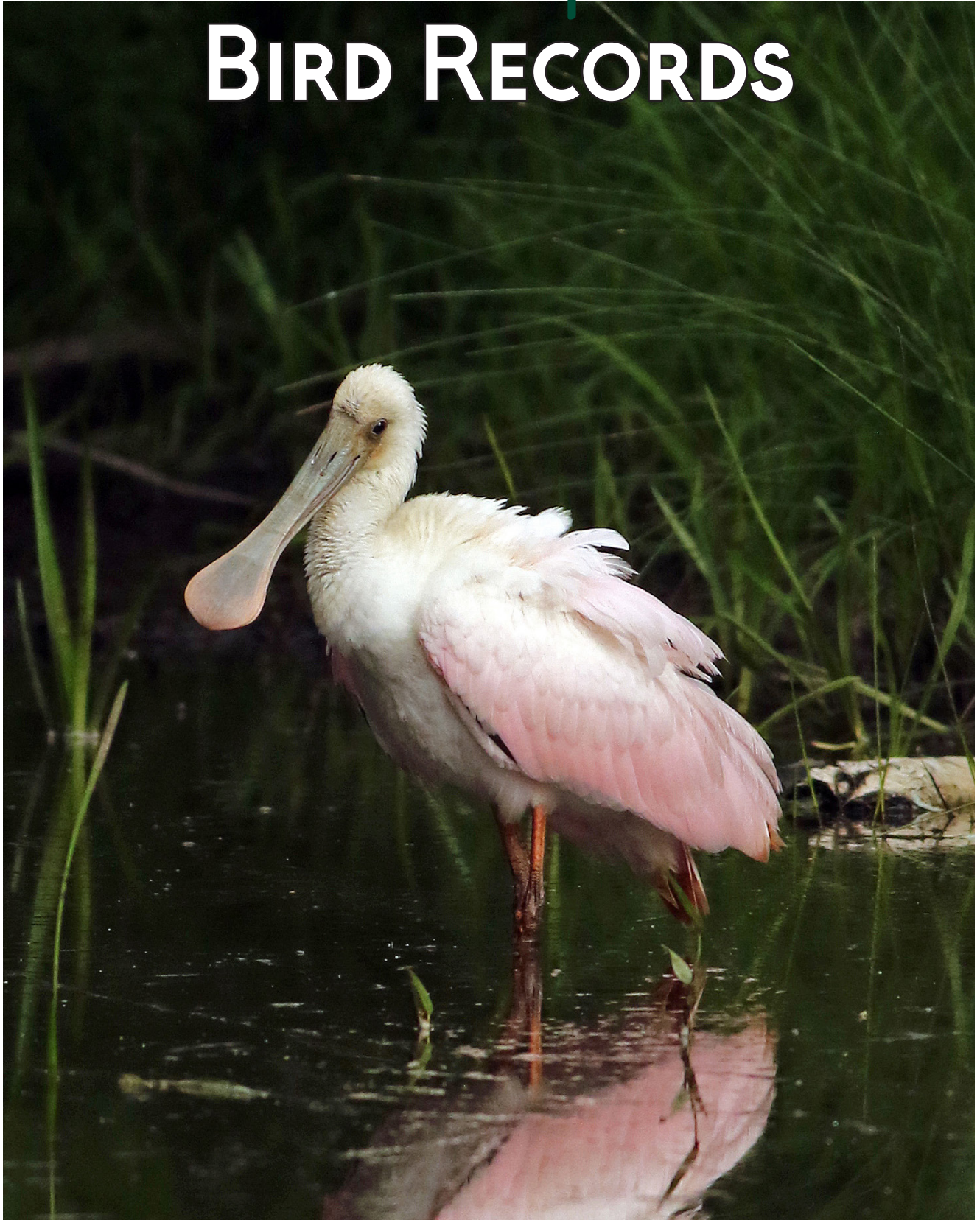


New Hampshire

# BIRD RECORDS



SUMMER 2021

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## NEW HAMPSHIRE BIRD RECORDS

VOLUME 40 NUMBER 2

SUMMER 2021

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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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Roseate Spoonbill in Gorham .....	Inside Back Cover

June 26 – Young birds still being fed in **lower** hole, but adult seen investigating **upper** hole!

