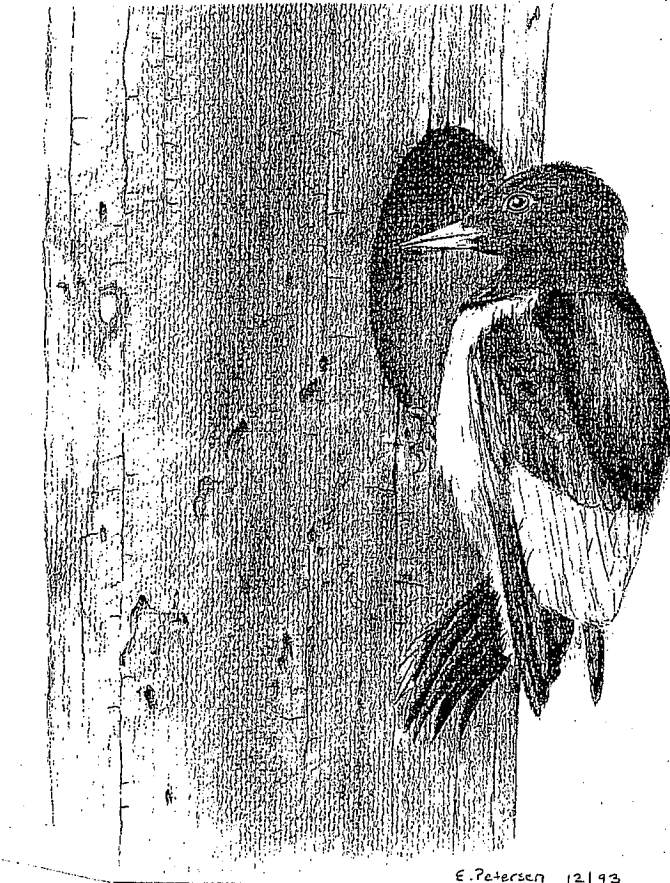


# New Hampshire Bird Records

A Publication of the  
Audubon Society of New Hampshire



E. Petersen 12/93

**WINTER 1991**  
**Volume 10, No. 4**

## FROM THE EDITOR

Once again we are indebted to an individual, Nan Turner Waldron, for sponsoring the publication of this issue. This support has been critical in our efforts to reduce the backlog of unpublished seasons. With this issue following quickly on the heels of the previous one, we hope to increase reader confidence and show that we are indeed making progress and committed to bringing you an up to date *New Hampshire Bird Records*. The Spring 92 issue is scheduled to come out shortly while both the Seasonal Editors and the publication staff are working with ambitious deadlines for the 1993 seasons. Throughout these efforts we are continually facing the need for a reliable funding source for *The Records*. Several ideas have been discussed in the past but the need is becoming more critical and by the next issue we will have decided upon a course of action. You will hear more at that time.

Two new items appear in this issue. The first is a cover illustration by guest artist, Erik Petersen. We are delighted to feature this artist and thank him for his generosity. Please see below for further information on Erik and his work. The second is an article by Winter Editor, Andrea Robbins on the differences between first year Mew and Ring-billed Gulls (see p. 30). Andrea did a great deal of research on this subject after an injured Mew Gull was reported at a rehabilitation facility in December of 1991, having been picked up in Manchester. Details on the sighting were never submitted but a photo of the bird by Stephen Scaer did appear in the Manchester *Union Leader*. The results of Andrea's extensive research and review are presented in this article. We would like to thank the *Union Leader* for loaning us the photograph and Andrea for putting this together on rather short notice, complete with illustration. In the future, we hope to be able to bring you more of these special features.

It is exciting to see a rare bird. We encourage anyone who sees an unusual bird to do two things — report it right away, and document the record with a detailed description of what you saw. Since this is so very important I have devoted a few extra words on this subject on page 29. Please continue reading and enjoy Andrea's article.

Rebecca Suomala  
Managing Editor

Thanks to special guest artist, Erik Petersen, for his work on this issue's cover. Erik is a freelance artist living in Lee, NH. He owes his artistic ability to his father, T.L. Petersen, who recently lost his life in an automobile accident. Erik studied art at the University of New Hampshire and specializes in wildlife illustrations and pet portraits.

The original Red-headed Woodpecker drawing is in full color and available for sale, with half of the proceeds to benefit *NH Bird Records*. The work, offered at \$150, is 10" x 12" in colored pencil and matted. If you are interested please contact Becky at 224-9909.



# Winter Season

December 1, 1991 through February 29, 1992

Volume 10, Number 4

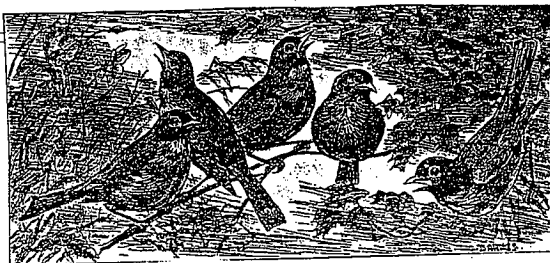
The winter of 1991-92 was uncharacteristically warm. Wildly fluctuating temperatures, with many days above the freezing mark, prevented formation of solid ice on New Hampshire lakes and rivers (more than a dozen vehicles plunged through) and allowed for periods of open water throughout the season. However, the freeze and thaw were too erratic for most waterfowl to remain in the state. Below normal snowfall during all three months provided open areas for ground-feeding birds, and a superb berry crop lent sustenance for several species, some in record numbers. Late-lingering species included a **Hermit Thrush**, **Gray Catbird**, **Brown Thrasher**, and an inland **Pied-billed Grebe**.

Warm weather dominated as 1991 drew to a close. The only real cold temperatures took place between December 17 and 20. Snowfall for New England was 76% of the December norm. January continued the trend. Temperatures started off and remained abnormally warm until January 14, but by January 17 a cold air mass had dropped temperatures to their lowest levels of the winter ( $-20^{\circ}$  in the North to  $20^{\circ}$  at the coast). "Alberta Clippers" on January 16, 17, 20, and 21 were followed by warm, wet weather, with the mercury near normal. February began rather cold, with its coldest days between February 10 to 13. For the month, however, temperatures averaged above normal, and snowfall amounts were near record lows. Early migrant Canvasbacks, Hooded Mergansers, Peregrine Falcons, Turkey Vultures, Killdeer, Red-winged Blackbirds, and Common Grackles arrived during this period.

Experiencing high numbers this season were Red-necked Grebes (early), Northern Gannets, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Northern Mockingbirds, Northern Shrikes, House Finches, and Pine Siskins. On the low side were dabbling ducks, Blue Jays, and both nuthatch species.

Read on for details about this winter's goodies: possible Gyr Falcon, Laughing Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Red-headed Woodpecker, Fish Crow, Varied Thrush, Lincoln's Sparrow, and White-crowned Sparrow — as well as those deserving a "Wow!" rating, such as Carolina Wren, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, and Cedar Waxwing.

*Andrea Robbins*  
*Winter Editor*



# Loons and Grebes

For the second winter in a row, Red-throated Loons increased in number. This encouraging upsurge follows six years of extreme lows (missed entirely in 1989) and may signal the species' return to more typical numbers. Common Loons, too, were more numerous on the coast, and inland, several lingered on slow-to-freeze lakes late enough that they appeared as a new species on the Littleton and Concord Christmas Bird Counts.

Horned Grebes wintered in average numbers. Although the Coastal CBC reported its highest total for Red-necked Grebes (twice the previous record), the wintering population decreased significantly during the following months. And, to our disappointment, a Western Grebe that had wintered offshore with Red-necks during the past four winters did not return to our area this year.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Red-throated Loon</b>				
12-14	25		Coastal CBC	
02-15	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach, n. end	G. Stansfield, B. Vernon
<b>Common Loon</b>				
12-14	2		Newfound Lake	G. Ports
12-14	77		Coastal CBC	
12-15	2		Littleton CBC	
12-15	1		Concord CBC	
12-21	1		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-28	2		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	
12-28	2		Lake Sunapee CBC	
02-17	2	Newington	Great Bay	G. & A. Robbins
<b>Pied-billed Grebe</b>				
12-11	1	Hebron	Newfound Lake	G. Ports
<b>Horned Grebe</b>				
12-07	3		NH coast	J. McIlwaine
12-14	19		Coastal CBC	
02-15	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Harbor	G. Stansfield, B. Vernon
<b>Red-necked Grebe</b>				
12-14	288		Coastal CBC	
01-04	3	Rye	on beach at Seal Rocks	D. Kirwan, L. Ring
02-17	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	G. Robbins



# Gannet through Herons

Despite a foggy and rainy count day, Coastal CBC observers saw ten Northern Gannets, their highest total since 1954! Twenty-one Great Cormorants was an average number for the same CBC, but for the Laconia CBC, one spotted on Winnisquam Lake was a new species. It's probable this was the same immature individual observed throughout much of January in the same area.

