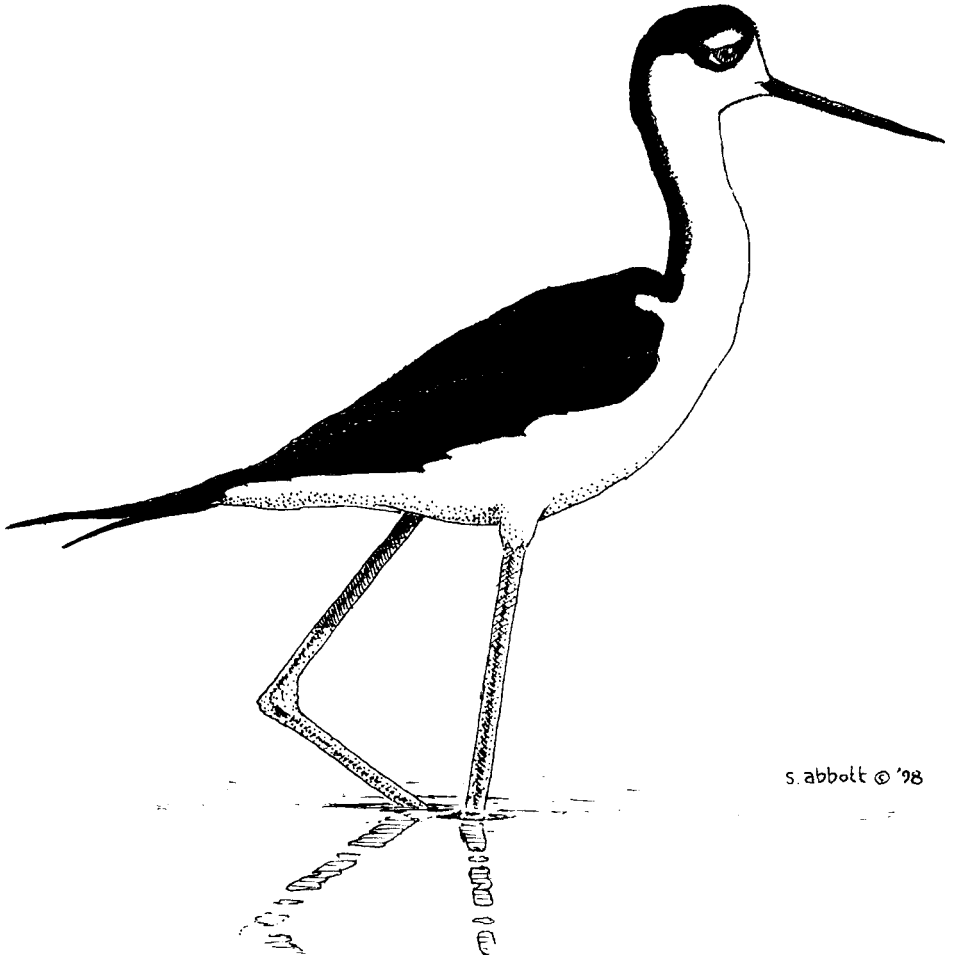


New Hampshire Bird Records



Spring 98

Vol. 17, No. 1

About the Cover

The distinctive Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) is the only shorebird that breeds on every continent save Antarctica. On the East Coast, it is found primarily from Chesapeake Bay south, although it formerly nested as far north as New Jersey. Most records from New York and Massachusetts are from May and early June, suggesting a pattern of birds overshooting during spring migration. Amazingly enough, despite over 20 records in Massachusetts, this species has never been officially documented in New Hampshire. In “The Birds of Durham and Vicinity” (1902), Ned Dearborn wrote the following about this species:

Some years ago a summer visitor at Rye Beach brought a Black-necked Stilt to Mr. Shaw of Hampton to be mounted. It was mounted, but what became of the bird or the man who brought it, I have not been able to ascertain. It is one of the rarest birds that comes to our shores.

From this brief account, one would be hard-pressed to prove that the Black-necked Stilt has ever occurred in New Hampshire. Even Dearborn did not know the whereabouts of the specimen or its collector, and there is no guarantee that the bird was even found in the state. But then, on May 23, 1998, Andy Stewart saw a Black-necked Stilt at Odiorne Point, and sent details to New Hampshire Bird Records. The details were convincing, but the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee requires reports from three separate observers to document a first state record, and thus Black-necked Stilt is still not “officially” recorded for the state. There is little doubt that Andy saw one, but, to use a legal analogy, “the case was dismissed on a technicality.”

Pam Hunt, Spring Editor

About the Artist

Steve Abbot was born and raised in New Hampshire where his love of birding was nurtured at an early age by his father, Dennis. Self-taught in the world of pen and ink illustration, Steve intends to pursue a formal training in the graphic arts. He now resides in Sacramento, California.

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

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

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

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From the Editor

Welcome to all new subscribers to *New Hampshire Bird Records*. It is exciting to see the publication growing and becoming better known in the birding community.

Changing technology is creating both opportunities and challenges for *New Hampshire Bird Records*. Although we are not yet to on-line reporting, we can offer some new options for birders who want to report their sightings. Previously, we have only accepted sightings submitted on the 3x5 reporting slips that we provide. We now have another form designed for people who submit a number of sightings from exactly the same location. It's handy for field trips to a particular spot, reports from your backyard, or sightings from those hot spots you visit regularly.

For those who computerize their records, we are also happy to offer additional methods to submit sightings. There are a couple of printout formats that you can now use to send in your reports. These formats use standard paper and should accommodate both spreadsheet and database programs. If you are willing to convert your data into the program that we use for data entry, you can also submit your data on disk with your hard copy.

Although the computer is supposed to provide a paperless society, we still find that paper copies are the easiest for proofreading, and we often need to check back with the "original report." For some reason, computers occasionally have a mind of their own, and changes happen that we don't expect. And yes, although we do backup the system each week, there is invaluable security in having an alternative record of the bird history of New Hampshire.

If you are interested in any of these alternative-reporting options, please contact me and I will provide you with the details you need. Thanks!

*Becky Suomala
Managing Editor
October, 1998*

Periodicals for Sale

The Francis Beach White Library at the Audubon Society of New Hampshire has sorted through its periodical collection and has a number of duplicate publications for sale. Titles include:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>American Birds</i> | <i>Journal of Field Ornithology</i> |
| <i>Audubon Field Notes</i> | <i>Records of NE Birds</i> |
| <i>Birding</i> | <i>NH Audubon Quarterly</i> |
| <i>Bird-Lore</i> | <i>Scottish Birds</i> |
| <i>Florida Naturalist</i> | <i>South Dakota Bird Notes</i> |
| <i>Indiana Audubon Quarterly</i> | <i>Wilson Bulletin</i> |

For a complete listing and prices contact Becky or Miranda at 603-224-9909.

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

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

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

Always report any birds that are unusual for the state or the time of year. We recommend using *A Checklist of the Birds of New Hampshire*, by Kimball C. Elkins, as a reference (available at ASNH). For spring migrants, focus on arrival dates, high counts, inland sightings of coastal species, hawk flights, and shorebird movements. Note late-lingering winter invaders such as Common Redpolls or other northern finches. Sometimes the common year-round resident species show migratory movements, and these are also of interest.

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

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

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Red-throated Loon | Ring-necked Pheasant | White-breasted Nuthatch |
| Horned Grebe | Ruffed Grouse | Brown Creeper |
| Great Blue Heron | Northern Bobwhite | Golden-crowned Kinglet |
| Great Egret | Chukar | Eastern Bluebird |
| Snowy Egret | Willet | Bicknell's Thrush |
| Green Heron | Upland Sandpiper | Northern Mockingbird |
| Black-crowned Night-Heron | Ruddy Turnstone | Cedar Waxwing |
| Glossy Ibis | Sanderling | Northern Shrike |
| Whooper Swan | Semipalmated Sandpiper | European Starling |
| Canada Goose | White-rumped Sandpiper | Song Sparrow |
| American Black Duck | Ring-billed Gull | White-throated Sparrow |
| Mallard | Herring Gull | Snow Bunting |
| Blue-winged Teal | Great Black-backed Gull | Red-winged Blackbird |
| Common Eider | Common Tern | Eastern Meadowlark |
| Surf Scoter | Mourning Dove | Common Grackle |
| Turkey Vulture | Barred Owl | Brown-headed Cowbird |
| Bald Eagle | Belted Kingfisher | Purple Finch |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | Pileated Woodpecker | House Finch |
| Cooper's Hawk | Bank Swallow | Pine Siskin |
| Northern Goshawk | Blue Jay | American Goldfinch |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | Common Raven | Evening Grosbeak |
| Red-tailed Hawk | Black-capped Chickadee | House Sparrow |
| American Kestrel | Tufted Titmouse | |
| Peregrine Falcon | Red-breasted Nuthatch | |

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

Spring Season

March 1 through May 31, 1998

The spring of 1998 was a mixed bag in terms of both birds and weather. While all three months experienced above average temperatures (it was the sixth warmest spring in 104 years of records), other meteorological events conspired to make it an unpredictable season in many respects.

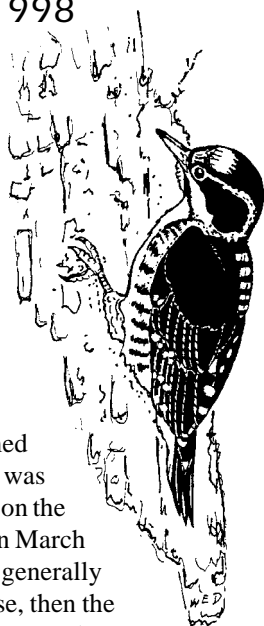
March started warm after our traditional February thaw and stayed warm through the end, with the exception of a brief cold spell in mid-month. On the evening of the 26, a warm front passed through the state, bringing early migrants in its wake. A second front came on the 29, bringing more migrants and a record high temperature of 89 degrees in Concord.

April started cool after the late March heat wave but soon warmed up and ended up 3 degrees above normal overall. The month was notable for a lack of snow, either falling from above or remaining on the ground. Interestingly, many of the early migrants that appeared in March seemed to disappear until mid-April, perhaps as a result of generally northerly or easterly flows early in the month. If such was the case, then the late March birds were early opportunists (I'll call them "scouts"), and most birds were held up farther south until the winds became favorable.

Easterly flows again dominated the weather in early May, something that Tony Vazzano, our weather guru, has not seen in over 20 years of weather watching. This pattern again seems to have held up migration for many species. In terms of precipitation, the month was normal, but the rain was not evenly distributed. We can probably all remember that the first half of the month seemed unusually wet, making both birds and birders reluctant to engage in their normal activities. For the birds, this activity was migration, while for the birders it was, well, birding. The combination of these two resulted in what appeared to be one of the poorer passerine migrations in several years.

As this is being written (fall 1998), it doesn't appear that this poor migration was any reflection of actual population trends, but you'll have to wait for the summer and fall season summaries to see what I'm talking about.

Early arrivals, including several record dates (see article page ???), were one of the general highlights of the season, primarily in late March. Also of note were good inland shorebird sightings, lingering winter invaders, and a smattering of rarities. Most of the latter were in late May, and include **Black-necked Stilt** (see About the Cover, page 2), **Three-toed Woodpecker**, **Acadian Flycatcher**, **Manx Shearwater**, and **Red-necked Phalarope**.



*Pam Hunt
Spring Editor*

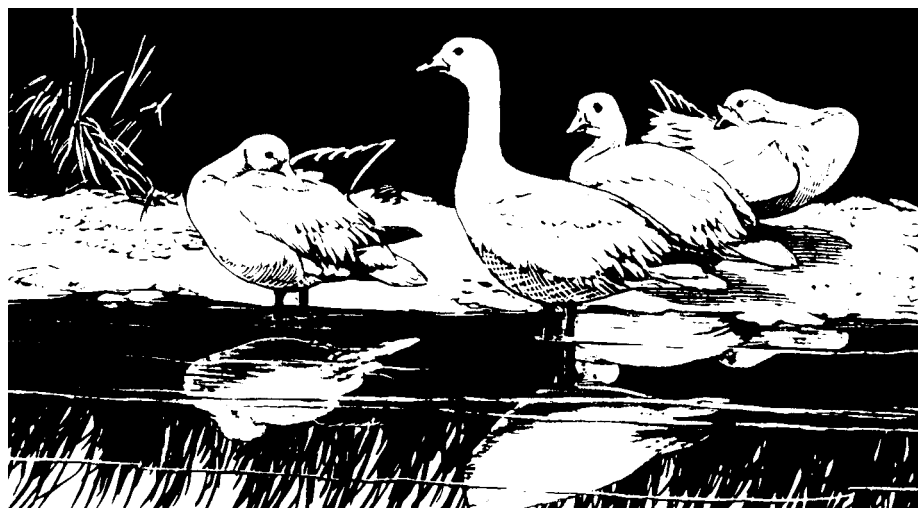
Loons through Ibis

There were no noteworthy concentrations of either Red-throated or Common Loons. For the latter, the records below represent the only sightings of over three individuals for the entire season. Grebes were relatively scarce, again with no large groups reported, even along the coast. There were scattered Red-necked Grebes inland, but no Horned Grebes away from Great Bay and the coast.

A pair of **Manx Shearwaters** photographed off Portsmouth appear to be just the tip of the iceberg in terms of this species' visit to New Hampshire in 1998. Again, you'll have to wait for the summer season to get the details. Double-crested Cormorants were slightly early. American Bitterns were well reported this season, with a total of 25 reports. The sightings below were chosen to represent the wide distribution of this species across the state. Other herons showed no noteworthy patterns, with the most notable rarities being two separate Cattle Egrets in May. For the first time in several years, there were no large numbers of Glossy Ibis reported from around Great Bay.

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|---------------------------------|----------|-------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Common Loon | | | | |
| 05-10 | 10 | New London | Pleasant Lake | B. Riddle, M. Hoke |
| 05-17 | 29 | New London | Lake Sunapee | M. Kaplan |
| 05-17 | 22 | Errol | various locations | C. Martin |
| Pied-billed Grebe | | | | |
| 03-28 | 3 | | Great Bay | A. & B. Delorey |
| 03-31 | 3 | Kingston | Powwow Pond | S. Mirick |
| 04-02 | 2 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet | P. Hunt, et al. |
| 04-07 | 1 | Haverhill | Grafton County Farm wetland, N. Haverhill | B. Bradley |
| Red-necked Grebe | | | | |
| 04-19 | | Rumney | Stinson Lake | A. Kent |
| 04-26 | 1 | Enfield | Mascoma Lake | P. Hunt |
| 05-03 | 1 | Lebanon | Mascoma Lake | P. Hunt |
| 05-07 | 2 | Alton | nw. shore, Alton Bay, Lake Winnepesaukee | G. Gavutis |
| 05-09 | 1 | Littleton | Partridge Lake | S. & M. Turner |
| 05-17 | 1 | Rye | Odiorne Pt. | S. Mirick, et al. |
| 05-17 | 1 | Newmarket | Great Bay | S. Mirick, P. Lacourse, D. Tucker |
| Manx Shearwater | | | | |
| 05-30 | 2 | New Castle | 0.75 mi. offshore from Odiorne Pt. | M. Reeve |
| Great Cormorant | | | | |
| 03-08 | 24 | Rye | Rye Ledge | A. & B. Delorey |
| Double-crested Cormorant | | | | |
| 03-29 | 1 | Rye | cove at N. Hampton town line | D. & T. Donsker |
| 03-31 | 2 | Rye | Eel Pond | R. Crowley |
| 04-02 | 5 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet | P. Hunt, et al. |
| 04-02 | 3 | Monroe | Connecticut R. | B. Bradley |
| 05-23 | 70 | Rye | Concord Pt. | A. & B. Delorey |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|--------------------------|----------|----------------|---|---|
| American Bittern | | | | |
| 04-03 | 1 | Exeter | Powder House Pond | R. Aaronian |
| 04-14 | 1 | Sandwich | Chicks Corner swamp | T. Vazzano |
| 04-27 | 1 | Dummer | Pontook Reservoir | C. Martin |
| 05-01 | 1 | Keene | Beaver Brook at Gilsun line | G. Gavutis |
| 05-09 | 3 | Lisbon | Cole Brook Swamp | S.& M. Turner |
| 05-16 | 3 | Pittsburg | East Inlet | C. Martin, L. Jones |
| 05-16 | 3 | Sutton | Cascade Marsh | B. Vernon, P. Newbern, F. Sladen, et al. |
| 05-17 | 3 | Auburn | Lake Massabesic | I. MacLeod, G. Robbins, R. Woodward |
| 05-30 | 2 | Whitefield | airport | R. Quinn, Capital Area Chapter FT |
| Little Blue Heron | | | | |
| 05-06 | 1 | Rye | Rye Harbor | T.& B. Richards |
| Cattle Egret | | | | |
| 05-07 | 1 | Concord | landfill | R. Woodward |
| 05-17 | 1 | Greenland | Sunset Farm, Great Bay | S. Mirick, P. Lacourse, D. Tucker |
| Snow Goose | | | | |
| 03-05 | 1 | Litchfield | Rt. 3A field s. of Litchfield Garage | P. Theriault, H. Chaplin |
| 03-27 | 20 | Sandwich | Whiteface Intervale | T. Vazzano |
| 03-27 | 15 | Deering | East Deering Rd. | I. MacLeod |
| 03-27 | 200 | Haverhill | Connecticut R., N. Haverhill | P. Powers |
| 03-29 | 80 | Monroe | McIndoe Reservoir | C. Martin |
| 03-29 | 60 | Concord | Horse Hill Rd. | J. Bourne |
| 03-29 | 600 | Haverhill | Connecticut R., N. Haverhill | B. Bradley |
| 03-30 | 50 | Columbia | residence | B.& D. Killam |
| 04-01 | 500 | Haverhill | Connecticut R. | J. McIlwaine |
| 04-07 | 1200 | Haverhill | flooded farm field | B. Bradley |
| 04-12 | 250 | Northumberland | Connecticut R. near Lancaster line | B.& D. Killam |



Waterfowl

For the second spring in a row, a Whooper Swan appeared in New Hampshire, this time on Eel Pond in Rye on May 8. As with last year's reports, these birds are unlikely to be of wild origin. The upper stretch of the Connecticut River was filled with Snow Geese in late March and early April, and the large flocks sometimes contained a few "Blue Geese." The Haverhill area in general was well covered this spring and provided several good waterfowl records, including a near-record-early Green-winged Teal on March 9. Northern Shovelers staged something of an invasion this spring, with a total of 18 birds at seven locations. Even more amazing is that nine were in one spot, a number that exceeds the statewide spring totals for at least the last ten years. The only exception is 1992, when 13 were seen statewide. Eurasian Wigeons lingered into spring for the fourth year in a row.

