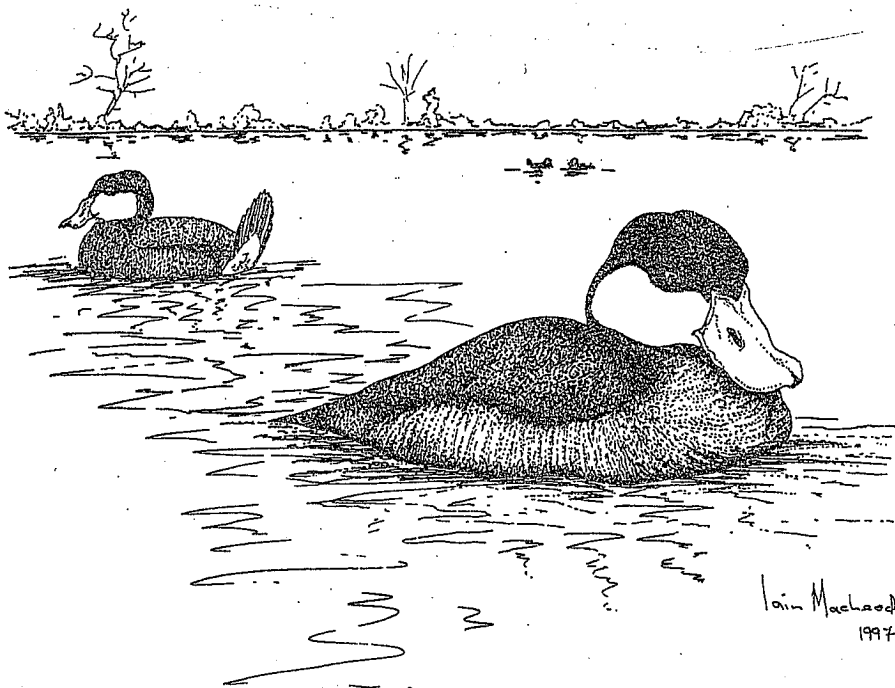


New Hampshire Bird Records



Fall 1996
Volume 15, No. 3

About the Cover

The front cover illustration of Ruddy Ducks is by Iain MacLeod, an avid birder and Visitor Services Director at the PSNH Amoskeag Fishways Visitor & Learning Center in Manchester.

The Ruddy Duck is a small, diving duck from the western United States. In its breeding plumage, the male is a handsome bird with a rust-brown body, a bright white cheek patch with a black cap, and a large, turquoise blue bill. Unfortunately, we usually see the non-breeding plumage during the fall when the male loses his bright colors and more closely resembles the female. The unique feature of the Ruddy Duck is its stiff tail feathers, which are often held erect while it is swimming at the surface.

In New Hampshire, the Ruddy Duck is a rare spring and an uncommon fall migrant, found in small numbers primarily near the coast, where they are sometimes seen with American Coots. In the fall, Ruddy Ducks start to show up in New Hampshire in early October and usually leave by late November, heading for wintering areas in the southeast. Numbers of up to 10 individuals are not rare, but this fall, large numbers of birds showed up in New England. Record high numbers were observed in New Hampshire, including over 250 on Great Bay.

— Steve Mirick

New Hampshire Bird Records (NHBR) is published quarterly by the Audubon Society of New Hampshire (ASNH). Bird sightings are submitted to ASNH and are edited for publication. A computerized printout of all sightings in a season is available for a fee. To order a printout, purchase back issues, or volunteer your observations for *NHBR*, please contact the Managing Editor at 224-9909.

We are always interested in receiving sponsorship for *NH Bird Records*.

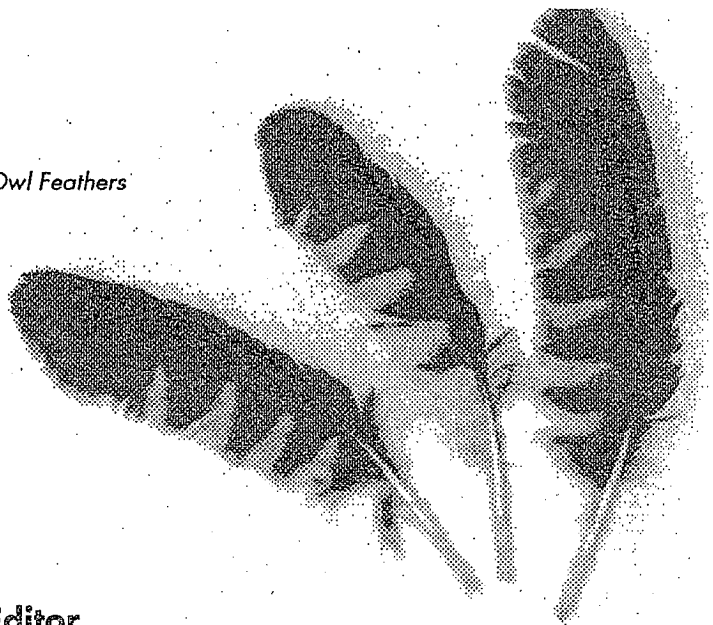
If you or a company/organization you work for would be interested, please contact Becky Suomala at 224-9909.

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Audubon Society of New Hampshire
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Boreal Owl Feathers



From the Editor

Special thanks to Iain MacLeod for his front cover illustration. The appearance of nearly 300 Ruddy Ducks on Great Bay this fall was a remarkably rare occurrence.

Thanks also to the many reporters who send their sighting slips in to *New Hampshire Bird Records*. Not only are there good numbers of reports, but the quality is very high and has increased over the years. We have a tremendous crew of volunteers who enter these sightings into the computer database. They appreciate reporters' attention to detail. Clear printing is also helpful in speeding the process along.

We encourage reporters to include a more specific location—not just the town—on their sighting slips. It is most helpful if the location can be found by people who may not know the area and want to make a visit. Local names that are not on a map can be confusing. One such example is Harpers Meadow in Errol. It is commonly known to those who frequent Lake Umbagog but is not identified in the *New Hampshire Atlas and Gazetteer*. A simple addition to make the location read "Harpers Meadow, Androscoggin River" would help give an unfamiliar reader a better idea of where to look.

It's also good to keep in mind that sometimes researchers actually map this bird sighting data. I was involved in just such a project in Coos County and discovered that it can be difficult to locate sightings with minimal locations or colloquial names. This does not mean you need to put down the precise point to the tenth of a mile. Just keep in mind that others who do not know an area may want to find the spot.

No matter what you do, keep sending in those reports. And thanks to all the reporters and volunteers who make *New Hampshire Bird Records* such a wonderful publication.

Becky Suomala
Managing Editor

What To Report in the Fall Season (August through November)

Which sightings should *New Hampshire Bird Records* reporters submit? There are no hard and fast rules, but here are some guidelines for the fall 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). For fall migrants, focus on arrival dates, peak numbers, late lingerers, inland sightings of coastal waterfowl, hawk flights, and shorebird peaks. Late nesting reports are of interest for any species. For the common year-round residents, report unusually high numbers or sightings that indicate a migration (resident birds do migrate in some years).

Reports of species sought by many birders are interesting to all. These are often resident species that are not commonly seen: boreal species like Gray Jay and Spruce Grouse, owls and goatsuckers, or secretive wetland birds such as rails and bitterns. Also, reports of state endangered and threatened species are always valuable for the database.

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

American Bittern	Whip-poor-will	Northern Mockingbird
Mallard	Chimney Swift	Brown Thrasher
Red-breasted Merganser	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	European Starling
Bald Eagle	Downy Woodpecker	Prairie Warbler
Northern Harrier	Hairy Woodpecker	Eastern Towhee
Cooper's Hawk	Black-backed Woodpecker	Ovenbird
Northern Goshawk	Pileated Woodpecker	Northern Cardinal
Red-shouldered Hawk	Least Flycatcher	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
American Kestrel	Blue Jay	Swamp Sparrow
Ring-necked Pheasant	Common Raven	Dark-eyed Junco
Ruffed Grouse	Black-capped Chickadee	Rusty Blackbird
Willet	Tufted Titmouse	Brown-headed Cowbird
Ring-billed Gull	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Purple Finch
Mourning Dove	White-breasted Nuthatch	House Finch
Eastern Screech-Owl	Brown Creeper	Evening Grosbeak
Great Horned Owl	Winter Wren	Purple Finch
Barred Owl	Wood Thrush	

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

Fall Season

August 1–November 30, 1996

Contrasting with a relatively wet summer, August started the fall season with slightly warm and extremely dry weather. In fact, it was the driest August on record for Concord. Bird migration was well underway, with a high number of early warblers documented migrating at night on August 11. Peter Hunt noted warbler peaks on his Mascoma Lake bird survey in early August rather than the more usual time of mid-September. He suggests that this may have been due to a poor reproductive season, leading to a higher percentage of adults migrating early. A dry air mass towards the end of the month triggered a tremendous migration of Common Nighthawks on August 31.

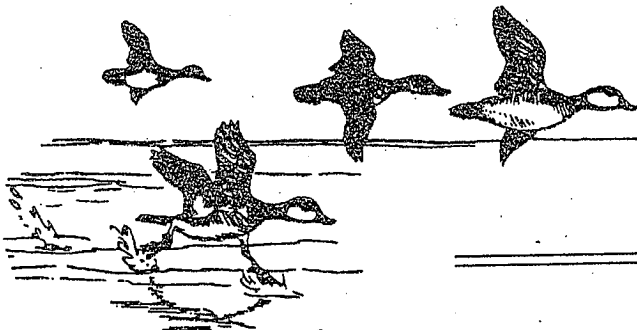
Hurricane Edouard passed to our south on September 2, and strong easterly winds resulted in interesting sightings along the coast, including two Greater Shearwaters and a very early flight of Northern Gannets. A large migratory flock of warblers was seen on September 5 in Lyman, with several species present. That night was also the highest total counted in a nocturnal census of migrating birds in Enfield.

Hurricane Fran slammed into the coast of North Carolina on September 6 and brought some incredible inland records for several tropical species as far north as the Great Lakes, but the remnants of the storm had no noticeable impact on New Hampshire birds. The Broad-winged Hawk flight was predictably unpredictable, with hawkwatchers shutout during the prime weekend of September 14 and 15. But the birds slipped by—over 1900 total hawks were counted in just over two hours, flying south over Concord during showers on September 18.

October was cool and extremely wet. Peak foliage occurred the latest in 20 years in most areas of the state. Hurricane Josephine passed by on the evening of October 8 and led to the best Northern Gannet migration of the season the following day. An intense low system produced several days of strong, sustained easterly winds and record flooding in eastern parts of the state on October 19 through October 21, but the only significant bird sighting was of a rare inland report of a Red Phalarope in a flooded field in Durham on October 23.

November was cool and slightly drier than normal, but despite the weather, there were very late records for Blackpoll, Nashville, and Cape May Warblers.

The fall of 1996 produced more rarities for the state. Highlights for the fall include the remains of a Boreal Owl found along the coast, a Lesser Black-backed Gull, a Three-toed Woodpecker in the White Mountains, a Tundra Swan, the return of two Eurasian Wigeons to Great Bay, and two rare inland reports of Common Eiders.



Steve Mirick
Fall Editor

Loons through Ibis

A total of 22 Common Loons on Bow Lake is unusually high for this location, and small numbers of Common and Red-throated Loons were seen migrating along the coast during a storm on October 19. A report of a Red-necked Grebe from Pittsburg on August 21 in breeding plumage is a full month earlier than normal.

