

## New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee Decisions

**W**e are continuing to publish the results of the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee (NHRBC) decisions on rare birds. In this issue you will find the NHRBC decisions for Spring, Summer, and Fall 2000, and Winter 2000–2001 and additional records voted on by the committee.

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 *New Hampshire Bird Records* and the historical database of bird sightings maintained by the Audubon Society of New Hampshire (ASNH). Sightings are evaluated based on the details submitted. A record must have a vote of 6-0 or 5-1 to be accepted by the committee.

A rejection is not an indication that the identification was incorrect but that the information received was not enough to allow its inclusion into the state record. Adequate documentation is the key to whether a report is accepted or not. For information on the committee and its decision-making process, please see the article in the Summer 1996 issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*. The Fall 1996 issue has an article on how to document rare bird sightings. Contact the Managing Editor at ASNH for a copy of either of these articles.

The current committee members are Dennis Abbott, Alan Delorey, David Donsker, Pamela Hunt, Steve Mirick, and George Robbins. Please contact any one of them if you have questions.

### Spring 2000

#### Records accepted by the committee:

White Pelican in Pelham on May 23.  
Black Vulture in Manchester on April 20.  
Black Vulture at Pawtuckaway State Park on May 19.  
Greater White-fronted Goose in Durham on March 4.  
Greater White-fronted Goose in North Hampton on April 6.  
Greater White-fronted Goose in Concord on April 15.  
Eurasian Wigeon in Colebrook on April 4.  
Golden Eagle in Wilmot on April 11.  
Sandhill Crane in Monroe on March 31.  
American Oystercatcher on Seavey Island on May 2.  
American Oystercatcher on Seavey Island on May 16.  
Lesser Black-backed Gull in Somersworth on March 10.  
Acadian Flycatcher at Pawtuckaway State Park on May 12.  
Acadian Flycatcher in South Hampton on May 27.  
Acadian Flycatcher on Star Island on May 31.  
White-eyed Vireo on Star Island on May 12.  
Lawrence's Warbler in Derry on May 11.  
Kentucky Warbler in Lebanon on May 14.  
LeConte's Sparrow on White Island on May 16. Photographs submitted.  
"Oregon" Junco in Holderness on May 2.  
Hoary Redpoll in Sandwich on March 11.

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**Records not accepted by the committee:**

Black Vulture in Colebrook on April 1. Description did not eliminate Turkey Vulture.  
Golden Eagle in Derry on May 6. Immature Bald Eagle not eliminated.  
Fork-tailed Flycatcher on White Island on May 25. There were insufficient details for a bird of this rarity.  
Pyrrhuloxia in Bow on May 7. Insufficient details to eliminate Northern Cardinal.  
Black-headed Grosbeak in Boscawen on May 5. Insufficient details to eliminate female Rose-breasted Grosbeak.  
Black-headed Grosbeak in Thornton on May 17. Insufficient details to eliminate female Rose-breasted Grosbeak.  
Bullock's Oriole in Hampton on May 28. Insufficient details to eliminate immature Baltimore Oriole.

**Summer 2000**

**Records accepted by the committee:**

Manx Shearwater seen from Rye on June 6 & 9.  
Tricolored Heron in Hampton on June 7.  
Sandhill Crane in Boscawen on July 11.  
Sandhill Crane in Bradford on July 28 & 29. Photographed.  
American Oystercatcher in Rye on June 9.  
American Oystercatcher in Rye on June 28.  
Baird's Sandpiper in North Hampton on July 29.  
Franklin's Gull in Newmarket on June 1. Photographed.  
Atlantic Puffin in Rye on June 13.  
Atlantic Puffin at White & Seavey Islands on June 14.  
Atlantic Puffin at White & Seavey Islands on July 23 & 24.  
Three-toed Woodpecker at Thompson & Meserves Purchase on July 14.  
Acadian Flycatcher on Star Island on June 1.  
Acadian Flycatcher on Star Island on June 6.  
Acadian Flycatcher at Pawtuckaway State Park on June 10.  
Western Kingbird in Millsfield on June 14.  
Summer Tanager on Star Island on June 2.  
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow on Star Island on June 2.

**Records not accepted by the committee:**

Tricolored Heron at Great Bay on July 20. No documentation submitted.  
Red-bellied Woodpecker in Pelham on June 7. Record submitted for possible proof of nesting in N.H. There is no proof that young were born in N.H., the location is very close to the Massachusetts border.

**Fall 2000**

**Records accepted by the committee:**

Leach's Storm-Petrel at Cashe's Ledge on August 21. The committee accepted the species as correctly identified, but the location of the bird was ambiguous regarding the state.  
Storm-Petrel species in Manchester on October 26.  
Greater White-fronted Goose in Dunbarton on November 20.  
Purple Gallinule in Exeter on October 14. Digital photograph submitted.  
Red Phalarope in Rye on September 1.  
Red Phalarope at Cashe's Ledge on August 21. The committee accepted the species as correctly identified, but the location of the bird was ambiguous regarding the state.  
Pomarine Jaeger in Seabrook on September 2. Photographed.  
Pomarine Jaeger at Cashe's Ledge in Hampton on August 21. Digital photograph submitted.  
Little Gull in Rye on November 19.

