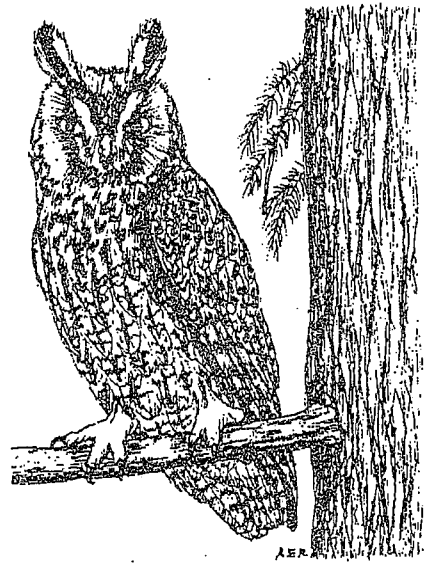


New Hampshire Bird Records

The Year
of the Owl



Winter 1996-97

Volume 15, No. 4

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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 at 224-9909.

Published by the
Audubon Society of New Hampshire
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From the Editor

This is the final issue of this subscription year. All renewals take place in October, and your renewal form is enclosed. As usual, this is the only renewal notice you will receive, so please return it right away.

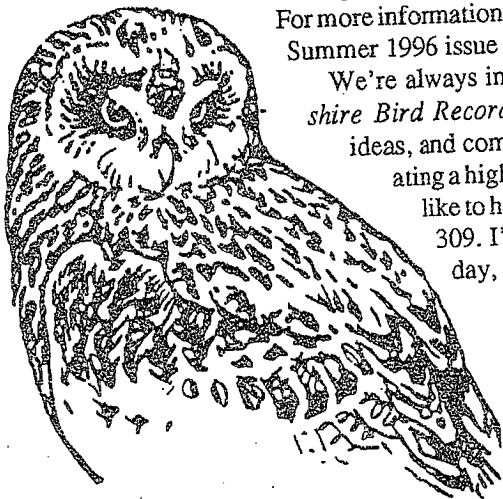
New Hampshire Bird Records makes a wonderful Christmas gift for experienced and novice birders alike. We have a new gift package for birders that includes a subscription to *New Hampshire Bird Records*, a copy of several birding publications (see list), and a supply of field checklist cards. To send one to your favorite birder, fill out the form opposite.

In the last winter issue we introduced a new format for presenting the Christmas Bird Count data. Feedback on this table format has been very positive, so we are continuing it. We are also pleased to present again the annual summary from the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee. This committee is an independent Technical Advisory Committee to *New Hampshire Bird Records (NHBR)*. It reviews unusual sightings in an effort to maintain accuracy and scientific integrity for both *NHBR* and the historical database of bird sightings maintained by the Audubon Society of NH.

For more information on the committee, see the article in the Summer 1996 issue of *NHBR*.

We're always interested in hearing from *New Hampshire Bird Records* readers. Send us your questions, ideas, and comments. Volunteers are the key to creating a high-quality publication, and if you would like to help, please contact me at 224-9909 ext. 309. I'm in the office on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Becky Suomala
Managing Editor
July, 1997



Short-eared Owl

About the Cover

The owl illustrations on the cover—Long-eared Owl (right) and Eastern Screech-Owl (left)—are both by Andrea Robbins. They were originally done for the *Atlas of Breeding Birds in New Hampshire*.

We very much appreciate the many artists who donated their work to the Audubon Society of New Hampshire for use in the *Atlas* and other ASNH publications. The exceptional quality and variety of illustrations tremendously enhances *New Hampshire Bird Records*. If you are interested in contributing art work, please contact me.

—Becky Suomala

What To Report in the Winter Season (December through February)

Which sightings should *New Hampshire Bird Records* reporters submit? There are no hard and fast rules, but here are some guidelines to help reporters focus their efforts during the winter season.

First, it's important to understand that even though we do not publish all reports, each plays a valuable role in creating an overall picture of a given season. All sightings become part of a database that provides information on bird distribution for research projects, endangered species reports, and other requests for data.

Always report any birds that are unusual for the state or the time of year. We recommend using *A Checklist of the Birds of New Hampshire*, by Kimball C. Elkins, as a reference (available at ASNH). Also, reports of state endangered and threatened species are always valuable for the database.

Species which are seen in New Hampshire only in the winter are often the highlights of this season. Report any of these visitors: alcids, white-winged gulls (i.e., Glaucous, Iceland), wintering sea ducks and shorebirds, northern hawks and owls, and the "winter finches" (redpolls, Bohemian Waxwings, Pine Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins). Some of these species are irruptive, occurring in huge numbers during some years and absent during others.

Late-lingering or early-returning migrants are always of interest, along with inland waterfowl. For the common year-round residents, report unusually high numbers and large flocks. Reports from the White Mountains and northward are valuable since we receive so few from this area.

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

American Black Duck
White-winged Scoter
Red-breasted Merganser
Rock Dove
Mourning Dove
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Blue Jay

Black-capped Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
Northern Mockingbird
European Starling
Brown-headed Cowbird
House Finch
House Sparrow

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

Winter, 1996-1997

December 1, 1996 - February 28, 1997

This winter could be characterized as "the year of the owl." There were several notable owl reports, including one **Long-eared Owl** reported on the Seacoast Christmas Bird Count (CBC) and three on the Lee-Durham CBC. Snowy Owls staged a sizable flight in the fall, and many were reported from states to our south during the winter. However, a single bird in Keene was the only one actually reported from New Hampshire during the winter season. Several Northern Hawk-Owls overwintered in Vermont, but unfortunately none were confirmed in New Hampshire. Boreal Owls moved south this winter, with four seen in Massachusetts in the fall and one very cooperative bird that spent the winter on Commonwealth Avenue in Boston. An Eastern Screech-Owl was heard and seen in a residential area in Nashua in early February.

A well-described "Pink-sided" Junco (subspecies of the Dark-eyed Junco) was seen in Rochester. A **White-crowned Sparrow** visited a feeder in Manchester during February. Other seasonal highlights included a **Tundra Swan** in Derry, two **Eurasian Wigeon** on Great Bay, and two **King Eiders** at the coast.

Compared to recent years, the winter of 1996-97 was a mild one. The temperature in December averaged 6.8° above normal at Laconia. On December 7 and 8, back-to-back storms dropped up to 18 inches of heavy, wet snow on southern New Hampshire, bringing down many trees and limbs and causing widespread power outages. Despite that beginning, state-wide snow cover was minimal as of December 30. Even with the mild temperatures, few passerines lingered into the winter season.

On January 1, the sudden drop in temperature and corresponding quick freeze of freshwater ponds forced several species of "freshwater ducks" offshore to find open water. At North Hampton State Beach, three Lesser Scaup, four Pintail, and 300 Mallards were spotted; and at Ragged Neck, a drake Hooded Merganser was seen. Overall, January averaged 1° above normal at Laconia. Snowfall was about average for the month.

February continued the mild trend with an average temperature of 2° above normal. Snowfall was again about average. Beginning February 18, a mild southerly air flow began, culminating with a record high of 66° at Laconia on February 22. This warm weather brought in the first wave of spring landbirds. The weekend of February 22-23 saw numerous reports of Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles, Brown-headed Cowbirds, American Robins, and Eastern Bluebirds, plus a few Killdeer and Turkey Vultures.

Peregrine Falcons were returning to breeding cliff sites by the end of February. On February 22, a pair was spotted at Holt's Ledge in Lyme and two adults were seen on Rattlesnake Mountain in Rumney.

The 97th annual Christmas Bird Count took place from December 20, 1996 through January 5, 1997. As instituted last year, we are continuing to publish the CBC data in tabular format. This allows us to present more data in a concise and readable format. You will find the CBC table after the standard systematic list of species for non-CBC sightings from the winter season. The table includes all species observed on all CBCs conducted in New Hampshire this year. Two Vermont counts, which include small portions of New Hampshire, are not included in the CBC table. Interesting New Hampshire sightings from those two counts are included in the standard systematic list of non-CBC sightings. Any seasonal species totals given in the summaries include the CBC totals unless explicitly stated otherwise.

Alan Delorey, Winter Editor

Loons through Herons

Two Great Cormorant reports at Gilmanton and Manchester were noteworthy. The Double-crested Cormorant is more likely to be seen inland. At the seacoast, Rye Ledge continues to be the best place to see Great Cormorants. Several Great Blue Herons lingered late into the winter, with individuals as far north as Gorham and Columbia. We received very few reports of loons, grebes, Oldsquaw, and scoters. Were they really scarce or did observers not bother to report them?

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Red-throated Loon				
12-28	1	Hampton	just s. of Boars Head	G. Prazar, D. Mandell
Common Loon				
12-03	1	Manchester	Massabesic Lake	G. Mitchell
12-03	1	Monroe	Comerford Dam	B. Bradley
12-05	1	Littleton	Samuel Moore Dam	B. Bradley
12-28	1	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	R. Quinn
02-07	9	Rye	Rye Harbor	S. Snyder
02-22	20	Hampton	Great Boars Head	A. & B. Delorey
Horned Grebe				
12-28	5	Hampton	just s. of Boars Head	G. Prazar, D. Mandell
02-22	1	Hampton	Great Boars Head	A. & B. Delorey
Red-necked Grebe				
12-07	10	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	A. & B. Delorey
12-28	25	Rye	Rt. 1A at N. Hampton border	G. Prazar, D. Mandell
02-13	1	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
Northern Gannet				
12-07	1	Rye	Rye Ledges	A. & B. Delorey
Great Cormorant				
01-04	10	Rye	Concord Pt.	A. & B. Delorey
01-12	1	Gilmanton	river leaving Crystal Lake	N. & L. Fountain
01-30	1	Manchester	Stark Landing, Merrimack R.	G. Mitchell
02-24	15	Rye	Rye Ledges	T. Vazzano
Great Blue Heron				
12-16	1	Gorham	residence	J. Brown
12-26	1	Concord	Turkey R. near Grist Mill Restaurant	C. Martin
12-27	1	Columbia	residence	D. & B. Killam
01-09	1	Newington	Newington Mall	S. Mirick
01-11	1	Amherst		L. Henry
01-27	1	N. Hampton	N. Hampton State Beach	L. & M. LeBlanc

Waterfowl

Several Tundra Swans were reported across New England during the fall and winter seasons, including one at the Derry Waste Water Treatment Plant that was observed from November 27 through December 3. A flock of 10 Snow Geese was unusual on Great Bay in late December. Continuing the recent trend, two Eurasian Wigeon overwintered on Great Bay. Two hardy Northern Pintails lingered into January at Gorham, and a Ring-necked Duck in Lebanon was notably far north for January. Two King Eiders made news along the seacoast, with an immature drake off North Hampton State Beach throughout January and February and a female in Rye Harbor during February. Northward-bound Canvasback migrants arrived on Great Bay at the end of January, a little earlier than usual.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Mute Swan				
12-06	2	Loudon	Clough Pond	J. Jewell
01-28	47	Portsmouth	New Castle Ave.	C. Federer
Snow Goose				
12-27	10	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
Canada Goose				
12-03	33	Littleton	Connecticut River	B. Bradley
12-09	76	Concord	Clinton St.	C. Martin
12-27	250	Derry	Beaver Lake	K. Folsom
12-30	51	Gilmanton	river entering Crystal Lake	W. Arms
01-18	1601		Great Bay	A. & B. Delorey
02-15	100	Merrimack	Merrimack R.	R. & J. Allard
02-23	200	Westmoreland	River Rd.	A. Maloney, R. Ritz
Wood Duck				
12-19	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	D. Abbott
Mallard				
01-09	365	N. Hampton	off N. Hampton State Beach	M. Suomala
02-02	214	Dover	Bellamy R., Bellamy WS	R. & M. Suomala
02-15	75	Merrimack	wastewater treatment plant	R. & J. Allard
02-23	200	Haverhill	Connecticut R., N. Haverhill	B. Bradley
Northern Pintail				
12-06	1	Auburn	near Claires Landing	A. & B. Delorey
01-01	4	N. Hampton	N. Hampton State Beach	S. Mirick
01-10	2	Gorham	Cascade Flats, Androscoggin R.	K. Dube
01-25	1	Newcastle	off Rt. 1B	S. Mirick
02-02	1	Dover	Bellamy R., Bellamy WS	R. & M. Suomala
02-15	1	Dover	Cocheco River	S. Mirick
Eurasian Wigeon				
12-14	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
12-28	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	G. Prazar, D. Mandell
01-18	2	Durham	Adams Pt., Great Bay	A. & B. Delorey
01-30	1	Durham	Adams Pt.	T. Vazzano

