

New Hampshire Bird Records



Winter 1999-2000

Vol. 18, No. 4

About the Cover

The cover photo is an Evening Grosbeak by A.A. Allen. See page 28 for an article examining a century of Evening Grosbeak population dynamics.

In This Issue

- Highlights of the Christmas Bird Counts and the full New Hampshire results
- The annual NH Rare Birds Committee summary
- How high can a human-powered list go?
- Brown-headed Cowbird — villain or scapegoat?

Coming in the Next Issue

- Birding Great Bay

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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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First, it's important to understand that even though we do not publish all reports, each plays a valuable role in creating an overall picture of a given season.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 shore birds, 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:

American Black Duck	Barred Owl	Tufted Titmouse
Mallard	Northern Saw-whet Owl	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Red-breasted Merganser	Belted Kingfisher	White-breasted Nuthatch
Bald Eagle	Downy Woodpecker	Brown Creeper
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Hairy Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Cooper's Hawk	Northern Flicker	Song Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Pileated Woodpecker	Dark-eyed Junco
Ruffed Grouse	Blue Jay	Northern Cardinal
Bonaparte's Gull	American Crow	House Finch
Ring-billed Gull	Common Raven	American Goldfinch
Mourning Dove	Black-capped Chickadee	

December 1, 1999–February 29, 2000



N. Shoveler

The winter of 1999-2000 was the fourth consecutive mild winter. December was warm and dry, averaging 4.6 degrees above normal at Laconia, making it the least snowy December on record since 1951. January started out mild (56 degrees at Laconia on the third), with no significant snow-cover in the state through January 15. Winter arrived on January 16 with snow for most of the state and a return to more normal temperatures. February moderated again with the average temperature at Laconia 4.1 degrees above normal.

It is interesting to compare and contrast the current winter season with the previous one. Although this was another mild winter, an entirely different set of unusual species turned up in the state this year. Winter finches bounced back from a poor showing last year. In contrast, alcids crashed from last year's stellar showing. Several species of warblers lingered last winter, whereas there were hardly any this winter.

Many species of waterfowl stayed through mid-winter, taking advantage of the mild weather and corresponding open-water conditions. There were no mega-rarities reported in New Hampshire this winter. However there were several noteworthy sightings, including two separate well-described Northern Shovelers in January, a Gray Catbird in Concord, a Snowy Owl in Bridgewater, and five **Hoary Redpolls**. Other luminaries were a **Common Moorhen**, a **Short-eared Owl**, **Pine Grosbeaks**, and both **crossbills**.

As usual, you will find the CBC table after the standard systematic list of species for non-CBC sightings from the winter season. The table includes all species observed on all CBCs conducted in New Hampshire this year.


Alan Delorey
Winter Editor

Gray Catbird
by E.J. Sawyer



Loons through Vultures

Counts of Red-throated and Common Loons, and Horned Grebes were typical. A flock of 70 Red-necked Grebes was on the high side for New Hampshire. Northern Gannets are uncommon in winter, so a flock of 42 off Seabrook Beach in December was impressive.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Red-throated Loon				
12-04	12		NH coast	A.& B. Delorey
01-08	4	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	A.& B. Delorey
Common Loon				
12-04	10	Hampton	Hampton Beach	A.& B. Delorey
12-05	2	Enfield	Mascoma Lake	P. Hunt
12-15	6	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	C. Martin, A. Pairis
12-19	2	Holderness	Squam Lake, Piper Cove	J. Williams
01-17	2	Hebron	Newfound Lake	W. Barrett
				<i>Common Loon by William E. Davis</i>
Horned Grebe				
12-24	23	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	A.& B. Delorey
01-08	14	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	A.& B. Delorey
Red-necked Grebe				
12-04	24	Rye	Rye town beach	A.& B. Delorey
12-04	70	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	A.& B. Delorey
02-27	14	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	A.& B. Delorey
Northern Gannet				
12-24	42	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	A.& B. Delorey
01-09	6		NH coast	S. Mirick, P. Hunt
Great Cormorant				
01-09	23	Rye	Concord Point	S. Mirick, P. Hunt
Great Blue Heron				
12-02	3	Kingston	Powwow Pond	K. Folsom
12-18	1	Exeter	Swazey Pkwy.	G. Prazar
12-31	1	Laconia	Federal Bldg., N. Main St.	H. Anderson
01-01	1	Stratham	Sandy Pt. Discovery Center	H. Chary
01-08	2	Durham	Little Bay	S. Mirick
02-05	1	Rye	off Rt. 1A	S. Mirick, R.& L. Bickford
02-29	1	Exeter	Swazey Pkwy.	K.& G. Prazar
Turkey Vulture				
12-17	1	Nashua	Nashua Mall	R. Andrews
02-27	1	Hooksett	over Merrimack R., Hooksett Village	W. Goodwill

