

# **New Hampshire Bird Records**



**Spring 1997**

**Vol. 16, No. 1**

## About the Cover

The striking Peregrine Falcon portrait which graces the cover of this issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records* was taken in August 1997 by Anne St. Cyr, a Bell Atlantic employee who observed the bird as it perched outside her 18th floor office window on the City Hall Plaza building in Manchester. Field observations and other close-up photos of this bird, which remained in the city from mid-July to mid-August, confirmed it to be a male, unbanded with some juvenal plumage on its back.

Peregrines have been reported regularly from Manchester during fall and winter months since the late 1980's, but summer sightings have been rare. One particular female falcon, dubbed "Alex" by local observers, has overwintered each year since 1988. Last winter, Alex shared her pigeon bounty and favorite perches with a younger male, "P/8", who was color-banded as a chick in its Dixville Notch nest in 1995 as a part of the New Hampshire's Peregrine Falcon Recovery effort. This winter, Alex has been joined by an unbanded male, possibly our cover bird. Urban settings are especially attractive to Peregrines because they offer abundant food and relatively good shelter from the rigors of a typical New Hampshire winter.

For much more about Peregrines and their highly variable plumage patterns, see the article on page 32.

—Chris Martin

*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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## From the Editor

Welcome to all *New Hampshire Bird Records* new subscribers and renewers. We're excited to see the growth in the publication as well as the growth in subscriptions during the past few years. However, we still need your help to spread the word about *New Hampshire Bird Records*. Show your copy to your birding friends or call and ask us to send a complimentary issue to someone you think might be interested in subscribing.

Also, we always like to hear your thoughts, ideas for articles, or suggestions for special features. If you're interested in writing an article, providing artwork, or helping with *New Hampshire Bird Records* in any way, please call me at 224-9909. Volunteers are the source of our success, and there are a variety of jobs to do. And if you haven't sent in your renewal, please don't wait any longer.

This spring issue brings reminders of the Partners in Flight Bird Conservation Conference held last spring. It was an exciting event—there were so many excellent speakers that I could not attend everything I wanted to hear. After the conference, what struck me most was the variety of research on birds and bird habitat—and the number of volunteer opportunities. The research was often being done in our own backyards, with fascinating results.

I found myself wanting to continue to learn about current research and volunteer opportunities. Most birders want to help the creatures they love, and using your observation skills to contribute to a research project can make a big difference. This "birding with a purpose," as it's called, is growing in scope and popularity. Also, there is an opportunity to volunteer right here in New Hampshire—check out Chris Martin's article "Confessions of a Peregrine Falcon Microbirder."

To continue the theme of the conference and create awareness of bird research and volunteer projects, we have started a new feature in *New Hampshire Bird Records*. In this issue, you will find the first installment, titled "Volunteers and Birding Research." This feature will profile results from selected bird research and highlight volunteer opportunities in bird conservation, much the way the PIF conference did. Francie Von Mertens has joined the *New Hampshire Bird Records* team to write the regular feature. Let us know what you think.



Becky Suomala  
Managing Editor  
October, 1997

# What to Report in the Spring Season (March through May)

Which sightings should *New Hampshire Bird Records* reporters submit? There are no hard and fast rules, but here are some guidelines for the spring season.

First, it is 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 spring migrants, focus on arrival dates, high counts, inland sightings of coastal species, hawk flights, and shorebird movements. Note late-lingering winter invaders such as Common Redpolls or other northern finches. Sometimes the common year-round resident species show migratory movements, and these are also of interest.

Reports of species sought by many birders are interesting to all. These are often resident species that are not commonly seen, including boreal, nocturnal, and secretive wetland species. Reports of state endangered and threatened species are always valuable for the database.

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

Northern Gannet	American Kestrel	Great Horned Owl	European Starling
Great Blue Heron	Merlin	Barred Owl	Northern Cardinal
Whooper Swan	Peregrine Falcon	Belted Kingfisher	American Tree Sparrow
Mute Swan	Ring-necked Pheasant	Downy Woodpecker	Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow
American Black Duck	Ruffed Grouse	Hairy Woodpecker	Song Sparrow
Mallard	Black-bellied Plover	Pileated Woodpecker	White-throated Sparrow
Common Eider	Semipalmated Plover	Purple Martin	Dark-eyed Junco
Black Scoter	Willet	Cliff Swallow	Dark-eyed Junco - Pink-sided subsp.
Surf Scoter	Upland Sandpiper	Blue Jay	Snow Bunting
White-winged Scoter	Ruddy Turnstone	Common Raven	Red-winged Blackbird
Bufflehead	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Black-capped Chickadee	Common Grackle
Red-breasted Merganser	Least Sandpiper	Tufted Titmouse	Brown-headed Cowbird
Osprey	Short-billed Dowitcher	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Purple Finch
Bald Eagle	Laughing Gull	White-breasted Nuthatch	House Finch
Northern Harrier	Ring-billed Gull	Brown Creeper	Common Redpoll
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Herring Gull	Eastern Bluebird	Pine Siskin
Cooper's Hawk	Great Black-backed Gull	Northern Mockingbird	American Goldfinch
Northern Goshawk	Common Tern	American Pipit	Evening Grosbeak
Red-shouldered Hawk	Black Guillemot	Cedar Waxwing	
Red-tailed Hawk	Mourning Dove	Northern Shrike	

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

# Spring Season

## March 1 - May 31, 1997

March started out 10° to 20° degrees above normal, following an unusually warm period in late February. Many early migrants such as blackbirds, Turkey Vultures, woodcock, and bluebirds were already in the state by this time, perhaps in higher numbers than usual because of the warmth. On March 6, a small blizzard heralded a period of below-average temperatures for most of the rest of the month. The cold broke on March 28, releasing a flood of migrants that had presumably been held up farther south. Most notable of these were American Robins, but the first major movements of raptors, swallows, phoebes, and other early-arriving species also occurred at this time. The month ended with a major nor'easter that cut power to much of the state but did not seem to have a noticeable effect on birds.

With the exception of extreme cold between April 8 and 12, the month was average in most respects. During the cold snap temperatures averaged 20° below normal in some areas. This may have caused the huge flocks of robins that were still around from late March to become concentrated on roadsides, leading to more exceptional counts. Despite the cold, many early April migrants such as sparrows, Hermit Thrush, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet arrived right on time, if not slightly early.

In stark contrast to 1996, May was a month of uncooperative weather. Overall, it was the seventh coldest May in 103 years of record keeping, and regular rain and north winds made for uninspiring birding, not to mention uncomfortable birders. As another indication of how bad May's weather was, consider the following statistic from Mount Washington: in 24 hours on May 22-23, 18.9 inches of snow fell on New Hampshire's highest peak, almost double the usual total for the entire month. Total accumulation for the month was over 7.5 feet, almost 10 times the average. Not surprisingly, many birds that arrive in May were slightly late in arriving in the face of such miserable weather, but the fact that many were actually on time is testament to the reliability of their migratory abilities. As in April, the cold actually made some species more visible, as forest canopy birds were forced to forage in open areas where food was a little easier to find.

This was not an especially noteworthy season for rarities. Certainly most unusual was a **Western Tanager**, since most western vagrants are found in fall. There was the usual collection of overshooting passerines from the south, including **White-eyed Vireo**, **Yellow-throated** and **Hooded Warblers**, **Summer Tanager**, and **Blue Grosbeak**. Miscellaneous goodies included an **Orange-crowned Warbler** in a snowstorm, the second inland record of **Little Gull** for the state, and a **Whooper Swan** that was probably of captive origin.

*P.D. Hunt*  
*Spring Editor*

# Loons through Ibis

Common Loon migration appears to have been about on time, with the largest inland concentrations occurring in mid-April. Horned and Red-necked Grebes were well-represented on the coast but occurred in lower than usual numbers inland. In fact, the only inland Horned Grebe this season was found, unharmed, in a roadside puddle in Manchester on the very early date of March 5. The bird in question was kept overnight in a bathtub and released on the coast the following day.

Except for a March report from the coast, the bulk of early Double-crested Cormorant reports came from inland locations. Coastal herons and egrets were poorly reported, with only a few Great Egrets and no Little Blue Herons for only the third time in the last 10 years. A Little Egret was reported from Rye in late April but is still under review by the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee. If accepted, it will constitute the second record for the state. The only unusual inland record was of a Black-crowned Night-Heron well north in Errol. Glossy Ibis numbers averaged lower than in recent years.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Red-throated Loon</b>				
04-05	20		NH coast	S. Mirick
05-03	20	Seabrook	beach	A. & B. Delorey
05-27	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	P. Hunt, S. Mirick, A. & D. Strong
<b>Common Loon</b>				
04-05	54		NH coast	S. Mirick
04-21	14		Winnisquam Lake, southern half	G. Gavutis
04-21	13	Errol	Lake Umbagog, n. end	C. Martin, R. Suomala
05-12	12	Littleton	Samuel Moore Dam	B. Bradley
<b>Pied-billed Grebe</b>				
03-30	2	Rye	Eel Pond	S. Mirick, J. Matthews
04-05	3	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
04-05	1	Boscawen	"Big bend" in Merrimack R.	R. Quinn, ASNH FT
04-08	2	Newington	Stubbs Pond, Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
<b>Horned Grebe</b>				
03-05	1	Manchester		A. Roberson
04-05	172		NH coast	S. Mirick
04-12	100		NH coast	A. & B. Delorey
<b>Red-necked Grebe</b>				
04-05	131		NH coast	S. Mirick
04-12	81		NH coast	A. & B. Delorey
04-29	6	Littleton	Samuel Moore Dam	B. Bradley
05-12	2	Holderness	Long Island, Squam Lake	A. Groth
<b>Great Cormorant</b>				
04-05	16		NH coast	S. Mirick
05-25	1	Rye		J. Berry

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Double-crested Cormorant</b>				
03-30	3	Rye	Eel Pond	D. & T. Donsker
04-05	1	Lebanon	W. Lebanon	P. Hunt, L. Bunten, Mascoma Chapter FT
04-07	1	Laconia	Lake Opechee	R. Quinn
04-08	7	Newmarket	Lamprey River, downtown	M. Suomala
04-13	10	Haverhill	Connecticut R., N. Haverhill	B. Bradley
04-27	700		NH coast	S. Mirick, P. Hunt, P. Lacourse

### **American Bittern**

04-12	1	Rye	marsh s. of Rye Ledge	A. & B. Delorey
04-13	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence marsh	G. Gavutis
04-17	1	Jefferson	Meadows Pond	D. Govatski
05-03	1	Derry	Ballard Pond	H. Chary, Amoskeag Chapter FT
05-10	2	Sutton	Cascade Marsh	R. Vernon
05-20	3	Dummer	Pontook Reservoir marsh	J. Brown, J. Ely
05-30	2	Whitefield	wetland along airport runway	R. Quinn
05-31	3	Errol	Moose Pt. (aka Leonard Marsh)	R. Quinn, J. Berry

### **Great Egret**

03-30	1	Rye	pools off Rt. 1A	S. Mirick, J. Matthews
04-14	1	Newmarket	off Bay Rd.	S. Mirick
05-23	1	Londonderry	Cohas Brook drainage	R. Robertson

### **Snowy Egret**

03-27	2	Rye	saltmarsh just s. of Odiorne Pt.	S. Stanley
04-11	1	Rye		R. Aaronian
04-12	16	Rye	marsh s. of Rye Ledge	A. & B. Delorey

### **Cattle Egret**

05-20	2	Greenland	Great Bay Farm, Newington Rd.	S. Mirick
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### **Green Heron**

05-03	1	Laconia	Laconia CC, Elm St.	H. Anderson
05-03	1	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
05-04	1	Monroe	marsh	B. Bradley
05-09	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence ponds	G. Gavutis

### **Black-crowned Night-Heron**

05-31	1	Errol	Lake Umbagog	R. Quinn, J. Berry
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### **Glossy Ibis**

03-30	1	Rye	pools off Rt. 1A	S. Mirick, J. Matthews
04-05	3	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	S. Mirick
04-06	1	Newmarket	off Bay Rd.	S. Mirick
04-19	28	N. Hampton	Runnymede Farm	A. & B. Delorey

# Waterfowl

Heading the list of waterfowl for the season was a **Whooper Swan** that appeared in Hampton Beach in early April. This European species has recently escaped (or been released) from captivity in eastern Massachusetts and has apparently bred there. Thus, although the Hampton bird is not likely to be of wild origin, it may well represent the beginning of a new colonization of New England, similar to what happened with Mute Swans in the early part of this century.

