

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.



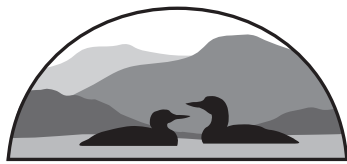
Cape May Warbler by Len Medlock, 5-17-20.

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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The Song of the Cerulean Warbler (Or Not)

compiled by Kathryn Frieden and Rebecca Suomala

Identifying a Cerulean Warbler by song alone can be problematic in New Hampshire. Black-throated Blue Warblers have a regional song variation that is extremely similar to Cerulean. In Spring 2020, there were quite a few comments about this situation, so here's a summary of this issue.



Black-throated Blue Warblers in New England can sing a song that sounds just like a Cerulean Warbler. Photo by Leo McKillop.

Cerulean Warbler is currently listed as "threatened" in New Hampshire. They bred reliably at Pawtuckaway State Park (Nottingham/Deerfield) for 20 years starting in the early 1990s, but they have not been regular there since at least 2015.

Pam Hunt conducted Cerulean Warbler surveys statewide from 2017-19 and during that time there were only two isolated sightings at Pawtuckaway State Park and two at Mount Wantastiquet (Hinsdale/Chesterfield). Birders usually search for Ceruleans in New Hampshire at these two locations. The difficulty is that Black-throated Blue Warblers can sound like Ceruleans and Ceruleans themselves can be variable.

Mark Suomala posted the following typical observation (NHBirds email list, 5-26-20):

During the past weekend, I heard what sounded like a Cerulean Warbler singing. It was in a forested area and sang a fast song persistently from high up in the trees. It took about one hour to see the bird and it turned out to be a Black-throated Blue Warbler (I got a picture). This is not too surprising to me, as I have chased a number of birds with Cerulean Warbler songs only to have them turn out to be Black-throated Blue Warblers. Also of note,

when Pawtuckaway State Park used to have a few Cerulean Warblers nesting regularly near Middle Mountain, the Cerulean Warblers sometimes sang atypical songs. There was one bird that sang a song that sounded like a Hooded Warbler and another bird that sounded like a Mourning Warbler.

David Sibley has posted an article online which states:

A local variation of Black-throated Blue Warbler, however, is extremely similar to the typical song of Cerulean Warbler. This variant is common in birds breeding across southern New England: from Connecticut north to Vermont and east to Maine. It can be heard from spring migrants south of those areas as well.

(<https://www.sibleyguides.com/2020/05/a-cerulean-like-song-variant-of-black-throated-blue-warbler/>)

During Pam Hunt's surveys in 2017-19, she reported hearing this song variant from Black-throated Blues in Pawtuckaway State Park, Tower Hill Pond (Candia), and Mount Wantastiquet. Steve Mirick's eBird report from Mt. Wantastiquet NA (6/6/20, S70113574) states that he tracked down every Cerulean/Black-throated Blue Warbler type song and they were all Black-throated Blue Warblers. Of the six males along the trail leading to the top, only one of them sang a typical Black-throated Blue Warbler song. The rest were Cerulean type.

It is clear that using song alone to identify a Cerulean Warbler in New Hampshire is not adequate. A visual confirmation is critical, and ideally a photo also. This isn't easy given the Cerulean's preference for being high in the forest canopy but please take the time to track down any suspect songs.

Chris McPherson posted the following links to NHBirds (5-26-20)

A visual of Black-throated Blue Warbler songs (category 1 and 2) with a Cerulean Warbler for comparison:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/127251358@N05/49931747587/in/dateposted/>

A series of recordings of Black-throated Blue Warbler songs (category 1 and 2) with a Cerulean Warbler (the third song series); each series is separated by an Eastern Wood-Pewee song:

<https://soundcloud.com/user-269114033/black-throated-blue-warbler-category-1-2-songs-with-cerulean-warbler>

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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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