

New Hampshire

BIRD RECORDS

Audubon Society of N.H. VOL.1, NO.1 DECEMBER 1982

Welcome to the first issue of N.H. Bird Records. We have decided to publish the bird records separately from the newsletter to give them the space they deserve. The bird records are an important part of the Audubon Society's work. The information contained in these reports becomes more valuable every year. The Endangered Species Program has used a lot of the information in the bird records in its classification and study of New Hampshire's threatened and endangered species.

But a record is useless without the right information to go along with it. What is that information? Well, to start with, sightings should be reported on the species slips that are available from Audubon House, and these slips should be filled out COMPLETELY. They should have the proper species name (see page 12), the date (including the year), location (township first, then the specific locale if appropriate), observers' names, the number seen (include sex or age here if appropriate) and any substantiating information should go on the back.

WHAT TO REPORT?

Kimball Elkins' recent checklist (for sale in our store for \$2.00 plus 75¢ postage) will give you a good idea of the seasonal occurrence of each species normally found in N.H. Then you should consider what season you are reporting on. During Spring and Fall we are most interested in migrants, the dates they arrive, their peak numbers and the dates they depart (whether early, late or normal). Year-round residents (chickadees, grouse etc.) do not need to be reported during these seasons unless seen in unusual numbers.

In Summer we are mainly interested in nesting reports. At the present time the Breeding Bird Atlas, Breeding Bird Surveys and the Endangered Species Program plus a few town studies make up the bulk of the

Summer report. Comparisons of the same area from year to year are especially valuable during the nesting season.

In the Winter season the Christmas Bird Counts usually provide most of the records. Wintering waterfowl, raptors, finches and other visitors or lingerers are also noteworthy. Rarities are always interesting. But any report of a rare bird or a bird that is "out of season" should include a good description (not just the fact that it was seen well), no matter who reports it. You should fill out your report slips so that someone 50 years from now will be convinced of what you saw (and where and when). Documentation is the key. And without good documentation you might as well not keep records.

When in doubt about a report, send it in. But try not to overburden your editors and do not expect every one of your records to be published. After all, one of the jobs of an editor is to edit!

Does this sound like a lot of work? You better believe it is. But it will make your records more worthwhile and enjoyable. More significantly, it will help the birds, and that is what we all want.

The seasonal editors and their deadlines are as follows:

WINTER SEASON
Dec. 1 through Feb. 28

HELP! We need a Winter Records editor. Why not you??

SUMMER SEASON
June 1 through July 31

Robert A. Quinn
272 North State St.
Concord, N.H. 03301

SPRING SEASON
March 1 through May 31

Susan A. Gonzalez
Wavell W. Fogleman
RFD #1 Plymouth, N.H. 03264

FALL SEASON
Aug. 1 through Nov. 30

Kimball Elkins
Box 84
Andover, N.H. 03216

The editors appreciate having the reports sent on a monthly basis to expedite the task of reviewing the slips and filing them by phylogenetic order. Reports for the season should be sent to the editor no later than the 5th day after the season is over. Standard preprinted forms are available from Audubon House.

If you have any questions or would like to be the Winter Records editor please get in touch with me.

Bob Quinn
Editor

SPRING MIGRATION

March 1 - May 31, 1982

In recent years the difficult job of editing the Spring Records has been courageously and ably tackled by Dennis Abbott, but as other projects call for more of his time, he finds it necessary to pass on the reins. Two of us will be trying to fill his shoes, and we express our gratitude to him for his counsel and encouragement.

We would like to emphasize to all contributors the importance of giving detailed descriptions of unusually early or late sightings - even of "common" species - and of all birds rare or extralimital in the state. Researchers 30 years hence may be forced to ignore undetailed data, and therefore be unarmed in future conservation battles. We would also point out that counts of common feeder birds are indeed helpful in winter censuses, but that spring and autumn reporting should deal more with migrants. In tailoring reporting to the requirements of a particular season, much paper (trees) and time can be saved.