Among native waterfowl, the season was a mixed bag, with some species more common than usual and others less so. Snow Geese had one of their best showings in recent years, and Brant were also reported in respectable numbers. A few of the latter even occurred inland in mid-to-late May. The late February thaw pushed Wood Ducks into the state by early March. Rare dabblers continue to be well-represented, with totals this spring of five Northern Shovelers and 12 Gadwall. The Eurasian Wigeon on Great Bay stayed into spring for a third consecutive year. Canvasbacks were well-represented, and a total of four Redheads is exceptional, especially considering that this was only the second time in the last 10 years that this species has occurred in spring in New Hampshire.

King Eiders were also unusually common this spring—the first spring records since 1991. Even more unusual was the fact that one of the birds stayed into late May. On the down side, numbers of Oldsquaw and scoters were low, both inland and on the coast, although a pair of Oldsquaw on mostly frozen Mascoma Lake in early April was completely unexpected for the date and location. Buffleheads were also reported in low numbers, especially compared to 1996. Perhaps one of the more fascinating waterfowl phenomena of the season was the Hooded Merganser roost on Great Bay. Steve Mirick counted these birds as they came in to the bay at dusk during April, and came up with some very impressive numbers, perhaps unprecedented for spring in the state.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Snow Goose</b>				
03-23	20	Lee	Mast Rd.	F. Short
03-26	43	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
03-26	13	Epsom	Galdboro Rd., meadow off traffic circle	M. Brockway
03-26	6	New London	Pingree Rd.	J.,D.,A. Vernon
03-26	150	Deering	East Deering Rd.	I. MacLeod
03-27	545	Deering	East Deering Rd.	I. MacLeod
03-29	45	Claremont	Rt. 12A	P. Hunt, D. Crook
04-04	400	Haverhill	farm field	B. Bradley
04-10	95	Conway	E. Conway Rd. & Rt. 113	T. Vazzano
04-16	18	Enfield	Bog Road	P. Hunt



<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Brant</b>				
04-12	80	Hampton	Great Boars Head	A. & B. Delorey
05-03	12	Rye	Isles of Shoals	C. Johnson, K. Williamson
05-13	9	Littleton	Moore Dam, Connecticut R.	S. & M. Turner
05-25	30	Enfield	Mascoma Lake	D. Crook
05-25	109	Rye		J. Berry
<b>Canada Goose</b>				
03-01	2200		Great Bay	A. & B. Delorey
04-03	750	Walpole	Boggy Meadows	P. Hunt, et al.
04-05	850	Charlestown	Connecticut R.	P. Hunt, L. Bunten, Mascoma Chapter FT
<b>Wood Duck</b>				
03-01	2	Raymond	Dead Pond	A. & B. Delorey
03-06	4	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence ponds	G. Gavutis
03-29	115	Charlestown	Connecticut R. s. of boat launch	P. Hunt, D. Crook
03-29	60	Claremont	Connecticut R.	P. Hunt, D. Crook
04-05	60	Walpole	Boggy Meadows	P. Hunt, L. Bunten, Mascoma Chapter FT
04-05	100	Boscawen	corn field	R. Quinn, ASNH FT
<b>Green-winged Teal</b>				
03-29	15	E. Kingston	Rt. 108 flooded field	A. & B. Delorey
03-29	4	Charlestown	Connecticut R. s. of boat launch	P. Hunt, D. Crook
04-04	8	Haverhill	Connecticut R., N. Haverhill	B. Bradley
04-05	4	Walpole	Boggy Meadows	P. Hunt, L. Bunten, Mascoma Chapter FT
04-05	15	Boscawen	"Big bend" in Merrimack River	R. Quinn, ASNH FT
04-15	24	Newington	Stubbs Pond, Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
04-17	22	Haverhill	Connecticut R., N. Haverhill	B. Bradley
04-19	25	E. Kingston	Rt. 108 flooded field	A. & B. Delorey
05-04	34	Newington	Stubbs Pond, Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
05-26	3	Jefferson	Cherry Pond	R. Quinn
<b>Northern Pintail</b>				
03-01	4		Great Bay	A. & B. Delorey
03-22	2	E. Kingston	Rt. 108 flooded field	A. & B. Delorey
03-24	7	Haverhill	Connecticut R., N. Haverhill	B. Bradley
03-24	10	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
03-29	3	Charlestown	Connecticut R. s. of boat launch	P. Hunt, D. Crook
04-05	5	Boscawen	"Big bend" in Merrimack River	R. Quinn
04-12	1	Jefferson	Little Cherry Pond	D. Govatski
<b>Blue-winged Teal</b>				
04-02	1	Exeter	Nelson Dr., Exeter River	R. Aaronian
04-05	1	Boscawen	"Big bend" in Merrimack River	R. Quinn, ASNH FT
04-09	2	Gilford	Pheasant Ridge Golf Club	H. Anderson
04-17	2	Haverhill	Bedell Bridge St. Pk.	B. Bradley
04-20	3	Exeter	Powderhouse Pond	S. Mirick
04-21	4	Errol	Lake Umbagog, n. end	C. Martin, R. Suomala
05-07	3	Jefferson	Little Cherry Pond	R. Quinn, C. Martin, D. Govatski
05-27	1	Rye	pools near Rye Harbor	S. Mirick, P. Hunt, D. & A. Strong

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Northern Shoveler</b>				
04-07	4	Laconia	Lake Opechee	R. Quinn
04-15	1	Concord	W. Portsmouth St. corn field	R. Quinn
<b>Gadwall</b>				
03-22	1	Kingston	Powwow Pond	A. & B. Delorey
04-05	1	Boscawen	"Big bend" in Merrimack River	R. Quinn, ASNH FT
04-08	8	Newington	Stubbs Pond, Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
04-27	2	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick, P. Hunt, P. Lacourse
<b>Eurasian Wigeon</b>				
03-01	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick
04-15	1	Newington	Stubbs Pond, Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
<b>American Wigeon</b>				
03-01	19		Great Bay	A. & B. Delorey
03-28	2	Laconia	Lake Opechee	T. & B. Richards
04-05	2	Charlestown	s. of water treatment plant	P. Hunt, L. Bunten, Mascoma Chapter FT
04-05	3	Boscawen	"Big bend" in Merrimack River	R. Quinn
04-08	20	Newington	Stubbs Pond, Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
04-21	2	Errol	Lake Umbagog, n. end	C. Martin, R. Suomala
<b>Canvasback</b>				
03-01	7	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick
03-24	1	Kingston	Powwow Pond	D. Donsker
04-06	12	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
<b>Redhead</b>				
03-18	1	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
03-24	1	Londonderry	Kendall Pond, South Rd.	J. Romano
04-16	1	Londonderry	Kendall Pond, South Rd.	J. Daley
05-08	2	Littleton	Samuel Moore Dam	B. Bradley
<b>Ring-necked Duck</b>				
03-05	3	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
03-13	40	Salem	World End Pond	K. Folsom
03-22	128	Kingston	Powwow Pond	A. & B. Delorey
03-26	125	Salem	World End Pond	K. Folsom
03-29	113	Derry	Ballard Marsh	A. & B. Delorey
04-05	32	Claremont	boat launch	P. Hunt, L. Bunten, Mascoma Chapter FT
04-05	50	Charlestown	Connecticut R.	P. Hunt, L. Bunten, Mascoma Chapter FT
04-05	176	Kingston	Powwow Pond	A. & B. Delorey
04-08	58	Newington	Stubbs Pond, Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
04-16	20	Rindge	Grassy Pond, w. side	R. Multer
04-19	23	Gilford	Lily Pond	H. Anderson
04-21	100	Errol	Lake Umbagog, n. end	C. Martin, R. Suomala
05-20	6	Jefferson	Little Cherry Pond	R. Quinn

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

03-01	1312		Great Bay	A. & B. Delorey
03-18	400	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
05-10	1	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick

### Lesser Scaup

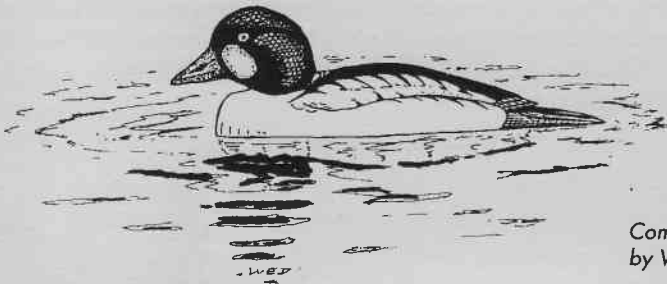
03-13	10	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	J. Romano, S. Walker
03-19	4	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
04-17	4	Lancaster	Connecticut River	B. Bradley
04-29	7	Littleton	Samuel Moore Dam	B. Bradley

### King Eider

03-01	1	N. Hampton	N. Hampton beach	D. Donsker, M. Resch
05-10	1	Hampton	off North Beach	S. Mirick
05-27	1	Rye	Rye Harbor	P. Hunt, S. Mirick, A. & D. Strong

### Oldsquaw

04-06	2	Enfield	Mascoma L.	P. Hunt
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*Common Goldeneye*  
by William E. Davis

### Common Goldeneye

03-01	181		Great Bay	A. & B. Delorey
03-18	125	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
04-03	30	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	P. Hunt, et al.

