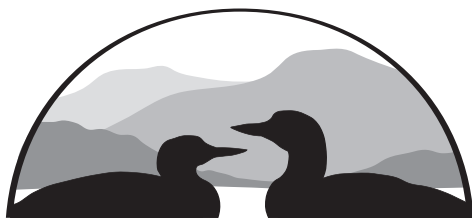


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<i>Managing Editor:</i>	Rebecca Suomala 603-224-9909 X309, <a href="mailto:bsuomala@nhaudubon.org">bsuomala@nhaudubon.org</a>
<i>Text Editor:</i>	Dorothy Fitch
<i>Season Editors:</i>	Pamela Hunt, Spring; Tony Vazzano, Summer; Stephen Mirick, Fall; David Deifik, Winter
<i>Layout:</i>	Kathy McBride
<i>Production Assistants:</i>	Terry Bronson, Kathie Palfy, Diane Parsons
<i>Assistants:</i>	Marie Anne, Jeannine Ayer, Julie Chapin, Lynn Edwards, Margot Johnson, Susan MacLeod, Carol Plato, Dot Soule, Jean Tasker, Tony Vazzano
<i>Photo Quiz:</i>	David Donsker
<i>Photo Editor:</i>	Bill Baird
<i>Where to Bird Feature</i> <i>Coordinator and Maps:</i>	William Taffe

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December 1, 2006 through February 28, 2007

by David Deifik

New Hampshire birders take pride in defying the elements to take to the field in winter. For the first half of the winter we were treated to remarkably mild conditions. This was the third warmest December on record. Precipitation for this time was slightly above normal, but came mostly as rain. January continued the mild trend with record warmth on January 6. Unfortunately winter reality set in at mid-month, producing more typically cold conditions that persisted through a colder than normal February. The late freeze-up had tragic consequences for a group of Common Loons. On Lake Winnepesaukee 22 loons were found stranded as the lake iced up. Unfortunately only four birds survived (see the article on page 47). The above average snowfall for February helped compensate for the relatively snow-free early winter. Thanks go to Tony Vazzano of North Winds Weather for providing us with his monthly weather summaries.



David Deifik

An **American White Pelican** reported on Great Bay in early December was quite remarkable. Two years ago an inland report of this species was the first winter season report. The state's second record of **Eared Grebe** appeared just before the start of the season and stayed through February 4. **Black Vulture** is being reported with increasing frequency in the state, but they are still considered rare and a winter record from Amherst in early December is quite unusual. A **Gyrfalcon** report from Dover is only our fourth record since 2001 (see the Spotlight on Gyrfalcon in the Winter 2005-06 issue). The Rochester wastewater treatment plant again produced some very exciting gull watching. From there, in January, came our likely second and third state records of **Slaty-backed Gull**—one an adult and the other a third-year bird. Three warbler records were outstanding: a **Yellow Warbler** in early December, an **Ovenbird** in late January, and a **Cape May Warbler** on December 1. A **Lincoln's Sparrow** report is rare for the season, with a **Clay-colored Sparrow** even more unusual. Rare at any season, the report of two separate **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** found on the same late January day was a remarkable coincidence.



*Slaty-backed Gull by James Smith, 1/3/07, Rochester Wastewater Treatment Plant, Rochester, NH.*

# Waterfowl

The extensive open water particularly early in the season produced a good number and variety of waterfowl. Cackling Geese were reported from Concord and Hinsdale. The Cackling Goose is a recent split from the Canada Goose. It was created from the splitting off of the four smallest subspecies of the Canada Goose, *minima*, *hutchinsii*, *leucopareia*, and *taverneri*. The smallest of these four subspecies is about the size of a Mallard. However the largest Cackling Goose subspecies, *taverneri* is about the same size as the smallest subspecies of the Canada Goose, *parvipes*, which can complicate identification. Cackling Goose populations typically winter in California's Central Valley, the Southern Great Plains, and the western Gulf Coast. It is rare to casual elsewhere on the continent. A Greater White-fronted Goose was reported in South Chatham. Greater White-fronted Goose is not common in the state and typically reported in spring or fall. There have only been two other winter records since 1990.