Several Great Blue Herons continued to frequent unfrozen waterways into late December, with individuals noted during January and February as well.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Northern Gannet</b>				
12-07	2	Hampton	harbor	H. Chary, et al.
12-14	10		Coastal CBC	
<b>Great Cormorant</b>				
12-14	21		Coastal CBC	
12-21	1		Lee-Durham CBC - CW	
12-24	1	Dover	downtown Dover	S. Mirick
12-28	1		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	
01-26	1	Laconia	Winnisquam Ave.	H. Anderson
<b>Double-crested Cormorant</b>				
12-14	3		Coastal CBC	
<b>Great Blue Heron</b>				
12-09	1	Pittsfield		A. Robbins
12-14	20		Coastal CBC	
12-14	1		Keene CBC	
12-15	1		Concord CBC-CW	
12-21	3		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-28	2		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
01-24	1	Loudon	Clough Pond	G. Page
02-10	1	Manchester	Cohas Brook at Rt. 93	K. Metz



# Waterfowl

Ten Mute Swans set a new record for the Coastal CBC. An Immature Snow Goose, which had been in Enfield since October, was last seen there in early December.

Except for the inevitable wintering flocks of American Black Ducks and Mallards, no other dabbling species were reported — quite unusual! On the other hand, diving ducks were well represented, with 17 species reported. A female Harlequin Duck, feeding in pounding surf north of Boar's Head in Hampton, delighted participants of the ASNH Coastal Trip in mid-February. Leaders Steve Mirick and Dave Tucker have a knack for locating such rarities.

Large rafts of Greater Scaup wintered in Great Bay; more than 1000 were counted there in late January. Lesser Scaup were found for the first time ever during the Peterborough and Lee-Durham CBCs, while the Coastal count had its third record in 41 years. Early season highs for Common Eider, Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter, and Red-breasted Merganser also came from the Coastal CBC, but all except the Red-breasted Mergansers dropped off thereafter. More than 100 Hooded Mergansers lingered into December; the greatest concentration, as usual, was in the Lakes Region.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Mute Swan</b>				
12-14	10		Coastal CBC	
12-21	4		Lee-Durham CBC	
<b>Snow Goose</b>				
12-04	1	Enfield	Shaker Bridge	P. Hunt
<b>Brant</b>				
02-22	15	Bristol	E. Bristol	G. Jeffers, H. Davis
<b>Canada Goose</b>				
12-02	62	Milford	Osgood Pond	A. Ames
12-14	38		Keene CBC	
12-14	36		Peterborough-Hancock CBC	
12-14	1499		Coastal CBC	
12-28	805		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
01-22	1075	Durham	Great Bay, s. of Adams Pt.	D. Hughes
02-02	200	Hinsdale	Connecticut R., Hinsdale Bluffs	D. & B. Peck
02-15	200	Hollis	Depot Rd.	C. & M. Neveu
<b>American Black Duck</b>				
12-14	49		Keene CBC	
12-14	744		Coastal CBC	
12-15	2		Littleton CBC	
12-15	15		Concord CBC	
12-21	107		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-28	108		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
12-28	22		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
12-29	3		Pittsburg CBC	
02-02	100	Hinsdale	Connecticut R.	D. & B. Peck
<b>Mallard</b>				
12-14	37		Keene CBC	
12-14	21		Peterborough-Hancock CBC	
12-14	480		Coastal CBC	
12-15	113		Concord CBC	
12-21	40		North Conway CBC	
12-21	422		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-21	16		Hanover-Norwich CBC	
12-28	1140		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
12-28	664		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	
12-28	41		Lake Sunapee CBC	
<b>Canvasback</b>				
02-29	13	Durham	Great Bay	S. Mirick
<b>Ring-necked Duck</b>				
12-14	1		Coastal CBC	
12-28	3		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	
<b>Greater Scaup</b>				
12-14	715		Coastal CBC	
01-29	1067	Durham	Great Bay, s. of Adams Pt.	D. Hughes
<b>Lesser Scaup</b>				
12-14	16		Peterborough-Hancock CBC	
12-14	2		Coastal CBC	
12-21	1		Lee-Durham CBC	
<b>Common Eider</b>				
12-14	148		Coastal CBC	
<b>King Eider</b>				
01-02	1	Newcastle	Fort Stark	S. Mirick, J. Burley
<b>Harlequin Duck</b>				
02-15	1	Hampton	n. of Boars Head	S. Mirick, D. Tucker, ASNH Field Trip
<b>Oldsquaw</b>				
12-14	63		Coastal CBC	
<b>Black Scoter</b>				
12-14	14		Coastal CBC	
<b>Surf Scoter</b>				
12-14	60		Coastal CBC	
02-17	10	Rye	Jeness Beach	G. Robbins
<b>White-winged Scoter</b>				
12-14	324		Coastal CBC	
01-05	3	Hampton	public beach	A. Prazar
02-17	12	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	G. Robbins

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
-------------	----------	-------------	-----------------	--------------------

**Common Goldeneye**

12-14	361		Coastal CBC	
12-15	23		Concord CBC	
12-21	66		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-28	168		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	
01-15	10	Laconia	Paugus Bay	G. Ports
02-02	100	Hinsdale	Connecticut R.	D. & B. Peck

**Barrow's Goldeneye**

12-28	1		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	
01-12	1	Rye	n. of Rye Harbor St. Pk.	S. Mirick, P. Mueller

**Bufflehead**

12-08	2	Enfield	Mascoma Lake	P. Hunt
12-14	74		Coastal CBC	
12-21	82		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-28	3		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	
02-17	3	Portsmouth	Portsmouth Harbor	G. & A. Robbins
02-17	5	Newington	Great Bay	G. & A. Robbins

**Hooded Merganser**

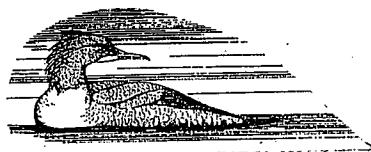
12-08	1	Enfield	mouth of Mascoma R.	P. Hunt
12-14	4		Coastal CBC	
12-15	2		Littleton CBC	
12-21	2		Hanover-Norwich CBC	
12-28	90		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	
01-10	2	Ashland	Rt. 3	W. Goodwill
01-12	2	Gorham	high school grounds	J. Ely, J. Brown
01-15	4	Franklin	Chance Pond Brook	K. Elkins
02-20	4	Pittsfield		A. Robbins

**Common Merganser**

12-14	33		Keene CBC	
12-14	1		Peterborough-Hancock CBC	
12-14	17		Coastal CBC	
12-15	1		Littleton CBC	
12-15	16		Concord CBC	
12-21	33		Hanover-Norwich CBC	
12-28	32		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
12-28	59		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	
12-28	6		Errol-Umbagog CBC	
12-29	1		Pittsburg CBC	
01-04	7	Monroe	Connecticut R.	J. McIlwaine
01-10	2	Pittsfield	Suncook R.	A. Robbins
02-02	4	Hinsdale	Connecticut R.	D. & B. Peck
02-26	10	Errol	Rt. 16	J. Brown, J. Ely

**Red-breasted Merganser**

12-14	369		Coastal CBC
12-21	70		Lee-Durham CBC





# Hawks

During the Pittsburg CBC on December 29, the remains of a Turkey Vulture (broken bones, a wing, feathers) were found on recently deposited snow off Route 3 where Indian Stream crosses. Despite the extremely late date, spots of frozen blood in the snow led observers to believe the kill had occurred there. Also, no warm, southerly air flows could explain the presence of another Turkey Vulture, caught in a coyote trap in Concord on February 5. Perhaps the bird had been attempting to winter over. Unfortunately, it did not survive its ordeal and was euthanized by a veterinarian.

A total of 64 individual Bald Eagles wintered in the following areas of the state: Androscoggin River (5), Lakes Region (8), Connecticut River (10), Great Bay (15), Merrimack River (15), other regions (11). A record-high 605 observations were reported to eagle monitors, who determined that these sightings represented 40 adults, 6 sub-adults, and 18 immatures.

Reports of seven Northern Harriers, 31 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 10 Cooper's Hawks, and eight Northern Goshawks were received. Other raptor highlights included more than 100 Red-tailed Hawks (record highs for Lee-Durham, Nashua, and Laconia CBCs), six Rough-legged Hawks, 20 American Kestrels, and at least 15 Peregrine Falcons (new for Concord CBC).

An unconfirmed report of a Gyrfalcon ("Great Horned Owl size," very white falcon, hunting over marsh) came from near Odiorne Point State Park in Rye on January 26. The observer watched it for 20 to 30 minutes and was told by an unidentified birder that the raptor had been in the area for several days. How unfortunate that this rarity was not reported to ASNH in time that others might observe, enjoy, and positively identify it! Gyrfalcons were confirmed in Massachusetts and Maine this winter.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Turkey Vulture</b>				
02-05	1	Concord	Iron Works Rd.	A. Tappan
02-26	1	Chesterfield	Connecticut R.	R. Ritz
02-28	1	Manchester	near dump on Rt. 93	B. Goodwill
<b>Northern Harrier</b>				
12-14	4		Coastal CBC	
01-29	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk	C. & J. Tewksbury
01-30	1	Durham	woods e. of Dame Rd.	D. Hughes
02-04	1	Newmarket	field between Bay Rd. & Vols Is.	D. Hughes
<b>Sharp-shinned Hawk</b>				
12-14	2		Coastal CBC	
12-15	1		Concord CBC	
12-21	1		North Conway CBC	
12-21	4		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-21	3		Hanover-Norwich CBC	
12-28	4		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
12-28	2		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	
12-28	1		Lake Sunapee CBC	