Little Gull in Rye on September 22. Digital photograph submitted.  
Lesser Black-backed Gull in Rye on August 29. Digital photograph submitted.  
Lesser Black-backed Gull in Rye on November 11. Digital photograph submitted.  
Lesser Black-backed Gull (2) in Rochester on November 17. Digital photograph submitted.  
Lesser Black-backed Gull in Rye on October 7.  
Lesser Black-backed Gull in Rochester on November 25.  
Sooty Tern in Rye on August 11.  
Black-backed Woodpecker in Nelson on November 20.  
Western Kingbird in Newington on September 22.  
Nashville Warbler (western form) in Northfield on October 29.  
Yellow-throated Warbler in Chichester on August 7.  
Connecticut Warbler in Sandwich on September 19.  
Hooded Warbler in Rye on September 24.  
Hooded Warbler in Hanover on November 21.  
Lark Sparrow in Rye on September 14.  
Lark Sparrow in Rye on September 4.  
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow in Rye on November 4.  
Lapland Longspur in Rye on September 18.

**Records not accepted by the committee:**

Greater White-fronted Goose in Concord on September 4. The description did not eliminate a domestic goose. A juvenile Greater White-fronted Goose would be highly unlikely at this time of year.  
Golden Eagle in Munroe on November 16. Details did not eliminate immature Bald Eagle or dark morph Rough-legged Hawk.  
Gyr Falcon in Lancaster on November 27. Details were not submitted.  
Buff-breasted Sandpiper in Rye on September 30. Description does not match many features of Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Description did not eliminate American Golden-Plover.  
Caspian Tern in Rye on September 24. Description did not eliminate Royal Tern.  
Common Murre in Rye on November 18. Details on bill shape not sufficient to eliminate first-year Razorbill.  
Magnificent Hummingbird in Amherst on August 8. A large female Ruby-throated Hummingbird could not be eliminated. The committee felt a photograph was necessary for a bird of this rarity (would have been a first state record), especially given the size discrepancies in the reports.  
Northern Wheatear in Chichester on October 12. Insufficient details: the description did not eliminate Eastern Bluebird or Cedar Waxwing.  
Cape May Warbler in Rochester on October 19. Insufficient details were submitted for evaluation.

**Winter 2000–2001**

**Records accepted by the committee:**

Gyr Falcon in Lancaster on January 1.  
Lesser Black-backed Gull in Durham December 23 and in Dover on January 5. Photo submitted.  
Lesser Black-backed Gull in Rochester on December 23 on the Lee-Durham CBC.  
Common Murre in North Hampton on December 31. Photos submitted.  
Northern Hawk-Owl in Whitefield on December 2. Photo submitted.  
Northern Hawk-Owl in Jefferson on December 10. Photo submitted.  
Varied Thrush in Rye on February 22. Photo submitted.  
American Pipit in Hampton on January 28 and February 3. Photos submitted.  
American Pipit in Rye on February 22. Photo submitted.  
Yellow-throated Warbler in Derry February 18 through 22.  
Pine Warbler in Hanover December 7 through January 6.

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Field Sparrow in Dover in late January and early February.  
Lark Sparrow in Durham on December 27. Photo submitted.  
Lark Sparrow in Hampton on December 16 on the Seacoast CBC.  
Harris' Sparrow in Berlin December 22 through 24.  
Fox Sparrow in Dover in January and February.

**Records not accepted by the committee:**

Western Grebe in Littleton on January 6. Red-necked Grebe was not eliminated.  
Barrow's/Common Goldeneye hybrid in Tilton on February 4. Description fits a Barrow's Goldeneye, not a hybrid.  
Gyr Falcon in Whitefield on December 5. There were insufficient details.

**NHRBC Decisions on Late Submissions**

There are occasional records that the committee is unable to evaluate in time for publication with the other votes from that season. The decisions for these records appear below.

**Species accepted by the committee:**

Eared Grebe in Rochester on September 14, 1998. Originally listed as still under review in the 1998 voting summary in Winter 1998-99. Additional documentation and photographs met criteria for acceptance as a first state record.  
Least Bittern in Newmarket on June 25, 1999.

**Species not accepted by the committee:**

Lesser Black-backed Gull in North Hampton on April 2, 1996. Originally listed as pending review by the NHRBC on page 15 of the Spring 1996 issue of New Hampshire Bird Records. Insufficient details submitted.  
Hoary Redpoll in Kensington on January 5, 2000. Insufficient details to eliminate Common Redpoll.

## Birding Bog Road (Enfield)

*by Pam Hunt*

Picture a morning birding trip where you find the following: Northern Parula, Olive-sided Flycatcher, American Bittern, Rusty Blackbird, Marsh Wren, and Louisiana Waterthrush. Up until the end, I'll bet you were placing yourself in some secluded spruce/wetland complex north of the notches, but the waterthrush sort of throws a wrench into that particular theory. No, where you are is along Bog Road in Enfield, only 60 miles from Massachusetts and 15 miles from the Connecticut River. In less than five miles, this area offers a diverse mix of habitats ranging from cattail marsh to spruce-fir forest, thus hosting a wide variety of breeding species. Birding is best between April and September, but experience has shown that you never know what might show up here.

We'll start this tour at the southern end of the route, McDaniel's Marsh in the town of Springfield. To reach this area, take Interstate 89 to Exit 13 and drive south on Route 10 for 0.8 miles to the village of Grantham. Turn left (east) here on Route 114 (Springfield Road), and follow it for 4.9 miles to West Springfield, where George Hill