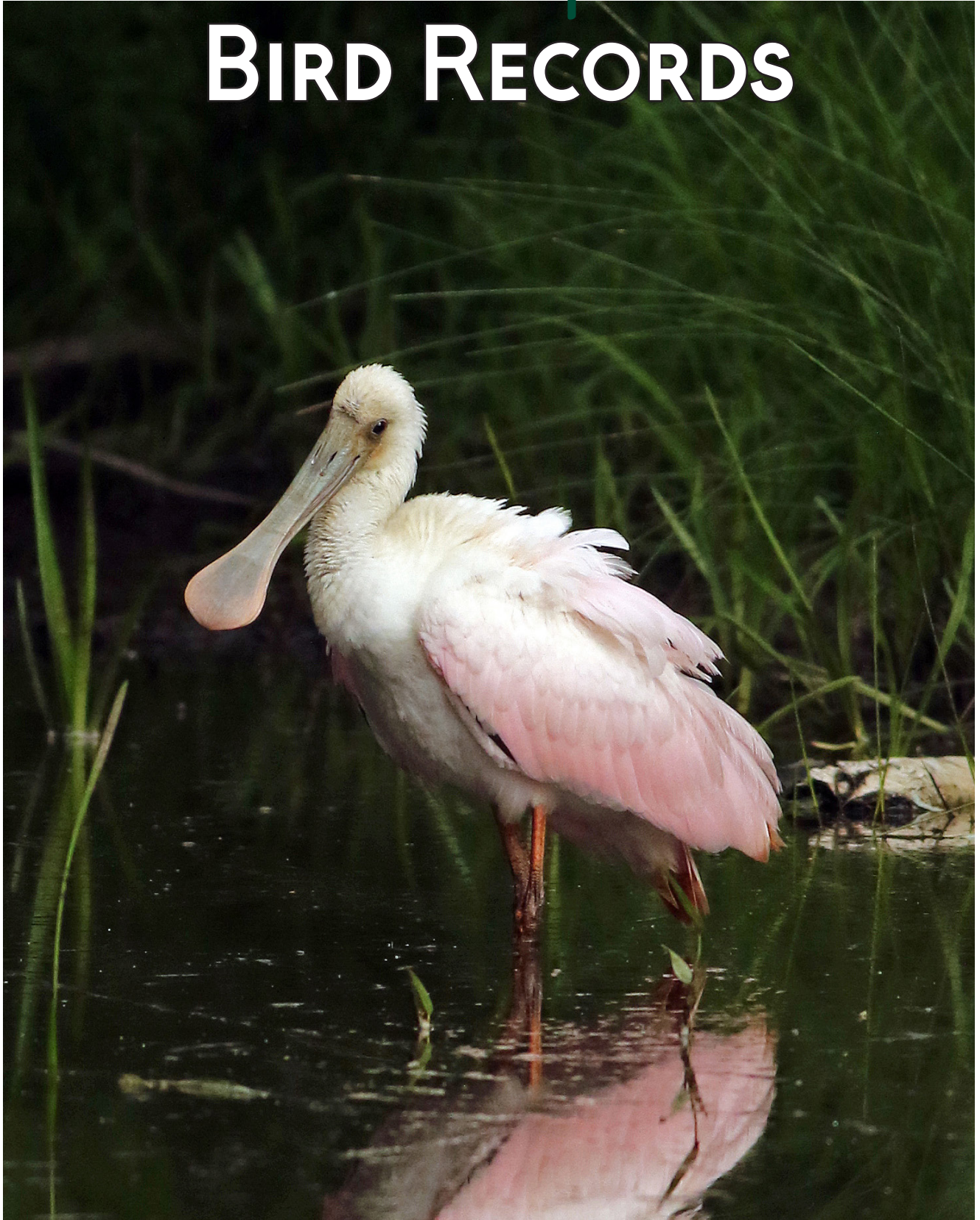


New Hampshire

# BIRD RECORDS



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## NEW HAMPSHIRE BIRD RECORDS

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## IN MEMORY OF

### Mary Wright

This issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records* with its color cover is sponsored by friends of Mary Wright in recognition and appreciation of all that she did for bird conservation and the bird banding community. We will miss her kindness, support, energy, and enthusiasm.



Mary Wright holding a male Ruby-throated Hummingbird at the Appledore Island Migration Station at the Isles of Shoals, ME.  
Photo by Sara Morris.

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# Birding During the Gas Crunch

by Jon Woolf

All of us as birders are facing a tough question: how to keep up our birding when gas prices are through the roof? These are a few ideas that I've applied to conserving gasoline on my birding trips. In general, they're similar to "how to save gas" tips for all situations and some should be familiar to anyone who remembers the "energy crisis" of the late 1970s and early 1980s. I think they've helped me and I think they will help you too.

- Don't idle your car engine for long periods of time. The bigger the car, the bigger the engine, the more gas you can waste this way.
- When driving, watch your speed and more importantly, your engine RPMs. Gas consumption is actually a function of engine revolutions, not distance, so lower RPMs = less gas burned. Reduce highway speeds. It takes significantly more engine RPMs, and therefore more gas, to cruise at 70 mph than it does to cruise at 65 mph, and on short trips you really don't get there very much faster.
- Most cars and SUVs sold nowadays come with trip computers that include a real-time MPG monitor. Use them. If yours doesn't, then there are add-on devices you can buy that provide the same functionality.
- If you plan to stop at specific places, then sit down with a map and plan out the route ahead of time to minimize distance and driving time between stops. A stand-alone GPS can be handy when doing this, as some of them allow you to plot a route on your PC, then download the resulting set of navigation points to the GPS.
- Most gas-powered cars achieve their best mileage at between 40 and 65 mph, so following routes that let you cruise at those speeds will also help.
- If you have several vehicles, then take the most fuel-efficient one. An electric car is ideal, but most of us don't have one.
- If you like to "carbird," by which I mean drive along with the windows open listening for birdsong, then turn off the car A/C while you're doing it. Air conditioning is a power hog, and in a car, all the power comes from burning gasoline.
- If you're considering buying a new car, then get the smallest one, with the smallest engine, that will do what you need it to do.
- Of course, carpooling when possible is always a good idea.

There are many other little tricks and tips for reducing gas consumption, some of which work and some of which are old mechanics' tales, such as tire pressure, car weight, and so on. There are plenty of lists on the web. Run a search and see what you find.

It's true that one person won't change the planet this way, but you can certainly change your little corner of it just a little bit, set a good example for others, and perhaps save yourself quite a bit of money in the process. Those of us who remember the gas crunch of the 1970s may also remember that when large numbers of people started switching from full-size gas-guzzlers to compact cars, gas consumption went down so sharply and steeply that it led to an oil oversupply and gas prices dropped significantly. One person won't make a difference by themselves, but one or two million will. And one person can provide the inspiration and spark for change.



Gas prices in April 2022 by Kathryn Frieden.



Carpooling is an excellent way to save on gas, as demonstrated by the Twitchers. Photo thanks to Susan Whisley, courtesy of Steve Bennett and others.

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## Abbreviations Used

AMC	Appalachian Mountain Club
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
RO	Raptor Observatory
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

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