Naturally, any analysis of Spring '82 would be incomplete without mention of the now infamous nor'easter known as the April 6-7 blizzard which dumped more than two feet of snow on the state. While northerlies are a hindrance to all spring migrants - especially warblers - it is interesting to note that conditions on the periphery of the storm may have had more of an influence on the northward movement of some species than did the winds and heavy precipitation closer to the system's center. One indication of this is the fascinating fact that most "late" warblers this year were those that had migrated through the East Texas region, whereas those that wintered in Florida and the Caribbean arrived on schedule.

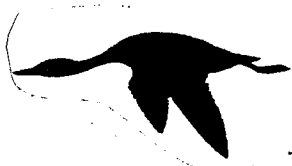
The reason is that during the month of April there was a trend toward northerly winds throughout the Gulf States, interspersed with days of rain; occasional lapses into southerly airflow gave some species small northward boosts. By

the end of the month the pattern became established north into the mid-Atlantic region, and later-arriving species were blocked from advancing. This pattern then moved into our area for a few days in early May, and vacillated between bouts of strong southerly air until mid-month. Meteorologically, it was a fascinating season that resulted in some excitement for birders.

The "Bird of the Season Award" goes uncontested to Mississippi Kite, setting 1st and 2nd state records 2 weeks apart, when at least two of these beautiful raptors flabbergasted lucky observers. Accounts of other unique sightings that rewarded observers may be found in the following text.

Susan A. Gonzalez

Wavell W. Fogleman



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LOONS, GREBES

Common Loons began reaching mid-N.H. areas around the third week of April, with a group of 14 on L. Winnepesaukee May 8 (EGL). Red-throated Loons still escape detection on our coast, with only two reported Mar. 17 (EMcC) off No. Hampton. Seven Red-necked Grebes were seen there Mar. 15 (RSA). A Horned Grebe was found on a wet highway in Henniker after the blizzard and brought to Audubon House Apr. 8 (RAQ). A very early Pied-billed Grebe was found in the Squam R., Ashland, Mar. 15 (BSR). One calling at Unsworth Refuge, Moultonboro, May 8 (BSR) gave hope of nesting.

TUBENOSES THROUGH CORMORANTS

No tubenose reports were received this year despite several late May pelagic trips (although they were present in No. Mass. waters). Gannets were not as impressive as last year, with a peak of about 20 off Rye, May 15-23, on the Allied Whale trips (SAG, WWF, *). Not representative of the population certainly, the only reported Great Cormorants were at: Hooksett, Mar. 21, one imm. (RAQ); Manchester to the end of the period,



two imm. (MTM); No. Hampton, Apr. 10 (1) (SDA, SJA); and Rye Ledge, May 22 (1), (TR birdathon).

HERONS



Great Blue Heron movements were not unusual. The earliest report was Hampstead, Mar. 13 (KEF) and the greatest number was 20 at Errol, May 22 (RAQ, ASNH). Green Herons arrived in early to mid-May except for one in Kensington, Apr. 25 (GWG). A Great Egret was found in the Oyster R., Durham, May 21 (CFS, SSS). Great Egrets are so unusual in N. H. that it was surely a treat to see three at the coast, Apr. 29 (AEA). Two or three adult Little Blue Herons were in Farragut Marsh, Rye, Apr. 27 (SAG, WWF). Black-crowned Night Heron reports continue to be of single birds except for two at Hampton, May 5 (RAQ, CFS, *): an imm. was seen on the Lamprey R., Newmarket, May 21, (CFS, SSS). American Bitterns continue to elude reporters - only three sightings in the period (KD, RAQ, ASNH). Glossy Ibis were much more in evidence with

a high of 32 at Wallis Sands Marsh, Rye, Apr. 18 (D. Hoffman, fide RSA).



WATERFOWL

A free-flying, well seen Bar-headed Goose in Kensington, April 17-18, was felt by the observer to be an escape (SDA, DJA). The few Snow Goose reports received would indicate a late movement if representative. Thirty appeared in Northwood, Apr. 12 (RAQ), and 15 in Plymouth the same day (C. Perkins, SAG, WWF). Thirty Brant in Bridgewater, Mar. 13 (MH Cavis, fide VHH), were early inland. Coastally, 40 were observed in Hampton, Apr. 24 (EMcC), and the latest to leave were 15 flying north over Portsmouth Harbor, May 23 (SAG*).

