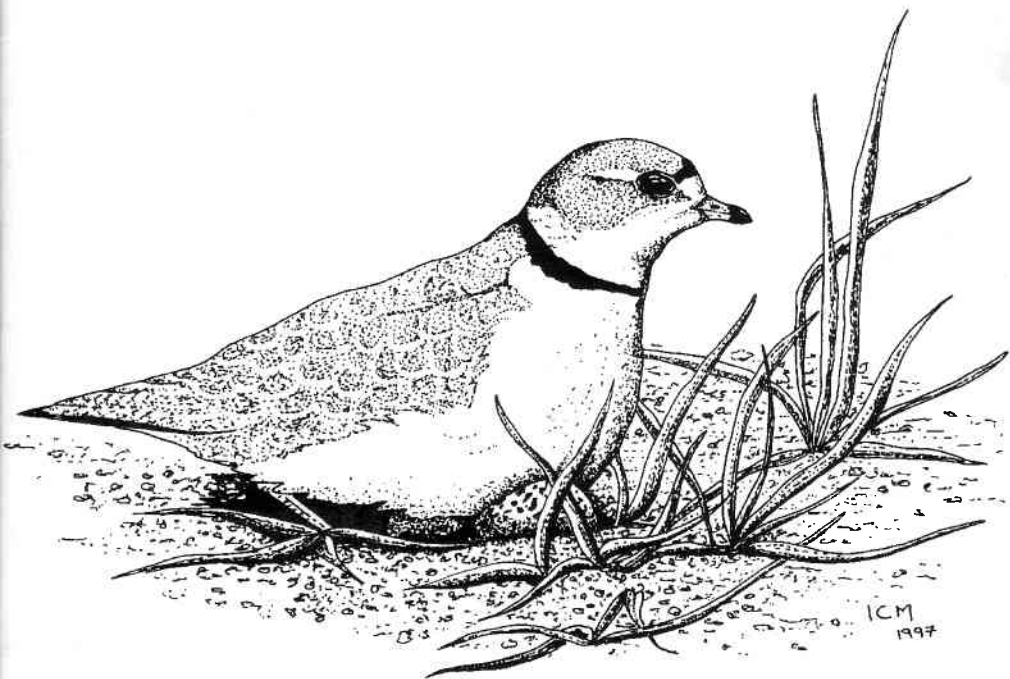


# New Hampshire Bird Records



Summer 1997

Vol. 16, No. 2

## About the Cover

A special thank you to Iain MacLeod for the Piping Plover on this issue's cover. Iain's drawings have been a part of *New Hampshire Bird Records* for many years. The choice of a Piping Plover was especially appropriate for this season after their return to New Hampshire beaches this summer. The last time Piping Plovers attempted to nest was in 1984, but they have not nested successfully in New Hampshire since the 1970s.

Five nests were found in May: three at Seabrook Beach and two at Hampton Beach State Park. Biologists and volunteers from the Audubon Society of NH, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and NH Fish and Game built exclosures around the nests to keep out humans and predators. A total of 17 chicks hatched. Many dedicated volunteers, biologists, and local citizens worked to monitor and assist the birds. Three chicks fledged, despite the bizarre loss of three chicks that were run over by a police cruiser in pursuit of armed felons and the challenges of feeding between hoards of beach-goers, and the dangers of dogs, cats, and bouncing beach balls. We are hopeful that they will return next year, so be ready to watch for them in April and May.

—Becky Suomala

## A Special Thank You

This issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records* was sponsored by an anonymous donor in support of the Tern Restoration Project at the Isles of Shoals. Please see page 33 for an article about the project.

*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

What an exciting summer season! Many new nestings were recorded for New Hampshire—terns at the Isles of Shoals, Fox Sparrows in Pittsburg, Ospreys in the Lakes Region, and Piping Plovers on the New Hampshire coast. I was privileged to experience the excitement of watching nesting terns on Seavey Island and be part of the team that located the third Piping Plover nest at Seabrook Beach. What a great surprise! Thanks to an interested resident near Seabrook Beach who reported the first plover nest, we found out about their existence in time to protect all the nests. We returned after the plover eggs had hatched to watch the young “balls of fluff” as they scurried along the beach. It seemed miraculous that they could survive.

Birds are always surprising us and reminding us that there are new discoveries to be made. Common Eider have been recorded nesting in New Hampshire only at the Isles of Shoals, although they may have nested on our coast prior to their decimation in the 1800s. Their numbers have increased over the years, and this summer there were several reports of creches (groups of young) close to the Rye coast. The young were small enough that it seems unlikely they swam all the way from the islands. Did they nest on the mainland? Who will be the first to find a Common Eider nest on the coast? Keep your eyes open and be sure to share the excitement of your bird discoveries.

On the practical side, *New Hampshire Bird Records* has greater flexibility in bird reporting format as our technology slowly changes. If you computerize your bird sightings at home, you may be able to submit them in printed form rather than on the standard slips that we provide. A few reporters have also worked out how to convert their sightings to a format on disk that we transfer directly into our computer. If this is of interest to you, please contact me for guidelines and sample reports. We expect to be making even more changes at some time in the future, and all suggestions are welcome.

Watch for any bird surprises and let us know what you see.

*Becky Suomala*  
Managing Editor  
December, 1997



### **Trinidad & Tobago Nature Tour** **January 20-30, 1999**

This tour will be based at the world-renowned Asa Wright Nature Centre and Lodge, a 200-acre wildlife sanctuary in Trinidad's rainforested Northern range and at the charming Blue Waters Inn in Tobago, and will provide an excellent introduction to South America's wonderful birds. Bird species found here include toucans, bellbirds, motmots, and manakins. Cost: \$1,995 M/ \$2,050 NM, plus airfare, per person based on double occupancy. For more information contact Mark Suomala, Field Trip Coordinator, ASNH, (603) 224-9909.

# What to Report for the Summer Season

Which sightings should *NHBR* reporters submit? There are no hard and fast rules, but there are some guidelines to help reporters focus their efforts during the summer season.

First, it's important to understand that even though we do not publish all reports, each one plays a valuable role in creating an overall picture of a given season. All sightings also 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 for 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). Report late spring migrants such as some warblers and flycatchers that are still moving during the first week of June, and early fall migrants. Adult shorebirds can be headed south as early as July 4, for instance, and some landbirds begin moving in late July.

Report colonial nesting bird sites such as Great Blue Heron rookeries or Bank Swallow burrows. Reports of erratic species such as cuckoos and crossbills are of interest, as are grassland nesting birds, which are of concern due to shrinking habitat.

Species that are confirmed to be breeding at an unusual time or location are very valuable—refer to the *Atlas of Breeding Birds in New Hampshire* for the known distribution of breeding birds in the state (available in the ASNH store and library). Unusual behavior or breeding of a species unusual for your local area is of interest.

Reports of species sought by many birders are interesting to all. These include pelagic species and resident species that are present but not commonly seen, such as boreal, nocturnal, and secretive wetland birds. 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

American Black Duck	Hairy Woodpecker	Cedar Waxwing
Broad-winged Hawk	Northern Flicker	European Starling
Red-tailed Hawk	Eastern Phoebe	Blue-headed Vireo
Ring-necked Pheasant	Tree Swallow	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Ruffed Grouse	Barn Swallow	Black-and-white Warbler
Wild Turkey	Blue Jay	Common Yellowthroat
Northern Bobwhite	American Crow	Chipping Sparrow
Common Snipe	Black-capped Chickadee	Song Sparrow
American Woodcock	Tufted Titmouse	Swamp Sparrow
Rock Dove	White-breasted Nuthatch	White-throated Sparrow
Mourning Dove	House Wren	Red-winged Blackbird
Chimney Swift	Eastern Bluebird	Common Grackle
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Veery	Brown-headed Cowbird
Belted Kingfisher	Hermit Thrush	House Finch
Downy Woodpecker	American Robin	American Goldfinch

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

## Summer Season June 1 - July 31, 1997

In contrast to the cold and wet spring weather earlier this year, we had warm and dry weather during most of the summer (though the northern part of the state had a wetter than average July). The only direct connection with the weather seemed to be some late spring migrants arriving on the tail of southwest winds in June. For example, after the winds of June 8 through 12, some Blackpoll Warblers, the **Least Bittern**, and many Black-billed Cuckoos were first noted. The same conclusions can be made with some of the early south-bound migrants. For example, cold fronts with northwest winds passed through on June 19 and 23 (Whimbrel and Red-breasted Nuthatches at the Isles of Shoals), June 27 (Blue-winged Teal at Great Bay), July 3 (more shorebirds), July 4 and 5 (Tennessee Warbler, Purple Finch at the Shoals), and July 29 (Yellow Warbler at the Shoals). Having reporters on White and Seavey Islands at the Isles of Shoals gives us a much better view of the migration.

For breeding birds, this summer was one of the most exciting ever. The highlights include the apparent first nesting of **Fox Sparrows** in Pittsburg, the return of Piping Plovers to the coastal beaches, and the re-colonization of Seavey Island at the Isles of Shoals by Common Terns, a small colony of Palm Warblers in Jefferson, the probable Black-crowned Night-Heron family in Rochester, Arctic Terns at the Hampton salt marshes and the Isles of Shoals, two pairs of Black Terns (in appropriate habitat but still likely migrants), Grasshopper Sparrows in Amherst and Concord, and a Cerulean Warbler again at Pawtuckaway. In the overshoot/vagrant category there were two **White Pelicans**, a **Least Bittern**, a **Loggerhead Shrike**, and two different **Blue Grosbeaks**.

Thanks to you, it was an exciting season for birds and birding in New Hampshire. Your summer season reports continue to improve in quantity and quality, and the documentation of rarities is the best it has ever been. Keep up the great work.

*Robert A. Quinn*  
*Summer Editor*



*Adult Common Tern  
on Seavey Island –  
sitting on sound speaker.  
ASNH photo by  
Rebecca Suomala.*

# Loons through Ibis

A pair of Common Loons in Pelham and three on Lake Massabesic indicate the species continues to spread into southern New Hampshire. The Pied-billed Grebe family in Exeter was a new breeding location for that species. In the last eight years, Pied-billeds have been reported from 17 different locations. This summer's pelagic records include the species and numbers we have come to expect, with one exception. That exception was the Manx Shearwater. Of course, our knowledge of our pelagic birds is still imperfect, and it could very well be that Manx Shearwaters are common in small numbers in New Hampshire waters during the summer.

The two **White Pelicans** on Lake Winnepesaukee were only the second documented record for New Hampshire. The first record was in the spring of 1996, so we need to be aware of the possibility for this species on any large body of water. The inland Double-crested Cormorants included two adults (with two immatures) in Nashua on July 31. A calling **Least Bittern**, heard on the night of June 11 in Jefferson, is a rare record, particularly from north of the notches. It could not be relocated after that date. American Bittern numbers were normal (about 13 factoring in duplicates) but included sightings from Hebron, Sunapee, and Hancock. These three sites were new, and it is interesting to review past locations and numbers. In the last eight years, the number of bitterns has averaged 10 per summer season from an average of seven sites. However, the total number of different sites equals 32 over those eight years. Three weak-flying, immature Black-crowned Night-Herons in Rochester, seen with an adult, probably came from a nearby nest. This is quite significant since the species was never confirmed as a breeder in New Hampshire during the six years of research for the *Atlas of Breeding Birds in New Hampshire*.

date	#	town	location	observer(s)
<b>Common Loon</b>				
06-04	2	Littleton	Samuel Moore Dam	B. Bradley
06-12	2	Pelham	Gumpas Pond	C. Evans
06-20	4	Jefferson	Cherry Pond, Pondicherry WS	P. Newbern
06-29	5	Dummer	Pontook Reservoir	B. Bradley
07-09	3	Auburn	Lake Massabesic, Wilson Crossing Rd.	J. Ashley
07-16	1	Rye	Rye Ledge	D. Donsker
<b>Pied-billed Grebe</b>				
06-03	1	Weare	Buxton Brook Bog	G. Russell
06-08	1	Sutton	Cascade Marsh	P. Newbern
06-11	4	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
06-27	1	Haverhill	Bedell Bridge St. Pk.	M. & S. Turner
<b>Greater Shearwater</b>				
07-15	3	Rye	sw. of Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	A. Cook, G. Smith
07-26	1	Rye	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, ASNH FT
<b>Manx Shearwater</b>				
07-26	1	Rye	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, ASNH FT



<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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**Wilson's Storm-Petrel**

07-15	17	Rye	s.-sw. of Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	A. Cook, G. Smith
07-26	75	Rye	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, ASNH FT

