

New Hampshire

BIRD RECORDS

Audubon Society of N.H.

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Welcome to the second issue of N.H. Bird Records. It has been a long time in coming, but please feel assured that we have not forgotten about you. We now have a schedule and we will tenaciously follow it.

The Audubon Society of New Hampshire remains committed to increasing the knowledge of the bird life of New Hampshire and to using that knowledge for the benefit of birds and bird watchers alike. So please continue to send in your reports. This publication cannot exist without your contributions and support. Let's all pitch in to improve it constantly.

A special thanks to all of you who commented on the first issue. The response was overwhelmingly positive. A few minor changes have been made--such as underlining a species name the first time that it is used (but not subsequently). Further comments or suggestions are welcomed.

The American Ornithologist Union has published a new Checklist with significant changes in the taxonomy of our bird life. We now have many new common (vernacular) names and the species order within several families has been rearranged. Some families have even been lumped together into a single family. For a summary of these changes see American Birds, Vol. 37, No. 1. For convenience in the production of this issue, not all of the changes have been incorporated here. Future issues will be more faithful to the new A.O.U. Checklist.

I also would like to thank Jane Quinn, Debbie Doscher, Noreen Crean, Mary Carr, and the seasonal editors for their dedication and help in the production of N.H. Bird Records.

The new editors for the Winter Season are:

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All reports for the period December 1 through February 29 should be sent to them BY MARCH 5.

Robert A. Quinn, Editor

NESTING SEASON

June 1 - July 31, 1982

The weather played an even more prominent role during this season than it usually does. The effects of the blizzard of April 6-7 continued to be felt through the nesting season. (Phoebes and Woodcock were particularly hard hit.) Extremely heavy rains in June also contributed to an apparently poor nesting season. The National Weather Service in Concord recorded over six inches of rain during the first week in June. The rain hampered most of the Breeding Bird Survey routes and completely washed out two of them. Some birds undoubtedly tried to re-nest, but this is never as successful a proposition as the original attempt. Others apparently gave up and began wandering around. But July was warm and dry, so perhaps the birds fared better than the Breeding Bird Survey figures indicate. A group from Connecticut took advantage of the good weather from July 4 to 6 and tallied 108 species in Pittsburgh. They did particularly well with hawks and boreal species.

In the species account that follows the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) numbers are usually given first. A median follows in parentheses, if appropriate. Since the rainy weather reduced the bird song and two of the routes were not run, the BBS figures are lower than usual. The medians deal with these discrepancies over the years so no extrapolation was done.

The town studies come next. The New Hampton study (conducted by Vera H. Hebert) was not as extensive as in the past and the New London study (Arrolyn C. and Robert C. Vernon) covered a greater area than usual, so their comparisons with past years are tenuous.

Next are the Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA) data, which are listed by atlas "blocks."

Birds of special note include: Greater Scaup, Golden Eagle, Merlin, Clapper Rail, Oystercatcher, Forster's Tern, Red-headed Woodpecker (nesting), Acadian Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, possible Summer Tanager, Lark Sparrow, Seaside Sparrow, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Orchard Oriole.

Birds without significant sightings that are not mentioned include: Ruffed Grouse, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Crow, House Wren, Chipping Sparrow, and Savannah Sparrow.

Robert A. Quinn

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WATERFOWLLOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS

The Loon Preservation Committee reported that there were 338 Common Loons in the state during the summer of 1982 compared with the previous record high of 308 in 1981. Chick productivity also increased, with 91 hatching and 76 fledging. The only Pied-billed Grebe was a bird seen and heard on June 10 at Cascade Marsh in Sutton (RCV).

The only tubenose reports were of a single Northern Fulmar and "lots" of Wilson's Storm-Petrels at Jeffrey's Ledge June 4 (HPN). Northern Gannets were seen at the Isles of Shoals May 24-5 and June 3 and 8 (2 each time) (ACB). Great Cormorants were numerous through May at the Shoals and 2 imm. birds were still there July 8 (ACB). The population of Double-crested Cormorants continues to increase at the Shoals with 1100 prs. noted by ACB, mostly on Duck Is., Kittery, Maine. A single bird was seen in Manchester June 12 in a Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA) block and 2 were seen on the Dover Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) route.

HERONS THROUGH IBIS

Fourteen active Great Blue Heron rookeries were monitored this year. That number was the same in 1981 but the 360 active nests counted was down slightly, perhaps due to the April blizzard (ES). Green Herons were reported from 12 blocks, mostly in the southern part of the state. Eight others were reported including one at the Isles of Shoals (ACB) and a pair at Littleton (RB).

Two pairs of Little Blue Herons nested at the Shoals (ACB) and these birds undoubtedly account for the few coastal sightings. One or two Louisiana Herons were noted at the Shoals (ACB) and in Hampton (EWP) in June. No Cattle or Great Egrets were reported. The total of 170 Snowy Egret nests at the Shoals this year was a bit lower than the last count made 2 years ago.

No Black Crowned Night Herons or Least Bitterns were reported. American Bitterns were noted on 2 BBS routes, 6 BBA blocks and 4 other localities. Thirty-four Glossy Ibis nests were counted at the Shoals (ACB).

One of the most unusual and inexplicable occurrences of the season was the widespread migration of Canada Geese in June! Between June 11-25 no less than 8 flocks ranging in size from 10-125 birds were seen flying north. The increasing number of locally nesting Canadas and these migrants are probably related to the increase of semi-domesticated geese in southern New England. A pair of White-fronted Geese of unknown origin was seen on the Drew Lake Canal, Hopkinton June 27 (Bette Verville fide RAQ). They were quite tame which indicates that they were probably escapees.

More Black Ducks were reported than Mallards, including 35 at the Exeter sewer beds July 14 (SDA, DJA) and 12 in E. Concord July 25 (VH). No Green-winged Teal were reported. Blue-winged Teal were found in 3 atlas blocks, including 2 pairs in Rochester. Two families of Blue-wings were seen along the Androscoggin R. (TR) and 2 were seen at the Exeter sewer beds July 14 (SDA, DJA).

Wood Ducks seemed to do well even though the April blizzard probably delayed their nesting -- many family groups were seen well into July. They were also reported from 8 atlas blocks, 2 BBS routes and 12 localities throughout the state. TR had at least 10 families of Ring-necked Ducks at L. Umbagog plus one at Pittsburgh.

Most unusual was a drake GREATER SCAUP seen on Great Bay June 15 (HPN, CFS). The only Common Goldeneye sighting came from Stewartstown (DK). A male Bufflehead seen at Plymouth June 3 (WWF) was probably a young non-breeder. At least 8 Common Eider nests were found by ACB on Lunging Is., Rye. About half a dozen Hooded Merganser families were reported. Common Merganser families were even scarcer -- TR had large family groups at Squam Lake, L. Umbagog (30!) and First Connecticut Lake in Pittsburgh. A female with 9 young was also seen on L. Winnepesaukee (EGL).

HAWKS

Turkey Vultures were reported from 10 atlas blocks and many other localities. The usual

high concentration of about 12 birds was noted along I-93 in Ashland and a new hot spot was identified at Pawtuckaway State Park where 14 were seen, including at least 1 imm. (SDA, DJA). Two vultures were seen as far north as Monroe (Priscilla Bowens fide RB).

There were 7 Goshawk sightings ranging from the extreme south (Sharon - BAH*) to the extreme north (Pittsburgh - RAQ, AGK). A rather high total of 17 Sharp-shinned Hawks was also spread across the entire state. One Sharpie responded to the observer's "pishing" for small birds by approaching him quite closely and calling (MR). Cooper's Hawks were reported from Franconia, Moultonborough, Stewartstown and Webster (N.H. Endangered Species Program). Red-tailed Hawks were seen in 11 atlas blocks and reported from 20 other localities. The N.H. Endangered Species Program (ESP) had 33 reports of Red-shouldered Hawks which included 3 successful nests, 10 territorial pairs and 20 other sightings. George Gavutis (GWG) had at least 6 pairs in the towns of Kensington, South Hampton and E. Kingston as a result of his hard work in the right habitat (mixed woods with beaver swamps).

Broad-winged Hawks were noted in 22 blocks and 17 towns, and one was seen at over 4000' in the mountains (MR). An abandoned nest was believed to be due to the heavy rains in June (GWG). The highlight of the season was the sighting of a GOLDEN EAGLE at Little Diamond Pond in Stewartstown on June 22 (DK). A Golden Eagle was also seen by Harry McDade (fide TR) and another probable sighting was made in Pittsburgh. There is no way to tell how many individuals these sightings represent.

The ESP had at least 6 confirmed reports of Bald Eagles. At least one imm. bird was at L. Umbagog most of the summer. An adult apparently moved south along the Merrimack R. on July 6 as there were several scattered sightings that day. North-ern Harriers had several nests in the Colebrook-Columbia-Stewartstown area (DK) and they were suspected of nesting in the Leonard Pond area of L. Umbagog (ESP). A harrier was also seen in Pittsburgh (WC).

The ESP had 16 Osprey nests with 7 that incubated eggs and produced a total of 6 young birds. All of the nests were in the Lake Umbagog area. Wanderers were seen at Oliverian Pond (Bill House fide CFS), the Isles of Shoals June 23 and July 8 (ACB), Rumney June 10 (WWF *) plus Monroe, Littleton, Lisbon and Haverhill (RB). These wandering ospreys may have been some of the unsuccessful nesters. Two birds were seen in Pittsburgh by the Connecticut group July 2-4 (WC).