### Barrow's Goldeneye

03-01	1	Greenland	Sunset Landing	S. Mirick
03-11	1	Tilton	Winnepesaukee R. s. of Silver Lake	D. Stavros
03-29	2	Errol	dam outflow	J. Ely
04-21	1	Errol	Androscoggin R. just below dam	C. Martin, R. Suomala

### Hooded Merganser

03-05	45	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
03-11	70	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
03-22	225	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
04-13	90	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
04-26	20	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick

### Common Merganser

03-01	218		Great Bay	A. & B. Delorey
03-01	44	Kingston	Powwow Pond	A. & B. Delorey
03-11	75	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
03-22	66	Kingston	Powwow Pond	A. & B. Delorey
04-03	50	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	P. Hunt, et al.

# Vulture through Terns

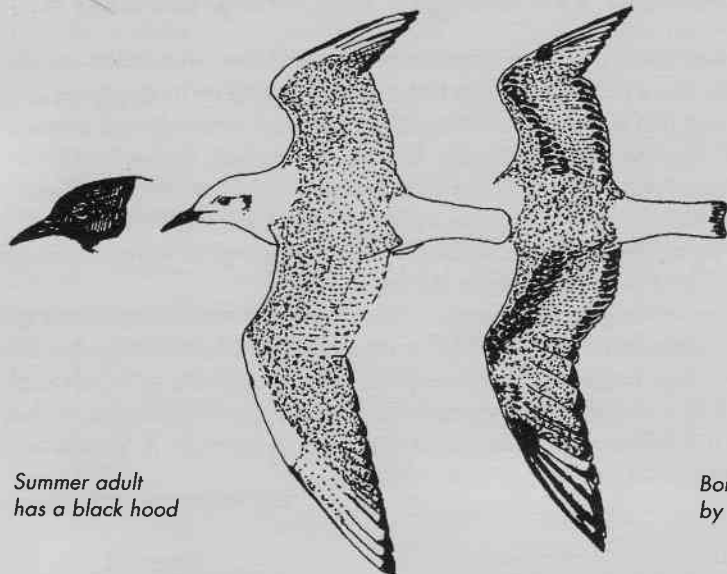
Raptor migration was very poor this year, most likely a result of the unseasonable weather for most of the season. The only flight of any consequence was on March 28 in Deering. On this date, on the heels of a warm southerly flow, Iain MacLeod tallied 13 Turkey Vultures, five Bald Eagles, one Northern Harrier, nine Sharp-shinned Hawks, two Northern Goshawks, eight Red-shouldered Hawks, 30 Red-tailed Hawks, nine American Kestrels, and a Merlin. The big Broad-winged Hawk "push," such as it was, occurred a little less than a month later.

Rails continue to be reported in good numbers, and this year the marsh watchers turned up three different Common Moorhens, a good total for this declining species. Killdeer started to arrive by late February, but the big inland push came at the end of March. Most shorebirds were poorly reported, as usual, and those that were reported with some regularity, namely Greater Yellowlegs and Solitary Sandpiper, were a little late. On April 6, rain grounded large numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls in inland Massachusetts, and some of this fallout reached parts of New Hampshire away from the immediate coast. Among the Bonaparte's was the second inland record of Little Gull for the state. This is only the third spring in the last 10 years that Caspian Terns have been recorded in New Hampshire, and the April 15 bird is unusually early. Luckily, it was documented with a recognizable photograph.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Turkey Vulture</b>				
03-09	1	Kensington	Stumpfield Rd.	A. & B. Delorey
03-10	1	Manchester	near Rt. 93, Exit 7	B. Johnston
03-28	5	Littleton	Dell Road	B. Bradley
03-28	13	Deering	East Deering Rd.	I. MacLeod
03-29	14	Lebanon	landfill	P. Hunt, D. Crook
03-30	12	Plaistow	Maple Ave.	M. Setler
04-02	14	Keene	Wyman Rd. at Black Brook	R. Ritz
04-07	40	Boscawen	jct. of Water St. & Rt. 3	L. Deming
<b>Broad-winged Hawk</b>				
04-20	2	Lebanon	airport	D. Crook
04-20	1	Laconia	Laconia CC, Van Buren Rd.	H. Anderson
04-21	9	Deering	East Deering Rd.	I. MacLeod
04-27	7	Auburn	Wilson Crossings Rd.	J. Ashley, J. Kolias
04-27	30	Auburn	Massabesic WS	J. Ashley, J. Kolias
04-27	14	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	R. Suomala, et al.
<b>Wild Turkey</b>				
02-22	14	Jaffrey	Highland Ave.	B. Elliott
03-09	25	Newington	Great Bay NWR	S. & G. Mirick
04-04	12	Piermont	Rt. 10 field	T. Estill

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Virginia Rail</b>				
04-17	1	Derry	Ballard Marsh	A. Delorey
04-20	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
05-04	1	Newington	Great Bay NWR	R. & M. Suomala
05-22	3	Piermont	Lily Pond	S. & M. Turner
05-25	4	Dummer	Pontook Dam marshes	B. Bradley
05-26	7	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	R. Quinn
<b>Sora</b>				
04-20	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
04-27	1	Durham	Packers Falls Rd. marsh	S. Mirick, P. Hunt, P. Lacourse
04-30	2	Portsmouth	Great Bog, e. of Ocean Rd.	L. Deming, D. Carroll
05-10	4	Durham	off Longmarsh Rd.	A. & B. Delorey
05-18	1	Lisbon	Cole Brook swamp, Parker Hill Rd.	S. & M. Turner
05-26	4	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	R. Quinn
05-27	1	Lyman	Dodge Pond Road swamp	S. & M. Turner
<b>Common Moorhen</b>				
05-10	1	Rye	Eel Pond	S. Mirick
05-21	1	Jefferson	Cherry Pond	R. Quinn
05-22	1	Haverhill	Bedell Bridge St. Pk.	B. Bradley
<b>American Coot</b>				
04-08	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	M. Suomala
04-25	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond Area	R. Suomala, J. Ayer, R. Hardy
05-10	1	Haverhill	Bedell Bridge St. Pk.	S. & M. Turner
<b>Piping Plover</b>				
05-01	1	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	C. Johnson, K. Williamson
<b>Killdeer</b>				
03-16	1	Stratford	Connecticut R., above town	D. & B. Killam
03-18	1	Lebanon	W. Lebanon plazas	P. Hunt
03-19	2	Manchester	just e. of Amoskeag Falls	C. Martin
03-19	4	Merrimack	Anheuser-Busch Brewery	R. Allard
03-19	2	Derry	wastewater treatment plant	A. Delorey
03-28	11	Canterbury	sod farm	R. Quinn
03-30	16	Lebanon	Mascoma Village	P. Hunt
04-07	32	Sandwich	Whiteface Intervale	T. Vazzano
<b>Greater Yellowlegs</b>				
04-16	2	Hampton	across from Winnicunet HS	R. Aaronian
05-01	17	Rye	pools off Locke Rd.	S. Mirick
05-04	22	Newington	Stubbs Pond, Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
05-07	22	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick, D. Fotiades
05-22	21	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence ponds	G. Gavutis
<b>Lesser Yellowlegs</b>				
04-26	1	Rye	Rt. 1A near Rye Harbor	S. Mirick
05-04	6	Newington	Stubbs Pond, Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
05-28	4	Moultonborough;	Long Island, Squam Lake	A. Groth

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Solitary Sandpiper</b>				
05-07	1	Littleton	beaver bog	B. Bradley
05-13	1	Derry	Ballard Marsh	A. Delorey
05-14	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
05-16	2	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	C. Martin
05-29	1	Haverhill	Bedell Bridge St. Pk.	B. Bradley
<b>Spotted Sandpiper</b>				
04-29	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	R. Suomala
05-01	1	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
05-02	1	Exeter	Exeter River	R. Aaronian
05-03	1	Rye	White Is., Isles of Shoals	C. Johnson, K. Williamson
05-04	1	Canterbury	Rt. 106 mitigation site	R. Quinn
<b>White-rumped Sandpiper</b>				
05-18	1	Rye	across from Hemmingways Restaurant	D. Donsker, M. Resch, R. Balerviez, R. Silva
05-27	6	Seabrook	s. end of Hampton Harbor	P. Hunt, S. Mirick, A. & D. Strong
<b>Pectoral Sandpiper</b>				
05-04	3	Newington	Stubbs Pond, Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
<b>Purple Sandpiper</b>				
04-05	43		NH coast	S. Mirick
04-12	100	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
05-03	150	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	A. & B. Delorey
05-12	75	Rye	Wallis Sands	W. & D. Donsker
05-27	100	Seabrook	s. jetty at mouth of Hampton Harbor	P. Hunt, S. Mirick, A. & D. Strong
<b>Dunlin</b>				
04-04	7	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
05-10	6	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
05-26	1	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	L. Pomfret, A. Cook
<b>Common Snipe</b>				
03-29	12	E. Kingston	Rt. 108 flooded field	A. & B. Delorey
04-01	4	Durham	Rt 155A fields	S. Mirick
04-10	29	E. Kingston	Rt. 108, s. of Rt. 107 jct.	R. Aaronian, et al.
<b>American Woodcock</b>				
04-05	12	E. Kingston	Rt. 108	A. & B. Delorey
04-13	8	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge	T. Vazzano
04-29	11	Enfield	Bog Rd.	P. Hunt
<b>Little Gull</b>				
04-07	1	Enfield	Mascoma Lake	P. Hunt
<b>Black-headed Gull</b>				
03-27	1	Newmarket	Great Bay off Bay Rd.	S. Mirick



*Summer adult  
has a black hood*

*Bonaparte's Gull  
by Iain MacLeod*

*Winter adult*

*First winter*

**Bonaparte's Gull**

04-06	2	Enfield	Mascoma Lake	P. Hunt
04-06	4	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
04-30	2	Littleton	Samuel Moore Dam	B. Bradley
04-30	1	Northwood	Northwood Lake	S. Mirick
05-15	14	Littleton	Samuel Moore Dam	B. Bradley
05-15	40	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick, D. Fotiades
05-18	50	Rye	NH coast	D. Donsker, M. Resch, R. Silva, R. Balerviez

**Iceland Gull**

03-01	1	Hampton	Pioneer Pk.	D. Donsker, M. Resch
03-15	2	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
03-22	5	Seabrook	harbor	A. & B. Delorey
03-25	1	Derry	wastewater treatment plant	A. Delorey
04-14	1	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick

**Glaucous Gull**

03-15	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
04-19	1	E. Kingston	Rt. 108 flooded field	A. & B. Delorey

**Caspian Tern**

04-15	1	Newington	Stubbs Pond, Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
05-10	2	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor Inlet	S. Mirick

**Black Tern**

05-17	1	Tamworth	Jackman Pond	B. Steele, et al.
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# Cuckoos through Woodpeckers

For the second year in a row, an Eastern Screech-Owl was heard calling in Kensington. The Snowy Owl in Pelham had a green marking on its head, and a bit of sleuthing revealed that it was a rehabilitated bird that had been released a couple of weeks earlier in Duxbury, Massachusetts. Reports of Northern Saw-whet Owls continue to drop from their high in 1995, with only four for the entire season. Does this reflect weather patterns or the cyclical nature of this small owl's populations? A possible Long-eared Owl was heard at the Pondicherry Refuge in Jefferson but could not be relocated on subsequent visits to the site.