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
12-31	1	Kensington	residence	G. Gavutis
01-14	1	Walpole	near Westmoreland line	C. Martin, F. Sladen
01-22	1	Boscawen	King St.	J. Sloane
01-24	1	Pittsfield		A. Robbins
02-06	1	Hooksett	residence	D. Maxwell
02-20	1	Concord	Audubon House, Silk Farm WS	P. Dimond, R. Smith, C. Martin

### Cooper's Hawk

12-01	1	Lebanon	Mascoma Lake dam	P. Hunt, B. Jensen
12-08	1	Enfield	Main St. pond	P. Hunt
12-11	1	Concord	Rt. 393, Exit 2	A. Tappan
12-14	1		Coastal CBC	
12-15	1		Concord CBC-CW	
12-21	2		Hanover-Norwich CBC	
12-28	1		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	
01-17	1	Manchester	Webster St.	C. Boisvert
02-15	1	Lancaster	Wesson Rd.	D. Skeels

### Northern Goshawk

12-14	1		Keene CBC	
12-21	1		North Conway CBC	
12-21	1		Lee-Durham CBC	
01-20	1	Walpole	Thompson Rd.	A. & D. Bertin
01-21	1	Wentworth	residence	G. & C. Ports
02-03	1	Sugar Hill	Pearl Lake Rd.	J. McIlwaine
02-27	1	Deering	Deering WS	S. Walker

### Red-shouldered Hawk

12-28			Nashua-Hollis CBC-CW	
01-26	1	Rye	off Rt. 1A	S. Mirick

### Red-tailed Hawk

12-14	18		Coastal CBC	
12-15	5		Concord CBC	
12-21	4		Hanover-Norwich CBC	
12-21	19		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-28	21		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
12-28	4		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	

### Rough-legged Hawk

12-14	1		Coastal CBC	
12-16	1	Manchester	Elm & Valley Sts.	B. Mack
12-21	1		Lee-Durham CBC	
01-11	1	Errol	Errol Dam	J. Ely, J. Brown
01-12	3		NH Coast	S. Mirick, P. Mueller

### American Kestrel

12-14	3		Coastal CBC	
12-21	5		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-28	5		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
02-04	1	Weare	Rt. 77	I. MacLeod
02-05	1	Nashua	Rt. 3, near Sheraton Tara	J. Aitken
02-24	2	Concord	Loudon Rd.	D. LaValley

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Peregrine Falcon</b>				
12-12	1	Franconia	Eagle Cliff, Franconia Notch St.	Pk. C. Martin, M. Amaral
12-12	1	Franconia	Cannon Mtn.	M. Pelchat
12-15	1		Concord CBC	
12-24	1	Hampton	Hampton Harbor Bridge	S. Mirick
12-31	1	Stratham	Rt. 101 near Market Basket Plaza	M. Houle
01-08	1	Manchester	Elm St., NH Insurance Bldg.	C. Martin
01-29	1	Franconia	Franconia Notch	C. Martin
02-06	1	Lyme	Holts Ledge	D. Cutter
02-12	2	Lyme	Holts Ledge	D. Cutter
02-17	2	Franconia	Cannon Mtn.	M. Pelchat, P. Cormier
02-21	1	Albany	Square Ledge	C. Martin
02-25	1	Ossipee	near Ossipee Lake, Ctr. Ossipee	R. Gamester
02-27	1	Harts Location	Frankenstein Cliff	C. Martin
02-27	1	Hales Location	White Horse Ledge	C. Martin, R. Heald

## Pheasant through Shorebirds

Ruffed Grouse were abundant; five CBCs tallied unusually high or record-high numbers. It was also a good season for Wild Turkeys; a flock in Durham was coming to bird feeders! Sadly, we learned of a wintering Northern Bobwhite only because it died after hitting a picture window in Tamworth.

No one reported Purple Sandpipers this winter! They were missed by the Coastal CBC for the first time since 1959. The Coastal CBC did have Sand-erlings, Dunlin, and Common Snipe, however.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Ring-necked Pheasant</b>				
12-14	1		Keene CBC	
12-15	1		Concord CBC	
12-28	6		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
12-28	1		Baker Valley CBC	
<b>Ruffed Grouse</b>				
12-14	5		Keene CBC	
12-14	13		Peterborough-Hancock CBC	
12-14	2		Coastal CBC	
12-15	12		Littleton CBC	
12-15	13		Concord CBC	
12-21	2		North Conway CBC	
12-21	2		Hanover-Norwich CBC	
12-21	13		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-28	6		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
12-28	8		Errol-Umbagog CBC	
12-28	12		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	
12-28	5		Baker Valley CBC	
12-28	1		Lake Sunapee CBC-CW	
12-29	7		Pittsburg CBC	



<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Wild Turkey</b>				
12-05	13	Durham	Packers Falls Rd. area	D. Wittmann
12-14	8		Keene CBC	
12-14	19		Coastal CBC	
12-21	35		Lee-Durham CBC	
01-12	40	Winchester	Rt. 78, 2 mi. s. of Rt. 10	M. Wright
02-09	19	Pembroke	Cross Country Rd.	K. Colburn
02-23	16	Walpole	Watkins Hill & Farnham Rd.	N. & R. Ritz, L. Collett
02-24	9	Sunapee	Young Hill Rd.	G. Stansfield

### **Northern Bobwhite**

01-21	1	Tamworth	Cleveland Hill Rd.	B. Steele
-------	---	----------	--------------------	-----------

### **Killdeer**

02-26	2	Exeter	residence	D. Hughes
-------	---	--------	-----------	-----------

### **Sanderling**

12-14	13		Coastal CBC	
02-01	29	Rye	Jenness Beach	D. & K. Hughes

### **Dunlin**

12-14	100		Coastal CBC	
01-02	114	Hampton	Hampton Harbor mudflats	S. Mirick

### **Common Snipe**

12-14	2		Coastal CBC	
-------	---	--	-------------	--

## **Gulls through Alcids**

It was an excellent winter for gulls. Ten species were reported, including a first winter record. Previously, only a handful of **Laughing Gulls** have been spotted in NH, and none during winter. Yet this December, while participating in the Coastal CBC, Peter Hunt was scanning the ocean off Hampton when an immature flew by.

Bonaparte's Gull and Black-legged Kittiwake sightings were about average. At least through December, however, Ring-billed, Herring, and Great Black-backed Gulls were especially abundant, particularly in the Coastal, Nashua, and Lee-Durham areas.

Common Black-headed Gulls have become regular winter visitors to our coastal areas, but this was the first year one was spotted inland. This year's **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was only the fifth state record for this species (two of the previous four were also December sightings in Rye).

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Laughing Gull</b>				
12-14	1	Hampton	off Hampton Beach St. Pk.	P. Hunt

### **Common Black-headed Gull**

12-14	1		Coastal CBC	
02-09	1	Rochester	Rochester lagoons	S. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Bonaparte's Gull</b>				
12-07	52	Hampton	Hampton Beach, close to shore	J. McIlwaine
12-14	84		Coastal CBC	
12-21	1		Lee-Durham CBC	
01-04	25	N. Hampton	N. Hampton St. Pk.	D. Kirwan, L. Ring
02-03	2	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	G. & C. Ports
<b>Ring-billed Gull</b>				
12-14	34		Peterborough-Hancock CBC	
12-14	200		Coastal CBC	
12-15	72		Concord CBC	
12-21	48		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-28	76		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
12-28	8		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	
12-28	3		Lake Sunapee CBC	
02-17	12	Portsmouth	South Mill Pond	G. & A. Robbins
02-27	1	Laconia	Martell's Bait Shop, Winnisquam St.	H. Anderson
<b>Herring Gull</b>				
12-14	3804		Coastal CBC	
12-15	962		Littleton CBC	
12-15	125		Concord CBC	
12-21	77		Hanover-Norwich CBC	
12-21	5000		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-28	2040		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
12-28	89		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	
02-02	150	Hinsdale	Connecticut R.	D. & B. Peck
<b>Iceland Gull</b>				
12-21	1		Lee-Durham CBC-CW	
12-21	2		Hanover-Norwich CBC	
12-28	6		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
02-09	1	Rochester	Rochester lagoons	S. Mirick
02-18	2	Dover	downtown Dover	S. Mirick
<b>Lesser Black-backed Gull</b>				
01-31	1	Rye	Jenness Beach	D. Hughes
<b>Glaucous Gull</b>				
12-21	2		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-21	1	Lebanon	dump	P. Hunt, L. Benten
12-21	1		Hanover-Norwich CBC	
12-28	1		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
01-18	2	Berlin	Androscoggin R.	S. Mirick, C. Barber
01-24	1	Portsmouth	pier near Prescott Pk.	D. Hughes
02-03	2	Littleton	dump	J. McIlwaine
02-09	1	Rochester	Rochester lagoons	S. Mirick
02-22	1	N. Hampton	off N. Hampton Beach	S. Mirick, et al.
<b>Great Black-backed Gull</b>				
12-14	1131		Coastal CBC	
12-15	346		Littleton CBC	
12-15	141		Concord CBC	
12-21	131		Lee-Durham CBC	

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
12-21	40		Hanover-Norwich CBC	
12-28	179		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
<b>Black-legged Kittiwake</b>				
12-14	2		Coastal CBC	
01-02	5	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	S. Mirick
<b>Thick-billed Murre</b>				
12-14	1		Coastal CBC	
<b>Razorbill</b>				
12-14	3		Coastal CBC	
<b>Black Guillemot</b>				
12-14	2		Coastal CBC	

## Doves through Woodpeckers

Three CBCs established record highs for Mourning Dove: Hanover-Norwich had more than 200, Laconia scored nearly twice the previous high, and Pittsburg CBC reaped the harvest of a well-stocked feeder that has encouraged 10 years of increases.

