

## **New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee Report Spring 2022 through Winter 2022/2023 Seasons**

[nhbirdrecords.org/NHRBC](http://nhbirdrecords.org/NHRBC)

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This report from the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee (NHRBC) contains the decisions for records voted on by the Committee for four seasons – Spring 2022, Summer 2022, Fall 2022, and Winter 2022/2023. These 2022 seasons included one first NH state record accepted by the Committee –

- Tropical Kingbird – found by Jane and Steve Mirick on 11/13/22 in Greenland. The bird was seen and heard giving distinctive calls for 2 weeks. This sighting replaces “Tropical/Couch's Kingbird” on the state list based on 2 previous records of birds seen but not heard. The first was a bird well documented from Claremont on 11/2/03 by W. McCumber and two other observers. The second was seen by Holly Bauer on 6/2/22 in Rye, ironically just 5 months before the vocal Greenland bird.

As of February 2023, the official NH state list is 428 fully substantiated species, with an additional 4 species on the Hypothetical list.

There were many other exciting 2022 sightings accepted by the Committee, including Pink-footed Goose, Northern Lapwing, Curlew Sandpiper, Slaty-backed Gull, American White Pelican, Little Stint, Swainson's Hawk, LeConte's Sparrow, and Mountain Bluebird.

The members of the Committee voting on the 2022 records were: Will Broussard, Adam Burnett, Lori Charron, David Donsker, Kurk Dorsey, Jason Lambert, Chris McPherson, and Mike Resch (Chair and Secretary).

### NHRBC Background

The NHRBC reviews rare and unusual bird sightings in New Hampshire in an effort to maintain the accuracy and scientific integrity of rare bird records in the state. It is independent of New Hampshire Bird Records (NHBR) and New Hampshire Audubon. Per the NHRBC Bylaws, the purpose of the Committee includes the following:

- To review reports of unusual occurrences of birds within the state of New Hampshire and adjacent ocean waters.
- To accept or reject such reports based upon the adequacy of documentation.
- To establish and maintain an official state list of the birds of New Hampshire.
- To permanently maintain copies of evaluated records and their associated documentation and all Committee votes, comments, and pertinent outside expert information regarding those records.

- To respond to a request from the observer of the result of the evaluation of his/her records and to educate the birding community of the results of those deliberations.
- To work closely with the editors and staff of NHBR toward our common goals.
- To function as an independent technical advisory committee to NHBR.

One of the most important functions of the NHRBC is the evaluation of records of rarities found in NH. The typical process used to evaluate these records is as follows:

- Species to be reviewed are those listed in the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee Review List, which can be found here: <https://nhbirdrecords.org/NHRBC/nh-rare-birds-committee-review-list/>
- Records of these Review List species come to the Committee either from eBird checklists, or information submitted directly to NHBR or the NHRBC such as through the use of the New Hampshire Bird Sighting Documentation form, available at: <https://nhbirdrecords.org/documentation-forms-for-rarities/>
- The NHRBC will request additional information on those records where key details are not provided or limited.
- Records are compiled once a year, generally in early Spring, by the Committee Secretary, to include four consecutive seasons – Spring (March-May), Summer (June-July), Fall (August-November), and Winter (December-February).
- The members of the Committee review each of the records and submit their votes to the Secretary, who then compiles all the votes.
- The Committee typically meets once per year usually in summer, often by phone, to discuss any vote that is not unanimous, and finalize the votes for all records.
- The Committee requires a vote with not more than one dissension for acceptance of a record, except for potential first state records which require a unanimous vote. A first state record also requires at least one of the following – photograph, specimen, video recording, audio recording, or separate documentation from 3 or more observers. If none of these criteria is met, though the record is still accepted by the Committee, the species is added to the Hypothetical State List.

Note that if the Committee does not accept a record it is not necessarily an indication that the identification was incorrect. More likely, the information received was not sufficient to allow its acceptance as a state record. In other words, adequate documentation is key to whether a report is accepted. A reminder that the best way to ensure your sighting is accepted by the NHRBC is to prepare and submit adequate documentation of the sighting using the New Hampshire Bird Sighting Documentation form. Even if you have a photo, a supplemental documentation form can be invaluable in gaining acceptance of the record, especially with photos of limited quality. But not to worry - if you don't have a photograph it doesn't mean the record can't be accepted by the Committee.

