

Singing Veerys can dot the roadside in spring and summer. A Common Raven may croak from over head or deep in the woods. Brown Creepers are guaranteed to be seen or heard year-round and warblers such as Northern Parula, American Redstart, and Black-throated Green, Black-throated Blue, Blackburnian, and Magnolia Warbler, all pass through here with some stopping to nest for the season. This is a particularly wet stretch of the road where species such as Northern Waterthrush and Common Yellowthroat are easily heard singing and Winter Wren occasionally sing their chittery song. Declining Rusty Blackbirds have also been seen passing through these swampy areas in early spring or fall.

This stretch also gives the observer an up-close look at the rather rare stand of Atlantic White Cedar, the acreage of which is protected by SPNHF. As rare as this stand of trees may be, an even rarer resident, one whose survival actually depends on these cedars, is Hessel's hairstreak, a small green butterfly. It's so rare in New Hampshire that this portion of Green Road is the only place in the state in which it has been recorded.

Continuing on, you'll finally reach the last parking area on the road (for the second trailhead of the Webster Natural Area trail). Beyond this parking area, the road becomes private. You can either park and hike the latter portion of the Webster Natural Area trail or turn around and head out. This portion of the trailhead is recommended for accessing both Cedar Swamp Pond as well as viewing points along the Powwow River.

Whether you're a beginning birdwatcher or a seasoned lister, Green Road is well worth a visit. While it may be your average, everyday New England back road, the sights and sounds that it promises are anything but ordinary. If anything, it should have us all look a bit deeper into the unassuming places in our own neighborhoods and remind us just how extraordinary the ordinary can be.

New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee Report

Winter 2014-15 through Winter 2015-16

Hector Galbraith, Chair

Michael Resch, Secretary

This report from the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee (NHRBC) contains the decisions for records voted on by the Committee for five seasons: Winter 2014-15, Spring 2015, Summer 2015, Fall 2015, and Winter 2015-16, plus one historical record from 2011.

The NHRBC reviews unusual sightings in an effort to

maintain accuracy and scientific integrity of rare bird records in New Hampshire. It is independent of *New Hampshire Bird Records (NHBR)* and New Hampshire Audubon. All sightings are evaluated based on details submitted by the observer(s). The Committee requires a vote with not more than one dissension for acceptance of a record. Any first state record requires a unanimous vote.

A rejection is not necessarily an indication that the identification was incorrect. Instead, it is possible that the information received was not sufficient to allow its acceptance as a state record. For information on the Committee and its decision-making process, see the articles in the Summer 1996 and Winter 2005-06 issues of *NHBR*.

The five seasons reviewed here included four "firsts" for the state that were accepted by the Committee:

- Smith's Longspur – the 12/18/14 Sandwich record was accepted by the Committee, although added to the New Hampshire state list as "Hypothetical" since per NHRBC Bylaws, there were less than three observers, and/or it lacked a photograph, a specimen, a video recording, or an audio recording.
- Least Tern – first documented breeding record since 1959 (*The Birds of New Hampshire* by Keith & Fox 2013) in New Hampshire with a pair at Hampton Beach State Park in the Summer 2015.
- Lazuli Bunting – a bird photographed on 9/26/15 at Star Island represents a first New Hampshire record.
- Great Blue Heron White Morph – observed from 11/21-12/2/15 in Litchfield, representing a first New Hampshire record for this form of our otherwise common Great Blue Heron.

The NHRBC also reviewed an older record of five Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks photographed on 6/28/11 in Salem, NH. After analysis of the potential provenance of these birds, the Committee decided these were very likely wild birds and have accepted this first state record.

With the addition of Lazuli Bunting and Black-bellied Whistling-Duck to the official New Hampshire state list, that brings the total as of February 2016 to 408.

The Committee has recently reviewed a number of records where submitted documentation was unfortunately of limited quality. One of the best ways to ensure your sighting is accepted by the NHRBC is to prepare and submit adequate documentation of the sighting. By far the best way to submit documentation is to use the "New Hampshire Bird Sighting Documentation" form, which prompts you to address all the salient topics to support the observation. This form is available on the *New Hampshire Bird Records* web site: www.nhbirdrecord.org.

Furthermore, we recommend that you complete a

documentation form even if you are submitting photographs of the bird(s). Recently, the NHRBC has received photographs of many of the sightings that have been submitted for review. However, the quality of these photos isn't always the best and therefore, supplemental information contained on a completed documentation form can be crucial in gaining acceptance of the record.

