

# New Hampshire Bird Records





NEW HAMPSHIRE BIRD RECORDS  
VOLUME 32, NUMBER 1  
SPRING 2013

**MANAGING EDITOR**

Rebecca Suomala  
603-224-9909 X309,  
rsuomala@nhaudubon.org

**TEXT EDITOR**

Dan Hubbard

**SEASON EDITORS**

Eric Masterson, **Spring**  
Tony Vazzano, **Summer**  
Lauren Kras/Ben Griffith, **Fall**  
Pamela Hunt, **Winter**

**LAYOUT**

Kathy McBride

**ASSISTANTS**

Jeannine Ayer, Zeke Cornell, David Deifik,  
Margot Johnson, Elizabeth Levy,  
Susan MacLeod, Aiden Moser,  
Marie Nickerson, Carol Plato,  
William Taffe, Tony Vazzano, Phyllis Yaffie

**FIELD NOTES**

Robert A. Quinn

**PHOTO QUIZ**

David Donsker

**PHOTO EDITOR**

Ed Larrabee

**WEB MASTER**

Kathy Barnes

**WHERE TO BIRD**

Phil Brown

**EDITORIAL TEAM**

Phil Brown, Hank Chary, David Deifik,  
David Donsker, Ben Griffith,  
Dan Hubbard, Pam Hunt, Lauren Kras,  
Ed Larrabee, Iain MacLeod, Eric Masterson,  
Robert A. Quinn, Rebecca Suomala,  
William Taffe, Tony Vazzano, Jon Woolf

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

IN MEMORY OF

## Sally Gallagher

This issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records* with its color cover is sponsored by the Concord Bird and Wildflower Club and friends in memory of Sally Gallagher. Sally was a long-time member of the Club who led many field trips and shared her enjoyment of birding. She also volunteered for New Hampshire Audubon doing various bird surveys and helping with the New Hampshire Breeding Bird Atlas. Her laughter, energy and enthusiasm will be missed.



Sally Gallagher on a birding trip to Newfoundland in 2002.  
Photo by Robert A. Quinn.

## In This Issue

Spring Season: March 1 through May 31, 2013

by Eric Masterson .....	2
The Connecticut River Valley – Vernon Dam and Hinsdale Setbacks.....	21
by Eric Masterson .....	
Fallout!! May, 2013 .....	23
by Tony Vazzano .....	
Inland Spring Red-throated Loons .....	24
by Robert A. Quinn .....	
Spring 2013 Field Notes.....	26
compiled by Robert A. Quinn and Rebecca Suomala .....	
Red-shouldered Hawks in Brentwood .....	26
NH Peregrine Falcon Found After 12 Years .....	26
by Chris Martin .....	
Peregrine Falcon versus Blue Jay .....	26
by Hector Galbraith .....	
Red-headed Woodpecker in a Chimney .....	26
by Rebecca Suomala .....	
Owl went a Froggin' .....	27
by Tony Vazzano .....	
Bald Eagle versus River Otter .....	27
by Bob Quinn .....	
NH Audubon 2013 Birdathon Results .....	28
by Phil Brown .....	
Backyard Birder – An American Woodcock at the Back Door .....	29
by Brenda Sens .....	
Photo Gallery – Hummingbirds in the Snow .....	30
by Betsy Fraser .....	
Field Trip Reports.....	32
Memorable Star Island Trip: The Fallout of May 24, 2013 .....	32
by Robert A. Quinn and Phil Brown .....	
Pickering Ponds and Rochester Wastewater Treatment Plant .....	33
by Dan Hubbard .....	
NH Rare Birds Committee Report 2011 — Part 1.....	34
Answer to the Photo Quiz.....	35
by David B. Donsker .....	

Cover Photos: Top: Yellow-crowned Night-Heron by Len Medlock, 4/12/13, Hampton, NH. Bottom: Greater White-fronted Goose by Benjamin Griffith, 4/28/13, Borthwick Ave., Portsmouth, NH. Left: Spruce Grouse by Dave Trumper, 5/12/13, Weetamoo Trail, Mt. Chocorua, Albany, NH.

