

New Hampshire Bird Records



Winter 1998-99

Vol. 17, No. 4

About the Cover

The cover illustration of a Thick-billed Murre is by Iain MacLeod whose wonderful art work may often be found in *New Hampshire Bird Records*. This winter season produced what may be a record high number of Thick-billed Murres in one day for New Hampshire. It was part of a phenomenon that also included a number of other alcid species. Please see the season summaries for more details on this exciting event.

In This Issue

[Want to do a little intro to the content of this issue, and end up with something like...]

We are proud to present a new feature in this issue of NHBR. Added to our lineup of features and articles is a challenge for you to Name That Bird! Check the Spring issue for the answer.

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.

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We are very sorry to bid good-bye to Tom McMillan, long-time editor for *New Hampshire Bird Records*, who died in July, 1999. As Communications Director for the Audubon Society of New Hampshire, Tom shepherded us through the computerization of the publication process using the “new” desktop publishing software. Tom figured out how to transfer the records from our IBM database to the Macintosh—a monumental challenge at that time, involving three computers and five software programs. It was a development that changed not only the look but the whole process of producing *New Hampshire Bird Records*. When Tom left ASNH, he continued as a volunteer editor, lending his editing expertise and the valuable perspective of a non-fanatical birder. We will very much miss Tom.

Miranda Levin, the current ASNH Communications Director, will be taking over as Text Editor. She is the editor of the ASNH newsletter *New Hampshire Audubon*, and we are happy to have her energy and skills. Welcome, Miranda.

Becky Suomala
Managing Editor
August, 1999



Yoo-Hoo!

It is time to renew your *New Hampshire Bird Records* subscription. Subscriptions are annual, and all renewals take place in October. Your renewal form is enclosed in the envelope with this issue. Thanks!

What to Report

Winter Season (December through February)

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

First, it's important to understand that even though we do not publish all reports, each plays a valuable role in creating an overall picture of a given season.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

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

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

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

Reports for the following species were received but not listed

Mute Swan	Herring Gull	American Crow
Canada Goose	Great Black-backed Gull	Tufted Titmouse
American Black Duck	Rock Dove	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Mallard	Mourning Dove	White-breasted Nuthatch
Surf Scoter	Belted Kingfisher	Northern Mockingbird
White-winged Scoter	Downy Woodpecker	European Starling
Bald Eagle	Hairy Woodpecker	Northern Cardinal
Red-tailed Hawk	Northern Flicker	House Finch
Chukar	Pileated Woodpecker	American Goldfinch
Ring-necked Pheasant	Blue Jay	House Sparrow
Ring-billed Gull		

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

December 1, 1998 - February 28, 1999

As it was last year, Winter 1998-99 was a mild winter. The temperature in December averaged 6.9 degrees above normal in Laconia, while precipitation was two inches below normal. January remained warm, with the temperature in Laconia averaging 2.2 degrees above normal. Precipitation was nearly four inches above normal, making up for a dry December. In February, the warm weather continued, with temperatures averaging 5.8 degrees above normal in Laconia with average precipitation. Overall amounts of snowfall for the winter were below normal.

The mild winter may have contributed to a Turkey Vulture returning in early February, a Wood Duck wintering in Portsmouth (for the second year), and sightings of a Green-winged Teal in Enfield in late December, six American Woodcocks in Jefferson in early December, seven Carolina Wrens, two Hermit Thrushes, and several warblers during the season.

The most exciting news of the winter season was the influx of alcids, especially **Thick-billed Murres**, with up to 19 individuals seen at the coast in a single day in early February. All six east-coast alcid species were found in New Hampshire this winter, making it the best showing for this group in years. An excellent count of 210 Razorbills was tallied offshore near New Scantum. An injured **Atlantic Puffin** was picked up on Hampton Beach and taken to a rehabilitation center in Maine. A dead **Common Murre** was also picked up on Hampton Beach. A number of dead or weakened Thick-billed Murres were found this winter. Examinations of these birds indicate that they were emaciated.

An **Ash-throated Flycatcher** put in an appearance in Lyme, during December, for a first state record. This bird was part of a movement of several Ash-throated Flycatchers to the northeast in early winter. A **Tundra Swan** lingered at Great Bay from November into December, but then expired. Several **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were reported this winter. A Black-throated Blue Warbler wintered at a feeder in Stratham.

The 99th Christmas Bird Count (CBC) was held from December 18, 1998 through January 3, 1999. We continue to publish the CBC data in table format; you will find the CBC table after the standard systematic list of species sightings from the winter season. The table includes all species observed on all CBCs conducted in New Hampshire this year. Any seasonal species totals given in the summaries include the CBC totals unless explicitly stated otherwise.

You may notice that some species have moved to new locations in the pages that follow. This is to remain compliant with the latest ordering changes from the American Ornithologists Union (see article on page 36).

Alan Delorey
Winter Editor

Loons through Vultures

There was only one report of Red-throated Loon, Surf Scoter, and White-winged Scoter for the entire winter season. Clearly we need more reports of these species. Common Loon numbers at the coast were typical. Four Pied-billed Grebes lingered into December. It was interesting to note that there were a couple of reports of both Horned and Red-necked Grebes from inland locations. Turkey Vultures were on the early side, with the first report on February 7.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Red-throated Loon				
02-13	2	Hampton	off Bicentennial Pk.	R.& M. Suomala
Common Loon				
12-19	1	Littleton	Samuel Moore Dam	B. Bradley
01-05	20	Rye	n. of the harbor	R. Crowley
01-06	12	Rye	Ragged Neck	R. Crowley
02-27	25	Rye	Rye Harbor	S. Mirick, D. Crook, M. Krenitsky, P. Hunt
Pied-billed Grebe				
12-06	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	G. Prazar
12-09	1	Rye	Eel Pond	A. Ports
12-13	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	G. Prazar
12-17	1	Newington	Fabyan Pt., Great Bay	S. Mirick
Horned Grebe				
12-19	8	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	A.& B. Delorey
01-18	1	Ashland	Squam R. just above dam	J. Williams
01-24	1	Laconia	Winnepesaukee R. by Martel's Bait Shop	J. Williams, H. Anderson
02-06	35		NH coast	A.& B. Delorey
02-12	10	Hampton	Great Boars Head	R.& B. Becker
Red-necked Grebe				
12-01	1	New London	Pleasant Lake	P. Newbern
12-18	1	Laconia	L. Winnisquam, Bartlett Beach	R. Quinn
12-19	8	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	A.& B. Delorey
Northern Gannet				
12-19	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	A.& B. Delorey
02-09	8		offshore pelagic trip	S. Mirick, D. Green, D. Abbott, D. Finch
02-15	3		offshore	S. Mirick, D. Green, D. Finch
Great Cormorant				
12-24	18	Rye	Concord Pt.	A.& B. Delorey
01-06	4	Rye	n. of Pulpit Rock	R. Crowley
Double-crested Cormorant				
12-10	1	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick, D. Fotiadis

Great Blue Heron

12-06	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	G. Prazar
12-17	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
12-19	1	Dover	across from Tuttle's Red Barn	G. Prazar
01-15	1	Newmarket	off Bay Rd.	S. Mirick

Turkey Vulture

12-14	1	Keene	landfill	P. Hunt
02-07	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	B. Delorey
02-17	3	Dover	Rt. 95, between exits 8 & 9	W. Arms
02-27	1	Concord	Rt. 93, mile 42	H. Chary

Waterfowl

One of the Tundra Swans that arrived on Great Bay last fall stayed until its demise. When the rest of the flock departed, one bird stayed, suggesting that it may not have been well or may have been an old bird. A drake Wood Duck spent a second winter at a pond near the Portsmouth Hospital. An immature drake Northern Shoveler in Rye in early January was a late straggler. A Green-winged Teal in Enfield on December 20 was notably far north for that late date, and five in Nashua on December 27 was a nice find. As usual, a couple of spring migrant Canvasbacks slipped through the state in February, pausing ever so briefly at Great Bay. A female King Eider wintered along the coast for the third consecutive year, seen mostly around Rye Harbor.

A sighting from Seabrook may have been the same bird. A flock of 200 Oldsquaw off Seabrook Beach was notably large for New Hampshire. There were the usual Barrow's Goldeneye reports from Great Bay and the Lakes region.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Tundra Swan				
12-01	2	Orford	Upper Baker Pond	D. Govatski
12-09	1	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
01-06	1	Newmarket	off Bay Rd. near Durham/ Newmarket line	S. Mirick
Snow Goose				
12-06	200	Monroe	Connecticut R.	P. Powers
12-20	1	Kensington		D. Finch
02-22	6	Merrimack	Rt. 101A marshland	P. Yoffe
Brant				
02-12	20		NH coast	M. Resch
Wood Duck				
01-01	1	Portsmouth	Liberty Mutual duck pond	S. Mirick, J. Matthews
02-27	1	Portsmouth	Portsmouth Hospital duck pond	S. Mirick, P. Hunt, et al.
Green-winged Teal				
12-20	1	Enfield	Mascoma Lake	P. Hunt
12-27	5	Nashua	Salmon Brook, w. of Fields Grove Pk.	J. Kegley

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Northern Pintail				
01-25	1	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
02-27	1	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick, D. Crook, et al.
02-27	2	Newcastle	off Rt. 1B	S. Mirick, P. Hunt, et al.
02-28	1	Newmarket	below dam on Lamprey R.	S. Mirick
Northern Shoveler				
01-05	1	Rye	s. of harbor, w. side of Rt. 1A	R. Crowley
Gadwall				
12-19	2	Newington	Herods Cove from Fabyans Pt., Great Bay	S. Mirick
12-24	1	Greenland	Sunset Landing	A.& B. Delorey
American Wigeon				
12-12	60	Greenland	Sunset Landing	A.& B. Delorey
02-18	33	Greenland	Sunset Farm, Great Bay	S. Mirick
Canvasback				
02-14	2	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
Ring-necked Duck				
12-11	6	Salem	World End Pond	K. Folsom
12-13	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	G. Prazar
12-21	25	Concord	Long Pond	P. Niswander
01-24	1	Tilton	Winnepesaukee R. near Rt. 140 bridge	J. Williams
02-24	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	T. Vazzano
Greater Scaup				
12-12	675	Greenland	Sunset Landing	A.& B. Delorey
02-26	800	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
Lesser Scaup				
12-16	3	Derry	wastewater treatment plant	A. Delorey
Common Eider				
02-15	500	Rye	offshore near Andersons Ledge	S. Mirick, D. Green, D. Finch
King Eider				
12-05	1	Rye	inside Rye Harbor	S. Mirick
01-30	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	A.& B. Delorey
02-27	1	Rye	inside Rye Harbor	S. Mirick, P. Hunt, et al..
Harlequin Duck				
12-27	1	Nashua	Nashua R., Canal St.	J.& L. Kegley
Oldsquaw				
12-19	200	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	A.& B. Delorey
Black Scoter				
12-19	78	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	A.& B. Delorey
02-13	76	Hampton	Hampton Beach	A.& B. Delorey
Common Goldeneye				
12-30	76	Gilford	Lake Winnepesaukee, near Ellacoya St. Pk.	N. Fuchs