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
American Wigeon				
12-04	4	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	P. Hunt
12-14	5	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
12-18	1	Nashua	Sheraton Tara pond	A.& B. Delorey
01-18	20	Durham	Adams Pt., Great Bay	A.& B. Delorey
02-01	6	Durham	Adams Pt.	A.& B. Delorey
02-16	2	Greenland	off Meloon Rd.	S. Mirick
Canvasback				
01-30	1	Durham	Adams Point	T. Vazzano
02-01	1	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
02-22	2	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick, P. Lacourse
02-24	7	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
Ring-necked Duck				
01-10	1	Lebanon	Mascoma Lake dam	D. Crook
Greater Scaup				
01-04	808		Great Bay	A.& B. Delorey
01-31	1000	Durham	Great Bay	G. Mitchell
02-16	1200	Greenland	off point w. of Meloon Rd.	S. Mirick
Lesser Scaup				
12-14	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
01-01	3	N. Hampton	N. Hampton State Beach	S. Mirick
01-11	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	A.& B. Delorey
Common Eider				
02-01	60	Hampton	Hampton River	A.& B. Delorey
King Eider				
01-01	1	N. Hampton	N. Hampton State Beach	S. Mirick
01-18	1	N. Hampton	N. Hampton State Beach	A.& B. Delorey
02-09	2		NH coast	S. Mirick
02-16	1	Rye	Rye Harbor	S. Mirick
Oldsquaw				
12-05	1	Littleton	Samuel Moore Dam	B. Bradley
12-14	1	Hanover	Wilsons Landing	L. Buntin
Black Scoter				
02-18	2	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk., n. of Ragged Neck	M. Suomala
02-22	2	N. Hampton	N. Hampton State Beach	A.& B. Delorey
Surf Scoter				
12-12	2	Hanover	Ledyard Bridge	D. Lacey
Common Goldeneye				
12-23	10	Salem	Canobie Lake	K. Folsom
01-04	124		Great Bay	A.& B. Delorey
02-09	10	Merrimack	Merrimack R.	R. Allard
02-15	147		Great Bay	A.& B. Delorey

date	#	town	location	observer(s)
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Barrow's Goldeneye

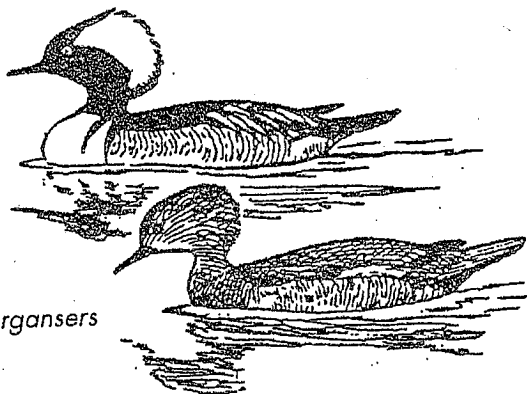
12-14	1	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
01-02	1	Tilton	Silver Lake	D. Stavros
01-30	2	Manchester	Merrimack R., Stark Landing	M. Suomala
01-31	2	Manchester	Merrimack R., Stark Landing	G. Mitchell
02-12	1	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
02-19	2	Manchester	Merrimack R., Stark Landing	G. Mitchell

Bufflehead

12-23	12	Salem	Canobie Lake	K. Folsom
02-22	7	Kingston	Powwow Pond	A. & B. Delorey



Buffleheads



Hooded Mergansers

Hooded Merganser

12-03	4	Littleton	Connecticut River	B. Bradley
12-05	10	Monroe	Connecticut River	B. Bradley
12-14	1	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
12-21	3		Saxtons River CBC - NH sightings	
01-01	4		Barnet CBC - NH sightings	
01-01	1	Rye	Ragged Neck	S. Mirick
01-04	2	Rye	Ragged Neck	A. & B. Delorey
01-04	1		Great Bay	A. & B. Delorey
01-18	1	Rye	Odiorne Point	S. Mirick, J. Berry, ASNH FT
02-18	1	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
02-22	4	Durham	Crommet Creek	S. Mirick
02-28	2	Pittsfield	Suncook R.	A. & G. Robbins

Common Merganser

12-14	30	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	A. & B. Delorey
12-21	26		Saxtons River CBC - NH sightings	
12-23	16	Salem	Canobie Lake	K. Folsom
01-01	18		Barnet CBC - NH sightings	
01-04	14		Great Bay	A. & B. Delorey
01-07	2	Nashua	Jensens Mobile Home Pk.	B. & M. Harris
01-09	1	Dublin	Dublin Lake	J. Broyles
02-22	10	Kingston	Powwow Pond	A. & B. Delorey
02-24	2	Pittsfield	Suncook River	A. Robbins

Ruddy Duck

12-04	2	Greenland	Meloon Rd.	P. Hunt
12-14	1	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick

Hawks

It was unusual that the only two Rough-legged Hawk reports for the winter were both inland, as they are more often found near the seacoast. Peregrine Falcons continue to do well, with two wintering at Manchester and one to two in the Dover-Portsmouth area.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Turkey Vulture				
02-22	1	Keene	Main St.	R. Ritz
02-22	1	Hudson	e. of Sky Farm Apple Orchard	C. Laffin
02-23	1	Rochester	Rt. 202	D. Stavros
02-24	1	Concord	Rt. 393	A. & G. Robbins
Bald Eagle				
01-23	3	Tuftsboro	Winter Harbor across from Libby Museum	D. Locke
02-06	4	Nashua	Nashua & Merrimack R. confluence	C. Hayward
02-17	4	Hooksett	Hooksett Village, above dam	P. Call
Northern Harrier				
01-04	1	N. Hampton	Rt. 111	A. & B. Delorey
01-21	1	Durham	Great Bay, Adams Pt.	S. Drew
Sharp-shinned Hawk				
12-05	1	Windham	residence	J. & J. Romano
12-12	1	Concord	Gallen Dr.	B. Kronlund
12-21	1	Milford	Rt. 101 at Granite Town Plaza	J. Broyles, S. Millett
01-01	1		Barnet CBC-CW - NH sightings	
01-10	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd.	A. Robbins
01-13	1	Manchester	Elm St. park	C. Martin, R. Jacques
01-18	1	Greenfield	Francetown Rd. residence	C. & R. Coy
02-08	1	Amherst	Rt. 101, Pennichuck Square	J. Broyles, S. Millett
02-14	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
Cooper's Hawk				
12-21	2		Saxtons River CBC - NH sightings	
12-22	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Quinn, G. Smith
12-28	1	Manchester	Mammoth Rd.	M. Sudak, S. Boutin
12-29	1	Wilton	jct. of Abbot Hill Acres & Proctor Rds.	J. Broyles
01-09	1	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. & M. Harris
02-08	1	Wilton	Rt. 101 bypass	J. Broyles
02-10	1	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr. residence	B. & M. Harris
Northern Goshawk				
12-13	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd.	G. Robbins
12-21	1		Saxtons River CBC - NH sightings	
01-01	1	Goffstown	Tibbetts Hill Rd.	J. White
01-02	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
01-12	1	Manchester	near residence	M. Martin
01-19	1	Sugar Hill	residence	J. McIlwaine
01-26	1	Lancaster		D. Skeels
02-13	1	Franconia	Cannon Mtn. ski lift	B. Kesselman

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Red-tailed Hawk				
12-21	5		Saxtons River CBC - NH sightings	
02-01	6		NH coast	A. & B. Delorey
02-08	12	Rochester	Turnkey Landfill	A. & B. Delorey
Rough-legged Hawk				
01-16	1	Keene	Rt. 9 & Rt. 10 jct., n. of Keene	M. Wright
02-23	1	Haverhill	N. Haverhill farm fields	B. Bradley
American Kestrel				
01-12	2	Hampton	Rt. 101 w. of town	J. Broyles, S. Millett
01-18	1	Hampton	marsh	A. & B. Delorey
Peregrine Falcon				
12-13	1	Dover	Scammel Bridge	S. Mirick
12-20	1	Hampton	Hampton Harbor bridge	A. Borron
12-30	1	Portsmouth	Prescott Park, Portsmouth Harbor	S. Hale
01-19	2	Manchester	NH Insurance building	J. & L. Egelhot
02-06	1	Concord	N. State St.	D. DeSeve
02-11	1	Plymouth	Plymouth State College campus	W. Fogleman
02-17	1	Dixville	Abeniki Mtn.	K. Marchowsky
02-22	2	Lyme	Holts Ledge	C. Martin
02-22	2	Rumney	Rattlesnake Mtn.	C. Martin

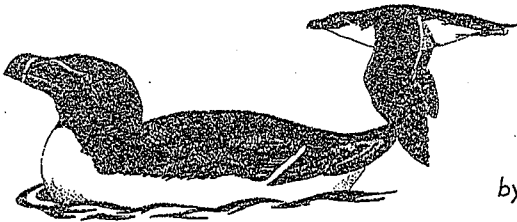
Pheasant through Alcids

Three Northern Bobwhite in Sandown may have been released game birds, and a Chukar in Alton was certainly a released bird. Thirteen Iceland Gulls (excluding CBC reports) statewide was typical. However, only two Glaucous Gulls (excluding CBC reports) for the winter was light. For the fourth year in a row, the dark-eyed Iceland Gull wintered at Seabrook Harbor.

A fair alcid flight starting in late November lasted through the Seacoast CBC on December 21. Along the New Hampshire coast, seven Thick-billed Murres were seen on December 7, and on December 21, during the Seacoast CBC, six Razorbills and nine Black Guillemots were tallied.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Ring-necked Pheasant				
01-03	1	Hollis	Pine Hill Rd.	J. Allard
01-08	1	Ossipee	Center Ossipee residence	P. Hatch
01-30	1	Windham	Nashua Rd.	J. Romano
Ruffed Grouse				
12-04	1	New London	Old Hayes Rd.	R. Vernon
01-01	2		Barnet CBC - NH sightings	
01-15	7	Lyman	Ogontz Rd.	S. & M. Turner
01-21	1	New London	Pingree Rd.	A. & R. Vernon
02-05	1	Lee	Case Rd.	A. & B. Delorey
02-13	4	Brookline		M. Neveu

