

New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee Report

The following report from the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee (NHRBC) contains decisions for records voted on by the Committee since the last report in the Winter 2000–01 issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*. 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 in 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, Davis Finch, Pamela Hunt, and Steve Mirick. Please contact any one of them if you have questions. Addresses are available from the chair, Pam Hunt at biodiva@cyberportal.net or work phone at 224-9909 X328.

2001 Decisions

Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter 2001–2002

(sightings from March 1, 2001 through February 28, 2002)

Reports accepted by the Committee:

- Western Grebe in Rye on February 16.
- Greater Shearwater offshore on December 3.
- Leach's Storm-Petrel on Great Bay on October 1 (videotaped).
- Least Bittern in Newington on June 19.
- Black Vulture in Peterborough on September 15.
- Northern Shoveler in Rochester from December 15 to February 20.
- Hybrid Eurasian/American Green-Winged Teal in Sandwich on May 19.
- Golden Eagle, four reports: Peterborough on September 15, Sandwich on September 27, Gilsum on October 17, and Exeter on October 20.
- Sandhill Crane in Monroe on July 31.
- American Oystercatcher in Rye on June 15.
- American Oystercatcher at the Isles of Shoals on June 29.
- Purple Sandpipers at the Isles of Shoals on July 2, 6, and 14.
- Long-billed Dowitcher in Errol on October 15 (photo).
- Wilson's Phalarope in North Hampton on May 8.
- Phalarope species on Great Bay on August 22. Bird was originally reported as Red-necked Phalarope, but details and videotape were insufficient to eliminate Red Phalarope.
- Red-necked Phalarope in Rollinsford on August 23 (photo).
- Red Phalarope in Rye on September 30.

Jaeger species, two reports: Rye on September 12 and offshore on December 3.
 Little Gull, two reports: New Castle on May 18 and Rye on August 25.
 Lesser Black-backed Gull, six reports: Exeter on April 1, Durham on April 4, Rochester on April 20 and 26 and November 1, and Seabrook on May 13.
 "Nelson's" Gull (Herring x Glaucous Gull hybrid) in Rochester on January 31 and February 7.
 Forster's Tern at the Isles of Shoals on July 22.
 Common Murre in Rye on March 9.
 Atlantic Puffin at the Isles of Shoals on July 31.
 Boreal Owl on Mount Pierce on July 29, August 5, and October 26.
 Eastern Phoebe in Rochester over most of the winter (photo).
 Ash-throated Flycatcher in Concord on October 26 (photo - second state record).
 White-eyed Vireo, three reports: Isles of Shoals on May 1, East Kingston on October 2, and Durham on October 8.
 Gray Jay in Lee in Fall 2001 and Winter 2001-02 (photo).
 Purple Martin in Laconia on June 8.
 Sedge Wren in Durham on July 25 (photo).
 Northern Wheatear in Jefferson on June 3 (photo).
 Wood Thrush in Plainfield on December 5.
 Varied Thrush in Alton on March 22.
 Brown Thrasher in Pembroke on February 12.
 American Pipit in Rochester on January 14.
 "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler in Rye on November 26 (and through the winter).
 Ovenbird in Rye on January 26.
 Connecticut Warbler, two reports: Nashua on September 15 and Hollis on September 22.
 Wilson's Warbler in Rye on November 12.
 Yellow-breasted Chat in Rye through most of the winter (photos).
 Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow at the Isles of Shoals on June 4.
 Painted Bunting in New Castle on June 13 (photos).
 Yellow-headed Blackbird in East Kingston on June 4 (photos).
 Bullock's Oriole in Dover on January 13 (photos).
 Hoary Redpoll in Sugar Hill on January 21.
 Hoary Redpoll in Hanover on several dates in February (photos).



*Common Murre
 Rye, 3/9/2001
 by Stephen R. Mirick*

Reports accepted as hypothetical:

Anhinga in Stratham on May 14. Species identification adequately documented, but additional observers or photograph needed for first state record.

Species identification accepted, but origin uncertain:

European Goldfinch in Barrington on July 1. Species identification accepted, but it could be an escaped cage bird.

Reports not accepted by the committee:

Rough-legged Hawk in Sandwich on June 22. Evidence inconclusive for a sighting of this species at such a late date.

Golden Eagle in Kingston on October 1. No description of the bird.

King Rail in Errol on June 25. Details did not eliminate Virginia Rail.

Sandhill Crane, 2 in Monroe on August 11. The committee accepts a single bird at this location in 2001, but details were insufficient to confirm the presence of a second individual.

Long-billed Dowitcher at the Isles of Shoals on July 11. Details did not eliminate "hendersoni" subspecies of Short-billed Dowitcher.

Dovekie in Dover on January 5. More details were desired for an inland record of six Dovekies, and other small water birds were not conclusively eliminated.

Eastern Screech-Owl in New London on October 25. The bird was heard only once and not seen. Insufficient details to eliminate the end of a Barred Owl call.

Eastern Wood-Pewee in Goffstown on April 30. Due to the extreme early date, more details were necessary.

Shrike species in Laconia on June 2. Did not eliminate Northern Mockingbird.

Orange-crowned Warbler in Concord on October 24. White undertail coverts inconsistent with this species.

Black-headed Grosbeak in Amherst, 2 on May 19. No description of the birds, and a pair is very unlikely.

Decisions on Late Submissions

Records that the Committee was unable to evaluate in time for publication with the other votes from that season.

Reports accepted by the Committee:

Least Bittern, 7-15-99, Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge in Newington.

Golden Eagle, 7-6-98, Route 28 rest area in Alton.

Golden Eagle, 9-10-2000, Peter Wood Hill in Deering.

Caspian Tern, 5-21-2000, near Eel Pond in Rye.

Yellow-headed Blackbird, late September 2000, Surowiec Farm off Pearley Hill Road in Sanbornton.

Reports not accepted by the Committee:

Lesser Black-backed Gull, 8-13-2000 at New Hampshire coast. Did not eliminate Herring Gull.

Long-eared Owl, 4-24-93, found injured in the Lake Massabesic area in Manchester. Originally listed and discussed in the Spring 93 (Vol. 12, No. 1) issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records* on page 15. No details were ever submitted for this sighting.

Common Redpoll, 7-26-93 in Effingham. This would be an unprecedented summer record and as such it required more complete documentation.