The pr. of Peregrine Falcons returned to Franconia Notch again but did not nest, probably because of the wet weather in June (ESP).

A MERLIN flew by a Peregrine "hack" site on July 11 (JM*). Kestrels seem to be doing well - thanks partly to the nesting boxes put up by Steve Wheeler of the N.H. Fish and Game Dept. One June 22 he checked 10 boxes between Concord and the coast and each one held 3-5 chicks (fide CFS). Some experienced observers think Kestrels are declining but this may be due to local habitat reduction. A hard-working ESP volunteer found over 30 Kestrels in 8 northern towns (WR).

GROUSE THROUGH RAILS



Anyone who tramps around in the spruce belt of the White Mts. should eventually come upon a Spruce Grouse, as Marco Restani did on June 26 and July 13, but his sighting of a female with 3 yg. along Route 302 in Crawford Notch (elev. @ 1500') is most unusual. They were also reported from Pittsburgh (WC).

A CLAPPER RAIL was seen at Eel Pond in Rye by different observers on different occasions (EWP and TB). Virginia Rail sightings included one on the Brentwood BBS route (CAF), 4 in atlas blocks, single birds at Meadow Pond, Hampton (EWP), Dog Cove, Center Harbor June 18 and 24 (BSR) and Hoitt Marsh, Concord July 21 (VH). A family group was seen in Concord on June 9 (KD) and a "dopey" juv. was found sitting in a road in S. Hampton (GWG). The only Sora was a bird heard in the L. Umbagog marshes on July 17 (RAQ, ASNH).

SHORE BIRDS

The shore birds are always an interesting group because of their extended migratory period, the identification challenge they pose and their subtle aesthetics. Because of the many migrant shore birds I am departing from the normal taxonomic order and will discuss our summer residents first.



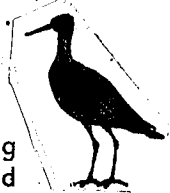
The 28 Killdeer reported on the BBS routes would undoubtedly have been quite close to the median of 30 if all the routes had been run. Only 2 other reports were received so it is difficult to say if the bad weather in April and June adversely affected this early nesting species. An AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER was seen on Star Is. by David Quimby (fide ACB) and apparently represents a new record for the Isles of Shoals. (Details on fide).

Not many Woodcock are usually seen in June and July but only one report for the entire season indicates that the April blizzard and rainy June hit this species hard.

Common Snipe seemed to do a little better with fair numbers in the north country (10 on BBS routes), 5 prs. in Littleton (RB) and 4 pr. were noted at the Surry Dam in the S.W. part of the state (JHW). The only Upland Sandpipers were a pr. in Dover (BBA).

The only Spotted Sandpiper reports came from the Isles of Shoals - 5 pr. (ACB), New London (RCV), and 3 at the Exeter sewer beds on July 14 (SDA, DJA). Willetts were seen in June in Seabrook, Hampton (EWP) and at the Shoals (ACB) and also in Seabrook July 14 (SAG) but there is still no proof that these birds nest in the state.

The first migrant was a single Greater Yellowlegs in Newmarket July 8 (BBA). SAG had "many" along the coast on July 14. She also had "many" Lesser Yellowlegs, 8 Short-billed Dowitchers and 11 Hudsonian Godwits that day. Also on July 14 many shore birds were seen at the Exeter sewer beds by SDA and DJA. These included 4 Lesser Yellowlegs, 85 Least Sandpipers and 135 Semi-palmated Sandpipers.



The shore bird migration in Concord was spectacular because the water at Turkey

Pond was lowered to work on the dam. On July 28 TR had 2 Least and 7 Semi-palmated Sandpipers and only 2 days later he added one Semi-palmated Plover, 9 Solitary Sandpipers, a Greater Yellowlegs, 10 Lesser Yellowlegs, an extremely early Pectoral Sandpiper and 2 Stilt Sandpipers that were still in breeding plumage. For further details on the Turkey Pond shore birds see the Fall Records.

GULLS THROUGH OWLS

The Great Black-backed Gull population apparently is still increasing at the Isles of Shoals (2017 pr. in Maine and 146 pr. in N.H.). While the Herring Gulls seem to be leveling off (2971 pr. in Maine and 411 pr. in N.H.) (ACB). A new and potentially bad situation is that of gulls nesting on the rooftops in Manchester. At least 29 nests were found this summer (Rene Bollengier fide CFS). Ringed-billed Gulls can always be found in a few places in the summer such as Meredith Bay on Lake Winnepesaukee and around Lake Umbagog in Errol but they, too, seem to be increasing. RB had 18 in Littleton June 18, only his second June record. He later observed 32 on July 14. A single adult Laughing Gull at Appledore Is., Kittery, Maine on June 25 was unusual and unique for the season (ACB).

An imm. Bonaparte's Gull was seen in Hampton Harbor on the early date of July 14 (SAG). Most unusual was a FORSTER'S TERN in Hampton on June 27 (EWP).

The ESP had at least 53 hatchling Common Terns in Newcastle with only 14 fledglings. Predators wiped out the Hampton colony early but a second nesting by the terns produced at least 7 fledglings from that site. Another unusual sighting was a Black Tern at Drew Lake, Hopkinton on June 15 (HWP). The only alcids were 4 pr. of Black Guillemots on Smuttynose Is., Kittery, Maine (ACB).

Cuckoos had another good year at the expense of the Gypsy Moth caterpillars, though not quite as good as in 1981. A record 7 Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported on the BBS

routes - all from the southern part of the state. The atlas had them in 11 blocks and Yellow-billeds were also seen in Stratham and Kensington (3) (GWG), New Hampton (VHH), Franklin (KCE) and Tamworth (GCR). The 28 Black-billed Cuckoos on the BBS routes were well below the record 47 seen in 1981 but they were also noted in 22 atlas blocks (3 northern ones). VHH had only 5 after recording 21 on her town study in 1981. Black-billeds were also reported from 18 other towns.

The only Great Horned Owl reported was a bird seen in Concord on July 31 (VH). A pr. of Barred Owls with 2 yg. was seen in Walpole (DB).

GOATSUCKERS THROUGH KINGFISHERS

The ESP had reports of Common Nighthawks from over 30 towns. Nesting was confirmed in 6 towns and suspected in 10 others. Whip-poor-wills were reported to the ESP from about 50 towns with half of them being heard throughout the summer.

Chimney Swifts were up on the BBS routes after last year's lowest ever tally. In New Hampton, VHH had 6 on her town study compared to a median of 15. The importance of feeding stations for Ruby-throated Hummingbirds was demonstrated by the 23 individuals seen at 3 different feeders in Franconia, Littleton and Bethlehem (RB). Hummers were also noted in 25 atlas blocks and 10 other locations. The Belted Kingfisher seems to be doing fine with 10 seen on BBS routes (median 11), 5 in New London (RCV), New Hampton 3 (3) (VHH) plus 10 other reports.



WOODPECKERS

A pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers nested in Rumney (in an atlas block!) and one was seen in Hillsborough on June 30 (RAS). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers hit their lowest ever total on the BBS - 12 (33) but they were noted in 24 blocks and BSR said "...great year for this species in the Squam Region..." while VHH had only one (12) for this easily overlooked species.

Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers were both slightly below their BBS medians, 21 (28) and 30 (38) respectively, while family groups were reported from Milford (AEA), E. Wolfeboro (DLR, CHR) and Stratham (SDA, DJA). No Three-toed Woodpeckers were reported. Black-backed Woodpeckers were seen on the Clarksville BBS route, in 5 blocks, a family group was seen along the East Inlet Rd. in Pittsburgh (RAQ, AGK), and individuals were seen in Stewartstown, Columbia (DK), and Hurlburt Swamp (Jan McLure fide RAQ).

Northern Flickers were down to their lowest ever on the BBS routes (52) while VHH had only 8 (20) in New Hampton and noted that they are "...much less numerous in Florida, also...!" Average numbers of Pileated Woodpeckers were reported except for the 9 in New London (RCV).



FLYCATCHERS

Olive-sided Flycatchers on the BBS numbered 6 (8) and also were reported from expected places like Guinea Pond in Sandwich Notch (BSR) and Columbia (DK) but the pr. with 2 fledglings in Rindge was somewhat unusual (AC). Eastern Wood Pewees "seemed to fare better than other flycatchers" (VHH) and this was borne out by the BBS total of 72 (83). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers are elusive because of their restricted habitat and their vocalizations which sound like other flycatchers, so it is not surprising that only 2 were seen on the BBS routes, 9 noted in blocks and just 3 others reported.

Ralph Andrews had an ACADIAN FLYCATCHER on territory in New Boston from May-July.

The bad weather in April and June resulted in poor nesting success for most of the other flycatchers. Alder Flycatchers were well below their BBS median and were found in only 15 blocks. Perhaps the bad weather just reduced the song period (hence, the amount of human observation) as BSR found 7 in just 2 spots in July.

Willow Flycatcher hit its BBS median of 3. George Gerdts and BSR had both Alders and Willows singing on June 19 at the Thompson Refuge in N. Sandwich. Willows were also

reported from Nashua, Merrimack and Bedford (RA), Hampton (EWP), S. Hampton and Kensington (GWG) and Franklin (2 pr. KCE).