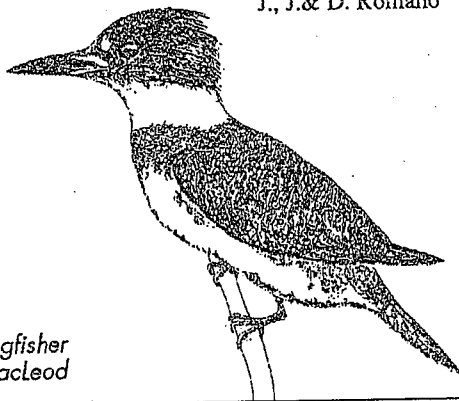
<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Wild Turkey				
12-12	38	Bath	River Rd. corn field	B. Bradley
12-21	37		Saxtons River CBC - NH sightings	
12-26	18	Croydon	Old Springfield Rd.	J. Hatch
12-27	27	Wolfeboro	residence	Mrs. Thayer
12-30	28	Bath	next to H. G. Wood Lumber Co.	T. Estill
01-09	60	Bath	River Rd. corn field	B. Bradley
01-19	16	Keene	Old Walpole Rd.	R. Ritz
01-29	14	Jaffrey	Gilmore Pond Rd.	B. Elliott
02-11	14	Lisbon	Pearl Lake Rd.	J. McIlwaine
02-19	13	Amherst	Chestnut Hill Rd.	S. Johnson
Northern Bobwhite				
02-05	3	Sandown	Hunts Pond Rd.	A. & B. Delorey
Chukar				
02-05	1	Alton	Stockbridge Corner Rd.	S. Elsia
American Coot				
12-04	10	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	P. Hunt
12-07	2	Rye	Eel Pond	A. & B. Delorey
12-14	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
12-19	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	D. Abbott
12-26	1	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
Killdeer				
02-08	1	Pembroke	Rt. 3 near Plausawa Golf Course	W. Goodwill
02-22	4	Milford	N. River Rd.	R. & M. Suomala
02-22	3	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	S. Mirick
Greater Yellowlegs				
12-04	1	Stratham	Squamscot R.	G. Mitchell
Sanderling				
02-09	5	N. Hampton	N. Hampton State Beach	S. Mirick
Purple Sandpiper				
12-07	13	Rye	Rye Ledges	A. & B. Delorey
01-09	4	Hampton	Hampton Harbor entrance, n. breakwater	M. Suomala
01-09	4	Hampton	North Beach	M. Suomala
01-09	20	Rye	Rye Ledges	M. Suomala
01-09	2	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk., Ragged Neck	M. Suomala
01-09	4	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk., s. end	M. Suomala
01-25	4	Rye	Rye Ledges	A. & B. Delorey
01-26	11	Rye	Rt. 1A by Rye Ledges	R. & M. Suomala
02-09	8	Rye	Rye Ledges	T. Vazzano
Dunlin				
01-09	2	Hampton	Hampton Harbor entrance, n. breakwater	M. Suomala
Bonaparte's Gull				
12-28	2	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	G. Prazar, D. Mandell
01-09	2	N. Hampton	N. Hampton State Beach	M. Suomala

<i>data</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Ring-billed Gull				
12-14	425	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
02-16	1	Laconia	U.S. Post Office	H. Anderson
Herring Gull				
12-14	1200	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
12-21	13		Saxtons River CBC - NH sightings	
Iceland Gull				
12-07	1	Seabrook	harbor	A. & B. Delorey
12-14	2	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
12-14	1	Enfield	Mascoma Lake	P. Hunt
12-22	1	Concord	Merrimack River	R. Quinn, G. Smith
12-28	2	Westmoreland	Keene landfill	S. Spangenberg
12-28	1	Manchester	Bodwell Rd.	I. MacLeod
01-25	1	Seabrook	harbor	A. & B. Delorey
01-25	1	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
01-28	1	Manchester	wastewater treatment plant	G. Mitchell
02-01	1	Seabrook	harbor	A. & B. Delorey
02-03	3	Manchester	wastewater treatment plant	G. Mitchell
02-08	4	Rochester	Turnkey landfill	A. & B. Delorey
02-12	1	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
02-15	1	Newmarket	Lamprey River boat launch	A. & B. Delorey
02-21	4	Manchester	wastewater treatment plant	G. Mitchell
02-28	1	Derry	wastewater treatment plant	A. Delorey
Glaucous Gull				
12-20	1	Enfield	Mascoma Lake	P. Hunt
01-18	1	Rye	Rye Harbor	A. & B. Delorey
Great Black-backed Gull				
12-08	41	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
12-28	300	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	R. Quinn
01-05	39	Lisbon	Ammonoosuc River	B. Bradley
01-07	1	Dublin	Dublin Lake	J. Broyles
01-09	66	Lisbon	Ammonoosuc River	B. Bradley
Thick-billed Murre				
12-07	7	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	A. & B. Delorey
Razorbill				
12-10	5	Rye	Odiome Pt.	D. & K. Abbott
				
				<i>Razorbill</i> by Iain MacLeod
Black Guillemot				
12-28	1	Rye	just s. of rocks	G. Prazar, D. Mandell
01-01	3	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	S. Mirick
01-04	7	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	A. & B. Delorey

Owls through Woodpeckers

An Eastern Screech-Owl calling in a residential neighborhood in Nashua was a real treat for the local residents. For more owl highlights see the CBC introduction. Not quite as strong a showing as last year, Red-bellied Woodpeckers were still widely reported across the southern tier of the state.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Eastern Screech-Owl				
02-06	1	Nashua	Berkeley St.	D. & G. Deifik
Great Horned Owl				
12-28	3	Brookline	Parker Rd. & Oak Hill Rd.	S. Spangenberg
01-19	1	Hollis	Lavoie farm	R. Allard
01-24	1	Salem	Salem transfer station	K. Folsom
Snowy Owl				
12-02	1	Keene	Sugar Maple Ln.	J. Granger
Barred Owl				
12-28	1	Brookline	Parker Rd. & Oak Hill Rd.	S. Spangenberg
02-02	1	Dublin	Harrisville Rd., Dublin School	B. Elliott
02-03	1	Loudon	Clough Hill Rd.	R. Croteau
Northern Saw-whet Owl				
02-09	1	Brookline		S. Spangenberg
Belted Kingfisher				
12-04	1	Pembroke	Plausawa Valley CC	H. Anderson
12-21	1		Saxtons River CBC - NH sightings	
01-01	1		Barnet CBC - NH sightings	
01-07	1	Nashua	Jensens Mobile Home Pk.	B. & M. Harris
01-12	1	Rye	across from Rye Harbor	J. Broyles
01-14	1	Pittsfield	Whites Pond	G. Robbins
01-15	1	Tilton	Silver Lake, n. end at Winnepesaukee	R. J. & N. Aldrich
01-25	1	Hudson	Ridgecrest Dr. beaver swamp	B. McCarthy
02-17	1	Goshen	Sugar R. along Rt. 10	P. Newbern
02-19	1	Rye	Rt. 1A	J., J. & D. Romano



Belted Kingfisher
by Iain Macleod

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

12-04	1	Durham	Little Bay Buffalo Co.	P. Hunt
01-03	1	Danville	Iron Wheel Pk.	D. Bartholomew
02-09	1	Hampton	Pawnees St.	S. Scagliotti
02-27	1	Peterborough	downtown residence	F. & C. Von Mertens

Red-bellied Woodpecker

12-05	1	Nashua	Scott Ave. residence	A. Gaimari
12-22	1	Concord	Terrill Park	R. Quinn, G. Smith
01-01	1	New Boston	Clark Hill Rd.	K. Kacharos
01-02	1	Middleton	Sunrise Lake residence	D. Reynolds
01-13	1	Bedford	Grey Rock Rd.	A. & N. Goedecke, K. Hyde
01-21	1	Greenfield	Muzzey Hill Rd. residence	L. Winchester
01-30	1	Chesterfield	residence	R. Burns
01-31	1	Exeter	residence	D. & K. Hughes
02-03	1	Jaffrey	Highland Ave.	B. Elliott
02-09	1	Derry	Derby Rd.	D. Fitch, J. Munier
02-12	1	Brookline	N. Mason Rd. residence	M. Neveu, et al.
02-12	1	Merrimack	Gaughier Rd.	E. Mills
02-16	1	Madbury	residence	T. Chase
02-28	1	Hudson	off Kimball Hill Rd. at Pelham line	C. Laffin

Black-backed Woodpecker

12-31	1	Whitefield	w. of Little Cherry Pond	D. Govatski
01-09	1	Errol	residence	D. Heasley
02-06	1	Benton	Glenciff Ttrail to Mt. Moosilauke	S. Drew

Northern Flicker

12-03	1	E. Kingston	residence	S. Drew
12-15	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
12-29	1	Manchester	Mammoth Rd.	M. Sudak, S. Boutin
01-04	1	N. Hampton	Fairway Dr.	A. & B. Delorey
01-14	1	Manchester	Canal St. near Amoskeag falls	C. Martin
02-02	1	Canterbury		S. Dougherty
02-15	1	Newmarket	Bay Rd.	A. & B. Delorey
02-15	1	Newmarket	Moody Pt.	A. & B. Delorey
02-28	1	Hampton	High St.	D. Kirwan

Pileated Woodpecker

12-09	1	Milford	Federal Hill Rd. residence	B. Becker
01-01	1		Barnet CBC - NH sightings	
01-03	1	Jaffrey	Highland Ave.	B. Elliott
01-18	1	Waterville Valley;	Sandwich Mtn. Trail	J. & D. Romano
01-27	1	Middleton	residence	S. Snyder
02-08	2	E. Kingston	residence	M. & S. Drew
02-13	1	Rochester	Spaulding Tpk. n. of Exit 16	S. Snyder
02-19	1	Dublin	E. Lake Rd., se. corner of Dublin L.	J. Broyles
02-27	1	Dublin	Dublin Lake, e. end	J. Broyles

Horned Lark through Shrike

A Carolina Wren at a Windham residence on December 24 was a nice holiday present, as was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet in Dublin on December 23. In sharp contrast to last year, Bohemian Waxwings were almost absent, and only 13 Northern Shrikes were reported. A Hermit Thrush, rare in winter, attended a feeder in Portsmouth throughout January.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Horned Lark				
12-15	40	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
01-12	5	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	J. Broyles
02-13	18	Concord	Hazen Dr.	R. Suomala, J. Kanter
02-22	4	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
Gray Jay				
01-02	2	Beans Grant	Mizpah Hut	D. Govatski
02-01	4	Dixville	Dixville Notch near Mud Pond	J. & D. Romano
02-09	2	Beans Grant	Mizpah Hut on Mt. Pierce, 3800'	D. Govatski
02-17	1	Lincoln	Thoreau Falls	D. Govatski, B. Adam
American Crow				
01-17	101	Littleton	Glenwood	B. Bradley
02-06	500	Portsmouth	Portsmouth traffic circle	S. Mirick
02-24	111	Haverhill	N. Haverhill farm fields	B. Bradley
Common Raven				
12-13	2	Pittsfield	Rt. 107	A. & G. Robbins
12-14	2	Jefferson	Mud Pond	D. Govatski
12-26	1	Marlborough	Rt. 101 at Chesham Rd.	J. Broyles, S. Millett, J. Bell
12-26	1	Temple	Rt. 101 w. of Rt. 45	J. Broyles, S. Millett, J. Bell
01-01	6		Barnet CBC - NH sightings	
01-08	2	Dublin	Dublin School	J. Broyles, S. Millett
01-12	1	Rye	Odiorne Point	J. Broyles
01-12	1	Candia	Rt. 101	J. Broyles
02-15	1	Manchester	Amoskeag Fishways	I. MacLeod
Boreal Chickadee				
01-12	1	Dixville	Mud Pond	C. & C. Martin
02-09	6	Beans Grant	Crawford Path & Mizpah cutoff jct.	D. Govatski
02-17	4	Lincoln	Shoal Pond Trail	D. Govatski, B. Adam
Red-breasted Nuthatch				
12-21	5		Saxtons River CBC - NH sightings	
01-01	8		Barnet CBC - NH sightings	
White-breasted Nuthatch				
12-21	7		Saxtons River CBC - NH sightings	
01-01	78		Barnet CBC - NH sightings	