June 29 – Two young birds fledged from lower hole! This likely occurred over the last couple of days. In 2020, the fledged date for the first brood was on or near July 8, so this year the birds were seven or eight days ahead of last year.



*Red-headed Woodpecker juvenile from second brood in nest hole.  
Photo by Susan Wisley,  
8-17-21, Bear Brook  
SP, Allenstown, NH.*

### **Second Brood (very few nest site visits)**

June 30 – Copulation observed while fledged young from first brood were being fed.

July 17 – Incubation suspected taking place in upper nest hole.

August 17 – At least one chick seen at hole and being fed in **upper** nest hole.

August 28 – One chick observed being fed in **lower** nest hole. How did chick get into lower hole? Had it fledged and then flew back into lower hole? Last year, chicks fledged on August 24 and 25.

September 3 – No birds observed, but could have been missed. Last visit of season.

### **Egg Removal**

On May 31, I photographed an adult removing a whole egg from the nest hole. The timing was near the hatch date of at least one egg. Often birds will remove eggshells after hatching; however, this was not a shell, but appeared to be a whole egg and the egg was consistent with that of a Red-headed Woodpecker (as opposed to a Brown-headed Cowbird for instance). The reason for this egg removal is not known and I couldn't find any references to this behavior in the literature. The adult seemed to fly off to a nearby tree and possibly ate the egg.

The nesting in 2021 confirms Red-headed Woodpeckers using this clear-cut area for at least two years in a row, and it's possible they used it prior to 2020. Let's hope for their return in 2022!

### **Data Sources & References**

*eBird*, 2020. *eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance* [web application]. eBird, Ithaca, New York. Available: <http://www.ebird.org>. (Accessed: January 2022).

Frei, B., K. Smith, J. Withgott, P. Rodewald, P. Pyle, and M. Patten. 2020. Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*), version 1.0. In *Birds of the World* (P. Rodewald, ed.). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.rehwoo.01>



*Red-headed Woodpecker removing an egg from the nest hole. Photo by Steve Mirick, 5-31-21, Bear Brook SP, Allenstown, NH.*

## **Managing Locations in the eBird Mobile App**

*by Kathryn Frieden*

Birding with a small notebook and pen to keep track of your sightings isn't a thing of the past, but smart phones are certainly making it seem that way. It is increasingly common for birders to use "eBird Mobile" to record their sightings and then enter their checklists into eBird. Using the app changes the way locations are chosen and named, so we would like to help clarify how to do this, why the location name matters, and what constitutes a good location name.

There are two ways to enter a sighting in eBird; on the website [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org), or in the eBird Mobile app. Your eBird account is shared between these platforms, but not all information flows both ways. The checklists that are entered in the app are accessible in the app on your device, but the checklists you have entered using the website do not show up in the app. Some edits to an app checklist, such as location name changes, can only be made on the website, not using the app.

Figure 1. The arrow points to the “Auto Selected” location where you tap to select the location.

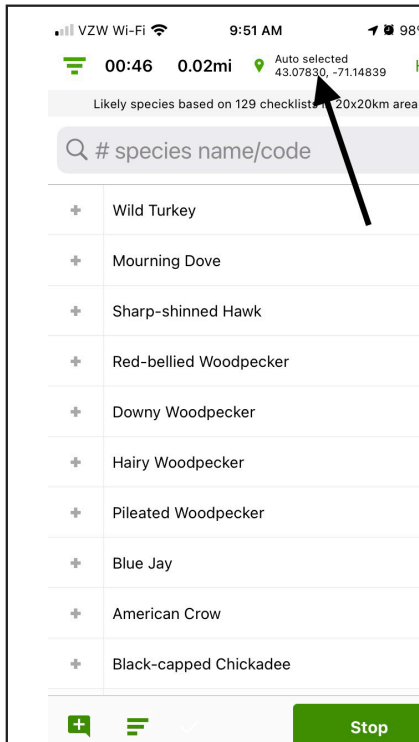


Figure 2. The large tear-drop shaped pin (in green) shows your location. The arrow points to the location name generated automatically by the cellular data.