Offshore, only small numbers of shearwaters and storm-petrels were present, although Stellwagen Bank off Massachusetts had several hundred Greater and Sooty Shearwaters throughout the fall. Northern Gannets were well reported, but the total of 115 on September 2 is exceptionally early for this species, whose migration usually peaks in October. An early inland Great Cormorant was unexpected from Whitefield on September 7, while typically high numbers of Double-crested Cormorants were seen migrating along the coast during October. An inland Snowy Egret seen in New London was unusual for this coastal species, and a report of a Least Bittern was unexpected for this declining species.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Red-throated Loon				
10-19	5	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	A. & B. Delorey
10-28	1	Weare	below Clough Dam	J. & J. Verville
11-05	1	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
11-10	1	Concord	Merrimack River	M. Shea
11-30	9		NH coast	A. & B. Delorey
Common Loon				
09-24	20	Errol	Lake Umbagog	C. Martin
10-02	25	Hampton	off Boars Head	G. Gavutis, M. Bartlett
11-26	22	Strafford	Bow Lake	R. Quinn
Loon sp.				
10-19	51	Rye	Ragged Neck	S. Mirick
Pied-billed Grebe				
09-24	4	Newington	Stubbs Pond, Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala, S. Mirick
10-06	3	Exeter	Powder House Pond	G. Prazar
10-06	9	Kingston	Powwow Pond	A. & B. Delorey
10-17	3	Manchester	Massabesic Lake	G. Mitchell
10-18	4	Salem	World End Pond	K. Folsom
11-15	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	P. Hunt
Horned Grebe				
09-24	1	Newington	Great Bay	M. Suomala, S. Mirick
10-12	4	N. Hampton	N. Hampton State Beach	A. & B. Delorey
10-13	3	Moultonborough	Long Island	A. Groth
10-22	8	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
11-13	3	Rye	Jenness Beach	T. Vazzano

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Red-necked Grebe				
08-21	1	Pittsburg	First Connecticut Lake	J. & J. Verville
10-15	1	Littleton	Samuel Moore Dam	B. Bradley
10-16	1	Hancock	Nubanusit Lake	R. Quinn
10-16	2	Newington	Great Bay	G. Mitchell
10-19	6	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	A. & B. Delorey
10-21	1	Laconia	Lake Winnisquam	R. Quinn
11-10	1	Sugar Hill	Pearl Lake	B. Bradley
11-15	3	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	P. Hunt
11-19	1	Enfield	Crystal Lake	P. Hunt
11-30	54		NH coast	A. & B. Delorey
Northern Fulmar				
10-13	1		Jeffrey's Ledge	S. Mirick
Greater Shearwater				
08-10	2		Jeffrey's Ledge	S. Mirick, J. Matthews
08-14	1	Rye	near Isles of Shoals	T. Vazzano
09-02	2	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	A. & B. Delorey
10-13	4		Jeffrey's Ledge	S. Mirick
Sooty Shearwater				
08-10	2		Jeffrey's Ledge	S. Mirick, J. Matthews
Wilson's Storm-Petrel				
08-10	10		Jeffrey's Ledge	S. Mirick, J. Matthews
Northern Gannet				
08-10	4		Jeffrey's Ledge	S. Mirick, J. Matthews
09-02	115	Rye	Ragged Neck	S. Mirick, P. Hunt, et al.
09-28	185	Rye	Star Island	A. & B. Delorey
10-09	480	Seabrook	beach	A. & B. Delorey
10-13	150	Rye	Jeffrey's Ledge	S. Mirick
10-19	31	Rye	Ragged Neck	S. Mirick
Great Cormorant				
09-07	1	Whitefield	Hazen Marsh	R. Quinn, Capital Chapter FT
10-05	1	Rye	Odiome Point	S. Mirick, ASNH FT
10-12	1	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick, R. Quinn, ASNH FT
10-13	6	Rye	Star Island	S. Mirick
10-26	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	A. & B. Delorey, BBC FT
11-10	1	Durham	Mill Pond	S. Mirick
11-23	19		NH coast	A. & B. Delorey, BBC FT
Double-crested Cormorant				
09-04	250	Newington	Great & Little Bays	G. Gavutis
10-02	2000	Hampton	Boars Head	G. Gavutis, M. Bartlett
10-14	1600		NH coast, Odiome Pt. to Hampton	D. & T. Donsker
11-14	1	Exeter	Swasey Pkwy.	G. Prazar
Least Bittern				
09-02	1	Hampton Falls	Depot Rd.	D. Kirwan

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Great Blue Heron				
08-03	15	Seabrook	harbor	A. & B. Delorey
10-11	13		Great Bay	G. Mitchell
11-26	2	Northwood	Northwood Lake	R. Quinn
Great Egret				
08-02	11	Hampton Falls	saltmarsh	G. Mitchell
08-05	1	Bow	Putney Pond	A. Steinbrueck
08-06	1	Kensington	Moulton Ridge Rd.	M. Perry
08-06	2	Exeter	Court St. near Gilman Park	G. & K. Prazar
08-11	1	Jaffrey	backyard pond	F. Richardson
08-13	1	Haverhill	Connecticut River	L. Bunten
09-01	4	Newington	Stubbs Pond, Great Bay NWR	M. & R. Suomala
09-16	12	Hampton	Hampton marshes	D. Donsker
09-28	7	Hampton Falls	Depot Rd.	D. Kirwan
09-29	1	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	J. Chapp
10-03	4	Newmarket	off Bay Rd.	S. Mirick
Snowy Egret				
08-02	1	New London	Knollwood Rd. pond	E. & P. Brigham
08-03	56	Seabrook	harbor	A. & B. Delorey
08-04	18	Newmarket	Bay Rd. marshes	S. Mirick
08-30	13	Newington	Stubbs Pond, Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
09-19	85	Seabrook	Seabrook marshes	S. Mirick
09-27	45	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	G. Mitchell
10-08	1	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
Little Blue Heron				
08-31	2	Hampton Falls	Depot Rd.	D. Kirwan
Green Heron				
08-05	1	Hopkinton	Contoocook R. at Rt. 89	C. Martin
08-06	1	Kensington	Moulton Ridge Rd.	M. Perry
08-19	1	Salem	World End Pond	K. Folsom
08-20	1	Stratham	saltmarsh S. of Squamscott Rd. e. of Rt. 108	G. Gavutis
08-30	1	Littleton	Comerford Reservoir, Connecticut R.	C. Martin
08-31	1	Henniker	Contoocook R.	R. Hardy
09-09	3	Monroe	Connecticut R. above Barnet, Vt. bridge	C. Martin, R. Cook
09-29	1	Newmarket	Lamprey R.	G. Mitchell
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
08-02	9	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	G. Mitchell
08-16	1	Nashua	boat ramp above Mines Falls	B. & M. Harris
10-26	3	Exeter	Powder House Pond	A. & B. Delorey, BBC FT
11-05	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
Glossy Ibis				
09-19	1	Seabrook	Seabrook marshes	S. Mirick

Waterfowl

This was an outstanding fall for migrant waterfowl: high totals were reported for many species, and several rarities were sighted. A **Tundra Swan** was a rare find at the Derry Wastewater Treatment Plant, while the number of Mute Swans continues to grow, with a record 54 counted on Great Bay. A coastal flight of 650 Snow Geese on October 5 was a surprise for hawkwatchers at Odiorne Point; it included two blue morph birds. Brant are normally seen along the coast, but this fall, the only report was an unusual record of two birds from Enfield on November 8.

For the third successive year, high numbers of American Wigeon were seen on Great Bay. Other waterfowl were also well reported: an impressive number of Common Eiders were seen out by the Isles of Shoals, and high numbers of Black Scoters and Buffleheads were reported inland. A conservative estimate of 750 Common Mergansers on Lake Umbagog may be the highest total ever recorded in the state, and the total of nearly 300 Ruddy Ducks on Great Bay on November 5 certainly is the highest total for the state. The only low numbers were for Red-breasted Mergansers, and no Barrow's Goldeneyes were reported at all.

Rarities for the fall included an early report of four Harlequin Ducks on October 19, a King Eider on October 26, a total of five Redheads and two adult male **Eurasian Wigeon** on Great Bay, a Northern Shoveler, and two very rare reports of Common Eiders from inland locations.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Tundra Swan				
11-27	1	Derry	wastewater treatment plant	A. & B. Delorey
Mute Swan				
11-30	54	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. & G. Mirick
Snow Goose				
10-05	400	N. Hampton	residence	D. & T. Donsker
10-05	650	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	S. Mirick, P. Lacourse, ASNH FT
10-17	200	Concord	over Turtle Pond	R. Suomala, J. Kanter
11-26	2	Northwood	Northwood Lake	R. Quinn
Brant				
11-08	2	Enfield	Mascoma Lake	P. Hunt
Canada Goose				
10-17	450	Concord	W. Portsmouth St.	R. Suomala
10-19	500	Walpole	Rt. 123 and Old Drewsville Rd.	N. Ritz
10-27	2000	Newington	Great Bay	S. Mirick, M. Suomala
10-31	600	Haverhill	farm field	B. Bradley
11-15	480	Walpole	Connecticut R., N. Walpole	P. Hunt
Wood Duck				
08-05	29	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	D. Donsker
09-03	75	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	P. Hunt
09-04	20	Washingtton	Pillsbury St. Pk., Mill Pond	P. Newbern

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Wood Duck (continued)				
09-05	13	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
11-18	5	Enfield	Mascoma Lake	P. Hunt
11-24	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, R. & M. Suomala
Green-winged Teal				
08-30	1	Rye	Eel Pond	P. Newbern, D. Abbott
10-02	10	Hampton	Boars Head	G. Gavutis, M. Bartlett
10-13	49	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	A. & B. Delorey
10-17	19	Manchester	Massabesic Lake	G. Mitchell
10-22	35	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
10-27	70	Newington	Stubbs Pond, Great Bay NWR	S. Mirick, M. Suomala
11-10	3	Enfield	Mascoma Lake	P. Hunt
American Black Duck				
08-09	90	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
10-16	900	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
11-29	48	Monroe	Connecticut River	B. Bradley
Northern Pintail				
09-24	2	Newington	Stubbs Pond, Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala, S. Mirick
09-28	4	Rye	Ragged Neck	S. Mirick, R. Bickford, R. Balerviez
10-02	6	Hampton	off Boars Head	G. Gavutis, M. Bartlett
10-12	2	Newington	Upper Peverly Pond, Great Bay NWR	R. Quinn, ASNH FT
10-12	2	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick, R. Quinn, ASNH FT
Blue-winged Teal				
08-20	1	Derry	wastewater treatment plant	A. Delorey
08-30	6	Rye	Eel Pond	P. Newbern, D. Abbott
09-03	18	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	P. Hunt, D. Abbott
09-29	63	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	A. & B. Delorey
10-11	12	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	D. Donsker
Teal sp.				
08-30	105	Newington	Stubbs Pond, Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
Northern Shoveler				
10-02	1	Newington	Great Bay NWR	R. Quinn, M. Suomala
Gadwall				
09-24	1	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala, S. Mirick
10-27	1	Newington	Stubbs Pond, Great Bay NWR	S. Mirick, M. Suomala
11-17	3	Greenland	Meloon Rd., Great Bay	A. & B. Delorey
11-18	2	Stratham	Sandy Point, Great Bay	G. Mitchell
Eurasian Wigeon				
09-24	1	Newington	Herods Cove, Great Bay	M. Suomala, S. Mirick
11-04	1	Stratham	Sandy Point	D. & T. Donsker
11-17	2	Greenland	Great Bay	A. & B. Delorey, S. Mirick
11-30	1	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. & G. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
American Wigeon				
09-01	14	Newington	Stubbs Pond	G. Mitchell
09-24	30	Newington	Stubbs Pond & Herods Cove, Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala, S. Mirick
10-02	5	Hampton	Boars Head	G. Gavutis, M. Bartlett
10-02	8	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	P. Hunt
10-02	37	Newington	Stubbs Pond, Great Bay NWR	R. Quinn, M. Suomala
10-27	65	Newington	Stubbs Pond, Great Bay NWR	S. Mirick, M. Suomala
11-17	104		Great Bay	S. Mirick
Canvasback				
10-26	4	Newmarket	Great Bay	S: Mirick
11-03	7	Stratham	Sandy Pt., Great Bay	G. Mitchell
11-13	3	Stratham	Sandy Point	T. Vazzano
Redhead				
10-16	2	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
10-27	2	Newington	Stubbs Pond, Great Bay NWR	S. Mirick, M. Suomala
11-13	5	Stratham	Great Bay	A. Ports
Ring-necked Duck				
09-30	16	Littleton	Samuel Moore Dam	B. Bradley
10-04	14	Sandwich	Red Hill Pond	T. Vazzano
10-16	20	Newington	Stubbs Pond	G. Mitchell
10-17	18	Moultonborough	Unsworth Preserve	T. Vazzano
10-18	75	Salem	World End Pond	K. Folsom
10-25	40	Sutton	Gile Pond	T. & B. Richards
10-31	22	Lyman	Round Pond	S. & M. Turner
11-01	30	Lyman	Round Pond	S. & M. Turner
11-13	50	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Suomala, M. Johnson, L. Morris
11-29	1	Monroe	Connecticut River	B. Bradley
Greater Scaup				
09-11	1	Derry	wastewater treatment plant	A. Delorey
09-17	1	Enfield	Mascoma Lake	P. Hunt
09-25	8	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
10-07	36	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
10-16	80	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
11-05	325	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
11-19	2	Errol	Lake Umbagog	R. Quinn, T. Richards
Lesser Scaup				
10-16	1	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
10-26	2	Hampton	Plaice Cove	A. & B. Delorey, BBC FT
11-18	9	Kingston	Powwow Pond	A. & B. Delorey
11-27	2	Derry	Derry Village Pond	A. & B. Delorey
11-27	6	Derry	Beaver Lake	A. & B. Delorey
Common Eider				
09-26	1	Hanover	Connecticut R., Wilson's Landing	L. Bunten
09-28	1500	Rye	Star Island	A. & B. Delorey
10-23	1	Jefferson	Meadows Pond off Rt. 115A	D. Govatski
11-05	1	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
11-30	270		NH coast	A. & B. Delorey