As might be expected given the weather, Chimney Swifts arrived late, but it seems unusual that hummingbirds were on time. A total of 15 Red-bellied Woodpeckers is similar to last spring, suggesting that this species is consolidating its recent gains in New Hampshire. It is important to continue reporting this species, however, so that we can determine if it remains this common or continues to increase. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on March 29 may be a record early date.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Black-billed Cuckoo</b>				
05-14	1	Kensington	at S. Hampton line	R. Aaronian
05-18	1	Durham	Bennetts Pond	D. Donsker, M. Resch, R. Silva, R. Balerviez
05-18	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
<b>Eastern Screech-Owl</b>				
04-23	1	Kensington	Stumpfield Rd.	A. Delorey
<b>Snowy Owl</b>				
03-16	1	Seabrook	Seabrook dunes	S. Mirick, M. Suomala
04-13	1	Pelham	Jericho Rd. near Stepham farm	D. Crow
<b>Northern Saw-whet Owl</b>				
03-03	1	Canterbury	jct. of Baptist & Baptist Hill Rds.	R. & V. Quinn
03-17	1	Brookline	residence	M. & E. Neveu
04-05	1	Middleton	Bowser Pond Area	S. Snyder
05-27	1	Whitefield	near airport	P. Hunt, S. Mirick, A. & D. Strong
<b>Common Nighthawk</b>				
05-18	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
05-19	1	Rye	White Is., Isles of Shoals	J. Kanter
05-21	1	Keene	Colony Mill	M. Wright
05-24	2	Nashua	Concord St.	R. & J. Allard
05-27	10	Durham	Longmarsh Rd.	P. Hunt, S. Mirick, A. & D. Strong
<b>Whip-poor-will</b>				
05-18	1	Milford	Federal Hill Rd.	B. Becker
05-19	6	Lebanon	south of landfill	D. Crook



<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
05-25	4	Enfield	Bog Road	D. Crook
05-29	6	Webster	Deer Meadow Rd.	B. Janeway
05-30	2	Hancock	South Elmwood Road	R. & D. Frechette

### **Chimney Swift**

05-01	2	Exeter		R. Aaronian
05-02	1	Concord	downtown	R. Quinn
05-03	1	Greenland	off Newington Rd.	S. Mirick
05-04	1	Newington	Great Bay NWR	R. & M. Suomala
05-06	10	Concord	Clinton St. near Rt. 89	M. Suomala
05-11	50	Hudson	flying over Rt. 111	J., D. & J. Romano

### **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**

05-05	1	Keene	Baker St.	K. Bill
05-05	1	Charlestown	S. Charlestown	S. & E. Drew
05-05	1	Kensington	Rt 107 residence	G. Gavutis
05-07	2	Pembroke	residence	K. & B. Palfy
05-08	1	Londonderry	Devonshire Ln.	H. Chary

### **Red-headed Woodpecker**

03-04	1	Peterborough	Summer St.	M. Suomala
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### **Red-bellied Woodpecker**

03-01	1	Middleton	Nicola Rd. suet feeder	C. Reynolds
03-08	1	Derry	Derby Rd.	D. Fitch, J. Murier
03-28	1	Dublin	Dublin School campus	J. Broyles, M. Giroux
05-10	2	Greenland	off Bayside Rd.	S. Mirick
05-18	1	Lyme	River Rd.	P. Hunt, Mascoma Chapter FT
05-27	1	Hampstead	E. Hampstead	A. Leland

### **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**

03-29	1	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park	R. Woodward
04-03	1	Hudson	Ridgecrest Dr.	B. McCarthy
04-04	1	New London	Pingree Rd.	A. & R. Vernon
04-23	18	Enfield	Bog Rd.	P. Hunt
05-27	16		Pondicherry WS	R. Quinn

### **Black-backed Woodpecker**

04-05	1	Crawfords Purchase;	Huntington Ravine Trail	P. Lescault
04-07	1	Errol	Rt. 16	K. Dube
05-20	1	Cambridge	Rt. 16, s. of Seven Islands	J. Brown
05-27	1	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd.	P. Hunt, S. Mirick, A. & D. Strong

### **Northern Flicker**

03-01	1	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
03-19	1	Middleton	Nicola Rd.	C. Reynolds
03-28	1	Exeter	Saltenstall Medical Bldg. near Exeter Hospital	G. Prazar
03-28	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
03-30	1	Laconia	Lexington Dr.	H. Anderson
04-12	25	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge	T. Vazzano

# Flycatchers through Wrens

Flycatchers were without doubt the group hardest hit by the cold, wet May. Pewees and *Empidonax* flycatchers arrived a week or more late, with the exception of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, which were already on their northern breeding grounds by the usual time. Among the swallows, both Bank and Cliff were a little late, although the scarcity of reports of the latter makes a clear statement difficult. Phoebes and Tree Swallows, which arrive by late March, were generally on time, and this year the big push came with the warm spell at the very end of the month.

After almost disappearing from the state after the hard winter of 1995-96, Carolina Wrens are staging a comeback: a total of three reports is only slightly lower than the numbers before the decline. Most Winter Wrens arrived right on time at the end of March and may have been a little early in inland areas. The bird in Peterborough on March 1 would thus have been unusually early, and it may have been an overwintering individual. Irrespective of its migratory status, the fact that it was singing was a rare treat for that time of year, and strikes me as one of the better ways to start off the season.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Olive-sided Flycatcher</b>				
05-13	3	Haverhill	Bedell Bridge St. Pk.	B. Bradley
05-19	1	Sandwich	Thompson WS	T. Vazzano
05-25	1	Dummer	Pontook Reservoir marsh	B. Bradley
05-30	1	Pittsburg	Terrell Pond	C. Martin, B. Jahoda, L. Jones
05-31	7	Errol	Lake Umbagog	R. Quinn, J. Berry
<b>Eastern Wood-Pewee</b>				
05-23	1	Canterbury	Kimball Pond	R. Quinn
05-25	1	Haverhill	Bedell Bridge	A. & M. Mudge
05-26	2	Walpole	Scovill Rd.	R. Ritz
<b>Yellow-bellied Flycatcher</b>				
05-20	1	Sandwich	Red Hill Pond	T. Vazzano
05-27	1	Concord	SPNHF floodplain	R. Suomala
05-27	1	Bethlehem	Trudeau Road	S. Mirick, A. & D. Strong
05-27	2		Pondicherry WS	R. Quinn
05-31	2	Errol	Magalloway R. at edge of Leonard Marsh	C. Martin, et al.
<b>Alder Flycatcher</b>				
05-24	1	Canterbury	sod farm	R. Quinn
05-24	1	Kensington	Rt. 150	J. Berry
05-30	8	Whitefield	airport	R. Quinn
<b>Willow Flycatcher</b>				
05-24	2	Cambridge	13 Mile Woods n. of Bog Brook	J. Brown, J. Ely
05-24	7	Kensington	Rt. 150	J. Berry
05-29	2	Haverhill	Bedell Bridge St. Pk.	B. Bradley
05-30	1	Exeter	Kimball Rd.	R. Aaronian

### **Least Flycatcher**

05-07	1	Whitefield	marsh near airport	R. Quinn, C. Martin, D. Govatski
05-08	1	Concord	NH Fish & Game, Hazen Dr.	R. Suomala, J. Kanter
05-13	3	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	M. Suomala
05-14	2	Walpole	Scovill Rd.	R. Ritz
05-16	13	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A.& B. Delorey

### **Eastern Phoebe**

03-25	1	Deering	East Deering Rd.	I. MacLeod
03-26	1	Chester	Cania Rd.	B. Folsom
03-27	1	Deering	East Deering Rd.	I. MacLeod
03-28	1	Laconia	Wildwood Rd. residence	H. Anderson
03-28	1	Walpole	Merriam Rd. residence	R. Ritz

### **Great Crested Flycatcher**

05-07	1	Kensington	Winkley Brook	G. Gavutis
05-14	1	S. Hampton	Brookside WS, Woodmans Rd.	S. Drew
05-21	2	Middleton	New Portsmouth Rd. residence	S. Snyder

### **Eastern Kingbird**

05-01	1	Amherst	Souhegan R. floodplain near Milford	M. Suomala
05-04	2	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Hunt, et al.
05-06	1	Westmoreland	River Rd.	R. Ritz
05-07	1	Nashua	RR tracks, Pheasant Lane Mall	R. Allard
05-24	18	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	A.& B. Delorey
05-25	7	Rye	Isles of Shoals	L. Pomfret, A. Cook

### **Horned Lark**

03-22	20	N. Hampton	Runnymede Farm	A.& B. Delorey
03-24	14	Haverhill	N. Haverhill farm field	B. Bradley
04-11	50	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	S. Mirick

### **Tree Swallow**

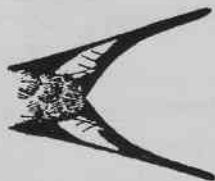
03-27	1	Salem	residence	K. Folsom
03-27	2	Deering	East Deering Rd.	I. MacLeod
03-29	150	Exeter	Powder House Pond	A.& B. Delorey
04-03	75	Merrimack	Anheuser-Busch Brewery	R. Allard
04-07	200	Salem	Historical Center	K. Folsom
04-08	350	Exeter	Powder House Pond	M. Suomala
04-08	100	Newington	Stubbs Pond, Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
04-29	150	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	R. Suomala
05-07	100	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
05-17	553	Enfield	Mascoma Lake	P. Hunt, D. Crook

### **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**

04-03	8	Littleton	Samuel Moore Dam	B. Bradley
04-08	2	Newmarket	Lamprey River, downtown	M. Suomala
04-16	1	Enfield	Bog Rd.	P. Hunt

### **Bank Swallow**

05-11	10	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	A.& B. Delorey
05-18	5	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
05-31	24	Milan	Berlin Municipal Airport	C. Martin



*Tail of Barn Swallow*

### Barn Swallow

04-16	1	Springfield	McDaniels Marsh	P. Hunt
04-29	2	Merrimack	Leblanc Farm, Tinker Rd.	R. & J. Allard
04-29	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	R. Suomala
04-30	4	Middleton	New Portsmouth Rd. residence	S. Snyder

### Gray Jay

03-05	1	Benton	Bear Brook & Ridge Trail jct.	S. Drew
03-16	1	Wentworths	Location; Lake Umbagog NWR office	D. Govatski, C. Martin
05-27	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	R. Quinn
05-31	2	Errol	Eames Rd.	R. Quinn

### American Crow

03-16	800	Portsmouth	Portsmouth Traffic Circle	S. Mirick
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### Fish Crow

03-05	1	Londonderry	Devonshire Ln.	H. Chary
03-19	6	Concord	Ft. Eddy Plaza	C. Martin
03-27	1	Raymond	Ben Franklins Shopping Center	B. Delorey
04-05	6	Nashua	Berkeley St.	D. Deifik
05-30	3	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	I. MacLeod

### Boreal Chickadee

04-22	2	Bethlehem	wetland off Trudeau Rd.	D. Govatski
05-24	2	Bartlett	Mt. Stanton Trail	J., D. & J. Romano

### Carolina Wren

04-02	1	Hudson	Ridgecrest Dr. residence	B. McCarthy
05-07	1	Hudson	Ridgecrest Dr. residence	B. McCarthy
05-17	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey, BBC FT
05-18	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis

### House Wren

05-01	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
05-05	1	Hampton Falls	Agway, Rt. 1	G. Gavutis
05-05	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis

### Winter Wren

03-01	1	Peterborough	off Tarbell Rd.	R. Frechette
03-26	1	Kensington	Winkley Brook	G. Gavutis
03-28	1	Canterbury	sod farm	R. Quinn
03-31	1	Salisbury	Mountain Rd.	L. Deming

### Marsh Wren

05-17	1	Sutton	Cascade Marsh	P. Newbern, B. Vernon, et al.
05-22	6	Piermont	Lily Pond	S. & M. Turner
05-26	3	Jefferson	Cherry Pond wetland	R. Quinn
05-30	5	Dummer	Pontook Reservoir	R. Quinn

# Kinglets through Vireos

Although there is only one Golden-crowned Kinglet report from late March, the numbers of birds involved strongly suggests that this species moved in with the warmer weather, along with several other species. While the pattern is hard to discern from *NHBR* reports, casual conversation with bluebird enthusiasts suggests that Eastern Bluebirds arrived somewhat late overall (note that some did arrive by late February, however) and in relatively low numbers. No doubt they were affected by the sometimes miserable weather in parts of March and April.