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
01-03	89	Sanbornton	Lower Bay Rd., Lake Winnisquam	J. Williams
01-17	50	Durham	Little Bay duck roost	S. Mirick, M. Medeiros
Barrow's Goldeneye				
12-06	1	Stratham	Sandy Pt.	R. Woodward
01-03	1	Sanbornton	Lower Bay Rd., Lake Winnisquam	J. Williams
Bufflehead				
01-17	125	Durham	Little Bay duck roost	S. Mirick, M. Medeiros
Hooded Merganser				
12-05	16	Holderness	Squam & Little Squam Lakes	J. Williams
12-12	20	Monroe	Connecticut R.	B. Bradley
01-03	24	Sanbornton	Lower Bay Rd., Lake Winnisquam	J. Williams
01-31	26	Laconia	Lake Winnisquam Winnepesaukee R. by Martel's Bait Shop	J. Williams
Common Merganser				
12-03	200	Moultonborough	Squam Lake	T. Vazzano
12-04	50	Dublin	Howe Reservoir	M. Johnson
12-05	49	Orford	Upper Baker Pond	B. Taffe
12-05	90	Middleton	Sunrise Lake	S. Snyder
02-19	40	Exeter	Exeter R., Swasey Pkwy.	M.& G. Prazar
02-26	20	Manchester	Merrimack R. by Intervale CC	J. Doherty
Red-breasted Merganser				
01-17	50	Durham	Little Bay duck roost	S. Mirick, M. Medeiros
Ruddy Duck				
12-05	2	Middleton	Sunrise Lake	S. Snyder

Hawks

An Osprey in New Boston in December was a late migrant. Nine Bald Eagles seen going to a roost at Wilcox Point on Great Bay was an impressive concentration. A total of 49 (25 adults, 7 sub-adults, 17 immatures) were tallied in the state this winter, down from 58 last year. Totals for each region were: Great Bay - 11, Lakes Region - 9, lower Merrimack River - 8, Androscoggin River - 4, Connecticut River - 6, other - 11. The largest decline was in the Merrimack River region which was down from a record high of 22 birds in the winter of 1996-97 and 11 in 1997-98. Northern Harrier reports were up this year. Four Rough-legged Hawks was the best showing for this species in several years. Winter Merlin sightings continued to increase in the coastal region. The only Peregrine Falcon report for Manchester this winter came from the Manchester CBC. As usual, nesting Peregrines were back on cliff sites in northern New Hampshire in February.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Osprey				
12-13	1	New Boston	over Piscataquog R., town center	M.& R. Suomala

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Northern Harrier				
12-19	1		Saxtons River CBC-NH sightings	
12-24	1	Rye	marsh along Rt. 1A	A.& B. Delorey
01-02	1	Rye	near Rye Harbor	S. Mirick
01-10	2	Hampton	marsh, w. side of Rt.1A	R. Aaronian
01-11	1	Rye	along Rt. 1A	S. Mirick, J. Matthews
01-19	1	Rye	marsh across from harbor	R. Crowley
Sharp-shinned Hawk				
12-12	1	Rumney	Quincy Bog	B. Taffe
12-27	1	Monroe	village	P. Powers
01-06	1	Rye	Ragged Neck	R. Crowley
01-08	1	Jaffrey	Highland Ave.	B. Elliott
01-11	1	New London	Pingree Rd.	R. Vernon
01-12	2	Monroe	village	E. Emery, P. Powers
01-24	1	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B.& M. Harris, D. Moore
02-14	1	Middleton	residence	S. Snyder
02-15	1	Nashua	residence	J.& B. Ayer
02-20	1	Plymouth	Pine Gate Rd.	J. Williams
Cooper's Hawk				
12-19	1		Saxtons River CBC-NH sightings	
12-25	1	Exeter	residence	G. Prazar
01-04	1	Salem	residence	K. Folsom
02-07	1	Enfield	Oak Grove cemetery	P. Hunt
02-10	1	Rye	jct. of Rts. 1 & 1A	T. Vazzano
02-27	1	Durham	Chesley Dr.	M. Davis
Northern Goshawk				
12-01	1	Plymouth	Pinegate Rd. residence	J. Williams
12-13	1	Plymouth	jct. of Rts. 3 & 25	J. Williams
01-01	1	Plymouth	Pine Gate Rd.	J. Williams
02-11	1	Newmarket	Pendergast Rd. backyard	J. Doherty
02-15	2	Dover	NHF&G WMA, Bellamy R.	D. Wells, J. Lanier
02-20	1	Lancaster	Wesson Rd.	D. Skeels
02-26	1	Walpole	Rt.12, Aching Acres Farm	H. Beck
Red-shouldered Hawk				
01-15	1	Hudson	Griffin Rd. backyard	L.& J. Kegley
Rough-legged Hawk				
12-15	1	Piermont	River Rd.	P. Hunt
01-12	1	Newmarket	downtown	S. Mirick
01-27	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
02-07	1	Manchester	Campbell St.	W. Goodwill
American Kestrel				
01-31	1	Manchester	Rt.293, median near Mall of NH	H. Chary
Merlin				
12-17	1	Newington	off McIntyre Rd	S. Mirick
01-29	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	S. Mirick
01-30	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	A.& B. Delorey
02-07	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	S. Mirick
02-23	1	Rye	Rt.1A, between Eel Pond & Jenness Beach	L. Ring

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Peregrine Falcon				
12-06	1	Plymouth	Longview Farm, Quincy Rd.	A. & C. Ports
12-07	1	Lyme	Holts Ledge	C. Martin, M. Amaral, R. Mesta
01-02	1	Chester	jct. Rt. 102 & Sandown Rd.	B. Delorey
01-26	1	Rye	Rye Ledge	S. Mirick
02-10	2	Lyme	Holts Ledge	C. Martin
02-14	1	Haverhill	n. of Grafton County complex, Woodsville	F. Krauss

Chukar through Alcids

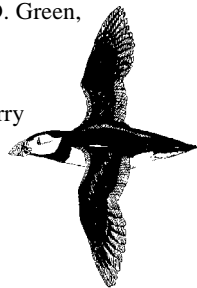
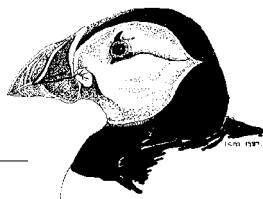
A Chukar in Berlin, reported as tame, was most likely a released or escaped bird. There was a very large count of 120 Wild Turkeys from Bath. Many American Coots lingered into December, and one apparently wintered in Tilton. Sanderling numbers were up this year. Six American Woodcocks in Jefferson were unusually far north for the late date of December 6. The dark-eyed Iceland Gull wintered at Seabrook Harbor for its sixth consecutive year. There were several reports of Lesser Black-backed Gulls. This species seems to be on the increase in New Hampshire.

The big story of the season was the amazing influx of alcids. What a treat for birders to see so many Thick-billed Murres close to shore off Hampton Beach this winter! All six east-coast alcid species were found in New Hampshire this winter, making it the best showing for alcids in years. Unfortunately, the only **Atlantic Puffin** reported was an injured bird picked up on Hampton Beach and taken to a rehabilitation center in Maine. This bird was later transferred to the New England Aquarium, in Boston. Likewise, the only **Common Murre** found was a dead bird picked up on Hampton Beach.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Ruffed Grouse				
12-01	1	Livermore	Tripoli Rd.	J. Williams, J. Haartz
12-14	2	Livermore	off Tripoli Rd.	J. Williams, S. Nistler
12-16	3	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
01-05	1	Livermore	near end of Mack Brook Rd.	J. Williams
01-07	1	Pembroke	N. Pembroke Rd.	K. Palfy
Wild Turkey				
12-27	120	Bath	Rt. 135	P. Powers
01-26	36	Haverhill	cornfield off Rt. 10, N. Haverhill	B. Bradley
02-03	40	Henniker	Rt. 114	P. Furness
02-22	56	Monroe	farm field, N. Monroe	B. Bradley
American Coot				
12-03	6	Salem	World End Pond	K. Folsom
12-03	40	Kingston	Powwow Pond	K. Folsom
12-05	2	Middleton	Sunrise Lake	R. Mains, W. Bartlett
12-06	2	Exeter	Powder House Pond	G. Prazar
01-31	1	Tilton	River St. along Winnepesaukee	R. J. Williams
02-07	1	Tilton	Winnepesaukee R. by River Rd.	J. Williams

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Sanderling				
01-21	259	Rye	Rye Ledge	S. Mirick
02-14	100	Rye	offshore rock, North Beach	D. Deifik
02-22	300	Rye	Wallis Sands Beach	L.& J. Beattie
Purple Sandpiper				
12-24	24	Rye	Rye Ledge	A.& B. Delorey
01-21	33	Rye	Rye Ledge	S. Mirick
02-13	60	Hampton	rocks off mouth of harbor	R.& M. Suomala
Dunlin				
01-21	5	Rye	Rye Ledge	S. Mirick
American Woodcock				
12-06	6	Jefferson	sw. of Pondicherry WS	G. Gavutis
Bonaparte's Gull				
01-01	450	Hampton	Rocky Bend	R. Aaronian
Iceland Gull				
12-12	1	Seabrook	marina	A.& B. Delorey
12-24	1	Seabrook	marina	A.& B. Delorey
12-29	1	Nashua	on Nashua R. behind Sanders	D. Deifik, R. Andrews
01-18	1	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
01-19	2	Dover	downtown	S. Mirick
01-19	2	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
02-07	2	Dover	Scammel Bridge	S. Mirick
02-07	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	M.& R. Suomala
02-11	2	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
02-12	1	Rye	Rye Beach	M. Resch
02-12	1	Hampton	Boars Head	M. Resch
02-20	1	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd.	P. Hunt, M. Krenitsky, et al.
Lesser Black-backed Gull				
02-07	1	Rye	s. of Odiorne Pt.	S. Mirick, R.& M. Suomala
02-11	2	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
02-17	2	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, D. Green, M. Wittner
02-22	2	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
02-24	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Harbor	T. Vazzano
Glaucous Gull				
01-16	1	Durham	off Wilcox Pt.	S. Mirick, P. Wellenberger
01-19	3	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
02-07	2	Dover	Scammel Bridge	S. Mirick
02-07	1	Lisbon	Ammonoosuc R., Lisbon landfill	B. Bradley, E. Emery, P. Powers
02-11	5	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
02-15	1		18 miles offshore	S. Mirick, D. Green, D. Finch
Black-legged Kittiwake				
02-09	8	Rye	offshore	S. Mirick, D. Green, D. Abbott, D. Finch
02-15	8		offshore at various locations	S. Mirick, D. Green, D. Finch

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Dovekie				
02-06	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	A.& B. Delorey
02-12	7	Hampton	Hampton Beach & n. of Boars Head	M. Resch, J. Bleiler
02-27	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	A. Delorey
Common Murre				
02-07	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	R.& M. Suomala, D. Hopkins, S. Mirick
Thick-billed Murre				
01-16	1	Rye	Ragged Neck	C. Federer
01-26	1	Rye	Straw Pt.	S. Mirick
01-29	5		NH coast	S. Mirick
01-30	2	Hampton	Great Boars Head	A.& B. Delorey
01-31	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach	C. Pinard
02-06	12	Hampton	Great Boars Head	A.& B. Delorey
02-06	3	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	A.& B. Delorey
02-06	4	Hampton	Bicentennial Pk.	A.& B. Delorey
02-07	8		NH coast	S. Mirick, R.& M. Suomala
02-12	7	Hampton	from Hampton Beach St. Pk. to just n. of Boars Head	M. Resch
02-13	1	Hampton	n. end of Seabrook Beach	R.& M. Suomala
02-13	6	Hampton	Hampton Beach	A.& B. Delorey
02-27	1	Hampton	s. side of Great Boars Head	S. Mirick, P. Hunt, et al.
02-27	13	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	A.& B. Delorey
Razorbill				
12-05	2	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	R. Woodward
02-06	3	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	A.& B. Delorey
02-09	210	Rye	offshore just n. of New Scantum	S. Mirick, D. Green, D. Abbott, D. Finch
02-15	25	Rye	offshore at various locations	S. Mirick, D. Green, D. Finch
Black Guillemot				
12-05	3	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	R. Woodward
12-12	10	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	A.& B. Delorey
12-24	5	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	A.& B. Delorey
02-06	3	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	A.& B. Delorey
02-09	14	Rye	offshore around Isles of Shoals	S. Mirick, D. Green, D. Abbott, D. Finch
02-10	1	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	T. Vazzano
02-15	8	Rye	offshore near Isles of Shoals	S. Mirick, D. Green, D. Finch
Atlantic Puffin				
01-25	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach	K. McElmurry



Owls through Waxwings

An **Ash-throated Flycatcher** was confirmed in Lyme in early December, providing a first state record. Normally a summer resident of the southwest and west coast, this is a bird that was long overdue in New Hampshire, given its pattern of vagrancy in the northeast. There were two reports of Ash-throated Flycatchers in Massachusetts and one in Maine at about the same time.