**Northern Gannet**

07-26	12	Rye	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, ASNH FT
07-26	5	Rye	White Is., Isles of Shoals	J. Kanter, M. Schulze

**American White Pelican**

06-11	2	Wolfeboro	between Winter Harbor & Rattlesnake Is.	M., T., J. & R. Kott, L. & L. Wilberton
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**Great Cormorant**

06-21	1	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Schulze, R. Suomala
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**Double-crested Cormorant**

06-22	100	Rye	Lunging Is., Isles of Shoals	R. Suomala
06-30	3	Tuftonboro	Copps Pond	R. Quinn
07-04	8	Durham	Mill Pond spillway	G. & M. Prazar
07-07	8	Monroe	Connecticut R.	B. Bradley
07-31	4	Nashua	Nashua River	R. Andrews

**American Bittern**

06-02	3	Errol	Harpers Meadow, Androscoggin R.	J. & S. MacDougall
06-07	1	Hebron	Hebron Marsh WS	P. Newbern
06-09	1	Pittsburg	Day Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-10	2	Sutton	Cascade Marsh	R. Vernon
06-20	2	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	P. Newbern
06-20	2	Whitefield	airport	R. Quinn
07-04	1	Hancock	Rt. 202 near Elmwood	I. MacLeod
07-17	1	Sunapee	Rt. 103	P. Newbern

**Least Bittern**

06-11	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	R. Quinn, D. Govatski, S. Stoddard
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*Great Blue Heron Rookery by Iain MacLeod*

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Great Blue Heron</b>				
June	12	Hollis	off North Rd.	R. Andrews
06-27	43	Hopkinton	Stumpfield Marsh	D. & B. Soule
<b>Great Egret</b>				
07-20	1	Concord	over Bridge and Centre St. jct.	D. Stavros
07-23	5	Rye	Wallis Sands Beach	S. Mirick, J. Matthews
07-27	1	Sanbornton	Hermit Lake, bog end	P. Cerar
<b>Snowy Egret</b>				
07-31	27	Rye	behind Hemingway's Restaurant	M. Suomala
<b>Little Blue Heron</b>				
07-12	1	Newington	Stubbs Pond	R. & M. Suomala
<b>Green Heron</b>				
06-01	3	Deering	Rt. 149 just outside Hillsboro	I. & D. MacLeod
06-05	1	Stratford	Fort Hill WMA	P. Hunt
06-05	1	Jefferson	Cherry Pond	R. Quinn
06-08	1	Sutton	Chadwick Meadows	P. Newbern
06-20	1	Hampton	Hampton Marsh	T. Vazzano
06-22	1	Littleton	Glenwood	B. Bradley
06-24	1	Lisbon	Cole Brook swamp	M. & S. Turner
<b>Black-crowned Night-Heron</b>				
07-17	4	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	R. Suomala
07-27	1	Orford	Reeds Marsh	L. Buntin
07-31	2	Nashua	Nashua R. above Mines Falls	R. Andrews
<b>Glossy Ibis</b>				
06-20	1	Hampton	Hampton Marsh	T. Vazzano
07-11	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	I. MacLeod
07-12	45	Newington	Stubbs Pond, Great Bay NWR	R. & M. Suomala



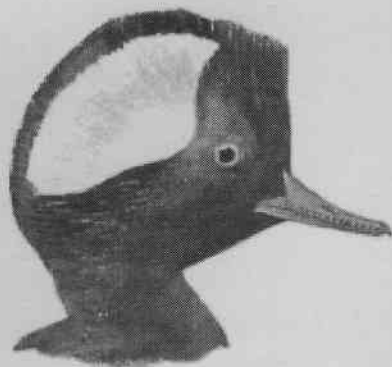
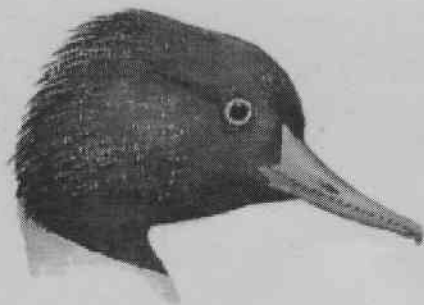
# Waterfowl through Hawks

A lingering Brant in late June is unusual, but it is the third summer record in the last eight years. The following waterfowl numbers represent families: Canada Geese in Monroe; Mallards in Lincoln (but not Exeter); the Ring-necked Ducks in July; Common Eiders in Rye; Hooded Mergansers in Whitefield, Littleton, and Tuftonboro; and the Common Mergansers in Gilford. The Green-winged Teal in Jefferson were at one of the few sites where they nest. The Blue-wing Teal in Newmarket and the Shoveler in Jefferson were extraordinarily early migrants. We know these birds were migrants because both sites were covered on almost a daily basis in June and July. The dates should make us all think twice before labeling a mid-summer sighting of an unusual bird as a "possible breeder." A Common Goldeneye at Exeter on June 1 is also uncommon, and even more unusual was the female Red-breasted Merganser on the Souhegan River in mid-June. The merganser was approached within six feet for a series of excellent photographs—such a close approach would indicate that injury or illness may explain its tardiness.

Our only Bald Eagle nest (at Lake Umbagog) failed to produce any young this year, but there was an encouraging number of immature eagles wandering around, so we can hope they find other suitable nest sites. Ospreys continue to flourish with a second nest discovered in Pittsburg, the four nests at Great Bay producing a record ten young, and best of all, two new nests were discovered in central New Hampshire (in Belmont and Hill). There have never been any known Osprey nests in that part of the state, not even 100 years ago. Additionally, there were many wandering Ospreys, which bodes well for further new nest sites. The only nest of Northern Harriers known to be successful was in Whitefield. Merlins were seen in two different parts of Errol, with a nest discovered at the Long Pond site in August.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Brant</b>				
06-29	1	Rye	s. of Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	A. Cook, M. Schulze, D. De Luca
<b>Canada Goose</b>				
06-13	30	Lisbon	farm field	R. Whitcomb
06-14	50	Littleton	Ammonoosuc River	R. Whitcomb
07-07	40	Monroe	Connecticut R.	B. Bradley
<b>Wood Duck</b>				
06-01	36	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	D. Donsker, R. Balervicz
06-05	8	Haverhill	Bedell Bridge Park	B. Bradley
06-20	10	Littleton	Rt. 93 bog	B. Bradley
06-22	7	Littleton	Dodge Bog	B. Bradley
06-24	19	Lincoln	wastewater treatment plant	B. Bradley
<b>Green-winged Teal</b>				
06-20	2	Jefferson	Little Cherry Pond	R. Quinn
06-27	1	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
<b>Mallard</b>				
06-28	41	Pittsburg	Day Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Blue-winged Teal</b>				
06-29	1	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
<b>Northern Shoveler</b>				
07-10	1	Jefferson	Little Cherry Pond	R. Quinn
<b>Ring-necked Duck</b>				
06-01	9	Errol	Lake Umbagog wetlands	J. Berry, R. Quinn
06-21	4	Pittsburg	Mud Pond, SPNHF	R. Quinn, T. Richards
07-10	4	Jefferson	Little Cherry Pond	R. Quinn
<b>Common Eider</b>				
06-07	55	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	A. & B. Delorey
06-22	214	Rye	Isles of Shoals	R. Suomala
07-27	17	Rye	just s. of Odiorne Point	S. Mirick
<b>Surf Scoter</b>				
06-29	5	Hampton	North Beach	S. Mirick
<b>White-winged Scoter</b>				
06-29	4	Hampton	North Beach	S. Mirick
<b>Common Goldeneye</b>				
06-01	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	D. Donsker, R. Balerviez
06-11	2	Pittsburg	The Glen	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-15	2	Pittsburg	Stuart Young Rd.	A. & B. Delorey
06-28	1	Pittsburg	The Glen	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
<b>Hooded Merganser</b>				
06-12	18	Whitefield	east of airport	R. Quinn
06-28	7	Tuftonboro	Copp's Pond	D. Donsker
07-14	4	Sandwich	Great Rock Rd.	T. Vazzano
<b>Common Merganser</b>				
06-30	16	Gilford	L. Winnepesaukee near Lockes Is.	T. Donsker



*Common Merganser and Hooded Merganser by E.J. Sawyer*

### Red-breasted Merganser

06-14	1	Merrimack	Souhegan R. behind Harcross Chemical	L. & D. Flint
06-29	4	Hampton	North Beach	S. Mirick

### Turkey Vulture

06-05	1	Jefferson	Little Cherry Pond	R. Quinn
06-09	2	Pittsburg	The Glen	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-12	9	Littleton	Glenwood	B. Bradley
06-23	9	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
07-18	35	Ashland	Rt. 93, exit 24	M. Suomala
07-27	11	Lisbon	transfer station	S. & M. Turner

### Osprey

06-02	1	Sunapee	Otter Pond	K. Wohlfort
06-06	1	Lyme	E. Thetford Rd. farm	C. Martin
06-09	1	Belmont	near Lochmere	I. MacLeod
06-11	1	Dixville	Balsams Resort Hotel	C. Martin
06-29	1	Piermont	Lake Armington	T. Estill
07-02	1	Gorham	Androscoggin River	C. Martin
07-05	1	Jefferson	Little Cherry Pond	R. & M. Suomala
07-11	5	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	I. MacLeod
07-17	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
07-18	5	Hill	Foster Swamp	I. MacLeod, E. Morrier, C. Martin
07-20	1	Hopkinton	Contoocook Village	R. Haines
07-20	1	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
07-23	1	Warren	Warren Reservoir (Hildreth Pond)	K. Wohlfort
07-25	1	Charlestown	Connecticut R.	P. Meyeette

### Bald Eagle

06-09	1	Tilton	Silver Lake, Winnepesaukee R.	I. MacLeod
06-12	1	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
06-15	1	Shelburne	Androscoggin R., n. of dam	S. & M. Turner
06-15	1	Gilmanton	Crystal Lake, Gilmanton Iron Works	K. & B. Palfy
06-17	1	Concord	Turkey Pond by exit 2, Rt. 89	G. Taylor
06-24	1	Lisbon	Ammonoosuc R. near KOA camp	M. Turner
06-27	1	Deering	Deering Lake	L. & P. Sunderland
06-30	1	Lancaster	Connecticut R. and Rt. 2	S. & M. Turner
07-16	4	Errol	Lake Umbagog	C. Martin
07-19	1	Charlestown	Connecticut R.	S. Calweel
07-23	1	Monroe	Connecticut R.	S. & M. Turner
07-27	1	Dalton	Connecticut R. near Gilman cemetery	S. & M. Turner

### Northern Harrier

06-16	2	Colebrook	Bear Brook Rd.	P. Hunt
06-22	1	Clarksville	meadow nw. of Rt. 145	J. & R. Carreaux, et al.
07-09	1	Newbury	Rt. 103B near Sunapee line	P. Newbern
07-26	2	Whitefield	airport	C. Martin
07-29	1	Derry	Rt. 28 marsh at head of Beaver Brook	R. Andrews

### Sharp-shinned Hawk

06-09	1	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-20	1	Colebrook	Piper Hill Rd.	R. Quinn
07-06	1	Jefferson	Cherry Pond	R. Quinn
07-15	1	Dummer	Millsfield town line	C. Martin

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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### **Cooper's Hawk**

06-11	1	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
07-31	1	Nashua	Nashua R.	R. Andrews

### **Northern Goshawk**

06-27	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-28	1	Weare	Buxton Brook wetland	D. & A. Stavros
07-05	1	Hopkinton	Stumpfield Marsh	I. MacLeod

### **Red-shouldered Hawk**

06-04	1	Lyman	Ogontz Rd.	S. & M. Turner
06-06	2	Concord	n. of Hoit Rd. Marsh	D. Stavros
06-11	1	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
07-13	1	Lyman	Flagg Pond	B. Bradley
07-25	1	Bath	Smith Rd.	S. Turner, A. Kimball

### **American Kestrel**

06-07	1	Laconia	jct. of Old North Main & Parade Rd.	H. Anderson
06-09	1	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-26	1	Pittsburg	Rt. 3 at Youngs Restaurant	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
07-08	1	Jefferson	Hazen Rd., Whitefield line	G. Gavutis
07-17	1	Sunapee	Rt. 103 by Wendell Veterinarian Hospital	P. Newbern
07-31	5	Newington	Refuge Rd. just outside Pease Int'l Tradeport runways	M. Suomala

### **Merlin**

07-16	1	Errol	Long Pond	C. Martin
07-27	1	Errol	Rt. 26 on top of Errol Hill	C. Martin

### **Peregrine Falcon**

07-24	1	Manchester	Hampshire Plaza building	C. Martin
07-27	1	Berlin	Crown Vantage mill	C. Martin
07-29	1	Portsmouth	off of Woodbury Ave.	S. Mirick

# Grouse through Terns

A Spruce Grouse on Sandwich Mountain demonstrates that you do not necessarily have to go very far north to find some of our resident boreal species (see Boreal Chickadee also). The Common Moorhen first discovered in May in Jefferson at the Pondicherry Wildlife Sanctuary was noted through June 12.