There were multiple Wood Duck reports and a new Christmas Bird Count (CBC) high count for Nashua. Inland waterfowl records from the Lakes Region have not been as numerous since the 2002–2003 season. This may reflect a particular spike in abundance that has now fallen back to a more “normal” level. One exception is Hooded Merganser which seemed to be remarkably abundant from the Lakes Region south.



Two Gadwall reported from Portsmouth were notable, as there was only one previous winter record in the last four years. Other notable ducks reported were Blue-winged Teal, Canvasback, and Ruddy Duck.

*Hooded Mergansers by Fred Tyrrell, 2/3/07, Center Harbor, NH.*

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Greater White-fronted Goose</b>				
12-06	1	Chatham	Lower Kimball Pond, w. shore	R. Crowley
<b>Snow Goose</b>				
12-16	6	Greenland	Great Bay	S.& J. Mirick, K. Dorsey, J. Silver
12-29	2	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
01-07	3	Greenland	Great Bay, Sunset Farm	S.& J. Mirick
<b>Snow Goose - Blue morph</b>				
01-27	3	Hampton	Winnacunnet High School	T. Bronson, R. Frechette, D. Rowell, S. Spangenberg, F. Doyle



*“Blue” Snow Goose  
by JoAnn O’Shaughnessy,  
1/23/07, Hampton, NH.*

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Canada Goose</b>				
12-05	161	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	L. Tanino
12-05	240	Monroe	Plains Rd.	E. Emery, P. Powers
12-08	400		NH coast	S. Mirick
12-16	43	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
12-29	200	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
01-06	125	Derry	Beaver Lake	A. & B. Delorey
01-18	700	Stratham	Sandy Point	M. Harvey
01-18	900	Durham	Adams Point	M. Harvey
01-30	500	Stratham	Rt. 108 near Squamscott Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
01-31	1500	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
02-26	475	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
<b>Cackling Goose</b>				
12-07	1	Concord	Penacook Lake (Long Pond)	R. Quinn
<b>Brant</b>				
01-21	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. & J. Mirick
<b>Mute Swan</b>				
12-09	2	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
01-09	1	Swanzy	Wilson Pond	L. Tanino
01-18	5	Durham	Adams Point	M. Harvey
01-20	4	Nashua	upper Nashua R. from Mine Falls	B. Harris
<b>Wood Duck</b>				
12-06	1	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Pk.	E. Masterson
12-12	1	Franklin	Webster Lake	C. Martin
12-14	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr., Piscassic R.	P. Hendrickx
01-31	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
02-28	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
<b>Gadwall</b>				
01-27	2	Portsmouth	back channel	T. Bronson, R. Frechette, D. Rowell, S. Spangenberg, F. Doyle
<b>American Wigeon</b>				
12-05	1	Portsmouth	South Mill Pond	P. Brown
12-10	2	Greenland	Great Bay, Sunset Farm	R. & M. Suomala
01-10	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, et al.
01-21	3	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. & J. Mirick
02-10	5	Durham	Adams Point	S. & J. Mirick
<b>American Black Duck</b>				
12-16	8	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
<b>Mallard</b>				
12-16	118	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
01-01	43	Monroe	Barnet CBC, NH sightings	
<b>Blue-winged Teal</b>				
12-02	1	Rye	Eel Pond	S. & J. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Northern Shoveler</b>				
12-03	4	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	R. & M. Suomala
01-10	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, et al.
01-31	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
<b>Northern Pintail</b>				
12-06	3	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	E. Masterson
12-16	1	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
01-14	1	Portsmouth	North Mill Pond	S. & J. Mirick
01-21	2	Hampton	Wheelevator duck pond	S. & J. Mirick
01-27	2	Exeter	Wheelright Creek	S. & J. Mirick, D. Abbott, P. Lacourse
01-31	4	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
02-28	4	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
<b>Green-winged Teal</b>				
12-05	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	P. Brown
12-06	9	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	E. Masterson
12-22	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	M. Harvey
<b>Canvasback</b>				
12-16	3	Greenland	Great Bay	S. & J. Mirick, K. Dorsey, J. Silver
<b>Ring-necked Duck</b>				
12-02	3	Rye	Eel Pond	S. & J. Mirick
12-03	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	R. & M. Suomala
12-06	2	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	E. Masterson
12-07	3	Webster	Lake Winnepocket	P. Brown
12-09	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
01-01	1	Rye	Eel Pond	S. & J. Mirick
01-09	10	Concord	Penacook Lake (Long Pond)	P. Hunt
01-14	1	Rye	Eel Pond	S. & J. Mirick
02-28	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
<b>Greater Scaup</b>				
12-10	500	Greenland	Great Bay, Sunset Farm	R. & M. Suomala
12-10	4	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake, Spofford	L. Tanino
12-12	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	T Bronson
01-06	2	Derry	Beaver Lake	A. & B. Delorey
01-27	10	Hampton	Hampton Beach	E. Masterson, P. Brown, D. Fallon, S. Wollney
02-10	1013	Durham	Adams Point	S. & J. Mirick
<b>Lesser Scaup</b>				
12-02	3	Hampton	Eel Pond	S. & J. Mirick
12-09	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
12-09	4	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	E. Masterson
12-10	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	R. & M. Suomala
01-09	1	Concord	Penacook Lake (Long Pond)	P. Hunt
01-13	2	Derry	Beaver Lake	A. & B. Delorey
<b>Scaup sp.</b>				
12-07	3	Marlborough	Kensan-Devan WS	J. Tilden, P. Brown

