

New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee

Decisions 1993

The New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee (NHRBC) is continuing to evaluate reports of rare birds that pre-date the committee's formation, and publish its decisions on these records in *New Hampshire Bird Records (NHBR)*. Many of these older sightings have already appeared in the appropriate issue of *NHBR*. Because the records are five years old, discussion of each has been minimized for the sake of brevity. In addition, rather than organizing them by season, they are presented in taxonomic order. Note also that the "1993" records include those from January and February 1994.

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 both *NHBR* and the historical database of bird sightings maintained by the Audubon Society of New Hampshire. Sightings are evaluated based on the details submitted. A record must have a vote of 7-0 or 6-1 to be accepted by the committee.

The current committee members are Dennis Abbott, Alan Delorey, P.D. Hunt, Steve Mirick, Bob Quinn, Andrea Robbins and George Robbins. Feel free to contact any one of them if you have questions.

Species accepted by the committee:

Cory's Shearwater near Isles of Shoals on September 26
Leach's Storm-Petrel in Seabrook Harbor on October 26
Black Vulture in Lee on March 21
Gyr Falcon in Franconia Notch on March 1
Wilson's Plover in Seabrook Harbor on May 15-16 (photographed, a first state record)
Red Phalarope in Keene on April 11 (photographed)
Red Phalarope in Goffstown on April 13 (photographed)
Pomarine Jaeger at Little Round Top, Bristol on September 6
Long-eared Owl in Goffstown on January 5, 1994
Rufous Hummingbird in Freedom on August 19 (fourth state record)
Wood Thrush on the Coastal CBC on December 18
Townsend's Warbler at Odiorne Point, Rye on November 21 (second state record)
Clay-colored Sparrow in Orford on May 23 (stayed into June)
Lark Sparrow in Portsmouth on January 5, 1994

Species not accepted by the committee:

American White Pelican in Auburn on July 15 (insufficient details for what would have been a first state record)
Anhinga in Hooksett on August 14 (insufficient information for a first state record)
Golden Eagle in Alstead on May 23 (insufficient details to separate it from an immature Bald Eagle)
Golden Eagle in Tuftonboro on February 22, 1994 (insufficient details to separate it from an immature Bald Eagle)
Sedge Wren in Errol on July 17 (lack of adequate details and a lack of experience with the species by the observer)
Townsend's Solitaire in Concord on November 18 (description did not convincingly eliminate the similar, more common Northern Mockingbird)
Loggerhead Shrike in Sugar Hill in late December 1993 and early January 1994 (insufficient details to eliminate a more likely Northern Shrike)
Lincoln's Sparrow in Holderness on June 18 (unusual location for summer and insufficient details)