Powwow Pond in Kingston continues to be the Ring-necked Duck capital of the state. This species had largely pulled out of the southern half of New Hampshire by mid-April. A pair of scaup at the Exeter Wastewater Treatment Plant were variously identified as both Lessers and Greater by experienced observers, illustrating both that scaup can be hard to identify and that at least some experts are occasionally wrong. King Eiders again lingered into May along the coast. There were very few reports of sea ducks in general, and most of those were of inland birds.

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|--------------------------|----------|-------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Brant | | | | |
| 05-18 | 32 | Hampton | off Hampton Beach | S. Mirick |
| 05-25 | 20 | Rye | off Wallis Sands | M. & G. Prazar |
| Wood Duck | | | | |
| 03-02 | 1 | Concord | Horseshoe Pond | R. Quinn |
| 03-03 | 1 | Canterbury | Peverly Meadow | R. Quinn |
| 03-06 | 4 | Haverhill | Connecticut R., N. Haverhill | P. Powers |
| 03-10 | 5 | Derry | Ballard Marsh | A. Delorey |
| Green-winged Teal | | | | |
| 03-09 | 3 | Haverhill | Connecticut R., N. Haverhill | B. Bradley |
| 03-27 | 12 | Haverhill | Connecticut R., N. Haverhill | P. Powers |
| 03-28 | 27 | E. Kingston | Rt. 108 flooded field | A. & B. Delorey |
| 03-31 | 38 | E. Kingston | off Rt. 108 | S. Mirick |
| 04-03 | 18 | Haverhill | flooded field | B. Bradley |
| 04-07 | 36 | Hinsdale | above Connecticut R. dam | M. Suomala |
| 04-26 | 25 | Haverhill | Connecticut R., N. Haverhill | B. Bradley |
| Northern Pintail | | | | |
| 03-04 | 1 | Laconia | Lake Opechee | R. Quinn |
| 03-27 | 1 | Durham | Rt. 155A fields | S. Mirick |
| 03-28 | 2 | E. Kingston | Rt. 108 flooded field | A. & B. Delorey |
| 04-02 | 2 | Greenland | Sunset Farm, Great Bay | S. Mirick |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|--------------------------|----------|--------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Northern Shoveler | | | | |
| 03-29 | 4 | Dummer | Androscoggin R. at McGill Bay | C. Martin |
| 03-31 | 1 | Stewartstown | Rt. 3, Little Horseshoe | D. Killam |
| 04-02 | 1 | Columbia | residence | B.& D. Killam |
| 04-08 | 1 | Newmarket | Great Bay | S. Mirick, B. Atherton, D. Fotiades |
| 04-15 | 1 | Nashua | airport | R. Andrews |
| 05-22 | 9 | Exeter | wastewater treatment plant | D. Donsker, M. Resch, B. Silva |
| 05-23 | 1 | Rye | pond behind Hemingways Restaurant | D. Donsker, M. Resch, B. Silva |
| Gadwall | | | | |
| 04-02 | 3 | Greenland | Sunset Farm, Great Bay | S. Mirick |
| 05-03 | 3 | Holderness | moat | A. Ports |
| Eurasian Wigeon | | | | |
| 03-20 | 3 | Greenland | Sunset Farm, Great Bay | S. Mirick |
| 04-04 | 1 | Greenland | Sunset Farm, Great Bay | S. Mirick |
| American Wigeon | | | | |
| 03-20 | 32 | Greenland | Sunset Farm, Great Bay | S. Mirick |
| 03-28 | 3 | E. Kingston | Rt. 108 flooded field | A.& B. Delorey |
| 04-15 | 46 | Haverhill | Connecticut R., N. Haverhill | B. Bradley |
| Canvasback | | | | |
| 03-01 | 2 | Newmarket | Great Bay | S. Mirick, D. Moskoff |
| 04-13 | 1 | Stratham | Sandy Point | D.& T. Donsker |
| Ring-necked Duck | | | | |
| 03-03 | 20 | Kingston | Powwow Pond | J. Romano |
| 03-10 | 50 | Derry | Ballard Marsh | A. Delorey |
| 03-16 | 35 | Salem | World End Pond | K. Folsom |
| 03-17 | 160 | Kingston | Powwow Pond | K. Folsom |
| 03-21 | 75 | Newington | Upper Peverly Pond | S. Mirick, YCAS FT |
| 03-27 | 15 | Concord | Horseshoe Pond | M.& R. Suomala |
| 03-30 | 116 | Strafford | Bow Lake Village | D. Donsker |
| 03-31 | 80 | Derry | Ballard Marsh | A. Delorey |
| 04-02 | 54 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet | P. Hunt, et al. |
| 04-03 | 275 | Kingston | Powwow Pond | K. Folsom |
| 04-04 | 38 | Charlestown | s. of sewage plant | P. Hunt, L. Bunten, et al. |
| 04-06 | 35 | Haverhill | Connecticut R., N. Haverhill | E. Emery |
| 05-04 | 26 | Dummer | Pontook Reservoir | C. Martin |
| Greater Scaup | | | | |
| 03-28 | 232 | | Great Bay | A.& B. Delorey |
| 04-02 | 168 | Greenland | off Meloon Rd. | S. Mirick |
| 04-17 | 2 | Sandwich | Sandwich Bay, Squam Lake | T. Vazzano |
| 05-03 | 1 | Lebanon | Mascoma Lake | P. Hunt |
| Lesser Scaup | | | | |
| 03-20 | 5 | Newmarket | Great Bay | S. Mirick |
| 03-31 | 2 | Kingston | Powwow Pond | S. Mirick |
| 04-02 | 2 | Monroe | Connecticut R. | B. Bradley |
| 04-17 | 2 | Sandwich | Sandwich Bay, Squam Lake | T. Vazzano |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|-------------------------------|----------|-------------|------------------------------|--|
| Scaup sp. | | | | |
| 05-17 | 2 | Exeter | wastewater treatment plant | P. Hunt, S. Mirick, I. MacLeod, et al. |
| King Eider | | | | |
| 03-20 | 1 | N. Hampton | N. Hampton State Beach | S. Mirick |
| 04-19 | 1 | Rye | Rye Harbor | M. Suomala, ASNH FT |
| 05-09 | 2 | Rye | Rye Ledges | S. Mirick |
| 05-16 | 2 | Rye | Rye Ledges | S. Mirick, P. Lacourse, D. Tucker |
| Oldsquaw | | | | |
| 04-20 | 6 | Auburn | Lake Massabesic | I. MacLeod |
| 04-20 | 11 | Littleton | Samuel Moore Dam | B. Bradley |
| 05-29 | 2 | Seabrook | Seabrook Beach | S. Mirick |
| Black Scoter | | | | |
| 05-13 | 13 | Auburn | Lake Massabesic | I. MacLeod |
| 05-31 | 7 | Rye | off Jenness Beach | S. Mirick |
| White-winged Scoter | | | | |
| 05-22 | 46 | Littleton | Samuel Moore Dam | B. Bradley |
| Common Goldeneye | | | | |
| 03-06 | 18 | Haverhill | Connecticut R., N. Haverhill | B. Bradley |
| 03-08 | 27 | Monroe | Connecticut R. | B. Bradley |
| 03-11 | 40 | Haverhill | Connecticut R., N. Haverhill | B. Bradley |
| 03-23 | 50 | Durham | Little Bay duck roost | S. Mirick |
| 03-28 | 149 | | Great Bay | A.& B. Delorey |
| Barrow's Goldeneye | | | | |
| 03-20 | 1 | Greenland | Sunset Farm, Great Bay | S. Mirick |
| Bufflehead | | | | |
| 03-03 | 6 | Kingston | Powwow Pond | J. Romano |
| 03-23 | 150 | Durham | Little Bay duck roost | S. Mirick |
| 05-03 | 4 | Holderness | moat | A. Ports |
| 05-03 | 2 | Enfield | Mascoma Lake | P. Hunt |
| 05-04 | 4 | Littleton | Samuel Moore Dam | B. Bradley |
| Hooded Merganser | | | | |
| 03-01 | 2 | Kensington | Rt.107 residence ponds | G. Gavutis |
| 03-02 | 35 | Newmarket | Great Bay | S. Mirick |
| 03-23 | 85 | Newmarket | Great Bay | S. Mirick |
| Common Merganser | | | | |
| 03-28 | 83 | | Great Bay | A.& B. Delorey |
| Red-breasted Merganser | | | | |
| 05-04 | 2 | Warren | Hildreth Dam Pond | J. Williams |
| 05-14 | 3 | Salisbury | The Bay, Blackwater R. | R. Vernon |
| Ruddy Duck | | | | |
| 03-31 | 1 | Newmarket | Great Bay | S. Mirick |
| 04-08 | 4 | Kingston | Powwow Pond | S. Mirick, D. Abbott |
| 04-23 | 3 | Antrim | Willard Pond | I. MacLeod |
| 05-25 | 1 | Exeter | wastewater treatment plant | A.& B. Delorey |

Vulture through Rails

Ospreys arrived in the state slightly early, while kestrels were a little late. The warmth of late March pushed many raptors into the state at a time when few people are out hawk watching. Nonetheless, Iain MacLeod was again stationed in Deering, where he recorded good flights on March 27 and 28 (the same date as last year!). The totals for these two days include eight Turkey Vultures, two Bald Eagles, one Northern Harrier, one Sharp-shinned, two Cooper's Hawks, two Northern Goshawks, nine Red-shouldered, 31 Red-tailed Hawks, three American Kestrels, and a Merlin.

Turkeys continue their steady push north, with single birds reported from Northumberland, Stark, and Columbia. Like bitterns, rails of both species were well reported this season, suggesting that perhaps more observers were willing to muck around in marshes than usual. The Virginia Rail on March 31 is the first of several record early arrivals at the end of that month.

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|--------------------------|----------|----------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Osprey | | | | |
| 04-19 | 1 | Peterborough | residence | R. Johnson |
| 03-28 | 1 | Durham | Mill Pond | S. Mirick |
| 03-29 | 1 | Newington | Great Bay NWR | R. Suamala |
| 04-02 | 1 | Belmont | Ephraims Cove | S. Pearson |
| 04-15 | 4 | Dummer | Pontook Reservoir | C. Martin |
| 04-23 | 3 | Antrim | Willard Pond | I. MacLeod, J. Kropewnicki, et al. |
| 05-01 | 2 | Auburn | Lake Massabesic | I. MacLeod, H. Chary, S. Haydock |
| 05-02 | 1 | Jefferson | Little Cherry Pond | J. McIlwaine |
| 05-03 | 13 | Errol | near Lake Umbagog | C. Martin |
| 05-16 | 4 | Pittsburg | Lake Francis | C. Martin, L. Jones |
| Northern Harrier | | | | |
| 03-26 | 1 | Haverhill | Connecticut R., N. Haverhill | P. Powers |
| 03-27 | 1 | Deering | East Deering Rd. | I. MacLeod |
| 03-28 | 1 | Orford | Connecticut R. at Orford- Fairlee Bridge | C. Martin |
| 03-29 | 1 | Dixville | Balsams Hotel | C. Martin |
| 03-30 | 1 | Whitefield | Mt. Washington Regional Airport | D. Govatski |
| 03-30 | 1 | Whitefield | airport | D. Govatski |
| Broad-winged Hawk | | | | |
| 04-14 | 1 | Dunbarton | Pages Corner | I. MacLeod |
| 04-15 | 1 | Warner | over Rt. 89 | P. Hunt |
| 04-16 | 1 | Moultonborough | Unsworth Preserve | T. Vazzano, R. Quinn |
| 04-16 | 1 | Concord | Rt. 13 & Silk Farm Rd. jct. | M. Suomala |
| 04-18 | 8 | Auburn | Massabesic Audubon Center | I. MacLeod |
| 04-19 | 12 | Newington | Great Bay NWR | M. Suomala, ASNH FT |

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

Merlin

| | | | | |
|-------|---|---------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 03-28 | 1 | Deering | East Deering Rd. | I. MacLeod |
| 04-04 | 1 | Exeter | Powder House Pond | A. & B. Delorey |
| 04-21 | 1 | Hampton Falls | Depot Rd. over marsh | R. Crowley |
| 05-13 | 1 | Lyman | Hurd Hill Rd. | S. Turner, E. Emery |
| 05-16 | 1 | Rye | Odiorne Pt. St. Pk. | A. & B. Delorey, BBC FT |
| 05-17 | 2 | Errol | Long Pond | C. Martin |
| 05-17 | 1 | Seabrook | Seabrook Beach | P. Hunt, D. Strong, M. Jukes |



Spruce Grouse

| | | | | |
|-------|---|-----------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| 05-19 | 1 | Bethlehem | Lend-A-Hand Trail below Mt. Hale | J. & D. Romano |
| 05-24 | 1 | Lincoln | West Bond Spur Trail | R. Jones |

Wild Turkey

| | | | | |
|-------|----|----------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 03-01 | 26 | Haverhill | Swiftwater Rd. | R. Merrill |
| 03-22 | 15 | Alstead | Rt. 123, Forest Rd. | R. & J. Allard |
| 03-25 | 26 | Goshen | Rand House | G. Stansfield |
| 04-13 | 4 | Whitefield | Rt. 3 | R. Woodward |
| 04-15 | 1 | Northumberland | Rt. 3 s. of Groveton center | D. Skeels |
| 04-23 | 1 | Columbia | Bungy Rd. | T. Washburn |
| 04-29 | 1 | Stark | Upper Ammonoosuc R. | C. Martin, D. Timm, L. Vento, D. Ditimaso |

Virginia Rail

| | | | | |
|-------|---|-------------|----------------------------|--|
| 03-31 | 1 | Canterbury | Peverly Meadow | R. Quinn |
| 04-11 | 2 | Stratham | Sandy Pt. Discovery Center | P. Lacourse |
| 04-29 | 1 | Derry | Ballard Marsh | A. Delorey |
| 05-07 | 1 | Enfield | George Pond | P. Hunt |
| 05-17 | 1 | Auburn | Lake Massabesic | I. MacLeod, G. Robbins, R. Woodward |
| 05-22 | 1 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet | P. Hunt |
| 05-28 | 3 | Springfield | McDaniels Marsh | P. Hunt, L. Buntan |
| 05-30 | 2 | Jefferson | Cherry Pond marsh | R. Quinn, Capital Area Chapter FT |

Sora

| | | | | |
|-------|---|------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 05-10 | 1 | Enfield | Main St. Pond | P. Hunt |
| 05-16 | 2 | Hopkinton | Chase Sanctuary | R. Woodward |
| 05-27 | 1 | Canterbury | sod farm | R. Quinn |
| 05-30 | 2 | Jefferson | Cherry Pond marsh | R. Quinn, Capital Area Chapter FT |

Plovers through Terns

While shorebirds are usually under-reported in spring, this season ranks as one of the worst ones ever. Only one to three reports of the following species were received from the coast and thus most will not be included in the listings: Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plovers, Willet, Upland Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Semipalmated, Least, and White-rumped Sandpipers, and Short-billed Dowitcher. While this paucity of reports certainly reflects a poor migration, I am still of the opinion that this group is not being reported as consistently as it is in fall. On the other hand, there were several inland records of primarily coastal species, especially from flooded fields in Haverhill. Topping the list is a flock of approximately 200 Short-billed Dowitchers from Monroe, representing only the second time that Bob Bradley has seen such numbers in the Connecticut River valley.

