

New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee Report

The following report from the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee (NHRBC) contains decisions for older, historical bird reports. The NHRBC is an independent technical advisory committee to *New Hampshire Bird Records*. It reviews unusual sightings in an effort to maintain accuracy and scientific integrity for the historical database of bird sightings maintained by New Hampshire Audubon. Sightings are evaluated based on the details submitted. In order to be accepted by the Committee, a record can have only one dissenting vote. For information on the Committee and its decision making process, please see the article in the Summer 1996 issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*. Since that article was written, some changes have been made to the NHRBC's structure and procedural methods. For example, the membership of the committee has been expanded to eight and the season editors of *New Hampshire Bird Records* are no longer automatically assigned to the Committee.

A rejection of a submitted sighting is not necessarily an indication that the identification was incorrect but that the information received was not sufficient to allow its inclusion in the state record. Adequate documentation is the key to whether a report is accepted or not. The Fall 1996 issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records* has an article on how to document rare bird sightings. Contact the *New Hampshire Bird Records* Managing Editor for a copy of either *New Hampshire Bird Records* articles.

Please note that the following reports were reviewed by the NHRBC a number of years ago, prior to the terms of most current Committee members. While we have tried to provide information on why a record was not accepted, that information was not always available.

Winter 1989-90

Accepted

Varied Thrush, 2-25 & 2-26-90, Highland Avenue, Antrim.
Orange-crowned Warbler, 12-16-89, off Great Bay Road, Greenland.
Dark-eyed Junco - Oregon subspecies, 1-11-90, Hammond Hollow, Gilsum.

Not Accepted

Broad-winged Hawk, 2-5-90, downtown Henniker. Description did not exclude Cooper's Hawk.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 2 on 2-11-90, Route 26, Millsfield.

Winter 1990-91

Accepted

Greater White-fronted Goose, 12-16-90, Seacoast Christmas Bird Count, Pease Air Force Base, Newington. Photograph.
Tundra Swan, 6 on 12-14-90, Connecticut River, Hanover.
Great Gray Owl, 12-21-90, Welch Road residence, Canterbury.

Not Accepted

Turkey Vulture, 2-9-91, North River Road, Milford. Insufficient details to eliminate other larger soaring birds.
Gyr Falcon, 2-23-91, Ossipee Aggregates, Ossipee.
Dovekie, 12-4-90, Route 25, Warren.
Great Gray Owl, 2-5-91, Hazen Drive, Concord.
Great Gray Owl, 2-19-91, Cleveland Hill Road, Tamworth.

Spring 1991

Accepted

Tundra Swan, 3/27/91, Turkey Pond, Concord.
Wilson's Phalarope, 5-27-91, Lake Umbagog, Errol.
Band-tailed Pigeon, 3-6-91, Ledgeview Drive, North Conway.
Cerulean Warbler, 5-16-91, Mt. Wantastiquet, Hinsdale.
Kentucky Warbler, 5-18-91, Odiome Point State Park, Rye.
Blue Grosbeak, 5/11/91, Winchester Street, Swanzey.

Not Accepted

Buff-breasted Sandpiper, 5-19-91, Hampton River, Hampton. Unusual habitat. Insufficient details.
Lesser Black-backed Gull, 5-30-91, Rye Harbor State Park, Rye. Details submitted do not exclude Herring Gull.
Eastern Wood-Pewee, 3-5-91, Steammill Hill Road, Brookline. Very early date. Insufficient details.

Summer 1991

Accepted

Franklin's Gull, 6-1-91, Jenness Beach, Rye. Photo.
Acadian Flycatcher, 7-7 and 7-13-91, Pawtuckaway State Park, Nottingham.
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 6-19-91, Star Island, Isles of Shoals, Rye. Photo.
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 6-27-91, Buffalo Road, Rumney.
American Pipit, 6 and a nest on 6-29-91, Mount Washington, Thompson & Meserves Purchase. Photo of nest. First state breeding record.
American Pipit, 7 with evidence of breeding on 7-12-91, Mount Washington, Thompson & Meserves Purchase.

Fall 1991

Accepted

Leach's Storm-Petrel, 9-20-91, ocean off New Castle.
Franklin's Gull, 9-12-91 and 9-17-91, Jenness Beach, Rye.
Royal Tern, 8-20-91, Hampton Beach State Park, Hampton
Royal Tern, 8-20-91, Rye Harbor, Rye.
Sandwich Tern, 8-20-91, Seabrook Harbor, Seabrook. Photograph.
Black Skimmer, 8-21-91, s. side of Hampton Harbor bridge, Seabrook. A second report of two birds at the same location on 8-22-91 had no additional details and only one bird could be accepted for that date.
Northern Hawk Owl, 11-9-91, Creampoke Road, Stewartstown.
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, 10-3-91, McDowell Dam, Peterborough.