Two Short-eared Owl reports continued the strong showing that this species made throughout New England during the fall season. Northern Shrikes were scarce, with only two reports outside of the CBCs. Carolina Wrens rebounded, with seven individuals reported. Two Hermit Thrushes exemplified this species' ability to survive the winter. Not a single Bohemian Waxwing was reported for the entire season.

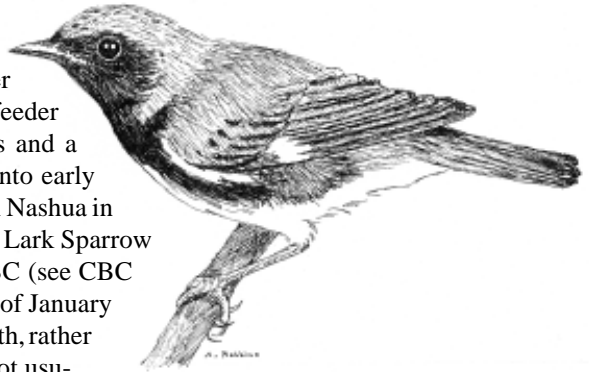
<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Great Horned Owl				
01-12	1	Moultonborough	Rt.109, near dump	T. Vazzano
01-25	2	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
01-28	2	Exeter	Elliot St.	R. Aaronian
02-28	1	Meredith	Chemung Rd. heron rookery	J. Williams
Barred Owl				
12-06	1	Plymouth	Beech Hill Rd.	J. Williams
12-19	1		Saxtons River CBC-NH sightings	
12-31	1	Tamworth	Tall Pines Rd. residence	C. & J. Tewksbury
01-22	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
02-02	1	Thornton	Tripoli Rd.	J. Williams
02-25	2		hillside s. of Tripoli Rd.	J. Williams
Short-eared Owl				
01-12	1	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick, D. Fotiades
01-21	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt.	S. Mirick, K. Abbott
01-21	1	Laconia	Prescott Farm Audubon Center	A. McIntyre
Northern Saw-whet Owl				
12-09	1	Sandwich	Holderness Rd., Rt.113	T. Vazzano
12-28	1	Errol	off Rt. 16	S. Mirick, T. Hall
01-20	1	Monroe	residence	J. Cate
02-21	1	Dorchester	River Rd.	M. Verrano
02-27	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
Red-bellied Woodpecker				
12-16	1	Canterbury	Mt. Hackleboro Rd.	B. Blair
12-24	1	Milford	Adams St.	R. Carson
12-28	1	Hampstead	Marilyn Park Dr. residence	L. Kegley
12-31	1	Concord	SPNHF	R. Quinn, J. Difley
01-01	1	Canterbury	Baptist Hill Rd.	V. Chase
01-09	1	Dunbarton	Robert Rogers Rd.	D. Schroeder
01-16	1	Jaffrey	Mountain Rd.	J. Gregory
01-17	1	Boscawen	Forest Lane	M. Trembley
01-21	1	Atkinson	Christian Dr.	B. Chaves
01-24	1	Boscawen	Forest Lane	M. Tremblay

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
01-26	1	Canterbury	Baptist Hill Rd.	V. Chase
01-28	1	Jaffrey	Mountain Rd.	D. Anderson
02-04	1	Concord	SPNHF	R. Quinn
02-11	1	Atkinson		B. Chavers
02-18	1	Dover	Penny Lane, S. Dover	unknown
02-27	1	Loudon	Bee Hill Rd.	Mr. & Mrs. R. Keniston
Black-backed Woodpecker				
02-20	1	Benton	Mt. Moosilauke	D. Lacey
Ash-throated Flycatcher				
12-06	1	Lyme	River Rd.	H. Swartz, A. Flood, A.& B. Delorey, P. Hunt, M. Krenitsky, S. Mirick, D. Abbott, et al.
Northern Shrike				
12-04	1	Sandwich	Whiteface Intervale	T. Vazzano
01-11	1	Chatham	residence	R. Crowley
Gray Jay				
01-16	3	Dixville	around Mud Pond	J.& D. Romano
Common Raven				
12-26	1	Chatham	Bradley Brook Trail	R.& S. Crowley
01-20	10	Livermore	near Little East Pond Trail	J. Williams
02-27	2	Rochester	Rochester Lagoons	S. Mirick, M. Krenitsky, et al.
Horned Lark				
01-10	100	Litchfield	Rodonis Farms fields west of Rt 3A	J. Kegley
01-31	15	Haverhill	Brian Hill Rd., N. Haverhill	E. Emery, P. Powers
02-06	5	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	A.& B. Delorey
Boreal Chickadee				
12-04	2	Sargents Purchase	Tuckerman's Ravine Trail at Hermit Lake	R. Crowley
Brown Creeper				
12-04	1	Chatham	Green Hill Rd. residence	R. Crowley
12-13	2	Rumney	Quincy Bog	B. Taffe
12-27	1	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	W.& M. Harris
01-12	2	Newbury	Hay Reservation	P. Newbern
01-21	2	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
02-10	1	Kensington	Rt.107 residence	G. Gavutis
02-19	1	Salisbury	Mountain Rd.	S. Gage
02-23	3	Thornton	hillside n. of Tripoli Rd.	J. Williams
02-25	2	Newbury	Hay NWR	P. Newbern
Carolina Wren				
12-10	1	Center Harbor	Old Meredith Rd.	J. Merrill
12-27	1	Nashua	along RR n. of David St.	D.& G. Deifik
01-10	1	Concord	Fisherville Rd.	B. Lassonde
01-18	1	Monroe	resident feeder	E. Emery, P. Powers, J. Cate D. Bedell, B. Bradley

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
01-25	1	Weare	Clough Park Rd.	G. Peterson
02-17	1	Nashua	Dublin Ave.	M. Haig
02-21	1	Pembroke	Rt. 3 near Plausawa Valley CC	W. Goodwill
Winter Wren				
12-19	1		Saxtons River CBC-NH sightings	
12-27	1	Londonderry	Little Cohas Brook	H. Chary
Marsh Wren				
12-03	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
Golden-crowned Kinglet				
12-20	16	Chatham	Butter Hill Rd.	R. & S. Crowley
01-12	9	Newbury	Hay Reservation	P. Newbern
02-28	25	Sanbornton	Osgood Rd.	R. Perkins
Eastern Bluebird				
12-16	5	Auburn	Massabesic Center	S. Mirick, M. LeBlanc, R. Suomala
12-26	4	Kensington	Stumpfield Rd.	A. & B. Delorey
01-01	6	Litchfield	Circle Dr.	J. Gilbride
01-13	4	Epping	Cody Dr.	B. Homestellar
01-22	8	Kensington	Cottage Hill	G. Gavutis
01-24	4	Benton	Rt. 25	A. Ports
01-27	10	Hollis	N. Pepperell Rd. residence	J. Allard
01-31	7	Amherst	Black Forest Inn	D. Sherwood
02-04	6	Hollis	Rt. 111, just n. of MA state line	R. Creamer
Hermit Thrush				
12-30	1	Newbury	Stoney Brook WS	C. Martin
01-12	1	Northumberland	residence	C. Haas
American Robin				
12-16	60	Lincoln	Kancamagus Hgwy.	B. Bradley
12-19	57		Saxtons River CBC-NH sightings	
12-19	50	Lincoln	Hancock Ridge Trail	E. MacKinnen, F. Lavigne
01-21	52	Carroll	Mt. Washington Hotel golf course	B. Bradley
01-23	1000	Benton	fields along Rt. 25	A. Ports
02-16	150	Dunbarton	residence	D. Dunn
02-20	60	Raymond	Randy Ln. off Blueberry Hill Rd.	J. McLaughlin
02-23	57	Chester	Hillside Haven	B. Delorey
02-25	166	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd.	B. Bradley
Varied Thrush				
01-11	1	Pembroke	Sherwood Meadows	V. & G. Blais
Cedar Waxwing				
12-16	300	Lincoln	Kancamagus Hgwy.	B. Bradley
12-19	284		Saxtons River CBC-NH sightings	
12-23	60	Exeter	Buzzell Ave., near hospital	G. Prazar
01-21	115	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd. landfill	B. Bradley
01-31	72	Plymouth	town common	J. Williams
02-25	80	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd. landfill	B. Bradley

Warblers through Snow Bunting

Several hardy warblers braved the cold this winter. A first-year male Black-throated Blue Warbler spent the entire winter season at a feeder in Stratham. Two Palm Warblers and a Common Yellowthroat lingered into early December. Two Field Sparrows in Nashua in late December were a bit tardy. A Lark Sparrow was observed on the Seacoast CBC (see CBC section). A Fox Sparrow spent all of January and February at a feeder in Plymouth, rather far north for a species that does not usually winter in New Hampshire.