Piping Plovers returned for a second year of nesting on the New Hampshire coast, with five pairs present at the end of May. Outstanding among the rarities of the spring was a well-described **Black-necked Stilt** at Odiorne Point on May 23. This would represent the first well-documented state record, but, unfortunately, the bird was only seen by one observer. Since at least three observers are required for a first state record, this sighting will remain "unconfirmed," despite the convincing details submitted by the observer. Also noteworthy was a breeding-plumaged **Red-necked Phalarope** inland at Exeter. Gull activity was unremarkable save for good numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls at two inland locations on May 4. Although there were scattered showers at this time, there is no clear weather event that could explain this fallout. A Caspian Tern flying past the Isles of Shoals is a good sighting for spring when there are few records of this species.

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|-----------------------------|----------|-------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Black-bellied Plover | | | | |
| 05-08 | 24 | Seabrook | Hampton Harbor mussel beds | M. Suomala, R. Spencer |
| 05-20 | 3 | Haverhill | Connecticut R., N. Haverhill | B. Bradley |
| 05-30 | 15 | Seabrook | mussel beds | A.& B. Delorey |
| Semipalmated Plover | | | | |
| 05-05 | 1 | Haverhill | Connecticut R., N. Haverhill | B. Bradley |
| 05-09 | 1 | Campton | Owls Nest Golf Course | J. Williams, J. Rufo |
| 05-18 | 17 | Seabrook | Seabrook Beach | S. Mirick |
| 05-22 | 2 | Haverhill | Connecticut R., N. Haverhill | B. Bradley |
| Piping Plover | | | | |
| 05-08 | 2 | Seabrook | Seabrook Town Beach | M. Suomala, R. Spencer |
| 05-23 | 1 | Rye | Jeness Beach | D. Donsker, M. Resch, B. Silva |
| 05-31 | 10 | Seabrook | Seabrook Beach | S. Mirick |
| Killdeer | | | | |
| 03-10 | 1 | Canterbury | opposite Peverly Meadow | R. Quinn |
| 03-22 | 1 | Goffstown | Glen Lake | J. Falcone |
| 03-25 | 7 | Kensington | Rt. 150 flooded fields | R. Aaronian |
| 03-27 | 10 | Conway | East Conway Rd. | R. Crowley |
| 03-29 | 7 | | Lower Mascoma Lake census rt. | P. Hunt |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|---------------------------|----------|---------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Black-necked Stilt | | | | |
| 05-23 | 1 | Rye | Odiorne Pt. trail w. of center | A. Stewart |
| Greater Yellowlegs | | | | |
| 03-25 | 1 | Seabrook | Rt. 286 bridge over Blackwater R. | R. Crowley |
| 04-10 | 3 | Hampton | Landing Rd. | T. Vazzano |
| 04-13 | 1 | Rye | Rt. 1A, s. of Rye Harbor | R. Crowley |
| 04-21 | 5 | Rye | Rt. 1A, across from Hemingways Restaurant | R. Crowley |
| 05-05 | 6 | Haverhill | Connecticut R., N. Haverhill | B. Bradley |
| 05-10 | 1 | Campton | wetlands s. of Campton Plaza | J. Williams |
| Lesser Yellowlegs | | | | |
| 05-15 | 3 | Colebrook | Dyer Brook outlet to Connecticut R. | C. Martin, D. Killam |
| 05-17 | 1 | Hampton | behind Little Jacks | P. Hunt, D. Strong, M. Jukes |
| 05-23 | 1 | Exeter | wastewater treatment plant | D. Donsker, M. Resch, B. Silva |
| Solitary Sandpiper | | | | |
| 05-01 | 1 | Littleton | bog | B. Bradley |
| 05-05 | 3 | Haverhill | Connecticut R., N. Haverhill | B. Bradley |
| 05-08 | | Exeter | Captains Meadow, Newfield Rd. | R. Aaronian |
| 05-10 | 3 | Weare | Clough St. Pk. | M. Suomala, ASNH FT |
| 05-17 | 4 | Lyman | Flagg Pond | B. Bradley |
| 05-19 | 2 | Lyman | Flagg Pond | B. Bradley |
| 05-25 | 2 | Campton | W. Campton near Rt. 93 | T. Richards |
| 05-26 | 2 | Holderness | Rt. 93, Exit 25 cloverleaf wetland | J. Williams |
| Spotted Sandpiper | | | | |
| 04-29 | 1 | Lyman | Dodge Pond | S. Turner |
| 05-01 | 2 | Haverhill | Connecticut R. | B. Bradley |
| 05-01 | 2 | Merrimack | Thorntons Ferry | R. Andrews |
| 05-02 | 4 | Chatham | Basin Pond | R. Crowley |
| Least Sandpiper | | | | |
| 05-05 | 4 | Haverhill | Connecticut R., N. Haverhill | B. Bradley |
| 05-20 | 18 | Haverhill | Connecticut R., N. Haverhill | B. Bradley |
| 05-20 | 10 | Hampton Falls | Depot Rd. | R. Crowley |
| 05-24 | 25 | Enfield | George Pond | M. Krenitsky, P. Hunt, S. Baker |
| 05-28 | 4 | Springfield | McDaniels Marsh | P. Hunt, L. Bunten |
| Purple Sandpiper | | | | |
| 04-07 | 60 | Hampton | Bicentennial Park | S. Mirick |
| 04-30 | 150 | Rye | Pulpit Rocks | P. Abbott |
| 05-09 | 60 | Rye | Ragged Neck | S. Mirick |
| 05-31 | 3 | Rye | Seal Rocks | S. Mirick |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|-------------------------------|----------|-------------|--|---|
| Dunlin | | | | |
| 05-18 | 1 | Seabrook | Seabrook Beach | S. Mirick |
| 05-24 | 1 | Haverhill | Connecticut R., N. Haverhill | B. Bradley |
| Short-billed Dowitcher | | | | |
| 05-19 | 65 | Auburn | Clairs Landing, Lake Massabesic | I. MacLeod |
| 05-24 | 200 | Monroe | Connecticut R. | B. Bradley |
| 05-24 | 100 | Rye | White Island | S. Mirick, R. Cook |
| 05-24 | 12 | Haverhill | Connecticut R., N. Haverhill | B. Bradley |
| 05-25 | 2 | Campton | Campton Pond | O. Dworkin, A. Anderson, T. Richards |
| 05-26 | 100 | Rye | off Rt. 1A | S. Mirick, D. De Luca |
| Common Snipe | | | | |
| 03-27 | 1 | Auburn | Massabesic Audubon Center | I. MacLeod, M. LeBlanc |
| 03-28 | 1 | Monroe | Connecticut R. wetland | C. Martin |
| 04-01 | 2 | Exeter | wastewater treatment plant | S. Mirick |
| 04-04 | 9 | Concord | West Portsmouth St. | M. Suomala, ASNH FT |
| 04-04 | 11 | Durham | Rt. 155A fields | S. Mirick |
| American Woodcock | | | | |
| 03-01 | 3 | Kensington | Rt. 107 residence | G. Gavutis |
| 03-03 | 1 | Keene | Beaver Brook area, Baker St. | K. Bill |
| 03-03 | 1 | Walpole | Merriam Rd. | R. Ritz |
| 03-05 | 3 | Pembroke | Dearborn St. | W. Goodwill |
| Red-necked Phalarope | | | | |
| 05-27 | 1 | Exeter | ne. pond of wastewater treatment plant | S. Mirick, D. Abbott |
| Bonaparte's Gull | | | | |
| 05-04 | 10 | Littleton | Samuel Moore Dam | B. Bradley |
| 05-04 | 32 | Errol | Lake Umbagog | C. Martin, L. Attix, P. Casey |
| 05-08 | 1 | Auburn | Lake Massabesic | I. MacLeod |
| 05-17 | 1 | Errol | Lake Umbagog | C. Martin |
| Iceland Gull | | | | |
| 03-08 | 1 | Seabrook | Seabrook Marina | A. & B. Delorey |
| 03-13 | 1 | Dover | Hilton Park | R. Quinn |
| 03-27 | 1 | Exeter | wastewater treatment plant | S. Mirick |
| 04-08 | 1 | Kingston | Powwow Pond | S. Mirick, D. Abbott |
| Glaucous Gull | | | | |
| 03-13 | 1 | New Castle | Fort Stark | S. Mirick, R. Quinn |
| 04-04 | 1 | Newmarket | Great Bay | S. Mirick |
| Caspian Tern | | | | |
| 05-25 | 1 | Rye | Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals | S. Mirick |
| Least Tern | | | | |
| 05-21 | 2 | Seabrook | Seabrook Beach | S. Mirick |
| 05-25 | 2 | Rye | Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals | S. Mirick |

Cuckoos through Woodpeckers

The only Black-billed Cuckoos this season were three separate reports from scattered locations, and all on the same date. All three Great Horned Owl sightings below represent active nests in Great Blue Heron colonies, and I know of at least one other nest, in Canaan, that was never reported to *New Hampshire Bird Records*. Short-eared Owls are not reported annually in New Hampshire, so a bird in Rye in April is of interest. The Northern Saw-whet Owl in Goffstown was apparently nesting, as it was regularly seen in a nest box from mid-April through at least early May.

Both Whip-poor-wills and Chimney Swifts arrived somewhat late, and the former was represented by relatively few reports. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, on the other hand, were early. March 29 ties the record early arrival date for Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, but note how many birds arrived early this year, as well as how far north they penetrated. Red-bellied Woodpecker reports numbered nine this season, down a little from previous years. I encourage observers to continue reporting this species, or we may not be able to accurately track its expansion through the state. The records we have suggest that it has consolidated itself in the Seacoast and Merrimack Valley, and may be starting to tackle the Connecticut Valley. Woodpecker rarities include two Red-headed Woodpeckers, and a sighting of the elusive **Three-toed Woodpecker** from its traditional haunts in Pittsburg.

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|------------------------------|----------|-------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Black-billed Cuckoo | | | | |
| 05-17 | 2 | Hopkinton | Chase WS | P. Hunt, D. Strong, M. Jukes |
| 05-17 | 1 | Durham | Foss Farm | S. Mirick, et al. |
| 05-17 | 1 | Chester | Hillside Haven | A.& B. Delorey |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo | | | | |
| 05-31 | 1 | Auburn | Massabesic Audubon Center | H. Chary, J. Munier |
| Great Horned Owl | | | | |
| 03-29 | 1 | Meredith | heron rookery off Chemung Rd. | J. Williams |
| 04-13 | 2 | Meredith | heron rookery off Chemung Rd. | P. Cerar, et al. |
| 04-25 | 2 | Hopkinton | Stumpfield Marsh | R. Smith |
| 05-03 | 3 | Rochester | Quail Dr. heron rookery | B. Carson |
| Short-eared Owl | | | | |
| 04-30 | 1 | Rye | Pulpit Rocks | D. Abbott |
| Northern Saw-whet Owl | | | | |
| 03-01 | 1 | Salisbury | Mountain Rd. | L. Deming, S. Gage |
| 03-02 | 1 | Gilsum | Hammond Hollow | M. Wright |
| 03-11 | 1 | Warner | Iron Kettle Rd. | J. Ashley |
| 03-24 | 1 | Sandwich | start of Sandwich Notch Rd. | T. Vazzano |
| 04-04 | 1 | Deering | Deering WS | M. Suomala, ASNH FT |
| 04-18 | 1 | Goffstown | residence | T. Reinhardt |
| 05-17 | 1 | Durham | off Dame Rd. | S. Mirick, P. Lacourse, D. Tucker |
| Common Nighthawk | | | | |
| 05-15 | 1 | Auburn | Lake Massabesic | I. MacLeod |
| 05-17 | 2 | Auburn | Lake Massabesic | I. MacLeod, G. Robbins, R. Woodward |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|----------------------------------|----------|-------------|--|------------------------------|
| 05-17 | 3 | Plymouth | Beech Hill Rd. | J. Williams |
| 05-17 | 2 | Hopkinton | Chase WS | P. Hunt, D. Strong, M. Jukes |
| Whip-poor-will | | | | |
| 05-03 | 3 | Brookline | | M. Neveu |
| 05-09 | 2 | Weare | Clough St. Pk. | M. Suomala, ASNH FT |
| 05-13 | 1 | Tamworth | residence | J. Tewksbury |
| 05-17 | 5 | Weare | Clough St. Pk. | P. Hunt, D. Strong, M. Jukes |
| 05-17 | 2 | Enfield | Bog Rd. | B. Johnstone, D. Lacey |
| Chimney Swift | | | | |
| 04-29 | 5 | Exeter | over Phillips Exeter Academy campus | R. Aaronian |
| 05-03 | 40 | Exeter | Squamscott R. | A. & B. Delorey |
| 05-04 | 2 | New Boston | town center | M. Suomala |
| 05-05 | 3 | Manchester | downtown | I. MacLeod |
| 05-06 | 26 | Laconia | over downtown | M. Suomala |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | | | | |
| 04-26 | 1 | Dover | Prospect St. | S. & A. Galt |
| 05-03 | 1 | Concord | Ridge Rd. | M. Lee |
| 05-08 | 1 | Lyman | Dodge Pond residence | S. & M. Turner |
| Red-headed Woodpecker | | | | |
| 05-10 | 1 | Wakefield | residence | W. McCoy, A. Blomquist |
| 05-10 | 1 | Hudson | residence | S. & R. Walker |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | | | | |
| 03-19 | 1 | Derry | Stark Rd. | J. Sabya |
| 04-02 | 1 | Hinsdale | below Vernon Dam | P. Hunt, J. Brink |
| 04-02 | 1 | Lyme | Lyme Green | D. Crook |
| 04-14 | 1 | Newmarket | Great Bay | S. Mirick |
| 05-09 | 1 | Thornton | Rt. 3, s. of town hall | J. Williams, J. Rufo |
| 05-21 | 1 | Epping | | T. Boucher |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | | | | |
| 03-29 | 1 | Lancaster | Wesson Rd. | D. Skeels |
| 03-29 | 1 | Enfield | Main St. Pond | P. Hunt |
| 03-29 | 1 | Deering | East Deering Rd. | I. MacLeod |
| 03-30 | 1 | Stoddard | Nye Meadow | R. Suomala, M. Levin |
| 03-30 | 1 | Gorham | Jimtown Rd. residence | J. Brown |
| 03-31 | 1 | New London | Pingree Rd. | A. Vernon |
| Three-toed Woodpecker | | | | |
| 05-16 | 1 | Pittsburg | East Inlet Stream above impoundment | C. Martin, L. Jones |
| Black-backed Woodpecker | | | | |
| 03-30 | 1 | Bethlehem | wetland off Trudeau Rd. | D. Govatski |
| 05-17 | 4 | Whitefield | w. of Little Cherry Pond | D. Govatski |
| Northern Flicker | | | | |
| 03-27 | 1 | Keene | Stearns Rd. | P. Doyle |
| 03-28 | 1 | Franklin | Rt. 3 n. & Sophia Road Dr. | R. Ritz |
| 03-28 | 1 | Deering | East Deering Rd. | I. MacLeod |
| 03-29 | 2 | Canterbury | Baptist Hill Rd. | R. Quinn |
| 03-29 | 8 | Newington | Great Bay NWR | M. & R. Suomala |

Flycatchers through Wrens

It seems that the group most likely to be affected by poor weather in May is the flycatchers, and this year was no exception. Except for Olive-sided Flycatcher and Eastern Phoebe (and a couple of Great Crested Flycatchers), flycatchers arrived late, sometimes by a week or so. The data for phoebes show a trend common to many late March arrivals. The birds showed up in unseasonable numbers, only to almost disappear again until mid-April. While phoebes were obviously present during this period, there were no reports between April 1 and 14, suggesting that they may have at least maintained a low profile. An **Acadian Flycatcher** at Pawtuckaway stayed into the summer, when it was seen by many observers.