Snowy Owls made a small incursion; at least 10 were observed from Rye to Warner, where tragically, one became entangled in the razor-sharp State Prison fence and did not survive. But how unfair that New Hampshire did not receive a share of the tremendous incursions of Great Gray, Boreal, and Northern Hawk-Owls that took place this winter in neighboring states!

A passing motorist was suprised by an adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** along a roadside in Roxbury but it was evidently observed by the landowner several times. After a high of eight Red-bellied Woodpeckers last year, only four were reported this winter (new for Concord and Nashua). Although Downy and Hairy Woodpecker numbers were down, more than 50 Pileated Woodpecker sightings were reported. What made this species so visible this winter?

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Mourning Dove</b>				
12-14	284		Peterborough-Hancock CBC	
12-14	435		Coastal CBC	
12-15	209		Littleton CBC	
12-15	248		Concord CBC	
12-21	198		North Conway CBC	
12-21	381		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-21	588		Hanover-Norwich CBC	
12-28	617		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
12-28	432		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	
12-28	6		Errol-Umbagog CBC	
12-28	179		Baker Valley CBC	
12-29	35		Pittsburg CBC	

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
-------------	----------	-------------	-----------------	--------------------

### Great Horned Owl

12-14	5		Coastal CBC	
12-21	2		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-28			Nashua-Hollis CBC-CW	
12-28			Laconia-New Hampton CBC-CW	
01-02	1	Exeter	Rt. 51 bypass	G. Prazar
01-29	1	Merrimack	over Everett Tpk.	H. Nevers
02-22	1	Wentworth	town dump	G. Ports, G. Whiteneck

### Snowy Owl

12-01	1	Warner	Mt. Kearsarge	S. Dabuliewicz, et al.
12-04	1	Nashua	off Spit Brook Rd.	T. McNulty
12-05	1	Manchester	near dump	R. Fallu
12-07	1	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	H. Chary, et al.
12-14	3		Coastal CBC	
12-15	1		Concord CBC-CW	
12-22	1	Concord	Badger St., Blue Cross Bldg.	B. Russell
12-24	1	Rye	s. of Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	S. Mirick
01-02	2	Hampton	Hampton Harbor area	S. Mirick
01-21	1	Concord	NH State Prison	C. Bailey

### Barred Owl

12-14	1		Peterborough-Hancock CBC	
12-14	2		Coastal CBC	
12-15	1		Littleton CBC	
12-15	1		Concord CBC-CW	
12-21	1		North Conway CBC	
12-21	1		Hanover-Norwich CBC	
12-28	1		Lake Sunapee CBC	
01-03	1	Sunapee	Young Hill Rd.	G. Stansfield
01-26	1	Bartlett	residence	C. & J. Tewksbury
02-17	3	Deering	E. Deering Rd.	I. MacLeod

### Northern Saw-whet Owl

12-04	1	Jaffrey	Old County Rd.	D. Babson
12-14	1		Coastal CBC	

### Belted Kingfisher

12-14	1		Keene CBC	
12-14	6		Coastal CBC	
12-15	3		Concord CBC	
12-21	4		Hanover-Norwich CBC	
12-21	2		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-28	5		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
12-28			Laconia-New Hampton CBC-CW	
01-01	1	Exeter	Gilman Park	D. & K. Hughes
01-12	1	Pittsfield	Suncook R.	G. Robbins
02-13	1	Warren	NH Fish & Game complex, Rt. 25	G. Ports

### Red-headed Woodpecker

01-15	1	Roxbury	Roxbury Rd.	T. Angeloro
-------	---	---------	-------------	-------------

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
-------------	----------	-------------	-----------------	--------------------

**Red-bellied Woodpecker**

12-15	1		Concord CBC	
12-28	2		Nashua-Hollis CBC	

**Downy Woodpecker**

12-14	39		Keene CBC	
12-14	55		Peterborough-Hancock CBC	
12-14	39		Coastal CBC	
12-15	7		Littleton CBC	
12-15	61		Concord CBC	
12-21	63		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-21	19		North Conway CBC	
12-21	22		Hanover-Norwich CBC	
12-28	102		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
12-28	64		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	
12-28	5		Errol-Umbagog CBC	
12-28	8		Lake Sunapee CBC	
12-28	21		Baker Valley CBC	
12-29	10		Pittsburg CBC	

**Hairy Woodpecker**

12-14	12		Keene CBC	
12-14	35		Peterborough-Hancock CBC	
12-14	13		Littleton CBC	
12-15	29		Concord CBC	
12-21	22		Hanover-Norwich CBC	
12-21	13		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-21	26		North Conway CBC	
12-28	44		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
12-28	28		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	
12-28	11		Errol-Umbagog CBC	
12-28	19		Baker Valley CBC	
12-28	7		Lake Sunapee CBC	
12-29	22		Pittsburg CBC	

**Black-backed Woodpecker**

12-28	2		Errol-Umbagog CBC	
02-03	1	Errol	Akers Pond	D. Heasley

**Northern Flicker**

12-14	9		Coastal CBC	
12-15	1	Bedford	Bedford Center Rd.	S. Tufts-Moore
12-21	2		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-22	1	Woodstock	Rt. 118	G. & C. Ports, C. Foster
12-28	4		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
01-19	2	Hinsdale	mouth of Ashuelot R.	D. & B. Peck

**Pileated Woodpecker**

12-14	4		Keene CBC	
12-21	5		North Conway CBC	
12-29	6		Pittsburg CBC	



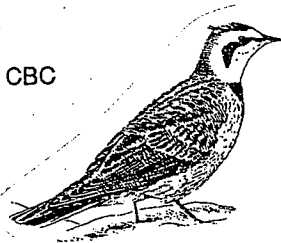
# Larks through Wrens

Few Horned Larks were seen, although fair-sized flocks were in Coastal and Lee-Durham areas early in the season.

Numbers of Blue Jays and Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches were way down, while American Crow, Common Raven, Tufted Titmouse, and Brown Creeper totals hit record high numbers in several CBCs. The **Fish Crow** in Durham on February 3, the observer's earliest record of the species there, was the state's second winter record. Gray Jays and Boreal Chickadees were noted up north, as usual.

**Carolina Wrens** deserve a "Wow!" This species continues to expand its wintering population and range: 13 last year, 18 this year, with the northernmost being in Sugar Hill. When will one visit *your* feeder?

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Horned Lark</b>				
12-14	22		Coastal CBC	
12-21	8		Hanover-Norwich CBC	
12-21	50		Lee-Durham CBC	
02-17	4	Seabrook		G. & A. Robbins
<b>Gray Jay</b>				
12-26	1	Landaff	Gale-Chandler Rd.	J. March
12-28	3		Errol-Umbagog CBC	
12-29	4		Pittsburg CBC	
02-15	2	Errol	Lake Umbagog, near Eames camp	C. & C. Martin
<b>Blue Jay</b>				
12-14	176		Keene CBC	
12-14	329		Peterborough-Hancock CBC	
12-14	266		Coastal CBC	
12-15	29		Littleton CBC	
12-15	49		Concord CBC	
12-21	310		Hanover-Norwich CBC	
12-21	190		North Conway CBC	
12-21	242		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-28	426		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
12-28	48		Errol-Umbagog CBC	
12-28	391		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	
12-28	136		Lake Sunapee CBC	
12-28	336		Baker Valley CBC	
12-29	70		Pittsburg CBC	
<b>American Crow</b>				
12-14	259		Keene CBC	
12-14	104		Peterborough-Hancock CBC	
12-14	432		Coastal CBC	
12-15	87		Littleton CBC	
12-15	481		Concord CBC	
12-21	606		Hanover-Norwich CBC	
12-21	239		North Conway CBC	
12-21	534		Lee-Durham CBC	



<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
12-28	646		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
12-28	294		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	
12-28	7		Errol-Umbagog CBC	
12-28	78		Baker Valley CBC	
12-28	32		Lake Sunapee CBC	
12-29	5		Pittsburg CBC	

### **Fish Crow**

02-03	1	Durham	Durham Plaza	M. Davis
-------	---	--------	--------------	----------

### **Common Raven**

12-14	5		Peterborough-Hancock CBC	
12-15	43		Littleton CBC	
12-15	14		Concord CBC	
12-21	14		Hanover-Norwich CBC	
12-21	11		North Conway CBC	
12-28	14		Errol-Umbagog CBC	
12-28	5		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	
12-28	1		Lake Sunapee CBC	
12-28	8		Baker Valley CBC	
12-29	19		Pittsburg CBC	
01-18	8	Berlin	Berlin town dump	S. Mirick, C. Barber
02-14	2	Durham	woods e. of Dame Rd.	D. Hughes

### **Black-capped Chickadee**

12-14	695		Keene CBC	
12-14	990		Peterborough-Hancock CBC	
12-14	869		Coastal CBC	
12-15	173		Littleton CBC	
12-15	589		Concord CBC	
12-21	997		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-21	454		North Conway CBC	
12-21	926		Hanover-Norwich CBC	
12-28	640		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
12-28	1160		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	
12-28	315		Errol-Umbagog CBC	
12-28	370		Lake Sunapee CBC	
12-28	518		Baker Valley CBC	
12-29	349		Pittsburg CBC	