<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Black-throated Blue Warbler				
12-20	1	Stratham		D. Finch
12-21	1	Stratham	off Stratham Heights Rd	S. Mirick, D. Abbott, D. Finch
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
02-03	1	Bedford	Heritage Trail	D. Deifik
02-27	1	Greenland	e. of Wings Pt.	S. Mirick, P. Hunt, et al.
02-28	1	Kensington	Rt.107 residence ponds	G. Gavutis
Pine Warbler				
01-15	1	Bedford	backyard birdfeeder	E. Mario, J. Nelson
02-13	2	Jaffrey	Squantum Rd.	M. Shannon
Palm Warbler				
12-03	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
12-05	1	Rye	off Rt. 1A near Eel Pond	S. Mirick
Ovenbird				
12-17	1	Newington	off McIntyre Rd.	S. Mirick
Common Yellowthroat				
12-03	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
American Tree Sparrow				
12-16	20	Derry	wastewater treatment plant	A. Delorey
12-19	448		Saxtons River CBC-NH sightings	
01-22	13	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
01-31	20	Concord	residence	R. Woodward
02-21	16		Lower Mascoma Lake census tr.	P. Hunt
Chipping Sparrow				
01-24	1	Plymouth	Pine Gate Rd.	J.& R. Williams
02-27	1	Madbury		S. Mirick, P. Hunt, D. Crook, M. Krenitsky

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Field Sparrow				
12-27	2	Nashua	Greeley Park along RR	D.& G. Deifik
Lark Sparrow				
12-20	1	Hampton	D. Finch	
12-24	1	Hampton	Rt. 101 marsh, church parking lot	A.& B. Delorey
Grasshopper Sparrow				
12-19	1	Stratham	fields off Squamscott Rd.	J. Silver, D. Hopkins, J. Laboree
Fox Sparrow				
01-07	1	Plymouth	Pine Gate Rd.	R. Williams
Song Sparrow				
12-27	1	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	W.& M. Harris
01-05	1	Rye	s. of swim club	R. Crowley
01-28	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
02-14	1	Laconia	Laconia CC	H. Anderson
02-28	2	Tilton	Silver Lake beside power plant	J. Williams
White-throated Sparrow				
12-19	6		Saxtons River CBC-NH sightings	
01-01	1	Middleton	residence	S. Snyder
01-06	1	Peterborough	Nichols Rd.	R. Frechette
01-07	1	Concord	residence	R. Woodward
01-27	1	Monroe	residence feeder	E. Emery, P. Powers
01-28	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
02-05	1	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd. landfill	B. Bradley
Dark-eyed Junco				
12-19	132		Saxtons River CBC-NH sightings	
12-22	20	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
01-04	13	Plymouth	Pine Gate Rd.	J.& R. Williams
01-07	4	Pembroke	N. Pembroke Rd.	K. Palfy
01-09	12	Bedford	Ministerial Rd.	I. Saidel-Goley
01-10	42	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
01-18	7	Monroe	residence	E. Emery
01-28	1	Nashua	residence	J. Ayer
02-13	38	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
Snow Bunting				
12-01	6	Sandwich	fairgrounds	T. Vazzano
12-04	11	Sandwich	Whiteface Intervale	T. Vazzano
12-19	1		Saxtons River CBC-NH sightings	
01-01	40	Rye	Concord Pt.	H. Chary, D. Fitch, J. Monroe
01-22	95	Derry	Old Auburn Rd.	C. Blaszczak
01-28	100	Epsom	North Rd. cornfields	D. Davis
01-31	18	Haverhill	Briar Hill Rd., N. Haverhill	E. Emery, P. Powers
02-01	2	Salem	Brady Ave.	M. Campbell
02-03	40	Haverhill	Airport Rd., N. Haverhill	B. Bradley

Blackbirds through Evening Grosbeak

The vanguard of spring-migrant Red-winged Blackbirds appeared in Kensington on February 4, a week earlier than last year. Two Rusty Blackbirds on the Saxtons River CBC were a good winter find. A Common Grackle lingered into December in Enfield. Winter finches were way down from last year's levels. There was only one report of Pine Grosbeaks, only a handful of Red- and White-winged Crossbills, and only one Common Redpoll report. The only exception in this category was a good showing of Purple Finches.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Red-winged Blackbird				
12-19	1		Saxtons River CBC-NH sightings	
02-04	1	Kensington	Rt.107 residence	G. Gavutis
02-12	1	Madbury	Nute Rd.	T. Chase
02-15	1	E. Kingbury	Rt.107	P. Greer
02-16	1	Kensington	Rt.107 residence	G. Gavutis
02-17	9	Dunbarton	front yard	D. Dunn
02-18	25	Kensington	Rt.107 residence	G. Gavutis
02-21	1	Enfield	Main Street Pond	P. Hunt
02-22	1	Concord	near Dunkin Donuts	D. Bougoigne
02-23	1	Londonderry	Mammoth Rd. by Manchester line	J. Kegley
Rusty Blackbird				
12-19	2		Saxtons River CBC-NH sightings	
01-13	2	Madbury	Chase Farm, Nute Rd.	T.& L. Chase
Common Grackle				
12-20	1	Enfield	Currier Landing	P. Hunt
Brown-headed Cowbird				
12-17	100	Stratham	fields off Sqamscott Rd.	S. Mirick
12-19	3		Saxtons River CBC-NH sightings	
12-26	1	Chatham	Rt.113 & Barnes Rd.	R.& S. Crowley
01-08	1	Durham	Magrath Rd.	C. Federer
01-18	3	Monroe	resident feeder	E. Emery, P. Powers
Pine Grosbeak				
01-18	4	Dixville	Balsams Resort	J. Romano
Purple Finch				
12-09	15	Berlin	Argonne St.	K. Dube
12-11	10	Berlin	Argonne St.	K. Dube
12-16	50	Berlin	Argonne St.	K. Dube
12-27	52	Plymouth	fairgrounds & Loon Lake Rd.	J. Williams
02-25	10	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd. landfill	B. Bradley
Red Crossbill				
01-21	8	Livermore	Kancamagus Hgwy.	B. Bradley
01-22	2	Chatham	Green Hill Rd.	R. Crowley
02-25	4	Livermore	Kancamagus Hgwy.	B. Bradley

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
White-winged Crossbill				
01-09	1	Livermore	near Little East Pond Trail	J. Williams
02-01	2	Livermore	Meadow Brook snowmobile trail	C.& J. Tewksbury
02-01	2	Livermore	Mack Brook Rd.	J. Williams, J. Gilsdore
02-20	3	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd.	P. Hunt, M. Krenitsky, et al.
02-23	4	Thornton	hillside n. of Tripoli Rd.	J. Williams
02-25	10	Livermore	Kancamagus Hgwy.	B. Bradley
Common Redpoll				
01-15	12	Moultonborough	Daignan Dr.	D. Rock
Pine Siskin				
12-27	5	Plymouth	Quincy Rd. by Longview Farm	J. Williams
02-07	30	Bath	Rt. 135	P. Powers
02-07	2	Columbia	residence	D.& B. Killam
02-19	2	Woodstock	Tripoli Rd. gate	J. Williams
02-20	30	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd.	P. Hunt, M. Krenitsky, et al..
02-27	1	Durham	off Madbury Rd	S. Mirick, P. Hunt, et al.
Evening Grosbeak				
12-13	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
12-16	5	Livermore	Mack Brook Rd., s. of Scaur Ridge	J. Williams
12-26	12	Middleton	residence	S. Snyder
01-05	2	Livermore	near Little East Pond Trail	J. Williams
01-13	5	Thornton	house along Rt.3	J. Williams
01-22	3	Goshen	Rand Farm	G. Stansfield
01-27	1	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
02-21	5	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
02-25	1	Thornton	Tripoli Rd.	J. Williams
02-28	18	Plymouth	Pine Gate Rd.	J.& R. Williams

Christmas Bird Count Summary

Statewide Highlights

There were several statewide CBC highlights this year. Nashua-Hollis reported a Harlequin Duck, a very rare inland sighting in New Hampshire, plus Field and Savannah Sparrows. Peterborough-Hancock had a Wood Duck, a rare bird in winter. Keene had the only Rough-legged Hawk on the New Hampshire CBCs this year. The Seacoast count reported two Turkey Vultures again this year (as in 1977), a Tundra Swan, four Gadwall, nine Ruddy Ducks, four American Woodcock, a Black-throated Blue Warbler, a Lark Sparrow, and a Grasshopper Sparrow. The Isles of Shoals count was not run this year. Lee-Durham reported two Snow Geese, two American Wigeon, a Lesser Scaup, a Black Scoter, nine Northern Bobwhite, and three Killdeer. The Concord count located its first-ever Green-winged Teal and a Hermit Thrush (rare in winter). Laconia had its first-ever Snow Goose, second-ever Canvasback, and rare winter visits from an American Coot and two Hermit Thrushes. Hanover also hosted a Wood Duck and a Green-winged Teal. Baker Valley logged two Tundra Swans, rare at any time or place in New Hampshire. Littleton reported a Black-backed Woodpecker during the count week. Errol's two Red Crossbills were the only ones on any New Hampshire CBC this winter. Pittsburg was the only count to find Pine Grosbeaks. Lake Sunapee reported a Brown Thrasher.

Several counts had record-high totals for Golden-crowned Kinglet and American Tree Sparrow. Lots of lingering waterfowl produced several first-count records and many record-high totals for various species of waterfowl. Crossbills were restricted to the very northern tip of the state. Evening Grosbeak numbers were down; there were very few at all outside of the north country. Pine Siskins were well distributed in all regions except for the southeastern section and the Lakes region. Redpolls were essentially non-existent.

Individual Count Highlights

The Nashua-Hollis CBC posted its highest totals of Great Blue Heron (6, which tied 1995), Canada Goose (1739), Green-winged Teal (6), Cooper's Hawk (3), Common Raven (3), Golden-crowned Kinglet (36), and Eastern Bluebird (36).

The Peterborough-Hancock CBC reported high totals for Common Merganser (24), Red-tailed Hawk (6), Horned Lark (15), American Robin (16), Cedar Waxwing (344), American Tree Sparrow (101), and its first-ever Northern Flicker.

Keene tallied high totals for Common Loon (5), American Black Duck (82), Mallard (219), Bufflehead (7), and American Tree Sparrow (101).

Waterfowl seemed to be the big event of the Seacoast count with record-high totals for Mute Swan (124), Surf Scoter (128), Hooded Merganser (6), and Ruddy Duck (9), plus its first ever Snow Goose (two birds), a Tundra Swan, two Wood Ducks, four Gadwall, and 53 American Wigeon. Three Greater Yellowlegs were a month late. A Black-throated Blue Warbler provided a first count record.

Lee-Durham had record-high totals for American Wigeon (2, tied 1993), Bufflehead (180), Hooded Merganser (6), Common Merganser (11), Cooper's Hawk (4), Ring-

billed Gull (500), Great Horned Owl (11), Brown Creeper (20), Winter Wren (5), Golden-crowned Kinglet (84), and American Tree Sparrow (485). Also notable were the first-ever Snow Goose and Black Scoter, plus a second count record for Killdeer and Gray Catbird.

The Concord CBC turned in record-high counts for Canada Goose (700), American Black Duck (100), Ring-necked Duck (39), Hooded Merganser (60), Bald Eagle (3), Sharp-shinned Hawk (4, tied 1990), Cooper's Hawk (2), Red-tailed Hawk (17), Belted Kingfisher (5), Tufted Titmouse (137), White-breasted Nuthatch (95), Brown Creeper (23), Golden-crowned Kinglet (53), Northern Mockingbird (20), American Tree Sparrow (48), Song Sparrow (41), and its first-ever Green-winged Teal.

The Laconia-New Hampton count reported record-high totals for Canada Goose (17), Bald Eagle (7), Wild Turkey (24), Golden-crowned Kinglet (118), and Northern Cardinal (64). Also noteworthy were its first-ever Snow Goose and its second Canvasback and Wood Duck. Two Hermit Thrushes were also a great find.