Many species of waterfowl lingered through mid-winter, until it turned cold. Unusual winter waterfowl included several Wood Ducks, Northern Pintails, Green-winged Teal, and Canvasbacks; plus a Gadwall, two Northern Shovelers and numerous Ring-necked Ducks. In addition to several Ruddy Duck reports listed below, the Manchester CBC reported a huge flock of 625 Ruddy Ducks on Lake Massabesic. This is the largest flock of “ruddies” ever reported in New Hampshire. Two **Eurasian Wigeon** on Great Bay were typical of late. Several Barrow’s Goldeneyes were reported from typical locations. There were no reports of Common or King Eiders.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Snow Goose				
12-23	1	Kensington	Sargeant Dairy Farm	G. Gavutis
12-25	1	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick
02-27	1	E. Kingston	Rt. 108 farm field	A.& B. Delorey
Canada Goose				
12-23	850	Kensington	Sargeant Dairy Farm	G. Gavutis
01-12	1000	Westmoreland	Rt. 63, Chickering Farm	R. Ritz
02-27	1000	Durham	fields off Rt. 155A	S. Mirick
Wood Duck				
01-02	1	Newmarket	off Packers Falls Road	S. Mirick
01-23	2	Hooksett	Goonan Rd.	R. Woodward, Capital Area Chapter FT
02-08	2	Hinsdale	Connecticut R. near Vt. Yankee plant	C. Martin, A. Pairis
02-27	3	Plainfield	River Rd.	D. Crook
Gadwall				
12-19	1	Derry	Beaver Lake	A.& B. Delorey
Eurasian Wigeon				
12-04	1	Stratham	Sandy Pt.	A.& B. Delorey
12-04	1	Greenland	Sunset Landing	A.& B. Delorey
12-09	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick, J. Berry
01-08	1	Greenland	off Meloon Road	S. Mirick, N. Deporter
American Wigeon				
12-04	44	Stratham	Sandy Pt.	A.& B. Delorey
01-08	25	Greenland	off Meloon Road	S. Mirick
01-08	36	Greenland	Sunset Landing	A.& B. Delorey
01-22	7	Durham	Adams Point	S. Mirick, J. Matthews, S. Lloyd
02-19	7	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
Northern Shoveler				
01-07	1	Plaistow	Little R. at Kingston Rd.	J. Stevens
01-29	1	Stratham	river above Chapmans Landing	R. Frechette, S. Spangenberg, F. Doyle

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Northern Pintail				
12-09	1	Derry	wastewater treatment plant	A. Delorey
12-10	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
01-15	1	Lebanon	Connecticut R. behind Staples	D. Crook
01-23	1	Durham	Adams Point	S. Mirick
02-01	1	Nashua	Nashua R. off Canal St.	B. & M. Harris
02-13	1	Exeter	Gilman Park, Bell Ave.	K. & D. Hughes
02-21	3	New Castle	off Rt. 1B	S. Mirick
02-21	1	Portsmouth	off Rt. 1B	S. Mirick
Green-winged Teal				
12-09	1	Greenland	off Meloon Road	S. Mirick, J. Berry, N. Deporter
12-12	2	Enfield	Mascoma Lake	P. Hunt
01-03	2	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
Canvasback				
12-19	4	Lebanon	Mascoma Lake	P. Hunt, D. Lacey
12-25	1	Derry	Beaver Lake	A. & B. Delorey
01-22	1	Durham	Adams Point	S. Mirick, S. Lloyd
Ring-necked Duck				
12-02	50	Kingston	Powwow Pond	K. Folsom
12-09	7	Stratham	Sandy Point on Great Bay	S. Mirick, J. Berry
12-13	12	Concord	Long Pond	P. Niswander
12-19	14	Derry	Beaver Lake	A. & B. Delorey
12-24	2	Laconia	Weirs Beach Channel	J. Williams
12-25	4	Sanbornton	Lake Winnisquam, Lower Bay Rd.	J. Williams
01-09	1	Derry	Beaver Lake	A. & B. Delorey
02-23	2	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
Greater Scaup				
12-23	1100	Greenland	Sunset Landing	A. & B. Delorey
01-09	24	Hampton	Hampton Beach	S. Mirick, P. Hunt
02-19	600	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
Surf Scoter				
12-04	60	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	A. & B. Delorey
12-04	30	Hampton	Hampton Beach	A. & B. Delorey
White-winged Scoter				
12-04	60	Hampton	Hampton Beach	A. & B. Delorey
12-04	70	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	A. & B. Delorey
Black Scoter				
12-19	440	Hampton	Hampton Beach	A. & B. Delorey
12-24	105	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	A. & B. Delorey
Oldsquaw				
12-04	62	Rye	Rye Town Beach	A. & B. Delorey
12-04	25	Hampton	Hampton Beach	A. & B. Delorey

