Club
BBC	Brookline Bird Club
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey
CA	Conservation Area
CC	Country Club
CFT	NH Audubon Chapter Field Trip
FT	Field Trip
IBA	Important Bird Area
L.	Lake
LPC	Loon Preservation Committee
NA	Natural Area
NHA	New Hampshire Audubon
NHBR	New Hampshire Bird Records
NHRBC	NH Rare Birds Committee
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
PO	Post Office
R.	River
Rd.	Road
RO	Raptor Observatory
Rt.	Route
SF	State Forest
SP	State Park
SPNHF	Society for the Protection of NH Forests, Concord
T&M	Thompson & Meserves (Purchase)
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
WMA	Wildlife Management Area
WMNF	White Mountain National Forest
WS	NHA Wildlife Sanctuary
~	approximately
WTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant

New Hampshire Bird Records is published quarterly by NH Audubon's Conservation Department. Thank you to the many observers who submit their sightings to NH eBird (www.ebird.org/nh), the source of data for this publication. The published sightings typically represent the highlights of the season. Not all species reported will appear in the issue. All records are subject to review by the NH Rare Birds Committee and publication here does not imply future acceptance by the RBC.

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