Fewer Wood Ducks were reported this year than last, a total of 63. The earliest was a pair at Kensington, Mar. 14 (GWG), where nesting was underway on Apr. 10. American Wigeon appeared in the Concord area early, Mar. 31 (KD, RAQ, HBM*). Two drakes and a hen were at Horseshoe Pond on Apr. 3. Green-winged Teal were slightly late with three at the Meredith Docks, Apr. 3 (SAG, ASNH), two at Exeter, Apr. 17, (SDA, DJA) and a drake at L. Umbagog, May 22 (RAQ, ASNH). Pintails were at Horseshoe Pond, Concord, Apr. 3 and L. Umbagog, May 22 (RAQ, ASNH). Fifty-six Blue-winged Teal were reported, mostly in pairs, from the coast to L. Umbagog.

Ring-necked Ducks began appearing in Kingston, Mar. 20 (KEF) and built to 140 by Apr. 10 (SDA, DJA). Mid-state, a single bird was found in Northwood, Mar. 20 (KCE), and quite interesting were two southerly at Sanbornton, May 6 (L. Emmons, fide VHH). The only Greater Scaup was at Franklin, Apr. 28 (KCE), and a Lesser Scaup was in Paugus Bay, Weirs Beach, Apr. 3 (SAG, ASNH).

All Oldsquaw reports were from inland: a hen at Concord, Apr. 18 (TR), three at Turtletown Pond, Concord, Apr. 21 (KD), and a hen on L. Umbagog, May 22 (RAQ, ASNH). Six Surf Scoters were reported from Antrim, May 12 (Bob Belle, Michael Bottini

fide MC). Two White-winged Scoters were observed in Andover, May 3 (KCE). Hooded and Common Mergansers were in good numbers and widespread as usual. The Ridgelys found one Hooded Merganser nest box on Squam Lake to contain an extraordinary 16 eggs, possibly the result of two hens. Inland Red-breasted Mergansers were in Concord, Apr. 3, 17 (RAQ, TR).

VULTURES, HAWKS



Turkey Vultures continue to be seen in good numbers in the southern and central portion of the state. The earliest reports included two N. of Concord, Mar. 20 (BSR) with considerable snow still on the ground. The Alton contingent began arriving Mar. 23 and a peak of 16 was noted Mar. 24 (EGL). The group associated with the Ashland dump began arriving Mar. 24 (SAG) and peaked at 14, Mar. 30 (T. Randall, fide BSR). The first state record of Mississippi Kite occurred Apr. 16 at the Peaked Hill hawk watch in Bristol (SAG, PAP, E. Phinney); excellent description and drawing of the bird leave no doubt as to the identification. The bird appeared to be migrating to the NE. Yet another Mississippi Kite was reported from Durham on May 9 (MLD) and details of this bird are also on file. Possibly the same or another bird was reported later from Durham (fide ACB) but no details were sent in.

Resident and migrating accipiters and buteos were reported in normal numbers and appeared on time. The high count of Sharp-shinned Hawks was 22, Bristol, Apr. 16, and the Broad-winged peak was 44, Apr. 24 (SAG,*). Five reports, possibly overlapping of Rough-legged Hawks were received: Hampton Falls (2), Mar. 10 (RAQ); No. Hampton (2); Hampton (1), Mar. 15 (RSA). A well-described imm. Bald Eagle was seen in Bristol, May 31 (VSW, RAW). An early Northern Harrier appeared in Manchester, Mar. 4 (MTM); 15 others were reported at normal dates and places. Forty-seven Osprey were reported, the earliest in Manchester, Mar. 18 (RM) and the latest in Rochester, May 27 (SM). A Merlin reported from Keene, Mar. 25

(JHW, details on file) was quite early, particularly inland. Others were Bristol (1), Apr. 16 (SAG,*); Rye (1) (RAQ); and Hampton, May 5 (RAQ, G. Sousa). A pair of adult Peregrine Falcons were migrating over the Peaked Hill Hawk watch, Bristol, Mar. 24 (SAG, PAP). One, or perhaps two, Peregrines were sighted near last year's successful nest site May 2 (SAG, WWF). Unfortunately, three rock climbers were on the cliff at the time. Repeated checks of the site in May and June by SAG and WWF failed to turn up the birds again.