*New Hampshire Bird Records* is published quarterly by New Hampshire Audubon's Conservation Department. Thank you to the many observers who submit their sightings to NH eBird ([www.ebird.org/nh](http://www.ebird.org/nh)), the source of data for this publication. Records are selected for publication and not all species reported will appear in the issue. The published sightings typically represent the highlights of the season. All records are subject to review by the NH Rare Birds Committee and publication of reports here does not imply future acceptance by the Committee. Please contact the Managing Editor if you would like to report your sightings but are unable to use NH eBird.

*New Hampshire Bird Records* © NHA April, 2014

Published by New Hampshire Audubon's Conservation Department



Printed on Recycled Paper



# Photo Gallery

## Hummingbirds in the Snow

by Betsy Fraser

*Northern New Hampshire had a late May snow storm during peak bird migration. The following was written by Betsy Fraser of Sugar Hill, NH describing what was a nerve-wracking time for North Country bird watchers as they tried to help the Ruby-throated Hummingbirds make it through the snow and heavy frosts. Ed.*

I've been feeding hummingbirds since 1991. This week, something happened that I've never seen. As in past years, hummingbirds started to periodically swarm at the feeders in mid- to late-May and Photo #1 is representative of the hummer activity at my house in Sugar Hill, NH on May 24. Temperatures had been mild, although a cold, rainy day was forecast for May 25.

I was away during the day on May 25 and came home to find the hummers swarming. They had emptied one of the feeders. At around 7:00 pm on May 25, the unthinkable happened. It started snowing....hard! The weather forecast had said a possibility of snow at altitudes above 2,000 feet. It was snowing much lower, however, as low as 1,100 feet. I went to bed with great anxiety wondering what would happen to all of the hummers who were out in a major spring snow storm.

I woke up at 4:00 am and it was still snowing. There were four inches of heavy, wet snow and trees and plants were leaning over. I always bring hummer feeders in at night, to be sure that bears won't be attracted to them. Also, on cold nights, I bring my feeders in and put them out early so that the birds will have warm nectar. I went out in the snow and hung up six feeders and it wasn't long before the hummers were arriving. It was snowing so hard, however, that it was covering the ports of the feeders making it difficult for the birds to feed. Also, with everything covered in snow, there were few places for the birds to perch. I kept trying to wipe off and clear the feeders, but it was difficult to keep up.

An idea struck me of how to keep the snow from accumulating on the feeders and provide the hummers with a protected area and places to perch. Photo #2 shows my solution. Necessity really is the Mother of Invention! The minute I set up the

umbrella and hung a feeder on the clothes drying rack, the hummers came and fed. I added more feeders to the rack. It stopped snowing around 8:00 am. I relocated the clothes rack to my garden (Photo #3 and #4). The snow melted by the evening of May 26, although we had a hard frost that night. Photo #5, taken on May 27, shows lots of hummers continuing to visit their new "multi-level feeder station." It's so popular, that I may leave it up for the summer!



Photo #1. A swarm of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds around the feeders on May 24, the day before the snow started.



Photo #2. Betsy's successful experiment of hanging a feeder from a clothes rack under the umbrella to keep the snow off the feeder and the nearby perches.



I'm pleased (and relieved) to report that the hummers were swarming again on the evening of May 28. I estimate that there were 20-30 hummers buzzing among four feeders in close proximity (three on the clothes rack and one other). It's a relief to see that hummer life appears to be back to normal after an incredibly challenging few days. I am so grateful that the hummers made it through the snow storm.

*All photos were taken by Betsy Fraser in her yard in Sugar Hill, New Hampshire.*



*Photo #3. Hummingbirds coming to one of the feeders on May 26 in the snow that had started the evening before.*



*Photo #4. The feeders on the clothes rack after the snow stopped in the morning of May 26.*