### **Boreal Chickadee**

12-28	4		Errol-Umbagog CBC	
12-29	11		Pittsburg CBC	
02-15	2	Errol	Lake Umbagog, near Eames camp C. & C. Martin	

### **Tufted Titmouse**

12-14	44		Keene CBC	
12-14	97		Peterborough-Hancock CBC	
12-14	126		Coastal CBC	
12-15	41		Concord CBC	
12-21	22		Hanover-Norwich CBC	
12-21	2		North Conway CBC	
12-21	144		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-28	230		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
12-28	52		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
12-28	6		Lake Sunapee CBC	
12-28	2		Baker Valley CBC	
12-29	1		Pittsburg CBC	

### **Red-breasted Nuthatch**

12-14	27		Peterborough-Hancock CBC	
12-14	8		Coastal CBC	
12-15	23		Littleton CBC	
12-15	13		Concord CBC	
12-21	9		Hanover-Norwich CBC	
12-21	15		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-21	19		North Conway CBC	
12-28	17		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
12-28	68		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	
12-28	112		Baker Valley CBC	
12-28	15		Lake Sunapee CBC	
12-29	100		Pittsburg CBC	

### **White-breasted Nuthatch**

12-14	44		Keene CBC	
12-14	99		Peterborough-Hancock CBC	
12-14	50		Coastal CBC	
12-15	5		Littleton CBC	
12-15	65		Concord CBC	
12-21	8		North Conway CBC	
12-21	94		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-21	42		Hanover-Norwich CBC	
12-28	130		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
12-28	78		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	
12-28	4		Errol-Umbagog CBC	
12-28	25		Lake Sunapee CBC	
12-28	29		Baker Valley CBC	
12-29	1		Pittsburg CBC	

### **Brown Creeper**

12-14	2		Keene CBC	
12-14	22		Peterborough-Hancock CBC	
12-14	5		Coastal CBC	
12-15			Littleton CBC-CW	
12-15	8		Concord CBC	
12-21	2		North Conway CBC	
12-21	4		Hanover-Norwich CBC	
12-21	2		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-28	5		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
12-28	13		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	
12-28	1		Lake Sunapee CBC-CW	
12-28	6		Baker Valley CBC	

### **Carolina Wren**

12-13	1	Auburn	Appletree Rd.	J. & B. Chapman
12-14	1		Coastal CBC	
12-15	1		Concord CBC	
12-20	1	Sugar Hill	residence	M. Fairweather, et al.
12-21	2		Hanover-Norwich CBC	

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
12-21	1		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-25	1	Kensington	residence	G. Gavutis
12-28	2		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
12-28	1		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	
01-01	2	Windham	Foster Pond	J. Romano, et al.
02-14	1	Durham	residence	C. Federer
02-16	2	Hanover	Kingsford Rd.	J. & F. Stephens
02-29	1	Concord	S. Main St.	I. Bridges

### Winter Wren

12-14	1		Peterborough-Hancock CBC
12-14	1		Coastal CBC

## Kinglets through Starlings

Through all three winter months, there were tremendous numbers (nearly 90) of **Eastern Bluebirds** in the southern half of our state, many inspecting bluebird boxes in mid-winter! This was especially unusual for a species virtually unheard of in winter until three years ago. The late-lingering **Hermit Thrush**, **Gray Catbird**, and **Brown Thrasher** are also unusual for the state during the winter. Apparently these species found the excellent berry crop, above normal temperatures, and lack of snow cover to their liking, as did **American Robins** and **Cedar Waxwings**, which were even more plentiful. Over 650 Robins were seen — 327 on the Coastal CBC alone. For the three months combined, 2356 Cedar Waxwings were reported (from Hanover southward). Not surprisingly, a few CBC records for the species were broken: Keene and Coastal counts had double their previous highs, Hanover shattered its previous high of 17 with 126, and Laconia tallied six times its previous record. There were surprisingly few Bohemian Waxwings, however.

**Varied Thrushes** are regular winter vagrants from the Northwest. The Dunbarton bird, present for two and a half days, was well-described by the observer.

Last year was a truly amazing winter for Northern Shrikes, yet this year's count of 29 was still an impressive sum, and with eight sightings, the Lee-Durham CBC established a record that will be difficult or impossible to beat.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Golden-crowned Kinglet</b>				
12-14	78		Keene CBC	
12-14	45		Peterborough-Hancock CBC	
12-14	4		Coastal CBC	
12-15	9	Enfield	Lower Mascoma Lake census rt.	P. Hunt, L. Buntin
12-15	6		Littleton CBC	
12-15	5		Concord CBC	
12-21	1		North Conway CBC	
12-21	3		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-21	6		Hanover-Norwich CBC	
12-28	1		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
12-28	31		Errol-Umbagog CBC	
12-28	1		Baker Valley CBC	
12-28	3		Lake Sunapee CBC	
12-29	31		Pittsburg CBC	
01-19	27	Hinsdale	residence	D. & B. Peck

### **Eastern Bluebird**

12-21	6		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-23	12	Walpole	Thompson Rd.	A. & D. Bertin
12-28	3		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
12-28	4		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	
12-31	4	Hopkinton	flood control area	E. Robinson
01-02	4	Hollis	Wheeler Rd.	E. Drisko
01-11	5	Windham	Rosewood Dr.	K. Metz
01-17	7	Mont Vernon	Spring Hill Rd.	M. Backus
01-21	7	Holderness	Burleigh Farm Rd.	N. Grady
01-30	2	Lyndeborough	Putton Hill Rd.	P. Spencer
01-30	2	Lee	Tuttle Rd.	D. Burbank
02-02	3	Goffstown	Mountain Rd.	D. Mace
02-20	2	Pembroke	Pembroke Hill Rd.	H. Laramie
02-22	1	Kensington	residence	G. Gavutis
02-22	1	Walpole	County Rd.	R. Ritz
02-23	1	Deerfield	Echo Valley Rd.	D. O'Donnell

### **Hermit Thrush**

12-21	1		Lee-Durham CBC	
01-03	1	Kensington	Cottage Hill	G. Gavutis
02-01	1	Kensington	n. of Great Meadows	G. Gavutis

### **American Robin**

12-14	327		Coastal CBC	
12-21	5		North Conway CBC	
12-28	3		Errol-Umbagog CBC	
12-29	39		Pittsburg CBC	
01-19	22	Newmarket	Cushing Rd.	D. Hughes
01-29	18	Harts Location	near Frankenstein Cliff, Rt. 302	C. Martin
01-31	2	Colebrook	Willeys farm, E. Colebrook	C. Willey
02-15	65	Hampton	off Rt. 1A	S. Mirick, D. Tucker, ASNH Field Trip
02-23	11	Jefferson	Valley Rd.	M. Payne

### **Varied Thrush**

12-06	1	Dunbarton	residence	J. Goss
-------	---	-----------	-----------	---------

### **Gray Catbird**

01-01	1	Bedford	Bedford Center Rd.	S. Moore
-------	---	---------	--------------------	----------

### **Northern Mockingbird**

12-14	9		Keene CBC	
12-14	2		Peterborough-Hancock CBC	
12-14	89		Coastal CBC	
12-15	8		Concord CBC	
12-21	1		North Conway CBC	
12-21	8		Hanover-Norwich CBC	
12-21	52		Lee-Durham CBC	

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
12-28	58		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
12-28	16		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	
12-28	1		Lake Sunapee CBC	
12-28	1		Baker Valley CBC	

### **Brown Thrasher**

12-23	1	New London	Burpee Hill Rd.	A. Conklin
-------	---	------------	-----------------	------------

### **Bohemian Waxwing**

12-14	2		Peterborough-Hancock CBC	
12-26		Gorham	Androscoggin Golf Course	J. Ely
02-05	100	Pittsburg	Stubb Hill	H. Laramie

### **Cedar Waxwing**

12-02	88	Manchester	St. Anselm College	K. Metz
12-14	42		Keene CBC	
12-14	577		Coastal CBC	
12-21	126		Hanover-Norwich CBC	
12-21	198		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-28	91		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	
01-09	45	Hopkinton	Currier Rd.	M. Healy
01-18	54	Pittsfield		G. & A. Robbins
02-01	50	Milford	residence	A. Ames
02-02	77	Laconia	Pleasant St.	H. Anderson
02-13	200	Concord	Garvin's Falls Rd.	R. Normand
02-18	30	Rindge	Hunt Hill Rd.	J. Jenkins

### **Northern Shrike**

12-06	1	Pittsfield		A. Robbins
12-13	1	Wentworth	residence	G. Ports
12-14	2		Peterborough-Hancock CBC	
12-14	1		Coastal CBC	
12-15	1		Littleton CBC	
12-21	1		Hanover-Norwich CBC	
12-21	8		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-26	1	Madbury		S. Mirick
12-27	1	Plymouth	Rt. 25	B. Priest
12-28	2		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	
12-28	1		Errol-Umbagog CBC	
12-28	1		Baker Valley CBC	
12-28	2		Lake Sunapee CBC	
12-29	3		Pittsburg CBC	
01-07	1	Concord	Audubon House, Silk Farm WS	I. MacLeod, R. Suomala, et al.
01-18	2	Berlin	Androscoggin R. area	C. Barber, L. Barber, S. Mirick
02-15	2	Rye	NH coast	S. Mirick

### **European Starling**

12-14	13442		Coastal CBC	
12-21	2529		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-28	2116		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
12-28	6		Errol-Umbagog CBC	
12-29	82		Pittsburg CBC	

# Warblers through Snow Bunting

Late lingerers in this group included 1 Yellow-rumped Warbler, 1 Common Yellowthroat, 2 Rufous-sided Towhees, 2 Chipping Sparrows, 12 Field Sparrows (two at a Durham feeder through January), 2 Savannah Sparrows, 1 Fox Sparrow, 1 **Lincoln's Sparrow** (found by Sue Fogleman on the Coastal CBC — new for that count and a first winter record for the state), 2 Swamp Sparrows, and 1 **White-crowned Sparrow** (Bob Quinn added this new species to the Concord CBC).