GROUSE THROUGH ALCIDS



Spruce Grouse reports were received for Mt. Chocorua and E. Wolfeboro, both very unusual locations, particularly the latter. Since the Spruce Grouse is not migratory, nor even highly wandering, sightings without details, especially of undetermined sex, will remain suspect. A Wild Turkey report from the extreme SE corner of the state May 10 (GWG) makes one wonder about an escape or released bird. Another single bird was reported from New Durham Ridge, Alton, May 19, (W. Carder) and May 26 (S. Locke, both fide EGL). No details were submitted for either Turkey. A Virginia Rail found feeding in a snow-free drainage ditch on Feb. 7 in Salem was incredible (KEF, good details). This report is, of course, from the winter period but was received too late and is thus included here. Other Virginia Rails were in Rochester, May 18 (SM) and Hebron Marsh, May 26 (SAG). An American Coot was in the Winnisquam R., Laconia, Mar. 7 (SAG, WWF).

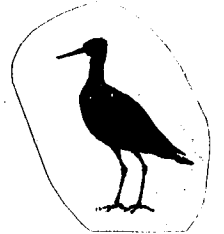


Killdeer arrived on normal dates in spite of lingering snow cover.

A Semipalmated Plover reported on a sandbar in Concord, May 28 (H. Everett, HM) is a quite late record. American Woodcock appeared to arrive on average dates, early reports ranging from Kensington, Mar. 17 (GWG) to Apr. 2, Plymouth (SAG, WWF) and Wilmot (RCV, KCE). If Woodcock suffered any problems with the April 6-7 storm, the fact was mentioned in only one report (DJA). The earliest Common Snipe was in a partially snow-free

field in Gilford, Apr. 3 (SAG, ASNH). Abbott reported one C. Snipe in Stratham Apr. 7, and suggested storm-related difficulties; this may be born out since there were no other citations of Snipe until Apr. 26. A report of approximately 30 Snipe resting on a rock near fishermen all day, May 30 in Lempster (fide RAS) seems implausible. The birds were closely approachable and described as gray with striped heads. Such a large aggregation of Snipe when they should be tending chicks was more likely a group of Dowitchers. Single Upland Sandpipers were reported from Alexandria, May 1 (C. McMaster, fide VHH); New Hampton, May 5 (VHH, RCH); and Plymouth (SAG). A pair, possibly on territory, were observed in N. Haverhill May 9 (SAG, WWF), but the birds were not found in later visits. A Willet was reported from Hampton, May 14 (GWG). Yellowlegs passed through on average dates with Lessers being in the minority as usual.

Spotted Sandpipers seemed on time with no large groups but Solitary Sandpipers were a little late, May 8-10 being first arrival dates at several locations. The only Purple Sandpiper report was from T. Richards' coastal birdathon, May 22, of several flocks totalling about 100. An undetailed White-rumped Sandpiper was reported on a Concord sandbar, May 23 (H. Everett, fide HM). Least Sandpipers were in Errol (6), May 22 (RAQ, ASNH) and Concord (3), May 24 (RAQ). Forty to fifty Dunlin were in Seabrook harbor Apr. 1 (SAG). A group of 50 Semipalmated Sandpipers was in Concord, May 31 (H. Everett fide HM). A single male Wilson's Phalarope in the Rochester sewage lagoon, May 12-13 (SM) was unusual for N. H. in spring. Northern Phalarope (15) were off Rye, May 23 (SAG,*) and a single male was in Squam Lake, May 31 (TR).



Glaucous Gulls continue to be fairly common visitors inland where there is open water and food. Concord had up to seven through Apr. 3

(RAQ) and Meredith and Ashland had two to three through Apr. 19 (BSR, SAG). Iceland Gulls were found in the same locations, numbering up to five in Concord. An Iceland Gull and a Great Black-backed Gull in Danbury, Mar. 6 (KCE) constitute a western location for these species in the state. Interesting Ring-billed Gull reports were in Hillsboro (6), Mar. 19 (RAS); Exeter (23), Apr. 18 (SDA, DJA); and L. Umbagog (1), May 22 (RAQ, ASNH). Two Laughing Gulls were in the mouth of Portsmouth harbor May 23 (SAG*). The only alcids reported were five Black Guillemots found at the Isles of Shoals, May 15 (SAG*).