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Bufflehead				
12-02	14	Salem	Canobie Lake	K. Folsom
12-12	8	Ashland	Squam R., River St.	J. Williams
01-08	251	Durham	Little Bay duck roost	S. Mirick
02-19	125	Durham	Little Bay duck roost	S. Mirick
Common Goldeneye				
12-18	120	Sanbornton	Lake Winnisquam	J. Williams
01-08	100	Durham	Little Bay duck roost	S. Mirick
02-21	145	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
02-27	70	Concord	Garvins Falls	R. Woodward
Barrow's Goldeneye				
12-30	2	Sanbornton	Lake Winnisquam, Broadview Dr.	J. Williams
01-22	1	Durham	Little Bay duck roost	S. Mirick
02-05	2		Winnepesaukee R. above Lochmere Dam	J. Williams
02-15	1	Errol	below Errol Dam	R. Quinn
Hooded Merganser				
12-23	15	Salem	Canobie Lake	K. Folsom
12-25	34	Sanbornton	Lake Winnisquam, Lower Bay Rd.	J. Williams
12-25	41	Laconia	Winnepesaukee R. below Martel's Bait Shop	J. Williams
01-22	12	Lebanon	behind plazas	L. Reitsma, et al.
02-08	8	Hinsdale	Connecticut R. at Stebbins Is.	C. Martin, A. Pairis
Common Merganser				
12-08	190	Sandwich	Kusumpe Pond	T. Vazzano
12-12	215	Holderness	Squam Lake, Rt. 3	J. Williams
12-18	90	Laconia	Lake Opechee	H. Anderson
Ruddy Duck				
12-01	4	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
12-12	3	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	G. Prazar
12-31	1	Derry	Beaver Lake	A. & B. Delorey
01-02	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick

Hawks

Sharp-shinned and Coopers Hawks occurred in typical numbers and locations. Four Rough-legged Hawks (including one from the CBCs) was a decent showing, following four last year. Peregrine Falcon sightings were typical, including birds returning to nest sites in late February.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Northern Harrier				
12-09	1	Rye	Rye marshes	S. Mirick
01-02	1	Rye	Rye marshes	S. Mirick
01-09	1	Haverhill	Ammonoosuc R.	F. Krauss
02-04	1	Haverhill	Connecticut R.	F. Krauss

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Northern Goshawk				
01-19	1	Durham	Channel 11	C. Federer
01-22	1	Enfield	near elementary school	L. Reitsma, et al.
01-23	1	Columbia	residence	D. & B. Killam
02-08	1	Goffstown	East Dunbarton Rd.	E. White
02-15	1	Pembroke	Littlefield condominiums	W. & K. Goodwill
02-16	1	Errol	Mollidgewock St. Pk.	R. Quinn
02-17	1	Canterbury	Baptist Hill Rd.	R. Quinn
02-18	1	Conway	Passaconaway Rd. off Westside Rd.	W. Spink
Rough-legged Hawk				
01-04	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
01-24	1	Rye	by Wallis Sands St. Pk. entrance	A. Ports
02-29	1	Milford	over Souhegan R., w. of town	J. Broyles
American Kestrel				
02-24	1	Manchester	Rt. 101 median by Mall of NH	J. Nelson
Merlin				
12-09	1	Rye	Rye Ledge	S. Mirick
Peregrine Falcon				
01-07	1	Haverhill	downtown Woodsville	F. Krauss
01-07	1	Plymouth	Fairgrounds Rd.	J. Williams
01-31	1	Haverhill	Connecticut R.	F. Krauss
02-17	2	Manchester	downtown Manchester	R. Vallieres
02-23	1	Lyme	Holts Ledge	C. Martin, B. Wand, B. Johnstone
02-23	1	Franconia	Eagle Cliff	R. Vallieres

Wild Turkey through Alcids

A Common Moorhen lingered into December in Exeter. A Black-bellied Plover in January and a Common Snipe in late December were both a little late. Killdeer put in a strong showing. White-winged gull reports were typical. Alcid numbers were way down from last year's banner performance.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Wild Turkey				
12-10	40	Sandwich	near Red Hill R.	G. Gavutis
12-18	75	Sugar Hill	Streeter Pond Rd.	J. McIlwaine, P. Lescault
01-09	21	Lancaster	Portland St.	D. Stoddard
01-31	28	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
Common Moorhen				
12-01	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
12-09	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, J. Berry
American Coot				
12-01	14	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
12-02	6	Kingston	Powwow Pond	K. Folsom
12-09	3	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, J. Berry
Black-bellied Plover				
01-08	1	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	A.& B. Delorey
Killdeer				
12-09	4	Derry	wastewater treatment plant	A. Delorey
02-20	1	Walpole	County Rd.	R. Ritz
02-24	1	Londonderry	K-Mart Plaza	H. Chary
02-27	1	Windham	Londonderry Rd.	J. Romano
02-27	1	Greenland	Great Bay Farm	S. Mirick
02-27	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	A.& B. Delorey
02-27	1	E. Kingston	Rt. 108 farm field	A.& B. Delorey
Sanderling				
12-09	300	Rye	Jenness Beach	S. Mirick
Purple Sandpiper				
01-15	111	Rye		A.& B. Delorey
Dunlin				
12-19	20	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	A.& B. Delorey
Common Snipe				
12-26	1	Marlborough	Meetinghouse Pond	P. Newbern
Black-headed Gull				
02-21	1	N. Hampton	N. Hampton State Beach	S. Mirick
Iceland Gull				
12-18	1	Bethlehem	dump	J. McIlwaine, P. Lescault
01-02	2	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
01-03	1	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
01-07	1	Rye	Eel Pond	S. Mirick
02-19	1	Durham	Little Bay duck roost	S. Mirick
Glaucous Gull				
12-18	1	Bethlehem	dump	J. McIlwaine, P. Lescault
12-31	1	Lebanon	W. Lebanon plazas	C. Crook
01-08	1	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	A.& B. Delorey
02-07	3	Kingston	landfill	S. Mirick
Black-legged Kittiwake				
01-09	4		NH coast	S. Mirick, P. Hunt
Thick-billed Murre				
12-04	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach	A.& B. Delorey
01-08	2	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	A.& B. Delorey
Razorbill				
01-09	1	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	S. Mirick
Black Guillemot				
12-19	13	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	A.& B. Delorey