Additional details on the NHRBC can be found on the Committee website – [nhbirdrecords.org/NHRBC](https://nhbirdrecords.org/NHRBC)

## Spring 2022 Records

### Records Accepted by the Committee

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>LOCATION/TOWN</b>
Western Grebe	5/23/22	Rye
Little x Snowy Egret	4/15/22	Rye
Pink-footed Goose	3/11/22	Walpole
Pink-footed Goose	4/18/22	Errol
Cackling Goose	3/18/22	Charlestown
Cackling Goose	3/19/22	Charlestown
Cackling Goose	4/1/22	Concord
Clapper Rail	5/28/22	Hampton
Northern Lapwing	3/7/22	Greenland
Curlew Sandpiper	5/24/22	Rye Harbor
Slaty-backed Gull	4/8/22	North Hampton
Arctic Tern	5/14/22	Hinsdale
Chuck-will's-widow	5/16/22	Rye
Hooded Warbler	5/20/22	New Hampton
Painted Bunting	5/2/22	Plymouth
Summer Tanager	5/17/22	Rye

### Records Not Accepted by the Committee

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>LOCATION/TOWN</b>
Cackling Goose	3/23/22	Conway
Description and photo were not sufficient to eliminate smaller race of Canada Goose		
Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco	3/1/22	Marlborough
Bird was within expected variability of "Slate-colored" Junco		

## Summer 2022 Records

### Records Accepted by the Committee

SPECIES	DATE	LOCATION/TOWN
American White Pelican	7/31/22	Pittsburg
White-faced Ibis	6/3/22	Hampton
Swallow-tailed Kite	7/30/22	Moultonboro
Little Stint	7/25/22	Hampton
Tropical/Couch's Kingbird	6/2/22	Rye
Golden-winged Warbler	6/2/22	East Kingston

### Records Not Accepted by the Committee

None

## Fall 2022 Records

### Records Accepted by the Committee

SPECIES	DATE	LOCATION/TOWN
White Ibis	8/16/22	Hampton Harbor
Ross's Goose	11/30/22	Rochester
Cackling Goose	11/28/22	Conway
Swainson's Hawk	9/21/22	Sandwich
Rufous Hummingbird	11/5/22	Newmarket
Tropical Kingbird	11/13/22	Greenland
Cave Swallow	11/31/22	Hollis
Mountain Bluebird	11/4/22	Sandwich
Townsend's Solitaire	11/2/22	Mount Cardigan
Gray-cheeked Thrush	10/1/22	Rye
Gray-cheeked Thrush	9/20/22	New Castle
Yellow-throated Warbler	8/16/22	Enfield
Kentucky Warbler	9/11/22	Star Island
LeConte's Sparrow	10/31/22	Rye
Seaside Sparrow	8/25/22	Star Island

### Records Not Accepted by the Committee

SPECIES	DATE	LOCATION/TOWN
Cackling Goose	10/24/22	Hinsdale
Description could not eliminate smaller race of Canada Goose		
Cackling Goose	11/2/22	Portsmouth
Description of birds in flight could not eliminate other smaller waterfowl		
Cackling Goose	11/20/22	Westmoreland
Brief view and description were insufficient to eliminate smaller race of Canada Goose		
Rufous Hummingbird	9/17/22	Newbury
Description was too limited to confirm this rarity.		

### Winter 2022/2023 Records

#### Records Accepted by the Committee

SPECIES	DATE	LOCATION/TOWN
Pink-footed Goose	12/20/22	Durham
Cackling Goose	12/18/22	Durham
Ash-throated Flycatcher	12/11/22	Durham
Mountain Bluebird	12/22/22	Great Bay NWR, Newington
Mountain Bluebird	2/8/23	Peterborough
Varied Thrush	12/18/22	Pittsburg
Varied Thrush	2/17/23	Bath
Varied Thrush	2/19/23	Lancaster
Western Tanager	12/17/22	Greenland

#### Records Not Accepted by the Committee

SPECIES	DATE	LOCATION/TOWN
Common Gull	2/22/23	Rye
Immature Ring-billed Gull could not be eliminated		
Dark-eyed "Slate-colored/Cismontanus" Junco	2/7/23	Walpole
Bird was within expected variability of "Slate-colored" Junco		
Dark-eyed "Cismontanus" Junco	12/16/22	Marlborough
Bird was within expected variability of "Slate-colored" Junco		
Dark-eyed "Cismontanus" Junco	2/7/23	Walpole
Bird was within expected variability of "Slate-colored" Junco		