Hanover-Norwich posted its highest totals of Hooded Merganser (13, tied 1994), Wild Turkey (96), Downy Woodpecker (99), American Crow (1858), Tufted Titmouse (88), Brown Creeper (38), Golden-crowned Kinglet (74), American Robin (18), and Northern Cardinal (94). Other notable sightings were second count records for Wood Duck and Green-winged Teal and a Common Yellowthroat seen during the count week.

Baker Valley tallied record-high totals for Golden-crowned Kinglet (16) and American Goldfinch (598), plus its first count record for Tundra Swan and Mallard.

Littleton had its highest totals for Canada Goose (26), American Black Duck (38), Mallard (16), and Common Goldeneye (5). Other notables included a Common Loon (third count record) and a Black-backed Woodpecker (fourth count record).

Errol-Umbagog turned in record-high counts for Bald Eagle (3), Mourning Dove (21), Northern Saw-whet Owl (3), Downy Woodpecker (26), Pileated Woodpecker (8), American Crow (36), Black-capped Chickadee (555), Red-breasted Nuthatch (184), Golden-crowned Kinglet (43), American Robin (52), European Starling (18), and American Tree Sparrow (27). This count also had its first-ever Iceland Gull and second count record for Northern Cardinal. Also notable were three Black-backed Woodpeckers (second-best total ever).

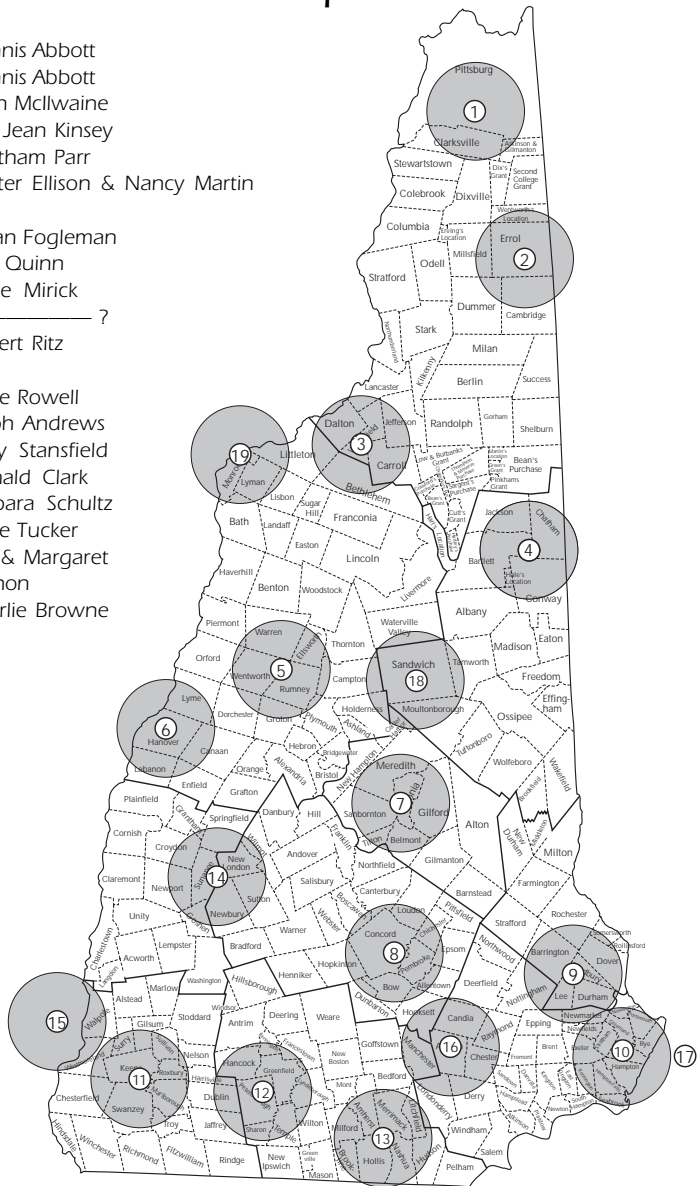
The Pittsburg count reported record-high totals for Downy Woodpecker (23), Common Raven (72), Black-capped Chickadee (494), Boreal Chickadee (54), Red-breasted Nuthatch (147), White-breasted Nuthatch (7), Golden-crowned Kinglet (52), and Purple Finch (512). This count also had its first-ever Northern Mockingbird, which, despite its name, is really a southern bird.

North Conway (started in 1989) reported its first records of Great Horned Owl and Red-winged Blackbird. A Yellow-rumped Warbler seen during the count week was very far north for a warbler in winter.

Lake Sunapee (started in 1990) had high totals of Common Loon (5), Canada Goose (5), American Black Duck (30), Mallard (221), Hooded Merganser (21), Wild Turkey (25), American Crow (160), Common Raven (7), Golden-crowned Kinglet (32), American Tree Sparrow (60), White-throated Sparrow (12), and Northern Cardinal (23). Also notable were the first count record of Belted Kingfisher and second record of Brown Thrasher.

Christmas Bird Count Compilers

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



Manchester (started in 1995) reported notable records of Hooded Merganser (18), Common Merganser (19), a Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet (13), and American Tree Sparrow (109).

Sandwich (in its fourth count year) had notable sightings of a Carolina Wren and a Common Redpoll.

99th Christmas Bird Count: Dec. 18, 1998 - Jan. 3, 1999

species	Nshua	Petrb	Keene	Coast	LeeDu	Cncrd
Red-throated Loon	-	-	-	6	-	-
Common Loon	-	-	5	78	2	-
Pied-billed Grebe	-	-	-	CW	-	-
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	16	-	-
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	-	33	-	-
Great Cormorant	-	-	-	47	-	-
American Bittern	-	-	-	1	-	-
Great Blue Heron	6	-	-	17	2	1
Turkey Vulture	-	-	-	2	-	-
Snow Goose	-	-	-	2	2	-
Canada Goose	1739	148	82	2869	454	700
Mute Swan	-	-	-	124	2	-
Tundra Swan	-	-	-	1	-	-
Wood Duck	1	1	-	2	-	-
Gadwall	-	-	-	4	-	-
Eurasian Wigeon	-	-	-	1	-	-
American Wigeon	-	-	-	53	2	-
American Black Duck	131	3	82	1890	119	100
Mallard	1222	15	219	832	662	333
Green-winged Teal	6	-	-	-	-	2
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	-	-	-	39
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	850	-	-
Lesser Scaup	-	-	-	-	1	-
King Eider	-	-	-	1	-	-
Common Eider	-	-	-	126	-	-
Harlequin Duck	1	-	-	-	-	-
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	128	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	411	-	-
Black Scoter	-	-	-	64	1	-
Oldsquaw	-	-	-	190	-	-
Bufflehead	-	-	7	109	180	-
Common Goldeneye	-	-	12	403	41	49
Barrow's Goldeneye	-	-	-	1	-	-
Hooded Merganser	-	-	-	6	6	60
Common Merganser	53	24	25	52	11	46
Red-br. Merganser	-	-	-	223	30	-
Ruddy Duck	-	-	-	9	-	-
Bald Eagle	1	1	-	5	1	3
Northern Harrier	-	1	-	1	-	-
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	-	1	2	-	4
Cooper's Hawk	3	-	-	7	4	2
Northern Goshawk	1	1	-	-	-	-
Red-tailed Hawk	24	6	3	37	22	17
Rough-legged Hawk	-	-	1	-	-	-
Buteo sp.	-	2	-	-	-	-
American Kestrel	-	1	-	3	2	1
Merlin	-	-	-	CW	-	-
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	-	1	-	-
Ring-necked Pheasant	2	-	-	1	1	1

Lcni	Hnovr	BkrVI	Ltltn	Errol	Pttsb	NCnw	LSunp	Mnch	Sndw	Ttl
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
CW	-	-	1	-	-	-	5	-	-	91
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	47
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
17	-	-	26	-	-	3	5	248	-	6291
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	126
-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	55
233	53	2	38	-	-	-	30	29	-	2710
1026	458	2	16	-	4	-	221	691	2	5703
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	39
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	850
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	126
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	128
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	411
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	65
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	190
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	296
251	7	-	5	-	-	-	17	11	-	796
4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
123	13	-	5	1	-	-	21	18	-	253
89	66	-	-	17	2	-	8	19	-	412
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	254
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
7	2	-	CW	3	-	-	-	2	CW	25
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
1	2	1	CW	-	-	-	1	-	-	16
1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	19
-	CW	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	CW	4
4	10	1	1	2	-	-	1	11	2	141
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5

99th Christmas Bird Count (continued)

species	Nshua	Petrb	Keene	Coast	LeeDu	Cncrd
Ruffed Grouse	2	11	-	3	3	2
Wild Turkey	-	22	-	10	16	6
Northern Bobwhite	-	-	-	-	9	-
American Coot	-	-	-	4	-	-
Killdeer	-	-	-	-	3	-
Greater Yellowlegs	-	-	-	3	-	-
Sanderling	-	-	-	70	-	-
Purple Sandpiper	-	-	-	36	-	-
Dunlin	-	-	-	34	-	-
American Woodcock	-	-	-	4	-	-
Black-headed Gull	-	-	-	1	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	133	5	-
Ring-billed Gull	97	14	-	723	500	90
Herring Gull	789	10	140	2963	4000	52
Iceland Gull	2	-	-	3	4	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	1	2	-
Great Blk Bk Gull	89	2	336	364	908	5
Gull sp.	-	6	612	-	-	-
Black Guillemot	-	-	-	3	-	-
Alcid sp.	-	-	-	1	-	-
Rock Dove	1118	67	205	651	764	683
Mourning Dove	550	215	214	646	580	428
Great Horned Owl	-	-	-	6	11	-
Barred Owl	-	1	-	1	5	-
N. Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	-	1	-
Belted Kingfisher	8	1	1	17	2	5
Red-bel. Woodpecker	2	-	-	1	1	1
Downy Woodpecker	112	48	10	78	133	68
Hairy Woodpecker	57	34	2	35	50	28
Bla.-bac. Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Flicker	12	1	-	34	4	-
Pileated Woodpecker	3	8	3	8	7	3
Northern Shrike	-	-	-	-	1	-
Gray Jay	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue Jay	510	188	73	329	412	319
American Crow	769	318	437	819	796	460
Common Raven	3	9	2	-	3	6
Horned Lark	-	15	-	96	40	-
Black-cap. Chickadee	794	621	130	627	985	658
Boreal Chickadee	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tufted Titmouse	309	87	28	129	241	137
Red-br. Nuthatch	21	19	6	10	34	20
White-br. Nuthatch	162	107	8	113	175	95
Brown Creeper	12	8	2	6	20	23
Carolina Wren	2	-	-	1	-	2
Winter Wren	1	-	-	3	5	3
Marsh Wren	-	-	-	1	-	-
Golden-cr. Kinglet	36	60	7	42	84	53
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	-	-	-	1	-	2
Eastern Bluebird	36	-	-	51	36	1