Owls through Waxwings

A cooperative **Short-eared Owl** entertained birders at the seacoast for a couple of weeks. Red-bellied Woodpeckers continued their strong numbers throughout the winter. Northern Shrikes were widely reported, but Horned Larks were scarce. Carolina Wren reports were typical of recent years. Eastern Bluebirds were numerous. The two late-lingering Hermit Thrushes were both photographed. Over 2700 American Robins were reported (including 1500 from the CBCs). In sharp contrast to last year's absence, **Bohemian Waxwings** were abundant.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Great Horned Owl				
02-04	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
02-15	2	Concord	Hoit Rd.	R. Vallieres
02-16	2	Londonderry	Devonshire Lane	H. Chary
Snowy Owl				
12-16	1	Bridgewater	residence	L. Carpenter, W. Faithorn
Short-eared Owl				
01-29	1	Rye	marshes opposite Concord Pt.	S. Mirick
02-04	1	Rye	marshes by Concord Pt.	S. Mirick
02-13	1	N. Hampton	Little River salt marsh	S. Mirick



Short-eared Owl
photo by Stephen R. Mirick
Rye, NH

Red-bellied Woodpecker

12-01	1	Nashua	Deerhaven Dr.	R. Andrews
12-02	1	Concord	South St. park	R. Vallieres
12-03	1	S. Hampton	South Rd.	A. Fiorillo
12-05	1	Hollis	Maple Hill Farm, Ridge Rd.	B. Noviello, L. Kantar
12-20	1	Henniker	residence	J. Houk
12-28	1	Gilmanton	residence	J. Hickey
01-01	1	Hampstead	residence	S. Mirick, et al.
01-01	1	Goffstown	Pinecrest Dr.	S. Allen
01-03	1	Portsmouth	SPNHF	R. Quinn
01-22	1	Windham	residence	D. & J. Romano
February	1	Rollinsford		R. Newling
02-10	1	Hollis	Flint Pond Rd.	S. Baird
02-22	1	Boscawen	Forest Lane	M. Tremblay

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
02-23	1	Concord	East Side Drive	D.& B. Soule
02-24	1	Raymond		E. Makin
Northern Shrike				
12-01	1	Stewartstown	Hurlbert Swamp	S. Stoddard, E. Snyder
12-12	1	Plymouth	Avery Farm, Beech Hill Rd.	A.& M. Avery
12-12	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
12-13	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
12-18	1	Carroll	Mt. Washington Hotel	S.& D. Stoddard
12-22	3	Ellsworth	Three Ponds Trailhead, WMNF	J. Williams
12-25	1	Tilton	Silver Lake	J. Williams
01-01	1	Tamworth	Tall Pines Rd. residence	C.& J. Tewksbury
01-02	1	Plymouth	Fairgrounds Rd.	J. Williams
01-06	1	Hill	Old Hill Village site	C. Martin
01-07	3	Rye	Rt. 1A, NH coast	S. Mirick
01-07	1	Warner	Rt. 89, exit 8	C. Martin
01-09	1	Durham	Forest Service Bldg.	S. Mirick, P. Hunt
01-20	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
01-24	1	Rye	Wallis Sands St. Pk. entrance	A. Potts
01-25	1	Lebanon	Rt. 4A	P. Hunt
01-26	1	Gilmanton	Potter Rd.	J. Thompson
01-27	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	B. Delorey
01-28	1	Chatham	residence	R. Crowley
01-30	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
02-06	1	Alstead	Rt. 123 camp	R.& J. Allard
02-08	1	Lancaster	Wesson Rd.	D. Skeels
02-13	1	Bethlehem	Ammonoosuc Ranger Station	P. Bellavance, A. Archie, D. Govatski
02-16	1	Dummer	Sessions Brook	R. Quinn
02-26	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
02-27	1	Rye	Eel Pond	A.& B. Delorey
02-27	1	Concord	RR tracks between Horseshoe Pond & Garvins Falls	R. Woodward
Gray Jay				
01-01	3	Beans Grant	near Mt. Pierce summit	D. Govatski
02-27	2	Bethlehem	Mt. Avalon summit	P. Bellavance, A. Comolli
Horned Lark				
02-01	10	Concord	DES, 6 Hazen Dr.	J. Williams, J. Turley
02-08	19	Hinsdale	Connecticut R. bluffs	C. Martin, A. Pairis
Boreal Chickadee				
01-01	11	Beans Grant	near Mt. Pierce summit	D. Govatski
02-27	3	Bethlehem	Mt. Avalon trail	P. Bellavance, A. Comolli
Carolina Wren				
winter	1	Bedford	Meadowcrest Dr.	C. Abel
12-05	2	Lebanon	near Mascoma Lake dam	P. Hunt
12-16	1	Rye	West Rye	B.& H. Blanchard
01-06	1	Mont Vernon	Francestown Tpk.	A. Hoyt
01-24	1	Haverhill	North Haverhill feeder	C. Edson
02-20	1	Lebanon	near Mascoma Lake dam	P. Hunt
02-20	1	Tilton	Jensens Mobile Home Park	K. Thomas