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Brown Creeper				
12-14	1	Jefferson	Mud Pond	D. Govatski
12-21	4		Saxtons River CBC - NH sightings	
12-28	1	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. & M. Harris
01-21	3	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
01-30	1	Conway		C. Austin
02-05	2	Berlin	Argonne St.	K. Dube
02-27	1	Alstead	McLean Rd.	R. Ritz
02-28	1	Hudson	off Kimball Hill Rd. at Pelham line	C. Laffin
Carolina Wren				
12-24	1	Windham	residence	J. & J. Romano
Winter Wren				
12-07	1	Milford	Souhegan River off River Rd.	R. & M. Suomala
12-08	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
12-21	1	Brookline	Oak Hill Rd.	S. Spangenberg
12-21	1		Saxtons River CBC - NH sightings	
12-22	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Quinn, G. Smith
01-01	2	Milford	behind Milford Fish Hatchery on N. River Rd.	M. Suomala
01-30	1	Goffstown	Paige Hill Rd.	K. Nielsen
Golden-crowned Kinglet				
12-15	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
12-21	4		Saxtons River CBC - NH sightings	
12-30	6	Peterborough	Raymond Trail to Pack Monadnock	J., J., D. & C. Romano
01-01	2		Barnet CBC - NH sightings	
01-03	5	Jaffrey	Red Dam, Contoocook R.	B. Elliott
01-11	15	Exeter	Henderson-Swasey Town Forest	A. & B. Delorey
01-12	1	Hollis	Rocky Pond	R. & J. Allard
01-18	2	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
02-23	3	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				
12-23	1	Dublin	Rt. 101 & Rt. 137 jct.	J. Broyles
Eastern Bluebird				
12-27	3	Atkinson	Rt. 121 near Massachusetts border	L. Comeau
12-27	2	Stratham	High St.	D. Koerner
01-02	1	Derry	residence	L. Ondre
01-04	3	Newmarket	Moody Pt.	A. & B. Delorey
01-08	6	Amherst	New South Dr.	K. Woodbury
01-11	5	Hollis	Lavoie farm, Pine Hill Rd.	R. & J. Allard
02-04	1	Walpole	Thompson Rd.	D. & A. Bertin
02-13	9	Bedford	residence	S. Hunter
02-18	2	Madbury		T. Chase
02-20	3	Derry	Derby Rd.	D. Fitch, J. Munier
02-23	4	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
02-23	1	Enfield	Shaker Bridge	C. Howe
Hermit Thrush				
12-06	1	Concord	Beaver Meadow Village	P. Niswander
12-21	1		Saxtons River CBC - NH sightings	
01-18	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	S. Mirick, A. Maley, ASNH FT
02-08	1	Portsmouth	Lookout Ln.	E. Cavanagh

date # town location observer(s)

American Robin

01-11	45	Hollis	Lavoie farm, Pine Hill Rd.	R. & J. Allard
01-11	50	Exeter	Henderson-Swasey Town Forest	A. & B. Delorey
01-14	35	Portsmouth	Maplewood Ave.	B. Pinhero
01-18	17	Concord	East Side Dr. near Heritage Heights	C. Waite
01-19	12	Nashua		J. Cantor
01-21	50	Durham	Great Bay, Adams Pt.	S. Drew
01-22	20	Merrimack	Amherst Rd.	P. Skovira
01-24	15	New Boston	Bradford Ln.	R. Clark
01-24	60	Newington	Woodbury Ave.	S. Mirick
01-27	12	Kingston	Tucker Rd.	M. Bean
01-30	27	Stratham	Sandy Point	T. Vazzano
02-08	50	Exeter	Fort Rock Farm	A. & B. Delorey
02-09	51	Hampton	crossing Rt. 95	S. Mirick
02-11	15	Hooksett	Morningside Dr.	A. Richardson
02-15	30	Dover	Seabome Hospital	S. Mirick
02-23	19	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey

Gray Catbird

12-03	1	Rochester	Old Ox Rd. residence	R. & L. Bickford
12-08	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
12-15	1	Loudon	Ricker Rd.	E. & H. Beaulieu
02-27	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis

Bohemian Waxwing

02-12	2	Sandwich	residence	T. Vazzano
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Cedar Waxwing

01-02	75	Walpole	Thompson Rd.	R. Ritz
01-11	25	Hollis	Lavoie Farm, Pine Hill Rd.	R. & J. Allard
01-14	20	Concord	Heritage Heights	D. & B. Soule
01-18	50	Exeter	Saltonstall Medical Bldg.	G. Prazar
01-22	65	Belmont	Belknap Mall	H. Anderson
01-23	25	Jaffrey	CFX Bank, Rt. 124	B. Elliott
02-04	40	Nashua	Greenbriar Nursing Home, Harris Rd.	M. & C. Neveu
02-08	40	Pembroke		R. & T. MacMillan
02-19	25	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	J., J. & D. Romano
02-26	48	Littleton	Partridge Lake	B. Bradley

Northern Shrike

12-14	1	Wentworth	residence	A. Ports
12-14	1	Lebanon	Mascoma Village	P. Hunt
12-21	1		Saxtons River CBC - NH sightings	
12-23	2	Colebrook	Rt. 3	A. & B. Delorey
12-24	1	Jefferson	Waumbek Golf Course	D. Govatski, J. Fyon
12-27	1	Lyman	Parker Hill	S. Turner
12-31	1	Columbia	residence	D. & B. Killam
01-01	1		Barnet CBC-CW - NH sightings	
02-02	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge	T. Vazzano
02-12	1	Bath	Prettyboro Rd.	A. Ports
02-16	1	Lebanon	Stevens Rd.	D. Crook
02-19	1	Laconia	Wildwood Rd.	H. Anderson

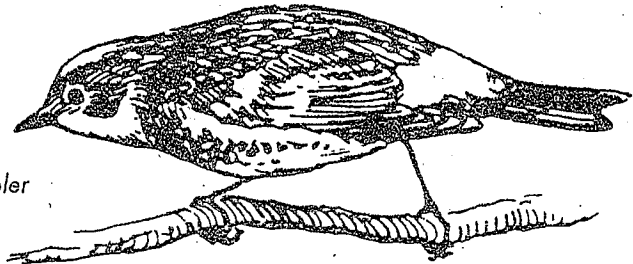
Warblers through Snow Bunting

Despite a mild December, very few warblers lingered into the winter season. One notable exception was an Ovenbird at West Swanzey from December 17 to January 20 (photographed). Two Eastern Towhees and three Field Sparrows (two from CBCs) were noteworthy. A well-described "Pink-sided" Junco (subspecies of the Dark-eyed Junco) was an unusual find. Three Dickcissels lingered into the winter season, with one seen at a Portsmouth feeder throughout January.

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

01-14	1	Littleton	residence feeders	B. Bradley
01-18	4	Rye	Odiome Pt. St. Pk.	S. Mirick, ASNH FT
02-04	1	Windham	Morrison Rd.	J. Wood
02-08	1	Brentwood	Scrabble Rd.	C. Austin
02-19	2	Rye	Odiome Pt. St. Pk.	J., J. & D. Romano



Yellow-rumped Warbler

Pine Warbler

12-28	1	Exeter	residence	D. & K. Hughes
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Ovenbird

12-17	1	Swanzey	Foxglove Ln., W. Swanzey	R. Brusie
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Common Yellowthroat

12-04	1	Rye	Eel Pond	P. Hunt
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Northern Cardinal

12-09	4	Milford	Federal Hill Rd.	B. Becker
12-21	25		Saxtons River CBC - NH sightings	
01-31	4	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright

Dickcissel

12-11	1	Newmarket	Lamprey St.	P. Lacourse
12-21	1	Manchester	Dunbar St.	M. & R. Martin
01-28	1	Portsmouth	Newcastle Ave.	C. Federer

Eastern Towhee

February	1	Brentwood	Deer Hill Rd.	J. White
02-08	1	Westmoreland	Esty Rd.	W. & J. Cleary

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
American Tree Sparrow				
12-01	1	New London	Pingree Rd.	A. & R. Vernon
12-14	1	Dublin	Dublin School	J. Broyles
12-21	27		Saxtons River CBC - NH sightings	
12-29	2	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
12-31	1	Windham	residence	J. & J. Romano
01-01	1	Exeter	residence	G. Prazar
01-01	27		Barnet CBC - NH sightings	
01-16	10	Concord	East Side Dr.	D. Soule
01-20	2	Berlin	Argonne St.	K. Dube
01-27	6	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
01-28	1	New London	Pingree Rd.	A. & R. Vernon
02-12	12	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr. residence	B. & M. Harris
02-19	6	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	J., J. & D. Romano
02-24	5	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
Field Sparrow				
12-21	1		Saxtons River CBC - NH sightings	
Fox Sparrow				
02-08	1	Kingston	New Boston Rd.	L. Poleatewich
Song Sparrow				
12-21	30		Saxtons River CBC - NH sightings	
01-10	1	Littleton	residence	B. Bradley
01-31	1	Laconia	Shore Dr.	H. Anderson
02-06	1	Middleton	New Portsmouth Rd. residence	S. Snyder
02-09	1	Hudson	Griffin Rd.	J. Kegley
White-throated Sparrow				
12-20	1	Columbia	residence	D. & B. Killam
12-21	9		Saxtons River CBC - NH sightings	
01-18	2	Berlin	Argonne St.	K. Dube
White-crowned Sparrow				
02-01	1	Manchester	Dunbar St.	M. & R. Martin
Dark-eyed Junco				
12-21	86		Saxtons River CBC - NH sightings	
12-29	45	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
12-31	20	Windham	residence	J. Romano
01-01	28		Barnet CBC - NH sightings	
01-06	50	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
Dark-eyed Junco - Pink-sided subsp.				
12-15	1	Rochester	Old Ox Rd. residence	R. Bickford
Snow Bunting				
01-02	30	Franklin	Rt. 3 s. of Sisters of Holy Cross	D. Stavros
01-11	50	Dalton	Connecticut R. n. of town	D. & B. Killam
01-12	15	Rye	Odiorne Pt.	J. Broyles
02-06	30	Durham	Furber Strait	G. Mitchell
02-08	13	Dunbarton	Gorham Pond Rd.	D. Dunn
02-08	30	Rochester	Turnkey Landfill	A. & B. Delorey

Blackbird through Evening Grosbeak

A Baltimore Oriole in Center Harbor during January is indicative of this species' hardiness. Winter finches were generally scarce—in particular, very few Pine Grosbeaks and no redpolls were reported. Always erratic, Pine Siskin numbers were nominal, while Evening Grosbeaks were scarce.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Red-winged Blackbird				
01-28	2	Alton	Rand Hill Rd., Alton Bay	R. Don
01-30	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
02-20	1	Amherst		B. Hahn
02-22	8	Lee	off Rt. 155	S. Mirick
02-22	3	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick, P. Lacourse
02-22	13	Kensington		A. & B. Delorey
02-23	6	Windham	residence	J. & D. Romano
02-24	55	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	S. Mirick
02-28	25	Pembroke	Rt. 3	W. Goodwill
Common Grackle				
02-23	1	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. & M. Harris
02-23	2	Windham	residence	J. & D. Romano
02-24	27	Dover	off Dover Pt. Rd.	S. Mirick
02-24	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
02-27	2	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
02-27	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
02-28	8	Keene	Island St.	R. Ritz
Baltimore Oriole				
01-13	1	Center Harbor	Kelly Ct.	T. Vazzano
Pine Grosbeak				
02-07	3	Franconia	off Main St.	J. McIlwaine
02-21	2	Tamworth	Great Hill Rd.	B. Steele
Purple Finch				
12-10	2	Monroe	Plains Rd.	S. & M. Turner, P. Powers, E. Emery
12-13	8	Littleton	Partridge Lake Rd.	S. & M. Turner
01-01	15		Barnet CBC - NH sightings	
01-021	2	Lyman	Clough Hill	S. & M. Turner
01-15	10	Littleton	Partridge Lake	B. Bradley
01-21	2	Windham	residence	J. Romano
01-22	1	Berlin	Argonne St.	K. Dube
01-25	1	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. & M. Harris
01-31	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
02-06	4	Chester	Hillside Haven	B. Delorey
02-07	2	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright

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

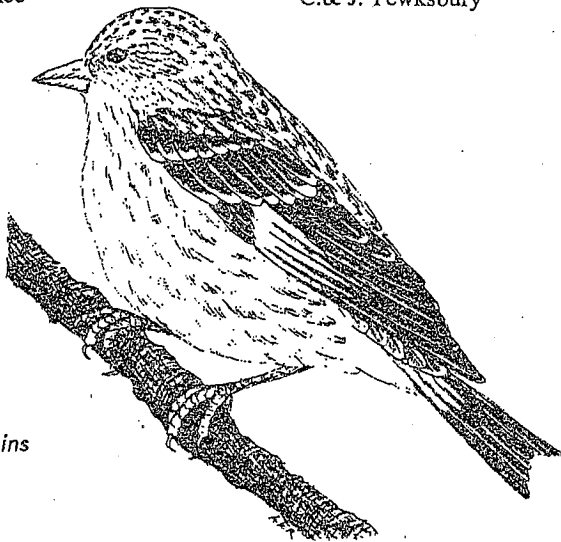
12-21	4	Dublin	downtown	F. & C. Von Mertens, D. Bann
02-16	3	Haverhill	Court St., N. Haverhill	T. Estill
02-28	1	Jackson	Meloon Rd.	G. Mitchell