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>King Eider</b>				
12-02	1	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	S.& J. Mirick
02-24	1	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	E. Masterson, J. Hills
<b>Bufflehead</b>				
12-01	10	Concord	Snow Pond	P. Brown
12-05	11	Rye	Eel Pond	T. Bronson
12-06	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	E. Masterson
12-29	1	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	E. Masterson
12-29	16	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	T. Bronson
01-07	2	Manchester	Massabesic WS	E. Masterson
01-22	24	Portsmouth	Portsmouth Harbor to Wentworth Hotel	T. Bronson
02-28	5	Portsmouth	Urban Forestry Center	T. Bronson
02-28	2	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
<b>Common Goldeneye</b>				
12-06	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	E. Masterson
12-07	3	Winchester	Winchester Town Beach	L. Tanino
12-07	5	Webster	Lake Winnepocket	P. Brown
12-10	22	Greenland	Great Bay, Sunset Farm	R.& M. Suomala
12-14	11	Northwood	Northwood Lake	E. Masterson
12-14	18	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake, Spofford	L. Tanino
12-16	32	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
12-22	2	Gilmanton	Crystal Lake	W. Arms
12-25	1	Derry	Beaver Lake	A.& B. Delorey
01-02	102		NH coast	T. Bronson
01-07	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	E. Masterson
01-22	38	Rye	Foss Beach to Wentworth Hotel	T. Bronson
01-27	25	Concord	Sewalls Falls	R. Woodward
01-30	97	Durham	Adams Point WMA	T. Bronson
02-10	2	Errol	Androscoggin River dam	M. Suomala, C. Ciccone, K. Dorsey
02-12	105	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
02-17	220	Manchester	Merrimack River	E. Masterson
02-21	10	Hampton	Island Path	T. Bronson
<b>Barrow's Goldeneye</b>				
12-08	1	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	S. Mirick
12-30	1	Sanbornton	Lake Winnisquam, off Lower Smith Rd.	P. Hunt, E. Masterson
01-01	1	N. Hampton	N. Hampton State Beach	S.& J. Mirick
01-27	1	Hampton	Plaice Cove	T. Bronson, R. Frechette, D. Rowell, S. Spangenberg, F. Doyle
02-10	1	Rye	s. of Concord Point	S.& J. Mirick
02-17	1	Dover	Cedar Point	S.& J. Mirick
<b>Hooded Merganser</b>				
12-06	11	Barrington	Ayers Pond	E. Masterson
12-06	4	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Pk.	E. Masterson
12-06	5	Northwood	Northwood Lake	E. Masterson
12-07	4	Swanzy	S. Winchester St., Rt. 10	L. Tanino
12-07	1	Winchester	Winchester Town Beach	L. Tanino
12-07	7	Swanzy	Swanzy Lake	L. Tanino
12-07	9	Webster	Lake Winnepocket	P. Brown

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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**Hooded Merganser—continued**