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
King Eider				
10-26	1	Hampton	Bicentennial Pk.	A. & B. Delorey, BBC FT
Harlequin Duck				
10-19	4	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	A. & B. Delorey
Oldsquaw				
10-19	4	Rye	Ragged Neck	S. Mirick
10-29	6	Littleton	Samuel Moore Dam	B. Bradley
11-04	5	Littleton	Samuel Moore Dam	B. Bradley
11-10	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	M. & R. Suomala
11-13	6	Littleton	Samuel Moore Dam	B. Bradley
11-27	1	Derry	wastewater treatment plant	A. & B. Delorey
11-30	42		NH coast	A. & B. Delorey
Black Scoter				
10-02	15	Hampton	off Boars Head	G. Gavutis, M. Bartlett
10-15	30	Littleton	Samuel Moore Dam	B. Bradley
10-25	150	Salem	World End Pond	K. Folsom
10-26	90	Littleton	Samuel Moore Dam	B. Bradley
10-26	17	Enfield	Mascoma Lake	P. Hunt
10-29	250	Littleton	Samuel Moore Dam	B. Bradley
11-05	54	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
11-12	20	Enfield	Mascoma Lake	P. Hunt
11-13	70	Littleton	Samuel Moore Dam	B. Bradley
11-13	32	Dublin	Dublin Lake	J. Broyles
Surf Scoter				
08-15	2	Hampton	North Beach	D. Donsker
10-02	10	Hampton	off Boars Head	G. Gavutis, M. Bartlett
10-05	45	Rye	Jeness Beach	S. Mirick, ASNH FT
10-26	13	Enfield	Mascoma Lake	P. Hunt
10-29	10	Littleton	Samuel Moore Dam	B. Bradley
11-07	2	Springfield	Colelemook Lake	P. Hunt
11-07	3	Enfield	Mascoma Lake	P. Hunt
White-winged Scoter				
09-05	1	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
09-09	2	Hampton	North Beach	G. Mitchell
10-02	100	Hampton	off Boars Head	G. Gavutis, M. Bartlett
10-11	24	Jefferson	Cherry Pond	D. Govatski
11-05	11	Littleton	Samuel Moore Dam	B. Bradley
11-08	2	Enfield	Mascoma Lake	P. Hunt
11-10	8	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
11-13	70	Littleton	Moore Reservoir	S. & M. Turner
Common Goldeneye				
09-18	4	Gorham	Androscoggin R., Tinker Brook outlet	J. Brown
10-12	1	Moultonborough	Long Island, Squam Lake	A. Groth
11-17	120		Great Bay	A. & B. Delorey
11-26	12	Northwood	Northwood Lake	R. Quinn

Bufflehead

10-12	5	Holderness	Sheep Island, Squam Lake	A. Groth
10-15	12	Moultonborough	Unsworth Preserve	A. Groth
10-26	25	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
10-29	8	Orford	Upper Baker Pond	A. Ports
10-30	12	Strafford	Pipers Cove, Bow Lake	A. & H. Cilley
11-02	48	Littleton	Samuel Moore Dam	B. Bradley
11-12	8	Littleton	Moore Reservoir	S. & M. Turner
11-13	8	Moultonborough	Unsworth Preserve	T. Vazzano

Hooded Merganser

10-05	17	New London	Knollwood Rd. & Pleasant St. jct.	R. Vernon
10-21	14	Laconia	Winnepesaukee River	R. Quinn
11-05	12	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
11-06	12	Dalton	Mill Pond	B. Bradley
11-12	33	Laconia	Wildwood Village Pond	H. Anderson
11-13	11	Moultonborough	Unsworth Preserve	T. Vazzano
11-15	31	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	P. Hunt
11-19	17	Errol	Lake Umbagog	R. Quinn, T. Richards
11-29	6	Monroe	Connecticut River	B. Bradley

Common Merganser

11-02	28	Orford	Upper Baker Pond	A. Ports
11-07	15	Enfield	Mascoma Lake	P. Hunt
11-15	42	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	P. Hunt
11-19	750	Errol	Lake Umbagog	R. Quinn, T. Richards
11-30	10	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. & G. Mirick

Ruddy Duck

10-05	6	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, ASNH FT
10-16	3	Concord	Turtle Pond	R. Quinn
10-17	23	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	A. Ports
10-17	6	Manchester	Massabesic Lake	G. Mitchell
10-22	22	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
10-24	7	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Quinn
10-25	8	Salem	World End Pond	K. Folsom
10-26	67	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
11-02	170	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick, P. Lacourse
11-05	242	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
11-05	36	Stratham	Sandy Point, Great Bay	S. Mirick
11-05	21	Greenland	Great Bay, Meloon Rd.	S. Mirick
11-05	30	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick
11-17	184		Great Bay	A. & B. Delorey
11-18	22	Kingston	Powwow Pond	A. & B. Delorey
11-27	17	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
11-30	3	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	A. & B. Delorey

Duck sp.

08-28	888	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
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Hawks

In general, hawkwatching was not terribly productive this fall—perhaps due to poor weather, perhaps due to less coverage, or perhaps due to less hawks. No hawk watch results were received from Odiorne Point, so there were low numbers for Northern Harriers, Sharp-shinned Hawks, American Kestrels, Merlins, and Peregrine Falcons. Nevertheless, a couple of good Broad-winged Hawk flights were reported, including a river of Broad-wings flowing over Audubon House on September 18. These birds flew by between showers when there was torrential rain along the seacoast. Another 1000 estimated hawks from Weare on September 19 were undoubtedly also Broad-winged Hawks. Twenty-seven Ospreys from Sugar Hill is an excellent inland total, and 85 Turkey Vultures in Keene is exceptional. Golden Eagles have now been reported in seven of the last eight fall seasons, with this year's sighting from Peterborough on October 14.

Bald Eagle reports were primarily from traditional summer locations on Lake Umbagog and along the Connecticut River. No significant migrants were noted: The now-famous female Peregrine Falcon, nicknamed "Alex," returned for her ninth successive winter to the city of Manchester. She was eventually joined by a male falcon whose leg band revealed that he had been banded in Dixville Notch in 1995.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Turkey Vulture				
08-11	33	Lisbon	dump	S. Turner
08-21	18	Laconia	Union Ave.	T. Vazzano
09-11	85	Keene	jct. of Maple Ave., Court St., & Old Walpole Rd.	N. Ritz
10-25	2	Milford	Rt. 13s. at Rt. 101 bypass	B. Becker
Osprey				
09-17	27	Sugar Hill	Sugar Hill Rd.	S. & M. Turner
11-03	1	Sutton	CC of NH, Kearsarge Valley Rd.	H. Anderson
Sharp-shinned Hawk				
09-17	20	Peterborough	S. Pack Monadnock	K. Folsom, A. Clauss
09-19	30	Deering	Peter Wood Hill	I. MacLeod
10-06	19	Lebanon	airport	P. Hunt, D. Crook, et al.
11-02	1	Columbia	residence	D. & B. Killam
Broad-winged Hawk				
09-17	102	Sugar Hill	Sunset Hill Rd.	S. & M. Turner
09-17	470	Peterborough	S. Pack Monadnock	K. Folsom, A. Clauss
09-18	43	Sugar Hill	Sunset Hill Rd.	S. & M. Turner
09-19	886	Deering	Peter Wood Hill	I. MacLeod
10-06	5	Deering	East Deering Rd.	I. MacLeod
Red-tailed Hawk				
10-06	27	Lebanon	airport	P. Hunt, D. Crook, et al.

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

10-14	1	Peterborough	Perry Motors on Rt. 101	D. Blair
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Merlin

08-29	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	R. Quinn, J. Fisher
10-12	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	R. Suomala
10-13	1	Haverhill	Connecticut R.	C. Martin, D. Merker, L. Reitsma
11-16	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	A. Delorey
11-17	1	Enfield	Main St. Pond	P. Hunt

Peregrine Falcon

08-01	2	Berlin	Crown Vantage plant smokestack	C. Martin, L. Houghton
08-20	1	Seabrook	Seabrook marsh	M. Suomala
08-29	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	R. Quinn, J. Fisher
09-18	1	Concord	Ralph Pill Marketplace	J. Warner, D. Major, M. Amaral, et al.
09-20	2	Manchester	Elm St.	C. Martin
10-16	2	Manchester	Elm St.	T. Bertrand, C. Martin
11-03	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach	S. Mirick, G. Robbins, et al.
11-14	1	Portsmouth	Piscataqua River	H. Popp
11-16	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Woodward

Raptor sp.

09-19	1000	Weare	residence	R. Reeve
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Broad-wing Kettle
by Iain C. MacLeod

Grouse through Terns

Turkey reports from Lyman and Stark are showing the northward expansion of the species in the state, perhaps helped out primarily through the reintroduction of the species in northern areas by New Hampshire Fish and Game. American Coot were in evidence once again this fall, with relatively high numbers reported from traditional stop-over spots along the coast.

Shorebirds numbers rebounded somewhat from last year's low totals, but numbers in general were not exceptional. Rarities included four **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** found at what has become the most reliable location in recent years for this species: the area near the driving range of the Pease Golf Course near the Pease International Tradeport. Also unusual were two inland phalarope records: one of a Red-necked Phalarope from Lake Winnepesaukee and another of the rarer Red Phalarope from Durham on October 23.

Gulls were well reported. A high number of Laughing Gulls migrated south during Hurricane Edouard on September 2, and with a few hundred Bonaparte's Gulls along the coast this fall, it is not too surprising that both Little and Black-headed Gulls were found among them, as is characteristic. The Lesser **Black-backed Gull** was an immature bird with over 200 Great Black-backed Gulls in Berlin. This is the second fall in a row when this species has been reported, and both reports were well away from the coast.