Not Accepted

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, 10-23-91, Pine River Pond, N. Wakefield.
Tundra Swan, 12 on 10-3-91, Dyke Road, Sugar Hill.
Rough-legged Hawk, 8-30-91, Chase Wildlife Sanctuary, Hopkinton.
Fork-tailed Flycatcher, 8-21-91, New Hampton Conservation Area, New Hampton.
Prothonotary Warbler, 10-16-91, New Hampton Conservation Area, New Hampton.
Western Tanager, 8-13-91, West Salisbury Road, Salisbury. Insufficient details to eliminate Scarlet Tanager in molt.
Black-headed Grosbeak, 8-1-91, Derby Road, Derry.

Winter 91-92

Accepted

Laughing Gull, 12-14-91, Hampton Beach State Park, Hampton.
Lesser Black-backed Gull, 1-31-92, Jenness Beach, Rye.

Not Accepted

Gyr Falcon, 1-26-92, Odiome Point, Rye.
Mew Gull, 12-18-91, found injured on Milford Street in Manchester.

Barn Owl, 12-5-91, Manchester dump.
Varied Thrush, 12-6-91, Route 13 residence, Dunbarton.

Spring 1992

Accepted

Black Vulture, 4-4-92, Route 4 at Cold Brook, Boscawen.
Sandhill Crane, 3-24-92, Route 13, Dunbarton.
American Oystercatcher, 5-10-92, Seabrook Harbor, Seabrook.
Yellow-throated Warbler, 5-16-92, Route 12 rest area, Walpole.

Not Accepted

Tundra Swan, 2 on 4-27-92, seen from River Road, Hanover. Vague description did not exclude Mute Swan or other white waterfowl.
Great Gray Owl, 4-18-92, Kancamagus Highway, Albany. Eye color not noted. Description does not exclude Barred Owl.
Loggerhead Shrike, 3-4-92, Moody Point, Newmarket. Description does not exclude Northern Shrike.
Gray Jay, 5-10-92, Old Antrim Road feeder, Hancock. Insufficient details.
Black-headed Grosbeak, May 1992, Old County Lane, Deering. Description does not exclude female Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Summer 1992

Accepted

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, 6-10-92, Constable Road, Durham.
Red-necked Phalarope (male), 6-6-92, Exeter wastewater treatment plant.
Royal Tern (adult in alternate plumage), 6-7-92, headland north of Foss Beach, Rye.
Yellow-throated Warbler (female), 7-18-92, Payne Road near Mascoma Lake dam, Lebanon.
Blue Grosbeak, 7-4 & 7-7-92, Hollis residence.

Fall 1992

Accepted

Little Egret, 8-2-92, Depot Road, Hampton Falls.
Tundra Swan, 5 on 10-16-92, from Route 10 over the Connecticut River in Hanover.
Baird's Sandpiper, 10-17-92, Rye Harbor State Park, Rye.
Red Phalarope, 11-8-92, Dorchester Road, Lyme.
Caspian Tern, 3 on 9-6-92, New Hampshire coast.
Caspian Tern, 2 on 8-23-92, Hampton Harbor, Seabrook.
Long-eared Owl, 9-20-92, Star Island, Isles of Shoals, Rye.
Connecticut Warbler, 9-19-92, railroad tracks near Lebanon town line, Enfield.
Chestnut-collared Longspur, 11-29-92, East Deering Road, Deering. Photographed. First state record.

Not Accepted

Pacific Golden-Plover, 10-2-92, Kidder Brook Estuary, Little Lake Sunapee, New London.
Little Gull, 10-11-92, near Rye Harbor State Park, Rye. Bonaparte's Gull was not eliminated.
Barn Owl, 9-24-92, Straw Road, Hopkinton. Insufficient description and size inconsistent with Barn Owl.

Winter 1992-93

Accepted

Long-eared Owl, 2-25-93, Burdett Street, Keene. Photographed.
Brown Thrasher, throughout winter 1992-93, West Stearns Avenue, Hooksett.
Green-tailed Towhee, 12-10 & 12-12-92, Bradford Road, Keene. First state record

Not Accepted

Great Gray Owl, 12-7 & 12-19-92 and 1-3-93, Old Canaan Road, Strafford.