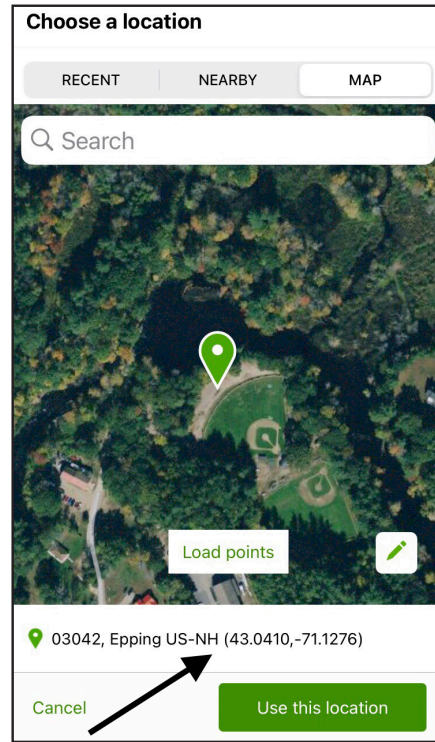
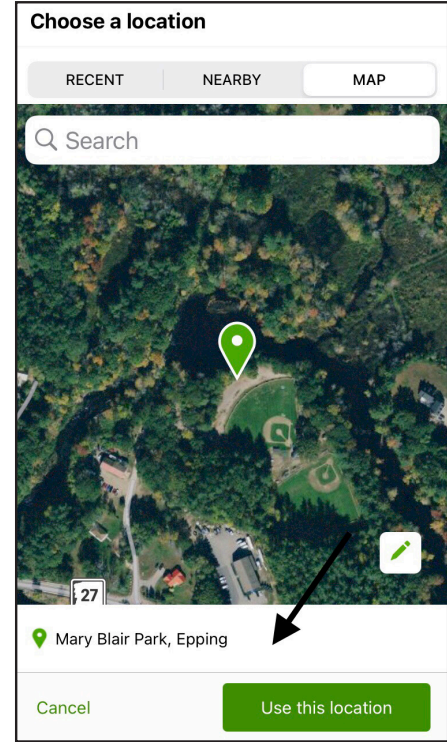


Figure 3. The arrow points to the new, preferred location name and when you click on the box that says “Use this location” it will bring your checklist back up to the screen, ready for data entry!



## Entering a location in the app

To begin, start the checklist, then tap the top right of the screen where it says “Auto selected” (Figure 1) next to the green pin in order to choose a location. If you do not do this at the start of the checklist, you will be asked to do it when you submit the checklist. The two types of locations that are most used in eBird are “Personal Location,” and “Hotspot,” which is a publicly shared birding site. Whenever you are birding within a “Hotspot” area, please choose the eBird Hotspot as your location.

How do you enter a new personal location while using the eBird Mobile app? After you tap the “Auto Selected” spot (Figure 1), the “Choose a Location” screen pops up with options of “Recent, Nearby, or Map.” For a new “Personal Location,” choose “Map.” When there is cellular data available, the large green pin (tear-drop shaped) will show your location. If you want to move the pin, you can tap the screen at a better location on the map. As the eBird instructions state, the best spot for your location pin is the one that most accurately represents where you are birding. The location name that now automatically appears below the map (Figure 2) will depend on the amount of cellular data that is available. It may include a zip code, town name, or even street name in addition to the latitude/longitude numbers. You can now rename the location to something more informative or accurate. Tap the location name to bring

up the keyboard and then type in the new and improved name. When you tap “Done,” a green box that says “Use this location” will pop up (Figure 3). Touch this box, and your checklist will reappear with its new name at the top right.

Once your common birding locations have more informative names, you will be able to find them quickly and easily under the “Recent” or “Nearby” tabs. The “Recent” list contains your previous 50 locations, which are stored on your device and can therefore be accessed without the need for a data connection. Your “Personal Locations” will show up as blue pins on both of these lists as well as on the “Map.” “Hotspots” will be red pins.

## Why is the location name important?

It may not seem like the location name is important when it is also on a map, but it is! Researchers who download data will find a good location description helpful, especially when reviewing it in an Excel spreadsheet. Birders who follow the eBird alerts appreciate a descriptive name in the list of reports and people using eBird to research where a particular species can be found will get more information from a good descriptive name than from just latitude/longitude numbers. Lat/longs may be the most accurate from a strict data standpoint but are not as effective when perusing the various eBird lists. This is also true when reviewing one’s own eBird records to see where you have been birding, or where you were when you saw a certain species.