Swallow migration was largely unremarkable. Trees were unseasonably common in late March, there were few reports of Banks or Cliffs, and Barns were a little early. The late February warmth may have triggered large movements of American Crows in early March. For the second year in a row, a Fish Crow appeared in the Lakes Region, suggesting continued northward expansion up the Merrimack Valley. A rare treat was a roost of 62 Common Ravens observed by Chris Martin in Dummer on April 27. In the wren department, a **Sedge Wren** in Derry is a good find anywhere in the state, and Marsh Wrens, like other wetland species, seemed to be better reported than usual.

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|----------------------------------|----------|------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| <i>Olive-sided Flycatcher</i> | | | | |
| 05-16 | 1 | Pittsburg | Moose Falls flowage | C. Martin, L. Jones |
| 05-17 | 1 | Lyman | Bound Pond | B. Bradley |
| 05-24 | 1 | Enfield | Bog Rd. | P. Hunt |
| 05-28 | 3 | Springfield | McDaniels Marsh | P. Hunt, L. Bunten |
| 05-29 | 1 | Meredith | Chemung Rd. marsh | J. Williams |
| <i>Eastern Wood-Pewee</i> | | | | |
| 05-14 | 1 | Gilsum | Hammond Hollow | M. Wright |
| 05-15 | 1 | Walpole | Scovill Rd. | R. Ritz |
| 05-22 | 1 | Hinsdale | Wantastiquet State Forest | P. Hunt |
| 05-31 | 9 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway St. Pk. | A.& B. Delorey |
| <i>Yellow-bellied Flycatcher</i> | | | | |
| 05-25 | 8 | Thompson & Meserves Purchase | | Caps Ridge Trail, Jefferson Notch Rd. S. Turner |
| 05-31 | 1 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway St. Pk. | A.& B. Delorey |
| <i>Acadian Flycatcher</i> | | | | |
| 05-31 | 1 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway St. Pk. | A.& B. Delorey |
| <i>Alder Flycatcher</i> | | | | |
| 05-25 | 2 | Rye | Odiorne Pt. St. Pk. | A.& B. Delorey |
| 05-25 | 1 | Hanover | Goodfellow Rd. | P. Newbern |
| 05-27 | 9 | Enfield | Bog Rd. | P. Hunt |
| 05-28 | 3 | Sandwich | Thompson WS | T. Vazzano |
| 05-31 | 3 | Littleton | Dodge Bog | B. Bradley |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|---------------------------------|----------|---------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Willow Flycatcher | | | | |
| 05-25 | 1 | Kensington | Kimball Rd. | A.& B. Delorey |
| 05-27 | 4 | Canterbury | sod farm | R. Quinn |
| 05-27 | 1 | Gilsum | Hammond Hollow | M. Wright |
| 05-31 | 1 | Rye | Eel Pond | S. Mirick |
| Least Flycatcher | | | | |
| 05-03 | 1 | Andover | | P. Newbern, B. Vernon |
| 05-04 | 3 | Weare | Clough St. Pk. | R.& M. Suomala |
| 05-08 | 2 | Haverhill | Bedell Bridge Pk. | B. Bradley |
| 05-08 | 1 | Newbury | Stoney Brook WS | C. Martin |
| 05-18 | 22 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway St. Pk. | A.& B. Delorey |
| Eastern Phoebe | | | | |
| 03-24 | 1 | Kensington | Rt. 107 residence | G. Gavutis |
| 03-27 | 1 | Mont Vernon | Francestown Tpk. residence | M.& R. Suomala |
| 03-27 | 1 | Westmoreland | River Rd. | R. Ritz |
| 03-27 | 1 | Exeter | Exeter Hospital grounds | D. Donsker |
| 03-28 | 9 | | Great Bay | A.& B. Delorey |
| 03-29 | 18 | Newington | Great Bay NWR | M.& R. Suomala |
| 03-29 | 13 | | Lower Mascoma Lake census rt. | P. Hunt |
| 03-31 | 11 | Canterbury | | R. Quinn |
| Great Crested Flycatcher | | | | |
| 05-01 | 1 | Auburn | Lake Massabesic | I. MacLeod, H. Chary, S. Haydock |
| 05-03 | 1 | Center Harbor | Old Meredith Rd. | J. Merrill |
| 05-15 | 2 | Middleton | residence | S. Snyder |
| 05-15 | 1 | Sugar Hill | residence | J. McIlwaine |
| 05-16 | 3 | Keene | Ashuelot River Park | R. Ritz |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|--------------------------------------|----------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Eastern Kingbird | | | | |
| 05-03 | 1 | Canterbury | sod farm | R. Quinn |
| 05-04 | 1 | Weare | Clough St. Pk. | R. & M. Suomala |
| 05-04 | 2 | Dunbarton | Winslow Rd. by Rt. 13 | R. & M. Suomala |
| 05-04 | 1 | Wentworths Location, Magalloway R. | | C. Martin, L. Attix, P. Casey |
| 05-05 | 1 | Lyman | Dodge Pond residence | S. & M. Turner |
| Purple Martin | | | | |
| 05-19 | 10 | Laconia | Fun Spot | C. Martin |
| 05-21 | 20 | Moultonborough | Lees Mill Rd. & Harriet Lane | T. Vazzano |
| Tree Swallow | | | | |
| 03-24 | 1 | Kensington | Rt. 107 residence | G. Gavutis |
| 03-26 | 4 | Canterbury | Peverly Meadow | R. Quinn |
| 03-29 | 7 | | Lower Mascoma Lake census rt. | P. Hunt |
| 03-29 | 12 | Haverhill | Connecticut R., N. Haverhill | P. Powers |
| 04-02 | 20 | Hinsdale | below Vernon Dam | P. Hunt, et al. |
| 04-02 | 25 | Derry | Hoodcroft Country Club | J. Romano |
| 04-05 | 200 | Salem | World End Pond | K. Folsom |
| 04-19 | 75 | Canterbury | Kimball Pond | R. Quinn |
| 04-25 | 250 | Errol | Lake Umbagog by Leonard Pond | R. Suomala, R. Hardy |
| 04-25 | 1000 | Exeter | wastewater treatment plant | S. Mirick, D. Donsker, D. Tucker |
| 04-28 | 500 | Springfield | McDaniels Marsh | R. Quinn |
| 05-02 | 200 | Littleton | Samuel Moone dam | B. Bradley |
| Northern Rough-winged Swallow | | | | |
| 04-17 | 1 | Goshen | Brook Rd. | P. Newbern |
| 04-19 | 1 | Canterbury | Kimball Pond | R. Quinn |
| 04-26 | 3 | | Lower Mascoma Lake census rt. | P. Hunt |
| 05-08 | 11 | Exeter | Powder House Pond, Squamscott | R. R. Aaronian |
| 05-12 | 6 | Littleton | Samuel Moore Dam | B. Bradley |
| 05-22 | 10 | Sutton | Cascade Marsh | A. & B. Delorey |
| Cliff Swallow | | | | |
| 05-09 | 4 | Monroe | residence | E. Emery, P. Powers |
| 05-10 | 10 | Enfield | Shaker Bridge | P. Hunt, T. Vazzano |
| 05-14 | 8 | Andover | Hersey Farm, Rt. 11 | R. Vernon |
| 05-16 | 20 | Pittsburg | Pittsburg School buildings | C. Martin, L. Jones |
| 05-16 | 9 | Bethlehem | Rocks Estate | J. McIlwaine, ASNH FT |
| 05-31 | 3 | Gorham | Pinkham Notch | S. Saidel-Goley |
| 06-01 | 10 | Campton | Pulsifer's Farm, Bog Rd. | J. Williams |
| Barn Swallow | | | | |
| 04-15 | 1 | Milan | Milan village, s. end | C. Martin |
| 04-17 | 1 | Goshen | Brook Rd. | P. Newbern |
| 04-18 | 2 | Middleton | residence | S. Snyder |
| 04-19 | 1 | Canterbury | center | R. Quinn |
| 04-19 | 3 | Enfield | Mascoma Lake | P. Hunt, D. Crook |
| 04-19 | 1 | Rye | Odiorne Pt. St. Pk. | M. Suomala, ASNH FT |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|-------------------------|----------|---------------|------------------------------|---|
| Gray Jay | | | | |
| 05-16 | 2 | Franconia | Mt. Garfield summit | R. Jones |
| 05-19 | 1 | Bethlehem | Mt. Hale summit | J. & D. Romano |
| American Crow | | | | |
| 03-02 | 140 | Concord | Horseshoe Pond fields | C. Martin |
| 03-02 | 150 | Deering | East Deering Rd. | I. MacLeod |
| 03-06 | 105 | Haverhill | N. Haverhill farm fields | B. Bradley |
| 03-12 | 210 | Monroe | migrating n., Connecticut R. | B. Bradley |
| Fish Crow | | | | |
| 04-03 | 2 | Londonderry | Landmark Plaza | A. & B. Delorey |
| 05-09 | 4 | Concord | Locke Rd. sod farm | R. Woodward |
| 05-15 | 1 | Center Harbor | Sender's Market | T. Vazzano |
| 05-17 | 4 | Seabrook | Fishermans Cooperative | I. MacLeod, G. Robbins, R. Woodward |
| Boreal Chickadee | | | | |
| 03-08 | 2 | Beans Grant | Crawford Path, above 3500' | C. & J. Tewksbury |
| 04-03 | 1 | Berlin | Argonne St. | K. Dube |
| 05-09 | 6 | Jefferson | Mt. Starr King Trail | J., J., D. Romano |
| 05-13 | 2 | Bethlehem | wetland off Trudeau Rd. | D. Govatski |
| Carolina Wren | | | | |
| 03-05 | 1 | Kensington | Rt. 107 residence | G. Gavutis |
| 04-26 | 1 | Walpole | Scovill Rd. | B. Richardson |
| 05-01 | 1 | Nashua | Clovercrest Dr. | M. Harris |
| House Wren | | | | |
| 04-26 | 1 | Dover | Prospect St. | S. & A. Galt |
| 05-01 | 1 | Kensington | residence, Rt. 107 | G. Gavutis |
| 05-04 | 1 | Weare | Clough St. Pk. | R. & M. Suomala |
| 05-04 | 1 | Gilsum | Hammond Hollow | M. Wright |
| Winter Wren | | | | |
| 03-28 | 1 | Salisbury | Mountain Rd. | L. Deming |
| 03-29 | 2 | Newington | Great Bay NWR | M. & R. Suomala |
| 03-30 | 3 | Benton | WMNF off Ingerson Rd. | J. Williams |
| 03-31 | 1 | Lebanon | Rt. 4A | P. Hunt |
| 03-31 | 1 | Conway | Cathedral Ledge | C. Martin |
| 03-31 | 1 | Canterbury | Baptist Hill Rd. | R. Quinn |
| Sedge Wren | | | | |
| 05-19 | 1 | Derry | Ballard Marsh | A. Delorey |
| Marsh Wren | | | | |
| 05-15 | 1 | Jefferson | Cherry Pond wetland | C. Martin |
| 05-16 | 2 | Sutton | Cascade Marsh | B. Vernon, P. Newbern, F. Sladen, et al. |
| 05-17 | 1 | Hopkinton | Chase WS | P. Hunt, D. Strong, M. Jukes |
| 05-18 | 2 | Lyman | Dodge Pond outlet swamp | S. Turner |
| 05-22 | 8 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet SF | P. Hunt |
| 05-25 | 1 | Rye | Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals | S. Mirick |
| 05-28 | 2 | Springfield | McDaniels Marsh | P. Hunt, L. Bunten |

Kinglets through Vireos

Another one for the record books was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet on March 30, but unlike other early arrivals, this species did not “disappear” in early April. In a pattern strangely reminiscent of the “scout” phenomenon in late March, a couple of Veeries in late April were unusually early, but were followed by a gap until the bulk of arrivals in early May (that were actually slightly late). Perhaps the rainy weather was hampering both thrush singing and observers. Swainson’s Thrush was late and poorly reported, while Hermit Thrushes (another late March arrival) were early. The only Bicknell’s Thrush reported was from the nesting areas on Mount Jefferson on May 25.

Bohemian Waxwings were largely gone by the beginning of March, with an intriguing exception. Two large flocks were reported in late March/early April by experienced observers in the Connecticut Valley. The question is thus: where were all these birds during the rest of March? While waxwings are notorious wanderers, this particular occurrence seems to be in a class of its own. Eight Northern Shrikes were reported throughout the state during March. A Blue-headed Vireo on March 31 is another earliest record, but like so many other species, it went unreported for the next two weeks. A Philadelphia Vireo on May 1 was also record-early. Yellow-throated and Red-eyed Vireos, on the other hand, were somewhat late.

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|------------------------------|----------|--------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | | | | |
| 03-30 | 1 | Westmoreland | River Rd. | R. Ritz |
| 04-02 | 1 | Canterbury | Peverly Meadow | R. Quinn |
| 04-04 | 1 | Concord | W. Portsmouth St. | M. Suomala, ASNH FT |
| 04-05 | 2 | Kensington | Rt. 107 residence | G. Gavutis |
| 04-05 | 1 | Enfield | Currier Landing | P. Hunt, D. Strong |
| 04-05 | 1 | Ashland | Mill Pond | J. Williams, S. Fogleman |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | | | | |
| 04-13 | 1 | Kensington | Kimball Rd. | D. & T. Donsker |
| 04-23 | 1 | Canterbury | Meeh Easement | R. Quinn |
| 04-25 | 1 | Errol | Lake Umbagog near Leonard Pond | R. Suomala, R. Hardy |
| 04-26 | 3 | Holderness | wetland s. of Rt. 175A | J. Williams, J. Rufo |
| 05-12 | 2 | Haverhill | Bedell Bridge St. Pk. | B. Bradley |
| 05-18 | 6 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway St. Pk. | A. & B. Delorey |
| Veery | | | | |
| 04-24 | 1 | Deering | North Rd., Deering WS | S. Sunderland |
| 04-30 | 3 | Lyman | Hurd Hill Rd. | S. Turner |
| 05-09 | 1 | Campton | along Rt. 3 | J. Williams, J. Rufo |
| 05-10 | 2 | Weare | Clough St. Pk. | M. Suomala, ASNH FT |
| Swainson’s Thrush | | | | |
| 05-16 | 10 | Tamworth | James Pond | T. Vazzano, N. Beecher |
| 05-20 | 1 | Nashua | Spit Brook Rd. | A. Delorey |
| 05-27 | 3 | Bethlehem | Zealand Notch | J. Williams, C. Haartz |
| 05-31 | 1 | Rye | Odiorne Pt. St. Pk. | S. Mirick, R. Bickford, ASNH FT |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|-----------------------|----------|-------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Hermit Thrush | | | | |
| 03-31 | 1 | Canterbury | Baptist Hill Rd. | R. Quinn |
| 04-03 | 1 | Salisbury | Mountain Rd. | L. Deming |
| 04-03 | 3 | Brookline | | M. Neveu |
| 04-05 | 1 | Plymouth | Beech Hill Rd. | J. Williams |
| Wood Thrush | | | | |
| 05-01 | 1 | Merrimack | Thorntons Ferry | R. Andrews |
| 05-03 | 1 | Kensington | Cottage Hill | G. Gavutis |
| 05-04 | 1 | Lyman | Dodge Pond Rd. | S. & M. Turner |
| 05-05 | 1 | Mont Vernon | Francestown Tpk. | R. & M. Suomala |
| American Robin | | | | |
| 03-07 | 50 | Concord | Clinton St. & Iron Works Rd. field | C. Cushing |
| 03-08 | 17 | Laconia | Laconia CC, Elm St. | H. Anderson |
| 03-09 | 14 | Pembroke | residence | K. Palfy |
| 03-25 | 30 | Exeter | wastewater treatment plant | J. Romano, S. Walker |
| 03-27 | 150 | Deering | East Deering Rd. | I. MacLeod |
| 03-29 | 62 | | Lower Mascoma Lake census rt. | P. Hunt |
| 04-13 | 33 | Bath | farm fields | B. Bradley |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|------------------------------|----------|--------------|---|-----------------------|
| Gray Catbird | | | | |
| 05-01 | 2 | Exeter | Phillips Exeter Academy woods | R. Aaronian |
| 05-04 | 1 | Weare | Clough St. Pk. | R. & M. Suomala |
| 05-04 | 1 | Nashua | Mines Falls Park | R. Andrews |
| 05-05 | 1 | Peterborough | | M. & R. Johnson |
| Brown Thrasher | | | | |
| 04-06 | 1 | Sunapee | Rt. 11, Wendell | P. Newbern |
| 04-26 | 1 | Goffstown | gravel pit area by Piscataquog | R. J. Doherty |
| 05-01 | 3 | Merrimack | Thornton Ferry & wastewater treatment plant | R. Andrews |
| Bohemian Waxwing | | | | |
| 03-03 | 14 | Haverhill | Connecticut R., N. Haverhill | B. Bradley |
| 03-05 | 34 | Sandwich | Diamond Ledge Rd. | T. Vazzano |
| 03-23 | 50 | Piermont | | T. & B. Richards |
| 04-03 | 200 | Haverhill | Rt. 10 | B. Bradley |
| Blue-headed Vireo | | | | |
| 03-31 | 1 | Concord | NH Fish & Game, Hazen Dr. | R. Suomala |
| 04-16 | 1 | Mont Vernon | Francestown Tpk. residence | M. Suomala |
| 04-19 | 1 | Auburn | Massabesic Audubon Center | H. Chary, T. Warner |
| 04-22 | 1 | Jefferson | Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge | R. Quinn, D. Govatski |
| Yellow-throated Vireo | | | | |
| 05-18 | 4 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway St. Pk. | A. & B. Delorey |
| 05-20 | 1 | Haverhill | Bedell Bridge Pk. | B. Bradley |
| 05-22 | 1 | Hinsdale | Wantastiquet State Forest | P. Gunt |
| 05-27 | 1 | Sandwich | Diamond Ledge Rd. | T. Vazzano |
| 05-29 | 2 | Lyme | River Rd. | P. Hunt |
| Warbling Vireo | | | | |
| 05-04 | 1 | Nashua | Mines Falls Park | R. Andrews |
| 05-08 | 1 | Auburn | Lake Massabesic | I. MacLeod |
| 05-08 | 2 | Concord | Horseshoe Pond | J. McIlwaine |
| 05-09 | 2 | Weare | Clough St. Pk. | M. Suomala, ASNH FT |
| Philadelphia Vireo | | | | |
| 05-01 | | Lyman | Ogantz Rd. | S. Turner |
| 05-28 | 1 | Gilsum | Surry Rd. at Hammond Hollow | Rd. M. Wright |
| Red-eyed Vireo | | | | |
| 05-08 | 1 | New London | Low Plain | R. Vernon |
| 05-18 | 21 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway St. Pk. | A. & B. Delorey |
| 05-18 | 5 | | Lower Mascoma Lake | P. Hunt |
| 05-25 | 6 | Hanover | Goodfellow Rd. | P. Newbern |