The fallout of the season, as far as thrushes are concerned, was American Robins. With the warm spell at the end of March, large numbers of robins showed up in various inland areas, although most were in the Connecticut Valley. These first flocks probably stayed put during the heavy snows that accompanied the end-of-month nor'easter. In the aftermath, they were forced to frequent the relatively snow-free areas along roads and became especially concentrated when temperatures plummeted by April 10. These are certainly the highest numbers of robins reported in spring in at least 15 years.

After a non-invasion year, it was somewhat unusual to have as many Bohemian Waxwing reports as we did: all were from the northern and western parts of the state. Four Northern Shrikes is similarly higher than one would have expected after the preceding poor winter. A **White-eyed Vireo** spent much of late May singing at Odiome Point in Rye but was apparently unable to attract a mate and moved on. Among the expected vireos, Blue-headed (Solitary) and Yellow-throated were on time, while Warbling and Red-eyed were slightly late.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Golden-crowned Kinglet</b>				
03-29	25	Plainfield	River Rd.	P. Hunt, D. Crook
04-13	18		Lower Mascoma Lake	P. Hunt
<b>Ruby-crowned Kinglet</b>				
04-02	1	Dummer	Androscoggin R. just above Pontook Reservoir	C. Martin, R. Suomala
04-10	3	Hinsdale	Wantastiquet Trail	J. & J. Romano
04-12	2	Haverhill	Bedell Bridge St. Park	R. & J. Carreaux
04-15	3	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
04-17	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
<b>Blue-gray Gnatcatcher</b>				
04-29	3	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	R. Suomala
04-30	1	Haverhill	Bedell Bridge St. Pk.	C. Martin
04-30	2	Portsmouth	Great Bog RR tracks	L. Deming, D. Carroll
<b>Veery</b>				
05-08	1	Canterbury	Baptist Hill Rd.	R. Quinn
05-10	3	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	C. Johnson, R. Cook
05-11	3	Swanzy	Dillant-Hopkins Airport	L. Deming

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush sp.</b>				
05-27	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	R. Quinn
<b>Swainson's Thrush</b>				
05-16	1	Rye	White Is., Isles of Shoals	C. Johnson, J. Kanter
05-18	1	Lyme	River Rd.	P. Hunt, Mascoma Chapter FT
05-19	1	Sandwich	near Durgin Bridge	T. Vazzano
05-24	16	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
<b>Hermit Thrush</b>				
04-10	2	Hinsdale	Wantastiquet Trail	J. & J. Romano
04-11	1	Salisbury	Mountain Rd.	L. Deming
04-13	2	Merrimack	wastewater treatment plant	R. Allard
04-13	1	Newbury	Stoney Brook WS	C. Martin
<b>Wood Thrush</b>				
05-01	1	Lyman	Hurd Hill Rd.	M. Turner
05-04	2	Salisbury	Mountain Rd.	L. Deming, S. Gage
05-04	1	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
<b>American Robin</b>				
03-27	50	Laconia	Meredith Center Rd.	H. Anderson
03-30	147		Lower Mascoma Lake	P. Hunt
03-30	200	Laconia	Lexington Dr.	H. Anderson
03-30	98	Bath	farm fields	B. Bradley
03-30	40	Littleton	Samuel Moore Dam	B. Bradley
04-09	194	Littleton	Route 302	B. Bradley
04-09	306	Lisbon	Route 302	B. Bradley
04-09	905	Bath	farm fields	B. Bradley
04-11	120	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
04-11	352	Bath	farm fields	B. Bradley
<b>Gray Catbird</b>				
05-03	1	Derry	Ballard Pond	H. Chary, Amoskeag Chapter FT
05-05	1	Canterbury	Peverly Meadow	R. Quinn
05-05	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
05-05	1	Nashua	Atherton Ave. RR tracks	R. Allard
05-05	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
<b>Brown Thrasher</b>				
04-29	1	Concord	NH Fish & Game, 2 Hazen Dr.	J. Kanter
05-01	1	Monroe	Cumerford Dam	B. Bradley
05-01	2	Amherst	Souhegan R. floodplain near Milford	M. Suomala
05-27	3	Whitefield	Whitefield Airport	R. Quinn
<b>Bohemian Waxwing</b>				
03-12	50	Milan	residence	S. Blais
03-16	9	Lebanon	Rt. 4A	P. Hunt
03-26	19	Lebanon	Stevens Rd.	L. Bunten
03-29	14	Tamworth	Dublin School by Lehmann House	J. Broyles
04-02	5	Berlin	Argonne St.	K. Dube
04-21	7	Errol	Androscoggin R. by Harpers Meadow	C. Martin, R. Suomala, et al.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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**Northern Shrike**

03-02	1	Auburn	Battery Pt., Lake Massabesic	I. MacLeod, et al.
03-05	1	Newington	runway end at Pease Tradeport	S. Mirick
03-11	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge	T. Vazzano
03-12	1	Lebanon	Blueberry Hill Rd.	D. Brown

**White-eyed Vireo**

05-17	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey, H. Willoughby, BBC FT
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**Blue-headed Vireo**

04-22	1	Mont Vernon	Francestown Tnpk.	R. Suomala
04-30	2	Enfield	Bog Rd.	P. Hunt
04-30	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
04-30	2	Canterbury	Baptist Hill Rd.	R. Quinn
04-30	1	New London	Pingree Rd.	A. Vernon

**Yellow-throated Vireo**

05-08	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	M. Suomala
05-13	1	Haverhill	Bedell Bridge St. Pk.	B. Bradley
05-13	4	Derry	Ballard Marsh	A. Delorey
05-14	2	Salisbury	Mountain Rd.	L. Deming

**Warbling Vireo**

05-13	2	Haverhill	Bedell Bridge St. Pk.	B. Bradley
05-16	1	Salisbury	W. Salisbury by Blackwater R.	R. Vernon
05-18	1	Salisbury	Bay Rd.	B. Vernon, P. Newbern, et al.

*Philadelphia Vireo*  
by Andrea Robbins



**Philadelphia Vireo**

05-27	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	R. Quinn
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**Red-eyed Vireo**

05-14	1	Salisbury	Mountain Rd.	L. Deming
05-14	1	Durham	Foss Farm	J. Romano, S. Walker
05-18	1	Salisbury	Blackwater Reservoir	P. Newbern, B. Vernon, et al.

# Warblers

After being spoiled by the fallout of 1996, observers this year were treated to a below-average warbler migration. It was below normal primarily in terms of numbers, since almost all species arrived more or less on time. Poor weather throughout early May probably hampered movement, although some individuals obviously straggled through. During the last week of the month, the weather finally broke and observers had a chance to recoup their losses from earlier in the month. The two best warbler days of the season were May 24 and 27. On the former, Alan and Barbara Delorey tallied nearly 200 individuals of 18 species at Odiorne Point. Farther north, on the 27, Bob Quinn had 295 individuals of 20 species in Whitefield and Jefferson.

Noteworthy records included an **Orange-crowned Warbler** seen in a snowstorm in Whitefield. This species is very rare in New England in the spring. Southern visitors included a **Hooded Warbler**, **Yellow-throated Warbler**, and **Yellow-breasted Chat**. Unfortunately, another **Yellow-throated Warbler** and a **Kentucky Warbler** were also reported, although neither has yet been officially submitted to *New Hampshire Bird Records*. As a result, we have no permanent record of their occurrence—the reason we encourage observers to submit sightings of such unusual species.

date	#	town	location	observer(s)
<b>Blue-winged Warbler</b>				
05-11	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
05-13	2	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	M. Suomala
05-14	3	Durham	Foss Farm	J. Romano, S. Walker
05-14	2	Kensington	at S. Hampton line	R. Aaronian
05-30	1	Exeter	Kimball Rd.	R. Aaronian
<b>Golden-winged Warbler</b>				
05-17	1	Hollis	Beaver Brook, Brown Lane	R. Andrews
05-19	1	Weare	off Sugar Hill Rd.	A. & B. Delorey
05-27	1	Pembroke	Rt. 3 across from Pembroke Academy	W. Goodwill
05-31	1	Hanover	Goodfellow Road	P. Hunt, Mascoma Chapter FT
<b>Brewster's Warbler - hybrid</b>				
05-18	1	Durham	Bennetts Road	D. Donsker, R. Balerviez, M. Resch, R. Silva
05-24	1	Hanover	Goodfellow Rd.	C. Hobbs, et al.
<b>Tennessee Warbler</b>				
05-15	1	Nashua	Spitbrook Rd.	A. Delorey
05-20	1	Enfield	Bog Road	P. Hunt
05-20	3	Canterbury	industrial land	R. Quinn
05-26	1	Lyman	Under the Mountain Rd.	S. & M. Turner
05-26	1	Brentwood	Haige Road	P. Hunt
05-27	2	Whitefield	airport road	J. Brown, J. Ely
05-27	2	Deerfield	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	P. Hunt, S. Mirick, A. & D. Strong
05-27	1	Nashua	along Nashua River	A. Delorey
05-28	1	Rochester	Old Ox Rd.	R. Bickford



### **Orange-crowned Warbler**

05-07	1	Whitefield	old RR bed between Whitefield Airport & Ayling Brook	R. Quinn, C. Martin, D. Govatski
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### **Nashville Warbler**

05-03	1	Westmoreland	Hunt Rd.	R. Andrews
05-03	1	Deering	East Deering Rd.	I. MacLeod
05-05	1	Walpole	Merriam Rd	R. Ritz
05-07	1	Columbia	residence	D. & B. Killam
05-27	25		Pondicherry WS	R. Quinn