12-07	105	Concord	Penacook Lake (Long Pond)	R. Quinn
12-09	20	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
12-09	53	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	E. Masterson
12-09	3	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
12-10	2	Northwood	Harvey Lake	R. & M. Suomala
12-10	8	Nelson	Granite Lake, Munsonville	K. Gordon
12-11	22	Monroe	Connecticut River	B. Bradley
12-14	16	Swanzy	Swanzy Lake	L. Tanino
12-16	28	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
01-11	7	Auburn	Lake Massabesic at Clairs Landing	T. Bronson
01-13	15	Concord	Penacook Lake (Long Pond)	P. Hunt
01-23	7	Monroe	Connecticut River	E. Emery
01-27	2	Nashua	Nashua R., Chandler St.	B. Harris
01-27	2	Hampton	Hampton Marsh	E. Masterson, P. Brown, D. Fallon, S. Wollney
01-27	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	T. Bronson, R. Frechette, D. Rowell, S. Spangenberg, F. Doyle
01-31	70	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
02-04	3	Rye	near Rye Harbor	S. & J. Mirick
02-10	2	Berlin	Androscoggin R. at Berlin town line	M. Suomala, C. Ciccone, K. Dorsey
02-17	4	Concord	below Sewalls Falls	P. Hunt
02-17	5	Manchester	Merrimack River	E. Masterson

**Common Merganser**

12-05	30	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	L. Tanino
12-07	1	Winchester	Winchester Town Beach	L. Tanino
12-07	4	Webster	Lake Winnepocket	P. Brown
12-09	13	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
12-10	41	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake, Spofford	L. Tanino
12-11	45	Monroe	Connecticut River	B. Bradley
12-14	12	Swanzy	Swanzy Lake	L. Tanino
12-16	19	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
12-25	2	Derry	Beaver Lake	A. & B. Delorey
12-28	16	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	T. Bronson
12-29	29	Dublin	Dublin Lake	E. Masterson
01-01	1	Monroe	Barnet CBC, NH sightings	E. Emery, J. Cate, P. Powers
01-02	60	Concord	Penacook Lake (Long Pond)	P. Hunt
01-11	240	Laconia	Opechee Bay	C. Martin
01-12	10	Newmarket	town landing	T. Bronson, R. Frechette
01-19	4	Nashua	Nashua R. boat ramp at Jensens Pk.	B. Harris
01-23	11	Monroe	Connecticut River	B. Bradley
01-31	40	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
02-06	10	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	T. Bronson
02-10	2	Berlin	Androscoggin R. at Berlin town line	M. Suomala, C. Ciccone, K. Dorsey
02-10	3	Errol	Androscoggin River dam	M. Suomala, C. Ciccone, K. Dorsey
02-15	2	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
02-17	20	Manchester	Merrimack River	E. Masterson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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**Red-breasted Merganser**

12-03	5	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	L. Tanino
12-09	1	Chesterfield	Spofford lake	E. Masterson
12-12	1	Barrington	Mendums Pond	T. Chase
12-19	160	Rye	NH coast	M. Harvey
01-18	1	Stratham	Sandy Point	M. Harvey
01-18	1	Durham	Adams Point	M. Harvey

**Ruddy Duck**

12-03	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	R. & M. Suomala
12-14	1	Northwood	Northwood Lake	E. Masterson
12-21	2	Windham	Canobie Lake	M. Harvey
12-23	1	Durham	off Fox Point	S. & J. Mirick
12-27	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. & J. Mirick
02-24	1	Rye	Rye Harbor	S. & J. Mirick

## Pheasant through Raptors

There was a single report of Spruce Grouse found by an intrepid observer below the summit of Mt. Pierce. Inland records of Red-throated Loon are quite sparse, so a sighting from Swanzy on December 3 was notable. Reports of inland Common Loon were more than double last year’s number. See page 47 for more on the loon stranding. Imagine the surprise a pair of duck hunters had when an **American White Pelican** landed among their goose decoys. They were hunting at the mouth of the Lamprey River on Great Bay in early December when the pelican landed but 60 feet away! This is only the third record for the winter season in 17 years and it was well described. The previous two records were from December of 2004 and probably involve the same individual as they were seen on the same day less than ten miles apart.