White-winged Crossbill

01-05	9	Jefferson	Ingerson Rd., w. end	J. Brown, J. Ely
02-13	75	Bethlehem	Zealand Trail	D. Govatski, B. Adam
02-17	50	Lincoln	Shoal Pond	D. Govatski, B. Adam

Pine Siskin

12-01	3	Sandwich	residence	T. Vazzano
12-13	6	Westmoreland	River Rd.	R. Ritz
12-21	2		Saxtons River CBC - NH sightings	
12-23	50	Haverhill	Rt. 10	A. & B. Delorey
12-26	50	Wentworth	residence	A. Ports
01-01	38		Barnet CBC - NH sightings	
02-04	30	Littleton	Partridge Lake	B. Bradley
02-21	2	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
02-23	2	Tamworth	residence	C. & J. Tewksbury



Pine Siskin
by Andrea Robbins

American Goldfinch

12-21	128		Saxtons River CBC - NH sightings	
12-21	40	Newbury	Ramblewood Circle	P. Newbern
01-01	195		Barnet CBC - NH sightings	
01-06	48	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright

Evening Grosbeak

01-01	23		Barnet CBC - NH sightings	
01-02	30	Lyman	Clough Hill	S. & M. Turner
01-08	26	Sandwich	residence	T. Vazzano
01-10	10	Middleton	New Portsmouth Rd. residence	S. Snyder
01-15	11	Littleton	Partridge Lake	B. Bradley
02-08	12	Sugar Hill	Sugar Hill & Main St.	J. McIlwaine

Christmas Bird Count Summary

By Alan Delorey, Winter Editor

This year's statewide Christmas Bird Count highlights included several reports of Long-eared and Northern Saw-whet Owls. Red-bellied Woodpeckers were well-represented, matching last years total of 14. American Goldfinches were numerous, with a statewide total of 7128. This was not a winter finch year, as evidenced by low numbers of Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks, and no redpolls. Only one count reported Bohemian Waxwings. Wild Turkey numbers were a modest 92, down considerably from last year's impressive total of 219. The Isles of Shoals count was not run this year.

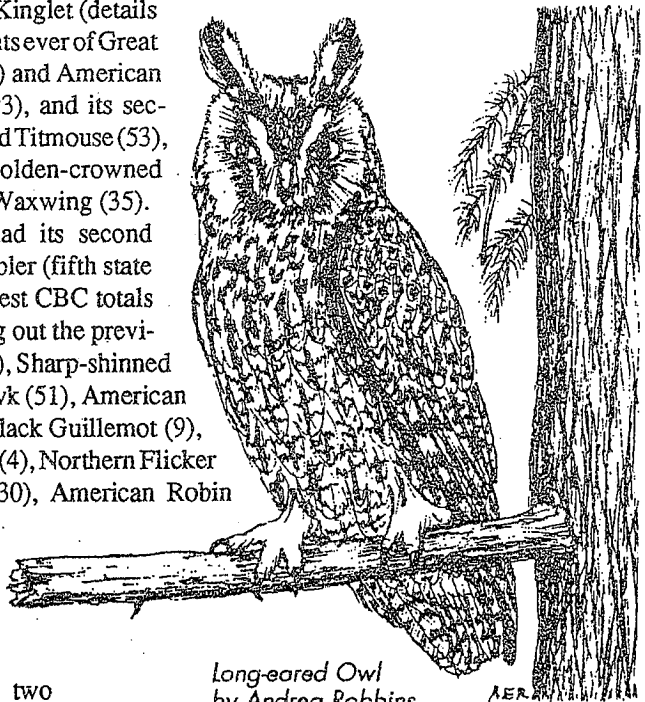
The Nashua-Hollis CBC posted its first count records of American Wigeon and Northern Saw-whet Owl. Record high totals were reported for Ruffed Grouse (15), Red-bellied Woodpecker (6), Northern Flicker (14), Pileated Woodpecker (4, tied 1994), Winter Wren (2), and American Goldfinch (436).

The Peterborough-Hancock CBC tallied record high totals of Wild Turkey (53) and Brown Creeper (31), plus its second highest total of American Goldfinch (441). It recorded its second Ring-billed Gull, and came in with its second-lowest total of American Tree Sparrow (17).

The Keene CBC reported its second count record of Ruby-crowned Kinglet (details provided), its highest counts ever of Great Black-backed Gull (1365) and American Goldfinch (247, tied 1993), and its second-highest totals of Tufted Titmouse (53), Brown Creeper (11), Golden-crowned Kinglet (46), and Cedar Waxwing (35).

The Seacoast CBC had its second count record of Pine Warbler (fifth state CBC record) and its highest CBC totals of Mute Swan (54, edging out the previous high of 51 set in 1994), Sharp-shinned Hawk (8), Red-tailed Hawk (51), American Coot (9), Razorbill (6), Black Guillemot (9), Red-bellied Woodpecker (4), Northern Flicker (29), Eastern Bluebird (30), American Robin (1373), Gray Catbird (2, tied 1979 and 1992), and Cedar Waxwing (711).

Other notables included two Green-winged Teal, two Eurasian Wigeon, one Eastern



Long-eared Owl
by Andrea Robbins

AER

Screech-Owl, one Long-eared Owl, and a Red-headed Woodpecker. Shorebirds were conspicuously absent this year.

Lee-Durham had first count records of Red-shouldered Hawk, Long-eared Owl (3), Northern Saw-whet Owl (2), and Gray Catbird (2), plus a third count record of Fox Sparrow. It had its highest CBC totals of Canada Goose (661), Bufflehead (150), Red-tailed Hawk (21), Iceland Gull (8), Pileated Woodpecker (6, ties 1994), Brown Creeper (19), American Robin (187), and American Goldfinch (722). Four Glaucous Gulls represented the second-best showing on this count, close behind last year's total of five.

The Concord CBC had its first count record of Snow Goose, high totals for Ring-billed Gull (182) and Winter Wren (3), and its second-highest totals of Hooded Merganser (15), Common Merganser (41), Red-tailed Hawk (9), Wild Turkey (8), Golden-crowned Kinglet (14), and Cedar Waxwing (50).

Laconia-New Hampton posted a first count record of Swamp Sparrow (2) and its highest CBC totals of Northern Flicker (2) and American Crow (559). It also recorded its second-highest tallies of Common Loon (7) and Belted Kingfisher (4).

Hanover-Norwich had a second count record of Northern Pintail, third count record of Northern Saw-whet Owl, and its highest CBC totals of Common Merganser (86), Great Black-backed Gull (240), Downy Woodpecker (69), Brown Creeper (21, tied 1976), Northern Shrike (4, tied 1975 and 1995), and Dark-eyed Junco (321).

The Baker Valley CBC posted a second count record of Ring-billed Gull (3) as well as high totals of Wild Turkey (11), American Crow (118), and Rusty Blackbird (3). It also recorded its second-highest totals of Common Raven (14) and American Goldfinch (561).

Littleton turned in a first count record of Ring-necked Duck and Chipping Sparrow, a high count record for Hooded Merganser (12), and their second-highest total for American Crow (147).

Errol-Umbagog produced its highest CBC total of Ruffed Grouse (11, tied with 1972) and its second-highest total of Pileated Woodpecker (4).

The Pittsburg CBC tallied its highest total of Downy Woodpecker (20), Pileated Woodpecker (9), Blue Jay (115), Black-capped Chickadee (482), Brown Creeper (9), Northern Shrike (7), and American Goldfinch (698).

In its eighth year, North Conway reported its first count record of Cedar Waxwing (7) and second count record of Spruce Grouse (no details), plus its highest CBC totals of Brown Creeper (9), Red Crossbill (65), and American Goldfinch (480).

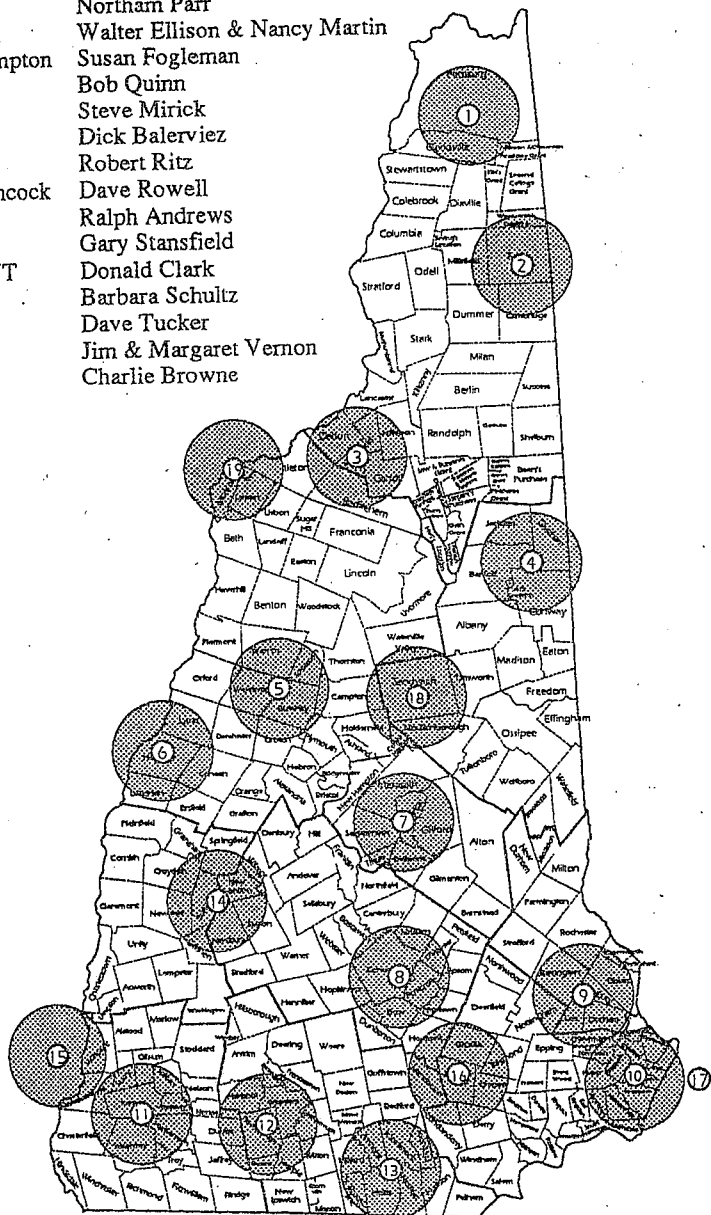
Lake Sunapee (in its seventh year) had a first count record of Cedar Waxwing (20) and a second count record of Song Sparrow. Lake Sunapee also tallied its highest total of Hooded Merganser (7), Common Merganser (21), Rock Dove (177), Blue Jay (320), Common Raven (5), Golden-crowned Kinglet (6), and American Tree Sparrow (16).

Manchester (second count year) reported notables of two Peregrine Falcons, a Red-bellied Woodpecker, and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

Sandwich (second count year) was one of only a few counts to report Boreal Chickadees (3) and was the only CBC this year to report Bohemian Waxwings (12). Sandwich also tallied a larger number of American Goldfinch (952) than any other count this year.