Least Flycatchers hit their lowest ever on the BBS, they were low in New Hampton 8 (31) and New London - 4 and they were reported from only 6 other towns. Eastern Phoebes definitely suffered because of the April blizzard and rainy June. The BBS total - 61 (166), was the first time ever below 100! In New Hampton VHH had 7 (41) and remarked "...little evidence of second nesting." A few second nestings were noted but KCE said "There has been a long range decline..." Conversely, the Great Crested Flycatcher was above its BBS median, New Hampton had 9 (13), New London had 3 and they were reported from 7 other towns including Andover where KCE believes "...more numerous (in Andover) now than 30-50 years ago..."



Eastern Kingbirds numbered 116 (122) on the BBS routes, 11 (19) in New Hampton and 7 were seen in New London. GWG had 10 plus

kingbirds at his property in Kensington and 3 each were noted in E. Wolfboro (DLR, CHR) and Milford (AEA).



LARKS AND SWALLOWS

Horned Larks were reported from one block plus Pittsburgh (WC) and Seabrook (EWP). Tree Swallows seemed to have a hard time because of the bad weather but they came out only slightly below their medians on the BBS routes and in New Hampton. Bank Swallow is another species that is difficult to get a good picture of statewide. In New Hampton the birds were disrupted and the BBS routes are never a good indicator. But Betty Swift pays particular attention to the birds in the numerous gravel pits of her home town of Hooksett. One colony there had over 300 holes but another with about 160 holes had only 25 nests due to erosion and predation. Other colonies were seen in Pittsburgh, Hebron, Concord, Andover and Warner.

Rough-winged Swallows are another easily overlooked species, especially since they nest in with Bank Swallows as KCE noted. He

also saw Rough-wings using an old Kingfisher hole. On July 16 EWP had 17 "mostly immature" Rough-wings at Rye. Purple Martin colonies were found in Effingham, Rochester, Hillsborough, Meredith, Laconia and Salisbury (ESP).

Barn Swallows hit their lowest ever BBS total but they may have just been less obvious because of the rain. Cliff Swallows pose an interesting question. They tied for the lowest BBS total ever and were reported as such - "demise of large colonies...but small groups of nesting Cliff Swallows are still fairly widespread though not common." (KCE), "...colony returning to a former very good site." (VHH), "...all but vanished..." (BSR). But the atlas had them in 19 blocks.

JAYS THROUGH NUTHATCHES

A Gray Jay family was seen in Pittsburgh on June 18 (RAQ, AGK) and a single bird was seen there for the Audubon field trip on June 27 (KCE, ASNH). Five Gray Jays were seen in Pittsburgh by the Connecticut group July 2-4 (WC). A probable family group was seen at the Nauman Campsite in the White Mtns. (MR). The 476 Blue Jays on the BBS routes was the second highest ever and RCV had 51 in New London.



Ravens continue to increase in the southern part of the state with one on the Strafford BBS route and a family on the Peterborough route. They were seen in 7 blocks, including Salem Depot, and they were reported nesting in Hancock (anonymous fide RAQ). Sightings also came from Hill-4 (RCV, KCE), Squam Lake (TR), Alton (EGL) and McDaniel's Marsh in W. Springfield (ES).

A pair of FISH CROWS was observed nest building in Durham (MD fide AGK). Until four years ago the cumulative BBS total for Tufted Titmouse was 4. The total for 1982 alone was 29 birds, breaking last year's record of 15. Their range seems to be limited to the southern half of the state but their numbers are increasing. This could be partly due to observers who are becoming more adept at recognizing their vocalizations.

Black-capped Chickadees were down on the BBS from the last 2 years but it was still the third highest count ever. Boreal Chickadees were reported from their usual haunts in Pittsburgh and the White Mtns. Brown Creepers were scarcely reported, as usual, since their easily overlooked songs and calls are much more common in April than June. Though creepers were reported in 14 blocks.

Sightings of White-breasted Nuthatches were about average while the highly variable Red-breasted Nuthatch was seen in fewer numbers than usual on the BBS.

WRENS THROUGH THRUSHES

Winter Wren numbers seem to be recovering in their preferred habitat, the north country, but they are still low in marginal habitat. New Hampton had only one (9). No Carolina Wrens were reported. A Marsh Wren was seen on the Marlow BBS route, single birds were noted in Nashua (RA) and at Elm Brook Park in Hopkinton (HBM), while EWP considered the 10 she found in Rye to be lower than usual. No Sedge Wrens were reported.

The only Golden-crowned Kinglets reported were 3 in New London, one on Lovewell Mt., Washington (TR), and 2 in Pittsburgh (WC). Ruby-crowned Kinglets fared better with 4 on the BBS routes, 5 in blocks—all in the north, and half a dozen other reports coming from the mountains northward. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers turned up in some unusual spots. They were seen in 5 blocks including one along the Kancamagus Highway, one was seen near the top of Mt. Sunapee on July 22 (TR) and 3 were at Pawtuckaway State Park July 25 (SDA, DJA).



Some Eastern Bluebirds died during the April blizzard but those that survived had a good year. The ESP had 35 reports from around the state. The importance of well-maintained nesting boxes cannot be over emphasized. Some people have had spectacular success, such as a group in Alstead who has gone from virtually no Bluebirds to 8 successful families this

year. In Rumney, where 24 people had 23 prs. nesting in their boxes, at least 42 yg. Bluebirds fledged. If you want to help the Bluebird, please send 50¢ and a stamped self-addressed business envelope to Audubon House for our Bluebird packet.

For only the second time less than 300 Veeries were recorded on the BBS. They were also low in New Hampton 20 (70). Gray-cheeked Thrushes were seen in their typical mountain habitat on Cannon Mt. - 2+ (PS) and Mt. Osceola - 7+ (BSR). Swainson's Thrushes were very low on the BBS and were reported from 11 blocks. The rain in June may have reduced their singing activity. The Hermit Thrush was equal to the last 5 year's BBS totals but is still quite low compared to the early 1970's. They were also reported from 18 blocks (15 in the southern part of the state), VHH had 5 (15) in New Hampton, KCE had 7 in limited territory, BSR had about 20 in 4 different spots, and they also were reported from Milton and Cannon Mt.

Wood Thrushes and Robins were both very low this summer. While there was undoubtedly some mortality among the early migrant thrushes (Bluebirds, Robins, Hermits), I strongly suspect that their poor showing here is a reflection of the rainy conditions, hence, reduced singing, on most of the BBS routes.

CATBIRD THROUGH VIREOS



Catbirds were reported in about average numbers and DLR had a strongly territorial male Catbird bothering her other birds in E. Wolfeboro. Mockingbird numbers totalled 13 on this year's BBS versus 32 (a record), 27 and 16 for the past 3 years.

Brown Thrashers remain low on the BBS and in New Hampton 3 (11) but they were noted in 13 blocks and 8 other localities including Stewartstown and Columbia (DK, BK). These birds are still widespread but they are becoming increasingly local as their habitat dwindles.

Cedar Waxwings registered their 5th highest total on the BBS but that was quite a bit below the high of 2 years ago (272 vs. 500).

They were particularly numerous in the north. Starlings came in at their 4th lowest total ever on the BBS but they may have delayed nesting because of the rain. BBS routes that are run late usually get young-of-the-year Starlings.

A WHITE-EYED VIREO was seen in Rye on June 19 (EWP). Yellow-throated Vireos were well represented with 2 on the BBS (normal), 5 in blocks and reports from New Boston, Salisbury, Warner and Sutton (KCE), Sandwich - 2 (BSR), New Hampton and Errol (VHH, V McM), Freedom, Tuftonboro and Wolfeboro (GCR). Observers should be aware of how similar the songs are of the Yellow-throated and Red-eyed Vireos. With practice and experience perhaps we can locate more Yellow-throats, which are undoubtedly out there.

Solitary Vireos hit their median but that number is only one-half of what it was 5 years ago. Warbling Vireos were right on their median and there were no other reports. Philadelphia Vireos were reported from 3 northern blocks. The Red-eyed Vireo count on the BBS was the lowest in 12 years and they were down at New Hampton 96 (174), but 25 were seen on July 25 in Pawtuckaway State Park (SDA, DJA).

WARBLERS



A Blue-winged Warbler was seen on the Fitzwilliam BBS route. They were noted in 5 blocks and GWG had "at least 5 territorial males in the Exeter priority block." The Golden-winged Warbler on the Epsom BBS route was the first one recorded on any of the routes in the last 8 years. Myra Davis made a special effort to study the Golden-winged/Blue-winged situation at the Foss Farm in Durham and she came up with a pair of Golden-wings plus a male "Brewster's" hybrid singing a Golden-wing's song and another male "Brewster's" singing a Blue-wing's song! A "Lawrence's" hybrid was seen and heard in Rochester (BBA).

RCV had 2 Tennessee Warblers in New London in early July that might have been a small "echo" of his 1981 birds. Nashville Warblers were seen in average numbers on the BBS but were down in New Hampton 1 (10).

A pair of Parula Warblers seen at the coast June 19 was unusual (TB) as was one in Hill July 3 (KCE). Even with bad weather and fewer routes run the Yellow Warbler had its best year ever on the BBS. Conversely the Chestnut-sided Warbler had its 3rd lowest and the Magnolia Warbler its lowest total ever. Two migrant Magnolias were seen on July 12 in Concord (BH, VH).