Common Terns went totally unreported, most likely because observers do not report them since this species is relatively common through September in the Hampton Harbor area. A late Forster's Tern and two Caspian Terns highlight the fall for rare tern sightings.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Spruce Grouse				
08-02	1	Errol	Mountain Pond drainage	C. Martin, L. Houghton
08-17	2	Sargents Purchase	Davis Path	G. Robbins
09-24	1	Errol	Magalloway River	C. Martin
Wild Turkey				
08-04	1	Stark	Rt.110 & Potter Rd.	K. Dube
08-16	27	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
08-18	8	Hopkinton	residence	S. Koehler
09-14	2	Henniker	Shaker Hill	R. Hardy
09-17	4	Goshen	Brook Rd.	P. Newbern
10-18	7	Piermont	Rt. 10 across from Eaton Berry Farm	T. Estill
11-01	25	Lyman	Hurd Hill Rd.	M. Presby, et al.
11-19	25	Bath	cornfield off Rt. 135	S. & M. Turner
American Coot				
10-13	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	G. Prazar
10-14	1	Manchester	Lake Massabesic	G. Mitchell
10-27	65	Newington	Stubbs Pond, Great Bay NWR	S. Mirick, M. Suomala
11-05	43	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
11-10	24	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	M. & R. Suomala
11-13	8	Stratham	Sandy Point	T. Vazzano
11-18	54	Kingston	Powwow Pond	A. & B. Delorey
11-21	19	Newington	Stubbs Pond, Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
11-30	11	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	G. Prazar

Black-bellied Plover

08-07	8	Seabrook	w. of Blackwater R.	G. Mitchell
08-16	50	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor.	D. Strong
09-14	1	Canterbury	sod farm	R. Quinn
09-14	5	Greenland	Sunset Landing on Great Bay	S. Mirick
09-22	4	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	D. Strong
10-01	31	Seabrook	Seabrook Harbor	T. Vazzano
10-13	2	Haverhill	Connecticut R. cornfield	C. Martin, D. Merker, L. Reitsma
10-17	31	Seabrook	harbor beach	A. Ports

American Golden-Plover

08-24	1	Portsmouth	Pease Golf Course	S. Mirick
09-04	3	Portsmouth	Pease Golf Course	S. Mirick
09-10	1	Canterbury	sod farm	J. & P. Fisher
10-05	1	N. Hampton	N. Hampton State Beach	S. Mirick, ASNH FT
10-19	1	N. Hampton	N. Hampton State Beach	S. Mirick

Semipalmated Plover

08-02	100	Hampton Falls	Depot Rd.	D. Kirwan
08-14	2	Monroe	Connecticut River	S. & M. Turner
08-15	1	Salem	World End Pond	K. Folsom, T. Richards
08-16	100	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	D. Strong
08-16	200	Rye	pools s. of Odiome Pt. St. Pk.	D. Strong
08-21	2	Canterbury	sod farm	R. Quinn
08-29	132	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	R. Quinn, J. Fisher
08-30	15	Newington	Stubbs Pond, Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
09-07	1	Jefferson	Little Cherry Pond	R. Quinn, Capital Chapter FT
10-02	10	Rye	Ragged Neck	P. Hunt
11-03	1	Rye	Rye Harbor	S. Mirick, R. Quinn, et al.

Killdeer

08-23	23	Laconia	Lexington Dr.	H. Anderson
09-07	35	Whitefield	airport	R. Quinn, Capital Chapter FT
09-14	51	Canterbury	sod farm	R. Quinn
09-24	39	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	S. Mirick
09-26	40	Chester	Hillside Haven	B. Delorey
11-09	5	Hollis	Dow Rd. field at Depot Rd. jct.	R. Suomala

Greater Yellowlegs

08-12	40	Seabrook	Blackwater R., w. bank	G. Mitchell
08-19	30	Hampton	backyard marsh	S. Fiesher
09-04	5	Kensington	over Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
10-16	21	Durham	Adams Point	S. Mirick
10-26	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd.	G. Robbins

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Lesser Yellowlegs				
08-07	5	Seabrook	w. of Blackwater R.	G. Mitchell
08-30	2	Newington	Stubbs Pond, Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
09-07	2	Hampton	Landing Rd.	T. Vazzano, J. Vernon, Lakes Region Chapter FT
Solitary Sandpiper				
08-23	5	Derry	wastewater treatment plant	A. Delorey
08-29	1	Rye	Star Island	T. Vazzano
09-15	1	Crawfords Purchase	near Bretton Woods	G. Gavutis
09-24	1	Littleton	Glenwood	B. Bradley
Willet				
08-16	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	D. Strong
Spotted Sandpiper				
08-23	22	Derry	wastewater treatment plant	A. Delorey
09-04	10	Newington	Great Bay NWR	G. Gavutis
09-30	1	Dummer	Androscoggin R.	G. Gavutis
10-05	1	Rye	Odiome Pt. St. Pk.	S. Mirick, ASNH FT
Upland Sandpiper				
08-22	5	Portsmouth	Pease Golf Course	D. Strong, J. Partridge
08-22	10	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	P. Newbern
08-26	28	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	A. Tappan
09-05	4	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	S. Mirick
Whimbrel				
08-02	11	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	G. Mitchell
08-30	8	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	P. Newbern, D. Abbott
09-23	1	Newmarket	off Bay Rd.	S. Mirick
Hudsonian Godwit				
08-10	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	P. Hunt, et al.
08-12	5	Seabrook	Blackwater R.	G. Mitchell
Ruddy Turnstone				
08-02	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	G. Mitchell
08-10	13	Rye	end of Washington Rd.	D. & T. Donsker
08-29	8	Rye	Star Island	T. Vazzano
09-07	10	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	A. & B. Delorey
10-14	4	Rye	Ragged Neck	D. & T. Donsker
Sanderling				
08-16	75	Rye	Jeness Beach	D. Strong
08-17	90	N. Hampton	N. Hampton State Beach	A. & B. Delorey
09-01	3	Newington	Stubbs Pond, Great Bay NWR	M. & R. Suomala
09-07	100	Rye	Jeness Beach	P. Hunt, D. Abbott, et al.
09-14	100	N. Hampton	N. Hampton State Beach	A. & B. Delorey
11-02	30	Hampton	North Beach	G. Mitchell
Semipalmated Sandpiper				
08-02	55	Hampton Falls	Depot Rd.	D. Kirwan
08-10	450	Rye	pools s. of Odiome Pt.	P. Hunt, et al.
08-14	2	Monroe	Connecticut River	S. & M. Turner

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
08-15	1	Salem	Worlds End Pond	K. Folsom, T. Richards
08-16	400	Rye	pools s. of Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	D. Strong
08-30	109	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
09-02	200	Rye	Odiorne Pt.	P. Hunt, S. Mirick, M. & R. Suomala
10-02	30	Rye	Ragged Neck	P. Hunt
10-27	1	Rye	Ragged Neck	D. & T. Donsker
Western Sandpiper				
10-12	1	Rye	Ragged Neck	A. & B. Delorey
Least Sandpiper				
08-02	60	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	G. Mitchell
08-02	30	Hampton Falls	Depot Rd.	D. Kirwan
08-10	25	Rye	pools s. of Odiorne Pt.	P. Hunt, et al.
08-15	10	Salem	World End Pond	K. Folsom, T. Richards
08-30	24	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
09-02	40		NH coast, Hampton to N. Hampton	D. Kirwan
09-28	10	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	D. Kirwan
White-rumped Sandpiper				
08-15	6	Durham	Adams Point	S. Mirick
09-02	3	Rye	Ragged Neck	P. Hunt, S. Mirick, M. & R. Suomala
10-14	6	Rye	Ragged Neck	D. & T. Donsker
11-10	7	Rye	n. of Ragged Neck	S. Mirick
Pectoral Sandpiper				
08-15	1	Salem	World End Pond	K. Folsom, T. Richards
09-01	2	Newington	Stubbs Pond, Great Bay NWR	M. & R. Suomala
09-07	1	Jefferson	Little Cherry Pond	R. Quinn, Capital Chapter FT
09-14	1	N. Hampton	N. Hampton State Beach	A. & B. Delorey
09-27	3	Hampton	Landing Rd. pools	G. Mitchell
10-12	1	Durham	Jackson Landing	R. Quinn, S. Mirick
Purple Sandpiper				
11-03	2	Rye	Seal Rocks	S. Mirick, R. Quinn, et al.
11-18	5	Rye	Rye Ledges	A. & B. Delorey
11-23	55		NH coast	A. & B. Delorey, BBC FT
Dunlin				
09-23	7	Rye	Ragged Neck	A. & B. Delorey
10-09	130	Seabrook	beach	A. & B. Delorey
11-17	150	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
Buff-breasted Sandpiper				
08-22	1	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	P. Newbern
08-26	4	Portsmouth	Pease Golf Course	S. Mirick, M. Suomala
Short-billed Dowitcher				
08-07	70		Hampton Harbor	G. Mitchell
Common Snipe				
11-10	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	M. & R. Suomala

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
American Woodcock				
11-01	1	Peterborough	field off Tarbell Rd.	R. Frechette
11-18	1	Jefferson	n. of Pondicherry WS	G. Gavutis
Red-necked Phalarope				
09-12	1	Gilford	Welch Is., Lake Winnepesaukee	J. Rice
Red Phalarope				
10-23	1	Durham	off Moat Rd.	S. Mirick, M. Wittner, D. & S. Abbott
Laughing Gull				
08-03	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	P. Hunt, et al.
08-08	1	Hampton	North Beach	D. Donsker
09-02	26	Rye	Ragged Neck	S. Mirick, P. Hunt, et al.
10-20	2	Rye	near Rye Harbor	S. Mirick
Little Gull				
09-13	1	Rye	Rye Harbor	A. & B. Delorey
11-16	1	Rye	Foss Beach	A. & B. Delorey, R. Woodward
Black-headed Gull				
11-10	1	Rye	north of Ragged Neck	S. Mirick
11-16	1	Hampton	Bicentennial Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
11-17	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
Bonaparte's Gull				
08-15	1	Pittsburg	First Connecticut Lake	J. & J. Verville
09-05	2	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
09-09	220		NH coast, Plaice Cove to Seal Rocks	G. Mitchell
09-21	163		Piscataqua R.	R. Suomala, ASNH FT
09-28	250	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. Mirick, R. Bickford, R. Balerviez
11-10	300	Rye	n. of Ragged Neck	S. Mirick
11-22	2	Belmont	Mosquito Bridge, Winnisquam Lake	R. Quinn
11-29	6	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. & G. Mirick
Herring Gull				
11-17	385	Littleton	Samuel Moore Dam	B. Bradley
11-18	750	Enfield	Mascoma Lake	P. Hunt
Iceland Gull				
11-10	1	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick, D. & D. Moskoff
11-18	2	Lebanon	landfill	P. Hunt
11-23	1	Somersworth	Willard Pond	S. Mirick
11-23	2	Rochester	Turnkey Landfill & vicinity	S. Mirick
11-30	1	Seabrook	harbor	A. & B. Delorey
Lesser Black-backed Gull				
11-18	1	Berlin	Androscoggin R. just s. of town	R. Quinn, T. Richards, W. Jenkins
Glaucous Gull				
11-23	1	Rochester	Turnkey Landfill	S. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Great Black-backed Gull				
11-18	205	Enfield	Mascoma Lake	P. Hunt
11-19	230	Berlin	Androscoggin River just s. of town	R. Quinn, T. Richards
Gull sp.				
10-22	1000	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
Black-legged Kittiwake				
11-24	3	Rye	Ragged Neck	S. Mirick, R. & M. Suomala
Caspian Tern				
09-03	2	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	P. Hunt, D. Abbott
09-27	2	Rye	flying by Star Is., Isles of Shoals	R. Suomala
Forster's Tern				
09-22	1	Portsmouth	Piscataqua River	A. & B. Delorey
11-10	1	Rye	Ragged Neck off Rye Harbor St. Pk.	M. & R. Suomala
Black Tern				
09-02	1	Rye	Ragged Neck	S. Mirick, R. Suomala, et al.

Alcids through Shrike

A single Dovekie, spotted near Rye Ledges along the coast on November 30, was a rare find for this pelagic species. Two Black Guillemots were exceptionally early and/or out of place along the coast during Hurricane Edouard on September 2.

Cuckoos are rarely reported, so this season's total of 11 is unusual. It includes two very late sightings on October 7 and October 13. The remains of a Boreal Owl were found along the coast in Rye on November 24. It seems there was an invasion of this species into New England this fall, with several reports from Massachusetts. There have been very few sightings of this species in New Hampshire.

The Common Nighthawk migration can be explosive in late August. This fall, an observer estimated 750 birds flying south on August 31, establishing one of the highest state totals in many years. With up to 12 reports during the fall, Red-bellied Woodpeckers once again demonstrated their movement into New Hampshire. A Three-toed Woodpecker was reported from a trail leading up Mt. Adams—this represents one of very few records for the state in recent years and perhaps the first White Mountains record in over a decade. An Olive-sided Flycatcher was well described on the record late date of October 18.