### **Northern Parula**

05-04	2	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Hunt, et al.
05-12	7	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
05-15	3	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
05-16	5	Rye	White Is., Isles of Shoals	C. Johnson, J. Kanter
05-24	6	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey

### **Yellow Warbler**

04-26	1	Middleton	Bowser Pond Rd.	S. Snyder
05-03	1	Derry	Ballard Pond	H. Chary, Amoskeag Chapter FT
05-07	1	E. Kingston	residence	S. Drew
05-08	2	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	M. Suomala

### **Chestnut-sided Warbler**

05-06	1	Salisbury	Mountain Rd.	L. Deming
05-12	1	S. Hampton	Brookside WS	S. Drew
05-14	2	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
05-14	1	Walpole	Scovill Rd.	R. Ritz
05-24	10	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey

### **Magnolia Warbler**

04-30	1	Newbury	Stoney Brook WS	P. Newbern
05-07	1	Concord	Silk Farm Rd.	L. Deming
05-09	1	Enfield	Bog Rd.	P. Hunt
05-24	20	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
05-27	42		Pondicherry WS	R. Quinn

### **Cape May Warbler**

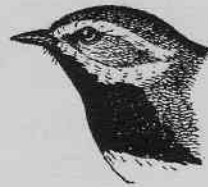
05-24	1	Richmond	Franconia Range	R. Frechette
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### **Black-throated Blue Warbler**

05-01	1	Hinsdale	Wantastiquet State Forest	P. Hunt, D. King
05-04	2	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Hunt, et al.
05-05	1	S. Hampton	Brookside WS	S. Drew
05-07	1	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
05-24	5	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
05-27	26		Pondicherry WS	R. Quinn

### **Yellow-rumped Warbler**

03-23	1	Newington	Great Bay NWR	S. Mirick
04-08	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	M. Suomala
04-14	1	Monroe	residence	P. Powers
04-17	8	Keene	Ashuelot River Park	P. Hunt, et al.
04-26	30	Derry	Ballard Marsh	A. & B. Delorey
04-30	24	Enfield	Bog Rd.	P. Hunt
04-30	27	Canterbury	Spender Meadow	R. Quinn
05-07	50	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
05-09	36	Enfield	Bog Road	P. Hunt
05-11	44		Lower Mascoma Lake	P. Hunt, D. Crook
05-13	28	Haverhill	Bedell Bridge St. Pk.	B. Bradley
05-20	38	Enfield	Bog Rd.	P. Hunt
05-27	52		Pondicherry WS	R. Quinn



*Black-throated  
Green Warbler*

### **Black-throated Green Warbler**

04-30	1	Concord	Audubon House, Silk Farm WS	R. Suomala, M. Johnson
05-01	1	Lyman	Hurd Hill Rd.	S. & M. Turner
05-01	1	Hancock	Harris Center	P. Hunt, et al.
05-01	1	Kensington	Windley Brook residence	G. Gavutis
05-24	4	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
05-27	28		Pondicherry WS	R. Quinn

### **Blackburnian Warbler**

05-07	1	Whitefield	along old RR bed to Cherry Pond	R. Quinn, C. Martin, D. Govatski
05-10	1	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
05-12	1	S. Hampton	Brookside WS area	S. Drew
05-27	12		Pondicherry WS	R. Quinn

### **Yellow-throated Warbler**

05-12	1	Concord	Audubon House parking lot	R. Quinn, S. Allison, K. Dempsey
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### **Pine Warbler**

03-31	1	Lebanon	Blueberry Hill Road	D. Brown
04-06	1	Canterbury	Meeh easement	R. Quinn
04-06	1	Laconia	Laconia CC, Elm St.	H. Anderson
04-15	8	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
04-17	5	Keene	Ashuelot River Pk.	P. Hunt, et al.
05-10	8	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey

### **Prairie Warbler**

05-14	2	Kensington	at S. Hampton line	R. Aaronian
05-18	3	Andover	Taunton Hill	B. Vernon, P. Newbern, et al.
05-24	1	Deerfield	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	J. Berry
05-30	1	Whitefield	along RR at airport	R. Quinn

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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### **Palm Warbler**

04-03	1	Durham	old reservoir	M. Davis
04-06	1	Canterbury	Meeh easement	R. Quinn
04-15	3	Hudson	Musquash CA	A. Delorey
04-15	12	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
04-17	9	Keene	Ashuelot River Pk.	P. Hunt, et al.
05-04	2	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
05-07	1	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
05-11	1	Lebanon	Mascoma Village	P. Hunt, D. Crook

### **Bay-breasted Warbler**

05-15	1	Lyman	Hurd Hill Rd.	S. & M. Turner
05-16	1	Rye	White Is., Isles of Shoals	C. Johnson, J. Kanter
05-17	1	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
05-27	10		Pondicherry WS	R. Quinn

### **Blackpoll Warbler**

05-20	2	Enfield	Bog Road	P. Hunt
05-20	2	Sandwich	Red Hill Pond	T. Vazzano
05-20	3	Canterbury	industrial land	R. Quinn
05-27	3		Pondicherry WS	R. Quinn
05-30	4	Pittsburg	Moose Bog Brook	C. Martin, B. Jahoda, L. Jones

### **Cerulean Warbler**

05-16	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
05-24	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey

### **Black-and-white Warbler**

04-27	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	P. Hunt, S. Mirick, P. Lacourse
05-01	1	Lyman	Hurd Hill Rd.	S. & M. Turner
05-01	1	Mont Vernon	Francestown Tnpk.	M. Suomala
05-01	1	Salisbury	Mountain Rd.	L. Deming
05-20	15	Enfield	Bog Road	P. Hunt

### **American Redstart**

05-02	3	Haverhill	Bedell Bridge	A. & M. Mudge
05-16	36	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
05-24	33	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
05-27	14		Pondicherry WS	R. Quinn

### **Ovenbird**

05-03	1	Swanzy	Franklin Mtn.	L. Deming, S. Gage
05-03	2	Westmoreland	Hunt Rd.	R. Andrews
05-05	3	Canterbury	Baptist Hill Rd.	R. Quinn
05-06	3	Walpole	Scovill Rd.	R. Ritz
05-11	14	Weare	Off Sugar Hill Rd.	A. & B. Delorey
05-16	30	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
05-27	17		Pondicherry WS	R. Quinn
05-31	50	Sunapee		B. Burdett

date	#	town	location	observer(s)
<b>Northern Waterthrush</b>				
04-17	1	Kensington	Winkley Brook residence	G. Gavutis
05-04	3	Canterbury	Shaker Rd.	R. Quinn
05-04	1	Rye	White Is., Isles of Shoals	C. Johnson, K. Williamson
05-05	2	Hudson	near Sky-Farm orchard	C. Laffin
05-20	7	Enfield	Bog Road	P. Hunt
<b>Louisiana Waterthrush</b>				
04-20	1	Andover	Bulkhead Trail	L. Deming, K. Bennett
04-30	1	Enfield	George Pond	P. Hunt
05-04	1	Canterbury	Asby Rd.	R. Quinn
05-19	1	Sandwich	near Durgin Bridge	T. Vazzano
<b>Mourning Warbler</b>				
05-26	2	Enfield	Lower Shaker Village	D. Crook
05-27	1	Concord	SPNHF flood plain	R. Suomala
05-27	2		Pondicherry WS	R. Quinn
05-31	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
<b>Common Yellowthroat</b>				
05-04	1	Newington	Great Bay NWR	R. & M. Suomala
05-04	1	Newington	Great Bay NWR	R. & M. Suomala
05-05	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
05-05	1	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	C. Johnson, K. Williamson
05-16	25	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	C. Johnson, J. Kanter
<b>Hooded Warbler</b>				
05-21	1	N. Hampton	residence	D. & T. Donsker, S. Mirick
<b>Wilson's Warbler</b>				
05-11	1	Concord	W. Portsmouth St.	M. & R. Suomala, S. Mirick
05-20	1	Enfield	Bog Road	P. Hunt
05-20	1	Enfield	Main Street Pond	P. Hunt
05-24	8	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
05-24	6	Canterbury	sod farm	R. Quinn
05-27	2		Pondicherry WS	R. Quinn
<b>Canada Warbler</b>				
05-16	1	Salisbury	W. Salisbury by Blackwater R.	R. Vernon
05-18	1	Wilnot	Campground Rd.	B. Vernon, P. Newbern et al.
05-18	1	Hanover	River Rd.	P. Hunt, Mascoma Chapter FT
05-24	6	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
05-25	10	Haverhill	Bedell Bridge	A. & M. Mudge
05-31	18	Errol	Lake Umbagog	R. Quinn
<b>Yellow-breasted Chat</b>				
05-17	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey, BBC FT

# Tanagers through Finches

The second songbird "event" of the spring occurred in mid-May and involved the larger, colorful birds that are easily identified by all. During this time, the cold wet weather probably suppressed insect activity, especially in forest interiors, and all sorts of birds were seen feeding in relatively unusual areas. The stars of the show, however, were Baltimore Orioles and Scarlet Tanagers, with supporting roles played by Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings. Again, the records submitted to *New Hampshire Bird Records* do not fully document the phenomenon, but people all over the state were commenting on the numbers of these species visiting their yards or feeders.

Scarlet Tanagers were not the only species of their family to be represented in New Hampshire this spring. On May 7, observers far to the north in Millsfield (near Errol) had the good fortune to observe a male **Summer Tanager** at close range in their yard during a snowstorm. While this southern species occurs with some regularity in New Hampshire in spring, it is definitely unusual to have one that far north under those meteorological conditions. Not to be outdone, another tanager wandered in from the west. Given that western vagrants are primarily found in late fall, this **Western Tanager** in Dublin may be the first spring record of its species for the state.