Christmas Bird Count Compilers

- | | | |
|----|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Pittsburg | Dennis Abbott |
| 2 | Errol-Umbagog | Dennis Abbott |
| 3 | Littleton | John McIlwaine |
| 4 | North Conway | Chris Lewey |
| 5 | Baker Valley | Northam Parr |
| 6 | Hanover-Norwich | Walter Ellison & Nancy Martin |
| 7 | Laconia-New Hampton | Susan Fogleman |
| 8 | Concord | Bob Quinn |
| 9 | Lee-Durham | Steve Mirick |
| 10 | Coastal | Dick Balerviez |
| 11 | Keene | Robert Ritz |
| 12 | Peterborough-Hancock | Dave Rowell |
| 13 | Nashua-Hollis | Ralph Andrews |
| 14 | Lake Sunapee | Gary Stansfield |
| 15 | Saxton's River, VT | Donald Clark |
| 16 | Manchester | Barbara Schultz |
| 17 | Isles of Shoals | Dave Tucker |
| 18 | Sandwich | Jim & Margaret Vernon |
| 19 | Barnet, VT | Charlie Browne |



97th Christmas Bird Count: Dec. 20, 1996 - Jan. 5, 1997

species	Nshua	Petrb	Keene	Coast	LeeDu	Cncrd
Red-throated Loon	-	-	-	8	-	-
Common Loon	-	-	1	48	-	-
Pied-billed Grebe	-	-	-	1	-	-
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	21	-	-
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	-	32	-	-
Great Cormorant	-	-	-	17	CW	-
Great Blue Heron	2	-	-	5	1	-
Mute Swan	-	-	-	54	2	-
Snow Goose	-	-	-	-	-	1
Canada Goose	604	28	-	4175	661	100
Wood Duck	-	-	-	1	1	-
Green-winged Teal	-	-	-	2	-	-
American Black Duck	32	-	-	1689	160	36
Mallard	758	-	2	1127	657	301
Black X Mallard sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Pintail	-	-	-	1	-	-
Eurasian Wigeon	-	-	-	2	-	-
American Wigeon	1	-	-	29	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	-	-	-	1
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	581	-	-
Lesser Scaup	-	-	-	1	-	-
Common Eider	-	-	-	181	-	-
Harlequin Duck	-	-	-	1	-	-
Oldsquaw	-	-	-	69	-	-
Black Scoter	-	-	-	6	-	-
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	54	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	136	-	-
Common Goldeneye	-	-	-	331	95	35
Barrow's Goldeneye	-	-	-	2	-	-
Bufflehead	-	-	-	41	150	-
Hooded Merganser	-	-	-	1	CW	15
Common Merganser	6	-	23	12	6	41
Red-br. Merganser	-	-	-	95	5	-
Bald Eagle	-	-	-	4	-	-
Sharp-shinned Hawk	5	1	-	8	1	-
Cooper's Hawk	-	-	1	-	CW	1
Northern Goshawk	1	-	-	1	1	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	-	-	-	-	1	-
Red-tailed Hawk	19	2	1	51	21	9
American Kestrel	2	-	-	2	4	-
Merlin	-	-	-	1	-	-
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	-	CW	-	-
Ring-necked Pheasant	3	1	-	2	3	-
Spruce Grouse	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ruffed Grouse	15	6	2	6	3	5
Wild Turkey	-	53	9	-	7	8
American Coot	-	-	-	9	-	-
Purple Sandpiper	-	-	-	15	-	-
Dunlin	-	-	-	CW	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	21	4	-

Lonla Hnovr BkrVi Ltltn Errol Pttsb NCnwy LSunp Manch Sandw Total

-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	56
7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
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97th Christmas Bird Count (continued)

species	Nshua	Petrb	Keene	Coast	LeeDu	Cncrd
Ring-billed Gull	137	1	-	616	241	182
Herring Gull	3922	25	736	3325	7500	10
Iceland Gull	-	-	2	1	8	1
Glaucous Gull	1	-	-	-	4	-
Great Bla.-bac. Gull	573	6	1365	244	769	6
Gull sp.	-	-	445	-	-	-
Razorbill	-	-	-	6	-	-
Black Guillemot	-	-	-	9	-	-
Rock Dove	923	122	318	965	701	333
Mourning Dove	950	231	237	486	731	151
Eastern Screech-owl	-	-	-	1	-	-
Great Horned Owl	2	-	1	2	4	-
Barred Owl	3	1	-	2	2	-
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	1	3	-
N. Saw-whet Owl	1	-	-	-	2	-
Belted Kingfisher	3	-	-	9	1	-
Red-hea. Woodpecker	-	-	-	1	-	-
Red-bel. Woodpecker	6	-	-	4	2	1
Downy Woodpecker	127	45	31	125	111	41
Hairy Woodpecker	46	34	11	42	54	22
Bla.-bac. Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Flicker	14	-	-	29	7	-
Pileated Woodpecker	4	5	-	-	6	1
Horned Lark	30	-	-	2	20	23
Gray Jay	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue Jay	931	527	313	584	720	199
American Crow	629	140	295	1035	881	308
Common Raven	2	6	3	-	2	2
Black-cap. Chickadee	859	921	774	1219	966	290
Boreal Chickadee	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tufted Titmouse	245	65	53	219	154	47
Red-br. Nuthatch	29	38	25	23	56	5
White-br. Nuthatch	156	81	50	123	135	38
Brown Creeper	22	31	11	19	19	7
Carolina Wren	2	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Wren	2	-	-	1	1	3
Golden-cr. Kinglet	25	32	46	14	9	14
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	-	-	1	-	-	-
Eastern Bluebird	8	-	-	30	12	-
Hermit Thrush	-	-	-	-	1	-
American Robin	21	-	1	1373	187	10
Gray Catbird	-	-	-	2	2	-
N. Mockingbird	40	-	-	81	32	7
Bohemian Waxwing	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cedar Waxwing	285	9	35	711	220	50
Northern Shrike	1	-	-	-	2	-
European Starling	1992	118	710	18834	2620	387
Ylw.-rumped Warbler	2	-	-	19	-	-
Pine Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-
Common Yellowthroat	-	-	-	1	1	-

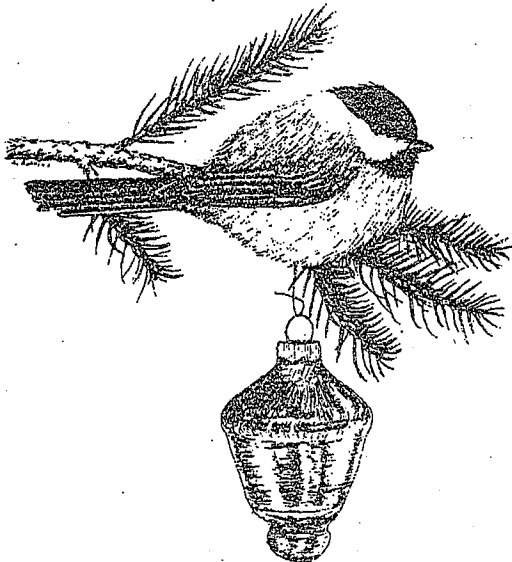
Lenia Hnovr BkrVI Llttn Errol Pittsb NCnwy LSunp Manch Sandw Total

22	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	24	-	1226
129	52	-	53	-	-	4	3	205	10	15974
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	14
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
74	240	1	147	-	-	-	6	35	8	3474
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	465
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
169	659	38	142	-	-	80	177	816	16	5459
271	335	51	83	9	9	189	114	61	66	3974
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33	69	9	14	5	20	25	8	53	36	752
29	36	9	21	6	20	14	9	8	32	393
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368	667	279	168	72	115	176	320	421	174	6034
559	474	118	147	11	42	151	44	227	75	5136
6	6	14	14	36	35	18	5	1	8	158
1134	1614	518	256	287	482	593	433	390	814	11550
-	-	-	-	2	35	2	-	-	3	42
62	40	5	-	-	-	2	7	40	30	969
22	28	21	22	42	74	53	32	13	51	534
89	83	23	14	6	2	54	30	35	78	997
9	21	-	-	3	9	9	2	6	9	177
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-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2

97th Christmas Bird Count (continued)

species	Nshua	Petrb	Keene	Coast	LeeDu	Cncrd
Northern Cardinal	108	21	18	121	68	22
Am. Tree Sparrow	130	17	33	281	133	76
Chipping Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	2
Field Sparrow	-	-	-	2	-	-
Fox Sparrow	-	-	-	-	1	-
Song Sparrow	22	1	-	114	20	7
Swamp Sparrow	-	-	-	3	1	-
White-thr. Sparrow	29	6	5	42	25	4
Dark-eyed Junco	446	358	307	273	278	102
Snow Bunting	-	-	7	26	-	27
Red-winged Blackbird	-	-	-	4	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	-	-	CW	-
Common Grackle	1	-	-	2	CW	-
Br.-headed Cowbird	1	-	-	1	CW	-
Baltimore Oriole	-	-	-	2	-	-
Pine Grosbeak	1	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Finch	-	6	1	1	-	-
House Finch	308	7	74	465	371	73
Red Crossbill	-	5	-	-	-	-
Whi.-wing. Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	-	4	-	-	-	-
American Goldfinch	436	441	247	743	722	226
Evening Grosbeak	-	79	-	-	1	-
House Sparrow	801	190	51	1124	511	59
Number of Species	57	38	37	94	67	47
Number of Field Obs.	32	27	20	41	38	9

Total Number of Species Across all CBCs: 122



Count Abbreviation and Date

- Nshua = Nashua-Hollis (12/28/96)
- Petrb = Peterborough-Hancock (12/21/96)
- Keene = Keene (12/28/96)
- Coast = Seacoast (12/21/96)
- LeeDu = Lee-Durham (12/28/96)
- Cncrd = Concord (12/22/96)

? = Questionable Sighting
 CW = Count Week

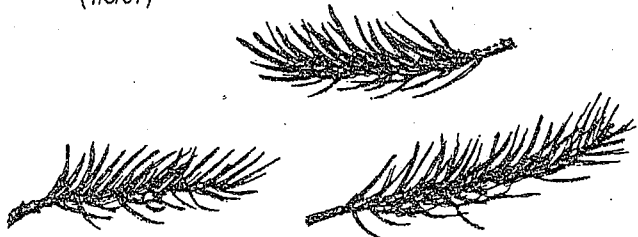


Black-capped Chickadee
 by Andrea Robbins

Lonia	Hnovr	BkrVI	Lltn	Errol	Pttsb	NCnwy	LSunp	Manch	Sandw	Total
34	56	6	3	-	-	4	13	15	5	494
75	97	16	9	10	19	19	16	46	11	988
-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
5	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	1	179
2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
1	8	2	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	125
80	321	56	6	16	29	29	63	55	67	2486
1	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	66
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
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-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	2	53	-	-	-	-	56
-	9	10	2	-	1	-	-	-	7	37
138	202	21	-	-	-	5	33	60	10	1767
-	-	-	-	2	-	65	2	-	-	74
-	-	-	-	36	77	15	-	-	-	128
-	115	61	22	-	46	2	-	-	4	254
381	615	561	188	88	698	480	173	177	952	7128
12	18	63	88	17	45	46	6	-	2	377
387	447	19	29	-	10	62	27	268	5	3990
49	49	29	28	26	31	36	36	40	35	
13	18	19	11	6	7	25	12	12	23	

Count Abbreviation and Date

- Lonia = Laconia-New Hampton (1/4/97)
- Hnovr = Hanover-Norwich (1/1/97)
- BkrVI = Baker Valley (12/28/96)
- Lltn = Littleton (12/21/96)
- Errol = Errol-Umbagog (1/3/97)
- Pttsb = Pittsburg (1/4/97)
- NCnwy = North Conway (12/27/96)
- LSunp = Lake Sunapee (12/21/96)
- Manch = Manchester (12/28/96)
- Sandw = Sandwich (1/5/97)



New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee Decisions

Continuing the practice started last year, the results of the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee (NHRBC) decisions on rare birds from the four previous seasons are published here. In this issue you will find the NHRBC decisions for Spring, Summer, and Fall 1996, and Winter 1996-97.

In addition, the NHRBC has begun going back in time and evaluating records that predate the formation of the committee. These decisions will also be published in *New Hampshire Bird Records (NHBR)* once all records for a given year have been considered. Thus, in this issue you will find decisions for Spring, Summer, and Fall 1994, and Winter 1994-95.

Finally, there are occasional records that the committee is unable to evaluate in time for publication in the appropriate *NHBR* season. As a result, the decisions for these records also appear in the following summary, as is the case with the sedge wrens from Spring 1995.