The only noteworthy swallow concentration was of 500 birds in Boscawen on August 30, although which species were represented was not noted. Two late Barn Swallows and six extremely late Cliff Swallows were noted along the Connecticut River on October 6. Only two Northern Shrikes were reported for the fall, quite different from last year's fall invasion when 40 were reported.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Dovekie				
11-30	1	Rye	Rye Ledge	A. Delorey
Razorbill				
11-30	10	Rye	Ragged Neck & Rye Ledge	A. & B. Delorey
Black Guillemot				
09-02	2	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	A. & B. Delorey
11-30	8	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	A. & B. Delorey
Black-billed Cuckoo				
08-01	1	Littleton	power line	B. Bradley
08-12	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
08-21	4	Enfield	residence	P. Hunt
09-18	1	Enfield	residence	P. Hunt
09-22	1	Rye	Star Island	A. & B. Delorey
09-22	1	Dunbarton	Mansion Rd. residence	D. Strong
10-07	1	Lyman	residence	M. Turner
10-13	1	Rochester	Old Ox Rd.	R. Bickford
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				
08-03	1	Sandwich	residence	T. Vazzano
Snowy Owl				
11-16	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	A. & B. Delorey
11-24	2	Hampton	Hampton-Seabrook area	S. Mirick, R. & M. Suomala
Boreal Owl				
11-24	1	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	R. Suomala
Northern Saw-whet Owl				
08-28	1	Newbury	Ramblewood Circle	P. Newbern
10-16	1	Brookline	residence	M. & C. Neveu
Common Nighthawk				
08-20	8	Sandwich	residence	T. Vazzano
08-22	30	Lebanon	downtown	P. Tilton
08-25	20	Merrimack	E. Chamberlain St.	C. & E. Laffin
08-26	13	Nashua	Nashua Airport	H. Chary
08-26	32	Laconia	Laconia CC	H. Anderson
08-26	65	Canterbury	Peverly Meadow	R. Quinn
08-31	750	Nashua	Hills Ferry Rd.	R. & J. Allard, C. Eveleth
09-01	12	Keene	Rt. 12 & Maple Ave.	R. Ritz
Belted Kingfisher				
09-04	8	Newington	Great Bay NWR shoreline	G. Gavutis
Red-headed Woodpecker				
11-23	1	Durham	Great Bay Buffalo Company	S. Mirick
Red-bellied Woodpecker				
10-01	1	Nashua	Spit Brook Rd.	A. Delorey, B. Godefroi
10-18	1	Seabrook	Beckmans Landing	T. Vazzano
10-22	1	N. Hampton	Shiprock Rd.	T. Donsker

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
11-04	1	Derry	Derby Rd.	J. Munier
11-05	1	Milford	Federal Hill Rd. residence	R. Becker, A. Hoelzl
11-05	1	Stratham	Meloon Rd.	S. Mirick
11-13	1	Newmarket	near Moody Point	A. Ports
11-14	1	Derry	Brady Ave.	K. Gifford
11-23	1	Stratham	Sandy Point	A. & B. Delorey, BBC FT
11-28	1	Auburn	residence	J. Chapman

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

10-05	2	Rye	Odiome Pt. St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
10-05	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
10-06	1	Tamworth	residence	C. & J. Tewksbury
10-06	2		Lower Mascoma Lake census rt.	P. Hunt, et al.
10-17	1	N. Hampton	residence	T. Donsker

Three-toed Woodpecker

10-26	1	Low & Burbanks Grant	Israel Ridge Trail, Mt. Adams	D. Govatski, E. Rolfe
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Black-backed Woodpecker

08-10	4	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd.	A. Strong, D. Zidlkowski
08-30	1	Pittsburg	1 mi. nw. of Terrell Pond off Indian Stream Rd.	K. Michaud

Northern Flicker

09-14	9		Lower Mascoma Lake census rt.	P. Hunt, D. Crook
09-24	8	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala, S. Mirick
09-30	16	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
09-30	6	Henniker	Shaker Hill Rd. residence	R. Hardy
10-22	5	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright

Olive-sided Flycatcher

08-03	3	Albany	Oliverian and White Brook area	M. & R. Suomala
10-18	1	Hebron	Hebron Marsh WS	P. & H. Curtiss

Eastern Wood-Pewee

10-05	1	Rye	Odiome Pt. St. Pk.	S. Mirick, ASNH FT
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Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

08-01	1	Sandwich	residence	T. Vazzano
08-27	1	Newbury	John Hay NWR	P. Newbern
09-02	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright

Willow Flycatcher

08-25	1	Newbury	John Hay NWR	P. Newbern
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Eastern Phoebe

09-24	16	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala, S. Mirick
10-22	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright

Great Crested Flycatcher

09-24	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
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Eastern Kingbird

08-11	11		Lower Mascoma Lake census rt.	P. Hunt
08-21	25	Canterbury	sod farm	R. Quinn

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Horned Lark				
10-07	2	Jaffrey	Mt. Monadnock summit	J. Broyles
11-05	150	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	S. Mirick
11-24	21	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	M.& R. Suomala, S. Mirick
Tree Swallow				
08-02	70	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
10-06	4	Lebanon	airport	P. Hunt, D. Crook, et al.
Northern Rough-winged Swallow				
09-03	5	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	P. Hunt, D. Abbott
Cliff Swallow				
10-06	6	Lebanon	airport	S. Mirick, R. Suomala, P. Hunt, D. Crook, et al.
Barn Swallow				
08-02	75	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
10-06	2	Enfield	Shaker Bridge, Mascoma Lake	P. Hunt, et al.
Swallow sp.				
08-30	500	Boscawen	over Merrimack R. fields	R.& M. Suomala, J.& S. Bourne
Gray Jay				
08-02	3	Errol	Mountain Pond drainage	C. Martin, L. Houghton
10-01	3	Pittsburg	Scotts Bog	S.& M. Turner
10-02	2	Bethlehem	Mt. Hale summit	D. Govatski
10-08	2	Thompson &	Meserves Purchase; Caps Ridge Trail	D. Donsker
10-14	4	Errol	Rt. 16, just s. of Seven Islands Bridge	K. Dube
11-19	3	Errol	Molls Rock, Lake Umbagog	R. Quinn, T. Richards
11-30	2	Beans Grant	Mizpah Hut	D. Govatski
American Crow				
10-13	300	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
11-08	300	Haverhill	farm field	B. Bradley
11-24	450	Lebanon	Sunset Rock Rd.	P. Hunt
Fish Crow				
08-03	4	Seabrook	near Midas Muffler Shop	D. Abbott
08-17	3	Newmarket	behind police station	S. Mirick
Boreal Chickadee				
08-10	2	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd.	A. Strong, D. Ziolkowski
08-18	3	Thornton	Welch-Dickey Trail	A. Strong, L. Nawrocki, S.& C. Sillett
09-18	6	Pittsburg	Lake Francis St. Pk.	T. Vazzano
10-02	3	Lincoln	Kinsman Ridge Trail, Mt. Wolf	C. & J. Tewksbury
10-08	6	Thompson &	Meserves Purchase; Caps Ridge Trail	D. Donsker
10-27	3	Low &	Burbanks Grant; King Ravine	D. Govatski, C. Lincoln
11-10	7	Wentworth	Mt. Carr summit	D. Govatski
11-30	4	Beans Grant	Crawford Path, 3700'	D. Govatski

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

09-21	1	Rye	Star Island	A. & B. Delorey, BBC FT
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House Wren

10-18	1	Seabrook	Beckmans Landing	T. Vazzano
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Marsh Wren

09-22	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	D. Strong
10-11	1	Exeter	Little River/Colcord Pond	K. & A. Prazar

Golden-crowned Kinglet

09-20	4	Whitefield	Little Cherry Pond Trail near Jefferson	S. & M. Turner
10-02	8	Lincoln	Kinsman Ridge Trail, Mt. Wolf	C. & J. Tewksbury
10-04	6	Sandwich	Thompson WS	T. Vazzano
11-24	5	Hanover	Dartmouth campus	P. Hunt
11-24	4	Enfield	Oak Grove Cemetery	P. Hunt

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

09-29	8	Newbury	John Hay NWR	P. Newbern
10-04	4	Sandwich	Thompson WS	T. Vazzano
10-08	5	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
10-22	6	Piermont	Knapp Road	A. Ports
10-27	2	Dunbarton	Mansion Rd. residence	D. & J. Strong
11-06	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

08-26	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	B. Delorey
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Eastern Bluebird

09-21	12	Henniker	Shaker Hill Rd.	V. Wechsler
09-30	48	Hanover	residence	B. Schore
10-12	12	Keene	Maple Lane Farm, Gunn Rd.	R. Ritz
10-20	5	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
11-01	6	Peterborough	off Old Town Farm Rd.	J. Broyles, et al.
11-04	14	Sandwich	residence	T. Vazzano
11-10	2	Hollis	off Worcester Rd.	B. & M. Harris

Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush sp.

10-06	1	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
10-09	2	Enfield	residence	P. Hunt

Bicknell's Thrush

09-30	1	Jefferson	Jefferson Notch Rd.	S. & M. Turner
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Swainson's Thrush

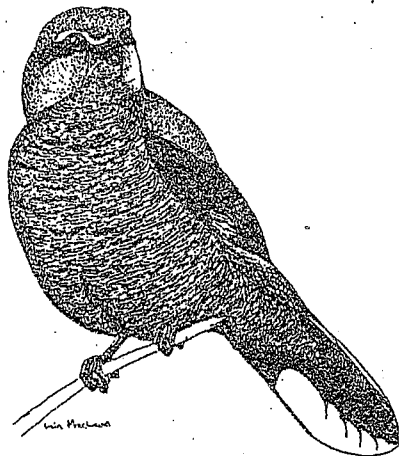
09-15	11	Enfield	residence	P. Hunt
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Hermit Thrush

10-04	4	Sandwich	Thompson WS	T. Vazzano
10-06	12		Lower Mascoma Lake census rt.	P. Hunt, et al.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
American Robin				
09-29	30	Windham	residence	J. Romano
10-04	53	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
10-06	61		Lower Mascoma Lake census rt.	P. Hunt, et al.
10-06	3	Nashua	residence	B. Ayer
11-04	17	Columbia	residence	D. & B. Killam
11-10	19	Landaff	Chandler pond	B. Bradley
11-28	3	Manchester	Mammoth Rd.	M. Sudak
Thrush sp.				
08-11	6	Enfield	residence	P. Hunt
08-18	60	Enfield	residence	P. Hunt
08-24	87	Enfield	residence	P. Hunt
09-04	27	Enfield	residence	P. Hunt
09-14	22	Enfield	residence	P. Hunt
09-18	22	Enfield	residence	P. Hunt
Gray Catbird				
08-01	8	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
09-09	6	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
09-24	12	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala, S. Mirick
10-12	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
American Pipit				
09-21	5	Rye	Odiome Pt., near river mouth	J. Barber
09-29	30	Hopkinton	farm corn field	J. Bohanan
10-03	18	Canterbury	sod farms	J. Fisher
Cedar Waxwing				
08-28	50	Columbia	Fish Pond	M. Sudak, S. Boutin
09-05	50	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
11-25	50	Concord	St. Paul's School	R. Quinn
Northern Shrike				
10-28	1	Errol	Androscoggin R. at Cambridge town line	C. Martin
11-11	1	Sandwich	Whiteface Intervale	T. Vazzano

Northern Shrike
by Iain MacLeod



Vireos through Towhee

Warblers were fairly well reported. High totals for several species included 26 Nashvilles, 31 Chestnut-sided, 37 Magnolias, 24 Blackburnians, and 59 Black-throated Greens for the fall. A sighting of an adult Palm Warbler with two fledged young on August 2 indicates probable nesting from a boggy area near Lake Umbagog. The Palm Warbler is a very rare nesting species in the state with very few confirmed breeding records.