Certainly one of the rarest birds of the season was an **Eared Grebe** found in Rye. It was found on the last day of the fall season and was reported through February 4. This is only the second state record for this species and provided a first Christmas Bird Count record. American Bittern was again recorded this season with one report in early December and another in early January, when it is considered rare. Similarly to last year, the mild early winter conditions produced an abnormally high number of Great Blue Heron records. A single **Black Vulture** report from Amherst in early December was quite remarkable, even considering the increasing number of reports in the state. Repeating the outstanding reports from last year, Turkey Vultures were observed in far greater numbers than would be expected for the winter season. The number of records increased by a factor of seven from two years ago!



*Eared Grebe by Stephen R. Mirick, 12/27/06, Rye, NH.*



This year's mid-winter Bald Eagle survey was carried out from January 3–17. A total of 50 eagles were counted during the period, just 10% less than the record numbers of the prior two years. The highest numbers were found along the Connecticut and Merrimack Rivers. The third annual Late Winter Bald Eagle survey took place from February 15 through March 1. A total of 76 eagles (42 adults, 34 immature) were seen during the period, with 63 seen on the count day of February 24. This was an outstanding year for Rough-legged Hawk. Sightings were concentrated on the Seacoast and the Southern Connecticut River Valley. The high count of four was noted in Westmoreland on February 12. There were two records of American Kestrel, a declining winter bird. A well described **Gyrfalcon** from Dover on February 13 would be only our second winter record in five years.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Ring-necked Pheasant</b>				
12-16	1	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
01-25	3	Kensington	Route 150	P. Brown
<b>Spruce Grouse</b>				
01-19	1	Beans Grant	Mt. Pierce, below summit	R. Dodd
<b>Wild Turkey</b>				
12-11	4	N. Hampton	Woodland Rd. n. of Rt. 111	T. Bronson
12-16	11	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
12-17	22	Concord	Oak Hill Rd.	J. Tilden, M. Coppola, P. Brown
12-19	202	Monroe	n. Monroe & Plains Rd.	E. Emery, P. Powers, B. Bradley
01-18	30	Newbury	Newbury traffic circle	P. Newbern
01-22	3	Deerfield	Mt. Delight Rd.	D. Crowe
01-27	10	Newington		E. Masterson, P. Brown, D. Fallon, S. Wollney
01-30	8	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	T. Bronson
01-30	84	Haverhill	Clark Pond Rd., N. Haverhill	B. Bradley
02-13	21	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd. near Goldmine Rd.	M. Wright
02-16	10	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
02-21	16	Chatham	Chatham-Conway town line	R. Crowley
02-21	16	Brookline	residence	E. Nickerson
02-22	70	Bath	West Bath Rd.	B. Bradley
02-24	28	Westmoreland	River Rd.	L. Tanino, P. Brown, J. Tilden
02-25	150	Bath	Mimot Farm	B. Bradley
02-28	8	Portsmouth	Corporate Dr. e. of Grafton Dr.	T. Bronson
<b>Red-throated Loon</b>				
12-03	1	Swanzy	Wilson Pond	L. Tanino
12-29	5	Rye	Seal Rocks	T. Bronson, P. Brown
01-27	1	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	E. Masterson, P. Brown, D. Fallon, S. Wollney
<b>Common Loon</b>				
12-07	1	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	L. Tanino
12-12	1	Barrington	Mendums Pond	T. Chase
12-17	1	Laconia	Lake Opechee, from Lakeport Dam	H. Anderson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
12-18	30	Rye	Concord Point	S. Mirick
12-29	2	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	E. Masterson
01-02	11		NH coast	T. Bronson
01-08	1	Dublin	Dublin Lake	T. Warren
01-09	1	Littleton	Moore Dam	E. Emery, P. Powers
01-11	1	Laconia	Paugus Bay	C. Martin

### **Pied-billed Grebe**

12-16	1	Greenland	Beaver Pond	S. & J. Mirick, K. Dorsey, J. Silver
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### **Horned Grebe**

01-07	10		NH coast	E. Masterson
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### **Red-necked Grebe**

12-12	2	Laconia	Lake Winnisquam off Bartlett Beach	H. Anderson
12-25	3	Laconia	Lake Winnisquam off Bartlett Beach	H. Anderson
01-07	60		NH coast	E. Masterson

### **Eared Grebe**

12-01	1	Rye	Seal Rocks	S. Mirick
02-04	1	Rye	Seal Rocks	S. & J. Mirick

### **Northern Gannet**

12-21	52	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	M. Harvey
12-24	19	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. & J. Mirick