The big shorebird news of the season was the re-colonization of the beaches in Hampton and Seabrook by Piping Plovers. It was a veritable invasion, with five nests discovered. But a sobering lesson was learned: even with a lot of hard work, protective laws, and a concerned local citizenry, it's a tough time to be a plover. Only three of the 17 babies survived to (hopefully) return again.

An Upland Sandpiper at the Whitefield airport was the only one away from the traditional site at the Pease International Tradeport. This is somewhat surprising with the intense grassland bird study done this summer, plus the fact that two were found in Dover last year. The only other noteworthy sighting related to our nesting shorebirds was the unprecedented, and conservatively estimated, number of Willets seen on July 23. (Note the other shore bird numbers recorded by Gary Mitchell that same day.)

All the June shorebird records are north-bound migrants, with the possible exception of the Black-bellied Plover on June 17, Greater Yellowlegs on June 20 and 29 (likely non-breeding summer visitors), and the Whimbrel on June 22 (most likely an early south-bound migrant). The Laughing Gull in Newmarket was the observer's first record for Great Bay. The Ring-billed Gulls in early June were mostly immature birds, as one would expect since the species does not nest in New Hampshire. By July, adults were starting to move into the state, presumably from nesting sites at Lake Champlain.

The terns created quite a stir this summer. Common Terns were successfully lured back to the Isles of Shoals, and a pair of Arctic Terns were seen in the salt marshes for the third consecutive year. Two pairs of Black Terns were found in suitable habitat, including a pair at Copps Pond in Moultonborough, but without further sightings they must be considered migrants. The recolonization of the Shoals by Common Terns was remarkable—this was the first year of the project and no one expected nesting attempts, let alone immediate success. Along with five nests of Common Terns (which fledged seven chicks), there were visits from both Arctic and Roseate Terns. It has been almost 50 years since those three species have nested at the Isles of Shoals. What a smashing success!

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Spruce Grouse</b>				
06-13	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	A. & B. Delorey
07-05	1	Sandwich	Sandwich Mtn.	E. MacKinnon, F. Lavigne
<b>Virginia Rail</b>				
06-01	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	D. Donsker, R. Balerviez
06-10	1	Sutton	Cascade Marsh	R. Vernon
06-20	5	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	P. Newbern
06-22	6	Portsmouth	Portsmouth Hospital marsh	S. Mirick, M. Suomala

### **Virginia Rail (continued)**

06-27	1	Piermont	Lily Pond	M. & S. Turner
07-07	1	Whitefield	airport marsh	R. Quinn

### **Sora**

06-01	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	D. Donsker, R. Balerviez
06-22	2	Portsmouth	Portsmouth Hospital marshes	S. Mirick, M. Suomala
06-29	2	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	R. Quinn

### **Common Moorhen**

06-12	1	Jefferson	Cherry Pond marsh	R. Quinn
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### **Black-bellied Plover**

06-17	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	R. Quinn
07-23	1	Seabrook	Blackwater River	G. Mitchell
07-28	3	Rye	Isles of Shoals	J. Kanter, M. Schulze, et al.
07-31	8	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor mussel beds	M. Suomala

### **Semipalmated Plover**

07-16	4	Rye	Rye Harbor	D. Donsker
07-18	1	Rye	White Is., Isles of Shoals	A. Cook, M. Schulze
07-23	50	Seabrook	Blackwater River	G. Mitchell
07-31	10	Rye	Rt. 1A pools just s. of Odiorne Pt.	M. Suomala

### **Piping Plover**

06-22	4	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	S. Mirick, M. Suomala
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### **Killdeer**

06-04	6	Littleton	Samuel Moore Dam	B. Bradley
07-12	34	Newington	Stubbs Pond, Great Bay NWR	R. & M. Suomala
07-13	1	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	A. Cook, S. Walker
07-14	26	Amherst	Amherst Country Club	H. Anderson
07-26	7	Whitefield	airport runway	C. Martin
07-31	15	Newington	Woodmans Pt., Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala

### **Greater Yellowlegs**

06-01	1	Haverhill	Connecticut R.	B. Bradley
06-05	2	Jefferson	Little Cherry Pond	R. Quinn
06-12	1	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
06-29	5		NH coast	S. Mirick
07-12	16	Newington	Stubbs Pond, Great Bay NWR	R. & M. Suomala
07-23	15	Seabrook	Blackwater River	G. Mitchell
07-31	38	Rye	behind Hemingway's Restaurant	M. Suomala

### **Lesser Yellowlegs**

07-23	6	Seabrook	Blackwater River	G. Mitchell
07-27	4	Newington	Woodmans Pt., Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
07-31	2	Rye	behind Hemingway's Restaurant	M. Suomala

### **Solitary Sandpiper**

07-07	1	Whitefield	Hazen Pond	R. Quinn
07-25	1	Jefferson	Little Cherry Pond	T. Richards
07-27	2	Newington	Woodmans Pt., Great Bay NWR	S. Mirick, M. Suomala

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Willet</b>				
06-29	11	Hampton	Hampton marshes	S. Mirick
07-23	150	Seabrook	Blackwater River	G. Mitchell
07-26	29	Seabrook	harbor	A.& B. Delorey
<b>Spotted Sandpiper</b>				
06-05	2	Jefferson	Cherry Pond	R. Quinn
06-10	3	Pittsburg	The Glen	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-18	3	Whitefield	airport marsh	R. Quinn
07-31	8	Newington	Woodmans Pt., Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
<b>Upland Sandpiper</b>				
06-19	1	Whitefield	airport	R. Quinn, D. Govatski, S. Stoddard
06-27	10	Newington	Pease Int'l Tradeport	D. Donsker
<b>Whimbrel</b>				
06-22	1	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	R. Suomala, et al.
07-17	2	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	A. Cook, M. Schulze
07-23	16	Seabrook	Blackwater River	G. Mitchell
<b>Hudsonian Godwit</b>				
07-23	1	Seabrook	Blackwater River	G. Mitchell
<b>Ruddy Turnstone</b>				
06-01	1	Seabrook	mussel flats	D. Donsker, R. Balerviez, M. Resch, R. Silva
07-15	1	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	A. Cook, G. Smith
07-25	6	Rye	White Is., Isles of Shoals	A. Cook, M. Schulze
07-31	4	Rye	along shore near Rye Ledges	M. Suomala
<b>Sanderling</b>				
07-31	30	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor mud flats	M. Suomala
<b>Semipalmated Sandpiper</b>				
07-10	1	Jefferson	Little Cherry Pond	R. Quinn
07-16	20	Hampton	Landing Rd. pool	D. Donsker
07-18	14	Rye	White Is., Isles of Shoals	A. Cook, M. Schulze
07-23	60	Seabrook	Blackwater River	G. Mitchell
07-31	57	Rye	behind Hemingway's Restaurant	M. Suomala
07-31	40	Newington	Woodmans Pt., Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
<b>Least Sandpiper</b>				
07-10	4	Jefferson	Little Cherry Pond	R. Quinn
07-11	14	Rye	across from Hemingway's Restaurant	D. Donsker
07-12	39	Newington	Stubbs Pond, Great Bay NWR	R.& M. Suomala
07-15	20	Hampton	Meadow Pond near High St.	D. Kirwan
07-23	50	Seabrook	Blackwater River	G. Mitchell
07-29	8	Rye	White Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Schulze, D. De Luca, C. Martin
<b>Short-billed Dowitcher</b>				
06-01	1	Errol	Lake Umbagog	J.& S. MacDougall
07-04	12	Seabrook	Rt. 286 pools	D. Donsker, M. Resch
07-08	16	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	A. Cook, M. Schulze



<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Short-billed Dowitcher (continued)</b>				
07-15	25	Rye	Isles of Shoals	A. Cook, G. Smith
07-16	12	Hampton	pools at Landing Rd.	D. Donsker
07-23	200	Seabrook	Blackwater River	G. Mitchell
07-31	16	Rye	behind Hemingway's Restaurant	M. Suomala
<b>Laughing Gull</b>				
06-06	1	Rye	Isles of Shoals	M. Shulze, A. Cook
06-07	1	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
06-20	1	Rye	Isles of Shoals	M. Shulze, R. Suomala
06-29	2	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	A. Cook, M. Schulze, D. De Luca
07-05	1	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	A. Cook, M. Schulze
07-07	1	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	A. Cook, M. Schulze
07-26	1	Rye	off shore	S. Mirick, ASNH FT
<b>Bonaparte's Gull</b>				
06-29	3		NH coast	S. Mirick
07-25	1	Jefferson	Cherry Pond	T. Richards
07-28	1	Gilford	L. Winnepesaukee off Lockes Is.	D. & T. Donsker
07-29	4	Pittsburg	First Connecticut Lake	L. Attix
<b>Ring-billed Gull</b>				
06-01	2	Errol	L. Umbagog	J. Berry, R. Quinn
06-02	250	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
06-26	15	Pittsburg	First Connecticut Lake	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-28	22	Pittsburg	The Glen	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
07-12	200	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
07-23	46	Littleton	Samuel Moore Dam	B. Bradley
<b>Roseate Tern</b>				
06-25	2	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	A. Cook, M. Schulze
07-14	4	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	A. Cook, G. Smith
<b>Common Tern</b>				
06-20	20	Hampton	Hampton Marsh	T. Vazzano
07-17	15	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	A. Cook, M. Schulze
07-23	30	Seabrook	Blackwater River	G. Mitchell
07-30	24	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Schulze, D. De Luca, C. Martin
<b>Arctic Tern</b>				
06-05	2	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Shulze, A. Cook
06-21	1	Hampton	Rt. 101 marsh	A. & B. Delorey
06-22	2	Hampton	Hampton marshes behind Sunpoint	D. Donsker
<b>Least Tern</b>				
06-21	1	Seabrook	Rt. 286 pool	A. Delorey
<b>Black Tern</b>				
06-15	2	Tuftonboro	Copps Pond	D. & A. Stavros
07-26	2	Dummer	Pontook Reservoir	D. & J. Warner

# Alcids through Flycatchers

The arrival of Black-billed Cuckoos seemed to take the entire month of June. They were first noted on these dates: June 10, 12, 13, 23, and 26.

Where do Red-bellied Woodpeckers go? They seem to disappear for months at a time. Marie Neveu noted her July 14 sighting was the first she had had since "early spring." Assuming that it was the same bird, where had it been? A Downy Woodpecker with yellow coloration where it is normally white was photographed in Merrimack. This trait has been reported several times in recent years in both Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers.