On warm days in November, flies become very active along the coast in the washed up vegetation above the high tide mark. This activity provides good food for many species of birds, including small flocks of lingering Yellow-rumped Warblers. This fall, there were very late reports of Palm and Blackpoll Warblers from North Hampton on November 17, and a record late date of November 28 for a Cape May Warbler at Odiorne Point in Rye. Both sightings were of birds mixed in with groups of Yellow-rumped Warblers feeding on the flies.

Other late records for warblers include a Yellow-rumped Warbler in Littleton on November 26, a Chestnut-sided Warbler on October 12, and a very late Nashville Warbler in Enfield on November 24.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Solitary Vireo				
10-06	4		Lower Mascoma Lake census rt.	P. Hunt, et al.
Yellow-throated Vireo				
09-10	4	Derry	Ballard Marsh	A. Delorey
Warbling Vireo				
08-08	1	Lyman	residence	S. Turner
09-04	3	Monroe	Connecticut River	S. & M. Turner, E. Emery
09-29	1	Lebanon	near Mascoma Lake dam	P. Hunt
Philadelphia Vireo				
09-08	1	Enfield	Rt. 4A	P. Hunt
09-14	1	Enfield	Rt. 4A	P. Hunt
09-22	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	D. Strong
Red-eyed Vireo				
09-14	12		Lower Mascoma Lake census rt.	P. Hunt
09-24	5	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala, S. Mirick
09-28	2	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
Blue-winged Warbler				
09-15	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	J. Romano, S. Walker
Brewster's Warbler - hybrid				
08-04	1	Windham	residence	J. & J. Romano
Tennessee Warbler				
08-31	1	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
09-01	1	Lebanon	near Mascoma Lake dam	P. Hunt
09-20	1	Dunbarton	Mansion Rd. residence	D. Strong

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Nashville Warbler				
08-06	2	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
08-28	2	Sandwich	residence	T. Vazzano
08-31	3	Whitefield		R. Quinn
09-05	4	New London	Cricenti Bog	P. Hunt
09-20	2	Whitefield	Cherry Pond	S. & M. Turner
09-24	2	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala, S. Mirick
10-06	2	Enfield	Lower Mascoma Lake census rt.	S. Mirick, P. Hunt, et al.
10-12	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
11-24	1	Enfield	Main St. Pond	P. Hunt
Northern Parula				
08-31	3	Canterbury	Baptist Hill Rd.	R. Quinn
Yellow Warbler				
09-14	1	Enfield	Main St. Pond	D. Crook
Chestnut-sided Warbler				
08-17	4	Waterville Valley	Livermore Rd.	P. Hunt
08-27	3	Newbury	John Hay NWR	P. Newbern
08-31	5	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
09-14	4		Lower Mascoma Lake census rt.	P. Hunt, D. Crook
10-06	1	Enfield	Oak Grove Cemetery	S. Mirick, A. & D. Strong
10-12	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
Magnolia Warbler				
08-30	7	Whitefield		R. Quinn
08-31	5	Canterbury	Baptist Hill Rd.	R. Quinn
08-31	5	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
09-05	5	New London	Cricenti Bog	P. Hunt
11-06	1	Londonderry	Devonshire Lane	H. Chary
Cape May Warbler				
09-05	1	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
09-09	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
09-21	2	Rye	Star Island	A. & B. Delorey, BBC FT
09-22	1	Enfield	Rt. 4A	P. Hunt
11-28	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	A. & L. Maley
Black-throated Blue Warbler				
08-18	3	Newbury	Stoney Brook WS	P. Newbern
08-27	3	Newbury	John Hay NWR	P. Newbern
09-05	3	New London	Cricenti Bog	P. Hunt
09-06	2	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
10-05	3	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	S. Mirick, ASNH FT
10-12	2	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
08-31	15	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
09-29	87	Gilmanton	Crystal Lake, Gilmanton Ironworks	W. Arms
10-05	125	Seabrook	kettle holes	A. & B. Delorey
10-06	52		Lower Mascoma Lake census rt.	P. Hunt, et al.
10-08	33	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
10-14	40		NH coast, Odiorne Pt. to Hampton	D. & T. Donsker

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
11-23	2	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick, A. Ablowich, M. Wittmer
11-26	1	Littleton	residence	B. Bradley
Black-throated Green Warbler				
08-27	5	Newbury	John Hay NWR	P. Newbern
08-31	5	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
09-05	5	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
09-08	14		Lower Mascoma Lake census rt.	P. Hunt
09-22	12		Lower Mascoma Lake census rt.	P. Hunt
10-05	1	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	S. Mirick, ASNH FT
10-12	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
Blackburnian Warbler				
08-04	2	Enfield	Rt. 4A	P. Hunt
08-18	3	Newbury	Stoney Brook WS	P. Newbern
08-25	2	Newbury	John Hay NWR	P. Newbern
08-31	5	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
09-05	5	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
09-22	4	Enfield	Rt. 4A	P. Hunt
Pine Warbler				
08-30	7	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
09-18	1	Enfield	Crystal Lake	P. Hunt
09-27	1	Newbury	John Hay NWR	P. Newbern
11-24	1	Hampton	along Rt. 1A	S. Mirick, R. & M. Suomala
Palm Warbler				
08-02	3	Errol	Mountain Pond drainage	C. Martin, L. Houghton
08-23	1	Windham	residence	J. Romano
09-05	2	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
09-05	1	New London	Cricenti Bog	P. Hunt
09-30	2	Sandwich	Thompson WS	T. Vazzano
10-04	4	Sandwich	Thompson WS	T. Vazzano
10-24	3	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
11-04	2	Peterborough	Old Town Farm Rd.	J. Broyles, et al.
11-17	1	N. Hampton	N. Hampton State Beach	S. Mirick
Bay-breasted Warbler				
08-31	1	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
09-15	1	Rye	Odiome Pt. St. Pk.	D. Donsker
Blackpoll Warbler				
09-03	2	Rye	Odiome Pt. St. Pk.	P. Hunt, D. Abbott
09-19	12	Rye	Odiome Pt. St. Pk.	D. Donsker, R. Balerviez, R. Silva
09-29	5	Hopkinton	Chase WS	R. Woodward
10-06	1	Hinsdale	Connecticut R. near Vernon Dam	P. Newbern
11-17	1	N. Hampton	n. of N. Hampton State Beach	S. Mirick
Black-and-white Warbler				
08-11	10		Lower Mascoma Lake census rt.	P. Hunt
08-31	5	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
09-24	2	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala, S. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
American Redstart				
08-31	8	Rye	Odiome Pt. St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
08-31	3	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
09-01	4	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
09-01	3	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. & R. Suomala
09-03	7	Rye	Odiome Pt. St. Pk.	P. Hunt, D. Abbott
Northern Waterthrush				
08-10	2	Mont Vernon	Francestown TnPk. near Rt. 13	M. Suomala
08-30	1	Derry	Ballard Marsh	A. Delorey
09-09	1	Lebanon	near Mascoma Lake dam	P. Hunt
09-21	1	Rye	Star Island	A. & B. Delorey, BBC FT
Louisiana Waterthrush				
08-11	2	Lebanon	near Mascoma Lake dam	P. Hunt
09-01	1	Lebanon	near Mascoma Lake dam	P. Hunt
Mourning Warbler				
08-28	1	Sandwich	residence	T. Vazzano
Common Yellowthroat				
08-30	7	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
10-07	1	Tamworth	residence	C. & J. Tewksbury
10-08	1	Whitefield	near Rt. 115 & Airport Rd. jct.	G. Gavutis
10-14	1	Berlin	Argonne St.	K. Dube
Wilson's Warbler				
08-17	1	Waterville Valley	Livermore Rd.	P. Hunt
08-24	1	Lebanon	Mascoma Village	P. Hunt
08-31	2	Rye	Odiome Pt. St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
09-12	1	Sandwich	residence	T. Vazzano
09-15	1	Rye	Odiome Pt. St. Pk.	D. Donsker
09-22	1	Rye	Star Island	A. & B. Delorey
09-25	1	Nashua	Spitbrook Rd.	A. Delorey
Canada Warbler				
08-17	2	Waterville Valley	Livermore Rd.	P. Hunt
08-28	2	Sandwich	residence	T. Vazzano
08-31	1	Rye	Odiome Pt. St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
09-21	1	Rye	Star Island	A. & B. Delorey, BBC FT
Warbler sp.				
08-11	34	Enfield	residence	P. Hunt
08-17	78	Enfield	residence	P. Hunt
08-28	17	Sandwich	residence	T. Vazzano
08-31	99	Enfield	residence	P. Hunt
09-05	183	Enfield	Main St. Pond	P. Hunt
09-09	134	Enfield	residence	P. Hunt
09-14	159	Enfield	residence	P. Hunt
09-20	100	Enfield	residence	P. Hunt
09-30	119	Enfield	Main St. Pond	P. Hunt
Scarlet Tanager				
08-27	10	Newbury	Hay NWR	P. Newbern
09-29	4		Lower Mascoma Lake census rt.	P. Hunt
10-05	1	Rye	Odiome Pt. St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Indigo Bunting				
09-24	1	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala, S. Mirick
10-22	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Suomala
Dickcissel				
09-22	1	Rye	Star Island	A. & B. Delorey
10-12	1	Newmarket	Moody Pt.	R. Quinn
11-28	1	Newmarket	residence feeders	S. Mirick, P. & K. Lacourse
Eastern Towhee				
09-24	5	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala, S. Mirick
10-17	1	Durham	Adams Point	A. Ports

Sparrows, Blackbirds, & Finches

Sparrows were down somewhat from last year's numbers. Relatively low numbers of Tree and White-crowned Sparrows were reported, and Junco numbers were down considerably from last fall's banner year. With the recent reclassification of sharp-tailed sparrows from one species to two species, we are trying to better understand the distribution of the "new" species in the state. The common nesting species along the seacoast is now known as the Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow. The Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow is probably an uncommon spring and fall migrant, but we are not entirely sure. A sighting of both species and the probable sighting of the inland subspecies of the Nelson's species was an exciting find in Hampton on October 2. In addition, two sightings of Seaside Sparrows represents the first fall report in many years, rounding out all of the "saltmarsh" sparrows.

Only three sightings of single Rusty Blackbirds were received, way down from last year's report. A flock of 50 Bobolinks on October 2 is an impressive total, especially in that it's a few weeks late for this long-distance migrant. Finches had an up-and-down season with good numbers of siskins and goldfinches but very few reports of House Finches and Evening Grosbeaks and no reports at all of Common Redpolls.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
American Tree Sparrow				
10-27	17	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala, S. Mirick
11-13	4	Stratham	Sandy Point	G. Mitchell
11-21	10	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
11-26	9	Littleton	residence feeder	B. Bradley
Chipping Sparrow				
08-29	19	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
09-29	22	Henniker	Shaker Hill Rd. residence	R. Hardy
10-06	28		Lower Mascoma Lake census rt.	P. Hunt et al.
10-27	12	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala, S. Mirick

Field Sparrow

08-06	5	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
09-24	9	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala, S. Mirick
10-27	3	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala, S. Mirick

Vesper Sparrow

10-06	1	Enfield	near Shaker Bridge	P. Hunt, et al.
10-27	1	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala, S. Mirick

Savannah Sparrow

09-24	13	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala, S. Mirick
09-29	15	Portsmouth	Pease Golf Course	A. & B. Delorey
10-27	10	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala, S. Mirick

Savannah Sparrow - Ipswich subsp.

10-14	1	Rye	Ragged Neck	D. & T. Donsker
11-17	5	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick

Sharp-tailed Sparrow sp.