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Golden-crowned Kinglet				
12-22	3	Ellsworth	Three Ponds Trailhead, WMNF	J. Williams
01-02	10	Hollis	Beaver Brook Assoc.	J. Romano
01-04	1	Windham	residence	J. Romano
Eastern Bluebird				
12-07	8	Gilford	Cotton Hill Rd.	E. Peters
12-22	5	Hopkinton	Gould Hill Rd.	A. Coda
12-24	1	Salem	residence	K. Folsom
12-30	10	Tilton		T. Schneider
01-01	3	Hampstead	residence	S. Mirick, et al.
01-03	4	Merrimack	Wasserman Park, Peasley Rd.	B. Clark
01-06	1	N. Hampton	Walnut Ave.	T. Kinsman
01-10	10	Londonderry	Lincoln Dr.	R. Steele
01-21	6	Derry	English Range Rd.	H. Degroot
01-22	4	Salisbury	Old Coach Rd.	M. Hutchins
01-27	4	Lee	Lee Hook Rd.	P. Haendler
02-01	2	Rye	Garland Rd.	B. & H. Blanchard
02-03	6	Nashua	Kessler condominiums	J. Allard
02-10	4	Hollis	Pepperell Rd.	J. Allard
Hermit Thrush				
01-23	1	Bedford	Nathan Cutler Dr.	J. Nelson
02-08	1	Manchester	Jefferson St.	W. Chrzaszcz
American Robin				
12-13	75	Bedford	Ministerial Rd.	S., S. & J. Saidel-Goley
01-28	100	Dover	Prospect St. residence	S. & A. Galt
01-31	65	Laconia	Wildwood Rd.	H. Anderson
02-02	75	Canterbury	Kimball Pond Rd.	R. Quinn
02-05	50	Concord	Millstone Dr.	K. Frasier
02-08	160	Hinsdale	Connecticut R. bluffs & shoreline	C. Martin, A. Pairis
02-11	60	Laconia	Wildwood Rd.	H. Anderson
Gray Catbird				
01-31	1	Concord	Donovan St.	R. Woodward
02-09	1	Concord	Donovan St.	R. Woodward
Bohemian Waxwing				
12-05	100	Holderness	North River St.	J. Williams
12-13	150	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
01-09	330	Plymouth	Highland St., Plymouth State College	J. Williams
02-02	300	Canterbury	Kimball Pond Rd.	R. Quinn
02-13	100	Lebanon	High St.	P. Hunt
02-27	105	Enfield	Main St. Pond	P. Hunt
Cedar Waxwing				
01-06	60	Keene	Felt & Hurricane Rds.	M. Wright
01-07	70	Brookfield	Wentworth Rd.	J. LaBelle
01-09	50	Plymouth	Highland St., Plymouth State College	J. Williams
01-27	120	Laconia	RR tracks, w. side of Paugus Bay	H. Anderson

Warblers through Snow Bunting

Despite the mild weather through mid-winter, very few warblers lingered this year, in stark contrast to last winter. Interesting sparrows included five Savannah Sparrows in Durham and a Fox Sparrow in Nashua. Dark-eyed Junco numbers were way down from last year. There were no reports of Lapland Longspurs or Snow Buntings from the seacoast, only inland sightings.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Common Yellowthroat				
01-08	1	Hinsdale	bluffs below Vernon Dam	S. Schmidt
American Tree Sparrow				
12-12	3	Sugar Hill	residence	J. McIlwaine
01-15	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
01-17	6	Plymouth	Pine Gate Rd. residence	J. Williams
01-29	5	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
02-01	2	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. & M. Harris, et al.
Savannah Sparrow				
01-19	5	Durham	Mast Rd. fields	C. Federer
Fox Sparrow				
12-26	1	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. & M. Harris
01-31	1	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. & M. Harris
02-10	1	Nashua	Deerhaven Dr.	R. Andrews
White-throated Sparrow				
01-12	1	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. & M. Suomala
01-20	4	Durham	Oyster River Rd.	C. Federer
Lapland Longspur				
01-06	2	Gilford	Ellacoya St. Pk., Lake Winnepesaukee	L. Deming
Snow Bunting				
01-06	125	Stratford	Rt. 3 field	S. & D. Stoddard
02-19	50	Stratham	near jct. Rt. 108 & Squamscott Rd.	G. Gavutis III