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS



Mourning Doves were in normal numbers throughout the period, but an immature Apr. 26 in Stratham (SDA, DJA) must have ridden out the April blizzard in its nest. Single Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported from Amherst, May 28 (WMG) and Kensington, May 31 (GWG). Black-billed Cuckoos were just a couple of days late, arriving May 19-22 at all reported locations. A Screech Owl was seen in Concord, Mar. 5 (RAQ) and one was heard in Manchester, May 30 (MTM). Three Great Horned Owls were reported, including one in an old Great Blue Heron nest at Hampton Falls with downy young Apr. 17 (GWG). Sixteen Barred Owls were sighted. Single Saw-whet Owls were in New London, Mar. 17 (RCV) and Andover, Apr. 2 (KCE).



Common Nighthawks were late this year, most first observations coming from around May 27-28; the earliest a single bird in Concord, May 16 (RAQ). Whip-poor-will was also late and only nine were reported. Both these birds are the subject of organized surveys this year so perhaps their status will be clearer in the summer season report. Chimney Swifts appeared to be on time. The remarkable sight of 200 Swifts entering the post office chimney in Plymouth, May 28 (SAG, WWF) was enjoyed by several people in the town for

four to five days. Only four reports of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were received, the earliest Manchester, May 7 (MTM).

KINGFISHER THROUGH WRENS

Belted Kingfishers arrived on their usual dates throughout, even though areas of open water were scarce in the Lakes Region due to late "ice out" dates. Flickers began reaching the central part of the state by April 1, with a more widespread migration in evidence by mid-month. Only 5 reports of Pileated Woodpeckers were received, yet this should not be construed as a scarcity. Red-headed Woodpeckers showed indications of nesting in Rumney again, with the observation of at least 2 drumming adults (SAG, WWF, et al.). Another single bird was reported from Sanbornton (E. Weiant fide SAG). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were early in New London, Mar. 28 (Mr. and Mrs. Sargent fide AHV), and Apr. 5 (RCV).

One Eastern Kingbird in Plymouth May 4 (SAG, WWF) and 2 in Warner May 5 (KCE) were the northernmost and earliest arrivals of that species. The earliest Great-crested Flycatcher reports were May 8 in New Hampton (VHH) and Kensington (GWG). Eastern Phoebes were no doubt one of the species hardest hit by the Apr. 6-7 blizzard, as they had begun to arrive in good numbers in mid-state by Mar. 25. Despite the observation of a Phoebe eating barberries at the height of the storm in Plymouth (SAG), the species became very hard to find in the weeks that followed. Olive-sided Flycatchers again eluded observers in the southern part of the state, but were found pretty much "on time" at Campton Bog (SAG, WWF) May 18, and May 22-23, Lisbon (SM), Sutton (AHV), and New Hampton (VHH). Only 2 reports of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were received: Dixville Notch, May 23 (RAQ), and Hopkinton May 30 (HBM). (Did this species arrive so late that it skipped over most of the state enroute to its breeding areas?). Willow Flycatchers were reported from Amherst (WMG) and Andover (KCE), and Alders were reported in nor-

mal numbers. Four very early Least Flycatchers were reported from Surry Apr. 16 (JHW). Elsewhere the bulk of the migrants were a week later than usual. A very late Horned Lark at the Manchester Airport on May 23 (CFS, SSS) and on May 31 (MTM,*) may indicate nesting.



Tree Swallow scouts were in evidence by the first of April well into central sections, with some groups of 20-50 noted in a few scattered locations. Fifty were observed in Derry feeding over golf course ponds on Mar. 25, but vanished when the "weather turned colder, and could not be found the next day" (KEF). Many were wiped out by the Apr. 6-7 blizzard: MTM found 20 casualties in a Manchester bird house, and ASNH received many phone calls reporting others. But the species began to be seen again in normal numbers within a week after the storm, and by mid-May gave no indication of any decline. Bank Swallows were back at their usual haunts mid-state by May 4, yet groups of a dozen and more still appeared to be migrating as late as May 26 (SAG, WWF).