10-09	8	Hampton	Hampton salt marshes	S. Mirick
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Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow

08-10	10	Hampton	marshes off Rt. 1A	P. Hunt, et al.
10-02	9	Hampton	Rt. 1A marshes	P. Hunt
10-09	2	Hampton	Hampton salt marshes	S. Mirick

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow

10-02	5	Hampton	Rt. 1A, Hampton Beach marshes	P. Hunt
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Seaside Sparrow

08-10	1	Hampton	Rt. 1A marshes	P. Hunt, et al.
10-02	2	Hampton	Rt. 1A marshes	P. Hunt

Fox Sparrow

10-24	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
10-28	5	Hollis	Beaverbrook Trail, Beaverbrook Reservation	D. Deifik
11-10	6	Temple	Twillingate Rd. residence	B. Palmer
11-15	4	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd.	A. Robbins

Song Sparrow

10-06	50		Lower Mascoma Lake census rt.	P. Hunt, et al.
10-27	48	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala, S. Mirick

Lincoln's Sparrow

09-01	1	Lebanon	near Mascoma Lake dam	P. Hunt
09-09	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
09-14	1	Canterbury	sod farm	R. Quinn
09-22	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	D. Strong
09-24	1	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala, S. Mirick
09-24	2	Nashua	Spitbrook Rd.	A. Delorey
10-02	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	P. Hunt
10-05	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
10-27	1	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala, S. Mirick

date	#	town	location	observer(s)
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White-throated Sparrow

09-23	30	Newbury	John Hay NWR	P. Newbern
10-06	98		Lower Mascoma Lake census rt.	P. Hunt, et al.
10-12	96	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	R. Suomala
11-24	1	Columbia	residence	D. & B. Killam

White-crowned Sparrow

10-05	1	Rye	Odiome Pk. St. Pk.	D. & T. Donsker
10-05	2	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
10-05	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, ASNH FT
10-06	10		Lower Mascoma Lake census rt.	P. Hunt, et al.
10-23	2	Chester	Hillside Haven	B. Delorey
10-27	1	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala, S. Mirick

Lapland Longspur

11-03	2	Rye	Wallis Sands Beach	S. Mirick, et al.
11-06	1	Rye	Odiome Pt. St. Pk.	T. Vazzano
11-30	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey

Snow Bunting

10-19	30	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	S. Mirick
10-27	6	Enfield	Oak Grove Cemetary	P. Hunt
10-30	12	Errol	Rt. 16, Androscoggin R. n. of village	C. Foss, C. Johnson
11-03	500		NH coast	S. Mirick, et al.
11-03	35	Stratham	Sandy Point Discovery Center	S. Mirick, et al.
11-05	20	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	S. Mirick
11-07	150	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	P. Hunt
11-27	175	Nashua	airport	H. Chary

Blackbird sp.

11-09	750	Hollis	Dow Rd. field at Depot Rd. jct.	R. Suomala
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Bobolink

08-11	11		Lower Mascoma Lake census rt.	P. Hunt, et al.
09-21	3	Rye	Star Island	A. & B. Delorey, BBC FT
10-02	50	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala, R. Quinn

Red-winged Blackbird

08-30	100	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
10-24	21	Lyman	Flagg Pond	B. Bradley
11-09	5	Columbia	Residence	D. & B. Killam
11-10	70	Enfield	Mascoma Lake	P. Hunt, D. Crook

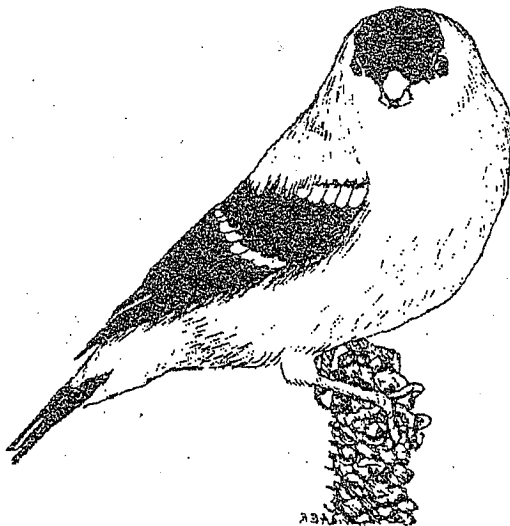
Eastern Meadowlark

10-15	9	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	S. Mirick
10-16	11	Kensington	Rt. 108 & Sanborn Rd.	D. Abbott

Common Grackle

08-29	185	Mont Vernon	Francetown Tnpk.	R. Suomala
09-27	110	Londonderry	Devonshire Ln.	H. Chary
10-28	3000	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Baltimore Oriole				
09-15	2	Rye	Odiome Pt. St. Pk.	D. Donsker, et al.
09-24	1	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala, S. Mirick
10-12	1	Rye	Ragged Neck	A. & B. Delorey
11-26	1	Strafford	Bow Lake, w. end residence	A. & H. Cilley
Red Crossbill				
08-03	3	Albany	Oliverian & White Brook	M. & R. Suomala
08-08	2	Columbia	Cilley Hill	S. & M. Turner
08-10	8	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd.	A. Strong, D. Ziolkowski
09-15	3	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock summit	M. Suomala, S. Mirick, ASNH FT
09-18	1	Woodstock	Hubbard Brook Exp. Forest	A. Strong, J. Barg
10-08	2	Carroll	Breton Woods, behind Mt. Washington Hotel	T. Donsker
11-17	2	Thompson & Meserves Purchase;	Caps Ridge Trail	M. & R. Suomala, R. Smith, B. McGuinn
White-winged Crossbill				
08-10	15	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd.	A. Strong, D. Ziolkowski
09-07	1	Jefferson	Cherry Pond	R. Quinn
10-08	1	Carroll	Breton Woods, behind Mt. Washington Hotel	T. Donsker
Pine Siskin				
10-03	75	Dixville	The Balsams Resort	S. & M. Turner
10-28	50	Dummer	Newell Brook Rd.	C. Martin
10-28	60	Errol	near Long Pond	C. Martin
11-10	30	Lyman	residence	S. & M. Turner
American Goldfinch				
10-23	40	New Boston	Rt. 13 s.	R. Suomala
11-21	73	Canterbury	Baptist Hill Rd.	R. Quinn
11-26	74	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
11-30	140	Sandwich	residence	T. Vazzano



American Goldfinch
by *Andrea Robbins*

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.

Fall 92, Vol. 11, No. 3

- p. 17 The Dunlin listed on 10-10 in New London was at Little Sunapee Lake
- The 5 Stilt Sandpipers listed on 08-17 were at Hampton Falls, not Hampton
- p. 32 The Red-winged Blackbirds listed on 11-01 in Seabrook should number 5,000 not 500

Winter 92-93, Vol. 11, No. 4

- p. 8 A listing was omitted for 472 Common Goldeneye on 12-19 for the Coastal CBC
- p. 26 Warblers through Snow Bunting
The Green-tailed Towhee was the second state record, not the first

Spring 93, Vol. 12, No. 1

- p. 4 Loons through Ibis, in the last paragraph there were Great Egrets in Newbury and New Durham
- p. 5 The Snowy Egrets listed on 04-18 were in Rye & N. Hampton
- p. 19 The Bank Swallows listed on 04-30 and 05-12 in Concord are at the same location
- p. 20 Kinglets through Vireos
The Gray Catbird found dead on March 13 was in Newbury MASS and should not have been listed on p. 22
- One American Pipit was on Mt. Washington on May 3, not May 5
- The following sightings listed at Mountain Rd. in Chatham, were actually at Mountain Pond
 - p. 13 Solitary Sandpiper
 - p. 23 Tennessee Warbler
 - p. 25 Bay-breasted Warbler
 - p. 25 Blackpoll Warbler

Summer 93, Vol. 12, No. 2

- p. 14 Flycatchers through Swallows summary
The Horned Lark was mingling with RVs in Hampton, not Seabrook
- The large colony of Cliff Swallows was in Lebanon not Enfield
- p. 27 Evening Grosbeaks on 07-10 in Enfield were in Oak Grove Cemetery

Fall 93, Vol. 12, No. 3

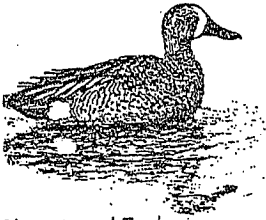
- p. 11 Common Goldeneye on 11-18 in Enfield were on Crystal Lake not Silver Lake
- p. 17 Black-bellied Plovers on 10-15 were in Seabrook not Stewartstown

Winter 93-94, Vol 12, No. 4

- p.10 The 40 Common Goldeneye on 01-01 were seen along the NH coast
- p. 11 In the Hawks summary, the Bald Eagle totals for each region show only adults.
The combined totals of adults, subadults, and immatures by region was
Androscoggin River (3), Connecticut River (10), Great Bay (15), Lakes Region (7)
Merrimack River (17), Other Areas (18)
- p.22 Winter Wren
The 12-24 listing was from the Lee-Durham CBC-CW
A listing for 2 on 12-18 on the Coastal CBC was omitted

Fabulous Fall Rarities

By Alan Delorey



Blue-winged Teal
by Andrea Robbins

Although New Hampshire may not be known as an international hot spot for unusual birds, it can provide very rewarding birding if you know where to go and when to be there. The fall season is especially productive because that's when the greatest number of vagrants from other regions wander into the state. For instance, just listen to the interesting species that my wife, Barbara, and I found in New Hampshire during the fall of 1994.

We have been avid birders since 1985, when our first trip to Everglades National Park converted us from merely casual birders. Now we spend all of our weekend and vacation time on our favorite leisure-time activity—birding—and most of this time is spent in New Hampshire.

In the fall of '94, our rare sightings started in late August, when we birded one of our favorite suburban waterfowl sanctuaries (that's a euphemism for waste-water treatment plant). To our delight, we found a female Northern Shoveler dabbling with the Blue-winged Teal. Typically, only a few shovelers are seen in New Hampshire each year. We saw another female Northern Shoveler—or possibly the same one—at the same location four weeks later.

Our next surprise occurred in early September, when we found not one but five Buff-breasted Sandpipers at a local golf course. We're usually lucky to see just one of these each year in New Hampshire, so five seemed too good to be true. Later that same day, we spotted a Tricolored Heron along the seacoast, probably migrating south from the tiny nesting population on Straton Island in Maine. Despite the few birds that nest in Maine, this species is not seen in New Hampshire every year.

We decided to end the day with a stop at the previously mentioned suburban waterfowl sanctuary. While scanning the edge of an old pool surrounded by phragmites and cattails, I came upon a suspicious brown lump. "Set up the scope," I whispered to Barbara, hardly daring to breathe. "I think I have a Least Bittern." She skillfully set the scope up in front of me while I kept the object in my binoculars. Then I switched to the scope, adjusted the focus, and the brown lump materialized into a beautiful immature Least Bittern. We watched this bird for half an hour as it alternated between standing still and daintily picking its way along the edge of the pool. This was only the second Least Bittern we had recorded in New Hampshire, and it was by far our best look.

The following weekend we were once again back at—you guessed it—the suburban waterfowl sanctuary. Could this spot possibly hold any more rare birds? Yes, it could! We were amazed by the number of Blue-winged Teal, not an especially rare species in New Hampshire, but usually present only in low numbers. I started counting, and when I had tallied every last one to be seen, I had a total of 101 (no, not Dalmatians) Blue-winged Teal. But that was just the appetizer: the rare duck du jour was a Gadwall, only a few of which are seen each year in the state.

The third weekend of September, Barbara and I led a field trip to Star Island for our birding club. Star Island, one of the Isles of Shoals, is New Hampshire's largest offshore

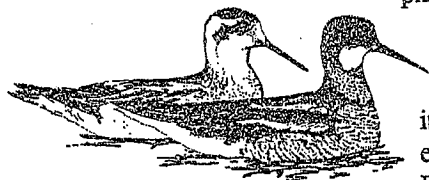
island, weighing in at just under 50 acres. Although not as noted as Monhegan Island in Maine or Block Island in Rhode Island, the birding can be quite productive on Star Island during the fall. Our first unusual find of the day was a pair of Orange-crowned Warblers. These are rather drab little birds, but we were quite elated with them as they were new to almost everyone's state species list. They cooperated nicely, perching on goldenrod and allowing us a long and satisfying look.

As we continued to explore the island for winged rarities, there was a commotion in the bush up ahead. As binoculars were brought to bear and the bush was searched, one of our group members called out, "It's a chat!" "Where?" came the chorus of replies. Directions were hastily given using various objects as a frame of reference, and soon several pairs of binoculars were all locked onto the quarry—another new state bird for several people.

