

New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee Report — Part Two

This is a continuation from the Spring 2006 issue of the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee (NHRBC) report containing the decisions for records voted on by the Committee since the report published in the Winter 2004-2005 issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*. At its meeting on October 28, 2006 the Committee established a category of "Qualified Accepted" to be used for historical records that have been submitted or recorded without current standards of documentation but which otherwise are likely valid sightings considering the circumstances of the observation. This category will be used as the Committee goes forward with its evaluation of historical records.

The NHRBC is an independent technical advisory committee to *New Hampshire Bird Records (NHBR)*. See the Spring 2006 issue for more on the NHRBC, its voting process, and the voting members of the Committee during the period in which all these records were evaluated.

Historical and Deferred Records

Records accepted by the Committee

Bell's Vireo collected in Durham on November 18, 1897. (Photograph obtained of the specimen housed at Harvard University's Museum of Comparative Zoology. Conclusively establishes this specimen as the first state record).

Western Grebe in Rye on March 28, 29, 1986. (Two reports)

Greater White-fronted Goose in Charlestown on May 6, 1986.

Three-toed Woodpecker in Success on July 6, 1986.

Acadian Flycatcher in Sandwich on July 10, 1986.

Purple Gallinule in Lee on January 25, 1987.

Kentucky Warbler in Durham on May 27, 1987.

Cerulean Warbler in Hinsdale on June 20, 1987.

Wilson's Phalarope in Rye on August 15, 1988.

Northern Wheatear in Peterborough on September 18-19, 1988.

Townsend's Solitaire in Errol on December 26, 1988.

Connecticut Warbler in Campton on May 22, 1990.

Western Kingbird in Seabrook on October 9, 1990.

Lark Sparrow in Keene on September 4, 2004.

Glaucous Gull-Herring Gull Hybrid in Rochester on December 29, 2003.

Slaty-backed Gull in Rochester on December 23-27, 2003. (Three separate reports. Photos.

Submitted with thoughtful analysis and expert testimony supporting the identification. It was felt that positive comments by Al Jaramillo who is carefully studying these birds on the west coast was especially compelling. First state and regional record).

Baltimore Oriole in Groveton on December 23, 2003.

Records accepted as "Qualified" by the Committee

Varied Thrush in Sanbornton on January 10, 12, 1987.

Selasphorus hummingbird species in Franconia on August 13, 1987. (Sex of bird not reported).

Blue Grosbeak in Rye on October 18, 1987.

Pomarine Jaeger on an offshore pelagic trip on October 31, 1987.

Records not accepted by the Committee

Greater White-fronted Goose in Grantham on July 1, 1986. Description did not exclude domestic goose or other species of grey geese.

Tufted Duck in Alton on April 27, 1986. Details insufficient for such a rare species and a first state record.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, two in Dover on May 23, 1986. Insufficient and conflicting details. Two birds would seem unlikely.

Black-headed Grosbeak in New Ipswich on May 13, 1986. Adult male spring sighting would be unique. Description insufficient.

Harris's Sparrow, two in Charlestown on April 5, 1986. Circumstances of observation and report of two birds seems unlikely.

Clay-colored Sparrow in Durham on September 25, 1986. Description does not exclude Lark Sparrow.

Swainson's Hawk in Rye on September 16, 1986. Description does not exclude Red-tailed Hawk. Some field marks reported inconsistent with species.

Blue Grosbeak in Conway on July 14, 1986. Description did not conclusively exclude Indigo Bunting. Date unusual for this species in New Hampshire.

Hoary Redpoll in Lebanon on March 9, 1987. Second hand report. No primary description submitted.

Painted Bunting in Andover in May, 1987. Insufficient details.

Long-billed Dowitcher in Hampton on May 17, 1987. Description does not exclude *hendersoni* race of Short-billed Dowitcher. Breeding plumage Long-billed Dowitcher in spring would be very unusual. Associating with other Short-billed Dowitchers.

Loggerhead Shrike in Sandwich on March 14, 1989. Behavior reported more compatible with Northern Shrike. Description did not conclusively exclude Northern Shrike.

Red-necked Grebe in Meredith Center on June 5-19, 1989. Summer record with young would suggest breeding which is not known from this state. Description does not conclusively exclude female Common Merganser with young.

Brown Pelican in Marlborough on August 20, 1989. Brief sighting. Inland location unlikely for this species. Description does not exclude White Pelican.

Connecticut Warbler in Hancock on August 30, 1989. Not enough detail submitted to exclude Mourning Warbler which would be more likely on this early date.

Lark Sparrow in Greenland on September 3, 1989. Experienced observers but no details submitted.

Little Egret in Hampton on April 29, 1990. Photo submitted but a Snowy-Little Egret hybrid or aberrant Snowy Egret could not be excluded.

Little Egret in Rye on April 28, 1990. Structural features reported do not conclusively fit Little Egret.

Barnacle Goose in Northumberland on May 15, 1990. Identification as to species accepted but origin of birds questionable, especially on the late May date.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in Rye on September 16, 1990. Immature Black-crowned Night-Heron could not be excluded.

Clay-colored Sparrow in Enfield on September 30, 1990. Juvenile Chipping Sparrow not excluded.

Brewer's Blackbird in Bradford on October 26, 1990. Number of birds reported (5) unusual. Report written considerable time after the observation.

Grasshopper Sparrow in Whitefield on July 17, 1999. Rather far north for this species. Insufficient details.

Gray Partridge in Columbia on December 10, 1997 and January 5, 1998. Identification as to species accepted but origin of birds questionable. Could not exclude released birds.

Brewer's Blackbird, flock in Haverhill on October 9, 1999. Similar appearing *icterids* not excluded. Report written a considerable time after the sighting. A flock of all males seemed unlikely.

Gray Partridge in Columbia on June 7, 2004. Identification as to species accepted. Wild origin considered suspect given behavior of bird.

Hoary Redpoll in Northfield on January 24, 2004. Bird in question was a "probable" Hoary but the description was not conclusive for this difficult identification.

Records deferred by the Committee

Yellow-headed Blackbird in North Hampton on June 17, 1989. Deferred pending photo that is said to exist.