Warblers

For the second year in a row, the spring warbler migration was relatively poor, and in many respects it was worse than 1997. The latter impression is a result of both low numbers and low diversity. For instance, only one Tennessee Warbler was reported in 1998, compared to 13 in 1997. There were no Golden-winged Warblers reported at all, and Wilson's barely made it into the database. Most species were on time, with only six somewhat late. Magnolia Warblers were record early in late April, but then, like Veeries, they were absent for over a week, with the rest actually being slightly late.

A Yellow-rumped Warbler on March 9 would be a record early date, but its behavior (visiting a feeder) suggests that it could also have been an overwintering bird. This species sent up several scouts at the end of March, when there was no doubt about their northward intentions, and the species arrived on average a few days early. But then, like so many species discussed already, they were scarce until the next push on April 20, ending up a little late. Also early were Pine and Palm warblers, although the former showed no sign of the "scout" phenomenon. A final record early arrival was a well-described male American Redstart in the unlikely location of Gorham on April 20. There were no unexpected warbler rarities this year, save for a single Yellow-breasted Chat, and even Cerulean Warbler was only reported once from its Pawtuckaway stronghold.

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|----------------------------|----------|-------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Blue-winged Warbler | | | | |
| 05-03 | 1 | Durham | Foss Farm | P. Lacourse |
| 05-04 | 1 | Weare | Clough St. Pk. | R. & M. Suomala |
| 05-09 | 5 | Weare | Clough St. Pk. | M. Suomala, ASNH FT |
| 05-11 | 1 | Concord | Silk Farm WS | J. Magoon |
| 05-13 | 4 | Durham | Foss Farm | J. Romano, S. Walker |
| 05-13 | 5 | Kensington | off Rt. 108 | R. Aaronian |
| 05-17 | 1 | Pembroke | Rt. 3 across from Pembroke Academy | W. Goodwill |
| 05-18 | 1 | Kensington | Cottage Hill | G. Gavutis |
| Tennessee Warbler | | | | |
| 05-16 | 1 | Newington | Arboretum Dr. | A. & B. Delorey, BBC FT |
| Nashville Warbler | | | | |
| 05-01 | 1 | Gilsum | Hammond Hollow | M. Wright |
| 05-04 | 3 | Weare | Clough St. Pk. | R. & M. Suomala |
| 05-08 | 1 | New London | Low Plain | R. Vernon |
| 05-09 | 11 | Bethlehem | Trudeau Rd. | S. & M. Turner |
| 05-15 | 19 | Enfield | Bog Rd. | P. Hunt |
| Northern Parula | | | | |
| 05-05 | 1 | Auburn | Lake Massabesic | I. MacLeod |
| 05-07 | 1 | Lyman | Dodge Pond Rd. | B. Bradley |
| 05-08 | 1 | Sutton | Cascade Marsh | R. Vernon |
| 05-09 | 7 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway St. Pk. | A. & B. Delorey |
| 05-16 | 15 | Tamworth | James Pond | T. Vazzano, N. Beecher |
| 05-17 | 3 | Weare | Clough St. Pk. | P. Hunt, D. Strong, M. Jukes |
| 05-28 | 2 | Springfield | McDaniels Marsh | P. Hunt, L. Buntin |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|-------------------------------------|----------|---------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Yellow Warbler | | | | |
| 05-03 | 2 | Lebanon | near Mascoma Lake dam | P. Hunt |
| 05-04 | 1 | Weare | Clough St. Pk. | R. & M. Suomala |
| 05-04 | 3 | Nashua | Mines Falls Park | R. Andrews |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler | | | | |
| 05-01 | 3 | Durham | Foss Farm | P. Lacourse |
| 05-03 | 1 | Walpole | Merriam Rd. | R. Ritz |
| 05-04 | 1 | Center Harbor | Old Meredith Rd. | J. Merrill |
| 05-25 | 8 | Hanover | Goodfellow Rd. | P. Newbern |
| Magnolia Warbler | | | | |
| 04-25 | 1 | Tuftonboro | Copps Pond | T. Vazzano, J. Vernon, Lakes Region Chapter FT |
| 04-28 | 1 | Westmoreland | Hyland Hill | M. Wright |
| 05-09 | 1 | Lyman | Hurd Hill Rd. | S. & M. Turner |
| 05-16 | 4 | Hopkinton | Chase WS | R. Woodward |
| 05-17 | 1 | Hampton | church on Rt. 101 | P. Hunt, D. Strong, M. Jukes |
| Cape May Warbler | | | | |
| 05-16 | 2 | Sandwich | Thompson WS | T. Vazzano, N. Beecher |
| Black-throated Blue Warbler | | | | |
| 05-01 | 1 | Concord | Silk Farm WS | L. Deming, C. Martin |
| 05-02 | 1 | Newbury | Ramblewood Circle | P. Newbern |
| 05-19 | 12 | Bethlehem | Zealand & Lend-A-Hand Trails | J. & D. Romano |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler | | | | |
| 03-09 | 1 | Kensington | Rt. 107 residence | G. Gavutis |
| 03-28 | 1 | Newington | Great Bay NWR | S. Mirick, P. Lacourse, ASNH FT |
| 03-29 | 1 | Enfield | Main St. Pond | P. Hunt |
| 04-01 | 1 | Canterbury | Peverly Meadow | R. Quinn |
| 04-05 | 4 | Ashland | Mill Pond | J. Williams |
| 04-15 | 1 | Canterbury | Meeh Easement | R. Quinn |
| 04-26 | 8 | | Lower Mascoma Lake census rt. | P. Hunt |
| 05-02 | 66 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway St. Pk. | A. & B. Delorey |
| 05-04 | 11 | Haverhill | Bedell Bridge Park | B. Bradley |
| 05-08 | 38 | Enfield | Bog Rd. | P. Hunt |
| 05-10 | 18 | | Lower Mascoma Lake | P. Hunt, T. Vazzano |
| Black-throated Green Warbler | | | | |
| 04-30 | 1 | Salisbury | Mountain Rd. | L. Deming |
| 04-30 | 2 | N. Hampton | residence | D. & T. Donsker |
| 04-30 | 1 | Walpole | Warner Forest, Scovill Rd. | R. Ritz |
| 05-09 | 10 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway St. Pk. | A. & B. Delorey |
| Blackburnian Warbler | | | | |
| 05-04 | 1 | Nashua | Mines Falls Park | R. Andrews |
| 05-09 | 1 | Sandwich | Diamond Ledge Rd. | T. Vazzano |
| 05-09 | 1 | Piermont | Court St. | S. & M. Turner |
| 05-18 | 10 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway St. Pk. | A. & B. Delorey |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|--------------------------------|----------|-------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Pine Warbler | | | | |
| 03-28 | 1 | Newington | Great Bay NWR | S. Mirick, L. Maley, ASNH FT |
| 03-31 | 1 | Durham | New England Center | M. Davis |
| 03-31 | 6 | Weare | Clough St. Pk. | M. Suomala, M. Jukes |
| 03-31 | 1 | Durham | Foss Farm | L. Deming, T. McLellan |
| 04-19 | 12 | | Merrimack R., Canterbury-Boscawen | R. Quinn, Capital Area Chapter F.T. |
| 04-21 | 14 | Weare | Clough St. Pk. | P. Newbern |
| 04-26 | 2 | Whitefield | near Whitefield airport | J. McIlwaine |
| 05-02 | 8 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway St. Pk. | A.& B. Delorey |
| Prairie Warbler | | | | |
| 05-13 | 1 | Durham | Foss Farm | J. Romano, S. Walker |
| 05-14 | 3 | Andover | Taunton Hill power line | R. Vernon |
| 05-14 | 1 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet State Forest | P. Hunt, et al. |
| 05-15 | 1 | Gilsum | Hammond Hollow | M. Wright |
| Palm Warbler | | | | |
| 04-11 | 1 | Durham | Durham Point Rd. | P. Lacourse |
| 04-13 | 1 | Sandwich | Diamond Ledge Rd. | T. Vazzano |
| 04-13 | 1 | Exeter | Phillips Exeter Academy woods | R. Aaronian |
| 04-13 | 5 | Nashua | Horrigan Pk. by the Nashua R. | R. Andrews |
| 04-16 | 12 | Exeter | Phillips Exeter Academy woods | R. Aaronian |
| 05-25 | 1 | Rye | White Island, Isles of Shoals | S. Mirick, R. Cook, et al. |
| Bay-breasted Warbler | | | | |
| 05-16 | 1 | Pittsburg | East Inlet | C. Martin, L. Jones |
| 05-16 | 3 | Newington | Arboretum Dr. | A.& B. Delorey, BBC FT |
| 05-16 | 2 | Hopkinton | Chase WS | R. Woodward |
| 05-19 | 1 | Bethlehem | Zealand Trail | J.& D. Romano |
| 05-20 | 1 | Nashua | Spit Brook Rd. | A. Delorey |
| 05-21 | 1 | Middleton | Mountain Rd. | S. Snyder |
| Blackpoll Warbler | | | | |
| 05-17 | 2 | Exeter | Powder House Pond | P. Hunt, D. Strong, M. Jukes |
| 05-19 | 10 | Bethlehem | Zealand & Lend-a-Hand Trails | J.& D. Romano |
| 05-22 | 3 | Hinsdale | Wantastiquet State Forest | P. Hunt |
| 05-23 | 3 | | Lower Mascoma Lake | P. Hunt |
| 05-25 | 3 | Rye | Odiorne Pt. St. Pk. | A.& B. Delorey |
| Cerulean Warbler | | | | |
| 05-17 | 2 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway St. Pk. | P. Hunt, D. Strong, M. Jukes |
| Black-and-white Warbler | | | | |
| 04-25 | 1 | Hinsdale | Connecticut R. | R. Andrews |
| 04-30 | 1 | Canterbury | Peverly Meadow Brook | R. Quinn |
| 04-30 | 1 | Durham | Mill Rd. | M. Davis |
| 05-04 | 10 | Weare | Clough St. Pk. | R.& M. Suomala |
| 05-07 | 13 | Enfield | Bog Rd. | P. Hunt |
| 05-09 | 14 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway St. Pk. | A.& B. Delorey |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|------------------------------|----------|-------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| American Redstart | | | | |
| 04-20 | 1 | Gorham | Rt. 16, n. boundary of WMNF | M. Santy |
| 05-09 | 1 | Haverhill | Bedell Bridge | A. Mudge |
| 05-10 | 1 | Lebanon | near Mascoma Lake dam | P. Hunt, T. Vazzano |
| 05-15 | 1 | Walpole | Merriam Rd. | R. Ritz |
| 05-17 | 1 | Hampton | church on Rt. 101 | P. Hunt, D. Strong, M. Jukes |
| 05-18 | 55 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway St. Pk. | A.& B. Delorey |
| Ovenbird | | | | |
| 05-01 | 1 | Walpole | Merriam Rd. | R. Ritz |
| 05-01 | 1 | Canterbury | Baptist Hill Rd. | R. Quinn |
| 05-01 | 1 | Walpole | Merriam Rd. | R. Ritz |
| 05-01 | 1 | Mont Vernon | Francestown Turnpike | R. Suomala |
| 05-15 | 21 | Enfield | Bog Rd. | P. Hunt |
| 05-18 | 36 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway St. Pk. | A.& B. Delorey |
| Northern Waterthrush | | | | |
| 04-16 | 1 | Kensington | Winkley Brook | G. Gavutis |
| 04-26 | 3 | Canterbury | Shaker Rd. | R. Quinn |
| 04-26 | 1 | Newbury | off Rt. 103A | P. Newbern |
| 05-01 | 5 | Lyman | Dodge Pond Rd. | B. Bradley |
| 05-07 | 8 | Enfield | Bog Rd. | P. Hunt |
| Louisiana Waterthrush | | | | |
| 04-15 | 1 | Plainfield | Hell Hollow Rd. | L. Zeltmann |
| 04-15 | 1 | Plymouth | Beech Hill Rd. | J. Williams, S. Fogleman |
| 04-19 | 1 | Andover | Mitchell Brook | L. Deming, K. Bennett |
| 05-03 | 1 | Nashua | Mines Falls Park | Nashaway Chapter FT |
| 05-03 | 5 | | Wilmot/Salisbury | P. Newbern, B. Vernon |
| 05-04 | 2 | Weare | Clough St. Pk. | R.& M. Suomala |
| Mourning Warbler | | | | |
| 05-30 | 1 | Rye | Odiorne Pt. St. Pk. | A.& B. Delorey |
| 05-31 | 1 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway St. Pk. | A.& B. Delorey |
| Common Yellowthroat | | | | |
| 05-03 | 1 | Canterbury | sod farm | R. Quinn |
| 05-04 | 1 | Weare | Clough St. Pk. | R.& M. Suomala |
| 05-07 | 2 | Lyman | Flagg Pond | B. Bradley |
| 05-15 | 19 | Enfield | Bog Rd. | P. Hunt |
| 05-16 | 10 | Hopkinton | Chase WS | R. Woodward |
| Wilson's Warbler | | | | |
| 05-17 | 1 | Errol | Magalloway R., edge of Leonard Marsh | C. Martin |
| 05-25 | 1 | Rye | Odiorne Pt. St. Pk. | A.& B. Delorey |
| 05-30 | 1 | Whitefield | airport marsh | R. Quinn |
| Canada Warbler | | | | |
| 05-10 | 1 | Lyman | Round Pond | E. Emery, P. Powers |
| 05-11 | 1 | Sandwich | Thompson WS | T. Vazzano |
| 05-16 | 1 | Sutton | Baker Rd. | P. Newbern, B. Vernon, F. Sladen, et al. |
| 05-18 | 1 | Lebanon | Rt. 4A | P. Hunt |
| 05-30 | 5 | Rye | Odiorne Pt. St. Pk. | A.& B. Delorey |
| Yellow-breasted Chat | | | | |
| 05-15 | 1 | Nashua | Spit Brook Rd. | A. Delorey |

Tanagers through Finches

The large, colorful members of this group all arrived more or less on time. A northern Cardinal in Columbia was pretty far north, and while this species has been recorded all the way up to Pittsburg, it is still pretty rare in the extreme north of the state. While we often comment on warm weather leading to early arrivals, it can also result in early departures. Such seems to be the case with the American Tree Sparrow, which is usually still around in mid-April. This year, however, there were only two records in April, and most birds seem to have left the state by the end of March. Another record early date is that of Chipping Sparrow, which, along with both Savannah and Swamp sparrows, shows that old familiar scout pattern.