Most Flycatchers are normally late spring migrants, and this was well demonstrated by the species seen on White and Seavey Islands this summer. Note in particular the dates for Wood Pewee and Great Crested Flycatcher. Separating late migrants from residents on the mainland can be a lot tougher. Note the June 1 numbers for Least Flycatcher at Umbagog. Undoubtedly, some of these were migrants, but we also had several building nests. Even some of the Pewees at Pawtuckaway on June 9 could have been late migrants. Willow Flycatchers in Haverhill, Whitefield, and Lancaster were at the northern edge of their range.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Razorbill</b>				
07-12	1	Rye	s. of White Is., Isles of Shoals	A. Cook, S. Walker
<b>Black Guillemot</b>				
06-25	4	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	A. Cook, M. Schulze
<b>Black-billed Cuckoo</b>				
06-01	1	Kensington	Kimball Rd.	D. Donsker, R. Balerviez
06-01	1	New Boston	residence	L. Conig
06-03	1	Nashua	Spitbrook Rd.	A. Delorey
06-05	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
06-08	2	Brentwood	BBS route	A. & B. Delorey
06-10	2	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
06-12	1	Jefferson	Cherry Pond	R. Quinn
06-13	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
06-21	1	Littleton	residence	B. Bradley
06-25	1	Warner	Rt. 89, exit 7	C. Martin
06-26	1	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
07-06	1	Haverhill	Bedell Bridge St. Pk.	M. & S. Turner
07-08	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
07-10	1	Canterbury	Boyce Rd. residence	D. Stavros
07-12	2	Fitzwilliam	One Mile Drive	M. & J. Ayers
07-23	1	New London	Pingree Rd.	R. Vernon
<b>Yellow-billed Cuckoo</b>				
07-12	1	Concord	residence	R. Woodward

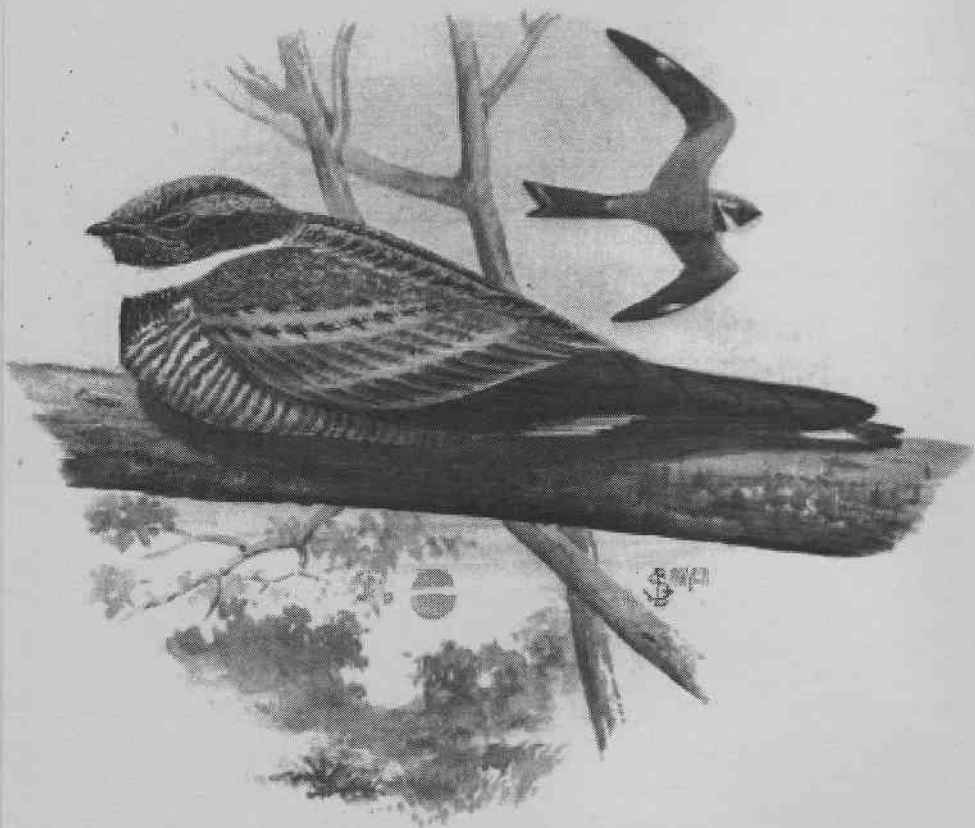
<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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**Barred Owl**

06-02	1	Newbury	Hay NWR	P. Newbern
06-22	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
07-07	2	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
07-13	2	Windham	Fosters Pond Natural Area	D. & A. Stavros
07-30	1	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz

**Common Nighthawk**

06-01	2	Peterborough	Pineridge	R. Frechette
06-05	1	Keene	Colony Mill	M. Wright
06-05	2	Concord	Warren, N. State, and Blake Streets	D. & A. Stavros
06-05	1	Keene	Fleet Bank parking lot	M. Wright
06-10	1	Northumberland	town center	D. Killam
06-18	1	Keene	St. Josephs School	M. Wright
06-19	1	Rye	over Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Shulze, A. Cook
07-18	1	Croydon	w. of Penny Royal Hill	L. Schultz
07-20	1	Keene	West St. Plaza	R. Ritz



*Common Nighthawk* by E.J. Sawyer

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Whip-poor-will</b>				
06-04	1	Tamworth	residence	J. Tewksbury
06-26	1	Bath	Rt. 135	M. & S. Turner, E. Emory, P. Powers
07-03	1	Hollis	Rocky Pond Rd.	R. & J. Allard
<b>Red-bellied Woodpecker</b>				
06-07	1	Enfield	Oak Grove cemetery	P. Hunt
06-25	1	Tamworth	Brown Hill Rd. residence	T. Cleveland
07-14	1	Brookline	N. Mason Rd.	M. Neveu
07-28	2	Candia	Langford Rd.	D. Collins
<b>Yellow-bellied Sapsucker</b>				
06-01	15	Errol		R. Quinn, J. Berry
06-06	1	Pembroke	residence	K. Palfy
07-13	3	Lyman	Flagg & Round Ponds	B. Bradley
07-23	3	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
<b>Black-backed Woodpecker</b>				
06-02	1	Errol	Eames Rd.	J. & S. MacDougall
06-08	1	Jefferson	B&M railroad to Pondicherry WS	R. & J. Carreaux
06-20	2	Whitefield	near Little Cherry Pond	R. Quinn
06-23	1	Stark	Mt. Mary, Pilot Range	M. Sloat
06-27	1	Pittsburg	area near Canadian border	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-27	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-29	2	Pittsburg	Cozy Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
07-04	1	Whitefield	Johns River	R. Quinn, D. Govatski
07-05	1	Sargents Purchase;	Tuckermans Ravine Trail	R. Bickford
07-25	2	Errol	Akers Pond residence	D. Heasley
<b>Pileated Woodpecker</b>				
06-01	13	Errol	Lake Umbagog shore	J. Berry, R. Quinn
06-02	1	Stratham	Emery Lane	B. Petit
06-09	5	Sandown	Fremont Rd.	C. Dolan
<b>Olive-sided Flycatcher</b>				
06-01	7	Errol	Lake Umbagog	J. Berry, R. Quinn
06-02	1	Hancock	Harris Center	M. Cadot
06-09	1	Pittsburg	Moose Falls Bog	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-10	1	Pittsburg	area near Canadian border	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-12	3	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	A. & B. Delorey
06-13	3	Pittsburg	Scott Brook Rd.	A. & B. Delorey
06-14	4	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	A. & B. Delorey
06-19	2	Enfield	Bog Rd.	P. Hunt
07-04	2	Canaan	River Rd.	L. Reitsma
07-10	4	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS.	R. Quinn
07-13	1	Sandwich	Red Hill Pond Trail	T. Vazzano
<b>Eastern Wood-Pewee</b>				
06-01	1	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Shulze, A. Cook
06-02	1	Landaff	s. of Chandler Pond	S. Turner
06-05	1	Haverhill	Bedell Bridge Park	B. Bradley
06-09	14	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
06-19	1	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Shulze, A. Cook
07-31	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright

### **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**

06-03	2	T&M Purchase	top of Jefferson Notch Rd.	S. & M. Turner
06-03	1	Enfield	Bog Rd.	P. Hunt
06-11	5	Franconia	Cannon Mtn.	R. Quinn
06-14	5	Bethlehem	Trudeau Road bogs	B. Bradley
06-15	13	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	A. & B. Delorey
06-30	7	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	R. Quinn
07-12	1	Harts Location	Nancy Pond Trail	A. Mudge, R. White, L. Bunten, et al.

### **Alder Flycatcher**

06-01	2	Kensington	Kimball Rd.	D. Donsker, R. Balerviez
06-07	1	Hebron	Hebron Marsh WS	P. Newbern
06-12	2	Sandwich	Chicks Corner	T. Vazzano
06-12	10	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	A. & B. Delorey
06-20	2	New London	Webb Loop Trail	R. Vernon

### **Willow Flycatcher**

06-01	4	Kensington	Kimball Rd.	D. Donsker, R. Balerviez
06-05	1	Haverhill	Bedell Bridge St. Pk.	B. Bradley
06-05	1	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
06-07	2	Hebron	Hebron Marsh WS	P. Newbern
06-08	1	Lisbon	Cole Plain swamp	M. & S. Turner
06-09	2	Amherst	Souhegan River	R. Suomala
06-18	4	Whitefield	airport	R. Quinn
06-24	1	Derry	Ballard Marsh	A. Delorey
07-02	1	Lancaster	North Rd.	P. Hunt
07-06	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright

### **Least Flycatcher**

06-01	14	Errol	Lake Umbagog	J. Berry, R. Quinn
06-07	2	Hebron	Hebron Marsh WS	P. Newbern
06-09	15	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
06-18	1	New London	auto survey route	A. & R. Vernon
06-19	2	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
07-06	4	Lyman	Dodge Pond	M. & S. Turner

### **Great Crested Flycatcher**

06-01	1	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Shulze, A. Cook
06-01	8	Errol	Lake Umbagog	J. Berry, R. Quinn
06-05	2	Haverhill	Bedell Bridge St. Pk.	B. Bradley
06-11	1	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Shulze, A. Cook
06-11	1	Pittsburg	The Glen	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-25	1	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	A. Cook, M. Schulze
06-27	3	Monroe	residence	L. Cole
07-13	2	Lyman	Round Pond	B. Bradley
07-17	3	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright

### **Eastern Kingbird**

06-01	1	Brookline	N. Mason Rd.	M. Neveu
06-10	3	Sutton	Cascade Marsh	R. Vernon
06-18	4	New London	auto survey route	A. & R. Vernon
07-27	9	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
07-28	4	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright

# Swallows through Shrike

Three Purple Martins on June 3 along the coast could have been foraging birds from colonies in Massachusetts. There are no known coastal colonies in New Hampshire. Londonderry seems to be a new site for Fish Crows. They have been annual in Concord for eight or nine years now. A young Common Raven with an adult in Hollis is at the southern extreme in the state. The beginning of a large Red-breasted Nuthatch migration was first noticed June 23 at the Isles of Shoals and inland at Enfield on July 23 and at Nashua on July 27. The bulk of the migration was recorded in the fall season. Piermont and Portsmouth are new sites for Marsh Wren. A Robin on Cannon Mountain in Franconia on June 11 was at an elevation of 4000 feet, where there was significant amounts of snow.

A Brown Thrasher in Kensington on July 8 shows local movement of birds not considered migratory at that time of the year. A **Loggerhead Shrike** was the first summer record in more than 20 years for this declining species.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Purple Martin</b>				
06-07	3	N. Hampton	N. Hampton State Beach	A. & B. Delorey
<b>Northern Rough-winged Swallow</b>				
06-06	2	Easton	bog	S. & M. Turner, B. Bradley
06-22	2	Easton	Rt. 116	M. & S. Turner
07-19	5	Sutton	Loch Lyndon Reservoir	C. Martin
<b>Cliff Swallow</b>				
06-19	2	Portsmouth	Holiday Dr.	J. Adams
07-01	6	Columbia	Columbia Building, Rt. 3	D. Killam
07-07	3	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
07-13	22	Shelburne	Old Brown Farm, near Gilead, ME	J. Brown & J. Ely
<b>Gray Jay</b>				
06-13	2	Pittsburg	Scott Brook Rd.	A. & B. Delorey
06-21	3	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	R. Quinn, T. Richards, Capital Chapter FT
06-29	1	Pittsburg	Cozy Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
07-27	3	Errol	Mountain Pond drainage bog	C. Martin
<b>Fish Crow</b>				
06-12	1	Londonderry	Devonshire Ln.	H. Chary
06-17	1	Concord	Shaws Supermarket parking lot	R. Quinn
07-28	2	Londonderry	Rt. 102 Exxon station	H. Chary
<b>Common Raven</b>				
07-04	2	Hollis	Beaver Brook	R. Andrews
<b>Boreal Chickadee</b>				
06-03	2	T&M Purchase	top of Jefferson Notch Rd.	S. & M. Turner
06-08	5	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail, Jefferson Notch	R. Woodward
06-09	2	Pittsburg	Hill Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-10	2	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-12	3	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	A. & B. Delorey

date	#	town	location	observer(s)
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### Boreal Chickadee (continued)

06-15	4	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	A. & B. Delorey
06-20	2	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	S. & M. Turner
06-21	7	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	R. Quinn, T. Richards, Capital Chapter FT
06-29	2	Pittsburg	Cozy Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
07-05	3	Sandwich	Sandwich Mtn.	E. MacKinnon, F. Lavigne
07-16	3	Errol	Whaleback Ponds	C. Martin
07-27	1	Errol	Eames Rd. bog	C. Martin
07-27	1	Errol	Mollidgewock Brook bog	C. Martin
07-27	1	Errol	Thurston Cove bog	C. Martin