Sparrows that arrive in early April (Chipping, Field, Savannah) were somewhat early this spring, probably because of the warm spell in late March. Later-arriving species were essentially on time. Three inland records of Vesper Sparrow and six Orchard Orioles are both above average. In contrast, White-crowned Sparrows almost went unreported after last spring's fallout, and there were few large blackbird flocks. Given the lack of a winter finch invasion, there were no notable numbers of most finches. The only exceptions of sorts were the crossbills, which while not found in large numbers, were reported widely throughout the northern and western parts of the state.

date	#	town	location	observer(s)
<b>Summer Tanager</b>				
05-07	1	Millsfield	residence	C. Demers, R. Andrews
<b>Scarlet Tanager</b>				
05-03	1	Derry	Beaver Lake outflow	H. Chary, Amoskeag Chapter FT
05-12	1	S. Hampton	road by Brookside WS	S. Drew
05-13	1	Gorham	Jimtown Rd. residence	J. Brown
05-13	1	Salisbury	Mountain Rd.	L. Deming
05-31	24	Sunapee		B. Burdett
<b>Western Tanager</b>				
05-24	1	Dublin	Charcoal Rd.	T. Warren
<b>Rose-breasted Grosbeak</b>				
04-23	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge	T. Vazzano
04-26	1	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr. feeder	M. Harris
04-30	3	Peterborough	Union St.	M. & R. Johnson
05-13	11	Haverhill	residence	A. & M. Mudge

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Blue Grosbeak</b>				
05-30	1	Deerfield	Griffin Rd.	J. & B. Miller
<b>Indigo Bunting</b>				
05-12	1	Hillsboro	residence	D. Kienholz
05-14	2	Milton	Elm St. residence	L. Perkins
05-15	1	Middleton	Drew Drive residence	D. Reynolds
<b>Eastern Towhee</b>				
04-17	1	E. Kingston	residence	S. Drew
04-20	1	Nashua	Tinker Rd.	R. Allard
04-21	1	Londonderry	Devonshire Ln.	H. Chary
05-10	8	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
<b>Chipping Sparrow</b>				
04-07	1	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. & M. Harris
04-16	1	Hampton	Hi River Yacht Club	R. Aaronian
04-17	1	Londonderry	Devonshire Lane	H. Chary
<b>Field Sparrow</b>				
03-29	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	A. & B. Delorey
04-02	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
04-09	2	Monroe	residence	P. Powers
<b>Vesper Sparrow</b>				
04-26	1	Enfield	Rt. 4	P. Hunt, et al.
05-14	1	Haverhill	Bedell Bridge St. Pk.	S. & M. Turner, P. Powers, E. Emery
05-18	1	Deerfield	sandpit near fairgrounds	I. MacLeod, G. Robbins, R. Woodward
<b>Savannah Sparrow</b>				
04-01	1	Littleton	residence	B. Bradley
04-09	1	Columbia	residence	B. & D. Killam
04-16	16	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	T. Vazzano
05-16	12	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	C. Johnson, J. Kanter
<b>Fox Sparrow</b>				
03-21	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
03-29	2	Gorham	Jimtown Rd.	J. Brown, J. Ely
04-01	4	Brookline	residence	M. Neveu
04-02	2	Nashua	Hills Ferry Rd.	R. & J. Allard
04-12	3	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
04-16	4	Enfield	Bog Road	P. Hunt
05-01	1	E. Kingston	residence	S. Drew
<b>Lincoln's Sparrow</b>				
05-06	1	Manchester	Amoskeag Fishways	I. MacLeod
05-14	1	Canterbury	residence	H. Posselt
05-16	1	Rye	White Is., Isles of Shoals	C. Johnson, J. Kanter
05-24	5	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
<b>Swamp Sparrow</b>				
04-15	2	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
04-17	12	Derry	Ballard Marsh	A. Delorey
04-30	19	Enfield	Bog Rd.	P. Hunt
<b>White-crowned Sparrow</b>				
05-03	1	Columbia	residence	D. & B. Killam
05-03	1	Deering	East Deering Rd.	I. MacLeod
05-05	1	Laconia	Laconia CC, Elm St.	H. Anderson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Lapland Longspur</b>				
04-11	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	S. Mirick
<b>Bobolink</b>				
05-06	9	Concord	W. Portsmouth St.	R. Suomala
05-11	2	Walpole	Scovill Rd.	R. Ritz
05-14	2	Warren	Rte 25C field	C. Martin
05-16	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
<b>Eastern Meadowlark</b>				
03-13	1	Rindge	Franklin Pierce College	N. Monette
03-19	2	Dover	Bellamy River WS	B. Janeway
03-29	3	Claremont	Rt. 12A	P. Hunt, D. Crook
05-01	2	Amherst	Souhegan R. floodplain near Milford	M. Suomala
05-10	7	Haverhill	throughout town	S. & M. Turner
05-11	2	Swanzy	Dillant-Hopkins Airport	L. Deming
<b>Rusty Blackbird</b>				
03-27	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge	T. Vazzano
04-21	4	Errol	Harpers Meadow by Androscoggin R.	C. Martin, R. Suomala
04-27	1	E. Kingston	Rt. 108 farm pond	A. & B. Delorey
05-10	1	Haverhill	Bedell Bridge St. Pk.	S. & M. Turner
05-20	2	Enfield	Bog Rd.	P. Hunt
05-27	1	Jefferson	Little Cherry Pond	P. Hunt, S. Mirick, A. & D. Strong
05-30	1	Pittsburg	Snag Pond outlet beaver ponds	C. Martin, B. Jahoda, L. Jones
<b>Orchard Oriole</b>				
05-10	1	Stratham	Aberdeen West	S. Mirick
05-10	1	Portsmouth	Urban Forestry Center	S. Mirick, D. Abbott
05-13	1	Nashua	Mine Falls Park	R. Andrews
05-20	1	Greenland	off Great Bay Rd.	S. Mirick
05-25	1	Manchester	Dunbar St.	M. Martin
05-31	1	Rye	Odiorne Point	S. Mirick, ASNH FT
<b>Baltimore Oriole</b>				
05-04	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
05-06	2	E. Kingston	residence	S. Drew
05-07	1	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. & M. Harris
05-09	1	Manchester	Amoskeag Fishways	I. MacLeod
<b>Pine Grosbeak</b>				
03-16	3	Wentworths Location;	Rt. 16 roadside	D. Govatski, C. Martin
<b>Red Crossbill</b>				
03-16	5	Errol	Rt. 16	D. Govatski, C. Martin
03-23	2	Salisbury	Mountain Rd.	L. Deming, S. Gage
03-29	3	Deering	East Deering Rd.	I. MacLeod
04-04	2	Enfield	Maple St.	T. Bickell
05-04	2	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Hunt, et al.
05-24	8	Bartlett	Mt. Pickering residence	J., D. & J. Romano
<b>White-winged Crossbill</b>				
03-09	6	Bethlehem	Zealand Falls AMC Hut	D. Govatski
03-10	4	Jackson		E. Woodeson
03-28	2	Ellsworth	Ellsworth Rd.	J. Carreaux, F. Mattison
05-01	2	Antrim	Willard Pond	P. Hunt, et al.
05-26	1	Canaan	West Farms Rd.	L. Bunten
05-27	15	Whitefield	Pondicherry WS access	R. Quinn

# Confessions of a Peregrine Falcon Microbirder

By Chris Martin

**mi-cro-bir-ding** (mi'krō-bûr'ding)

*n.* 1. the highly focused, some might say obsessive, study of minor plumage variations among birds of a given species, often with the goal of distinguishing individuals from one another.



Photograph by Anne St. Cyr

One of the most rewarding parts of my job as a wildlife biologist with the Audubon Society of New Hampshire has been coordinating field monitoring of Peregrine Falcons in the Granite State. Besides training volunteers and working with other natural resource professionals, I've had the good fortune to spend lots of hours watching Peregrines. So many hours, in fact, that when falcons return to breeding cliffs each spring, a small callus develops below my "good" eye, the result of extended spotting-scope sessions.

One lesson I've learned through falcon watching is that no matter how intimately familiar you may be with a particular bird species, you can never really "max out" on what is observable. Dawn Stavros, a long-time eagle observer, first showed me how individual birds could be identified by making detailed outline drawings to record plumage variations. Recently, I've started comparing Peregrine plumage details with similar rigor. I've even coined a special term, "microbirding," to refer to this method. By my definition, microbirding is the highly focused, some might say obsessive, study of minor plumage variations among birds of a given species, often with the goal of distinguishing individuals from one another.

Interested in dabbling a bit in Peregrine microbirding? This article offers tips on how to begin and a few examples to illustrate how careful documentation and attention to detail can prove quite valuable.

Peregrines are especially well-suited for comparative study, as a result, ironically, of their brush with extinction several decades ago. Distinguishable plumage variations associated with the three North American *Falco peregrinus* sub-species (*anatum*, *tundrius*, and *pealei*), honed over time by natural selection and geographic isolation, have been suddenly remixed in a broad-scale genetic experiment better known as the Peregrine Falcon recovery effort. In the eastern U.S., where the current breeding population consists almost entirely of captive-bred birds and their progeny, you can find lots of plumage variation among individuals if you are patient, know what to look for, and have good optics.

*Age:* Adults vary from light steely gray to dark charcoal gray above and have a complete dark hood or helmet. Undersides may be pure chalk white, creamy, or have a tawny blush. In each case, the light base color is overlaid with varying amounts of dark spotting and horizontal barring on breast, belly, and flanks. Juveniles vary from tan to



chocolate brown above and have an incomplete, patchy, or striped hood. The young also are tawny on the undersides and often show heavy, merlin-like vertical streaking on breast and belly (Figure A). One-year-olds often display mixtures of these adult and juvenile characteristics.

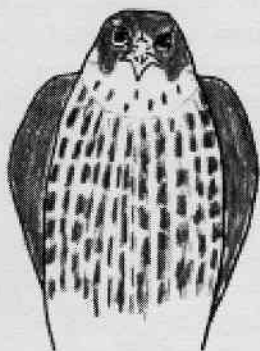


Figure A

**Sex:** When seen together, males are visibly smaller and slighter than females. In adult males, non-feathered areas (cere, eye-rings, legs, feet) are typically bright yellow, tending toward orange-yellow in the breeding season. Adult females often have relatively drab yellow non-feathered areas, which become even more pale during non-breeding months.

**Facial pattern:** The Peregrine's classic dark hood or helmet—including the dark malar stripe or mustache mark below each eye and the light cheek patch located just behind it—is usually easy to observe, and is subject to wide variation. Some individuals have dagger-like mustaches while others have clearly rounded marks. Cheek patches can be wide or narrow, shallow or deep. Some are even highly bifurcated, as was the case with the resident male in 1997 at Cathedral Ledge in Bartlett (Figure B).

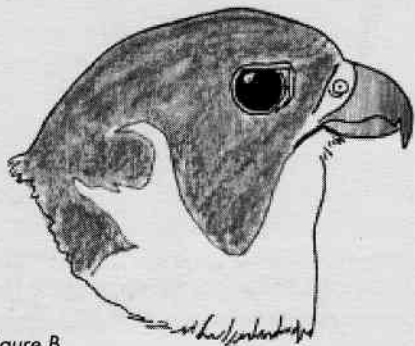


Figure B

Over the past three breeding seasons, falcon watchers at Dixville's Abeniki Mountain found that they could distinguish the two resident adult falcons strictly by noting their facial patterns. The Dixville male had a narrow mustache and wide white cheek patch, while

the female has a complete hood with no cheek patch at all (compare two birds in Figure C). Our first evidence of a mate replacement at Dixville will most likely be an observation of a bird with a "new" facial pattern.