Rough-winged Swallows continue to increase, with reports from 11 locations where most observers consider the birds to be nesting. The earliest report was from Concord Apr. 25 (HBM, A. Lajoie,*). Barn Swallows were on schedule, arriving in Marlborough Apr. 20 (JHW), as did Cliff Swallows. A large colony of Cliffs was found at the old Coast Guard station lighthouse in Portsmouth, where 30-50 were seen through the end of May (SAG, WWF,*). Purple Martins seem to be increasing in the state with evidence of colonies in E. Rochester (SM) and Salisbury (KCE) in addition to the Funspot stronghold at the Weirs.

Unusual Corvidae reports include once again the Pawtuckaway Mts. Ravens (DJA, SDA, ACB), and the observation that Blue Jay migration was still notable on May 26 in the Plymouth area (SAG, WWF*). The only Boreal Chickadee reports were from their homeland in Errol and Pittsburg on May



22-23 (RAQ). Winter Wrens continue to be scarce, with reports from only six locations. The season's only Marsh Wren report was from Exeter on May 31 (SSS, CFS), while two Sedge Wrens were reported, one in Barrington and another in Alton (Paul Wright and ACB, fide S. Mallet).

MIMIDS THROUGH VIREOS

Mockingbirds continue to be reported in good numbers. Gray Catbirds made their spring appearance generally on May 8, with early individuals May 3 in Andover (KCE) and Bristol (VSW). Two Brown Thrashers were exceptionally early in Hampton, Mar. 25 (EMcC), while appearing on time elsewhere. American Robins were noted in small numbers throughout by mid-March, with larger flocks being evident in the coastal plain by Apr. 4, where 500 were seen (DJA, SDA). "Hundreds" were found in the Plymouth area Apr. 16-17 (WWF, SAG*), and 480 were counted migrating through the Peaked Hill hawk watch site in a 1 1/2 hr period Apr. 16 (SAG*).



Hermit Thrushes were late in arriving, with the first reported in Kensington Apr. 12 (RSA), but none reached the central part of the state until Apr. 18 or later. A few scattered reports of Swainson's Thrush indicate only that the species was not well-noted in migration this year, for as many as five individuals were singing along the Mt. Tecumseh trail on May 27 (WWF, SAG). Eastern Bluebirds appear not to have suffered as much from "The Storm" as it was initially feared: 39 individuals from 19 locations throughout the lower half of the state were reported, most following the storm, and most apparently nesting. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers continue to be reported in increasing numbers, arriving in Concord Apr. 21 (KD), and in Hebron Apr. 22 (VSW, RAW) where a pair set up housekeeping. Other pairs were in Camp-ton and Sandwich, all surrounding Plymouth, which continues to harbor a high concentration of these diminutive birds; no fewer than four pair were found there during May, and at least three of those

appeared to be nesting. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were scarce, late, and rapid in passing through most of the state, the highest count by far being 12+ in W. Sandwich Apr. 25 (BSR). The season's only reports of Water Pipits were of single birds in Andover Apr. 2 (KCE), Laconia, Apr. 3 (SAG, KCE, ASNH), and Rye, Apr. 16 (RAQ). Cedar Waxwings seemed late in returning this year with eight in Plymouth May 19 (SAG) and two in Concord, May 26 (RAQ, ASNH). Northern Shrikes continue to be scarce this spring, with individuals reported only from Milford, May 19 (AEA), Ctr. Sandwich, Apr. 3-4 (BSR), and Epsom, Apr. 12 (BRR).



Since Yellow-throated Vireos usually arrive before mid-May, many observers thought they had missed that species this year, with the exception of a singing bird in New Hampton May 2, 4 and 15 (VHH). However, the species proved only to be very late in arriving, with reports from Nottingham, May 15 (DJA, SDA, ACB,*); New Hampton, May 19, 22, 25 (VHH); three on May 22 in Salisbury (RHV, KCE,*); and one in Andover (KCE). With the numerous New Hampton sightings, it is not surprising that VHH added the note, "More than usual!" The season's first Solitary Vireo was in Bristol, Apr. 20 (VSW). Most other reports were from the central part of the state. (Does this indicate a leap-frog effect over the southern sections?) Red-eyes were "on time", with the earliest in Exeter May 1 (RSA). Warbling Vireos were reported in good numbers, and it is felt by several observers that this species is undeniably on the increase.