You can read more about why location names are helpful to birders and researchers in the Winter 2016-17 issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*, also online at:

[https://nhbirdrecords.org/all-articles/Vol35\\_No4\\_TechArticle.pdf](https://nhbirdrecords.org/all-articles/Vol35_No4_TechArticle.pdf)

## What constitutes a good location name?

In the eBird “Help” section, it states that when entering a new location in the app, one should “consider changing the location name so that it is more informative than the default name.” We would like to expand on that guidance. A good location name uses a geographic descriptor and includes the town name whenever applicable. Street addresses, parks, trails, or landmarks are all possibilities. An example for one’s own yard is “Home, Silk Farm Rd., Concord.” If you are driving on a highway and spot a raptor overhead, you might use “Rt. 93, Concord.” If you want to further pinpoint the location, leave in the lat/longs, as in “Rt. 93, Concord (43.2463,-71.5442).” Other examples are “Rockingham Recreational Trail, Raymond,” or “Connecticut River, Walpole.” (I must be thinking about that delicious hot chocolate at L.A. Burdick.) It is often helpful to further describe the location in the checklist comments. For example, if I used a **“Hotspot”** such as “Pawtuckaway SP, Nottingham/Deerfield,” I could add “hiked Round Pond Trail” in the comments.

If you need to rename the location and it isn’t convenient at the time you are entering the checklist, it can always be done later using the website. Here are instructions:

## To change the name of a location:

1. Click on “My eBird” at the top of any page of the website <https://ebird.org/nh/home>.
2. Select “Manage My Locations” on the left side of the page.
3. Find the name of the location to be changed and click “edit” on the right.
4. A box containing the current name will appear saying “Enter new name” on the left. Type in the new name and click “Rename” to the right of the box.
5. The new name will immediately appear at the top next to the blue pin, and your location is renamed!

And, if you forget to change that original “uninformative” location name, you just may get a friendly email from one of the New Hampshire Audubon volunteers asking you to do that!

For further information about locations in eBird Mobile as well on the web, here is the link to the “Help” section:

<https://support.ebird.org/en/support/solutions/articles/48000850891-choosing-and-managing-locations-in-ebird#anchorMergeLocation>.

# Volunteers Needed to Ensure Continued Success of Purple Martins on the NH Seacoast

by Dennis Skillman

Back in 2014, a small group of birders met with Pam Hunt to see how we could support the return of Purple Martins to the NH seacoast. The previous year, martins had been found nesting in a bird house meant for Tree Swallows amidst a large group of nest boxes adjacent to Cross Beach Road in Seabrook. In a short time, some possible sites were scouted out and Pam secured approval from the town as well as funding for a gourd rack.

The volunteers took it from there, constructing a support structure and handling the monitoring of nesting progress. In 2016, a sister gourd rack was put in Hampton off Island Path. Along the way, landowners in Rye became ardent martin enthusiasts, putting up a gourd rack on their land on Awcomin Marsh in Rye, and the Portsmouth Country Club restored and added to the nest boxes lying dormant on their property. Most recently, another gourd rack was installed at The Nature Conservancy’s Lubberland Creek property in Newmarket. During this time period, martin nesting in central New Hampshire slowly flickered out of existence. To the best of our knowledge, the only remaining breeding colonies of Purple Martins are at three or four sites along the seacoast.

The seacoast sites have been very successful, fledging birds continuously since the first gourds were opened. Initially, it was just Seabrook, then the Awcomin Marsh site flourished, and in 2021 the Island Path site had its best year ever. There have been highs and lows, mixed results, including (in 2021) a terrible stretch of extreme heat followed by record rainy weather that resulted in the highest nestling mortality we have encountered. The biggest cause of martin mortality has been weather. The martins get the great majority of their food as aerial feeders. This makes the adults, eggs and newly hatched birds vulnerable to prolonged periods of rain. Over the past three years, we have begun providing supplemental feeding in the form of dried meal worms placed in the nests when a cool northeast storm sets up. The owner of the Awcomin Marsh site is doing the same. It seems to have helped them get through some difficult stretches of weather, but 2021’s July and early August weather was just too much stress.

The Hampton site was moved from dry land, where it had limited success and was getting overgrown, out onto the marsh in 2019. There was martin interest but no success that year. During the COVID lockdowns of 2020, we were not able to maintain both Seabrook and Hampton, so the

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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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