A Cape May Warbler seen on the Fitzwilliam BBS route was probably a late migrant. Their BBS total was above the median but down slightly from the past few years. Black-throated Blue Warblers and Black-throated Green Warblers hit their medians after record high numbers the past several years. Quite unexpectedly both a Black-throated Blue and a Black-throated Green Warbler were seen on Star Is. on June 22 (Robert Coyle fide AL). Were these birds non-breeders or wandering birds that had abandoned their rain-soaked nests? Yellow-rumped Warblers had their second best year ever on the BBS while Blackburnian Warblers had their next to worst year in this strange season.

Pine Warblers joined the group on the up-swing with their highest ever total on the BBS and they were seen as far north as Littleton (RB). RA found Pine Warblers "surprisingly common" in the Nashua area and a bird was seen at an E. Wolfeboro feeder on July 16 (DLR, CHR). Prairie Warblers also had a good year. They were particularly noticeable along power line right-of-ways. They were reported on 2 southern BBS routes, 9 blocks, and also from Raymond (SDA, DJA), Amherst-2 (WMG), Ashland-2 (WWF, SAG) and Andover-3 (KCE).

Only one Bay-breasted Warbler was noted on the BBS routes where it usually outnumbers Cape Mays. They were also reported from Pittsburgh (TR, ASNH) (WC), Stewartstown-2 (DK) and 5 northern blocks. The only noteworthy Blackpoll Warbler report was one on the Fitzwilliam BBS route which was probably another late migrant. Black and White Warblers were seen in normal numbers including 2 at an E. Wolfeboro feeder (DLR, CHR) and 3 migrants in E. Concord July 27 (BH, VH).

Redstarts hit their lowest ever on the BBS and were down in New Hampton 10 (44).



SPARROWS

Oven-birds and Northern Waterthrushes were also quite low this summer. Louisiana Waterthrushes were "holding their own" in New Hampton (VHH) and were also reported as far north as Tamworth (GCR), N. Conway (BBA) and Errol (SAG). Mourning Warblers increased again after last year's high numbers. They tallied their highest total ever on the BBS. They were seen in 7 blocks, 4 were reported by Dave Killam in the Colebrook area, 4 were noted in Pittsburgh (WC), 2 were heard in Sugar Hill, one in Ashland (WWF, SAG) and BSR had one in Center Harbor. Common Yellowthroats and Canada Warblers both set record lows on the BBS. The only Wilson's Warbler report came from Pittsburgh (WC).

A couple of interesting notes from the tail end of the spring season are worth mentioning. On May 25 & 26, at Appledore Is., 14 and 18 Canada Warblers were banded, respectively (fide ACB) and a Yellow-breasted Chat was seen on Appledore May 24 (Duff Wehle fide ACB).

TANAGERS THROUGH TOWHEES



Scarlet Tanagers were again reported in good numbers as they have been the last 4 years. A note in the Beaver Brook Log (newsletter of the Beaver Brook Association in Hollis) reported "...a pair of SUMMER TANAGERS..." which, they noted, nest far to the south of us. But, unfortunately, there was no description of the birds. Northern Cardinal sightings on the BBS since 1976 are -- 0, 2, 2, 5, 17, 12, 13. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks remain above their BBS median and were obvious in the north country. Indigo Buntings also are doing well, especially in the southern half of the state. Meanwhile Rufous-sided Towhees continue their decline - hitting their lowest total ever on the BBS. Vera Hebert noted "White-eyed race in Florida didn't seem as numerous, either. Any possible tie-in?" as she recorded 24 (62) in New Hampton. The decline in N.H. seems to be related to loss of habitat as the shrubby old farm fields grow up to woodland, but it is difficult to determine what other factors might be involved.

The BBS recorded the lowest number ever of Field Sparrows while they were noted in 15 blocks. Vesper Sparrows were represented better this year than in the past several. Birds were noted in New Hampton (VHH), Kensington (GWG), Amherst and Windham - 2 pr. (RA); Warner (KCE) and a pr. in Crawford Notch (BBA). Unusual at any season but especially so in summer was an imm. male LARK SPARROW seen by WWF in Bridgewater June 15. Two or three prs. of Grasshopper Sparrows were seen and heard in Nashua in a field that is slated for development (RA). Sharp-tailed Sparrows were well represented in their restricted saltmarsh habitat with 20-29 birds tallied separately by TB and EWP. A SEASIDE SPARROW in Hampton in June and July is a rare summer sighting (EWP). Song Sparrows hit their lowest total ever on the BBS.

Migrant Lincoln's Sparrows not reported in the Spring Records included 5 banded at Appledore Is. May 25 (Dave Holmes fide ACB) and one in Wilton May 30 (RA). Other birds were reported from their boggy northern habitat in Colebrook, Stewartstown (DK), Franconia (MF, RB) and Pittsburgh (TR, *). Swamp Sparrows and White-throated Sparrows both were at their lowest numbers on the BBS. Dark-eyed Juncos also hit their BBS low but they were well represented in the southern part of the state with sightings in Kensington (GWG), Pawtuckaway State Park (SDA, DJA) and several southern blocks.

BLACKBIRDS



The number of Bobolinks tallied on the BBS was the sixth lowest ever. Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles and Brown-headed Cowbirds were seen in below normal numbers on this year's BBS routes. In 1978 the BBS total for the Eastern Meadowlark dropped by half and has been extremely low the last 5 years. (53, 22, 25, 31, 23 and 27 [1982] vs. a median of 56).

A female YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD was seen in a Concord yard on June 6 and 7 (HBM). Both the location and the season are most unusual (details on file). Rusty Blackbirds were

reported from their usual haunts in Dixville (DK), Pittsburgh (TR), (WC) and 3 northern blocks.

At least one pair of ORCHARD ORIOLES was in Nashua this summer (RA, EG). Elisabeth Phinney had a 'menage a trois' of Orchard Orioles in Hampton where "...a second-year male and a female were feeding young in a nest. Adult male sat around singing and chasing intruders." She also had a second-year male and an adult male in Rye. Northern Orioles had a record-breaking year on the BBS routes and were common throughout the state. Nine were found in Portsmouth July 11 (SDA, DJA).

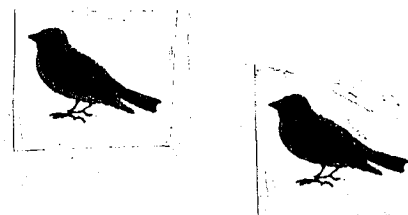
FINCHES and HOUSE SPARROW

Purple Finches hit their lowest total ever on the BBS. But these notably erratic finches were locally common - 15 plus were noted daily at a Franconia feeder (MF) and Carol Boucher had at least 10 at her feeder in Bethlehem (fide RB). The BBS numbers for the House Finch for the last four years are 3, 6, 16, and 32. They were found nesting in Walpole (DB), Milford (AEA) and as far north as Monroe (Edith A. Emery fide RB). They were suspected nesters on Star Island (J.D. Quimby fide ACB).

Pine Siskins were widely but thinly spread. As KCE noted they "... sometimes nest as early as April," so some of the following sightings were undoubtedly those of post-nesting wanderers. Siskins were reported from the Pawtuckaway, Exeter and Sunapee (fledglings) blocks. Several were seen in Kensington (GWG), up to 3 pr. in Warner (KCE), 7 at Monroe (P. Powers) and 12-15 in Franconia (MF) (fide RB), 1 or 2 in E. Wolfboro (DLR, CHR), New Hampton (VHH) and Concord (VH, BH).

American Goldfinches were quite low on the BBS as were Evening Grosbeaks. But the grosbeaks were found nesting as far south as Andover and Warner (KCE), Milton (BBA), Deerfield (RAQ) and Marlow (Anne Clark fide RAQ). No crossbills were reported.

Finally, at the end of the new A.O.U. checklist is the House Sparrow which had its fourth best count ever on the BBS.



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ASNH- Audubon Society of New Hampshire, BBA- Breeding Bird Atlas, BBS- Breeding Bird Survey, ESP- Endangered Species Program, *- means "and others"

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FALL MIGRATION

August 1 - November 30, 1982

Taken as a whole the weather for the four-month period was not far from normal. August was decidedly cool and rather wet, September somewhat warm and dry, October cool and dry, and November much warmer than usual, rather wet in the northern part of the state but dry in the south. There was little snow.

A special feature of the season was the inland shorebird migration, especially at Concord where repairs to the Turkey Pond dam lowered the water and created excellent mud flats. There were also some excellent shorebird records from the coast.

The waterfowl and hawk migrations were not especially remarkable, but there were good numbers of migrating warblers and other passerines, especially during the cool weather in August. Sparrows, on the other hand appeared in very low numbers, and "northern finches" were almost non-existent. For details about individual species of these and other groups, see the systematic listing that follows.

Kimball Elkins

* * * * *



LOONS, GREBES

Common Loons were numerous at the New Hampshire coast on November 14 and 20 (RAQ). The storm of November 15 grounded single Red-throated Loons in each of three mountain notches: Dixville, Franconia and Crawford. All three birds were captured and released on open water in good condition (fide TR). About 24 Red-throated Loons were migrating at the coast on November 2 (SAG, WWF), and 5 were on Moultonborough Bay November 23 (W. Patterson, fide RAQ).

Six Red-necked Grebes on Squam Lake August 16 (TR,HC) were extraordinarily early. Very few were seen at the coast. The earliest of the few Horned Grebes reported was at Concord October 17 (TR), and the largest number (6) on Newfound Lake November 13 (H.R.P.) Pied-billed Grebes were very scarce. Aside from early individuals at Tuftonboro about August 12 (TR) and at Jefferson August 14 (RB), only 3 were reported.