Lcnia	Hnovr	BkrVI	Ltltn	Errol	Pttsb	NCnw	LSunp	Mnch	Sndw	Ttl
2	3	4	5	9	6	3	2	-	5	60
24	96	1	CW	-	-	-	25	-	-	200
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	138
53	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	435	-	1915
42	1	1	24	-	-	-	-	644	-	8666
-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	11
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
53	17	-	47	-	-	-	2	232	CW	2055
-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	621
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
575	1000	4	53	-	1	47	84	762	20	6034
265	401	89	93	21	27	146	150	33	106	3964
2	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	21
-	CW	-	1	2	1	-	1	-	1	13
-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	4
CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	38
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
91	99	10	7	26	23	14	11	21	48	799
31	53	9	17	7	11	15	8	8	26	391
-	-	-	CW	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	51
2	2	1	2	8	5	-	1	-	1	54
-	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	5
-	-	-	-	7	3	-	-	-	-	10
368	578	41	45	60	52	46	71	80	129	3301
328	1858	66	106	36	7	214	160	244	72	6690
11	13	4	16	49	72	14	7	2	5	216
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	152
1565	2520	319	225	555	494	363	541	224	691	11312
-	-	-	-	10	54	-	-	-	-	64
147	88	15	-	-	-	3	13	62	64	1323
65	131	27	26	184	147	39	13	3	30	775
121	162	18	3	1	7	30	17	20	74	1113
34	38	CW	CW	6	2	-	4	1	10	166
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
118	74	16	-	43	52	16	32	13	58	704
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	124

99th Christmas Bird Count (continued)

species	Nshua	Petrb	Keene	Coast	LeeDu	Cncrd
Hermit Thrush	-	-	-	1	-	1
American Robin	8	16	4	195	161	12
Gray Catbird	-	-	-	-	1	-
N. Mockingbird	66	1	-	72	41	20
Brown Thrasher	-	-	-	-	-	-
European Starling	2144	284	1138	18593	1969	1008
Cedar Waxwing	276	344	322	114	150	65
Black-th. Blue Warbl	-	-	-	1	-	-
Ylw.-rumped Warbler	-	-	-	6	1	-
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-
Ovenbird	-	-	-	CW	-	-
Common Yellowthroat	-	-	-	2	1	-
Am. Tree Sparrow	261	101	24	509	485	480
Chipping Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	2
Field Sparrow	2	-	-	-	-	-
Lark Sparrow	-	-	-	1	-	-
Savannah Sparrow	2	-	-	3	-	-
Grasshopper Sparrow	-	-	-	1	-	-
Song Sparrow	20	-	-	60	15	41
Swamp Sparrow	-	-	-	3	-	-
White-thr. Sparrow	17	-	-	11	8	2
Dark-eyed Junco	441	272	71	358	601	330
Snow Bunting	-	-	-	1	-	30
Northern Cardinal	140	28	12	120	71	40
Red-winged Blackbird	-	-	-	1	1	-
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	-	1	2	1
Common Grackle	-	-	-	1	-	-
Br.-headed Cowbird	-	-	-	230	201	-
Pine Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Finch	2	-	7	1	6	2
House Finch	235	18	15	264	215	204
Red Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whi.-wing. Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Redpoll	-	-	-	2	14	-
Pine Siskin	-	12	5	-	-	-
American Goldfinch	440	361	166	680	1125	154
Evening Grosbeak	-	5	-	-	-	-
House Sparrow	835	235	35	1043	782	195
Number of Species	54	45	38	108	74	57
Number of Participants	30	29	9	34	23	26

Total Number of Species Across all CBCs: 135

? = Questionable Sighting

CW = Count Week

Nshua = Nashua-Hollis (12/27/98)

Petrb = Peterborough-Hancock (12/19/98)

Keene = Keene (12/19/98)

Coast = Seacoast (12/19/98)

LeeDu = Lee-Durham (12/26/98)

Cncrd = Concord (12/27/98)

Lcnia	Hnovr	BkrVI	Ltltn	Errol	Pttsb	NCnw	LSunp	Mnch	Sndw	Ttl
2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
3	18	-	2	52	11	6	2	1	12	503
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
2	3	-	-	-	1	1	CW	13	-	220
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
784	824	162	195	18	65	185	448	1527	83	29427
380	206	-	1	-	-	32	290	17	-	2197
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	7
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
252	212	24	3	27	16	12	60	109	27	2602
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
8	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	149
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
4	3	1	CW	-	-	-	12	-	3	61
686	304	65	6	15	-	21	131	24	201	3526
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	9	-	45
64	94	17	2	2	1	10	23	10	17	651
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3
-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	5
-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	431
-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	4
3	13	1	24	236	512	-	10	-	3	820
199	256	27	24	-	-	-	19	-	18	1494
-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	173	139	-	-	-	-	312
-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	18
-	1	4	CW	106	168	1	-	-	15	312
670	770	96	56	116	51	237	219	138	1007	6286
2	1	-	-	154	87	-	-	-	2	251
483	412	40	35	-	34	101	73	314	8	4625
50	45	32	33	38	32	29	42	40	32	
22	25	13	9	8	7	16	12	10	-	

Lcnia = Laconia-New-Hampton (1/2/99)
 BkrVI = Baker-Valley (12/19/98)
 Errol = Errol-Umbagog (12/28/98)
 NCnw = North-Conway (12/28/98)
 Mnch = Manchester (12/27/98)

Hnovr = Hanover-Norwich (1/1/99)
 Ltltn = Littleton (12/19/98)
 Pttsb = Pittsburg (12/29/98)
 LSunp = Lake-Sunapee (12/19/98)
 Sndw = Sandwich (1/3/99)

New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee Decisions

1998 Decisions

We are continuing to publish the results of the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee (NHRBC) decisions on rare birds. In this issue, you will find the NHRBC decisions for Spring, Summer, and Fall 1998, and Winter 1998-99.

The NHRBC is an independent Technical Advisory Committee to *New Hampshire Bird Records*. It reviews unusual sightings in an effort to maintain accuracy and scientific integrity for both *New Hampshire Bird Records* and the historical database of bird sightings maintained by the Audubon Society of New Hampshire (ASNH). Sightings are evaluated based on the details submitted. A record must have a vote of 7-0 or 6-1 to be accepted by the committee.

A rejection is not an indication that the identification was incorrect but that the information received was not enough to allow its inclusion into the state record. Adequate documentation is the key to whether a report is accepted or not. For information on the committee and its decision-making process, please see the article in the Summer 1996 issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*. The Fall 1996 issue has an article on how to document rare bird sightings. Contact the *New Hampshire Bird Records* Managing Editor at ASNH for a copy of either of these articles.

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

Spring 1998

Species accepted by the committee

Manx Shearwater, offshore Portsmouth on May 30. Photographed.

Red-necked Phalarope, Exeter on May 27. Well described.

Three-toed Woodpecker, Pittsburg on May 16. Well described and in appropriate habitat.

Acadian Flycatcher, Pawtuckaway State Park on May 31. This bird stayed well into the summer and was seen by many observers.

Sedge Wren, Derry on May 19 and 21. Well described by an observer familiar with the species.

Summer Tanager, New London on May 6 and 7. Photographed at a feeder.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Seavey Island (Isles of Shoals) on May 25. A well-described bird from an unusual location for this species.

Dark-eyed Junco, Chester from March 5-21. One of the western subspecies, well described.

Species not accepted by the committee

Greater White-fronted Goose, New London on May 21. Documentation did not convincingly eliminate the more likely domestic goose.

Golden Eagle, Concord on March 17. Documentation did not eliminate the more likely Bald Eagle.

Black-necked Stilt, Rye on May 23. The committee believed this bird was identified correctly, but as a single-observer record it fails to meet the criteria for a first state record.
Yellow-throated Warbler, Hill on May 26. Documentation did not eliminate the more likely Common Yellowthroat.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Milford on April 4. An exceptionally early date for this species, and Purple Finch was not eliminated.

Indigo Bunting, Milford on March 30. Details were inadequate for such an exceptionally early record.

Indigo Bunting, Bedford on April 17. Documentation did not convincingly eliminate Cowbird.

Brewer's Blackbird, Groveton on April 12. Documentation did not convincingly eliminate the more likely Common Grackle.

Sightings still under review

Gyr Falcon, Rye on May 23.

Hoary Redpoll, Concord on March 28.

Summer 1998

Species accepted by the committee

Sooty Shearwater, Rye on June 16. Adequate description.

Manx Shearwater, Rye on June 8. Adequate description.

Manx Shearwater, Rye on June 13. Adequate description.

Manx Shearwater, North Hampton on June 14. Adequate description.

Manx Shearwater, Rye on June 15. Adequate description.

Little Egret, Newmarket on June 30. Seen by numerous observers and photographed.

American Oystercatcher, North Hampton on June 29. Adequate description.

Parasitic Jaeger, Rye on June 13. Adequate description.

Parasitic Jaeger, Rye on June 14. Adequate description.

Little Gull, Rye on June 13. Adequate description.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Nottingham during June and July. Adequate description of song.

Acadian Flycatcher, Nottingham on July 13. Seen and well described by many observers.

Cerulean Warbler, Salisbury on June 18. Adequate description.

Cerulean Warbler, Hinsdale on June 20. Adequate description.

Hooded Warbler, Durham on June 6-19. Well documented.

Dickcissel, Rochester on June 10. Adequate description.

Species not accepted by the committee

Wilson's Storm-Petrel, Concord on June 11. Unusual location. Description did not eliminate Black Tern.

King Rail, Lempster on July 3. Description did not eliminate Virginia Rail.

Gull-billed Tern, Rye on July 23. Species identification accepted as correct. However, only two observers with no photograph is insufficient to establish a first state record.

Royal Tern, Dummer on June 7. Description did not eliminate other possible tern species.

Vermilion Flycatcher, Lee on July 8. Very rare in the northeast. Observer did not have optics and was not familiar with the species. Description not conclusive.

Worm-eating Warbler, Nottingham on July 11. Difficult to identify by song.
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Stratham on June 30. Juvenile Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow was not eliminated.
Common Redpoll, Barrington on June 4. Unusual location in this season. Details not convincing enough.

Fall 1998

Species accepted by the committee

Manx Shearwater, Seabrook on September 18. Good description from offshore location.

Manx Shearwater, Rye on August 29. Good description.

Leach's Storm-Petrel, Hampton on September 18. Good description from offshore location.

Tundra Swan, two birds from Orford on November 14. Good description. Seen by many birders.

Tundra Swan, eight birds from Great Bay on November 15. Good description. Seen by many birders and photographed.

Eurasian Wigeon, five birds on Great Bay on November 14. Good description.

Golden Eagle, Moultonboro on October 22. Good description.

Purple Gallinule, Hanover on November 9. Injured bird picked up on side of road. Photographs submitted.

Red-necked Phalarope, 50 birds offshore from Rye on August 22. Good description from offshore location.

Red Phalarope, Exeter on October 12. Well-seen bird with good description.

Parasitic Jaeger, Rye on August 22. Good description from offshore location.

Lesser Black-backed Gull, Rochester on September 18. Adult bird, well seen and with good description.

Lesser Black-backed Gull, Rye on November 21. Excellent description of a well-seen, sub-adult bird in a strange plumage.

Rufous Hummingbird, Londonderry on October 31. Seen by many birders and photographed.

Western Kingbird, Concord on October 28. Good description.

Cliff Swallow, Rye on November 7. Well seen. Good description.

"Audubon's" Warbler, Lebanon on October 16. Good description.

Orange-crowned Warbler, Weare on September 24. Good description.

Orange-crowned Warbler, Enfield on October 11. Good description.

Orange-crowned Warbler, Rye on October 17. Good description.

Orange-crowned Warbler, Seabrook on November 1. Good description with two separate reports submitted.