## More Hummingbirds Swarming

*by Dan Hubbard*

My wife and I spent Memorial Day weekend at our favorite motel, the Four Seasons, at Twin Mountain, NH. The weather was a bit unusual for the time of year with freezing temperatures and snow. Our consternation, however, was minimal compared to the Ruby-throated Hummingbirds who had recently returned from their warm winter habitats. Arising to face a cold and snowy May 25, we first headed to Foster's Crossroads, a general store, to pick up a newspaper. Fortunately for the hummingbirds, the store had several feeders hung and filled. The birds were frantically buzzing around which made it difficult to count them, but there was a minimum of eight. Next, we proceeded about a mile south on Route 3 to the Mountain Bean for breakfast. More feeders were available there, which also were swarmed by hummers. Again, I managed to count a total of eight. Returning to the motel, where there was only one feeder, one more hummingbird was counted (motel owner was suitably chastised for only having one feeder ready). Therefore, 17 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were reported to eBird for a short stretch of Route 3 which, predictably, was received with a bit of skepticism.



*Photo #5. Hummingbirds at the new feeder set up after the snow melted on May 27.*

## New Hampshire Bird Records Endowment Fund

Donations to this permanently restricted fund provide long-term support for the collection, organization, quality control, distribution, dissemination, publication, promotion, preservation and storage of New Hampshire bird sighting information. This fund supports all facets of the *New Hampshire Bird Records* publication. For more information, contact the Managing Editor (see inside front cover).

## NH Audubon's Birdathon/Bloomathon – May 17-18, 2014

This annual event combines the fun of bird watching and bloom seeking with a sense of friendly competition and supporting a great cause. The 2014 Centennial brings an expanded focus to this event which encourages all levels of birders and bloom seekers to participate and raise funds. See the NH Audubon website for complete details of how to be part of this great Centennial event!

Rare Bird ALERT ☎ 224-9909

Available twenty-four hours a day!  
Also online at [www.nhaudubon.org](http://www.nhaudubon.org)

### Abbreviations Used

BBC	Brookline Bird Club
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey
CA	Conservation Area
CC	Country Club
CFT	NH Audubon Chapter Field Trip
FT	Field Trip
IBA	Important Bird Area
L.	Lake
LPC	Loon Preservation Committee
NA	Natural Area
NHA	New Hampshire Audubon
NHBR	New Hampshire Bird Records
NHRBC	NH Rare Birds Committee
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
PO	Post Office
R.	River
Rd.	Road
Rt.	Route
SF	State Forest
SP	State Park
SPNHF	Society for the Protection of NH Forests, Concord
T&M	Thompson & Meserves (Purchase)
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
WMA	Wildlife Management Area
WMNF	White Mountain National Forest
WS	NHA Wildlife Sanctuary
~	approximately
WTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant

### NHBR Subscription Form

I would like to subscribe to *NH Bird Records*.

☐ NHA Member \$25.00 ☐ Non-member \$35.00

*All renewals take place annually.*

*Mid-year subscribers will receive all issues published in the subscription year.*

☐ I would like to join NHA and receive *NH Bird Records* at the member price.

☐ Family/\$55 ☐ Individual/\$39 ☐ Senior/\$24

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Payment is by:

☐ check enclosed— payable to NH Audubon

☐ MC ☐ VISA

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return to:** Membership Department, NH Audubon,  
84 Silk Farm Rd., Concord, NH 03301

*Subscribe online at [www.nhbirdrecords.org](http://www.nhbirdrecords.org)*



# Spring 2013 Highlights



*An American Woodcock that appeared on a doorstep in Hampton on 3/2/13. See the Backyard Birder feature for more. Photo by Len Medlock.*



*Green Heron photographed by Amanda Altena during the Birdathon, 5/18/13, Salem, NH. See the Birdathon Summary inside.*

## Fallout!

These warblers were all photographed during an amazing coastal fallout at the end of May.

See inside for articles about the fallout, a field trip to Star Island, and the Spring Season summaries.



*Black-throated Green Warbler by Lauren Kras, 5/23/13, Church Street water tower parking lot, Hampton, NH.*



*Magnolia Warbler by Steve Mirick, 5/23/13, Great Boar's Head, Hampton, NH.*



*Northern Parula by Eric Masterson, 5/27/13, Star Island, Rye, NH.*



*Bay-breasted Warbler by Eric Masterson, 5/27/13, Star Island, Rye, NH.*



*Yellow-bellied Flycatcher by Steve Mirick, 5/23/13, Great Boar's Head, Hampton, NH.*