WARBLERS



The family Parulidae seems to hold the most fascination for many observers, but with limited space it is difficult to characterize the very interesting meteorological influences on warbler migration this spring in order to give readers a clear picture. Suffice it to say that due to weather conditions most warblers averaged a week late. Unsettled conditions in New England finally gave way to moderating trends May 16, when the last of

those delayed species appeared and passed through rapidly. With them came a few surprises. A Prothonotary Warbler seen and heard briefly in Hebron May 18 (VSW) constitutes only the third spring sighting in N. H. Several Golden-winged Warblers were north of their usual areas: a singing male seen in Glenclyff May 18 (J. Williams, fide SAG); a female in Plymouth May 20 (SAG, WWF); and two males in Hancock May 22 (MC). The rare Lawrence's hybrid was in Kensington May 13 (RSA). A singing male Cerulean was well seen for about 30 minutes in W. Sandwich, May 16 (BSR) by an observer well acquainted with the species (details on file).

Summer reports may have interesting news of Prairie Warblers, which were reported in plentiful numbers, and found at least as far north as Plymouth May 20 (SAG). Louisiana Waterthrush seems to be doing well across the central part of the state, with eight reported. Mourning Warblers, too, may make the news in the summer report. VHH had one each day in New Hampton, May 22, 23 & 25, while another was singing in Center Sandwich May 31 (BSR, RR). Competing for attention with the above bold-faced species was a most unusual aberrant Yellow-breasted Chat in Plymouth May 20 (SAG) (detailed description and drawing on file). The bird possessed a rare trait of excess red pigmentation which was manifested in a rich pink-orange, rather than warm yellow breast; this genetic "glitch" is called erythrism (ACB).

ICTERIDS, FRINGILLIDS, SPARROWS



Bobolinks reached the state on time once again; the first bird reported was in Andover, May 6 (KCE). Perhaps most unusual were three pair observed May 22 in leather leaf in an Umbagog marsh (RAQ)! Eastern Meadowlarks began appearing on the late side of that species' average dates, the first report of a single bird was from Keene, Mar. 21 (JHW).

Red-winged Blackbirds began entering the southern towns during the first week in March, and by the 20th had spread to the North Country. The season's only Orchard Oriole was reported from Amherst May 15 (WMG,*) (no details). Northern Orioles were reported in healthy numbers, particularly in the Manchester area. Twelve Rusty Blackbirds were reported; the first in Plymouth was "singing" Mar. 20 (SAG, WWF). By Mar. 19, Common Grackles and Brown-headed Cowbirds were widespread throughout the southern half of the state. An undescribed Female Tanager, thought to be a Scarlet, on Little Harbor Rd. in Portsmouth Apr. 25 (EKL, LSL) was two weeks early for that species. Very early tanagers should be carefully studied on the chance that an individual may be another member of that family. Elsewhere, Scarlet Tanagers began to be noticed May 8 & 9.



Cardinal reports abound, the northernmost in Haverhill (WWF). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were on schedule, and Indigo Buntings were only a little late. Evening Grosbeaks remained well into the season far south of their known nesting areas. One male was still present in Roxbury May 31 (JHW). Purple Finches were present in small numbers throughout by mid-April. House Finch is becoming more common well into central areas. Pine Grosbeaks were apparently absent from the state after Mar. 4, when four to five were seen in Henniker (RAQ, TR). Common Redpolls were present everywhere, and indeed abundant in some places from Concord to Andover, and north to the Plymouth-Campton area, where flocks of 100-300 could be found at most feeding stations during March and early April. Literally thousands must have been in the state, and thousands more passed through during mid-April to early May, when they were very evident to Peaked Hill hawk watchers (SAG).