It was a very good spring for the declining Vesper Sparrow, with almost all records from the Merrimack Valley. Rare sparrows included a western subspecies of Dark-eyed Junco in March and a **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** on Seavey Island in late May. No records were received of the more likely Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow. The final species sending up scouts was the Rusty Blackbird; just take a look at the listings below. All three invading winter finches (Pine Grosbeak, White-winged Crossbill, and Common Redpoll) lingered into spring to varying degrees. Among the hoards of Common Redpolls, one careful observer managed to find the rarer **Hoary Redpoll** in late March. Records of other finches were unremarkable, although Evening Grosbeaks showed something of a temporary increase in late March and April. Perhaps they were hiding in the same interdimensional space as the Bohemian Waxwings.

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|-------------------------------|----------|---------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Scarlet Tanager | | | | |
| 05-08 | 1 | Bedford | Bedford Center | S. Saidel-Goley |
| 05-08 | 1 | Stoddard | S. Stoddard | P. Hunt, et al. |
| 05-10 | 1 | Walpole | Merriam & Scovill Rds. | R. Ritz |
| 05-11 | 1 | Kensington | Rt. 107 residence | G. Gavutis |
| 05-13 | 3 | Durham | Foss Farm | J. Romano, S. Walker |
| Northern Cardinal | | | | |
| 03-14 | 1 | Columbia | residence | D.& B. Killam |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak | | | | |
| 04-24 | 2 | Londonderry | Devonshire Ln. | H. Chary |
| 04-28 | 1 | Kensington | Rt. 107 residence | G. Gavutis |
| 04-30 | 2 | Walpole | Merriam Rd. | R. Ritz |
| 05-01 | 2 | Milford | Federal Hill Rd. residence | B.& R. Becker |
| Indigo Bunting | | | | |
| 05-04 | 1 | Kensington | Rt. 107 residence ponds | G. Gavutis |
| 05-06 | 1 | Canterbury | sod farms off exit 18 of Rt. 93 | M. Suomala |
| 05-10 | 1 | Monroe | residence | D. Bedell |
| 05-13 | 1 | Center Harbor | Old Meredith Rd. | J. Merrill |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|--------------------------------------|----------|-------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Eastern Towhee | | | | |
| 04-22 | 1 | Henniker | residence | R. Hardy |
| 04-28 | 1 | Kensington | Rt. 107 residence | G. Gavutis |
| 05-01 | 1 | Amherst | Thornton Ferry residence | J. Jones |
| 05-01 | 7 | Durham | Foss Farm | P. Lacourse |
| American Tree Sparrow | | | | |
| 03-05 | 14 | Concord | residence | R. Woodward |
| 03-30 | 1 | New London | Pingree Rd. | R. Vernon |
| 03-31 | 3 | Enfield | Main St. Pond | P. Hunt |
| 04-03 | 4 | Berlin | Argonne St. | K. Dube |
| 04-14 | 1 | Lyme | Lyme School | C. Tausanavitch |
| Chipping Sparrow | | | | |
| 03-29 | 1 | Gorham | Jimtown Rd. residence | J. Brown, J. Ely |
| 04-04 | | Kensington | residence | G. Gavutis |
| 04-07 | 1 | Walpole | Merriam Rd. | R. Ritz |
| Field Sparrow | | | | |
| 03-01 | 2 | Ashland | Mill Pond | J. Williams |
| 04-05 | 1 | Enfield | Lakeview Cemetery | P. Hunt, D. Strong |
| 04-05 | 1 | Concord | residence | R. Woodward |
| 05-03 | 6 | Canterbury | sod farm | R. Quinn |
| Vesper Sparrow | | | | |
| 04-19 | 1 | Boscawen | along Merrimack R. | R. Quinn, Capital Area Chapter FT |
| 05-03 | 2 | Canterbury | sod farm | R. Quinn |
| 05-03 | 1 | Litchfield | Talent Rd. by old gravel pit | J. Kegley, B. Sweisford |
| 05-08 | 3 | Newington | Pease Int'l. Tradeport | M. Suomala, R. Spencer |
| 05-09 | 2 | Haverhill | Bedell Bridge St. Pk. | S. & M. Turner |
| 05-09 | 2 | Boscawen | field by Merrimack R. | B. Janeway |
| 05-17 | 1 | Pembroke | Rt. 3 near large sand pit | W. Goodwill |
| 05-18 | 2 | Henniker | Old Concord Rd. | A. & B. Delorey |
| 05-23 | 2 | Newington | Pease Int'l. Tradeport | A. & B. Delorey |
| Savannah Sparrow | | | | |
| 03-28 | 1 | Concord | W. Portsmouth St. | M. Suomala |
| 04-01 | 1 | Exeter | wastewater treatment plant | S. Mirick |
| 04-19 | 14 | Hampton | road off Rt. 101 | S. Mirick |
| Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow | | | | |
| 05-25 | 1 | Rye | Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals | S. Mirick |
| Fox Sparrow | | | | |
| 03-19 | 1 | Londonderry | Lexington Ave. residence | J. Ciarletta |
| 03-21 | 3 | Kensington | Rt. 107 residence | G. Gavutis |
| 03-26 | 3 | Rochester | Old Ox Rd. residence | R. Bickford |
| 03-28 | 3 | Concord | W. Portsmouth St. | M. Suomala |
| 03-30 | 4 | Gilsum | Hammond Hollow | M. Wright |
| 04-04 | 4 | New London | Pingree Rd. | A. & R. Vernon |
| 04-07 | 1 | Hinsdale | along Connecticut R. | M. Suomala |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|--|----------|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Lincoln's Sparrow | | | | |
| 05-10 | 1 | Weare | Sugar Hill Rd. | A.& B. Delorey |
| 05-15 | 1 | Jefferson | Little Cherry Pond | C. Martin |
| 05-16 | 2 | Pittsburg | East Inlet | C. Martin, L. Jones |
| 05-17 | 2 | Errol | Lake Umbagog at Leonard Marsh | C. Martin |
| Swamp Sparrow | | | | |
| 03-28 | 1 | Newington | Great Bay NWR | S. Mirick, ASNH FT |
| 04-01 | 7 | Lyman | Flagg & Round Ponds | B. Bradley |
| 04-08 | 6 | Sandwich | | T. Vazzano |
| 04-28 | 13 | Enfield | Bog Rd. | P. Hunt |
| White-crowned Sparrow | | | | |
| 04-25 | 2 | Peterborough | residence | M.& R. Johnson |
| 05-04 | 1 | Lyman | Dodge Pond residence | S.& M. Turner |
| 05-05 | 1 | Hanover | Etna | D. Merker |
| 05-07 | 6 | Nashua | Spit Brook Rd. | A. Delorey |
| 05-16 | 2 | Pittsburg | near Moose Falls flowage | C. Martin, L. Jones |
| 05-16 | 1 | Gilsum | Hammond Hollow | M. Wright |
| 05-24 | 1 | Enfield | Main St. Pond | P. Hunt, M. Krenitsky, S. Baker |
| Dark-eyed Junco | | | | |
| 03-30 | 36 | New London | Pingree Rd. | A. Vernon |
| 04-01 | 80 | Sandwich | Diamond Ledge Rd. | T. Vazzano |
| 04-03 | 55 | New London | Pingree Rd. | R. Vernon |
| 04-05 | 52 | Walpole | Merriam Rd. | R. Ritz |
| 04-08 | 30 | Gilsum | Hammond Hollow | M. Wright |
| Dark-eyed Junco - Oregon subsp. | | | | |
| 03-05 | 1 | Chester | Hillside Haven | A.& B. Delorey |
| 03-21 | 1 | Chester | Hillside Haven | A.& B. Delorey |
| Bobolink | | | | |
| 05-07 | 1 | Auburn | Massabesic Audubon Center | I. MacLeod |
| 05-09 | 2 | Lisbon | Cole Plain | S.& M. Turner |
| 05-09 | | Walpole | Merriam Rd. | R. Ritz |
| 05-12 | 4 | | Lower Mascoma Lake | P. Hunt |
| 05-14 | 7 | Bethlehem | Rocks Estate | J. McIlwaine |
| Rusty Blackbird | | | | |
| 03-10 | 2 | Canterbury | Baptist Hill Rd. | R. Quinn |
| 04-03 | 5 | Sandwich | Whiteface Intervale | T. Vazzano |
| 04-13 | 2 | Canterbury | Baptist Hill Rd. | R. Quinn |
| 04-13 | 1 | Hollis | Beaver Brook | R. Andrews |
| 04-26 | 5 | Holderness | wetland s. of Rt. 175A | J. Williams |
| 04-27 | 2 | Sutton | Cascade Marsh | P. Newbern |
| 05-10 | 1 | Weare | Clough St. Pk. | M. Suomala, ASNH FT |
| 05-21 | 4 | Albany | Lovejoy WS | J.& D. Romano |
| 05-22 | 2 | Jefferson | Little Cherry Pond | D. Govatski, C. Johnson, J. Allen |
| 05-30 | 1 | Whitefield | Ayling Brook | R. Quinn, Capital Area Chapter FT |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|-------------------------------|----------|-------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Orchard Oriole | | | | |
| 05-07 | 1 | Wentworth | residence | A. & C. Ports, W. & S. Fogleman |
| 05-08 | 1 | Exeter | wastewater treatment plant | M. Suomala, R. Spencer |
| 05-16 | 1 | Durham | Langley Rd. | A. & B. Delorey, BBC FT |
| 05-17 | 1 | Exeter | wastewater treatment plant | S. Mirick, P. Lacourse, D. Tucker |
| Baltimore Oriole | | | | |
| 05-03 | 1 | Nashua | Deerhaven Dr. | R. Andrews |
| 05-03 | 1 | Nashua | Griffin Rd. | J. Kegley |
| 05-05 | 1 | Kensington | Rt. 107 residence | G. Gavutis |
| 05-07 | 1 | Lyman | Dodge Pond residence | S. & M. Turner |
| 05-18 | 15 | | Lower Mascoma Lake | P. Hunt |
| Pine Grosbeak | | | | |
| 03-01 | 8 | Enfield | Main St. Pond | P. Hunt |
| 03-14 | 20 | Boscawen | Cottage & Main Sts. | A. & D. LaValley |
| 03-15 | 2 | Alstead | Rt. 123, Forest Rd. | R. & J. Allard |
| Red Crossbill | | | | |
| 03-01 | 1 | Hanover | S. Park St. residence | A. Mudge |
| 04-17 | 1 | Hanover | Hanover | M. Choukas |
| White-winged Crossbill | | | | |
| 03-01 | 1 | Chatham | Green Hill Rd. residence, S. Chatham | R. Crowley |
| 03-01 | 6 | Hanover | S. Park St. residence | A. & M. Mudge |
| 03-02 | 8 | Lee | Birch Hill Rd. | B. Humm |
| 03-02 | 24 | Gilford | Belknap Mtn. Rd. | R. Campbell |
| 03-11 | 60 | Amherst | residence | D. Barretto |
| 03-15 | 2 | Enfield | Rt. 4 | P. Hunt, D. Crook |
| 04-27 | 5 | Lyman | Ogantz Rd. | S. & M. Turner |
| 05-10 | 32 | Plymouth | Riverside Cemetery | J. Williams |
| Common Redpoll | | | | |
| 03-05 | 250 | Canterbury | Baptist Hill Rd. | R. Quinn |
| 03-21 | 100 | Chichester | Horse Corner Rd. | A. Carter |
| 03-26 | 220 | Sandwich | Diamond Ledge Rd. | T. Vazzano |
| 04-01 | 55 | Chatham | Green Hill Rd. residence, S. Chatham | R. Crowley |
| 04-05 | 75 | Canterbury | Baptist Hill Rd. | R. Quinn |
| 04-08 | 150 | Berlin | Argonne St. | K. Dube |
| 04-29 | 150 | Enfield | Shaker Bridge | P. Hunt |
| Hoary Redpoll | | | | |
| 03-28 | 1 | Concord | East Side Dr. | D. & B. Soule |

Birding in Londonderry

By Hank Chary

Londonderry offers a large number of good birding locations and a variety of habitats. These include large tracts of conservation land, abandoned rail beds, open fields, orchards, wetlands, and power lines. Habitats range from dense woodlands to extremely open areas. Associated with the power lines are scrub habitat, sometimes wetlands, and woodland edges for good birding as well as towers for hawk perches. Birding in Londonderry tends to be best during spring migration, but good birding can be found year-round.

The Musquash Conservation Area

The Musquash is the largest parcel of conservation land in Londonderry. Its approximately 600 acres contain three major and several minor wetlands, along with a lot of forested uplands. The Musquash is managed as a tree farm and is occasionally harvested by selective cutting to improve wildlife habitat. A network of hiking trails runs through the Musquash. A map and trail guide to the Musquash is available in the Londonderry Town Offices at 50 Nashua Road (Route 102), Suite 100 in the Londonderry Square Mall (with the tall clock tower).

To get to the Musquash take High Range Road to Hickory Hill Drive. Follow Hickory Hill Drive to the end and park where the road ends under the power lines. The dirt road ahead (to the west) is the main road into the Musquash. To your right (north) is one end of the Hickory Hill North wetland. Here, under the power lines and by the wetland, one can find some of the most productive birding in the Musquash because of the mixed habitats and edges provided.

There are several major trails in the Musquash, along with many small connecting trails. If you follow the dirt logging road into the Musquash, you will walk through primarily mixed northern hardwoods with occasional groves of evergreens. When the road forks, bear right (northward). You will cross a small arm of the Hickory Hill South wetland, pass through a dense grove of eastern hemlock, and come to a small clearing.

From this clearing two trails lead out. To your left is the southern loop of the Betty Mack trail. This trail winds through the woods on the northern edge of the Hickory Hill South wetland. Be alert for deer—and even moose—in the woods and wetlands. Straight ahead (north) out of the clearing, the trail leads to an old power line trace, which was cut back in the mid-1970s or so. (The power line was never built.) Follow this to the west and you will meet up with the southern loop of the Betty Mack trail. Take it to the east and you will pass by the northern loop of the Betty Mack trail and the southern edge of the Hickory Hill North wetland. Continuing east along this path will bring you back to the end of Hickory Hill Drive where you parked.

The cleared area of the power line trace offers some of the most open birding in the Musquash. Here one can find an abundance of spring warblers. Elsewhere, the woods tend to be rather thick. Summer residents of the deep woods include numerous thrushes, Ovenbirds, and Scarlet Tanagers. Ruffed Grouse are common and are likely to explode from underfoot as you walk the woodland trails. The wetlands harbor a wide variety of birds both on migration and as breeding residents. Eastern Bluebirds are not uncommon. Formerly, there were two large Great Blue Heron rookeries in the Musquash, but these

were abandoned in the mid-1990s for unknown reasons. Great Blue Herons still feed regularly in the wetlands of the Musquash.

The northern loop of the Betty Mack trail passes by several small wet areas and connects to the narrow dirt extension of Alexander Road. Follow this south and a variety of trail options can lead you west to the Musquash Swamp or south to the power line cut. Some of these trails tend to be rather dynamic as new leads are trampled around beaver dams, mud puddles, and so forth. Indeed, any of the trails in the Musquash may suddenly be found underwater because of beaver activity.

The Kendall Pond Conservation Area

The Kendall Pond Conservation Area is located on South Road near the intersection of Kendall Pond Road and South Road. There is a small sandy beach just upstream of the dam and spillway where Beaver Brook crosses under South Road. Here one can usually find an abundance of ducks and geese, both wild and domestic. There is no direct connection between the beach area and the Conservation Area. About .1 to .2 miles east of this beach area is a small gated woods road on the north side of South Road. This is the entrance to the Kendall Pond Conservation Area.

Park at the gate (parking is very limited) and walk in along the continuation of the old woods road. The trail leads through mature white pines to a small picnic area. The understory is a mixture of northern hardwoods and shrubs, along with more pines. Watch for woodpeckers in the pines. To the right (west) of the picnic area, a small trail leads off into the woods. It rapidly fades to guesswork as it approaches private property only a few hundred feet away. The main trail follows the woods road east upstream along Beaver Brook and the adjacent wetlands. It basically parallels South Road.

Just beyond the picnic area, just over 400 feet from where you park, is a small access to Beaver Brook and the Kendall Pond wetlands. Here, wetland and riparian habitats come in direct contact with upland pine forests. In spring, this can be a canoe launch site, but the beach at the dam is easier to use and does not require a portage. This is the optimum view of the wetlands and the best place to spend time observing the waterfowl and wetland birds. During migration, especially spring migration, the woods can host abundant warblers and thrushes.