At the end of September we were once again back at... well, you know where. In the spring I had committed a birding *faux pas* when I had seen a first-year male Blue Grosbeak while on my way home from work and Barbara had not been there to see it with me. She then decided that it was her duty to find her own Blue Grosbeak, and she did. Before we checked the ponds for waterfowl, a flurry of sparrows in the weeds caught our attention. Barbara homed in on two larger brown birds and called my attention to them. Incredibly, they were two immature Blue Grosbeaks!

There is another waste-water treatment plant I try to check once a week on my way to work. Throughout the fall, this alternate waterfowl sanctuary had not been nearly as productive as the other, but on a Thursday morning at the end of September, I noticed a conspicuous bird sitting on one of the water circulation pipes. I was moving around the edge of the pool to get a little closer and improve my angle relative to the sun when the bird stretched its wings over its head, clearly showing itself to be a Black Tern—another species recorded only a few times each year in New Hampshire.

A final highlight to the fall of 1994 came in mid-October, when we were leading a field trip along the New Hampshire seacoast. As we worked our way down the coast, we began to despair because the rarity of the day had not yet been discovered. But then we ran into Peter Hunt and Steve Mirick, who were working their way up the coast. They excitedly told us about a Red-necked Phalarope they had just seen a few miles down the coast. Not wanting to skip all of our planned stops, we took the risk that the bird would stay put and continued to bird our way down the coast. When we reached the location where the phalarope had been seen, we all set up our scopes in a



Red-necked Phalarope
by Iain MacLeod

line and scanned the offshore waters. Had we blown it by not rushing straight to the spot? How would I ever live that down as the trip leader? "I've got it," called out one of our intrepid trip members. Soon everyone's scope was trained on the Red-necked Phalarope as it bobbed about. These birds are usually seen well offshore, and there had been no storms or strong east winds to blow it in. Yet there it was, the highlight of a late-season outing.

The next time you're planning a field trip, why not make New Hampshire your destination? Interesting birds are out there, and the more birders in the field, the more rarities we will uncover.

Documenting Rare Bird Sightings

by Alan Delorey, *NHBR* Winter Editor and member of the *NHRBC*

You just saw a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in New Hampshire. Now what should you do? Notify other birders immediately and submit a documentation form to *New Hampshire Bird Records* (copies of the New Hampshire Bird Sighting Documentation form are available from *NHBR*). In this article we'll discuss which species require documentation, why this is needed, and how to prepare your report.

There are no hard and fast rules on which species require documentation, but the following general guidelines should assist you. Please provide documentation on species that never rate more abundant than the rarest category in *A Checklist of New Hampshire Birds*, by Kimball C. Elkins. The same goes for birds that never rate more abundant than the rarest two categories in the bar graphs in *A Birder's Guide to New Hampshire*, by Alan Delorey. Also document birds that are more than a month outside of the expected date range on those bar graphs, as well as any species not shown on those bar graphs. Finally, it is always a good idea to submit details on birds that are seen in unusual locations or habitats, such as sea birds at inland locations. *NHBR* reporters who submit an unusual bird sighting without additional details will receive a request for documentation and a form from *NHBR*.

It is very important that you submit detailed documentation on your sighting. This is not because we don't believe you, but so that the sighting can become a permanent part of the ornithological history of the state and stand up to critical review by future generations of birders and ornithologists. Fifty years from now, people reviewing sighting records will not have the benefit of knowing the observers personally, so the documentation must stand on its own.

It may encourage you to know that the season editors of *NHBR* and the members of the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee (*NHRBC*) are also required to submit details on rare bird sightings. No one is exempt from this procedure—all reports are subject to the same critical review based on the documentation submitted.

Now let's talk about how to provide good documentation on a rare bird. Always carry a pen and pocket-sized notebook when birding. When you see a rarity, write field notes on the spot. Always write down exactly what you saw, noting all details that you actually observed. Do not consult a field guide until you have finished writing your field notes. (Consulting the field guide makes it easy to become confused as to whether you noted a particular field mark on the bird or in the book.)

Once you have consulted the field guide, do not worry if you realize that there are some field marks that you didn't notice on the actual bird. Observers are human and rarely see every field mark on any given bird. Resist the temptation to "doctor" your field notes after looking in the field guide—this can lead to a "textbook" description rather than an account of what was actually observed.

A picture is worth a thousand words. Make a field sketch or take pictures. Draw a diagram of the bird and annotate it with field marks observed. A photograph is invaluable in establishing a permanent record of an unusual sighting. It provides concrete evidence to archive for future study.

Try to notify other birders of the sighting and encourage them to submit independent reports. Call the New Hampshire Rare Bird Alert (603/224-9900, at the Audubon Society of New Hampshire in Concord) to spread the word, and if possible, report the sighting to a member of the NHRBC.

Writing good reports on rare bird sightings is not a natural talent for most of us. It is a learned skill that requires practice. To hone your skill, practice documenting common birds in your yard. After you have written a couple dozen practice reports, you'll remember some of the basic field marks to check for. When describing a bird start with the general and then move on to the specific. Begin by describing its size, shape, and overall characteristics, then move on to detailed field marks. Does the bird have wing bars, crown stripes, breast streaks, etc.?

Typical information to include in a report:

- Overall size, shape, and proportions of the bird
- Plumage details: colors seen on all major parts of the bird, including wing bars, crown stripes, breast streaks, rump patches, undertail coverts, etc.
- Description of bill and legs, including color, size, and shape.
- The bird's behavior.
- Any songs or calls noted.
- The habitat the bird was seen in.
- Your past experience with the species.
- How you eliminated similar or confusing species. This is especially important; documentation that does not deal with this area may account for the single largest category of reports that are not accepted by the NHRBC.
- Observation conditions: date, time, location, distance from bird, lighting conditions, weather, optics used, and length of observation.
- Your name, address, and phone number. Send documentation reports to:
New Hampshire Bird Records
Audubon Society of New Hampshire
3 Silk Farm Rd., Concord, NH 03301.

The following section of this article is an example of excellent documentation that was submitted to *NHBR*. Please contact me if you have additional questions or would like more information:

Alan Delorey, 155 Derry Rd., Chester, NH 03036
phone: 603/887-4681, e-mail: afd@zk3.dec.com

This is the second article on rare bird sightings from the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee (NHRBC). For information on the formation and function of the NHRBC and the handling of unusual sightings, please see the Summer 1996 issue of NHBR. 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 bird sightings maintained by the Audubon Society of New Hampshire.

New Hampshire Bird Sighting Documentation

Species: Lesser Black-backed Gull Number: 1

Date Seen: 3-29-96

Time: 09:15

Town: Manchester

Location: Merrimack River, north of Black Brook

Observer reporting: Gary Mitchell Other observers: None

Description of bird: Medium-size gull much smaller in comparison to nearby Herring Gulls. Head "whitish" looking but on closer inspection—dusky ear *coverts** and nape. Distinct contrast between head and darker body. Bill all black. Upper body dark brown with white edging to feathers. Darker and more "contrasty" than the more uniformly brown first winter Herring Gull that was nearby. Back was brown with feathers edged in white. On outstretched wings the *primary** feathers were dark brown without the white wedge characteristic of immature Herring Gulls. Secondary and greater wing coverts were dark brown, forming a wide, dark band on the trailing edge of the inner wing. Lesser and median coverts appeared as a lighter brown. Underpart appeared pale, but not viewed well. First winter bird.

Behavior of bird: Sitting on the river with a flock of gulls. Preening and stretching its wings.

Description of songs & calls: None.

Habitat: Flat section of river with gentle flow.

Previous acquaintance with this species: None.

Similar or confusing species eliminated & why:

- First winter Herring Gulls are more uniformly brown with little contrast between head and body, have a white wedge on the inner primaries, and are larger.
- Ring-billed Gulls do not have an all-black bill at any age and inner primaries are too white.
- Great Black-backed Gulls are much too large, upper wing pattern wrong, inner primaries too light, and dark band on trailing edge of inner wing is too narrow.
- Glaucous and Iceland Gulls are not likely to be confused, but immatures are never that dark. A Glaucous Gull never has an all dark bill.

Observation conditions:

Distance from bird: 150 yards

Length of observation: 5 minutes

Weather: 40s, wind 10-15, brightly overcast

Visibility: very good

Light conditions: bright

Optical equipment used: Kowa 77mm at 20-60x

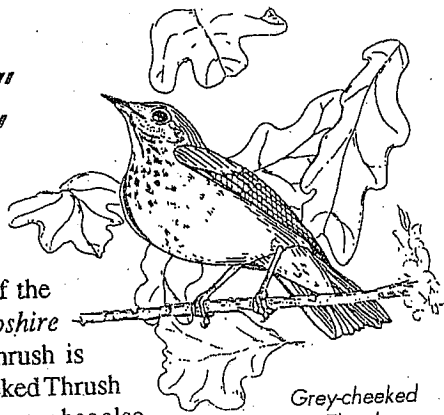
Reporter: Gary Mitchell (address and phone number)

Date: 4-2-96

* Note: Do not be discouraged if you you don't know terms such as "coverts" and "primaries." You can still do a good documentation job by carefully describing the colors and patterns seen on the bird, and their location, using non-technical terms.

Reporting "Gray-cheeked" Thrush and "Sharp-tailed" Sparrow Species

by Peter Hunt



Grey-cheeked Thrush sp.

by William E. Davis

As mentioned in the article "The Return of the Baltimore Oriole" (Winter 1995-96 *New Hampshire Bird Records [NHBR]*), the Gray-cheeked Thrush is now considered to be two species: the Gray-cheeked Thrush and the Bicknell's Thrush. The Sharp-tailed Sparrow has also been split into the Nelson's and the Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows. This creates difficulty in both reporting and reviewing sightings of these birds. To provide some clarification, the season editors met and drew up a process for handling these reports, as outlined below.

The Bicknell's Thrush breeds in the White Mountains and occurs as a migrant in the rest of the state; the other species retains the name Gray-cheeked Thrush and only occurs as a migrant in New Hampshire. You can alleviate confusion when reporting a "gray-cheeked" thrush by following these protocols.

It is safe to assume that any "gray-cheeked" thrush on territory in the White Mountains from June through early August is a Bicknell's, and most reports of "gray-cheeks" under these circumstances will be renamed appropriately. Any other report of a "gray-cheeked" thrush, however, could refer to either species. Unless an observer makes it clear on the slip that he or she attempted to distinguish true Gray-cheeked Thrush from Bicknell's Thrush, all such reports will be considered indefinite on species and labeled "gray-cheeked thrush species." Similarly, reports of Bicknell's Thrushes away from the breeding grounds should provide details on differentiation from true Gray-cheeked Thrushes.

In fact, these two species are difficult to distinguish in the field away from the breeding grounds. It is also unfortunate that the original species name was retained for one of the new species, making it unclear whether a birder is reporting a true Gray-cheeked Thrush or is unaware of the two species. Thus, to be conservative, *NHBR* has adopted the policy above. All "gray-cheeked" thrushes will be included in the database, but many reports will be indeterminate "gray-cheeked thrush species."

A similar situation occurs with sharp-tailed sparrows. There are now two species that occur in the state, each having, luckily, a distinct name (see "Identification and Distribution of Sharp-tailed Sparrows," Winter 1995-96 *NHBR*). The Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow is the species that breeds in New Hampshire's coastal marshes and occurs as a migrant into early October. The status of Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow in New Hampshire is still unclear, although it is known to be an uncommon fall migrant.

To determine the status and seasonal patterns of the two species, *NHBR* will be requesting documentation for all reports of Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows. Sightings that are not identified to species will still be entered into the *NHBR* database, labeled simply as "sharp-tailed sparrow species."

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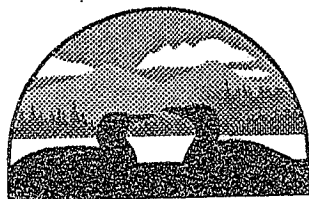
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New Hampshire Bird Records
Volume 15, Number 3
Fall 1996

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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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