### Red-breasted Nuthatch

06-17	5	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
06-22	1	New London	Bunker Loop Trail	R. Vernon
06-23	1	New London	Carr Ledge Trail	R. Vernon
06-23	2	Rye	White Is., Isles of Shoals	A. Cook, M. Schulze
07-07	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
07-13	1	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	A. Cook, S. Walker
07-23	15	Enfield	Bog Rd.	P. Hunt
07-27	1	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. & M. Harris

### Winter Wren

06-01	20	Errol	Eames Rd.	J. Berry, B. Quinn
06-06	4	Sargents Purchase;	Tuckerman Ravine Trail	C. & J. Tewksbury
06-13	13	Pittsburg	Scott Brook Rd.	A. & B. Delorey
06-14	4	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd. bogs	B. Bradley
06-14	13	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Rd.	A. & B. Delorey
06-18	2	New London	auto survey route	A. & R. Vernon
06-23	4	New London	Carr Ledge Trail	R. Vernon
06-25	21	Pittsburg	various	P. Newbern
07-13	6	Lyman	Round & Flag Pond	B. Bradley
07-22	2	Columbia	Sims Stream	D. Killam

### Marsh Wren

06-08	4	Sutton	Cascade Marsh	P. Newbern
06-11	3	Rye	Odiorne Point marsh	S. Mirick
06-22	2	Portsmouth	Portsmouth Hospital marsh	S. Mirick, M. Suomala
06-27	6	Piermont	Lily Pond	M. & S. Turner
06-29	2	Rye	Eel Pond	S. Mirick
07-26	6	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	R. Frechette, S. Spangenberg

### Golden-crowned Kinglet

06-10	3	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-11	4	Pittsburg	The Glen	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-20	6	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS, Little Cherry Pond	P. Newbern
06-28	4	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-29	6	New London	Bunker Loop & Carr Ledge Trail	P. Newbern, R. Vernon
06-29	8	Pittsburg	Cozy Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
07-29	5	Sandwich	Bearcamp River Trail	T. Vazzano

### Ruby-crowned Kinglet

06-01	7	Errol	Lake Umbagog	J. Berry, B. Quinn
06-08	2	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet



<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
06-11	1	Lincoln	Lonesome Lake Trail	R. Quinn
06-25	3	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	P. Newbern
06-27	7	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-30	2	Jefferson	Little Cherry Pond	R. Quinn

### **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**

06-04	3	Derry	Ballard Marsh	A. Delorey
06-22	1	Enfield	Oak Grove cemetery	P. Hunt
07-10	1	Concord	residence	R. Woodward

### **Bicknell's Thrush**

06-08	3	T&M Purchase	Jefferson Notch, Caps Ridge Trail	R. Woodward
06-11	1	T&M Purchase	Mt. Washington Auto Rd., mile 3.7	S. & M. Turner
06-11	1	Lincoln	Lonesome Lake Trail	R. Quinn

### **Swainson's Thrush**

06-01	15	Errol	Lake Umbagog	R. Quinn, J. Berry
06-08	2	Lyman	Round Pond	S. Turner
06-13	10	Pittsburg	Scott Brook Rd.	A. & B. Delorey
06-13	15	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	A. & B. Delorey
06-30	3	Jefferson	Little Cherry Pond	R. Quinn

### **Wood Thrush**

06-01	2	Errol	Potter Farm Rd.	R. Quinn
06-08	13	Brentwood	BBS route	A. & B. Delorey
06-18	3	New London	auto survey route	A. & R. Vernon
06-19	2	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
06-20	2	New London	Webb Loop Trail	R. Vernon
06-27	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
07-08	1	Exeter	residence	G. Prazar
07-17	4	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
07-20	1	Exeter	residence	G. Prazar

### **Gray Catbird**

06-08	1	Pittsburg	The Glen	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-10	1	Sutton	Cascade Marsh	R. Vernon
06-18	1	New London	auto survey route	A. & R. Vernon
06-28	1	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
07-11	4	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright

### **Brown Thrasher**

06-05	1	Littleton	Samuel Moore Dam	B. Bradley
06-09	1	Amherst	Souhegan River	R. Suomala
06-09	2	Newington	Great Bay NWR along Newington Rd.	D. & T. Donsker
06-12	3	Whitefield	airport	R. Quinn
06-15	1	Jefferson	Valley Rd.	M. & S. Turner
06-22	1	Easton	Rt. 116	M. & S. Turner
07-03	1	Laconia	Lexington Dr. near UPS building	H. Anderson
07-08	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
07-19	3	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. & M. Harris

### **Loggerhead Shrike**

07-18	1	Newington	off Woodbury Ave.	S. Mirick
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# Vireos through Warblers

A Yellow-throated Vireo in Northumberland and a Warbling Vireo in Errol were unusually far north. A Blue-winged Warbler in Easton was also further north than usual. Two "Brewster's" hybrids included one bird with some characteristics of a "Lawrence's" hybrid.

Tennessee Warblers staged a minor irruption in July, as is their custom. The Tennessees seen in early June could easily have been late spring migrants, and all of the July birds appeared where they had not been seen during June, so the only "summer" records of any certainty were those seen in Pittsburg. The somewhat regular appearance of singing male Tennessee Warblers in July is a documented behavior that is unlike that of any other species of warbler. In fact, in the *Atlas of Breeding Birds in New Hampshire*, many of the dates for this species are in July. Another early fall migrant was the Yellow Warbler at the Isles of Shoals on July 30. At the other end of the migration spectrum were obvious late-spring migrants such as many of the Blackpoll Warblers, including one at low elevation in Franconia Notch on June 11, the American Redstart on Seavey Island on June 7, the Mourning Warbler on Seavey on June 6, and the Wilson's Warbler in Derry on June 4. Undoubtedly, some migrants are included in the totals for Errol on June 1 and possibly even at Nottingham on June 9.

The most significant warbler news was the discovery of a small colony of Palm Warblers at the Pondicherry Wildlife Sanctuary in Jefferson and Whitefield. This extends their known nesting range beyond the Lake Umbagog area in Errol for the first time. A new nest site for Palm Warblers in Errol was also found at Mountain Pond.

Other warbler news included at least two Cape May Warblers in Jefferson for the third summer in a row, a Pine Warbler at the northern edge of its range in Lancaster, and larger numbers of Bay-breasted Warblers than in recent summers (the beginning of a spruce budworm outbreak?). Only one Cerulean Warbler was reported at Pawtuckaway State Park in Nottingham this year. Please continue to document the status of this rare species—it is high on the concern list of Partners-in-Flight as well as rare in our state.

date	#	town	location	observer(s)
<b>Yellow-throated Vireo</b>				
06-15	1	Northumberland;	Lost Nation	P. Hunt
<b>Warbling Vireo</b>				
06-01	1	Errol	Eames Rd.	R. Quinn, J. Berry
06-03	1	Whitefield	s. end, Mirror Lake	D. Killam
06-05	11	Haverhill	Bedell Bridge St. Pk.	B. Bradley
06-09	1	Pittsburg	Tabor Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
<b>Philadelphia Vireo</b>				
06-25	1	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	P. Newbern
06-27	2	Pittsburg	area near Canadian border	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
<b>Red-eyed Vireo</b>				
06-09	20	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A.& B. Delorey
06-18	20	New London	auto survey route	A.& R. Vernon
06-20	20	New London	Webb Loop Trail	R. Vernon
06-22	10	New London	Bunker Loop Trail	R. Vernon

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Blue-winged Warbler</b>				
06-05	1	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
06-06	1	Easton	Rt. 116 power line	S. & M. Turner, B. Bradley
06-08	1	Pembroke	Rt. 3 across from Kimballs Mkt.	W. Goodwill
06-08	3	Brentwood	BBS route	A. & B. Delorey
06-10	2	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
06-16	1	Chester	ballfield	M. LeBlanc

### **Golden-winged Warbler**

06-09	1	Durham	Packers Falls Rd.	C. Kersting, C. Sidler, M. Davis
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### **Brewster's Warbler - hybrid**

06-03	1	Webster	Pond Hill	B. Janeway
06-03	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis

### **Tennessee Warbler**

06-01	1	Littleton	residence	B. Bradley
06-01	2	Errol	Eames Rd	J. Berry, J. & S. MacDougall
06-09	3	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-13	2	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	A. & B. Delorey
07-06	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	R. Quinn
07-10	3	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	R. Quinn
07-11	1	Enfield	Bog Rd.	P. Hunt
07-27	1	Enfield	Rt. 4A	P. Hunt

### **Nashville Warbler**

06-03	12	Enfield	Bog Rd.	P. Hunt
06-03	6	Webster	Pond Hill	B. Janeway
06-11	5	New London	Low Plain CA	R. Vernon
06-12	3	New London	Philbrick-Cricenti Bog	R. Vernon
06-13	12	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	A. & B. Delorey
06-14	9	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd. bogs	B. Bradley
06-16	2	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
06-20	10	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	P. Newbern

### **Northern Parula**

06-01	28	Errol	Lake Umbagog	J. Berry, R. Quinn
06-05	2	Lyman	Hurd Hill Rd.	M. & S. Turner
06-08	1	Sutton	Cascade Marsh	P. Newbern
06-12	16	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	A. & B. Delorey
06-14	2	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd. bogs	B. Bradley
06-18	1	New London	auto survey route	A. & R. Vernon
06-19	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano

### **Yellow Warbler**

06-04	4	Littleton	Samuel Moore Dam	B. Bradley
06-05	13	Haverhill	Bedell Bridge Park	B. Bradley
06-09	1	Pittsburg	Tabor Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-10	3	Sutton	Cascade Marsh	R. Vernon
06-11	1	Pittsburg	The Glen	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-18	1	New London	auto survey route	A. & R. Vernon
07-30	1	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Schulze, D. De Luca, C. Martin

### **Chestnut-sided Warbler**

June 20-21	10	Littleton	roads to Moore Dam	B. Bradley
06-18	6	New London	auto survey route	A. & R. Vernon
06-19	4	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
06-20	6	New London	Webb Loop Trail	R. Vernon
06-28	7	Littleton	Moore Dam powerlines	B. Bradley
06-30	7	Bethlehem	base of Moore Dam	B. Bradley

### **Magnolia Warbler**

June 20-21	3	Littleton	roads to Moore Dam	B. Bradley
06-11	1	New London	Low Plain CA	R. Vernon
06-12	28	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	A. & B. Delorey
06-14	5	Bethlehem	Trudeau Road bogs	B. Bradley
06-19	1	Sandwich	Dinsmore Pond Rd.	T. Vazzano
06-20	3	New London	Webb Loop Trail	R. Vernon
07-01	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright

### **Cape May Warbler**

06-09	1	Pittsburg	Hill Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-15	1	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	A. & B. Delorey
06-18	2	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	R. Quinn
06-21	1	Pittsburg	Golden Eagle Rd.	R. Quinn
06-22	1	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	R. Quinn

### **Black-throated Blue Warbler**

06-01	28	Errol	Lake Umbagog	J. Berry, R. Quinn
06-12	7	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	A. & B. Delorey
06-18	3	New London	auto survey route	A. & R. Vernon
06-20	6	New London	Webb Loop Trail	R. Vernon
07-13	2	Lyman	Round Pond	B. Bradley

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

06-12	14	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	A. & B. Delorey
06-20	6	New London	Webb Loop Trail	R. Vernon
06-22	4	New London	Bunker Loop Trail	R. Vernon
07-05	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright

### **Blackburnian Warbler**

06-01	17	Errol	Lake Umbagog	J. Berry, R. Quinn
06-08	2	Pittsburg	Hill Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-09	8	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
06-29	6	New London	Bunker Loop & Carr Ledge Trail	P. Newbern
06-29	3	Pittsburg	The Glen	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
07-04	1	Albany	Rocky Gorge upper falls	B. McCarthy
07-11	1	Sandwich	Beebe River Rd.	T. Vazzano

### **Pine Warbler**

06-01	1	Littleton	Glenwood	B. Bradley
06-09	9	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
06-11	1	New London	Low Plain CA	R. Vernon
06-18	1	New London	auto survey route	A. & R. Vernon
06-20	1	Lancaster	opposite fair grounds	R. Quinn