Continuing along the trail, after a short while, the woods road narrows abruptly. A small trail leads to the right. This trail meets up with South Road across from Timber. To the left is a partially open area offering another good overlook of the wetlands.

The Little Cohas Brook, Great Canada Swamp, and B&M Railroad

Access to the Little Cohas and Great Canada Swamp is along the abandoned Boston & Maine railroad bed. Limited parking is available on Harvey Road near the airport and ample parking opportunities can be found on Old Mammoth Road in North Londonderry. From either start point, the walk along the rail bed is a pleasant hike through woodlands, which give way to pond waters. An abundant offering of bird species can be found in the woods and wetlands. The walk from parking to the wetlands and ponds is about half a mile from either point. The railroad bed gets quite overgrown in places, especially in summer. Also, along the way in from Old Mammoth Road, there are many downed trees from recent severe winter storms. There is also a parallel rutted dirt roadway just south of the

rail bed, but that is often filled with muddy puddles, debris, and is a favorite path for all-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles.

You can also get to the Little Cohas from Hall Road. Where Hall Road crosses the swamp is a site where you can launch a canoe for a more intimate journey through this major wetland in Londonderry. Be advised, however, that the water can be extremely shallow in places, and the wetland vegetation very thick.

East of Mammoth Road (Route 128), the Boston and Maine rail bed offers a pleasant walk through mixed woodlands with occasional wet areas. Choose from among several parking areas. There is a large parking area just south of the North School on Sanborn Road. The rail bed is just south of the parking. Parking is very limited on Clark Road, but this location is roughly half way between I-93 to the east and Mammoth Road to the west. The rail bed is also accessible from Symmes Drive. Just before entering the Coca-Cola plant, veer right into a parking cul-de-sac. There are wetlands along the rail bed on either side of Clark Road and there is a pond just southwest of the Coca-Cola bottling plant.

The Airport

Manchester Airport, over half of which is in Londonderry, is the third largest airport in New England and is growing rapidly. In addition to the “gashawks,” the airport affords good habitat for a variety of birds both on the grassy areas around the runways and in the woodlands and wet areas along the western perimeter road and south of the south perimeter road. Especially in winter, this area has often produced ducks, Belted Kingfishers, and Horned Larks on Christmas Bird Counts. The Little Cohas Brook can be accessed by an abandoned roadway just south of the south perimeter road (just west of the S-turn). Here thick woods and the waters afford an attractive place for birds.

The Peat Bog

There is a large open bog along Route 28 just north of the Derry town line. Some parking is available just south of the bog and the old Boston and Maine rail bed runs along the eastern edge of the bog. This is part of the same rail bed mentioned in connection with the Little Cohas.

Other Specific Locations

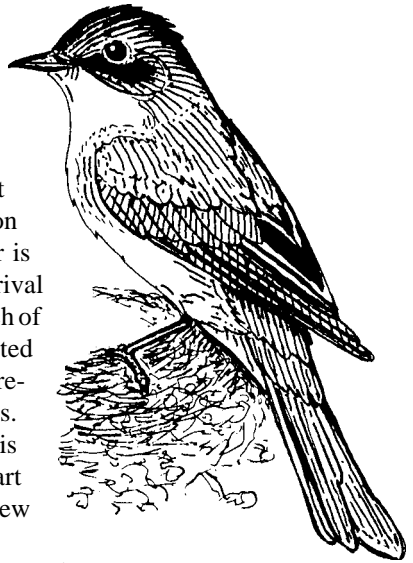
There are several additional locations in Londonderry that offer good birding. Bockes Forest is owned by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. It is located on Mill Road in southern Londonderry. The Cohas Brook (the Big Cohas as opposed to the Little Cohas) is accessible along Auburn Road near the Auburn town line. Be careful here, however, as there is very little parking, the road is narrow, and traffic can be heavy and fast. Beaver Brook crosses under the southern end of Gilcreast Road. There are no trails along the brook but one can park there. The Nessenkeag Brook and associated wetlands can be accessed from Route 102 at the western end of town. Here one can pull off to the side of Route 102 and scan the wetlands under the power lines.

Hank Chary has been an avid birder in Londonderry and member of the Audubon Society of New Hampshire since he moved here in 1986. He is the President of the Amoskeag Chapter of ASNH and has led many birding field trips in Londonderry and elsewhere.

New Hampshire Spring Arrival Dates

By Pam Hunt

Readers of the spring 1998 summary will have noted lots of references to “Record Early” or “Relatively Late” arrivals of several migrant species. How do we know how a given season compares to others in this regard? The answer is that people have been keeping track of spring arrival dates as long as there have been birders, and much of this data is published in some form. The interested birder can then simply do a bit of historical research and get a feel for when each species arrives. The data in the list below was compiled in this way. It is partially based on data that Bob Smart compiled in the 1960s and 1970s, and also on New Hampshire Bird Records from 1983 to 1997.



Birds don't arrive at the same date every year (unless you are in Capistrano or Hinkley, Ohio), or at least the first arrivals are not always detected on the same date. Weather and simple chance can make our favorite warbler show up earlier or later than we expect. But there are general patterns, and some species can be remarkably consistent over the years. In the list below, you can see for yourself the range of variation. The first, underlined, date is the earliest recorded arrival for the state. The range of dates that follows is the period over which half of all first arrivals have occurred, with the central, **boldfaced** date the median of all arrivals.

Let's use Pied-billed Grebe as an example. Half the time, this species should first appear in New Hampshire between March 25 and April 7, and the record early date is March 11. A first spring sighting on March 20 would thus be relatively early, and one on April 10 would be relatively late.

Use this list to help determine whether the bird you identify should really be here on the date you see it. Many misidentifications occur simply because observers are unfamiliar with the normal arrival schedule of common species. For instance, a brownish-gray flycatcher on March 30 is far more likely to be an Eastern Phoebe than an Eastern Wood-Pewee or empidonax flycatcher. As a final note, keep in mind that some of these species occasionally winter in small numbers in the southern part of the state, in which case these dates represent the time when birds first appear away from these local wintering areas.

Range of dates for the arrival of most spring migrants

| Species | Earliest date recorded | 25% | MEDIAN | 75% |
|---------------------------|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Pied-billed Grebe | Mar 11 | Mar 25 | MAR 29 | Apr 7 |
| Double-crested Cormorant | Mar 23 | Mar 26 | APR 5 | Apr 9 |
| American Bittern | Mar 27 | Apr 9 | APR 16 | Apr 22 |
| Snowy Egret | Mar 27 | Apr 8 | APR 18 | Apr 25 |
| Green Heron | Apr 14 | Apr 25 | APR 28 | May 1 |
| Black-crowned Night-Heron | Apr 2 | Apr 10 | APR 19 | Apr 30 |
| Glossy Ibis | Mar 30 | Apr 13 | APR 20 | Apr 27 |
| Snow Goose | Mar 14 | Mar 24 | MAR 30 | Apr 4 |
| Wood Duck | Feb 22 | Mar 12 | MAR 21 | Mar 26 |
| Green-winged Teal | Mar 3 | Mar 23 | MAR 28 | Apr 6 |
| Blue-winged Teal | Mar 7 | Apr 1 | APR 7 | Apr 10 |
| American Wigeon | Mar 1 | Mar 24 | APR 5 | Apr 11 |
| Ring-necked Duck | Mar 5 | Mar 11 | MAR 12 | Mar 16 |
| Osprey | Mar 11 | Apr 5 | APR 8 | Apr 10 |
| Northern Harrier | Mar 4 | Mar 17 | MAR 25 | Mar 30 |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | Mar 2 | Mar 9 | MAR 14 | Mar 21 |
| Broad-winged Hawk | Mar 30 | Apr 2 | APR 16 | Apr 18 |
| American Kestrel | Mar 3 | Mar 6 | MAR 13 | Mar 20 |
| Merlin | Mar 11 | Mar 24 | APR 12 | Apr 22 |
| Virginia Rail | Apr 9 | Apr 25 | APR 29 | May 9 |
| Semipalmated Plover | Mar 10 | May 12 | MAY 15 | May 19 |
| Killdeer | Feb 22 | Mar 4 | MAR 11 | Mar 20 |
| Greater Yellowlegs | Mar 24 | Apr 4 | APR 11 | Apr 19 |
| Lesser Yellowlegs | Apr 12 | Apr 20 | MAY 4 | May 6 |
| Solitary Sandpiper | Apr 16 | Apr 28 | MAY 5 | May 7 |
| Spotted Sandpiper | Apr 20 | Apr 23 | MAY 1 | May 5 |
| Semipalmated Sandpiper | May 5 | May 11 | MAY 14 | May 19 |
| Least Sandpiper | May 5 | May 9 | MAY 11 | May 17 |
| Short-billed Dowitcher | May 11 | May 11 | MAY 18 | May 19 |
| Common Snipe | Mar 3 | Mar 27 | APR 4 | Apr 14 |
| American Woodcock | Mar 2 | Mar 11 | MAR 16 | Mar 27 |
| Common Tern | Apr 26 | May 7 | MAY 11 | May 17 |
| Least Tern | May 7 | May 18 | MAY 20 | May 24 |
| Black Tern | May 4 | May 9 | MAY 18 | May 27 |
| Black-billed Cuckoo | May 4 | May 13 | MAY 17 | May 21 |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo | May 9 | May 12 | MAY 20 | May 27 |
| Common Nighthawk | Apr 30 | May 12 | MAY 15 | May 19 |
| Whip-poor-will | Apr 17 | Apr 25 | APR 28 | May 1 |
| Chimney Swift | Apr 10 | Apr 23 | APR 27 | Apr 29 |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | Apr 22 | May 5 | MAY 9 | May 10 |

Range of dates for the arrival of most spring migrants

| Species | Earliest date recorded | 25% | Median | 75% |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Belted Kingfisher | Mar 4 | Mar 16 | MAR 23 | Apr 1 |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | Mar 29 | Apr 7 | APR 9 | Apr 13 |
| Northern Flicker | Mar 1 | Mar 21 | MAR 30 | Apr 2 |
| Olive-sided Flycatcher | May 4 | May 12 | MAY 14 | May 16 |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee | May 1 | May 7 | MAY 11 | May 16 |
| Yellow-bellied Flycatcher | May 12 | May 18 | MAY 20 | May 22 |
| Alder Flycatcher | May 13 | May 15 | MAY 20 | May 23 |
| Willow Flycatcher | May 11 | May 13 | MAY 16 | May 20 |
| Least Flycatcher | Apr 21 | Apr 28 | MAY 1 | May 3 |
| Eastern Phoebe | Mar 3 | Mar 22 | MAR 27 | Mar 29 |
| Great Crested Flycatcher | Apr 30 | May 4 | MAY 6 | May 8 |
| Eastern Kingbird | Apr 6 | Apr 25 | MAY 1 | May 4 |
| Purple Martin | Apr 6 | Apr 15 | APR 18 | Apr 23 |
| Tree Swallow | Mar 15 | Mar 25 | MAR 28 | Apr 2 |
| Northern Rough-winged Swallow | Apr 3 | Apr 18 | APR 19 | Apr 24 |
| Bank Swallow | Apr 19 | Apr 23 | APR 25 | Apr 28 |
| Cliff Swallow | Apr 8 | Apr 20 | APR 23 | Apr 29 |
| Barn Swallow | Mar 28 | Apr 12 | APR 16 | Apr 24 |
| House Wren | Apr 20 | Apr 27 | APR 28 | May 1 |
| Winter Wren | Mar 1 | Mar 14 | MAR 18 | Mar 25 |
| Marsh Wren | Apr 28 | May 4 | MAY 13 | May 20 |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | Mar 10 | Mar 16 | APR 6 | Apr 14 |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | Apr 2 | Apr 9 | APR 13 | Apr 17 |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | Apr 17 | Apr 24 | MAY 4 | May 10 |
| Veery | Apr 21 | May 2 | MAY 5 | May 7 |
| Swainson's Thrush | Apr 21 | May 7 | MAY 10 | May 15 |
| Hermit Thrush | Mar 25 | Apr 7 | APR 11 | Apr 14 |
| Wood Thrush | Apr 14 | Apr 30 | MAY 2 | May 4 |
| Gray Catbird | Apr 26 | May 2 | MAY 4 | May 5 |
| Brown Thrasher | Apr 12 | Apr 19 | APR 24 | Apr 25 |
| American Pipit | Mar 25 | Apr 8 | APR 20 | May 4 |
| Blue-headed Vireo | Apr 8 | Apr 21 | APR 23 | Mar 28 |
| Yellow-throated Vireo | Apr 29 | May 5 | MAY 8 | May 11 |
| Warbling Vireo | Apr 25 | May 2 | MAY 4 | May 6 |
| Philadelphia Vireo | May 11 | May 15 | MAY 19 | May 22 |
| Red-eyed Vireo | May 2 | May 6 | MAY 10 | May 12 |
| Blue-winged Warbler | Apr 28 | May 8 | MAY 13 | May 16 |
| Golden-winged Warbler | May 5 | May 10 | MAY 11 | May 15 |
| Tennessee Warbler | May 1 | May 9 | MAY 12 | May 14 |
| Nashville Warbler | Apr 23 | Apr 28 | APR 30 | May 3 |
| Northern Parula | Apr 22 | Apr 30 | MAY 4 | May 6 |

Range of dates for the arrival of most spring migrants

| Species | Earliest date recorded | 25% | Median | 75% |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Yellow Warbler | Apr 22 | Apr 29 | MAY 2 | May 5 |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler | Apr 29 | May 2 | MAY 4 | May 6 |
| Magnolia Warbler | Apr 28 | May 5 | MAY 6 | May 9 |
| Cape May Warbler | May 4 | May 5 | MAY 7 | May 10 |
| Black-throated Blue Warbler | Apr 23 | Apr 27 | MAY 3 | May 6 |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler | Mar 26 | Apr 8 | APR 14 | Apr 20 |
| Black-throated Green Warbler | Apr 20 | Apr 27 | APR 29 | Apr 30 |
| Blackburnian Warbler | Apr 29 | May 4 | MAY 5 | May 6 |
| Pine Warbler | Mar 28 | Apr 7 | APR 12 | Apr 16 |
| Prairie Warbler | Apr 25 | May 5 | MAY 10 | May 13 |
| Palm Warbler | Mar 30 | Apr 13 | APR 16 | Apr 18 |
| Bay-breasted Warbler | May 1 | May 10 | MAY 13 | May 16 |
| Blackpoll Warbler | May 8 | May 11 | MAY 14 | May 16 |
| Black-and-white Warbler | Apr 15 | Apr 24 | APR 26 | Apr 28 |
| American Redstart | Apr 29 | May 4 | MAY 6 | May 7 |
| Ovenbird | Apr 27 | May 1 | MAY 3 | May 5 |
| Northern Waterthrush | Apr 12 | Apr 25 | APR 27 | May 1 |
| Louisiana Waterthrush | Apr 5 | Apr 16 | APR 19 | Apr 21 |
| Mourning Warbler | May 12 | May 19 | MAY 22 | May 25 |
| Common Yellowthroat | Apr 18 | May 2 | MAY 5 | May 7 |
| Wilson's Warbler | May 4 | May 10 | MAY 11 | May 14 |
| Canada Warbler | May 4 | May 8 | MAY 10 | May 12 |
| Scarlet Tanager | Apr 27 | May 5 | MAY 8 | May 11 |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak | Apr 15 | Apr 27 | MAY 3 | May 5 |
| Indigo Bunting | Apr 6 | May 5 | MAY 10 | May 13 |
| Rufous-sided Towhee | Mar 19 | Apr 15 | APR 18 | Apr 23 |
| Chipping Sparrow | Mar 31 | Apr 10 | APR 14 | Apr 18 |
| Field Sparrow | Mar 23 | Mar 27 | APR 5 | Apr 13 |
| Vesper Sparrow | Mar 30 | Apr 5 | APR 8 | Apr 13 |
| Savannah Sparrow | Mar 15 | Mar 27 | APR 8 | Apr 15 |
| Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow | May 18 | May 19 | MAY 21 | May 23 |
| Fox Sparrow | Mar 2 | Mar 11 | MAR 16 | Mar 23 |
| Lincoln's Sparrow | Apr 30 | May 9 | MAY 13 | May 17 |
| Swamp Sparrow | Mar 16 | Apr 6 | APR 13 | Apr 19 |
| White-crowned Sparrow | Apr 18 | Apr 28 | MAY 1 | May 4 |
| Bobolink | May 2 | May 6 | MAY 7 | May 10 |
| Eastern Meadowlark | Mar 2 | Mar 10 | MAR 15 | Mar 21 |
| Rusty Blackbird | Mar 3 | Mar 14 | MAR 21 | Mar 27 |
| Orchard Oriole | May 9 | May 11 | MAY 15 | May 22 |
| Northern Oriole | Apr 27 | May 1 | MAY 4 | May 6 |

Spring Warbler Identification

by Wendell P. Smith

Reprinted from *New Hampshire Bird News* Vol. 6 No. 1 January 1953

A long-time reader of Audubon Society publications and bird reports brought to our attention the timelessness of several articles written years ago. Presented here is one such article, both informative and enjoyable more than forty years later. If you have a favorite article from years past that you think our readers would enjoy, please let us know. We would like to bring them to light occasionally in New Hampshire Bird Records. This article is re-printed exactly as written. Recent changes in bird names were not made, thus the yellow-rumped warbler is still referred to as the myrtle warbler, etc. — ed.