Connecticut Warbler, Amherst on September 26. Good description.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Hampton on November 1. Good description by experienced observers.

Species not accepted by the committee

Tundra Swan, Bow Lake on November 11. Insufficient details.

Golden Eagle, Lakeport on October 3. Insufficient details.

untain Bluebird, Warren on August 31. Extremely rare vagrant in New England with no records from New Hampshire. Insufficient details for acceptance. Indigo Bunting and Eastern Bluebird can pose identification problems for this species.

Bohemian Waxwing, Sandwich on November 11. Bird identified by vocalization only, which can be difficult. No other Bohemian Waxwings were reported for fall, making this record more unusual.

Black-and-white Warbler, Exeter on November 27. Insufficient description to accept this very late sighting.

“Oregon” Junco, Plymouth on November 20. Insufficient description to rule out other junco sub-species.

“Pink-sided” Junco, Lee on November 29. Insufficient description to rule out other junco sub-species.

Sightings still under review

Eared Grebe, Rochester on September 14. Good description. Seen by many birders over several days. Identification accepted, but insufficient documentation submitted for acceptance as a first state record. Photographs, subsequently submitted, have not yet been reviewed by the committee.

Winter 1998-99

Species accepted by the committee

Tundra Swan, Great Bay, lingered to January 6. Adequate description.

Northern Shoveler, Rye on January 5. Adequate description of an immature drake.

Harlequin Duck, Nashua CBC on December 27. Well documented and photographed.

Lesser Black-backed Gull, Seabrook on February 24. Adequate description.

Lesser Black-backed Gull, Rochester, three birds during February. Adequate description.

Common Murre, Hampton Beach on February 9. A dead bird. Specimen carefully examined and compared to Thick-billed Murre. Good details provided.

Atlantic Puffin, Hampton Beach on January 25. An injured bird picked up and photographed.

Ash-throated Flycatcher, Lyme on December 6. Photographed and seen by many observers. This establishes a first state record for this species.

Varied Thrush, Pembroke on January 11. Photographed.

Ovenbird, Newington on December 18. Adequate description.

Lark Sparrow, Hampton on December 20. Photographed.

Grasshopper Sparrow, Stratham on December 19. Adequate description.

Species not accepted by the committee

“Oregon” Junco, Keene. Seen during December and January. Female Dark-eyed Junco could not be ruled out.

Which Teal is Which?

By Alan Delorey

Have you ever been frustrated by mixed flocks of fall teal? In their breeding plumage male Blue-winged and Green-winged teal are easily identified. The male Green-winged Teal has a chestnut head with a dark green ear patch, mostly gray body, yellow flank patches, and black undertail coverts. The male Blue-winged Teal has a blue-gray head with white crescents on both sides of its face, a brown body, and white flank patches.

However, males in their eclipse plumage and female teals present an identification challenge. Eclipse males of both species closely resemble their female counterparts. In this article I will try to help you learn how to sort out confusing fall teal. First we will look at the obvious field marks and then proceed to the more subtle.

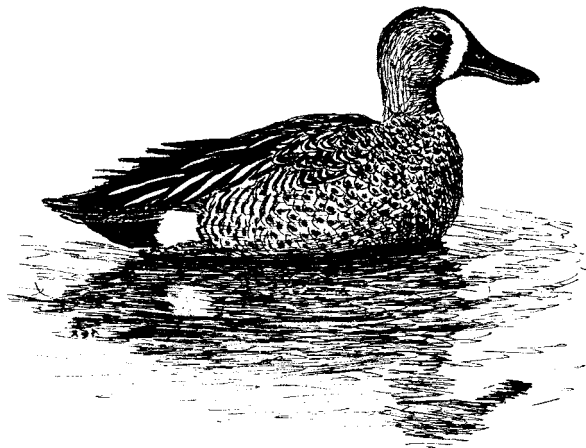
The Blue-winged Teal is named for the bright, powder-blue forewing displayed in all plumages by both the male and the female. This is easily visible if the bird is in flight or if it flaps its wings while sitting on the water. If you see the bright, powder-blue forewing then it is a Blue-winged Teal.

Depending on how the bird's feathers are arranged you can sometimes catch a glimpse of the blue forewing on a sitting bird. If you can see this field mark then it is a Blue-winged Teal. If not, then it could be either species.

The Green-winged Teal is named for its dark green speculum (the inner portion of the trailing edge of the wing). Both male and female Green-winged Teal have essentially the same wing pattern. Unfortunately the Blue-winged Teal also has a dark green speculum. If the bird's forewing just looks dark (no bright blue), then it is probably a Green-winged Teal.

During fall migration both of these teal species will often congregate in mixed flocks. This is actually to your advantage since it allows you direct comparison between the two species. The following field marks apply to females and eclipse males. Green-winged Teal are overall slightly smaller than Blue-winged; they also have a smaller bill

Blue-winged teal



Field Marks	Green-winged	Blue-winged
Forewing	dark	powder blue
Overall Size	smaller	larger
Bill	smaller	larger
Cheek	darker	lighter (white spot)
Forehead	steeper slope	gentler slope
Back	lighter	darker
Tail	lighter	darker
Underside	lighter	darker
Feet/leg color	dark	yellowish

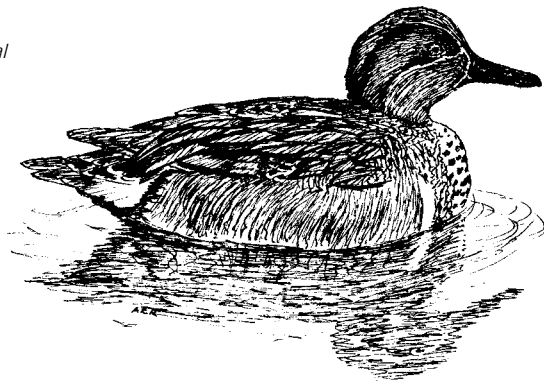
and a shorter neck. Blue-winged Teal usually show a more gently sloping forehead. The Green-winged Teal has lighter tail feathers; mostly white undertail coverts with a white spot on the side of the tail. If the bird shows its underside you should note that the Green-winged Teal has a lighter belly. If the bird tips up to dabble, check its feet. The Green-winged Teal has dark feet and legs, whereas the Blue-winged has yellowish feet and legs. The Blue-winged Teal has a darker back, but a lighter cheek and throat with a diffuse whitish spot at the base of the bill on the side of the face.

The plumage of individual birds can vary considerably, so try to note several of the more subtle features when dealing with females or eclipse males. Sometimes you will not be able to obtain a clear enough view of the various field marks to be sure. Don't be afraid to let a few birds go as "teal species."

Al Delorey is the Winter Editor for *New Hampshire Bird Records* and author of *A Birder's Guide to New Hampshire*.

The following table outlines some of the field marks to look for on eclipse males and female Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal.

Green-winged teal



*Illustration by
Andrea Robbins*

Dump Storks and Other Rearrangements

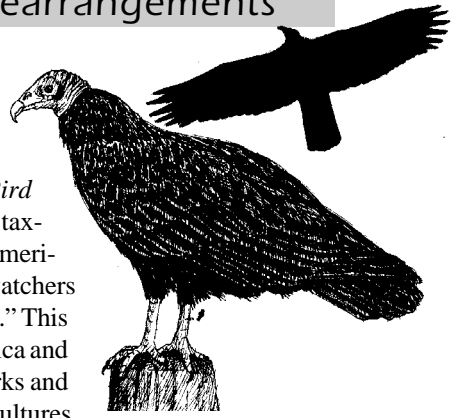
by Pam Hunt

Recent AOU Changes Explained

In the Spring 1997 issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*, I hinted at a profound change in avian taxonomy that was soon to thrust itself upon North American birders. Specifically, I stated that “hawk watchers might not have to count Turkey Vultures any more.” This is because our vultures (as opposed to those in Africa and Eurasia) turn out to be more closely related to storks and herons than they are to hawks and falcons. Vultures weren’t the only group to shift position in the taxonomic order; other groups that were also moved in the new checklist include crows and vireos. Thus, since *New Hampshire Bird Records* is now using this new American Ornithologist Union order, it seems only fair to fill you in on why the changes were made in the first place.

Way back in the 1970s and 1980s, two ornithologists, Charles Sibley and John Ahlquist, began to use DNA hybridization to investigate taxonomic relationships among birds. To understand this technique, a little biochemistry is in order, so please bear with me. DNA consists of two chains of chemical building blocks (called bases) that are linked together by their bases and then twisted around each other to form the famous double-helix. The bases pair up in a very specific way, making the whole molecule analogous to a zipped-up zipper. It’s also important to know that the sequence of bases is more similar in more closely related organisms.

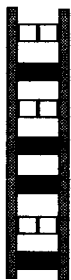
Briefly then, DNA hybridization is the process by which two organisms’ DNA is “unzipped,” and single strands of both species are placed together and forced to reconnect. But, because they don’t have the exact same base sequences, the new double strand is like a zipper with one of its little “things” broken, so therefore won’t close properly. These new double strands are then heated, and the temperature at which they



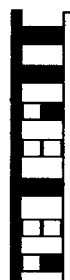
Stork
DNA



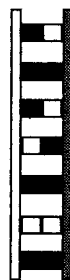
Vulture
DNA



Hawk
DNA



Stork-Vulture
Hybrid DNA



Hawk-Vulture
Hybrid DNA

Stylized DNA molecules for three species. The paired boxes in the central portion of each molecule represent the paired bases mentioned in the text.

Hybrid DNA showing a greater degree of similarity between storks and vultures (5 matches of 7 base pairs) than between hawks and vultures (4 matches).

break apart is recorded. When there are relatively few mismatches, it takes a lot of heat to separate DNA strands, but as “broken thingies” increase in number it gets easier and easier. In the extreme case, **all** the bases are different and the new strands can never get together in the first place. The take-home message? When two species are closely related, it takes a higher temperature to separate their hybrid DNA.

Sibley and Ahlquist got DNA samples from as many species of birds as possible and spent the rest of their careers conducting such hybridization experiments. It all culminated in 1983, in a 50-page paper that forever changed the way we look at evolutionary relationships among birds. In a sense, that’s the whole story: the DNA of New World vultures is a better match to that of storks than that of traditional raptors. Take a close look at a vulture, and you’ll see some other incongruities. Do vultures have talons? Do hawks have naked heads? Do not storks also soar? And (but probably not known to most of you), storks and vultures both have a “perforated nasal septum,” meaning that you can look through one nostril and see out the other. You can’t do this on an eagle. In an evolutionary nutshell, then, Turkey Vultures are descended from short-necked storks that took to soaring about, looking for carrion. This is essentially what Marabou Storks do in Africa to this very day. But you can still count “TVs” on “hawk watches” if you want to!

The other major reorganization (in North America, anyway) involves the crows, vireos, and shrikes. These three seemingly disparate groups were once scattered through the taxonomic order apparently at random: crows near chickadees, shrikes near waxwings, and vireos near warblers. Their DNA strongly suggests otherwise, and all three turn out to be derived from a large group of Australian passerines that still dominates that isolated continent. Crows, shrikes, and vireos are descended from the very few pioneers that were able to emigrate to the rest of the world.