Blackbirds through Evening Grosbeak

An Eastern Meadowlark lingered into December. The Baltimore Oriole in Hollis had been present since November and was captured on videotape. **Pine Grosbeaks** put in a very strong showing, eclipsing Evening Grosbeaks. **Red** and **White-winged Crossbills** were present in modest numbers. Common Redpolls were numerous, in contrast to last year, and the RBC accepted five **Hoary Redpoll** reports.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Red-winged Blackbird				
12-15	1	Chesterfield		C. Martin, A. Pairis
01-07	1	Walpole	Thompson Rd.	D. Bertin
02-12	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
02-18	1	Stratham	near jct. Rt. 108 & Squamscott Rd.	G. Gavutis III
02-27	8	Greenland	Great Bay farm	S. Mirick
02-27	1	Enfield	Main St. Pond	P. Hunt
02-27	25	Windham	Nashua Rd.	J. Romano
Eastern Meadowlark				
12-17	1	Sandwich	Whiteface Intervale	T. Vazzano
Rusty Blackbird				
01-09	3	Greenland	Great Bay farm	S. Mirick, P. Hunt
02-27	10	Greenland	Great Bay farm	S. Mirick
Common Grackle				
12-27	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
02-23	1	Londonderry	Devonshire Lane	H. Chary
02-27	1	Franklin	Winnepesaukee R. just above Merrimack R.	J. Williams
02-27	1	Stratham	near Stratham circle	S. Mirick
Brown-headed Cowbird				
01-09	3	Greenland	Great Bay farm	S. Mirick, P. Hunt
02-27	4	Greenland	Great Bay farm	S. Mirick
Baltimore Oriole				
12-12	1	Hollis	Proctor Hill Rd.	J. Parker-Cash
Pine Grosbeak				
12-09	30	Jefferson	Jefferson Valley, Rts. 115 & 2	G. Gavutis
12-18	15	Lancaster	Portland St.	S. & D. Stoddard
01-23	55		Lower Mascoma Lake	P. Hunt, L. Reitsma
01-28	10	Conway	East Conway Rd.	R. Crowley
01-31	12	Lancaster	Page Hill Rd.	S. Stoddard
02-01	12	Plainfield	River Rd.	P. Hunt
02-03	100	Claremont	Rt. 11, e. of city center	P. Hunt, G. Piche
Purple Finch				
01-28	1	Chatham	residence	R. Crowley
Red Crossbill				
12-03	1	Sandwich	Thompson W. S.	T. Vazzano
12-18	11	Jefferson	residence	C. Bretton
01-04	6	Gilmanton	Crystal Lake	W. Arms

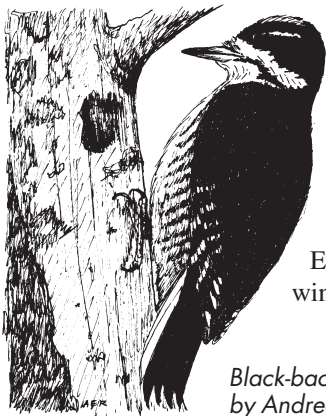
<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
White-winged Crossbill				
12-18	35	Jefferson	North Rd. near Rt. 2 jct.	C. Bretton
01-04	1	Warren	Blodgett Brook drainage, WMNF	J. Williams, D. Hrdlicka
01-29	12	Sutton	Ring Brook Cedar Swamp	C. Martin, D. Anderson, et al.
02-10	1	Concord	Heritage Heights	M. Gray
02-21	55	New London	town center	J. Tilley
02-25	1	Enfield	Riverside Dr.	P. Hunt
02-25	1	Plymouth	Pine Gate Rd.	R. Williams
Common Redpoll				
12-12	116		Lower Mascoma Lake	P. Hunt
12-24	50	New London	Pingree Rd.	R. Vernon
12-27	95	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
01-13	50	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
01-19	150	Durham	Mast Rd. fields	C. Federer
01-20	100	Orford	Rt. 10	P. Hunt
02-02	90	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
02-04	50	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. Harris
02-22	50	Candia	Joseph Tpk.	R. St. Onge
02-26	100	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
Hoary Redpoll				
01-20	1	Orford	Rt. 10	P. Hunt, S. Sillett
01-30	1	Lancaster	Portland St.	D. Stoddard
02-02	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
02-08	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
02-09	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
Pine Siskin				
12-18	50	Jefferson	North Rd. near Rt. 2 jct.	C. Bretton
01-16	17	Enfield	Oak Grove Rd.	P. Hunt
02-18	20	Pembroke	N. Pembroke Rd.	K. Palfy
Evening Grosbeak				
12-01	12	Pembroke	N. Pembroke Rd.	K. Palfy
12-02	12	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
01-07	16	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
01-16	20	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
02-01	18	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
02-18	10	Pembroke	N. Pembroke Rd.	K. Palfy

Statewide Highlights

This year's Christmas Bird Count (CBC) was held from December 16, 1999 to January 3, 2000. A **Common Murre**, one of the rarest alcids in New Hampshire, was observed on the Isles of Shoals count. Northern Gannets put in their strongest showing ever, with 67 on the Isles of Shoals count and 12 on the Seacoast count.

With the mild weather in December and accompanying open water, many species of waterfowl were seen in record or near-record numbers on this year's counts. Many half-hearted species lingered well into the winter season before departing. Northern Shrikes were reported from 12 counts.

