

SEANET is also part of a collaborative assessing and identifying impacts to loons outside of Buzzard's Bay following the oil spill there on April 27, 2003. Scientists are concerned that oiled birds that lived to reach their summer habitats may still suffer adverse effects of the oil. Oiled loons may exhibit some or all of the following behaviors: dark staining on the breast feathers, excessive preening, listing on the side while in the water, beaching. Report any observations of oiled loons in New Hampshire directly to Kate Taylor, Kate.taylor@briloon.org. Report sightings of any other marine or coastal bird species dead on beaches (oiled or not) to Becky Harris.

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 2001-02 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 David Deifik. 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.

Spring 2002

Records accepted by the committee:

Western Grebe in Rye on May 18.
Western Grebe on Great Bay on May 29.
White-faced Ibis in Stratham on April 17.
Sandhill Crane in Newington on April 26.
American Oystercatcher at the Isles on Shoals on May 2.
Wilson's Phalarope in Exeter on May 22.
Acadian Flycatcher in Weare on May 17.
Lawrence's Warbler in Lee on May 24.
Cerulean Warbler in Windham on May 25.
Worm-eating Warbler in Hanover on May 12.
Summer Tanager at the Isles of Shoals on May 17.
Western Tanager in Portsmouth on May 20.

Clay-colored Sparrow at the Isles of Shoals on May 17.
Oregon Junco in Bradford on March 30.
Hoary Redpoll in Sandwich on March 14 and March 29.
Boreal Owl in Bartlett on May 29.

Records not accepted by the committee:

Audubon's Warbler in Pinkham Notch on May 18. Insufficient details. The description of song was inconsistent with this form of the Yellow-rumped Warbler.
Worm-eating Warbler in Lyme on May 16. A heard-only bird. The committee was reluctant to accept an identification based only on vocalization for this species whose call is difficult to identify and similar to more common species in the area.
Broad-winged Hawk in Stratham on March 30. Description did not eliminate Red-tailed Hawk.

Summer 2002

Records accepted by the committee:

Least Bittern at Great Bay NWR, Newington: 2 on June 25, 1 on June 18 and July 8.
Black Vulture in Durham on June 11.
Black Vulture in W. Lebanon on June 18.
Greater Scaup on Great Bay on June 8 and 25.
Lesser Scaup, female, in Exeter on July 12 and 21.
King Rail at Great Bay NWR, Newington on June 8.
Common Moorhen at Great Bay NWR, Newington, on June 25.
Purple Sandpiper on White & Seavey Islands, Isles of Shoals, on June 20.
Red-headed Woodpecker on White Island, Isles of Shoals, on June 5.
Red-headed Woodpecker on Dahl Road in Merrimack on June 25.
Red-headed Woodpecker at Haines Terrace in Merrimack on July 26.
Red-bellied Woodpecker in Windham on June 25 through July 24. First documented state breeding record.
Acadian Flycatcher at Pawtuckaway State Park in Nottingham on July 4 and July 13.
Yellow-breasted Chat at Bellamy WMA in Dover on June 4.

Fall 2002

Records accepted by the committee:

Red-necked Grebe in Washington on August 3.
Northern Fulmar offshore Rye on October 16.
Cory's Shearwaters offshore Rye on September 21 and October 12.
Leach's Storm-Petrel at Cashes Ledge, offshore Seabrook, on September 9.
Baird's Sandpiper in Ashland on August 25.
Baird's Sandpiper in Windham on September 8.
Red Phalarope at Cashes Ledge, offshore Seabrook, on September 9.
Pomarine Jaeger off Seabrook on September 9.
Pomarine Jaegers, 5 off Rye on September 22, 2 accepted to be in New Hampshire waters.
Pomarine Jaegers off Rye on September 26.
Parasitic Jaegers off Rye on September 2, September 25 and October 16. One each date.
Lark Sparrow in Seabrook on September 15.
Harris's Sparrow in Campton on November 17-22. Photographed.
Blue Grosbeak in Kensington on September 23.

Records not accepted by the committee:

White-tailed Kite in Moultonborough on August 13. Although the description was good, it was insufficient for a record of this magnitude. The possibility of a variant Rock Dove was also not considered by the observer.

Fall 2002 - Records not accepted by the committee: (continued)

Golden Eagles in Tuftonboro on September 28 and November 8. Observer had no optics and did not conclusively eliminate immature Bald Eagle.

Sanderling in Gilford on November 11. Description did not eliminate other possible shorebirds such as Dunlin and Red Phalarope.

Bewick's Wren in Hillsborough on August 11. Description sufficiently vague to not eliminate juvenile Carolina Wren and there was no description of vocalizations.

Yellow-breasted Chat in Concord on October 7. This report went to the Committee because it was of an unprecedented seven birds. However, only one was described to any extent, and barring more details on all seven birds, the committee felt that a sighting of seven chats at the same time in New Hampshire was sufficiently unusual to not accept the sighting, despite a good description of one of the birds.

Winter 2002-2003

Records accepted by the committee:

Harlequin Duck in Littleton on January 1.

Eastern Screech-Owl in Milford in late February. Recorded calling.

Northern Hawk Owl in Sandwich on December 29-30. Photographed.

Eastern Phoebe in Etna (Hanover) on December 5.

Brown Thrasher in Hampton on February 2. Photographed.

Black-throated Blue Warbler in Hanover on December 5.

Chipping Sparrow in Canaan from December 1 through January 4.

Western Tanager in Portsmouth on January 8. Photographed.

Baltimore Oriole in Farmington on January 11.

Records not accepted by the committee:

Two Pine Warblers in Rye on February 3. The report did not satisfactorily eliminate American Goldfinch.

Decisions on Late Submissions

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

Records accepted by the committee:

Lesser Black-backed Gull in Seabrook on September 23, 2001.

Clay-colored Sparrow in Rye on September 30, 2001.

Records not accepted by the committee:

Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow in Portsmouth on October 21, 2001. The committee did not feel that the observer eliminated the more likely races of this species.