The NHRBC is an independent Technical Advisory Committee to *NHBR*. It reviews unusual sightings in an effort to maintain accuracy and scientific integrity for both *NHBR* and the historical database of birds sightings maintained by the Audubon Society of New Hampshire. For information on the committee and its decision making process please see the article in the Summer 96 issue of *NHBR*. The Fall 96 issue has an article on how to document rare bird sightings.

The current committee members are Dennis Abbott, Alan Delorey, Peter Hunt, Steve Mirick, Bob Quinn, Andrea Robbins, and George Robbins. Feel free to contact any one of them if you have questions.

1996 Decisions Spring 1996

Species accepted by the committee:

- American White Pelican, Great Bay on May 1. This bird was videotaped, providing a first state record.
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Hampton from April 27 through May 19. Another photographed bird.
- Sandhill Crane, Portsmouth on March 29. Adequate description of a fairly distinctive species.
- Lesser Black-backed Gull, Dover on March 20. Good description.
- Lesser Black-backed Gull, Manchester on March 29. An excellent description of the difficult first-winter plumage.
- Arctic Tern, Franconia on May 10. Well-described.
- White-eyed Vireo, Hollis on May 11. Well-described, in a season with several southern songbirds in May.
- Lawrence's Warbler - hybrid, Bradford on May 15. Excellent photograph of this rare hybrid.

Kentucky Warbler, Bedford on May 11. A good description of another southern visitor.
Summer Tanager, Squam Lake on May 20. Well-described.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Keene on April 23. A somewhat early date, but good description.
Blue Grosbeak, Hudson on April 20. Well-described, Indigo Bunting eliminated.
Yellow-headed Blackbird, East Kingston on March 27. Well-described.
Bullock's Oriole, Pembroke on May 5. An excellent description of this newly split species.
Hoary Redpoll, Rochester on April 11. Well-described.
Hoary Redpoll, Littleton on April 23. Well-described, with identifiable photograph.
Both this and the previous bird were part of a large redpoll flight in the winter of 1995-96.

Species not accepted by the committee:

Golden Eagle, Hinsdale on April 27. Observer did not conclusively eliminate immature Bald Eagle.
Short-billed Dowitcher, Penacook on April 21. Observer did not eliminate Common Snipe, especially considering the very early date.
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, New Boston on May 18. Insufficient details for a sighting of this rarity. Sighting also very brief and without optics.
Varied Thrush, Rye on April 30. Poor viewing conditions did not preclude a poorly seen American Robin.

Summer 1996

Species accepted by the committee:

Pacific Loon, Rye on June 14 and 16. Excellent field descriptions by independent observers familiar with the species.
Manx Shearwater, Rye on July 13. Good description of birds seen from shore during tropical storm Bertha.
Manx Shearwater, Jeffrey's Ledge (Rye) on July 14. Good description of a bird seen well out to sea (where they are expected).
American Oystercatcher, Seabrook on July 9. An excellent description with a passable photograph of this easy to identify species.
Red-necked Phalarope, offshore Rye on July 22. Good description of a species likely at this time and place.
Little Gull, Rye on June 20 and July 20, Hampton on July 14, and North Hampton on July 20. All of these sightings were well documented with field notes and in some cases photographs. They are considered to represent three or four different individuals.
Royal Tern, Seabrook on July 10. Photographs and a good description by an observer familiar with the species.
Royal Tern, Seabrook on July 17. An excellent description that is good enough to suggest that this was the same bird as above (different observer).
Arctic Tern, Hampton on June 12. A good description separating this species from the Common Tern.

Three-toed Woodpecker, Pittsburg on June 9. A good description of this species after the observer had seen a Black-backed Woodpecker.
Blue Grosbeak, Jackson on June 21. An excellent description of a bird seen at close range for an extended period of time.
Clay-colored Sparrow, Lee on June 8. Good description of a bird seen and heard by many.
Clay-colored Sparrow, Haverhill on June 27. A heard-only bird accepted based on the experience of the observer with this species' song. It is increasing in NH.
Grasshopper Sparrow, Enfield on June 3 (heard only). See comment on the previous Clay-colored Sparrow. The observer has training and experience conducting grass-land bird surveys.
Fox Sparrow, Pittsburg on June 6. Excellent description and a tape recording of the song.

Species not accepted by the committee:

Brown Pelican, North Hampton on June 13. Not accepted due to a fairly brief view of a very distant bird. This species would need impeccable details to be accepted due to its rarity in the state.
Summer Tanager, Bow on July 5. None of the details (voice, plumage, date, behavior) fit this species. Birds in house plants (as this one was) are usually House Finches.
LeConte's Sparrow, Danville on July 1. An inadequate description of a bird in the wrong habitat for this species. The description was intriguing enough to leave the committee wondering what it really was. A rare and obscure species that would need impeccable details.

Fall 1996

Species accepted by the committee:

Red-necked Grebe, Pittsburg on August 21. A well-described bird in breeding plumage.
Least Bittern, Hampton Falls on September 2. Good details from an experienced observer.
Tundra Swan, Derry on November 27. Photographed.
Common Eider, Hanover on September 26. Well-documented inland sighting of this coastal species.
Common Eider, Jefferson on October 23. Well-documented inland sighting of this coastal species.
Red Phalarope, Durham on October 23. May have been blown inland by strong storm.
Lesser Black-backed Gull, Berlin on November 18. Carefully described immature bird with a field sketch.
Three-toed Woodpecker, Low & Burbanks Grant on October 26. A rare sighting from appropriate habitat in the White Mountains.
Olive-sided Flycatcher, Hebron on October 18. An excellent description for a sighting on a record late date.
Nashville Warbler, Enfield on November 24. Adequate details from experienced observer.
Cape May Warbler, Rye on November 28. Appears to be a record late date for this species.
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Hampton on October 2. Excellent details.
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (inland subspecies), Hampton on October 2. Excellent details. Either *nelsoni* or *alterus*.

Boreal Owl, Rye on November 24. Remains of a bird found along the coast. Positively identified by comparison of feathers to museum specimens.

Species not accepted by the committee:

Brown Pelican, Alton on September 8. Insufficient details for this rare southern coastal species.

Harlequin Duck, Seabrook on October 9. An extremely early report of a female that was seen in flight. Details did not allow the committee to eliminate Surf Scoter.

Boreal Owl, Waterville on November 16. Insufficient details to eliminate the more common Northern Saw-whet Owl.

Dickcissel, Rindge on October 10. A report of five birds. Details were not sufficient to accept all birds as Dickcissels, although some may very well have been.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Hampton on August 16. Careful details are needed in order to understand the status of this species along the coast, especially at this fairly early date.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Hampton on October 9. Insufficient details (see above, although date is appropriate).

Winter 1996-97

Species accepted by the committee:

Eurasian Wigeon, Great Bay and Exeter from December 14 to January 30. Two males seen regularly by various observers. Third winter in a row for this increasing species.

King Eider, female in Rye on February 8. Well-described.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Dublin on December 23. A well-described early winter inland sighting.

Ovenbird, West Swanzy on December 17. Photographed.

White-crowned Sparrow, Manchester on February 11. Details sufficient to eliminate the more likely White-throated Sparrow.

Species not accepted by the committee:

Gyr Falcon, Grantham on December 27. Because of the circumstances of this sighting (moving car and no binoculars), the committee felt that Peregrine Falcon could not be conclusively eliminated.

Boreal Owl, Sandwich on December 21. This bird was only heard once, and then only briefly. Northern Saw-whet Owl could not be completely eliminated.

Veery, Seacoast CBC on December 21. Insufficient details to eliminate Hermit Thrush, the more likely thrush at this season.

1995 Decision

Species not accepted by the committee:

Sedge Wren, Dummer on May 20 and 21. In the 1995 NHBRC report, this record was listed as still under review due to new information. After considering this additional documentation, the committee felt that the details were still not sufficient to eliminate Marsh Wren, which is far more common at this location and habitat.

1994 Decisions: Spring 1994

Species accepted by the committee:

Black Vulture, Lyme on April 17. Excellent details and field sketch from an experienced observer.

Lesser Black-backed Gull, Rye on May 7 and 8. Excellent details from two separate observers.

Black-backed Woodpecker, Manchester on May 15. Good details for a species far south of its normal range, especially at this time of year.

White-eyed Vireo, Conway on May 23. Good description by an observer familiar with the species.

Worm-eating Warbler, Nottingham on May 21. Adequate description.

Prothonotary Warbler, Lebanon on May 4. Good details.

Summer 1994

Species accepted by the committee:

Red-necked Grebe, Windsor on July 3. Well described.

Rufous Hummingbird, Warner on July 27 and 28. A cooperative bird seen by numerous observers; also photographed.

Red-headed Woodpecker, Concord on June 1. Well described.

Pine Grosbeak, Jefferson on July 9. Good description, including call note, by an observer familiar with the species. One of only a handful of summer records for the state.

Species not accepted by the committee:

Iceland Gull, Rye on July 30. For this species on this date the details were not sufficient (this record was not mentioned in the Summer 1994 issue of *NHBR*).

Western Tanager, Manchester on July 23. Insufficient details.

White-crowned Sparrow, Keene in July. Insufficient details to distinguish it from the expected White-throated Sparrow.

Species still under review:

Blue Grosbeak, Hollis on June 9.

Fall 1994

Species accepted by the committee:

Leach's Storm-Petrel, Great Bay on October 15. Good details from two observers for this unusual inland sighting.

Eurasian Wigeon, Great Bay from November 5 to 15. Excellent details from multiple observers. The first record for the state since 1954.

Marbled Godwit, Seabrook on September 9. Good details.

Curlew Sandpiper, Seabrook on September 7. Excellent details, including field sketch and description of call.

Long-eared Owl, Hillsborough on October 8. Good description of calls by an observer familiar with this species varied vocalizations.

Rufous Hummingbird, Keene on August 6. Good details.
Rufous Hummingbird, Stratham on September 24. Good details.
Blue Grosbeak, Exeter on September 25. Good description of two birds.
Clay-colored Sparrow, Stratham on November 5. Adequate description.
Yellow-headed Blackbird, Conway on August 8. Good description of a bird visiting a feeder.

Species not accepted by the committee:

Broad-winged Hawk, Exeter on November 3 and Rye on November 12. This species is very rare this late in the fall, and observers did not eliminate the much more likely Red-shouldered Hawk.
Worm-eating Warbler, Newington on September 28. A heard-only bird. The difficulty of distinguishing this species' song from that of more common species precluded the committee's accepting this record.
Clay-colored Sparrow, Newington on October 30. Insufficient details.

Winter 1994-95

Species accepted by the committee:

Black-crowned Night-Heron, Seabrook on January 22. Well-described.
Black Vulture, Nashua on December 31. Good details.
Lesser Black-backed Gull, Manchester on January 10. Good details on this immature bird allowed for elimination of Herring Gull as a possibility.
Black-legged Kittiwake, Lebanon on December 14. Good description; a rare inland sighting.
Townsend's Solitaire, Newmarket throughout winter. Excellent description; this bird seen by numerous observers throughout its stay.
Brown Thrasher, Plainfield on January 25. Good description, including sketches.
Pine Warbler, Laconia on January 4 and February 21. Good description. The two sightings probably represent the same bird, as they were from two different feeders in the same general neighborhood.
Seaside Sparrow, Greenland on December 3. Good description for this late sighting.
Bobolink, Greenland on December 3. Excellent details from two different observers. A late record for the state.

Species not accepted by the committee:

Eared Grebe, North Hampton on February 22. Insufficient details to eliminate the more likely Horned or Red-necked grebes.
Merlin, North Hampton on February 9. Description did not eliminate the more likely Sharp-shinned Hawk.
Little Gull, Seabrook on December 20. Insufficient details.
Thayer's Gull, Seabrook on January 21. Details were insufficient to eliminate Iceland Gull. This bird had the dark eye characteristic of Thayer's Gull, but Iceland Gulls also occasionally have this feature. The other details were inconclusive.
Ivory Gull, Manchester on January 8. Insufficient details for this extremely rare species, observer did not conclusively eliminate the possibility of an immature Iceland Gull.