Nashua-Hollis reported a notable five Carolina Wrens (the best showing since 1992) and three Bohemian Waxwings. Peterborough-Hancock logged its second-ever Snow Goose, its first-ever Eastern Bluebirds (2), three Bohemian Waxwings, and 15 White-winged Crossbills. Keene reported both Red (3) and White-winged (1) Crossbills. Lee-Durham found a Carolina Wren, two Winter Wrens, two Bohemian Waxwings, a Common Yellowthroat, and a Fox Sparrow. Concord had its first-ever



Gray Catbird. Hanover-Norwich had a Peregrine Falcon, a Northern Harrier, and two Carolina Wrens. Littleton had a Black-backed Woodpecker, very unusual in that area. North Conway had a Winter Wren, three Yellow-rumped Warblers, and a White-throated Sparrow, all notably far north. Manchester had an astounding 635 Ruddy Ducks and a Baltimore Oriole. Sandwich reported a Red-bellied Woodpecker and an Eastern Meadowlark; both farther north than usual in winter.

Black-backed Woodpecker
by Andrea Robbins

Individual Count Highlights

The Nashua-Hollis CBC posted its highest totals of Common Merganser (90), Red-tailed Hawk (27), Ring-billed Gull (412), Belted Kingfisher (13), Red-bellied Woodpecker (6, tied 1996), Hairy Woodpecker (74), Pileated Woodpecker (5), Northern Shrike (6, tied 1995), Eastern Bluebird (47), American Robin (294!), Northern Mockingbird (92), American Tree Sparrow (448), Northern Cardinal (150), and Red-winged Blackbird (20).

The Peterborough-Hancock CBC tallied record totals of Canada Goose (337), Common Merganser (26), Wild Turkey (84), Common Raven (14, tied 1983), and American Robin (60).

The Keene CBC reported its first-ever Red-necked Grebe, Wood Duck, Northern Pintail (2), Lesser Scaup, Hooded Merganser (19), Ring-billed Gull (5), and Red-bellied Woodpecker. Keene had record-high counts of Canada Goose (1070), Mallard (458), Rock Dove (1174), Tufted Titmouse (66), and Common Redpoll (127).

The Seacoast CBC noted its first-ever Snow Goose, two Ruddy Ducks, a Sora (first one since 1983), a Dovekie, a Thick-billed Murre, and two Carolina Wrens. Seacoast posted record numbers of Northern Gannet (12), American Wigeon (67), Surf Scoter (207), Sanderling (202), Ring-billed Gull (632), Northern Shrike (13, tied 1978), Eastern Bluebird (91), and Rusty Blackbird (16).

The Isles of Shoals count tallied record highs for Common Loon (30), Northern Gannet (67), Common Eider (3700), and Razorbill (21); plus its first ever Carolina Wren (2), Winter Wren, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

Lee-Durham had record totals of Great Blue Heron (7), Mallard (1057), Bufflehead (280), Hooded Merganser (12), Ring-billed Gull (524), Belted Kingfisher (7), Common Raven (8), Eastern Bluebird (58), and Common Redpoll (124).

The Concord CBC reported its first ever Gray Catbird, plus record high counts for Mourning Dove (658), Northern Shrike (4), American Robin (70), European Starling (2038), and Rusty Blackbird (9).

The Laconia-New Hampton count posted records for Canada Goose (83), Hooded Merganser (210), Sharp-shinned Hawk (6), Red-tailed Hawk (10), Wild Turkey (47), Ring-billed Gull (276), Mourning Dove (548), Eastern Bluebird (5), American Robin (149), and Northern Cardinal (96).

Hanover-Norwich had its first-ever Peregrine Falcon and Eastern Bluebird (6), plus its second-ever Northern Harrier (previous one in 1992). Record highs were tallied for Canada Goose (10), Hooded Merganser (14), Rock Dove (1196), Barred Owl (9), Tufted Titmouse (115), and European Starling (988).

Baker Valley saw its first-ever Ring-necked Duck, plus high counts of Common Merganser (112), Wild Turkey (109), and Tufted Titmouse (26).

Littleton reported its first Iceland Gull, and high counts of Canada Goose (52), American Black Duck (41), Mallard (54), Common Goldeneye (11), Hooded Merganser (21), Wild Turkey (199), and Tufted Titmouse (6).

Errol-Umbagog saw its second-ever Belted Kingfisher (previous in 1979), and high counts of Golden-crowned Kinglet (65) and European Starling (18, tied last year).

Pittsburg had its first Bald Eagle, and a high count of Golden-crowned Kinglet (61).

North Conway (started in 1989) had a first count record for Winter Wren. Three Yellow-rumped Warblers and a White-throated Sparrow were notably far north. High