Observers of Hoary Redpolls must be reminded of the importance of submitting detailed reports of that uncommon visitor. Good details accompanied five of this season's reports: a male and a

"large" female in Plymouth Mar. 5 (SAG, WWF); two males at another feeder in the same town, Mar. 25 (S.S. Thun, SAG); and another bird in Andover Apr. 2-3 (KCE). Pine Siskins were widely reported, in flocks of up to 50. Some lingered well into May in southern locations, where two were present at Hancock (MC), and another at Kensington (GWG) at the end of the month. White-winged Crossbills were represented by two in Concord Mar. 10 (RAQ) and eight in Exeter Mar. 11-Apr. 15 (RSA), yet no reports of Red Crossbills were received. Rufous-sided Towhees were widely reported, and on time in all sections.

The first Savannah Sparrow was in Hillsboro Mar. 31 (RAS), a month ahead of the next reported arrivals in Exeter Apr. 24 (RSA). A Vesper Sparrow in Plymouth May 7 (SAG, WWF) was very late, and the only other reported was in Andover May 18 (KCE).

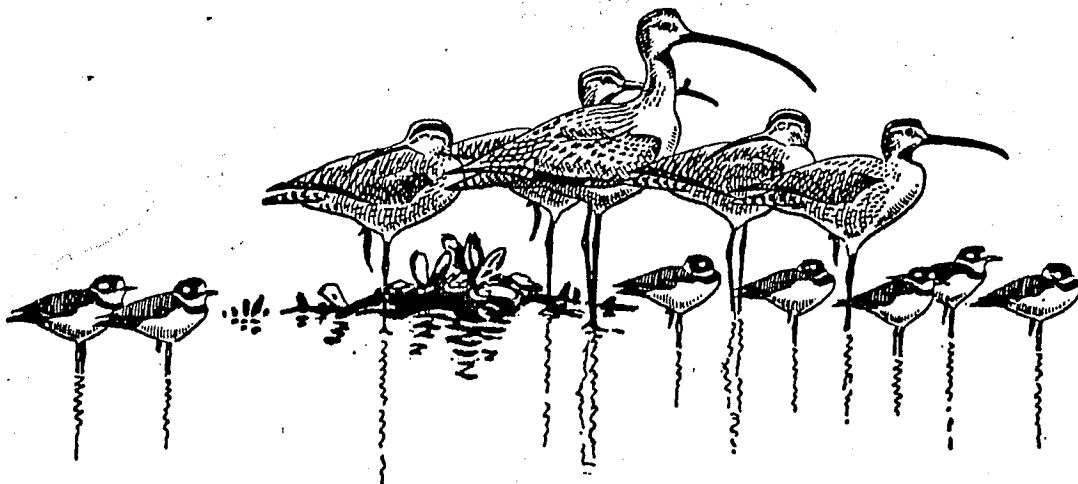


Tree Sparrows were present in several locations from Mar. 1, but the general influx was noted around Apr. 2, with two remaining in New Hampton Apr. 25 (VHH). Chipping and Field Sparrows arrived on normal dates for those species. Early White-crowned Sparrows were in Plymouth Apr. 16 (SAG) and New Hampton Apr. 25 (VHH). Numbers of overwintering White-throated Sparrows were augmented in mid-April by migrants which seemed to continue to be moving as late as May 7 (VHH). Reports indicate an abundance of Fox Sparrows this spring; one present at a Hampton feeder Mar. 1 was joined by others beginning Mar. 22 for a high count of 14+ Apr. 12 (EMcC), and the Lewises were blessed Apr. 8 with 22 blizzard refugees in Portsmouth!



Lincoln's Sparrows were in Plymouth May 11 (SAG, WWF), Lisbon (3), and Lyman (1) (SM), and Errol (2) (RAQ) May 23. Swamp Sparrows were late, one arriving in Concord Apr. 20 (KD) and three in Plymouth Apr. 26 (SAG). Two well-described male Lapland Longspurs were reported at the Manchester Airport on the astoundingly late date of May 31 (MTM). A flock of 40± Snow Buntings was present near the N.H. Tech campus on Mar. 22-28 (RAQ).

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Since this is the first issue I would welcome any suggestions or comments. Hopefully, we will be able to provide more room for the seasonal reports and perhaps have some short articles on bird distribution or identification.

Each season will be printed on its own distinctively colored paper that will conform to the color code of the old Quarterly magazine. Spring will be green, Summer will be blue, Fall will be gold and Winter will be white.

This is your publication- let me know what you think about it.

Bob Quinn
Editor