Speaking of photographs, just because you don't have a photograph of your bird doesn't mean it won't be accepted by the Committee. In fact, many of the recently accepted sightings have been non-photographed birds. The photograph should be just one part of the overall record of the sighting to be submitted to the NHRBC.

The members of the Committee voting on these records were: David Donsker, Kurk Dorsey, Iain MacLeod, Eric Masterson, Mike Resch (Secretary), Rob Woodward (Winter 14-15 through Summer 15), and Hector Galbraith (Chair).

Winter 2014-15

Records accepted by the Committee

Gyr Falcon	1/7/2015	Rochester
Gyr Falcon	1/25/2015	Hampton
Gyr Falcon	12/12/2014	Madbury
Smith's Longspur	12/18/2014	Sandwich
<i>- first NH hypothetical record</i>		
Varied Thrush	2/27/2015	Dublin
Varied Thrush	2/22/2015	Dublin

Records not accepted by the Committee

Gyr Falcon	12/30/2014	Keene
Peregrine Falcon could not be eliminated for this sighting made without optics.		
Gyr Falcon	1/6/2015	Epping
Other species could not be eliminated especially given that the bird was only seen in flight while the observers were driving.		
Lazuli Bunting	1/18/2015	Henniker
The description of this group of six birds did not eliminate Eastern Bluebirds.		

Spring 2015

Records accepted by the Committee

Eurasian Wigeon	4/3/2015	Hinsdale
Eurasian Wigeon	4/5/2015	Westmoreland
Eurasian Wigeon	4/9/2015	Walpole
Wilson's Phalarope	5/28/2015	Odiorne Point
Long-eared Owl	4/8/2015	NH Coast
Northern Wheatear	5/3/2015	South Sutton
Varied Thrush	5/12/2015	Seabrook
White-eyed Vireo	5/10/2015	Odiorne Point
Summer Tanager	4/14/2015	Rye
LeConte's Sparrow	4/14/2015	Rumney

Records not accepted by the Committee

American Three-toed Woodpecker	3/17/2015	Deerfield
The description could not eliminate other more likely woodpecker species.		

Summer 2015

Records accepted by the Committee

Pacific Loon	6/3/2015	North Hampton
White-faced Ibis	7/5/2015	Hampton
American Avocet	7/26/2015	Rt. 286, Seabrook
Least Tern-breeding	June 2015	Hampton Beach State Park
<i>- first recent NH breeding record</i>		
Red-headed Woodpecker	6/3/2015	Milan
Acadian Flycatcher	6/4/2015	Brindle Pond, Barnstead
Acadian Flycatcher	6/7/2015	Pawtuckaway State Park
Acadian Flycatcher	6/16/2015	Hinsdale Setbacks
Yellow-throated Warbler	7/11/2015	Madison

Records not accepted by the Committee - none

Fall 2015

Records accepted by the Committee

Brown Pelican	9/18/2015	Newfound Lake
Brown Pelican	9/18/2015	Probable sighting at Mascoma Lake
Brown Pelican	9/22/2015	Horace Lake
Great Blue Heron, White Morph	<i>- first NH record</i>	
	11/21/2015	Litchfield
Swainson's Hawk	9/22/2015	Pack Monadnock
Red-necked Phalarope	9/16/2015	Lake Winnepesaukee
Franklin's Gull	11/14/2015	Greenland
Long-eared Owl	10/28/2015	Hollis
Rufous Hummingbird	9/27/2015	Andover
Sedge Wren	10/17/2015	Penacook
Gray-checked Thrush	9/29/2015	Nottingham
<i>- accepted as "Gray-checked/Bicknell's"</i>		
Townsend's Warbler	9/5/2015	Pinkham Notch
Lazuli Bunting	9/26/2015	Star Island
<i>- first NH record</i>		
Western Meadowlark	11/16/2015	North Hampton

Records not accepted by the Committee - none

Winter 2015-16

Records accepted by the Committee

Swainson's Thrush	1/3/2016	Goffstown
Western Tanager	1/31/2016	Hollis
Bullock's Oriole	12/15/2015	Hampton

Records not accepted by the Committee

Black-throated Blue Warbler	12/7/2015	South Tamworth
The submitted description was lacking several of the key details required to successfully identify what would be a very rare wintering bird.		

Earlier Records

Records accepted by the Committee

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	6/28/2011	Salem
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