TUBENOSES THROUGH CORMORANTS

One Northern Fulmar was seen near the Isles of Shoals September 25 (EWP), and 4 somewhat farther off the coast November 2 (DJA, SDA). There were 22 Greater Shearwaters south of the Isles of Shoals September 19, and 60 off the New Hampshire coast November 2 (DJA*). A Sooty Shearwater was seen near the Isles of Shoals August 8 (EWP), and a Manx Shearwater beyond those islands September 18 (EWP, LGP). It is not often that we have records of all these four species in one season.

Northern Gannets were migrating close to the shore at Rye on October 8 when RB counted 82, and on October 9 when he saw 36. On the pelagic trip to New Scantum November 2 the count was 250 (DJA, SDA). The last reported were 12 at Rye November 12 (EWP, LGP).

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An early Great Cormorant was at Hampton Falls September 8 (RB), and 2 were flying in a flock of Double-crested Cormorants south of the Isles of Shoals September 19 (DJA). Inland there were single immature birds at Manchester September 11 - October 26 (MTM) and at Franklin October 15 and 18 (KCE). Double-crested Cormorants appeared early inland; one at Littleton August 8 and 2 there August 11 (RB), also 2 at Northwood August 19 (D.Ross). There was a big migration of this species at the coast: 7200 on October 7 and 2100 on October 9 (RB).



HERONS, IBISES

A Great Blue Heron at Errol on November 23 (TR) was late for that northern locality. Green Herons left early. The last one reported at an inland locality was at Center Harbor September 8 (BSR) and the last 3 at the coast were at Hampton Falls September 18 (RB). An adult and an immature Little Blue Heron were at Rye August 10 (RCV*). Much more unusual was an adult at Merrimack September 25 (R. Hessler, fide MTM).

A Cattle Egret at Milan October 12 was quite far north (M. Ellis, P. Emery). There were 3 at Concord October 29 (RAQ). One at Newbury, Vermont November 7 (RB) could not be persuaded to fly across into New Hampshire. The last Snowy Egret reported was at Rye October 9 (RB). Three reports of Great Egret are better than average: one at Peterborough August 17 (fide RAS); one at Bow August 23 (RAQ); 2 at the coast September 9 (AEA). An immature Louisiana Heron delighted the ASNH field trippers at Hampton Falls August 21 (RRR*). This species is now of almost yearly occurrence at the New Hampshire coast. Curiously, the only report of a Black-crowned Night Heron was of an immature individual seen inland at Webster August 23 (CES). As last year, the only Yellow-crowned Night Heron reported was at Durham. The date was September 14 (D. Peschke), and no details are at hand.

Several American Bitterns at Tuftonboro about August 12 (TR) may have been a family. The only others reported were one at

Andover September 6 (KCE) and 2 at Hampton September 25 (EWP, LGP). Single Glossy Ibises were seen at the coast on August 17 (DBK), August 21 (ASNH), and September 9 (AEA). An immature bird was at Concord August 30 (RAQ, TR*).



WATERFOWL

A flight of over 1,000 geese in 6-8 flocks seen from Concord October 22 (RAQ) was at such a great height and distance that determination of the species could not be made. There were fewer flocks of Canada Geese reported than usual, and most flocks were small: earliest September 23, Penacook (12) (P. Twombly), most November 2, Concord (120) (RAQ), latest November 23, Errol (10) (TR). The earliest of 5 reports of migrating Snow Geese was of "large flocks" over Lake Winnepesaukee on October 18 (J.D.), the latest of flocks of 200+ each over Monroe and Lebanon November 3 (P.P.). A free-flying but tame Ruddy Shelduck seen with feral Mallards at Wolfeboro in late November (RRR*) must be considered an escape.

The only good-sized concentration of American Black Ducks reported was of 150 at Errol November 4 (TR). There were 4 Gadwalls in Rye on October 28, and 3 still there November 25 (EWP, LGP). These ducks are still quite rare in New Hampshire. The only Northern Pintails were 5 at Wilmot September 24 (KCE) and 6 at Holderness October 4 (BSR), both localities where the species is rarely seen.

The first Green-winged Teal of the season were 3 birds at West Sandwich September 5 (BSR). There were nearly 100 at Turkey Pond, Concord on October 4 (TR). The last reported were 6 at Rye November 25 (EWP, LGP). Three Blue-winged Teal were in Hampton August 17 (DBK). At Concord they were present from at least August 23 to October 8, with a maximum number of 25 or so (TR). There were reports of American Wigeon from Concord, Holderness, Lyme, North Hampton, and Sandwich, the earliest being 3 at Concord September 4 (TR) and the latest one at West Sandwich October 29 - November 7 (BSR). Wood Ducks

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reached a peak of 37 at Jefferson August 25 (RB). A male at Holderness November 14 was the last reported (BSR).

Unlike the other diving ducks, Ring-necked Ducks made a good showing, with about 80 at Jefferson November 3 (TR), 35 at Moultonboro October 18 (BSR) and a number of smaller flocks in other localities. The only Canvasback reported was at Great Bay November 3 (EWP, LGP). A single male Greater Scaup was at North Hampton October 23 (DJA*), and a single Lesser Scaup at Errol November 4 (TR). Only 2 other Scaup, both of undetermined species, were reported -- a very poor showing.

Common Goldeneyes were strangely scarce. The first 2 appeared at Andover October 24 (KCE). The largest count was 37 at Lake Wentworth, Wolfeboro, on November 20 (D.F.). Buffleheads also were quite low. The earliest arrivals were 5 at Glencliff on October 18 (TR), and the best count was 30 at the ASNH property in Dover November 14 (RAQ*). The only reports of Oldsquaw were from inland localities: 11 at Littleton November 6 (RB), a drake at Bristol November 7 (H.R.P.), and a hen at Sutton November 13-14 (KCE). The coastal migration of Common Eider was also minimal, except for a flock of 25 near the Isles of Shoals September 19 (DJA).

White-winged Scoters at the coast numbered 22 on September 19 and 138 on October 8 (RB). None were reported from inland localities. At Whitefield there were 8 Surf Scoters on October 23, and at Stewartstown a single male November 3 (TR). The inland flight of Black Scoters was very thin -- only 16 birds were reported, the earliest, 11 at Pleasant Lake, New London, October 16 and the latest a single hen at the same lake November 19 (KCE). There were two reports of the rather rare Ruddy Duck; 8 at Kingston October 17 and one at Rye November 25 (EWP, LGP).

Hooded Mergansers as usual were widespread. The best count was 34 at Andover October 25 (KCE). About 50 Common Mergansers on Newfound Lake October 6 (RAQ*) may have been a gathering of locally nesting families, but 30 at Lake Wentworth November 3 (DF), 60 at Kezar Lake, Sutton,

November 13 (KCE), and 46 at Monroe November 28 (RB) were probably migrants. There were no reports of Red-breasted Mergansers.



VULTURES, HAWKS, FALCONS

There is something about Hillsborough that attracts Turkey Vultures; 14 were seen there September 1 (D. Bonnette, fide RAS). Hawk watchers reported a season's total of 65 of these birds -- far more than in 1981. Late individuals were seen at Canterbury and Ashland on October 9 (RB). The ASNH Hawk Watch total of Goshawks was 22, also well above the 1981 figure. Of the few other reports, the most interesting described a playful (?) encounter between a Goshawk and a Raven over the top of Cannon Mountain on September 9 (TR). Hawk Watchers counted 440 Sharp-shinned Hawks, with 90 seen from 3 sites on September 20. The Hawk Watch total for Cooper's Hawk was 15, for Red-tailed Hawk 86, for Red-shouldered Hawk 20. Relatively few others of these species were reported.

The migration of Broad-winged Hawks was spread out, with the biggest flights on Sep. 8 (938, nearly all from one site) and on September 20 (1,367 from three sites). Little Round Top in Bristol was the most productive observation point; 1,845 Broad-wings were seen there, most of them on three days -- September 8, 9, and 20 (JW). In addition to the above, 500 Broad-wings were seen over Concord on September 18 (RAQ), and 250+ over Pembroke Hill September 19 (L&B Corey), but it is possible that most of these birds were seen and counted at one of the Hawk Watch sites as well. A well-described Rough-legged Hawk was in Hampton Falls on the early date of September 17 (RCH, VHH). Another was seen in Jefferson on the occasion of the ASNH Pondicherry trip October 23 (RAQ).

It is unusual to see 3 Bald Eagles in a day in New Hampshire, but it was done twice last fall; in Bristol on September 20 (RW, VSW*) and over Prospect Mountain in Lancaster on October 1 (L.&L. Strayer). There was also an immature near Lake

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Umbagog September 18 (JL) and an adult at New Hampton October 12 (LRE*). An eagle being harassed by Ravens over the summit of Mount Moosilauke on September 30 may have been an immature Bald or an adult Golden (TR).

Hawk watchers counted 34 Northern Harriers (Marsh Hawks), with a peak number of 11 on September 11. About 15 others were reported with the latest an immature individual at Hampton November 20 (RAQ, DJA). Osprey reports range from August 17 at Littleton (RB) to the very late date of November 16 at Pittsfield (B. Galloup, fide D. Stavros). Five were seen off the coast from the ASNH whale-watching boat on September 19 (DJA). The Hawk Watch total was 102. Fourteen Peregrine Falcons for the season is an unexpectedly large number (only 4 seen on official Hawk Watches). The earliest was at Concord August 30 (RAQ), the latest at Manchester October 24 (MTM). Of a total of 20 Merlins reported the first was seen September 4 at Concord (TR), the most in a day 3 at Seabrook October 2 (EWP, LGP), the last October 7 at Manchester (MTM). Sixteen American Kestrels were seen at Seabrook October 2 (EWP, LGP). The Hawk Watch total for these birds was 91; the best day was September 24 when 21 were observed.