There are a few other changes: starlings and mockingbirds are now close relatives, grebes are way off on their own somewhere (but in the same place in the order), and lots of groups (such as ducks) have had the order of species changed. All because of their DNA. No playing around with songs, mixed matings, and protein similarities such as occurs when new species are split off of old ones. To better understand the relationships between orders, families, and genera, you need to look at a very different picture, one that is not clouded by ecological jerry-rigging and gets to the very roots of life as we know it – the picture of the genetic code.

But don’t dwell on it; just realize that there is more to a critter than meets the eye, keep this information in the back of your mind (if that), and by all means keep calling those big black soaring scavengers Turkey Vultures. “Turkey Stork” would never catch on.

Dr. Pam Hunt is the Spring Editor for New Hampshire Bird Records. She received a Ph.D. in biology from Dartmouth College in 1995 and now teaches and consults in the biological sciences.

If you would like a checklist of New England birds in the new order, please send \$1.50 to Birds of New England Checklist
ASNH, 3 Silk Farm Rd., Concord, NH 03301.

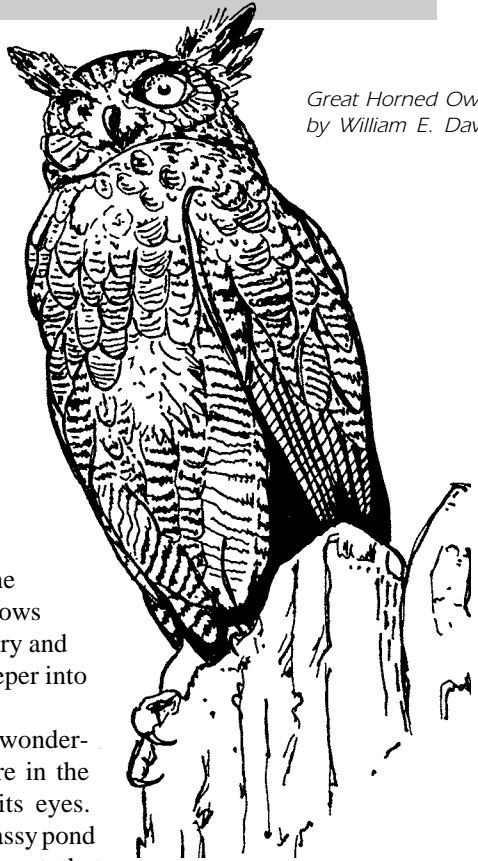
The Fishing Owl

by George W. Gavutis, Jr.

It was just after sunrise on the morning of the New Hampshire Seacoast 1998 Christmas Bird Count (Saturday, December 19). I opened my garage door to begin the survey and saw a large and somewhat bedraggled raptor flush awkwardly from the ground under the large weeping willow at the pond edge 25 yards away. I carefully studied the bird with my binoculars when it landed clumsily and shook itself off in a large red maple across the pond. I noted the large feathered “horns” and facial pattern typical of the Great Horned Owl. The neighborhood crows quickly spotted their nighttime adversary and rallied to harass and pursue the owl deeper into the surrounding evergreen forest.

I then walked over to the willow tree wondering why the owl had been sitting there in the open, where the light would bother its eyes. Much to my amazement, there on the grassy pond bank lay a beautiful, 22" rainbow trout that weighed more than four pounds. A couple of inches of the fish's nose and head had been consumed, and there were numerous puncture wounds in the body where the “air tiger” had used its large lethal talons to grasp the unfortunate fish. It had been well below freezing that night and nearly one-quarter or an inch of ice had totally skimmed the pond. Ten feet out on the ice and twenty feet from the fish, the ice had been shattered, and shards were scattered in and about a three- to four-foot hole. There was quite a bit of water on the ice, and a few feathers marked a trail to the pond bank.

The rainbow trout was one of the fingerlings stocked in the pond nearly two years earlier. Generally, the fish fed voraciously on the “trout chow” pellets we provided whenever there was open water, but this fall they had become very lethargic. The hooked-jawed males pursued the females as they cruised slowly near the surface along the shoreline. There they explored the springs and seepages in the shallow – apparently searching for a proper site to dig a nest (or redd) in which to deposit their eggs. The fish, swimming slowly just under the clear thin ice must have been very tempting to the owl. He had probably been perched quietly on a limb in the willow waiting for an unsuspecting muskrat, mink, or mole to swim by. The ducks and most of his other potential aquatic



Great Horned Owl
by William E. Davis

prey had all left once the ice formed. Earlier last summer, my son observed perhaps the same hungry owl take a large garter snake one cloudy day.

I had never heard of a Great Horned Owl's taking fish and couldn't help but wonder what would have happened if the owl had latched on to one of the even larger trout and been unable to quickly release his talons. Such a fish might well have pulled even a large owl quickly under the ice as it raced for the sanctuary of the pond depths.

Thinking back, nearly thirty years ago at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge in western New York State, I recalled having had a similar surprise. While checking and cleaning out the hundreds of Wood Duck and merganser nesting boxes on the frozen marshes there, I found some boxes containing caches of small pickerel, shiners, frogs, mice, and even birds up to the size of grackles and cardinals. Finally, one day I found a beautiful little red-phase Eastern Screech-Owl visiting and dining in one of its "freezers" and the mystery was solved. The screech owls also nested in some of the boxes and apparently had caught the fish and frogs in unfrozen spring seeps and where water flowed over beaver dams. I checked the literature in some of my bird books and found that such behavior had indeed been recorded elsewhere.

Getting back to the Great Horned Owl, the dead trout lay there near the pond all day, with the crows occasionally pecking at it. It was still pretty much intact at sunset, but when I drove in at 6:00 that evening, having just picked up my son at the airport for his Christmas visit, we saw a dark, silent form rise off of the fish. Inspecting it, there was now at least a pound of flesh removed from the head end. The next morning, all that was left was a few scales, some blood, and internal organs. Coyotes or a fox may have found it, but it's unlikely they would have left any scraps. I assumed the owl had eaten enough to lighten the load and then, before dawn flown with a snack to get him through the day.

George Gavutis is a retired wildlife biologist, who spent 33 years with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. He now volunteers his time to organizations like ASNH.

Name That Bird!

We are pleased to present the first ever photo quiz in *New Hampshire Bird Records*. This photograph was taken in New Hampshire. The answer will appear in the Spring 99 issue.



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.

Fall 96

- p. 4 The following should not have appeared in the list of species reported but not published:
Black-backed Woodpecker — reports did appear in the listings
Prairie Warbler — no confirmed reports were received for this species
Eastern Screech-Owl - the following report was inadvertently omitted on p. 22:
One in September, Hollis, Proctor Hill Rd., K. McDonnell
- p. 14 The following report was inadvertently omitted:
Broad-winged Hawk, 09-18, 1890, Concord, Silk Farm WS,
R. & M. Suomala, C. Martin, et al.
- p. 22 See Eastern Screech-Owl, p. 4 above.
- p. 28 Nashville Warbler:
Two on 09-20 were in Jefferson not Whitefield.
Three in Whitefield were seen on 08-30 not 08-31.

Winter 96-97

- p. 6 In the Loons through Herons summary, second sentence should read: “The Great Cormorant reports were noteworthy because they were seen inland”. (The Double-crested Cormorant is not more likely than the Great Cormorant in winter.)
- p. 30 For the Nashua CBC, Common Grackle should not be listed and the total number of species is 56 not 57.
- p. 41 Corrections to Fall 94, Vol. 13, No. 3, p. 29: The Orange-crowned Warbler inadvertently omitted was actually two birds, not one.

Spring 97

- p. 4 The following should not have appeared in the list of species reported but not published:
Northern Shrike — reports did appear in the listings
The following reports were inadvertently omitted in the listings on page 31:
One Dark-eyed Junco-Pink-sided subsp., 04-14, Chester,
Hillside Haven, A. & B. Delorey
Eight Common Redpolls, 03-28, Middleton, New Portsmouth Rd., S. Snyder
- p. 10 The following sighting was inadvertently omitted:
One Canvasback, 03-29, Derry, Ballard Marsh, A. & B. Delorey.
- P. 18 The Olive-sided Flycatcher seen on 05-13 was actually a Least Flycatcher
- p. 19 The Northern Rough-winged Swallows were seen on 04-30 not 04-03 in Littleton.
- p. 22 Bohemian Waxwings on 03-29 were in Dublin not Tamworth.
- p. 30 The Savannah Sparrow was seen on 04-17 not 04-01 in Littleton.

by Francie Von Mertens

Cerulean Warbler Atlas Project

Conducted by Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and Partners in Flight; funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Cerulean Warbler is a small step short of federal endangered species status, with Breeding Bird Survey data showing a 3.2% annual decline since 1966. However, Ceruleans seem to be expanding their range and population in certain areas of New England, New York, and New Jersey. Accordingly, volunteers are being sought to provide information on population trends as well as habitat preferences and degree of forest fragmentation tolerated. Volunteers receive a cassette tape of Cerulean Warbler vocalizations for surveying locations of their choice where Ceruleans have been reported or where there is suitable breeding habitat (mature deciduous forest; riparian). Survey forms seek information on forest type, canopy height, trees favored for foraging, for nesting, etc. **To join the Atlas Project**, contact Sara Barker at Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology at 607-254-2446; e-mail forest_birds@cornell.edu; or check the web site <http://birdsource.cornell.edu/cewap>.

Intraspecific Brood Parasitism of Wood Ducks

In 1988, in *The Condor*, Paul Sherman, animal behavior professor from Cornell University and Brad Semel, an Illinois wildlife biologist, reported that placement of Wood Duck nest boxes in the open, over water, triggers an egg-dumping response from nearby females when they see the resident female enter and exit the box on her daily egg-laying trips. They respond by laying additional eggs in her nestbox.

Since the 1940s, sportsmen, landowners, birders, scout troops, and state and federal wildlife managers, eager to help a declining, favorite species, have placed a multitude of nest boxes over open water but without careful attention to where Wood Ducks naturally nest – in the forest and out of sight, anywhere up to one-half a mile from water. Sherman and Semel documented fights between resident females and the egg-dumping trespassers, nest abandonment, and productivity as low as 10% for nests so overloaded with eggs (up to 50) that few hatch. Our human attempts to help might actually be a hindrance.

Confirming data on proper nest box placement has come from Scott Smith, a wildlife biologist for New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation. Smith is monitoring the 2,700-acre Bashakill Wildlife Management Area wetlands as nest box replacement proceeds. Last year, in the 185 nest boxes that remain over open water, he found a 23% hatch rate (285 hatchlings), or fewer than two chicks per box. From the 50 new boxes placed within forest cover, preliminary findings suggest a 70% hatch rate that will average over 10 chicks per box. Furthermore, Smith found that Wood Ducks begin nesting in woodland cavities three weeks earlier than those over open water, resulting in offspring that are three weeks more mature when the time comes for the rigors of their 1500-mile migration. (For a more complete write-up on Wood Ducks and egg-dumping, see the May-June 1999 issue of *Audubon Magazine*.)

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New Hampshire Bird Records
Volume 17, Number 4
Winter 1998-99

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*Volunteer Opportunities
and Birding Research:* Francie Von Mertens

Abbreviations Used

ASNH	Audubon Society of NH	R.	River
BBC	Brookline Bird Club	Rd.	Road
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey	Rt.	Route
CA	Conservation Area	SF	State Forest
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
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge		

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