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Prairie Warbler</b>				
06-09	3	Newington	Newington Rd., Great Bay NWR	D. & T. Donsker
<b>Palm Warbler</b>				
06-01	5	Errol	Floating Island Bog, Androscoggin R.	R. Quinn, J. Berry
06-20	2	Whitefield	clearcut near Little Cherry Pond	R. Quinn
06-20	8	Jefferson	Little Cherry Pond	R. Quinn
07-27	6	Errol	Mountain Pond drainage bog	C. Martin
<b>Bay-breasted Warbler</b>				
06-04	1	Lincoln	The Flume	P. Newbern
06-04	1	Lyman	Hurd Hill Rd.	M. & S. Turner, B. Bradley
06-13	5	Pittsburg	Scott Brook Rd.	A. & B. Delorey
06-15	5	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	A. & B. Delorey
06-20	1	Carroll	jct. of Mt. Clinton Rd. & Rt. 302	P. Newbern
06-25	5	Pittsburg	Scott Bog, East Inlet Rd.	P. Newbern
07-05	1	Sargents Purchase;	Tuckerman Ravine Trail	R. Bickford
<b>Blackpoll Warbler</b>				
06-01	12	Errol	Lake Umbagog	J. Berry, R. Quinn
06-02	1	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Shulze, A. Cook
06-03	16		Jefferson Notch Rd.	S. & M. Turner
06-06	5	Sargents Purchase;	Tuckerman Ravine Trail	C. & J. Tewksbury
06-09	7	Pittsburg	area near Border	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-11	15	Franconia	Cannon Mt.	R. Quinn
06-26	5	Pittsburg	Big Brook Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
07-23	1	Littleton	residence	B. Bradley
<b>Cerulean Warbler</b>				
06-12	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	R. Frechette, E. Richard, S. Spangenberg
<b>American Redstart</b>				
06-07	1	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Shulze, A. Cook
06-09	25	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
06-25	21	Pittsburg	various	P. Newbern
07-12	4	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge	T. Vazzano
<b>Ovenbird</b>				
June 20-21	10	Littleton	roads to Moore Dam	B. Bradley
06-09	22	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
06-11	9	New London	Low Plain CA	R. Vernon
06-20	16	New London	Webb Loop Trail	R. Vernon
06-30	7	Littleton	base of Moore Dam	B. Bradley
<b>Northern Waterthrush</b>				
06-01	15	Errol	Lake Umbagog	J. Berry, R. Quinn
06-11	1	New London	Low Plain CA	R. Vernon
06-12	10	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	A. & B. Delorey
06-18	3	New London	auto survey route	A. & R. Vernon
<b>Louisiana Waterthrush</b>				
06-05	1	Sandwich	Woodroad & Durgin Pool	B. Steele



Mourning Warbler by Andrea Robbins

<i>date</i>	<i># town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Mourning Warbler</b>			
06-02	1 Landaff	s. of Chandler Pond	M. & S. Turner
06-03	1 Wilmot	Pinnacle Rd.	P. Newbern
06-06	1 Rye	Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Shulze, A. Cook
06-06	1 Franconia	Horse & Hound Inn area	M. & S. Turner, B. Bradley
06-07	1 Enfield	Main St. Pond	P. Hunt
06-14	9 Pittsburg	Smith Brook Rd.	A. & B. Delorey
06-16	1 Gilsom	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
06-22	2 Easton	Rt. 116	M. & S. Turner
06-23	1 New London	Carr Ledge Trail	R. Vernon
06-28	1 Tamworth	Great Hill Rd.	B. Steele
06-29	1 New London	Bunker Loop near Carr Ledge Trail	P. Newbern, R. Vernon
07-13	1 Sandwich	Red Hill Pond	T. Vazzano
07-17	1 Lancaster	Weeks St. Pk.	S. Turner
<b>Wilson's Warbler</b>			
06-01	3 Errol	Lake Umbagog	R. Quinn, J. Berry
06-04	1 Derry	Ballard Marsh	A. Delorey
06-13	3 Pittsburg	Scott Brook Rd.	A. & B. Delorey
06-25	1 Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	P. Newbern
<b>Canada Warbler</b>			
06-01	21 Errol	Lake Umbagog	J. Berry, R. Quinn
06-11	2 New London	Low Plain CA	R. Vernon
06-14	3 New London	the Old Meadow	R. Vernon
06-14	9 Pittsburg	Smith Brook Rd.	A. & B. Delorey
06-15	2 Littleton	Rock Road	B. Bradley
06-18	2 New London	auto survey route	A. & R. Vernon
06-23	1 New London	Carr Ledge Trail	R. Vernon
06-25	6 Pittsburg	various	P. Newbern
06-28	4 Hancock	Hosley Brook beaver flowage	M. Cadot
06-29	4 New London	Carr Ledge Trail	P. Newbern, R. Vernon

# Tanager through Evening Grosbeak

Excellent descriptions of two different male **Blue Grosbeaks** left no doubt about their identity. This species is still a very rare bird in New Hampshire, but it has now been seen the last two summers and three out of the last eight. Along with last year, grassland birds were reported in better than average numbers due to the survey conducted by P.D. Hunt (see summary on page 38). Highlights this year were two Grasshopper Sparrows and more Savannah Sparrows and Bobolinks than he could shake a stick at. Several pairs of Lincoln's Sparrows at Pondicherry added to the discoveries there.

Probably the highlight of the breeding birds this summer was the apparent nesting of **Fox Sparrows** in Pittsburg. Not completely surprising after last year's report, but unlike the Common Tern and Piping Plover, this is a species that has never nested in New Hampshire. An adult bird seen carrying food to a hidden location on June 9 and June 28 is strong evidence of successful nesting.

Bobolinks were seen in wetlands (their ancestral habitat) at Lake Umbagog and Pondicherry. Better numbers of Rusty Blackbirds were reported this summer than in the past several years, including the southern site in Enfield. An Orchard Oriole in Sandwich was away from the species usual haunts near the coast.

Purple Finches at the Shoals in July is fascinating and demonstrates that they are almost as erratic as the other "winter" finches. Note also the Pine Siskins in Newington in late July. "Begging fledgling" Pine Siskins were at a feeder in Wentworth on June 2. Of the handful of crossbill reports, the most intriguing was that of two juveniles out of the five birds in Enfield on July 23. Evening Grosbeaks appeared in scattered locations over the course of the summer.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Scarlet Tanager</b>				
06-02	8	Landaff	s. of Chandler Pond	M. & S. Turner
06-18	1	Sandwich	Chicks Corner	T. Vazzano
06-20	3	New London	Webb Loop Trail	R. Vernon
06-29	1	Hillsboro	residence	P. Kienholz
06-30	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
<b>Northern Cardinal</b>				
06-24	1	Lyman	Dodge Pond residence	M. & S. Turner
06-30	2	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
07-10	4	Londonderry	Devonshire Ln.	H. Chary
<b>Rose-breasted Grosbeak</b>				
06-08	5	Brentwood	BBS route	A. & B. Delorey
06-10	2	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
06-27	1	Pittsburg	area near Canadian border	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-28	1	Pittsburg	Day Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-28	1	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-29	1	Exeter	residence feeder	G. Prazar
07-05	3	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr. residence	B. & M. Harris, et al.
07-19	3	Walpole	residence	G. & H. Beck
07-20	4	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright



<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Blue Grosbeak</b>				
06-02	1	Wilmot	Pinnacle Rd.	W. & K. Morrey, R. Vernon
06-20	1	Milford	Federal Hill Rd.	B. & R. Becker
<b>Indigo Bunting</b>				
06-01	1	Brookline	N. Mason Rd.	M. Neveu
06-04	1	Hollis	Pine Hill Rd.	J. Allard
06-09	1	Newington	Newington Rd., Great Bay NWR	D. & T. Donsker
06-18	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
06-28	4	Littleton	Samuel Moore Dam powerlines	B. Bradley
06-28	1	Stark	Rt. 110 near WW II camp	C. Martin
06-28	1	Pittsburg	Big Brook Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
07-17	1	Pembroke	residence	K. Palfy
07-23	1	Lyme	Dartmouth skiway	C. Martin
07-27	2	Errol	clearcut, top of Errol Hill	C. Martin
<b>Eastern Towhee</b>				
06-10	2	Sutton	Cascade Marsh	R. Vernon
07-11	1	Whitefield	abandoned RR, Hazen Rd.	R. Quinn
07-27	8	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
<b>Field Sparrow</b>				
06-04	1	Littleton	powerline	B. Bradley
06-14	1	Franconia	brushy pasture	B. Bradley
06-22	1	Easton	Rt. 116	M. & S. Turner
07-28	8	Newington	Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala, S. Mirick
07-28	3	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
<b>Vesper Sparrow</b>				
06-07	1	Haverhill	access road to Bedell Bridge St. Pk.	P. Newbern
06-24	5	Concord	airport	P. Hunt
07-04	2	Newington	Pease Int'l Tradeport runways	D. Donsker, M. Resch
07-12	1	Amherst	off Merrimack Rd.	D. Donsker
<b>Savannah Sparrow</b>				
06-01	4	Errol	Floating Island Bog, Androscoggin R.	J. Berry, R. Quinn
06-19	2	Sandwich	Whiteface Intervale	T. Vazzano
06-25	2	Haverhill	Bedell Bridge St. Pk.	J. McIlwaine, A. Mudge
06-28	10	Pittsburg	Day Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
07-09	4	Concord	airport	P. Hunt
07-14	22	Lebanon	airport	P. Hunt
07-17	6	E. Kingston	Bodwell Farm	P. Hunt
07-26	6	Whitefield	airport	C. Martin
<b>Grasshopper Sparrow</b>				
06-12	1	Amherst	Merrimack Rd., e. of Rt. 122	R. Suomala
06-24	1	Concord	airport	P. Hunt
07-11	1	Amherst	Merrimack Rd., e. of Rt. 122	R. Suomala
<b>Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow</b>				
07-04	5	Newmarket	off Bay Rd.	S. Mirick
07-27	6	Newington	Woodmans Pt., Great Bay NWR	S. Mirick, M. Suomala
07-31	6	Newington	Woodmans Pt., Great Bay NWR	M. Suomala
<b>Seaside Sparrow</b>				
06-20	3	Hampton	Hampton marsh	T. Vazzano

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Fox Sparrow</b>				
06-09	1	Pittsburg	0.5 mi. s. of Canadian border	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-20	1	Pittsburg	border lands	R. Quinn
06-28	1	Pittsburg	area near border	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
<b>Lincoln's Sparrow</b>				
06-01	8	Errol	Floating Island Bog, Androscoggin R.	J. Berry, R. Quinn
06-09	3	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-09	4	Pittsburg	Day Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-09	4	Pittsburg	Back Lake Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-14	2	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Rd.	A. & B. Delorey
06-15	3	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	A. & B. Delorey
06-18	2	Whitefield	airport RR	R. Quinn
06-20	3	Jefferson	Little Cherry Pond	R. Quinn
06-22	5	Clarksville	Clarksville Pond Rd.	R. Quinn
06-29	4	Pittsburg	Cozy Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
<b>Dark-eyed Junco</b>				
06-01	1	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
06-18	4	New London	auto survey route	A. & R. Vernon
06-20	4	New London	Webb Loop Trail	R. Vernon
06-22	3	New London	Bunker Loop Trail	R. Vernon
06-23	2	New London	Carr Ledge Trail	R. Vernon
06-29	2	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
07-17	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
<b>Bobolink</b>				
06-09	28	Conway	West Side Rd.	P. Hunt
06-11	39	Brentwood	County Farm	P. Hunt
06-14	38	Piermont	River Rd.	P. Hunt
06-18	4	New London	auto survey route	A. & R. Vernon
06-19	17	Sandwich	Whiteface Intervale	T. Vazzano
06-20	1	Jefferson	Big Cherry Pond	R. Quinn
06-25	10	Haverhill	fields s. of Bedell Bridge	A. Mudge, J. McIlwaine
07-12	54	Walpole	Barnett Hill Rd.	P. Hunt
07-16	1	Errol	Harpers Meadow wetland	C. Martin
<b>Eastern Meadowlark</b>				
06-01	2	Sandwich	Whiteface Intervale	T. Vazzano
06-07	3	Orford	field along Rt. 10	P. Newbern
06-11	7	Brentwood	county farm	P. Hunt
06-14	10	Piermont	River Rd.	P. Hunt
06-16	3	Colebrook	Golf Links Rd.	P. Hunt
07-31	7	Newington	Refuge Rd. just outside Pease Int'l. Tradeport runways	M. Suomala
<b>Rusty Blackbird</b>				
06-03	2	Enfield	Bog Rd.	P. Hunt
06-20	4	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	P. Newbern
06-25	3	Pittsburg	Scott Bog, East Inlet	P. Newbern
06-28	3	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	R. Quinn
07-11	1	Enfield	George Pond	P. Hunt
<b>Orchard Oriole</b>				
06-01	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano, S. Wiley
06-09	1	Greenland	Newington Rd.	D. & T. Donsker