Northern Cardinal, Tree Sparrow, and Dark-eyed Junco were numerous. One male "Oregon race" Junco was reported from Plaistow.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Yellow-rumped Warbler</b>				
12-14	1		Coastal CBC	
<b>Common Yellowthroat</b>				
12-01	1	Enfield	Main St. pond	P. Hunt
<b>Northern Cardinal</b>				
12-14	124		Keene CBC	
12-14	23		Peterborough-Hancock CBC	
12-14	73		Coastal CBC	
12-15	6		Littleton CBC	
12-15	20		Concord CBC	
12-21	39		Hanover-Norwich CBC	
12-21	10		North Conway CBC	
12-21	67		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-28	84		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
12-28	17		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	
12-28	7		Lake Sunapee CBC	
12-28	17		Baker Valley CBC	
<b>Rufous-sided Towhee</b>				
12-15	1		Concord CBC	
12-28	1		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
<b>American Tree Sparrow</b>				
12-14	62		Keene CBC	
12-14	41		Peterborough-Hancock CBC	
12-14	209		Coastal CBC	
12-15	10		Littleton CBC	
12-15	52		Concord CBC	
12-21	25		North Conway CBC	
12-21	228		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-21	80		Hanover-Norwich CBC	
12-28	222		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
12-28	82		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	
12-28	2		Errol-Umbagog CBC	
12-28	32		Baker Valley CBC	
12-29	3		Pittsburg CBC	

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Chipping Sparrow</b>				
12-15	1		Concord CBC	
12-21	1		Hanover-Norwich CBC	
<b>Field Sparrow</b>				
12-26	1	Durham		C. Federer
12-28	10		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
<b>Savannah Sparrow</b>				
12-14	1		Coastal CBC	
12-28	1		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
<b>Savannah Sparrow - Ipswich sub.</b>				
02-08	5	Seabrook	Seabrook Harbor	S. Mirick
<b>Fox Sparrow</b>				
12-14	1		Coastal CBC	
<b>Song Sparrow</b>				
12-14	5		Keene CBC	
12-14	106		Coastal CBC	
12-15	27		Concord CBC	
12-21	27		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-28	34		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
12-28	12		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	
<b>Lincoln's Sparrow</b>				
12-14	1		Coastal CBC	
<b>Swamp Sparrow</b>				
12-14	2		Coastal CBC	
<b>White-throated Sparrow</b>				
12-14	2		Keene CBC	
12-14	1		Peterborough-Hancock CBC	
12-14	18		Coastal CBC	
12-15	3		Concord CBC	
12-21	3		Hanover-Norwich CBC	
12-21	23		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-21	1	Enfield	near Shaker Bridge	P. Hunt
12-26	3	Wentworth		B. Priest
12-28	7		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
12-28	4		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	
12-28	1		Baker Valley CBC	
<b>White-crowned Sparrow</b>				
12-15	1		Concord CBC	
<b>Dark-eyed Junco</b>				
12-14	202		Keene CBC	
12-14	175		Peterborough-Hancock CBC	
12-14	152		Coastal CBC	
12-15	2		Littleton CBC	
12-15	30		Concord CBC	
12-21	20		Hanover-Norwich CBC	



<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
12-21	93		North Conway CBC	
12-21	195		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-28	266		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
12-28	118		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	
12-28	2		Errol-Umbagog CBC	
12-28	66		Baker Valley CBC	
12-28	12		Lake Sunapee CBC	
12-29	1		Pittsburg CBC	
01-02	35	Fitzwilliam	West Lake Rd.	M. Ayers
02-28	15	Bartlett	residence	C. & J. Tewksbury

### Dark-eyed Junco - Oregon race

01-29	1	Plaistow	Wild Brook Dr.	C. Willis
-------	---	----------	----------------	-----------

### Snow Bunting

12-14	7		Coastal CBC	
12-15	31		Concord CBC	
12-21	10		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-28	3		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	
01-10	12	Plainfield	Colby Hill	P. Meyeette
01-20	25	Henniker	field off Old Concord Rd.	J. Flanders

## Blackbirds through House Sparrow

Still around in December were 7 Red-winged Blackbirds, 17 Common Grackles, and 31 Brown-headed Cowbirds (for the Laconia CBC, its first since 1983).

There were good numbers of finches up north early in the season, then many came south, particularly Pine Siskins. And just when it appeared that wintering House Finch populations had reached peaks in most areas, we had another upsurge: record-high counts were tallied by Peterborough, Lee-Durham, Hanover-Norwich (up 125), Nashua, Laconia (with increased coverage, up 100), and Baker Valley CBCs.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Red-winged Blackbird</b>				
12-02	1	Dunbarton	Gorham Lake Rd.	B. Mack
12-04	1	Concord	Audubon House, Silk Farm WS	I. MacLeod
12-14	3		Coastal CBC	
12-15	2		Concord CBC	
12-21	1		Lee-Durham CBC	
02-21	1	Exeter	residence	K. Hughes
02-21	8	Concord	Audubon House, Silk Farm WS	I. MacLeod
02-27	3	Pittsfield		A. Robbins
02-28	25	Concord	Audubon House, Silk Farm WS	I. MacLeod

### Common Grackle

12-14	5		Keene CBC	
12-14	2		Peterborough-Hancock CBC	
12-14	3		Coastal CBC	
12-21	1		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-28	5		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
12-28	1		Errol-Umbagog CBC	

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
02-24	1	Pittsfield		A. Robbins
02-28	1	Hooksett	residence	D. Maxwell
<b>Brown-headed Cowbird</b>				
12-14	3		Coastal CBC	
12-21	6		Hanover-Norwich CBC	
12-28	8		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
12-28	14		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	
01-16	3	Cornish	Rt. 120, S. Cornish	P. Meyeette
<b>Pine Grosbeak</b>				
12-14	14		Keene CBC	
12-28	2		Errol-Umbagog CBC	
12-29	59		Pittsburg CBC	
02-03	12	Concord	Heritage Heights	E. Stanwood
<b>Purple Finch</b>				
12-12	12	Bethlehem	Rocks Estate	J. McIlwaine
12-14	4		Peterborough-Hancock CBC	
12-14	1		Coastal CBC	
12-15	34		Littleton CBC	
12-21	7		North Conway CBC	
12-21	6		Hanover-Norwich CBC	
12-28	4		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	
12-28	279		Errol-Umbagog CBC	
12-28	7		Lake Sunapee CBC	
12-28	92		Baker Valley CBC	
12-29	179		Pittsburg CBC	
01-28	55	Wentworth	residence	G. Ports
02-14	21	Durham	US Forest Service Bldg., Rt. 155A	M. Medeiros
02-21	9	Hooksett	residence	D. Maxwell
02-29	16	Exeter	residence	G. Prazar
<b>House Finch</b>				
12-14	221		Keene CBC	
12-14	83		Peterborough-Hancock CBC	
12-14	290		Coastal CBC	
12-15	9		Littleton CBC	
12-15	80		Concord CBC	
12-21	538		Hanover-Norwich CBC	
12-21	371		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-21	33		North Conway CBC	
12-28	462		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
12-28	278		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	
12-28	96		Baker Valley CBC	
12-28	105		Lake Sunapee CBC	
<b>White-winged Crossbill</b>				
12-28	59		Errol-Umbagog CBC	
12-29	2		Pittsburg CBC	
<b>Common Redpoll</b>				
12-21	40		North Conway CBC	
12-28	2		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
12-28	12		Errol-Umbagog CBC	

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
12-28	2		Baker Valley CBC	
12-28	2		Lake Sunapee CBC	
12-29	326		Pittsburg CBC	
12-30	15	Sandwich	Whiteface Intervale area	K. Bordeau
01-02	20	Sandwich	Rt. 113A, Whiteface Intervale	K. Bordeau
02-01	2	Woodstock	Rt. 118	G. Ports
02-06	2	Canterbury	Baptist Hill Rd.	R. Quinn
02-07	1	Bartlett	residence	C. & J. Tewksbury
02-09	1	Wentworth	residence	G. Ports
02-22	2	Columbia	residence	B. Killam
02-26	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright

### **Pine Siskin**

12-14	13		Keene CBC	
12-14	13		Peterborough-Hancock CBC	
12-15	272		Littleton CBC	
12-15	9		Concord CBC	
12-21	16		North Conway CBC	
12-21	17		Hanover-Norwich CBC	
12-21	6		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-28	596		Errol-Umbagog CBC	
12-28	14		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	
12-28	170		Baker Valley CBC	
12-29	298		Pittsburg CBC	
01-02	50	Fitzwilliam	West Lake Rd.	M. Ayers
01-12	250	Cornish	beside Rt. 120	P. Meyette
01-27	200	Webster	Deer Meadow Rd.	S. Hook
02-02	150	Bethlehem	off Trudeau Rd.	J. McIlwaine
02-16	50	Bristol	E. Bristol	G. Jeffers
02-19	150	Washington	E. Washington	B. Fife
02-26	50	Bartlett	residence	C. & J. Tewksbury
02-27	50	Marlborough	Horse Hill Rd.	C. Newton

### **American Goldfinch**

12-14	111		Keene CBC	
12-14	187		Peterborough-Hancock CBC	
12-14	334		Coastal CBC	
12-15	123		Littleton CBC	
12-15	235		Concord CBC	
12-21	271		Hanover-Norwich CBC	
12-21	357		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-21	167		North Conway CBC	
12-28	316		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
12-28	288		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	
12-28	93		Errol-Umbagog CBC	
12-28	160		Baker Valley CBC	
12-28	52		Lake Sunapee CBC	
12-29	47		Pittsburg CBC	
01-25	40	Bartlett	residence	C. & J. Tewksbury
01-26	84	Walpole	residence	R. Ritz
02-25	43	Hooksett	residence	D. Maxwell

*date*      # *town*                      *location*                                      *observer(s)*

---

**Evening Grosbeak**

12-14	411		Keene CBC	
12-14	327		Peterborough-Hancock CBC	
12-15	1099		Littleton CBC	
12-15	82		Concord CBC	
12-21	71		Lee-Durham CBC	
12-21	462		Hanover-Norwich CBC	
12-21	505		North Conway CBC	
12-28	79		Nashua-Hollis CBC	
12-28	786		Errol-Umbagog CBC	
12-28	161		Laconia-New Hampton CBC	
12-28	278		Baker Valley CBC	
12-28	64		Lake Sunapee CBC	
12-29	496		Pittsburg CBC	
01-02	50	Fitzwilliam	West Lake Rd.	M. Ayers
01-04	40	Monroe	Main St.	J. Mollwaine
01-17	34	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
02-27	18	Marlborough	Horse Hill Rd.	C. Newton
02-28	26	Hooksett	residence	D. Maxwell



Redpoll

**Reports for the following species were received  
but they do not appear in the listings**

Bald Eagle                                      Rock Dove                                      House Sparrow

Sightings of the species listed above were either discussed in the summaries,  
or occurred in average numbers at expected locations.

**Standard Abbreviations Used**

CA	Conservation Area
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
R.	River
St. Pk.	State Park
SPNHF	Society for the Protection of NH Forests, Concord Center
WMA	Wildlife Management Area
WMNF	White Mountain National Forest
WS	ASNH Wildlife Sanctuary

## What to do if you see a Rare Bird

If you see something unusual, please call the Rare Bird Alert right away at 603-224-9900 weekdays after 5:00 pm and all day on weekends, or call ASNH during business hours at 224-9909. At the very least, call another interested birder and spread the word. It is important to call as soon as you see the bird so that it will still be there by the time other observers arrive.

When we receive an unusual bird report we ask for descriptive details on a special form. This serves to confirm the identification of the bird for both the present and future. Photographs are always a valuable addition. These details are reviewed when determining what to include in the publication. The better the description of the bird's appearance and behavior, the more we can be sure of the bird's identity. Don't fall into the trap of describing it with statements such as "unmistakable" or "it looked just like the picture in the book". Please use your own words to describe the bird as it appeared to you — features such as size, shape, color, distinctive markings, and behavior. What you actually saw is important, even if you could not see every field mark noted in the guide. Remember that these reports are kept on file for historical purposes and someone reviewing your report in 20 years will need a detailed description to show that the bird was identified accurately.

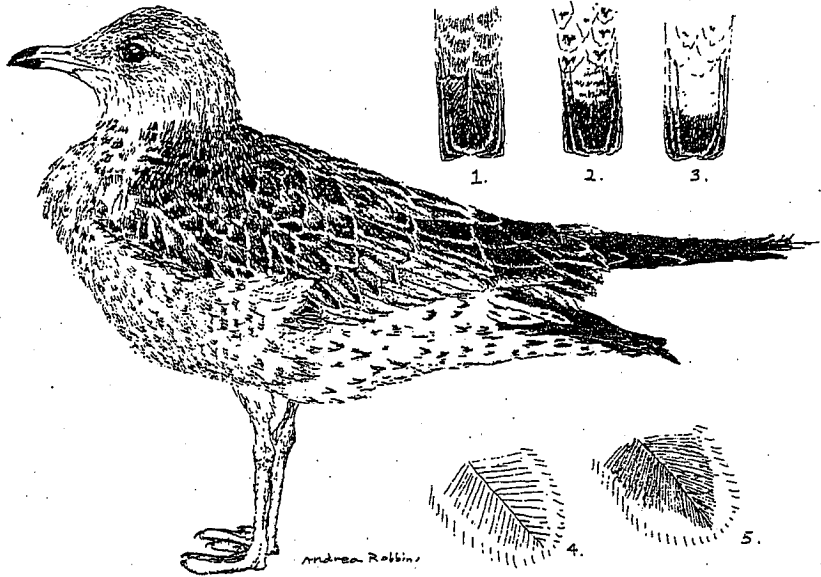
When we ask for such details it doesn't mean we don't believe you, it means the sighting is unusual enough for any number of reasons to need formal documentation for the files. The most common reasons for requesting documentation are: the species is rare or not usually reported in New Hampshire; it is an unusually late or early migrant; it is not usually in the state at the time of year it was reported; the species could be easily mistaken for another, more common species; and the number of individuals reported is unusually high.

I would like to specially thank Bob Quinn and Kimball Elkins for their assistance and advice with unusual sightings. Their expertise is extremely helpful.

Rebecca Suomala  
Managing Editor

For information on the seasonal occurrences and comparative abundance of birds in New Hampshire we recommend *A Checklist of the Birds of New Hampshire* by Kimball C. Elkins. It is available in the ASNH Nature Store in Concord, or you may order it by mail by sending \$3.00 to:  
NHBR-Checklist, ASNH, 3 Silk Farm Road, Concord, NH 03301-8200.

## MEW GULL OR RING-BILLED GULL?



An injured first-winter gull, recovered in Manchester during November 1991, was tentatively identified as a Mew Gull (unfortunately, no written details, notes or sketches were submitted). However, subsequent study of an excellent, black-and-white photograph (reproduced in pen-and-ink above) taken in the Bedford Animal Hospital has convinced this editor, as well as Robert Quinn, George Robbins, and Kimball Elkins, that the bird was not a Mew Gull, which would have been a first state record, but rather the more likely species, Ring-billed Gull. Here's how that conclusion was reached.

There are three races of the Mew Gull, *Larus canus*, that breed in a continuous range extending from Iceland and Europe (Common Gull, *L.c. canus*) through Siberia (Kamchatka Gull, *L.c. kamtschatschensis*) and into northwestern North America (Mew Gull, *L.c. brachyrhynchus*). Our very similar Ring-billed Gull, (*Larus delawarensis*) of central and eastern North America overlaps with Mew Gull in northwest Canada. Since the Siberian race occurs only rarely in Alaska, that leaves Common Gull, the subspecies most likely to stray into northeastern North America, or the Mew Gull subspecies as possibilities. How then do we separate them from Ring-billed Gull in first-winter plumage?

Bill size, although a good characteristic in adult gulls, is too variable in juvenals to be diagnostic. A smallish bill, as this bird showed, could belong to a Mew Gull, but could also to an underdeveloped Ring-billed Gull. Eye color would be dark for all three in first-winter plumage. All three, also, would have a pinkish bill with dark tip, although only Ring-billed Gull's bill

might appear yellowish-pink at the base. (Colors on this bird were unknown, however). Common and Mew would have white forehead, chin and throat. Their head shape would appear rounded or dove-like, while Ring-billed Gull's head shape is described as flatter, more fierce in expression. Belly color for Common Gull is off-white with minimal spotting, Mew Gull is off-brown below, and Ring-billed Gull's underparts are off-white with spots. None of these characteristics is conclusive however, so let's look at more distinctive features.

Of the three, Common Gull has the most clearcut tail band (see #3 opposite), the whitest tail, and pure white or lightly spotted under and upper tail coverts. Mew Gull's tail band is the most diffused and lacks contrast with its heavily mottled tail coverts (#1). Ring-billed Gull, in comparison (#2), has a diffused tail band (sometimes extending far up the outer tail feathers) and distinctly spotted tail coverts. The absence of white in the tail of the gull in question allows us to rule out Common Gull, while the presence of distinct spotting rather than heavy mottling on the tail coverts is our first reliable indication that the gull is a Ring-billed not a Mew.

The definitive characteristic to examine, however, is the brown centers of the wing covert feathers. It is this feature which separated first-winter Ring-billed Gull from all races of Mew Gull. On Mew (or Common) gulls the brown center of each wing covert feather is rounded (#4) following the contour of the feather and leaving a pale edge. The visual effect is of evenly rounded scalloping. On the Ring-billed Gull, however, the covert centers (#5) are darker brown and come to an angular point, creating a sawtooth effect on the folded wing. The above illustrated first-winter Ring-billed Gull displays this patterning.