### **American White Pelican**

12-10	1	Newmarket	Great Bay at Lamprey R. mouth	A. Wood
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### **Double-crested Cormorant**

12-05	2	Newmarket	town landing	P. Brown
12-15	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
12-16	1	Stratham	Squamscott River	S. Mirick
01-07	1	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	E. Masterson

### **Great Cormorant**

12-03	29	Rye	NH coast	T. Bronson
02-06	20	Rye	Concord Point	T. Bronson
02-06	1	Manchester	above Rt. 293 at exit 5	T. & C. Young



*American Bittern by Leonard Medlock,  
1/6/07, "Henry's" Pool, Hampton, NH.*

### **American Bittern**

12-03	1	Hampton	Rt. 1A, behind Little Jack's Restaurant	R. & M. Suomala
01-02	1	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools by pumping station	T. Bronson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Great Blue Heron</b>				
12-04	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
12-05	4		NH coast	T. Bronson
12-05	1	Dover	Bellamy River WS	P. Brown
12-11	4	Hampton	Meadow Pond	T. Bronson
12-15	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	T. Bronson
12-20	1	Peterborough	Fremont Conservation Land, S. Peterborough	D. Baum
12-29	1	Exeter	Squamscott R. next to wastewater treatment plant	T. Bronson
12-29	1	Hampton	Island Path	P. Brown
01-13	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	H. Chary
01-16	1	Hampton Falls	marsh at end of Depot Rd.	T. Bronson
01-26	1	Newmarket	wastewater treatment plant	P. Brown
<b>Black Vulture</b>				
12-04	1	Amherst	across Rt. 101A from Mobil Station next to Wal-Mart	T. Young
<b>Turkey Vulture</b>				
12-02	1	Londonderry	Rt. 93	K. Folsom
12-02	1	Derry	Rt. 93	K. Folsom
12-16	2	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
12-26	1	Salem	Lawrence Rd. at watertower	K. Folsom
12-30	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P. Hendrickx
12-31	3	Brentwood	Rt. 101 e. of exit 8	N. Nelson
01-01	14	Newmarket	off Nichols Ave.	S. & J. Mirick
01-01	49	Monroe	Barnet CBC, NH sightings	
01-06	3	Walpole	Upper Rd.	A. Johnson
01-07	18	Newmarket	off Nichols Ave.	S. & J. Mirick
01-13	1	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson, N. Nelson
01-24	1	Derry	Rt. 93	K. Folsom
02-09	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	T. Bronson
02-10	1	Fremont	Martin Rd.	T. Bronson
02-11	1	Lee	Rt. 155 n. of Rt. 152	T. Bronson, N. Nelson
02-16	1	Newmarket	Rts. 108 & 152	T. Bronson
02-17	1	Belmont	Rt. 140	J. Stockwell
02-20	1	Nashua	Tumble Brook	B. Harris
02-21	1	Nottingham	residence	J. Cassidy
02-24	2	Exeter	Watson Rd.	G. Cypher
02-25	1	Kensington	Moulton Ridge	G. Gavutis
02-26	4	Newmarket	Lamprey River at Rt. 108	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
<b>Bald Eagle</b>				
12-16	1	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
01-01	4	Monroe	Barnet CBC, NH sightings	
<b>Northern Harrier</b>				
12-03	2	Hampton	Rt. 1A, behind Little Jack's Restaurant	R. & M. Suomala
01-06	1	Walpole	Upper Rd.	A. Johnson
01-07	2	Hampton	Hampton Marsh	E. Masterson
01-22	2	Rye	marsh s. of Rye Harbor	T. Bronson
01-24	1	Stratham	Swampscott Rd.	T. Bronson
01-31	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
02-04	1	Westmoreland	White Road	E. Masterson
02-10	1	Hampton	Rt. 101 causeway	S.& J. Mirick
<b>Sharp-shinned Hawk</b>				
01-01		Monroe	Barnet CBC-CW, NH sightings	
<b>Cooper's Hawk</b>				
12-16	2	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
01-01		Monroe	Barnet CBC-CW, NH sightings	
<b>Northern Goshawk</b>				
12-03	1	Nottingham	Stevens Hill Rd. residence	D. Crowe
12-29	1	Strafford	e. side of Parker Mt., Rt. 126	G. Gavutis
<b>Red-shouldered Hawk</b>				
02-28	2	E. Kingston	town hall	S. Mirick
<b>Red-tailed Hawk</b>				
12-16	15	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
01-01		Monroe	Barnet CBC-CW, NH sightings	
<b>Rough-legged Hawk</b>				
01-24	1	Sanbornton	Abbott's Farm Fields, Tilton town line	D. Stavros, H.,W. & L. Bardusk
01-26	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	J. Tilden, P. Brown
01-27	1	Durham	UNH agricultural fields & Rt. 4	D.& A. Stavros
01-27	1	Portsmouth	Great Bog	E. Masterson, P. Brown, D. Fallon, S. Wollney
01-27	2	Portsmouth	Fabyan Pt.	L. Tanino, J. Tilden, J. Ladd, M. Gaige
01-29	1	Springfield	Old Croydon Rd.	B. Waddell
02-11	1	Lebanon	Signal Hill	D. Jorgensen
02-12	4	Westmoreland	Rt. 63	E. Masterson
02-13	1	Tilton	Rt. 132, 1 mi. n. of Rt. 11	D. Stavros, L. H. & W. Bardusk
02-17	1	Hampton	Tidemill Road	S.& J. Mirick
02-17	3	Walpole	River Rd.	D. Clark
02-21	1	Seabrook	Cross Beach Rd.	T. Bronson
<b>American Kestrel</b>				
12-05	1	Newington	near Pease Int'l. Tradeport	P. Brown
02-18	1	Peterborough		V. Fortier
<b>Merlin</b>				
01-01	1	Hampton	Hampton Harbor marina	S.& J. Mirick
01-27	1	Seabrook	off Rt. 1A	S.& J. Mirick, D. Abbott, P. Lacourse
<b>Gyrfalcon</b>				
02-13	1	Dover	Cote Dr., Piscataqua R. near Hilton Park	J. Owens, P. Rose
<b>Peregrine Falcon</b>				
12-09	2	Plymouth	Rt. 25, 5 mi. from Rattlesnake Mtn.	J. & J. Williams
12-10	1	Littleton	off Meadow St.	P. Powers
12-23	1	Rumney	Buffalo Rd. residence	J. Williams
12-24	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Woodward
01-13	1	Concord	downtown Concord	R. Woodward