### **Baltimore Oriole**

06-04	1	Nashua	Gatewood Manor, Will St.	J. & B. Ayer
06-15	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
06-18	1	New London	auto survey route	A. & R. Vernon
06-22	1	New London	Bunker Loop Trail	R. Vernon
06-29	1	Exeter	near hospital	G. Prazar
07-06	3	Lyman	Dodge Pond	M. & S. Turner
07-07	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright

### **Purple Finch**

06-01	10	Errol	Lake Umbagog	J. Berry, R. Quinn
06-09	3	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
06-10	1	Sutton	Cascade Marsh	R. Vernon
06-14	4	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Rd.	A. & B. Delorey
06-16	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
06-18	1	New London	auto survey route	A. & R. Vernon
06-20	2	New London	Webb Loop Trail	R. Vernon
07-02	2	Durham		A. Ablowich
07-05	2	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. & M. Harris
07-06	3	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
07-07	1	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	A. Cook, M. Schulze
07-11	2	Rye	White Is., Isles of Shoals	A. Cook, M. Schulze

### **Red Crossbill**

06-20	3	Jefferson	Little Cherry Pond	R. Quinn
06-24	2	Deering	Reservoir Rd.	L. & P. Sunderland
06-28	5	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
07-13	2	Wentworth	Turner Rd.	A. Ports
07-23	5	Enfield	Bog Rd.	P. Hunt

### **Pine Siskin**

06-01	12	Haverhill	Rt. 10 residence	A. & M. Mudge
06-02	12	Wentworth	residence feeder	R. & J. Carreaux
06-04	2	Campton	near Campton Pond	R. Quinn
06-05	3	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
06-08	2	T & M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail, Jefferson Notch	R. Woodward
06-22	15	Pittsburg		R. Quinn
07-27	1	Newington	Great Bay NWR	S. Mirick, M. Suomala

### **Evening Grosbeak**

June-July	2	Canterbury	Baptist Hill Rd.	R. Quinn
06-01	13	Errol		J. Berry, R. Quinn
06-05	2	Wilton	Sheldrick Forest	R. Andrews
06-11	2	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
06-22	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
06-26	2	Lyman	Dodge Pond residence	S. Turner
06-28	4	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
06-29	2	Walpole	residence feeder	H. & G. Beck
06-30	1	Concord	residence	R. Woodward
07-09	2	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
07-11	13	Whitefield	Hazen Rd.	R. Quinn
07-13	2	Londonderry	Devonshire Ln.	H. Chary
07-16	12	Haverhill	Court St. Extension	A. Mudge
07-15	9	Dummer	Dummer Ponds Rd., 2 mi. in	C. Martin

# Tern Restoration at the Isles of Shoals

By Diane De Luca

*An abbreviated version of this article first appeared in the New Hampshire Audubon Newsletter. The complete version is presented here for your enjoyment. Ed.*

The Audubon Society of New Hampshire, in conjunction with the Nongame Program at New Hampshire Fish and Game and many other cooperators, began a tern restoration project at the Isles of Shoals in the spring of 1997. The common tern, a state endangered species, was formerly an abundant breeder along the New Hampshire coast and the Isles of Shoals. During the past 60 years, the expanding gull populations have displaced terns from their prime nesting habitats. Terns last nested at the Isles of Shoals in the 1940s.

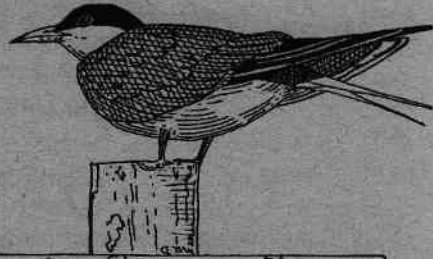
Tern research biologists made their home on White and Seavey Islands from April 27 until the middle of September. It was a season of many firsts, great excitement, and lots of hard work. Not only did terns nest on Seavey Island, but they produced seven chicks! The following excerpts from the field journal help paint a picture of life on the island.

**April 27:** We made it! It was clear and sunny with little wind. After four trips in the Zodiac and two hours of lugging gear, we finally went up to check out our accommodations in the lighthouse. It is rustic and very cold in the April wind, but the cook stove and lantern help to warm and brighten.

**April 29:** Oh, what a soggy day it has been! It started to rain last night and when we woke up this morning, things had materialized into a real storm. Gusting southeast winds of 27 to 30 knots tossed the seas up around our little chunk of rock as the rain fell outside, and in. The roof is evidently not finished as piles of shingles rest near the house. We are close to civilization here, yet completely isolated by the seas. I love that! It's great to get a chance to visit this lighthouse and help with the tern restoration project. There's so much potential here....

...We donned orange vests, orange hats, and supplied ourselves with noisemaking pyrotechnics known as bangers and screamers as we set out to dissuade the gulls from making their home here.... Another giant step forward for the tern restoration effort today: we set out the decoys between and around the speakers that are playing tern colony sounds 24 hours a day. Now our little wooden colony of terns sits alone on a virtually bird- and predator-free island.

**May 12:** The day began with sunshine of all things! After the many days of strong winds and overcast conditions, it is certainly a welcome change. (Bob Whittaker, the captain of the Isles of Shoals Steamship Company ferry says this is the windiest spring he has experienced in his lifetime on the coast.) Perhaps the long underwear will finally be shed....



**TERN'S NESTING**

Today was a good day for migrants, including our focal species. At 0630 hours we made a visit to Seavey to look for migrants—the gully was particularly good with Northern Flicker, Black-throated Green Warbler, Swamp Sparrow, Veery, and Common Yellowthroat. As we followed a flock of Savannah Sparrows up along the ridge and into the decoy area, movement caught our eye. To our surprise, one of the decoys was not a decoy but a *Common Tern*. Double takes all around. This tern stayed in the decoys, looking very comfortable, for a good part of the morning—a great sign for the future.

**May 16:** At 0530 hours, we surveyed the islands and were treated to “warbler mania.” We couldn’t believe all the birds. Magnolias in the grass right outside the window, Common Yellowthroats everywhere, Northern Parulas on the rocks. It didn’t stop with warblers—we also had “raptor mania.” A Peregrine Falcon zoomed around the end of East White and landed just about 20 yards from where we were standing. Later, we watched a Merlin fly out over the water and snatch a songbird from the sky! It returned to Little Seavey to devour it.

**May 24:** The sunrise was picture perfect from East Rock. The whites of the house and lighthouse shone as they were bathed with the morning light.... We had two groups of Common Terns today. The first was a group of three that flew above the decoys—one landed near the southwest speaker, with the other two along the rocks. A short time later a *pair of Common Terns* landed next to the northeast speaker. Courtship activity ensued which culminated in aerial flights. WOW!

**June 5:** Decided to do a stint out behind the house, to stay out of the wind. A little over two hours later, we were rewarded with a *pair of Arctic Terns* checking out the decoy area. They stayed for just over two hours, moving through the decoys. The red on the bill was so vivid, and the black line on the trailing edge of the primaries very noticeable with the sun hitting them just so. Their flight was so graceful! A thrill to watch!

**June 22:** The first Common Eider nest hatched. “Mrs. Beasley” walked her chicks down to the water at 1625 by going to the east over the rocks. She had four little chicks following her—it was a real struggle for the chicks to make it to the water. Mrs. B swam in circles in front of us before heading off to the south of the island. Congratulations Mrs. B!

**June 25:** What a day! The sea is so calm and flat today—the shore looks so close. The clean, salty air is intoxicating. An evening blind stint held the surprise of two Roseate Terns. Three species of terns have already explored this little rock—who’d have thought....

**June 29:** The terns are putting on a great showing these days. Common terns are now present in the decoys day and night with *frequent courtship activity and numerous copulations*. We were greeted by two Common Terns at 0435 this morning. The numbers built to six by 0541—and seven Common Terns circled the decoy area this evening. Very encouraging, quite amazing, and very satisfying. Consistent tern visitation on White and Seavey at this stage in the recolonization process is more than we dared envision. But it now reaches for nest initiation, eggs, and chicks! Lots to look forward to.

**July 10:** Appears that we have two pairs of Common Terns very much at home in the decoys. We’ve been observing one pair in the same general area for a few days. We

did a quick check through the decoys in a rare moment when all the terns were gone. We have a nest with one *Common Tern* egg! An historic day—the first time that terns have nested out at the Isles of Shoals since the early 1950s. Do we dare dream of hundreds of terns along these rocks? It seems so right....

**July 20:** What a beautiful morning! We did another egg check and came up with four nests and five eggs. We were psyched to have added three nests and four eggs to our colony. We still have a couple other pairs checking the area out, so who knows what the final count will be.... The prospect of chicks is so real now.

**August 3:** *First hatch!* Nest #1 now has a chick. He is christened Oscar, after Oscar Laighton, who lived his lifetime on the Isles of Shoals (100 years). As Celia Thaxter's brother, he grew up on White Island and was a great lover of birds and all that the Isles of Shoals had to offer. A new nest was also found with two eggs. We count the days until flight—a minimum of 21. Do we dare hope that they will stick it out to fledging? Yes, yes. We have come so far....

**August 14:** We now have five chicks in four nests. Oscar is getting big and has some pin feathers showing. The colony is a very busy place. In the afternoon, the adults were bringing in tons of prey deliveries—mostly tiny fish, sometimes every one to five minutes. It looked like they were fishing just to the west of Seavey. The chicks at nests #2, #3, and #4 are all cutie-pie fluff balls. It seemed there were COTES (Common Terns) everywhere you looked. There were quite a few individuals that weren't paired—flying or landing, talking to each other, displaying, advertising with fish in bill.... I'd guess at least 22 COTES total plus one immature and the five chicks.

**August 25:** Nest #5 has hatched. Two tiny chicks now join our crew. Hmm, fledge date will be after September 24. Guess we'll have to wait and see. Oscar is now taking short exploration flights around the colony. Our middle crew of chicks grow well with very diligent adults bringing in a steady stream of fish. We couldn't be more pleased with the tenacity and attention of the adults. We are ever more hopeful that we will fledge the majority of this tiny colony.

**September 9:** An impressive day for migrants. Highlights included Palm Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Canada Warbler, American Redstart, Blackburnian Warbler, Ovenbird, Yellow-breasted Chat, Least Flycatcher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Red-breasted Nuthatches, and 56 terns (mostly COTE, with some Roseate Terns).

Oscar has flown. Nest #2 and the light chick in nest #4 are taking long flights over the open ocean. The remaining chick in nest #4 is taking short flights, and nest #5 has big, sturdy 16-day-old chicks. Four chicks have grown to fly, and two continue to grow rapidly as we move towards the end of summer. The colony remains strong, and we remain positive for our little guys.

We leave the island as residents today, although we return for periodic checks until the chicks in nest #5 have fledged. We have stayed more than a month beyond our original plans, experienced more than we ever dreamed of during our first field season on this little rock. We can leave with the great satisfaction of having brought terns back to this special piece of land after almost 50 years without these graceful birds. The tenacity of this colony gives us great hope for the future. Plans for next year are already churning....

The winds blow steady from the east, kicking up some good swells along the edge of the Island. John Savage, our boat captain from Rye, navigates skillfully into the quieter waters along the west side of White. Curlers, albeit smaller than our eastern curlers, make our offloading exciting. We pile the Zodiac high with people and gear—six times. Wet and salty aboard John's boat, *The Andromeda*, we pull out and away from the islands that have been home since April. An immature tern crosses our bow—one of this colony. See you next year.

This project was made possible through the support of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department and the New Hampshire Coastal Program/Office of State Planning. Other cooperators that made this project possible include the Shoals Marine Laboratory, Gulf of Maine Tern Working Group, National Audubon's Seabird Recolonization Project, USDA Animal Damage Control, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Department of Resources and Economic Development (caretakers of the island).

My thanks to the many research assistants and volunteers that made this project so successful: Ralph Andrews, Art Borrer, Delayne Brown, Laura Deming, Amy Cook, Rich Cook, Betsy Janeway, Chris Johnson, John Kanter, Carmen Martin, Bekee McGowan, Kevin McGowan, Steve Mirick, Susan Oliver, Liz Pomfret, Mike Schulze, Sue Schubel, Becky Suomala, Gus Smith, Nan Waldron, Stephen Walker, and Kristin Williamson.

## 1997 New Hampshire Grassland Bird Surveys

By P. D. Hunt

Grassland bird surveys in New Hampshire were conducted for the second year in 1997. In 1996, 12 sites were surveyed as part of a project to determine grassland bird abundance on conservation land in the state. These 12 sites were re-surveyed in 1997, along with over 70 additional sites as part of Massachusetts Audubon's regional grassland bird project.