Andrea Robbins

### References:

- Bennett, R.S. 1983. *National Geographic Society Field Guide to Birds of North America*, National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C.
- Farrand, Jr., J.L. 1985. *The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding*, Alfred A. Knopf, New York.
- Grant, P.J. 1982. *Gulls: a Guide to Identification*, Buteo Books, Vermillion, S.D.
- Harrison, P. 1983. *Seabirds, an identification guide*, Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston.
- Kaufman, K. 1989. "Answers to the June Photo Quiz." *Birding*, Vol. 21, no. 4:213-214.
- Lauro, J. and Spencer, B.J. 1980. "A method for separating juvenal and first-winter Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) and Common Gulls (*Larus canus*)." *American Birds*, Vol. 34, no. 2:111-117.

### See also:

- Tove, M.H. 1993. "Field Separation of Ring-billed, Mew, Common, and Kamchatka Gulls." *Birding*, Vol. 25, no.6:386-401.

## New Hampshire Birding Hot Spots

1. Great Bay
2. Hampton Harbor (Hampton/Seabrook)
3. Adams Point (Durham)
4. Audubon House/Turkey Pond/Silk Farm WS (Concord)
5. Odiorne Point (Rye)
6. Connecticut River in Hinsdale
7. Lake Umbagog (Errol)

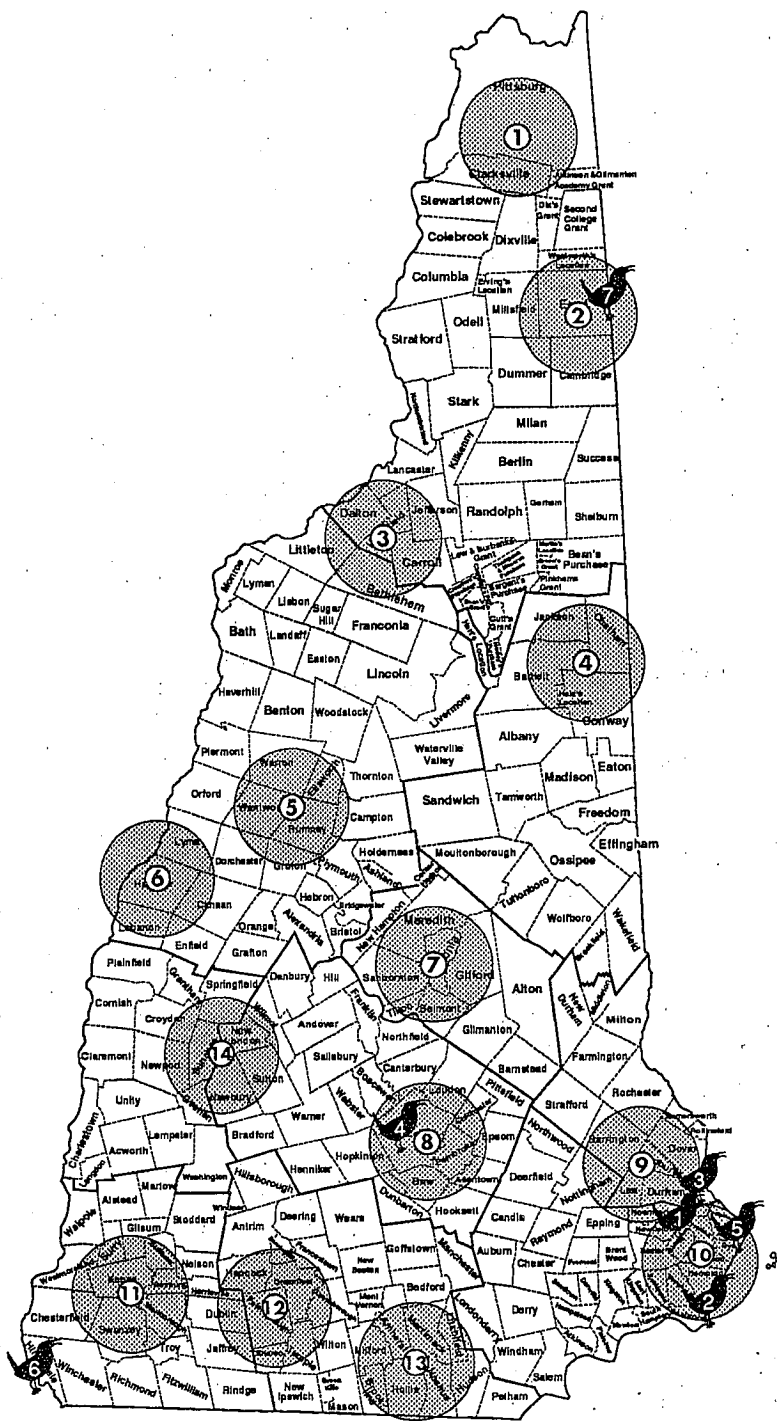
## Christmas Bird Count Circles

1. Pittsburg
2. Errol – Umbagog
3. Littleton (not registered with American Birds)
4. North Conway
5. Baker Valley
6. Hanover – Norwich (VT)
7. Laconia – New Hampton
8. Concord
9. Lee – Durham
10. Coastal
11. Keene
12. Peterborough – Hancock
13. Nashua – Hollis
14. Lake Sunapee



CBC-CW indicates a sighting during the count week





## Reporters for Winter 1991-92

Alice Ames  
T. A. Angeloro  
H. Cook Anderson  
Marjorie Ayers  
Eleanor Baron  
Diana Bertin  
Janet Bourne  
Irene Bridges  
Eleanor Brothwell  
Eleanor Cappa  
John Chapman  
Henry Chary  
Jim Cummings  
Susan Dabuliewicz  
Myra Davis  
Charles Deeck  
Diane De Luca  
Paula Dimond  
Kimball Elkins  
Jan Ely  
Mary Fairweather  
R. Fallu  
C. A. Federer  
Carol Foss  
Zoë French

George Gavutis  
William Goodwill  
Norman Harris  
Dick Hughes  
Peter Hunt  
Grace Jeffers  
David Killam  
Debbie Kirwan  
Bruce Mack  
Iain MacLeod  
Susan MacLeod  
Chris Martin  
Tracy Martino  
Dana Maxwell  
John McIlwaine  
Tom McNulty  
Mike Medeiros  
Karen Metz  
Peg Meyette  
Karen Michaud  
Steve Mirick  
Harold Nevers  
Marie Neveu  
Linda Nichols  
Paul Nordman

Barbara Peck  
Cheri Phillips  
Al Ports  
Gregory Prazar  
Robert Quinn  
Robert Ritz  
Andrea Robbins  
Judy Romano  
Jill Simmons  
Dot Skeels  
Ruth Smith  
Samuel Smith  
Gary Stansfield  
Eleanor Stanwood  
Dawn Stavros  
Betty Steele  
Freda Stephens  
Matt Sudak  
Rebecca Suomala  
Ann Tappan  
Jean Tewksbury  
Stephen Walker  
Nancy Webb  
Mary Wright

## CBC Compilers

Baker Valley  
Concord  
Coastal  
Errol-Umbagog  
& Pittsburg  
Hanover-Norwich  
Keene

Northam Parr  
Diane De Luce  
Lynn Harper  
Dennis Abbott  
Walter Ellison &  
Nancy Martin  
Robert Ritz

Laconia-  
New Hampton  
Lake Sunapee  
Lee-Durham  
Littleton  
Nashua-Hollis  
North Conway  
Peterborough-  
Hancock

Susan Fogleman  
Gary Stansfield  
Steve Mirick  
John McIlwaine  
Ralph Andrews  
Chris Lewey  
Dave Rowell

**Thanks to  
Nan Turner Waldron  
for sponsoring the publication  
of this issue of *NH Bird Records***



**New Hampshire Bird Records**  
**Volume 10, Number 4**  
**Winter 1991-92**

Managing Editor: Rebecca Suomala  
Design & Page Layout: Iain C. MacLeod  
Final Proofing: Susan MacLeod  
Proof Reader: Marie Neveu (volunteer)  
Text Editor: Tom McMillan (volunteer)

*New Hampshire Bird Records (NHBR)* is published quarterly by the Audubon Society of New Hampshire (ASNH) as a member service.

Bird sightings are submitted to ASNH and are edited for publication. A computerized printout of all sightings in a season is available for a small fee. To order a printout or to volunteer your observations for *NHBR*, please contact the Managing Editor.

Volunteers are an integral part of *NHBR* and provide invaluable assistance at every step. We couldn't do it without them. Gifts and donations to ASNH may be specifically designated for use by *NHBR*. We also welcome bird illustrations which may be used in the publication. Please do not hesitate to contact the editors if you are interested in volunteering or making a donation.

Back issues for some seasons are available at \$2.00/copy plus postage. If you are interested please contact Becky Suomala at 224-9909.

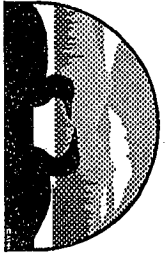
**Rare Bird ALERT**



**224-9900**

**Weekdays: after 5:00 pm • Weekends: all day**

We are always interested in receiving sponsorship for *NH Bird Records*. If you or a company/organization you work for would be interested, please contact Becky Suomala or Iain MacLeod at 224-9909.



**Audubon Society of New Hampshire**  
3 Silk Farm Road, Concord, NH 03301-8200

Nonprofit Org.  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 522  
Concord, NH