GROUSE THROUGH COOTS



A November tramper on White Mountain trails had unusual luck with Spruce Grouse, seeing 7 in 3 days November 22-24 (MR). Two were observed on Mount Moosilauke October 1 (JED).

The only rail reported was a Virginia heard calling in Andover August 6 (KCE). Two Common Moorhens (Gallinules) were at Thornton August 28 (PAP, P.Zaneli), an unusual locality for the species. One at Rye October 23 (DJA) was less surprising. American Coots were more common than usual. There were 14 at Rye on October 31 (EWP, LGP), and 10 at Windham November 20 (KEF), as well as others in Concord (TR*) and Hampton (EWP*).

SHOREBIRDS



The first Semipalmated Plover of the season appeared at Turkey Pond, Concord, on July 30 (TR). Numbers increased to 8 on August 26, and 4 were still present September 14 (RAQ). At the coast 46 were seen September 19 (RB). Forty Killdeer were at Hampton September 24 (DBK). A group of 7 at North Haverhill on November 7 (RB) were quite late, and one at Sandwich November 24 (BSR) was remarkably so. Four Lesser Golden Plovers dropped in at Turkey Pond, Concord, on August 23, 6 more there September 6, and one September 29 (TR), but these were overshadowed by a remarkable flock of 45 at a different locality in Concord on August 30 (RAQ). At the coast one was seen at Rye September 16 (EWP), and 2 there on the very late date of November 17 (EWP, LGP). Black-bellied Plovers reached a total of almost 300 at the New Hampshire coast on August 21 (ASNH, KCE), with 25 still at Seabrook November 20 (RAQ, DJA). There were 2 inland reports: one at Concord September 16 (TR) and 4 at Littleton September 20 (RB).

The only Hudsonian Godwit reported was at Seabrook August 10 (RCV*). Single Marbled Godwits were seen at Seabrook on August 10 (RCV*), August 21, and September 19 (RB); the total of 5 seen there August 18 (EWP) is probably a record count for the state, at least during the present century. Eighteen Whimbrels at Seabrook August 10 (KCE*) is also a good count, though not a record. There were also 3 at Hampton September 25 (EWP, LGP), and a very late one at Seabrook October 23 (ASNH, DJA). Greater Yellowlegs arrived at Concord as early as July 30 (TR). There were no large flocks reported. The 4 latest were at the coast November 14 (RAQ*). About 10 Lesser Yellowlegs seen at Concord on July 30, and the same number September 16 (TR) are good counts for an inland locality. There were about 40 at the coast on August 10 (KCE*).

Interesting reports of Solitary Sandpipers include 9 at Concord on July 28 (TR), one in a tree there September 9 (RAQ) (not too

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surprising since the species nests in trees), and a late one at Sandwich October 16 (BSR). The only Willets were 4 at Seabrook August 18 (EWP). Spotted Sandpipers stayed late: there were 2 at Milford November 6 (AEA) and one at Dover November 14 (RAQ*).

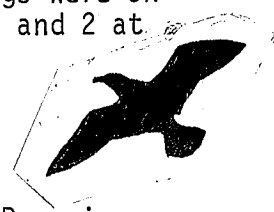
Except for about 12 Ruddy Turnstones at Seabrook August 24 (SAG, WWF), scarcely any were reported. Northern Phalaropes were seen only at sea off our coast, 51 on September 19, and 60 November 2 (DJA) a rather late date. Perhaps the most interesting shorebirds to stop at Turkey Pond, Concord, were 2 Red Phalaropes seen there on September 16 (TR), one of which was still there the next day. There were no reports of Woodcock and only 2 of Common Snipe. A Short-billed Dowitcher was at Concord August 9 (TR), and about 50 were at the coast August 10 (KCE*). Red Knots were seen at the coast in low numbers, as is normal: 2 at Seabrook August 10 (RCV*), 3 at Hampton August 17 (DBK), and 9 at Seabrook September 19 (RB). The arrival of Sanderlings at the coast was missed, as is commonly the case. There were 380 at Rye September 18 (RB), 100+ at Hampton October 15 (EWP, LGP), and 25 still at Seabrook November 20 (RAQ, DJA). Inland single birds were seen at Concord September 15 (TR) and in Franconia Notch September 18 (TR, BR).



Small numbers of Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers arrived at Concord as early as July 28 (TR), and the flock of small "peep" there built up to 50 or 60 in August. The last Least there were 5 on September 9 (RAQ), and the last "Semis" 10-12 on September 14 (RAQ). Other inland records of these small "peep" included 2 Least at Errol August 19 (TR*), one in Sandwich August 29 (BSR), and 4 in Thornton September 9 (TR), also one "Semi" in Franconia Notch September 17 (TR). Except for an estimated 175 "Semis" on September 18 (RB), no significant counts of these two species were reported from the coast. It was a good season for White-rumped Sandpipers: inland, where they are rare, 3 were seen at Concord September 14 (K. Dymant*), and one in Errol November 4 (TR); at the coast

there were 5 at North Hampton October 15, 6 at Rye October 22 (EWP, LGP), and 2 at Hampton on the late date of November 20 (RAQ*). The only sighting of the rare Baird's Sandpiper was at Concord on August 31 (RAQ, TR, BR). The first Pectoral Sandpiper was at Concord July 30, and there were 10 there September 20 and October 5 (TR). Thirteen at Errol on November 4 (TR) were quite late. The first Purple Sandpiper of the season was seen at Rye October 22 (EWP, LGP). By November 20 there were 30 at Seabrook (RAQ, DJA). Dunlin visited Turkey Pond, Concord, in September: one on the 17th, 4 on the 24th (RAQ). At the coast they were abundant, as usual: almost 450 at Seabrook November 14 (RB), 300 there and 60 at Hampton November 20 (RAQ, DJA). Stilt Sandpipers, unusual inland, also dropped in at Concord: 2 on July 30, one still present July 31, and another September 29 (TR). At the coast the only reported sightings were on August 19: one at Hampton Falls and 2 at Rye (KCE, RCV*).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS



The only Jaeger reported was a Pomarine, seen from Little Boar's Head, North Hampton, on November 2 (SAG, WWF--details on file). One is indeed fortunate to see this species from the mainland in New Hampshire. The first Iceland Gull of the season arrived at Concord November 10 or earlier (RAQ*). Great Black-backed and Herring Gulls are increasing at some inland localities. The former built up to several hundred in the Concord area in November, and Herring Gulls reached 800 or so in the same locality (RAQ). Up at Littleton there were 104 Herring Gulls on November 28. There were 42 Ring-billed Gulls at Littleton on August 3, and 34 there November 28 (RB). At Concord there were about 50 in November (RAQ), and at the coast, where they are increasing, almost 40 on November 20 (DJA, RAQ).

The smaller gulls were well represented in reports from the coastal region: a Black-headed Gull at Hampton Harbor November 20 (RAQ, DJA); a Laughing Gull off Rye September 19 and another at

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New Scantum November 2 (DJA, SDA); about 100 Bonaparte's Gulls at Seabrook November 1 (EWP, LGP); and 4 Little Gulls there the same day (EWP, LGP), the latter group still present November 20 (RAQ, DJA). Black-legged Kittiwakes to the number of 117 were seen at sea from New Scantum to the Isles of Shoals November 2 (DJA, SDA). One was seen from the mainland at North Hampton the same day (SAG), and about 20 from Hampton on November 20 (RAQ, DJA).

There were 107 Common Terns at Seabrook August 22, and 4 still present September 19 (RB). Least Terns were observed in the southern part of the coastal region from August 10 (RCV*) to September 1 (DBK), with the maximum 6 at Seabrook August 24 (SAG, WWF). Although DBK saw an adult feed a young bird, it seems doubtful if the species now nests anywhere in New Hampshire. A Dovekie found on the beach at Hampton November 20 (N. O'Neil, fide RAQ) died that night. There were no other reports of "alcids".

DOVES THROUGH OWLS



The highest count of Mourning Doves reported was 36 at a New Hampton feeder (G. Rogers*). The Nanday Conure, or Black-hooded Parrot, that frequented Whiteface Intervale throughout August (also earlier--BSR*), was the most exotic bird reported, but surely an escape. The only Yellow-billed Cuckoo of the season was at Plymouth September 8 (SAG). Three Black-billed Cuckoos at Sandwich Notch September 3 (BSR), and one at Roxbury September 5 (JHW) were the last of several reported. A Long-eared Owl was seen in an orchard in Tamworth September 24 (H. & M.N. Damon). Though probably present in many parts of the state every year, these owls are so secretive that they are seldom observed. The only Short-eared Owl reported was seen migrating past the hawk lookout at Little Round Top, Bristol, on September 20 (SAG), surely an unexpected thrill for the observer.