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Peregrine Falcon—continued</b>				
02-19	1	Laconia	Boulia Gowell Lumber	J. Stockwell
02-24	2	Portsmouth	Memorial Bridge	S.& J. Mirick
02-24	1	Seabrook	Rt. 286 marsh	C. Martin, R. Suomala

## Coot through Alcids

**A**merican Coot was another beneficiary of the mild early winter conditions, with almost twice the number of records of last year. Powwow Pond again was the epicenter of coot occurrence with a one-day count of 116, almost double the number counted there at about the same time last year. **American Woodcock** is extremely rare in the winter season. An early December record was the first for the winter season since December 1998. Even more remarkable is that both records were by the same observer in the North Country!



*Slaty-backed Gull by Stephen R. Mirick, 1/3/07, Rochester, NH.*



*Slaty-backed Gull by Mike Harvey, 1/18/07, Rochester, NH.*

Once extremely rare, Lesser Black-backed Gull continues to be an increasing feature of our wintering gull population. As many as five individuals were recorded at the Rochester wastewater treatment plant. Large numbers of gulls, including a remarkable high of 14 Iceland Gulls, frequent the treatment plant, which is adjacent to a large landfill. One of the most exciting birding events of the season was the appearance of **Slaty-backed Gull** at the plant. There appeared to be two birds involved, an adult and a third year bird. The birds were extensively studied and photographed. Pending review by the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee, this would constitute a second and third state records. The first state record of the species also occurred at the Rochester wastewater treatment plant in December of 2003. This gull of the Eastern Pacific Ocean region is rare but increasingly reported from the west coast of the U.S. Records beyond that area are still quite outstanding.

A Dovekie found on the coast at North Hampton was a nice Christmas present for the observer. This was the sole record for the season. Most of the alcids (including Razorbills and Black Guillemots) reported on December 21 were flying south along the coast; of the 15 unidentified alcids one was a small bird that was either a Dovekie or Atlantic Puffin.