It is a warm day in mid-April. Bright sunshine seems to bring nearer the longed for summer; but little in the landscape gives encouragement to immediate realization of the hope. Southern slopes show a faint green. Sheltered nooks may be dotted with the yellow of a few dandelions; or, here and there, beneath the conifers may bloom arbutus while the brown carpet of leaves in the woods may be studded with the bright blossoms of hepatica and bloodroot. Suddenly we hear a rapid, high-pitched trill, difficult to localize. It may take several minutes to locate the small bird with yellow breast, olive green above and two white wing bars, identifying it as a pine warbler. Within a few days another trill proclaims the arrival of the myrtle warbler. The song is distinctive, the trill changing pitch. The bird itself is easy to identify with four yellow patches, one on head, one on rump, one on each side of breast. The remainder of the plumage pattern is bluish gray upper parts, two white wing bars, underneath white with a heavy inverted U of black on the breast. The female is brown where the male is bluish gray and with less black on breast.

Sometime during the last half of April, a bird of passage is to be looked for, the yellow palm warbler. Always on or near the ground, one's attention is usually attracted by its habit of constant tail wagging. Brownish olive-green back; olive green rump; no wing bars; yellow underneath with chestnut brown streaks on sides of breast; a yellow line over eye and a chestnut crown, it is an attractive warbler. Despite its ground frequenting habits, it does not often afford a complete view of itself. The call note is more musical than the call of most warblers and the song, a trill, softer than that of the pine warbler. Frequently the bird is silent in migration.

May is the month for warblers. Sometimes as early as the first or even in the closing days of April, the black and white arrives. The bird is unmistakable in its black and white stripes with only the belly lacking the black stripes. The song is also distinctive, a shrill note repeated a varying number of times. Other species arriving at about the same time are the Nashville, of bright yellow underparts unstreaked, gray head, olive green back and wings, the latter without bars; and the black-throated green, a black-throated bird with a yellow face. Below the throat and breast, the bird is white while the back is olive green with white wing bars. The female has less black on throat and breast than the male but the yellow face is still diagnostic. The songs of these two warblers are distinctive. That of the Nashville consists of six or eight one-syllabled notes, uttered more rapidly and ending in a twitter too quick to distinguish the separate notes. There is also a flight song which is

an elaboration of the perch song. The song of the black-throated green warbler has been described by those who hear words in bird song as "trees, trees, murmuring trees". This gives some idea of the rhythm and of the dreamy quality of the notes. Two songs are given; one beginning low in pitch, rising, falling again and rising altho the last high note may be omitted. The other song begins high in pitch, falls and rises. Some of the tones are full-voiced, others are husky with the quality of the droning of bees. Often the same individual will change from one song to the other.

A week later a number of species arrive with no particular order in their coming. There is the parula, bluish above with a yellow breast and throat, two white wing bars, a yellow rump patch, the male with a dark breast band. Three songs are recognized, all notable for a buzzy quality. Chapman's "The Warblers of North America" describes one as "a rapid trill ending explosively". The yellow warbler, as its name implies, is all yellow, the male with reddish brown streaks on the breast. The song closely resembles that of the chestnut-sided warbler but is less energetic and accented differently, the next to the last syllable of the chestnut-sided's being strongly emphasized. The notes of both are of one or two syllables (the final phrase of the Yellow's is sometimes three-syllabled) and vary little in pitch.

The magnolia warbler may or may not arrive as early as those species expected during the last part of the first week or first part of the second week of May. It is one of the most beautiful of our warblers with its bright yellow breast crossed by a black band from which heavy black stripes run downward. The uppers parts are largely black except for the bluish gray head and the yellow rump. There are also conspicuous white wing patches. The underside of the magnolia warbler's tail appears white with a terminal black band. The notes seem to me especially liquid in character with the next to the last often accented. Authorities on birds use combinations of letters to express something of the quality of the song and the time value of the notes but to the author's ears there is nothing onomatopoeic about them. The black-throated blue is another rather uncertain arrival. The male with bluish-gray upperparts, black throat and sides and the remainder of the underparts white. A white wing patch is shared with the brown-backed female. Four songs are recognized, all distinguished by a rasping quality. Especially partial to hemlocks is the blackburnian warbler, black and white with much orange-red on head and throat. Much patient looking is necessary to see this to good advantage but if one has the right vantage points and the light falls upon the throat, one is afforded a view of one of the most brilliant plumaged birds. The song is brief, high-pitched and rising toward the end. Two songs are recognized but both are similar in a huskiness of toneness. There is also a thin quality and a wiriness to many of the notes. The chestnut-sided warbler is a bird of young forest growth. As the name indicates there are streaks of chestnut on the sides of the breast. Other marks are greenish-yellow back streaked with black, yellow or yellowish crown, white underparts and yellowish wing bars.

A loud and emphatic teacher, teacher, teacher, but with the last syllable accented, rings through the woods at this time. It is the song of the ovenbird, a ground inhabiting warbler of sparrow size, with upperparts of brownish olive-green except for the crown which is orange-brown. Underneath it is white with breast and sides heavily streaked with black. The bird is a walker and rather inconspicuous against the background of faded leaves on the forest floor. The song is difficult to localize so that the beginner will experience some

trouble in finding this bird. Quite like the ovenbird and belonging in the same genus are the water-thrushes. The northern water-thrush has dark olive upperparts unmarked, while underneath it is yellow, heavily streaked with black. There is also a yellowish or buffy line over the eye. The Louisiana water-thrush, rare in New Hampshire, has white replacing the yellow in line over eye and beneath. The songs of the two species are recognizably different while bearing some resemblances to each other. It would seem that their swampy woodland haunts had imparted much of that liquid quality noted in the song of the winter wren. Chapman describes it as “a ringing, bubbling warble, swift and emphatic, made up of two parts, barely divided, the second lower toned and diminuendo”. The Louisiana’s song he describes in the following syllables, “pseur, pseur, per see, ser”. Water-thrushes have the teetering habit quite like that of sandpipers.

The northern yellow-throat has olive-green upperparts, washed with brown with yellow throat and breast and white belly. The male has a black mask across its face and extending back on sides of head. Females do not have this but other species of warblers with whom the female yellow-throat might be confused have the bellyyellow as well as throat and breast. In the yellow-throat the belly is white. Finally, of common mid-warbler season arrivals we list the redstart. The male is largely black with orange patches on wings and tail. The female is brown above, mostly white below with yellow patches on wings and tail. Redstarts are very active birds, managing frequently to display the brilliant colors of their plumage as they move about. They frequent young woodland growth and do not shun towns where suitable habitat may be found. The song is brief, given rapidly and is emphatic. Something of the wiry quality of the black and white warbler’s song is in it and something of the harsh quality of the black-throated blue warbler’s.

We wish to include two species, rare in southern New Hampshire, whose arrival would come about this time. The golden-winged with gray upperparts and white below, yellow forehead and wing patches, black patch thru eye and black throat. The yellow wing patch and black throat distinguish it from all other warblers. The female differs from the male in being duller and having the black replaced by gray. Young deciduous growth in either moist or dry locations is favored habitat. Peterson describes the song as “one bee and three buzzes”. The prairie warbler is olive-green above with reddish chestnut spots, yellow underparts, streaked with black on sides and a blackish streak through eye and a black crescent on throat. These two black marks and the yellow below with the black streaks confined to the sides are distinctive. The bird’s habitat is bushy pastures. The song has been described as resembling that of the parula warbler but thinner and more wiry. Coues calls it like “the plaint of a mouse with a toothache” and Chapman says that “it is one of the most easily recognized and remembered of warbler songs”.

The third and fourth weeks of May bring the end of warbler migration. The Tennessee warbler is a plain bird with a gray head, olive-green back, white line over eye and white underparts. It is a bird of passage and the author has seen most in spring in town shade trees, especially elms. Often the loud song calls attention to the bird’s presence. This is unmusical being a series of single notes like chip, given with increasing rapidity and ending in a semi trill. The whole has much of the quality of the chipping sparrow’s song with the ending closely resembling the sparrow’s song. By many deemed fortunate, is the observer who sees the Cape May warbler. An olive- green back, yellow rump, white wing and tail patches, below yellow, heavily streaked with black and chestnut ear patches characterize the male. Females lack the chestnut ear patches but have a somewhat obscure

patch of yellow behind the ear and this is distinctive. Females may have almost white breasts with only narrow streaking. To me the Cape May's song has the quality of the blackburnian warbler's song but shorter, thinner and more wiry in quality and of less volume. Some authorities on bird song compare it to the black and white warbler's song but of less volume and thinner in quality. The Cape May frequents coniferous trees but during migration is sometimes found elsewhere. The bay-breasted, a bird with chestnut crown, breast and sides, black face, grayish upperparts and underparts white where not chestnut is also a migrant except for a few in northern New Hampshire. These warblers may be common in some seasons, uncommon in others and prefer conifers. They are not as easy to see as some for they seem to keep rather closely to the concealment of thickly needle covered branches and they move more slowly than most warblers. A few weak notes, somewhat rasping and resembling the song of the Cape May warbler, is the song of this species heard during migration.

One of the last to arrive is the black-poll, mainly a migrant, although nesting on the summits of the higher mountains. Striped gray above with a black cap, white cheeks and white underparts, heavily streaked with black, this warbler is easily identified. The female lacks the black crown and is less heavily striped beneath. It could be confused with the black and white but lacks the head stripings. Lack of yellow on the breast separates it from the female myrtle warbler. Black-polls seem to be everywhere present during spring migration even in town shade trees.

The mourning warbler is quite often the last to arrive. The male with its bluish-gray head, olive-green wings, back and tail without any marks, gray throat, black upper breast with remainder of underparts yellow, is unmistakable. The female lacks the black breast, the throat and upper breast being brownish gray while the bluish gray of head and olive of back are browner. Shrubbery is the preferred habitat of this bird. Where woodland has been cut over and the new growth is only a few years old, raspberry patches or, even dense shrubbery in gardens, are the places to look for this warbler. The song is loud consisting of two or three phrases of two syllables followed by two phrases of lower pitch. It is subject to considerable variation. It is clear-toned and quite musical.

Conspicuous in its black cap and yellow forehead, cheeks, line over eye and underparts and plain olive-green upperparts is Wilson's warbler. The female may be similar but usually is duller and with the black cap less well defined and tinged with olive. Young growth of trees not far from water is the habitat of this warbler with fly catching proclivities. A rapidly given chatter describes the song. The Canada has always been a warbler eagerly looked for by the author. The unmarked gray back, yellow underparts with a band of black spots across the breast are distinctive. In the female this necklace is fainter or may be absent. Frequenter of thickets near water, the Canada is a fine songster. Loud, clear tones, liquid in quality give the song an especially pleasing musical quality. The bird should be looked for near the ground as a rule.

Warbler identification began on a warm day in April; it closes in late May. It began in the "sere and brown"; it closes in a green world where foliage is fast attaining maximum size and the fields are assuming the deep hue of early summer. This is not the end of warbler interest, however. Many species nest and rear young and the observer can learn a lot about the home life of our most colorful family in New England. There is the late summer moult and fall plumage but more of that later.

Research: Snowy Owls at Logan Airport

Conducted by: Norm Smith, Director, Blue Hills Trailside Museum,
Massachusetts Audubon Society



Since 1981, Norm Smith has been studying Snowy Owls at Boston's Logan Airport. Assisted by his young son and daughter, he has banded, color-marked, and then observed the behavior and dietary preferences of well over 200 individuals. Despite being the world's thirteenth busiest airport, Logan also offers 729 hectares (1800 acres) of rolling grasslands and man-made perches (communications and instrument structures). Bordered by salt marsh and open water on three sides, the area's variety of habitat attracts the largest known wintering population of Snowy Owls in New England.

Smith's research findings offer intriguing insights into the lives of these visitors from the Arctic tundra. Some arrive and stay the winter, from early November through late April. At the other extreme, one nomadic individual that was color-marked green on November 9 (1991) roamed as follows: Bath, Maine on December 19, back to Logan on January 24, Martha's Vineyard on February 26, Charlestown, Rhode Island the next day, Little Brewster Island (6 km east of Logan) on March 16, and, finally back to Logan on March 23, where it was observed until departing on May 20.

Typically, the owls spend daytime roosting on the ground, then stir as the sun sets, regurgitate a pellet, and fly to a perch from which to commence the hunt. Using a night vision scope, the Smiths have observed Snowies hover-hunting, in the manner of a Rough-legged Hawk. Prey species, taken mostly on the wing, have varied greatly, from Snow Buntings and Dunlins to a Great Blue Heron and a Canada Goose. Of the 192 prey species observed, Norway Rat was the most common (47), then American Black Duck (23) and Rock Dove (13). Unidentified meals of vole/mice/shrew were observed 31 times. (And Snowy Owl cannibalism was observed once.)

As evidence of their hearing acuity, one individual was seen diving into 20.3 cm. (8-in.) of snow to secure a vole despite the roar of a 747 passing nearby. As for their vision, another owl—barely visible across Boston Harbor through 10x50 binoculars—was able to see a starling caged within Smith's bow net. When the hunting hour arrived, it flew 1.6 km to the bait cage.

In the winters when Snowy Owl numbers at Logan are high, most of the netted owls are healthy immatures—suggesting they are the overflow population that results from a bountiful prey year and good reproduction success. (In 1986-87—the Smith family's busiest winter—they observed 49 Snowy Owls.)

In low-population years at Logan, most owls are underweight adults—suggesting a lean prey year that resulted in low reproduction. (Only five owls were observed in the winter of 1980-81 and 1995-96.)

As for the question of whether or not individuals ever return to Logan on subsequent winters, Smith has trapped seven immatures that returned the following year. One returned two years later, another one six years later, and another 10 years later.

Besides conducting research, Smith also conducts occasional bus tours and more than an occasional slide presentation to school groups and the general public. In recognition of the educational component of his project, Smith recently received an Excellence in Environmental Education award from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Affairs. As another footnote to the project, Danielle Smith, now 17 years old, has initiated her own research project on migrating owls and has banded some 100 owls encompassing seven species. The tables have turned, and father now assists daughter.

Corrections

The following corrections were found after the issue was published. Minor typos are not included. We hope to publish corrections in each issue for the previous season, but we still have a backlog.

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

Spring 96

- p. 16 The Semipalmated Plovers on 05-21 in Sutton were Spotted Sandpipers.
- p. 16 The Solitary Sandpiper on 05-24 in Durham was at the Rt. 155A fields not Rt. 155.

Summer 96

- p. 6 Loons through Herons summary: Second paragraph should read “(shore-based numbers from the summers of 1995-1990 respectively: 50, 0, 30, 6, 0, 0)”.
- p. 8 Waterfowl through Hawks summary: Last paragraph, the 13 Peregrines fledged was not a record. The record through 1996 was 15 in 1995.
- p. 9 The Common Goldeneye on 07-13 was in Hampton not Rye.
- p. 22 Vireos through Warblers summary: Last sentence regarding Cerulean Warblers should read “Six adult individuals were noted this year, including four singing males and two females. A report of one incubating female was followed by a report of a pair feeding three fledglings on 06-16 for our second consecutive nesting record”.
- p. 23 The Brewster’s Warbler-hybrid on 06-13 was at Packers Falls Rd. not Parkers Falls Rd.
- p. 27 Tanager through Evening Grosbeak summary: Fourth paragraph, first sentence should read “Orchard Orioles in Concord and Hanover were away from their usual haunts”.
- p. 28 The Clay-colored Sparrow on 06-14 was on Rt. 155, (not Rt. 152) and was the same bird as 06-08 listing.

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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 |
| NHRBC | NH Rare Birds Committee | ~ | approximately |

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