GOATSUCKERS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS



A Whip-poor-will was calling nightly at

Monroe from September 8-12 (EE, PP, LC). These birds call so infrequently in autumn that the actual time they leave for the south is difficult to determine. A special effort to observe the migration of Common Nighthawks resulted in many reports but none of really large numbers of birds. The best counts were 65 at Lee August 16 (D. Allen), 61+ at Penacook August 31 (M. Nevers) going north (!), and 70-80 at Nashua September 5 (J.P. Rioux). The latest 2 were also at Nashua September 14 (CFS). The grand total came to less than 1,000, but over 20,000 were counted in Massachusetts, so it would appear that the biggest flights in New Hampshire were missed. About 100 Chimney Swifts seen going to roost in Concord on August 11 (RAQ) and 50 or so in Littleton August 14-16 (RB) may have been migrating flocks or gatherings of locally raised families. The last two reported were in Littleton September 14 (RB). At Franconia 8 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were seen together on August 5 (MLF*). Five migrants were seen at Sandwich August 27 (BSR). The last individuals reported were at Monroe September 26 (LC) and Keene September 27 (JHW).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS



The migration of Common Flickers peaked about September 19-20; 12 were seen at New Hampton on the 19th (VHH), and 15+ at Center Harbor on the 20th (BSR). Late stragglers were noted at Barrington November 4 (DJA) and Rye November 20 (RAQ). Eight Pileated Woodpeckers were reported, from 7 towns. There were 6 reports of Red-headed Woodpeckers, the earliest from Hillsboro August 26 (E.F.&M. Chamberlin, fide RAS), the latest at Bristol November 7 (HRP*). Others were seen in Walpole (E. Burr, fide DWB), Bow (M. Fogg), and 2 in New Hampton, an adult October 3 (PAP, RP) and an immature found dead October 25 (VHH). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers left for the south about on schedule. We regard Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers as permanent residents, so Mrs. Hebert's observation that September 11 was the last date these species were numerous in the New Hampton area is surprising. If, as with some other

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"resident" species, it is mainly the young of the year that migrate, their departure would indeed make a substantial reduction in the local population. Two Black-backed Woodpeckers were seen in Bethlehem August 23 (RB), one on Mount Jackson in October (D.Doan, M. Kneeland), and one in Tamworth October 25 (E. Steele).

Nineteen Eastern Kingbirds in Littleton August 14 (RB) and 30 in North Sandwich August 21 (BSR) marked local peaks in the migration of these flycatchers. One in Holderness September 10 (BSR) and one in Milford September 15 (AEA) were quite late. There were two reports of WESTERN KINGBIRDS, one in Stratham October 31-November 4 (DJA*) and one in North Hampton November 6 (EWP, LGP). Great Crested Flycatchers departed without being observed, or at least without being reported. The last Eastern Phoebes were in Pittsfield October 19 (GCR, AER) and in Manchester October 26 (MTM). Only RB and BSR reported Yellow-bellied Flycatchers. The latter saw 6 in Sandwich August 27 and the last one in the same town September 6. There was one report of the hard to recognize "Traill's" Flycatcher at Hillsboro August 15 (RAS) and one of Least Flycatcher, at Roxbury August 28 (R.J., A.J.). Distinguishing these two members of the Empidonax genus in the field must be regarded as somewhat speculative, unless the birds were singing. Five Eastern Wood Pewee were seen in Marlborough September 14 (JHW). The last reported was a singing bird in Manchester September 30 (MTM). Of 13 Olive-sided Flycatchers observed, 4 were in Jefferson August 14 (RB); 3 in Hillsboro August 29 (RAS), and the last in Pittsfield September 18 (GCR, AER).



A flock of a dozen Horned Larks on Mount Washington at approximately 5700 ft. elevation on October 1 (TR) is of interest primarily because of the locality. Elsewhere the earliest reported were about 30 at Whitefield October 23 (RAQ), and the largest flock 40 at Hampton (DJA, RAQ).

A group of 8 Tree Swallows at Jefferson August 29 (RB) and a flock of 30 at Walpole September 12 (JHW) were both late for their localities. A concentration of over 1,000

at Seabrook September 19 (RB), while not unprecedented, was a surprising spectacle for the observer who noted that they appeared from the south. There were over 250 migrating Barn Swallows at Monroe August 11 (L.C.*). A very late one--or perhaps a "reverse migrant"--was at Rye November 1 (EWP, LGP). Cliff Swallows left early; the last reported were 12 at Jefferson August 29 (R.B.). Three Purple Martins in Andover the first week of August (LCR) were the only ones reported.

JAYS THROUGH THRASHERS



Two Gray Jays were seen in Pittsburg and one in Errol on November 11 (EWP, LGP). Four were observed along White Mountain trails in Bethlehem November 21-24 (MR). The Heberts noted a very early southward movement of Blue Jays -- 30 on September 12 -- but there were no reports of larger flights of these birds. Northern Ravens were seen south to Antrim and Hancock (MC). Common Crows to the number of 147 were heading west over Manchester October 11 (MTM). There were no reports of Boreal Chickadees south of the mountains. Many Tufted Titmice began coming to feeders in October and November, the northernmost 3 at Monroe October 16 (D. Bedell, fide PP) and 7 at Plymouth November 19 (SAG). VHH noted a sharp drop in the numbers of White-breasted Nuthatches after September 11, indicating early departure of many individuals. Red-breasted Nuthatches were numerous in the western White Mountains October 29 (TR), but not many were reported from other localities. Six Brown Creepers (the largest number reported) were seen in Sandwich Notch September 11 (BSR)--evidently a significant date.

House Wrens left early; the last one reported was in Pittsfield September 29 (GCR, AER). Winter Wrens were common in the Squam Lake region, as in 1981, with the last individual seen there on October 18 (BSR). Elsewhere there were 2 at Deering September 30 (RAQ*), and single birds at Center Ossipee on October 3, 4 and 18 (DF). The only Carolina Wren was in Manchester September 30 (MTM). RAS noted a sharp drop in the population of Northern Mockingbirds around Hillsboro,

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with just one left by August 10. The only other reports of this species were from Manchester (MTM), but surely there were many others in the state. The last Gray Catbirds were 2 in Manchester October 15 (MTM) and one in East Wolfboro October 16 (CHR, DLR). Single Brown Thrashers were seen in Monroe as late as September 26 (LC) and in Manchester September 30 (MTM).

THRUSHES THROUGH VIREOS



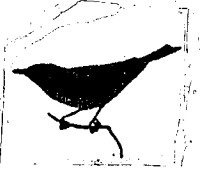
There were 150-200 American Robins in a roosting area in Bethlehem August 4 (RB). Other reports indicate a late migration of these birds; there were few in New Hampton in October (VHH), but 200-300 were seen in Pittsfield on November 15 (GCR, AER), and about 50 way up in Errol November 4, with 8 still there November 24 (TR). A Varied Thrush appeared at Holderness on the early date of October 7 (R. Dearborn, fide WWF). Wood Thrushes departed unobtrusively, as usual; the last reported were in Sandwich September 6 (BSR), but surely many stayed later. There were 8 Hermit Thrushes at Center Harbor October 3 (BSR). A late one was seen in Washington November 19 (RAQ). Swainson's Thrushes are among the small number of bird species that can be recognized by their calls when migrating at night. At Littleton 42 were heard the night of September 1, and hundreds the night of September 15 (RB). The last one seen was in Center Ossipee October 24 (DF).

Migratory Veeries can also be identified by their night calls. RB noted the start of their movement at Littleton the night of August 15, when he heard 114, and the peak August 24 with a count of 147, each in one hour of listening. Two late ones were seen in Sandwich Notch September 11 (BSR). Three good-sized flocks of Eastern Bluebirds were reported: 16-18 at Monroe September 20-26 (EAE, PP); 21 at Bristol October 5 (A. Rose, G. Jeffers); 15 at Randolph October 8 (C. Jones). There were smaller numbers in Bethlehem, Center Ossipee, Chichester, Hillsboro, Jaffrey, Meredith, New Hampton, Sanbornton, Wolfboro; with the last at Monroe October 29 (PP). A NORTHERN WHEATEAR was at Seabrook September 28 (EWP, LGP). This is only the third or fourth record of the species for

New Hampshire.

The only Blue-gray Gnatcatcher reported was at Center Harbor on September 8 (BSR). There were few Golden-crowned Kinglets, but Ruby-crowned Kinglets were plentiful. The first one was early at North Hampton September 11 (DJA, SDA). The peak of the movement came on September 30 when at Sandwich Notch BSR observed 75-100, "such a swarming of this species" as he has never seen, and TR on Mount Moosilauke found them abundant up to timberline. A late one was in Amherst November 23 (RAQ). The flight of Water Pipits, on the other hand, was quite light, lasting only from September 18, when RAQ saw 8-10 at Concord, to October 27, when one was seen at Rye (EWP, LGP). A dozen were on the summit of Mount Moosilauke September 30 (TR*). Cedar Waxwings were in "extraordinary numbers" at Pittsburg August 15 (TR, HC), 48 were in Jefferson August 29 (RB), the last 5 at Pittsfield October 3 (GCR, AER). In contrast to last year when only one Northern Shrike was reported for the entire season, there were 9 in all this autumn, including an early one at Piermont October 18 (TR) and one in full song at Pittsfield October 26 (GCR, AER).

The last Yellow-throated Vireo was a singing bird at West Sandwich September 12 (BSR), and the last Solitary Vireo a late one at Kingston November 7 (EWP, LGP).



Red-eyed Vireos left early; none were reported after September 30. The first of a dozen Philadelphia Vireos reported (a good number) were 3 at Chesham August 29 (BHM) and the last one in Hillsboro September 28 (RAS). Two Warbling Vireos in Surry on September 26 (JHW) were rather late.