Landscaping Your Yard for Birds

By Kathie Palfy

Just a few feet away, the sunlight glistens on the iridescent feathers of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird as he sucks nectar from the scarlet bee balm. Getting to see birds close up is as easy as planting a garden.

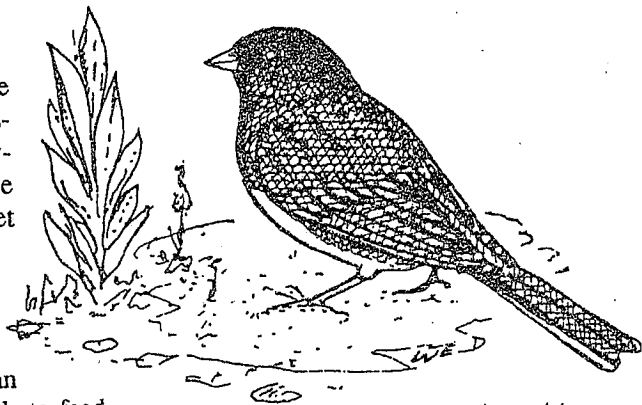
Choosing the right flowers, shrubs, and trees can attract many species of birds to feed and nest in your yard. Most bird species do not survive mainly on seeds but rather a combination of seeds, nuts, fruits, berries, and insects. The correct plant choices will provide nutritious food sources and the insects to attract birds as well as offering nesting and perching opportunities.

The seeds of sunflowers are a favorite of Black-capped Chickadees, while cosmos seeds are favored by Dark-eyed Juncos. Zinnias, asters, purple coneflowers, black-eyed susans, bachelor buttons, evening primrose, poppies, and stock are not only beautiful flowers but also produce valuable seeds. Rugosa roses provide tasty rose hips.

Although we usually don't plant weeds, many are a valuable seed source. Yellow-rumped Warblers are fond of the seeds of grasses and goldenrod. The House Finch loves dandelion seeds. Other weeds, which you might allow in a corner of your yard, that are sought after by birds are dock, sorrels, and nettles. The favorite of the American Goldfinch is wild thistle, not to be confused with the thistle or niger seed you buy in the stores.

Deep, tubular-shaped flowers like lobelias, foxgloves, fuchsias, and columbines provide nectar which is sought after by the Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Many lovely flowering vines, which can dress up a trellis, have rich nectar-producing flowers. Wood Thrushes love honeysuckle. Firethorn and trumpet-vine are other good selections.

Most songbirds are also voracious berry eaters. Many shrubs that are useful in the landscape also produce tasty berries as well. Try planting viburnums, highbush cranberry, hollies, cotoneaster, and winterberry and watch the Flickers and Blue Jays flock to your yard. Birds find the berries of shadbush and mulberry some of the best. We all love raspberries, blueberries, and strawberries, and so do bluebirds, titmice, robins, and a host of other birds. You may even find a Cape May Warbler sucking juice from your grapes. What bird would pass up a clump of blackberries or elderberries without stopping by for a snack? One berry favored by Sapsuckers, Hermit Thrushes, and Downy Woodpeckers (but not us) is poison ivy!



Dark-eyed Junco
by William E. Davis

continued on page 40

Murphy's Laws of Birding

by Alan Delorey

Remember our friend Murphy, who is credited with a set of laws that explain how everything always goes wrong? Well, it occurs to me that Murphy's observations about life should extend to birding as well. I'm sure that you'll agree there are an infinite number of ways in which your birding experiences can go awry. For your amusement I've jotted down a few of them.

When you finally have a Carolina Wren in your quiet New Hampshire neighborhood, why does it nest in your neighbor's yard? Why do all of the "good birds" prefer your neighbor's feeder? The more intense a birder you are, the more the birds will shun your yard for someone else's. Don't you just hate it when a non-birding friend tells you that two months ago he saw a bird with a "ridiculously long tail" and it turns out that a rare Scissor-tailed Flycatcher visited the state and you missed it.

How do migrant waterfowl know which ponds have no public access? They always seem to stop at the ponds with the least visibility. The rarer the bird, the more restricted the area in which it prefers to stop. If the bird does stop at a pond with a public access point, it will be sure to stay at the opposite end of the pond, just to test whether you spent enough money on your spotting scope.

Have you ever had trouble with your optics? Why do binoculars always choose to fog up just when the "good bird" shows up? Have you ever noticed that just when you get your spotting scope set up, aligned and focused, with the bird centered in the field of view, a stiff wind kicks up and shakes the tripod so badly that it looks like a flock of birds gyrating about.

Why does the strap on your binoculars break when you are standing on cement? You spent the whole morning standing on grass and it didn't break. Now that the surface below you is harder than the binoculars, wham! Should have bought that armor-plated, indestructible pair.

Ever heard of the phenomenon called "south wind at Cape May?" This means that when the wind blows from the north, lots of fall migrants show up at Cape May (and other similar locations across the continent). But, when the wind blows from the south, there will be no birds. What happens to all of the birds that were already there? If the wind is unfavorable to migrate, where do all of the birds go that came in on the last favorable wind? Do they just evaporate?

Why do most rainy days occur on weekends—especially weekends when you have big birding plans? If you ever need rain, just plan a birding trip. It works better than planning a picnic. Ever notice how fog follows a pelagic trip? I've taken several pelagic trips off the New England coast in search of ocean-going rarities. The fog rolls in and you'll never know how many "life" birds were circling the boat, as you can barely see the water.

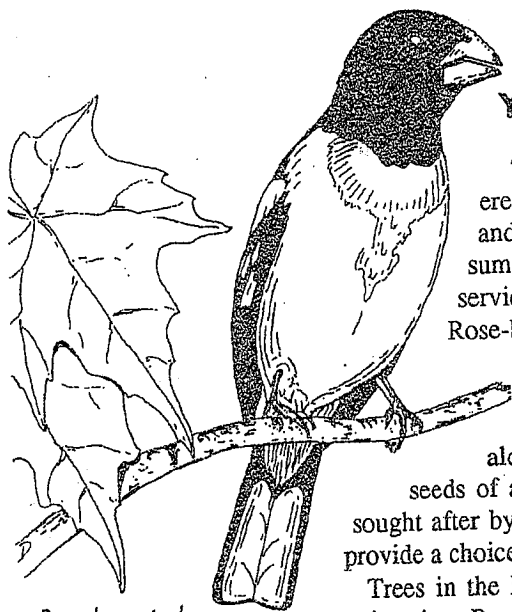
Did you know that birds can tell time? And they know when you plan to arrive. How many times have you hurried to the site of a reported rarity, only to have a helpful,

smiling birder tell you "it was here just a few minutes ago?" It's a wonder that more of those helpful, smiling birders don't have broken noses.

Why does the birding hotline number change just before you arrive at some new location? The helpful recording tells you that the phone number has been changed. Somehow the technology isn't available to tell you what the new number is, and you miss several rarities while in the area. As soon as you return home, the new phone number for the phantom bird alert is waiting in your mailbox. It's a good thing mailboxes don't have noses!

Field trip leaders are a resolute lot. Why is it that the trip leader always forgets to bring his lunch? When this happens you either go without a lunch break or you have to take up a collection from everyone else's lunch pails to get the leader to stop for a few minutes. Ever notice that there are no more restrooms after your lunch break? There were several in the morning when no one needed them. Now there isn't a place to stop for miles around.

I could go on and on, but thankfully for you I won't. If you have an interesting birding experience that you would like to share, send it to us and we'll consider it for publication in a future issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*.



Rose-breasted
Grosbeak by
William E. Davis

Landscaping Your Yard (continued)

Trees also provide food for our feathered friends with their crops of nuts, fruits, and seeds. Crabapples, hawthorns, oaks, sumacs, autumn olives, dogwoods, and serviceberries are good varieties to plant. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks seek out cherry

blossoms, but Cedar Waxwings and Catbirds prefer the fruits of mountain ash. The seeds of pines and alders are a delight to Pine Siskins. The seeds of aspens, poplars, and maples are also sought after by many birds. The berries of junipers provide a choice winter treat for Evening Grosbeaks.

Trees in the landscape create shelter and suitable nesting sites. Besides cover, trees attract many types of insects that are relished by birds. Nuthatches and Woodpeckers hunt beneath the bark for insects and larvae, while the Scarlet Tanager finds foliage-eating caterpillars quite appetizing.

The right landscape choices will do much to bring birds and other wildlife into your yard where you can watch them close up. The perfect plant just might be an invitation for a White-crowned Sparrow to dine in your yard!

Corrections

The following corrections were found after the issue was published. Minor typos are not included. In the future, we hope to publish corrections in each issue for the previous season, but we still have a backlog. We will be including corrections chronologically as space allows until we are caught up.

Please let us know of any major inaccuracies you find in any issue. Those which involve sighting records will be corrected in the computer data file to improve accuracy.

Spring 94, Vol. 13, No. 1

- p. 6 The Tundra Swans listed on 04-13 & 04-16 were both at the same location at Union Meadows in Wakefield
Waterfowl summary – there were two very late Harlequin Ducks on May 21.
- p.10 Common Mergansers listed on 03-24 on Depot Rd. were in Stratham not Greenland
- p. 23 Warbler summary, there was only one Golden-winged Warbler report.
- p. 27 Common Yellowthroat listed on 05-03 was at the Merrimack River CA in Concord not Riverland CA

Summer 94, Vol. 13, No. 2

- p. 20 The 4 Gray-cheeked Thrush on 06-26 were in the town of Livermore not Woodstock
- p. 26 American Redstart listed on 06-14 on Lower Mascorna Lake census route should number 12 not 2
- p. 28 In the Tanagers through Evening Grosbeak summary, the Grasshopper Sparrow was in Amherst not Merrimack

Fall 94, Vol. 13, No. 3

- p. 4 Loons through Herons summary
The last sentence should read "and a late inland Cattle Egret seen in both Wentworth and Warren on November 6 and 13, respectively".
In the first paragraph, the sentence referring to two Northern Fulmars should read "the first fall records in several years".
- p. 24 The Boreal Chickadee listed 09-15 was in Jefferson, not Whitefield
The following report was inadvertently omitted
Orange-crowned Warbler, 09-18, Rye, Star Island, A. & B. Delorey, BBC FT

Winter 94-95

- p. 9 The 200 Lesser Scaup on 01-21 at the NH Coast were actually Common Eider
Black Scoter on Laconia-New Hampton CBC should have a CW (count week)
- p.14 Pheasants through Shorebirds summary –American Coots lingered on Great Bay until mid-December, not through December
- p. 15 Black-bellied Plover and Dunlin on 12-03 at s. jetty in Seabrook were on Hampton River not Hampton Rd.
- p. 20 The last line of the Horned Lark through Wrens summary should read 8 Winter Wrens, not 3
- p. 26 Warblers through Snow Bunting summary, first line: Pine Warbler was not new for the Coastal CBC

Reporters for Winter 1995-96

Dennis Abbott
 Jayne Allard
 Richard Allard
 H. Cook Anderson
 Widge Arms
 Jenny Ashley
 Charles Austin
 Jeannine Ayer
 Elizabeth Beaulieu
 Bert Becker
 James Bell
 Diana Bertin
 Richard Bickford
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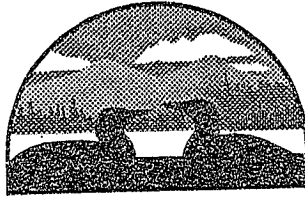
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New Hampshire Bird Records
Volume 15, Number 4
Winter 1996-97

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Robert Vernon.

Abbreviations Used

ASNH	Audubon Society of NH	NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
BBC	Brookline Bird Club	R.	River
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey	Rd.	Road
CA	Conservation Area	Rt.	Route
CC	Country Club	St. Pk.	State Park
FT	Field Trip	SPNHF	Society for the Protection of NH Forests, Concord
L.	Lake	WMA	Wildlife Management Area
LPC	Loon Preservation Committee	WMNF	White Mountain National Forest
NA	Natural Area	WS	ASNH Wildlife Sanctuary
NHBR	<i>New Hampshire Bird Records</i>	~	approximately
NHRBC	NH Rare Birds Committee		

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