

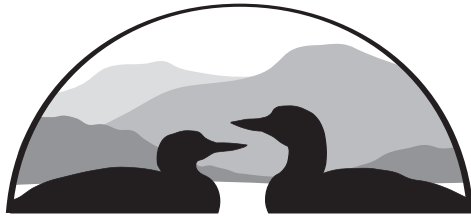
# New Hampshire Bird Records



**Winter 2008-09**

**Vol. 27, No. 4**

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## **Volume 27, Number 4**

### **Winter 2008-09**

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**Cover Photo:** Northern Hawk Owl with fresh-caught prey, by Jason Lambert, 1/12/09, along Coe Hill Rd., Center Harbor, NH.

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**IN MEMORY OF**  
*Andy and Karen Woolf*



**T**his issue of New Hampshire Bird Records with its color cover is sponsored by the Woolf Family, in memory of Andy and Karen Woolf. Andy and Karen were life-long birders and conservationists, and strongly supportive of New Hampshire Audubon's mission to preserve wild lands and wildlife.



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### Winter Birding in Berlin and Points North

by Kathy Dube

**T**he Androscoggin River flows through the center of Berlin, New Hampshire. The river and the Mt. Carberry landfill attract eagles, gulls, ravens, and crows. A Lesser Black-backed Gull was found near the James Cleveland Bridge a few years ago. I have seen Great Black-backed, Herring, Ring-Billed, Glaucous, and Iceland Gulls. A great number of gulls roost on the remaining mill buildings near the VFW post on Upper Main Street and eagles have been seen taking gulls off the ice. Fruit trees around town attract Pine Grosbeaks and Bohemian Waxwings.

In Berlin, follow Main Street (Route 16) to the 12th Street Bridge, turn right and cross bridge, and then turn left heading north. Stop at the Berlin Industrial Park to check for Snow Buntings and Horned Larks. The White Mountain Chalet is just north of the park. Gray Jays were daily visitors here during the winters of 2007 and 2008. Proceed north to Success Loop Road on the right. There are many feeders visible from the road. Gray Jays have also been reported here. A Northern Goshawk was seen on a 2008 winter finch trip. Return to East Milan Road and make a right to go to the airport. Restrooms are in the terminal building and always open.



*White-winged Crossbill by Leonard Medlock, 1/26/09.*

Stay on East Milan Road to Chickwolnepy Road, which will be on your right. This road is a great place to find Dark-eyed Juncos, Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Grosbeaks, Purple Finches, nuthatches, redpolls, and White-winged Crossbills. The Caron family owns the log cabin near the top of the hill. They sent me a beautiful photo of a male Black-backed Woodpecker working a tree in their front yard. Their feeders often have a good variety of species. Birders are often seeking Red Crossbills, which I see most often in the spring. On the 2007 winter finch trip, we found Red Crossbills eating grit on Chickwolnepy Road.

Return to East Milan Road and continue north to Dummer. Go right on Hill Road in front of the Dummer church. At about 2.5 miles is the junction of Hill Road and Ferry Road. At this junction is the “meat pile.” Farmers, trappers, and hunters leave the remains of moose, deer, cows, and coyotes near the back center of the field close to the tree line. Bald Eagles, Common Ravens, American Crows, Red-tailed Hawks, and bobcat can be seen scavenging among the carcasses. Scan the trees for perched birds such as young eagles and hawks, which are well camouflaged. I counted 12 Bald Eagles, 75 Common Ravens, and 50 American Crows here on one mid-December day in 2007.

Take either Ferry Road or Hill Road back to East Milan Road and travel south to Milan. Cross the bridge to Route 16 and turn right to travel north for 3.5 miles to Pon-took Dam and Reservoir. Stop at the dam parking lot. Eagles are always looking for scraps from the ice fishermen. A Bald Eagle nest is located 1.4 miles north of the dam. It is on the east side of the river in a pine tree.

Continue traveling on Route 16 north to Errol, stopping frequently, especially at stands of conifers. Black-backed Woodpeckers nest along the highway and are sometimes seen in winter. Crossbills, Ruffed Grouse, Gray Jays, and Common Mergansers are frequently seen. I found a female Spruce Grouse foraging under some spruce trees about 5 miles south of Errol. In Errol, check the area around the bridge on Route 26 for Bald Eagles. Backtrack a few yards and travel north on Route 16. A large pool below the Errol Dam can sport as many as a hundred-plus Common Goldeneye congregating in late March, waiting for “ice-out” in the northern lakes.

Continue on Route 16 to Greenough Pond Road, 2-3 miles north on the left. This seems to be the best place to find Boreal Chickadees. I’ve had a 60% success rate finding this elusive species. Be careful on dirt logging roads, as trucks are hauling seven days a week. Walking these roads is preferable to driving, especially in winter. Return to Route 16 and continue north to the headquarters of the Lake Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge, the last stop on the journey. Two or three Gray Jays have flown in to greet participants on previous winter finch trips.

The Errol/Umbagog Christmas Bird Count, which is compiled by Chris Martin, has data available online that would be helpful for birding this area (<http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/index.html>). Visiting birders should consult the detailed maps in the New Hampshire Atlas & Gazetteer by DeLorme map to follow the route outlined above.

*A very experienced birder and resident of Berlin, Kathy Dube leads winter finch trips every year for the Seacoast Chapter of New Hampshire Audubon.*

## Abbreviations Used

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

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