Sites were spread throughout the state, from Pittsburg in the north to the Seacoast, with the majority in the Connecticut Valley. Bobolinks were by far the most abundant species on the surveys, with roughly 1000 counted over all sites. Other common grassland species included Red-winged Blackbird (500), Savannah Sparrow (300), and Eastern Meadowlark (90). Among the rarer grassland species, Vesper Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Upland Sandpiper were each recorded at only two or three sites.

Upland Sandpipers are found almost exclusively at the Pease Airfield in southeastern New Hampshire, where roughly 15 pairs were present in 1997. A single sandpiper was found north of the White Mountains at the Whitefield airport in late June. The two sparrows were common nowhere, but both were found together at the Concord airport and an abandoned field in Amherst. A good population of Vesper Sparrows can also be found at the Pease Airfield. There were no clear changes in abundance between 1996 and 1997 at the sites surveyed in both years.



*Eastern Meadowlark by  
William E. Davis*



# Endangered Birds of New Hampshire

By John J. Kanter

## An Overview

Since the passage of the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, public awareness and attention to the plight of imperiled plant and animal species has grown tremendously. Birds are some of the most prominent representatives of the conservation successes. Bald Eagles and Peregrine Falcons, once decimated by DDT, are increasingly common sights. And the Spotted Owl exemplifies a case where if we want to continue

to protect our most imperiled species there will be sacrifices that society must make. Before getting into a more detailed description of New Hampshire's endangered birds, it is helpful to briefly discuss the two laws that provide the basis for their protection.

The 1973 act passed by Congress provided the authority and funding to the US Fish and Wildlife Service to list and establish recovery programs for the more critically imperiled species in this country. Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act also provided a mechanism and funding for states to cooperate and in many cases lead the recovery efforts for these species.

In 1979, the state legislature passed the New Hampshire Endangered Species Conservation Act, qualifying the state for federal funding. The act also provided the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department with the authority to place wildlife on a state list for protective action.

Nineteen of the 34 state endangered or threatened wildlife species in New Hampshire are birds. Four of these species are also on the US Fish and Wildlife Services federal list: Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Roseate Tern, and Piping Plover.

The federal Section 6 funds have provided the foundation for the Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon monitoring and conservation efforts that the Audubon Society of New Hampshire and Fish and Game have carried out since 1980 with the help of volunteers. Very little funding has been available over the years to work on state-listed species. *The Breeding Bird Atlas* and other volunteer efforts, along with diligent reporting by birders, has provided the major source of information about the condition of many of these species.

New Hampshire's birders have played an extremely important role in endangered species conservation thus far. Dedicated observers have identified habitat for Bald Eagles, Peregrine Falcons and Ospreys which has led to the protection of these critical areas. The long-standing volunteer effort known as "Harrier Day" has provided the only consistent source of information on the condition of this species' dwindling New Hampshire population.

We must continue to identify highest-priority species and work towards their recovery. If we are going to continue to make gains with endangered bird conservation, we will need more adequate and reliable funding. We will also continue to depend on the dedication and special skills of New Hampshire's birders.



Bald Eagle  
by Andrea Robbins

## Habitats, Status, and Future Conservation Needs

The primary reasons for some bird populations reaching a critical status are quite varied, yet in all instances there is a connection back to their need for a unique set of habitat requirements. The chart below lists all of New Hampshire's endangered bird species by broad habitat associations, followed by an update on their current condition.

### Coastal Habitats

	<i>Legal Status</i>	<i>Breeding Pairs</i>
Roseate Tern	FE,ST	0
Common Tern	SE	70
Arctic Tern	ST	0
Least Tern	ST	0
Piping Plover	FE,ST	5

This year's return of Piping Plovers to New Hampshire beaches for the first time since 1984 and the return of Common Terns to the Isle of Shoals for the first time since the '50s was exciting news for both biologists and birders. Piping Plovers and Least Terns nest on beaches and are literally competing with humans for space. Gulls have successfully out-competed terns for much of their island nesting habitat.

The future of our coastal bird species currently depends on intensive monitoring and management. In the case of plovers, fencing nests from predators and continually educating beach users to "watch their step" will be critical elements to their survival. Maintenance of "gull free zones" on coastal islands is necessary to provide the needed boost for re-establishment of viable tern colonies.

### Open Land

	<i>Legal Status</i>	<i>Breeding Pairs</i>
Upland Sandpiper	SE	15
Loggerhead Shrike	SE	0
Henslow's Sparrow	SE	0
Purple Martin	ST	3 colonies
Northern Harrier	ST	10

As settlers cleared New England's forest for agriculture, they produced habitat conditions that favored species associated with expanses of grasslands, shrub lands, and other open habitats. Now that New Hampshire is once again covered with forest, these species have undergone dramatic declines. Henslow's Sparrow and Loggerhead Shrike will probably never be part of our fauna again. Opportunities to provide habitat for grassland species will be dependent on the ability to work with farmers and in the case of Upland Sandpipers, airport managers. A greater understanding of how the natural processes such as fire and flooding historically created nesting opportunities for these species will help biologists determine future strategies to increase their numbers.



*Purple Martin by E.J. Sawyer*

## **Wetland and Aquatic Habitats**

	<i>Legal Status</i>	<i>Breeding Pairs</i>
Bald Eagle	FT, SE	1
Osprey	ST	28
Common Loon	ST	122
Pied-billed Grebe	SE	5 - 10
Sedge Wren	SE	?

Although New Hampshire still claims only one eagle nest, their numbers in the Northeast continue to grow rapidly. The banning of DDT and relocation of eagles to their historic range along with vigorous protection of active nest sites has led to this recovery. Osprey also continue to respond to conservation efforts and now nest in most of the state's major watersheds. Thanks to the long-term efforts of the Loon Preservation Committee, loon numbers continue to grow. We know so little about Pied-billed Grebes and Sedge Wrens that it's difficult to take steps to boost their numbers. A 1997 survey of Pied-billed Grebes, conducted by volunteers from the Audubon Society of NH, found only five occupied breeding territories.

Wetlands and shoreline habitats receive some of the greatest protection through state and federal land-use regulations. Nevertheless we continue to see development encroaching on the boundaries of these important habitats. The continued recovery of Bald Eagles, Osprey, and other wetland species now depends on our ability to not only recognize and protect the areas we find them in now but also to recognize and protect habitat to accommodate their growing numbers.

## **Forest Habitats**

	<i>Legal Status</i>	<i>Breeding Pairs</i>
Cooper's Hawk	SE	?

In a state that is currently more than 80% forested, it's not surprising that only one species falls into this category. Cooper's Hawks were suspected to have experienced DDT and other contamination problems that plagued raptors in the '50s and '60s. Although we tend to think of them as a forest-dependent birds, they tend to favor forests and openings.

## **Unique Features**

	<i>Legal Status</i>	<i>Breeding Pairs</i>
Peregrine Falcon	FE, ST	10
Common Nighthawk	ST	?

Gravel rooftops and skyscrapers are not a biologist's normal vision of critical habitat. The ability of these two species to nest on human-made structures on one hand seems to indicate their ability to adapt to a changing environment. In reality, however, it points to their extremely specialized selection of nest sites. Whether it's a cliff face or building for a falcon or a gravel bar or rooftop for a nighthawk, these unique features are rare on the landscape. This high degree of habitat specialization will always render these two species vulnerable.

FE: federally endangered; imperiled nationwide

FT: federally threatened; likely to become endangered nationwide

SE: state endangered; existence in jeopardy in New Hampshire

ST: state threatened; likely to become endangered in New Hampshire

# Fox Sparrows in Pittsburg

By Erik Nielsen

My wife, Seth Sweet, and I were birding the northern portion of Pittsburg on June 8, 1996. One of our regular spots is an old road leading from the "Welcome to New Hampshire" sign near the border station on Rt. 3 towards Third Connecticut Lake. It is usually good for Olive-sided Flycatcher, frequently has Philadelphia Vireos, and a couple of years ago, Black-backed Woodpeckers nested in a dead birch in one of the small beaver ponds.

While checking the upper portion of the area, we noticed a song in the distance. It sounded familiar somehow, but it was a little too far to hear clearly, and we just couldn't attach a name to it. Just as we made up our minds to go after it, the singing stopped. We decided that it must have been an odd-sounding Purple Finch.

After we felt that we had checked the area properly, we headed back towards the car—and then we heard the strange song again. It was loud and clear and did *not* come from a Purple Finch. We doubled back to the beaver pond and found the singing bird, silhouetted against the sky in the top of a spruce. It was sparrow-shaped, however, and one detail stood out: it had a reddish tail. That combination limited the possibilities, and the song suddenly made sense—Fox Sparrow!

Before heading back to the flatlands two days later, we spent several hours getting some good looks and audio recordings. We were also hoping to learn what the bird was doing when not singing, but it successfully evaded us on that front by disappearing into dense vegetation.

A year later (June 9, 1997), we were pleased to find it back in the same general area, and we were now determined to spend the time necessary to track down at least some of its movements. As it turned out, we didn't have to put in that much of an effort. Within

the first couple of hours we observed it (or its mate) collect food along the edge of the beaver pond and fly off with it to an area with short dense spruces on the north side of the pond. We saw this repeated several times over the next couple of days and were convinced that there was a Fox Sparrow nest with young over there. We felt, however, that the chances of disturbing the birds by looking for the nest were too great and decided to be satisfied with the knowledge of its existence.



*Fox Sparrows*  
by Wendy Christensen

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At the end of June, we returned to find that the sparrows were still collecting food but now

carrying it to the area favored the previous year. We found this puzzling at first, but decided that an explanation could be that the young had fledged recently and were now being fed there by the adults.

Even though carrying food is considered evidence of nesting, it would be nice to actually see a young Fox Sparrow in Pittsburg. Maybe in 1998!

# Volunteers and Birding Research

By Francie Von Mertens

**Research:** Conte Refuge Migratory Bird Stopover Habitat Survey; Smith College and Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences, co-investigators. Funded by the US Fish and Wildlife in cooperation with other organizations.

## Preliminary results

The new Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge encompasses the entire Connecticut River watershed. Four states—Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont—are taking part in this three year survey of stopover habitat in the watershed. Besides providing a dominant, 420-mile land form that guides birds to and from northern forests, the Connecticut River also has several major tributaries that lead east and west to forested areas. Of the survey's 12 transects in each of the watershed's four states, six transects are located in uplands, and six along river corridors (three along the Connecticut River trunk, and three of these along a major east-west tributary).

Exploratory looks at the data from two years point to the importance of major rivers to early spring migrants. Before leaf-out, migrants seem to appear first on the transects closest to the river. As leaf-out progresses from south to north, migrants are less dependent on the Connecticut River's early emergent aquatic insects, and more birds are counted along the upland transects. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers are the exception: as early migrants that rely on sap, they ignore the river, proceeding directly to upland areas. Later migrants like the Ovenbird and Red-eyed Vireo that travel through after leaf-out also proceed more directly to upland-transects.

The wealth of data on individual species as well as habitat also will help identify important migration "stepping stones"—the areas in the watershed that neotropical migrants rely on as they drop out to spend one to three days restoring fat levels. Stay tuned for future research results.

## Volunteers needed

Audubon Society of New Hampshire leads the New Hampshire field portion of the stopover habitat survey. For the third and final year of the survey, spot counts again will be taken along 12 different transects along the Connecticut River and its Ashuelot River tributary. For five consecutive Saturday mornings during the migration period, each transect will be surveyed by a volunteer who spends 10 minutes in each of 10 count circles that have been flagged along each 1.4 mile transect. The volunteer notes all birds at each point within the 10-minute period. A sixth and final count in mid-June records all birds assumed to be residents, and not migrants passing through.

The 12 transects vary between orderly routes easily accessed on old railroad beds to more challenging ones that include a triathlon of sorts near the Keene airport—biking, wading, and hiking to reach the 10 point count plots. Volunteers sign on for as many Saturdays as their schedules allow between April and June. On-call volunteers for last-minute substitutions also are needed. Contact Rich Cook at ASNH, 224-9909, ext. 336.



*Yellow-bellied Sapsucker*  
by Andrea Robbins

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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	T&M	Thompson & Meserves (Purchase)
LPC	Loon Preservation Committee	WMA	Wildlife Management Area
NA	Natural Area	WMNF	White Mountain National Forest
NHBR	<i>New Hampshire Bird Records</i>	WS	ASNH Wildlife Sanctuary
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