WOOD WARBLERS

The main flight of warblers was on time, or probably a bit early. Nine Black and White Warblers at Jefferson August 14 (RB) was the largest number reported of this common species. One at Alton October 25 (EGL) was very late. The only Blue-winged Warbler

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was at Hampton August 24 (DBK), a normal date for this uncommon bird. Tennessee Warblers were first seen in Whitefield on August 14 (RB), and last noted at Pittsfield September 26 (GCR, AER). Numbers were low. Two individuals of the rare but regular Orange-crowned Warbler were seen in Campton September 7 (J.M. Stark), and one in Plymouth in mid-November (SAG, WWF). Nashville Warblers were numerous in Jefferson: 18 on August 14 and 19 on September 6 (RB). There were 3 October reports of this species, the last at Plymouth October 22 (SAG). Northern Parulas had a moderately good flight, with maximum of 5 at Sandwich September 11 (BSR*), 7 at Manchester September 30, and 3 there October 1 (MTM). Most Yellow Warblers were gone by the end of August as usual, but there were stragglers in September, one at North Hampton on the 11th (DJA*) and one at Milford the 20th (AEA).

There was a big migration of Magnolia Warblers with the peak in late August; BSR saw 32 or more in Sandwich Notch August 27. The last one reported was in Milford October 7 (AEA). The movement of Cape May Warblers, while not large, was better than we have observed in two or three years. The first one reported was at Franconia August 8 (MLF), the largest number (8) at New Hampton August 22 (RCH, VHH) and 6+ at Hillsboro August 29 (RAS), the last at Pittsfield September 21 (GCR, AER). Only three observers reported Black-throated Blue Warblers. There were 7 at Sandwich Notch August 18 (BSR), 4 at Jefferson September 25 (RB), and one in Hampton September 26 (DBK). The usually abundant Yellow-rumped Warbler was not reported in large numbers except at Jefferson, where RB counted 84 on September 6, and in New Hampton where the Heberts saw 36+ on October 7. Two late ones were in Hancock November 22 (MC) and one in Manchester November 30 (MTM).

There was a moderate movement of Black-throated Green Warblers: maximum 10 at Jefferson August 25 (RB), last normal date October 4 at Center Ossipee (DF). A very late straggler was at Portsmouth November 21 (EWP, LGP). Blackburnian Warblers



departed early, as usual. On August 27 there were 12 or more at Sandwich Notch (BSR). The last one reported was in Chesham September 2 (BHM). Chestnut-sided Warblers are also early migrants: one at Center Harbor September 26 (BSR) was unusually late. Bay-breasted Warblers were first seen at Sandwich Notch August 18, with 9+ there August 27 (BSR). The last two noted were in Milford September 20 (AEA). The movement of Blackpoll Warblers was light. Maxima were 8 at Jefferson September 6 (RB) and 10 at Stratham September 11 (DJA). The last reported was in New Hampton October 4 (VHH). There were more reports of Pine Warblers than usual. A singing individual at Center Harbor October 3 (BSR) and one seen at East Wolfeboro October 8 marked the end of their migration. The first bird of a light movement of Palm Warblers was reported in Hillsboro September 24 (RAS); there were no reports of more than 4 birds, and the last seen were in Center Ossipee October 21 (DF).

The last Ovenbird reported was at Center Harbor September 26 (BSR), and the last of seven Northern Waterthrushes was at Pittsfield September 21 (GCR, AER). The uncommon Mourning Warbler was seen twice: on September 6 at Sandwich Notch (BSR) and on the 21st at Pittsfield (GCR, AER). The 50 or more Common Yellowthroats observed in Jefferson August 14 (RB) probably included many summer resident individuals, but 36 in the same locality September 6 (RB) may have been mostly transients. Three Yellow-breasted Chats is an unusual number for one season. They were seen in Roxbury August 30 (R.J., A.J.), Bristol September 20 (V.S.W., R.W.), and Pittsfield September 25 (GCR, AER). There was a good flight of Wilson's Warblers, although nobody reported seeing more than 3 in one day. The first was at Pittsfield August 15 (GCR, AER), the last at Center Harbor September 26 (BSR). Canada Warblers, which always leave early, were numerous (17) at Jefferson August 14 (RB). The last 2 were at Sandwich Notch September 11 (BSR, RSR, VR). Nine American Redstarts in Jefferson August 14 (RB) was the most reported in a rather thin migration. There



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were late individuals in Manchester (MTM) and Pittsfield (GCR*) October 1, and at Center Harbor October 3 (BSR).

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS



Two Eastern Meadowlarks at Manchester November 4 were being harassed by a Kestrel (MTM). A later Meadowlark was at Rye November 14 (RAQ). Red-winged Blackbirds had a roost at Turkey Pond, Concord, and several thousand were seen there October 12 (TR) and on other nights. Two were in Errol November 22 (TR, BR). Late Northern Orioles were in Portsmouth November 3 (EWP, LGP) and in Penacook November 15 (B. Potter). An oriole seen in Chesham on August 26 is thought by the observer (BHM) to have been an intermediate between the "Baltimore" and "Bullock's" races. (Description on file). About 100 Rusty Blackbirds at New Hampton October 6 (VHH*) is a high count. None were reported later than November 2 (Pittsfield, (GCR*). There were several thousand Common Grackles in the roost at Turkey Pond, Concord, October 12 (TR). Are Brown-headed Cowbirds less numerous than a few years ago? The only good-sized flocks reported were of 52 at Laconia September 29 (LRE) and 80+ at Errol November 22 (TR, BR). The last Scarlet Tanager (of about 10 reported) was at New Hampton September 24 (RCH, VHH).



FINCHES, SPARROWS

Northern Cardinals were searching for feeders in October and November, as usual, but none were reported north of Tuftonboro (RRR*). The last Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Pittsfield October 2 (GCR, AER) and the last of only 2 Indigo Buntings was there September 21 (GCR*). Evening Grosbeaks evidently nested in New Hampton (G. Jeffers, fide VHH) and Campton (PAP, RP), for adults brought young to feeders in those places in July and August. These birds were abundant in the North Country (about 1,000 in Errol November 11, EWP, LGP), but fewer than usual were seen in the southern half of the state. Purple Finches were reported in moderate numbers, but none after the middle of November,

making their abundance in the winter quite unexpected. House Finches were plentiful in Manchester in October (MTM). Four at feeders in Monroe November 12 (EAE) were the northernmost reported. There were no reports of Pine Grosbeaks or Redpolls, and the only Pine Siskin was at Center Ossipee August 18 (DF). American Goldfinches were present in moderate numbers throughout. There were no reports of either species of Crossbill, Rufous-sided Towhees departed on time except for a lingerer at Salem November 11 (KEF).



Sharp-tailed Sparrows were numerous in the Hampton marshes September 25 where 16-18 were seen (EWP, LGP).

The only Vesper Sparrow reported was in New Hampton October 6 (RCH, VHH). The usual large flocks of Dark-eyed Juncos were not evident. Tree Sparrows arrived about on time (October 21) at New Hampton (VHH, RCH). The only sizable flock, of 30-35 birds, was at Concord October 31 (RAQ). A Chipping Sparrow at Pittsfield November 13 was quite late, as was a Field Sparrow there November 7 (GCR, AER). The flight of White-crowned Sparrows was the poorest in years, with no observer reporting more than 2 birds. The earliest date was October 4 at New Hampton (VHH, RCH), and the latest October 26 at Wolfeboro (CHR, DLR). The movement of White-throated Sparrows may have begun about September 9 when 5 migrants were seen at Concord (RAQ). It was also a poor flight; the largest flock reported was of about 20 birds at Manchester (MTM). A straggler at West Sandwich November 28 (BSR, VR) was unusually late. Fox Sparrows were widespread, the earliest at Center Ossipee October 3 (DF), the largest group 7 at Tuftonboro October 25 (RRR, HR), the last at Milford November 27 (AEA). There was an average flight of Lincoln's Sparrows, starting with 2 at Whitefield September 6 (RB) and ending with one at West Sandwich October 4 (BSR). A Swamp Sparrow was quite late at Pittsfield November 15 (GCR, AER). There were no reports of large flocks of Song Sparrows. A flock of 11 Lapland Longspurs was in Hampton State Park on October 23 (ASNH, -DJA) and about 6 were

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still there November 2 (SAG, WWF). This species is hard to find away from the coast, so one at Errol November 24 (TR) is noteworthy. There were many reports of Snow Buntings. Flocks of 24 and 40 near the summit of Mount Moosilauke on October 1 (JED) were surprisingly early.

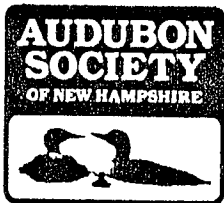
General arrival in the lowlands was not until October 23 when 2 were observed in Jefferson (ASNH), 3 in Tuftonboro (JD), and 50 at Hampton (ASNH). The highest count was about 400 at Hampton November 2 (SAG, WWF), and largest flock in an inland locality about 50 at Errol November 4 (TR).



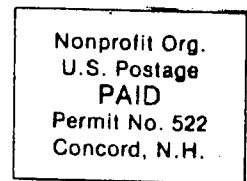
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Bird silhouettes from: R.T. Peterson, A Field Guide to the Birds; C.S. Robbins, B. Brunn and H. Zim, Birds of North America; O.S. Pettingill, Jr., Ornithology in Laboratory and Field.



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