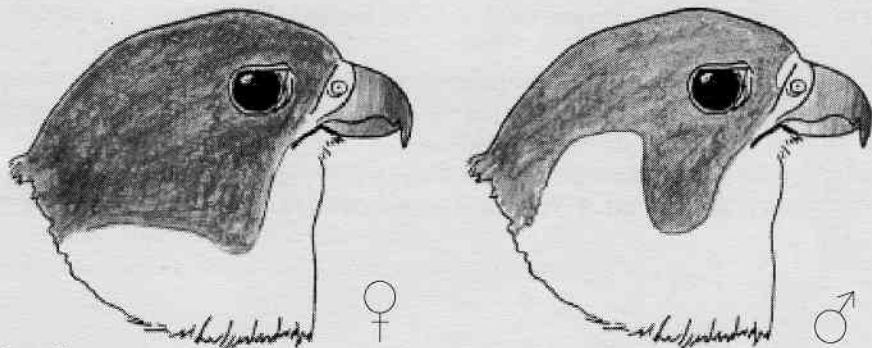
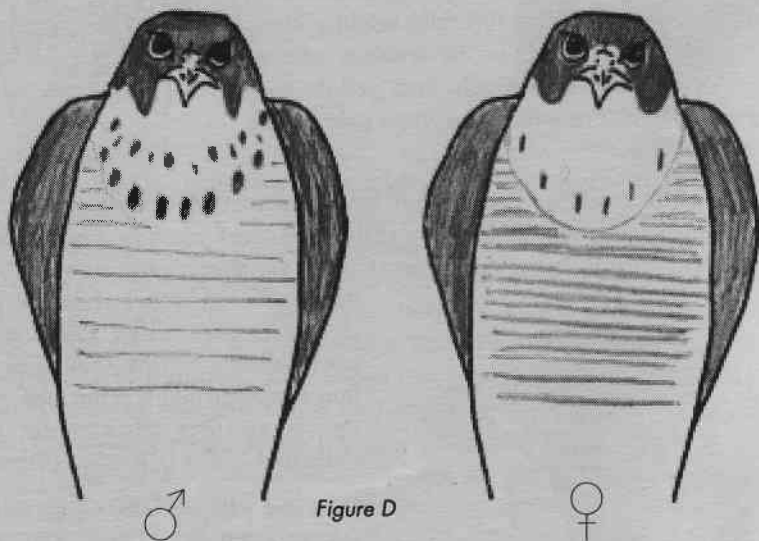


Figure C

*Breast/belly pattern:* Dark markings on the underparts can start at the throat and extend all the way down to the lower belly. Usually a clear bib of varying depth occurs on the throat and upper breast, with a pattern of spotting or stippling before grading into heavy barring on the belly. Even relatively minor variations may permit individual identification, such as the pattern of spotting and intensity of barring on the male and female present at Cathedral Ledge in 1997 (compare two birds in Figure D).



*Tail:* Look for the presence or absence of a terminal band at the tip of the tail. If a terminal band is present, it may be narrow or broad, and its color may be white or tan.

*Legs:* An adult Peregrine's legs are typically bright yellow. Juveniles and one-year-olds have blue-gray and greenish yellow legs, respectively. Although typically visible only when falcons stretch, preen, stand over a prey item, or defecate, a committed microbirder will seize any opportunity to examine a Peregrine's legs with good optics, since either leg (or both) may carry a metal identification band. Observers should note the color(s) and alphanumeric visible on any band observed and upon which leg it was placed.

Even if you do not have the eyes or patience for microbirding, you can still help with the Peregrine Falcon monitoring effort in New Hampshire. We need regular watchers in downtown Manchester during the winter as well as cliff watchers in spring to check sites for new Peregrine Falcon pairs or report on currently active sites. For information, contact Chris (224-9909 ext. 317) at the Audubon Society of New Hampshire.

# Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge

By Steve Mirick

*Now that Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge is open to the public, many people are curious about how to get there and where to go. To answer these questions, we are bringing you a sneak preview from the revised version of *Birding the New Hampshire Seacoast*, by Steve Mirick, which is due out shortly. Ed.*

The northeastern shore of Great Bay has remained undeveloped over the years because of its former occupation by the Pease Air Force Base. With the closure of the Air Force Base, a portion of this land is now owned and managed by the Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Two recently opened trails provide nice opportunities for birders.

To reach the refuge, take Exit 1 off of the Spaulding Turnpike and drive south on Gosling Road towards the Pease International Tradeport. Drive 0.6 mile through a set of lights, then turn right onto Arboretum Drive. Follow this road around the northwest side of the airport. At 2.3 miles, you will be at the end of the airport's runway. Park on the side of the road and walk up to the fence overlooking the airport. From late April through August, Upland Sandpipers may be found in the grassy area in the middle of the runways. This is one of the only nesting locations for this species in New Hampshire. A spotting scope is usually required, but sometimes the birds can be found close to the fence. Also, search the sparse vegetation along the end of the runway for Horned Lark and Vesper Sparrows, which sometimes nest here.

Continue along Arboretum Drive for one more mile, and you will enter the refuge, pass through an automatic gate, and see the parking lot on your left where both trails start. Rest rooms are available here. The shorter of the two trails is .5 mile long and takes you out to Upper Peverly Pond, a freshwater pond that can sometimes be good for waterfowl in the spring and fall. The longer of the two trails is two miles long and starts along the fenced edge of what was the weapons storage area for the former Pease Air Force Base. Search for Field Sparrow and Brown Thrasher in the brushy areas; Eastern Bluebirds and American Kestrels can often be found perched along the wires. The trail travels by a beaver pond, through an open field, and eventually reaches the Furber Straits at the mouth of Great Bay, directly opposite Adam's Point in Durham. Unfortunately, there are no good vantage points for viewing the bay from the trail. Nonetheless, waterfowl and an occasional eagle can sometimes be found along the water's edge.

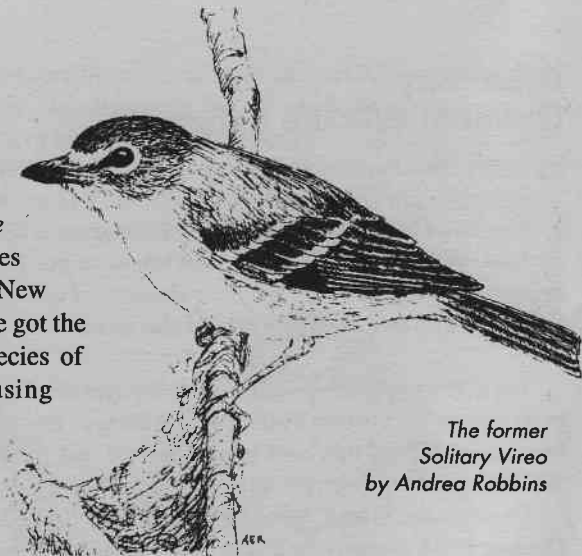


American Kestrel

## The AOU Strikes Again

By P. D. Hunt

A year ago, *New Hampshire Bird Records* alerted you to a series of name changes that affected New Hampshire birds and birders. We got the Baltimore Oriole back, two species of sharp-tailed sparrows, confusing thrushes, and so on. Well, the taxonomists on the American Ornithologists' Union checklist committee have been back at work, and they proudly announced a whole



The former  
Solitary Vireo  
by Andrea Robbins

bunch more name changes in the July 1997 issue of *The Auk*. Luckily, only one of these hits home, and that is the Blue-headed Vireo.

Blue-headed Vireo, you ask? What the heck is a Blue-headed Vireo? If John James Audubon or Alexander Wilson were alive today, they'd know exactly what the AOU is talking about, because this is the name they used for the Solitary Vireo. Largely unbeknownst to Audubon and Wilson—and to modern users of East-only field guides—the Solitary Vireo is a highly variable species, with two very different forms in the Rocky Mountains and Pacific Coast. It turns out that the three forms are different enough, both in ecological and genetic aspects, to rank them as distinct species.

So now we have the Blue-headed Vireo in the East, Plumbeous Vireo in the Rockies, and Cassin's Vireo on the West Coast. Users of continent-wide guides will find all three species illustrated and perhaps rejoice in the bonus life birds they just added to their lists. And we shouldn't be too complacent here in New Hampshire: Cassin's Vireo has been recorded in Massachusetts and reported this past spring in Vermont. While it may be relatively easy to start saying "Blue-headed" instead of "Solitary," it won't be nearly as straightforward to get used to scrutinizing every "Solitary Vireo" we see, especially in late fall, in the event that it is a vagrant from the West.

The other changes from the AOU relate to the actual order of birds in our checklists. These changes won't be official until the next AOU Checklist is published, but they promise to be quite fun indeed. Suffice it to say that they can wait for another article, but here's a hint: hawk watchers might not need to count Turkey Vultures any more!

## **Volunteers and Birding Research**

By Francie Von Mertens

*Research: The effects of coffee-growing methods on our migratory birds; Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center and others.*

As keynote speaker at the Partners in Flight conference, Russ Greenberg, director of the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, reported on research that connects declining populations of migratory birds with the trend towards sun-grown coffee. Traditionally and naturally, coffee is a shade-grown, understory crop on small plantations where wildlife diversity is second only to that found in undisturbed tropical forests. The mix of overstory trees, managed to improve the soil, provides natural moisture and mulch, avoids erosion, produces secondary fruit crops, and so on.

At the other extreme, "technified" coffee is a sun-grown monoculture that requires insecticides, nematocides, herbicides, and chemical fertilizers. Gone is the continuous canopy, the scrub and shrub of secondary succession, the leaf litter below—and all the birds and other wildlife that seek those habitats, especially as a dry-season refuge.

As demand for coffee increases (it's an export second only to oil), conversion from shade to the higher-yield sun-grown coffee is becoming the norm—although flavor is sacrificed along with the overstory. Birders have been among the first to pay attention to the consequences, conducting research, working with growers, lobbying for shade-grown certification, spreading the word, and, as consumers, reading coffee labels carefully.

A search of the Internet under "shade-grown coffee" delivers specifically relevant information, including the Smithsonian's extensive report, "Coffee, Conservation, and Commerce in the Western Hemisphere." As many of the Internet responses put it, our wake-up cup should be part of the wake-up call.

*Volunteers in research: Birds in Forested Landscapes (BFL); Cornell Lab of Ornithology in cooperation with Partners in Flight.*

BFL, a successor to Project Tanager, continues to study the effects of forest fragmentation on breeding bird success—targeting the woodland thrushes and two hawk species (Sharp-shinned and Cooper's). Volunteers choose hawks, thrushes, or both, and receive a thick protocol manual with birdsong tape(s). As eight different census points are to be established, mapped to show degree of fragmentation, and observed, a team approach works best for BFL—especially if forest thrushes are chosen.

In New Hampshire, chances are good that you will find at least one thrush species per census point. A four-person team should have a good time making sense of the manual, dividing up census points, and perhaps going forth in tandem. (Playing the tape, watching a stopwatch, swatting mosquitoes, and observing any thrush/hawk response is a challenge for one person!)

For more information, call 607-254-2440, or e-mail to [forest\\_birds@cornell.edu](mailto:forest_birds@cornell.edu).

Also, see Chris Martin's "Confessions of a Peregrine Falcon Microbirder" in this issue for information on becoming a volunteer monitoring Peregrine Falcons in New Hampshire.

## Reporters for Spring 1997

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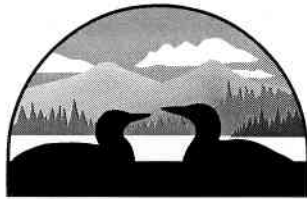
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### **Abbreviations Used**

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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