*Winter Wren
by Andrea Robbins*

Continued on page 24

100th Christmas Bird Count, Dec. 16, 1999 – Jan. 3, 2000

species	Nshua	Petrb	Keene	Coast	Isles	LeeDu	Cncrd
Red-throated Loon	-	-	-	13	1	-	-
Common Loon	-	-	2	58	30	2	-
Pied-billed Grebe	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	17	-	-	-
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	1	82	1	-	-
Northern Gannet	-	-	-	12	67	-	-
Double-cr. Cormorant	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Great Cormorant	-	-	-	27	57	-	-
Great Blue Heron	5	-	-	12	-	7	2
Snow Goose	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Canada Goose	1102	337	1070	3170	-	527	339
Mute Swan	-	-	-	57	-	4	-
Wood Duck	1	-	1	-	-	1	-
Eurasian Wigeon	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
American Wigeon	-	-	-	67	-	-	-
American Black Duck	110	-	69	1400	71	172	33
Mallard	1718	10	458	1073	15	1057	135
Northern Pintail	1	-	2	1	-	CW	-
Green-winged Teal	-	-	-	CW	-	2	-
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	-	CW	-	-	15
Greater Scaup	-	-	332	-	-	-	-
Lesser Scaup	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Common Eider	-	-	-	107	3700	-	-
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	207	20	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	332	18	-	-
Black Scoter	-	-	-	112	3	-	-
Oldsquaw	-	-	-	129	30	-	-
Bufflehead	-	-	-	134	10	280	-
Common Goldeneye	2	-	2	150	19	100	25
Barrow's Goldeneye	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hooded Merganser	-	-	19	3	-	12	51
Common Merganser	90	26	32	5	-	6	33
Red-br. Merganser	-	-	-	259	35	2	-
Merganser sp.	-	-	16	-	-	-	-
Ruddy Duck	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Duck sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bald Eagle	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Northern Harrier	-	-	-	2	-	1	-
Sharp-shinned Hawk	5	2	1	8	-	2	-
Cooper's Hawk	2	-	-	5	-	3	2
Northern Goshawk	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Accipiter sp.	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Red-tailed Hawk	27	3	5	36	-	18	9
Rough-legged Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Kestrel	1	-	-	1	-	4	CW
Merlin	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Falcon sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Lcnia	Hnovr	BkrVI	Ltltn	Errol	Pttsb	NCnw	LSunp	Manch	Sandw	Total
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
9	-	-	2	-	-	-	5	4	-	112
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	20
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	84
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	79
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	84
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
83	10	-	52	-	-	-	6	920	-	7616
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	61
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	67
97	14	-	41	-	2	2	30	17	2	2060
823	230	1	54	-	55	-	227	1192	3	7051
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
3	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	15	-	35
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	338
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3807
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	227
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	350
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	115
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	159
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	425
221	18	-	11	-	-	-	6	6	-	560
1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
210	14	-	21	-	1	-	38	2	-	371
156	42	112	6	19	3	-	6	16	-	552
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	296
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	635	-	637
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	8
2	2	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	9
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
6	2	1	-	-	-	3	2	2	1	35
-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	16
-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	CW	4
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
10	9	-	3	-	-	1	2	10	1	134
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	8
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

100th Christmas Bird Count (continued)

species	Nshua	Petrb	Keene	Coast	Isles	LeeDu	Cncrd
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	1	2	4	-	-	-
Ruffed Grouse	5	10	4	4	-	3	7
Spruce Grouse	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wild Turkey	9	84	35	-	-	29	CW
Sora	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
American Coot	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Black-bellied Plover	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Killdeer	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Sanderling	-	-	-	202	-	-	-
Purple Sandpiper	-	-	-	80	151	-	-
Dunlin	-	-	-	12	-	-	-
Common Snipe	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	89	3	26	-
Ring-billed Gull	412	1	5	632	2	524	69
Herring Gull	552	12	79	2062	1000	3079	5
Iceland Gull	-	-	1	1	1	3	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	1	-	2	-
Great Bla.-bac. Gull	215	-	27	263	50	264	4
Gull sp.	-	-	85	-	-	-	-
Bla.-leg. Kittiwake	-	-	-	2	6	-	-
Dovekie	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Common Murre	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Thick-billed Murre	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Razorbill	-	-	-	-	21	-	-
Black Guillemot	-	-	-	3	45	-	-
Rock Dove	935	138	1174	896	-	830	629
Mourning Dove	884	215	210	449	-	333	658
Eastern Screech-owl	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Great Horned Owl	1	-	-	4	-	1	-
Snowy Owl	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Barred Owl	1	1	1	2	-	3	-
Belted Kingfisher	13	2	-	8	-	7	2
Red-bel. Woodpecker	6	-	1	1	-	1	1
Downy Woodpecker	148	39	37	68	2	54	61
Hairy Woodpecker	74	41	24	23	-	18	43
Bla.-bac. Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Flicker	9	-	-	28	-	3	-
Pileated Woodpecker	5	1	3	4	-	-	4
Northern Shrike	6	2	1	13	-	5	4
Gray Jay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue Jay	533	216	192	254	1	183	284
American Crow	523	109	194	980	-	666	530
Common Raven	-	14	5	2	-	8	CW
Horned Lark	-	-	20	36	-	45	13
Black-cap. Chickadee	808	800	788	859	5	982	495
Boreal Chickadee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tufted Titmouse	232	83	66	140	-	132	101
Red-br. Nuthatch	45	30	16	10	1	26	45
White-br. Nuthatch	166	89	74	108	-	100	85
Brown Creeper	24	14	3	9	-	12	8

Lcnia	Hnovr	BkrVI	Ltltn	Errol	Pttsb	NCnw	LSunp	Manch	Sandw	Total
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	11
8	2	2	6	3	9	11	5	-	5	84
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
47	63	109	199	-	-	19	20	-	128	742
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	202
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	231
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	118
276	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	738	-	2660
113	40	1	112	-	-	-	1	2082	1	9139
-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	8
1	CW	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
133	108	-	125	-	-	-	-	313	-	1502
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	-	-	91
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48
291	1196	44	142	-	-	33	73	793	16	7190
548	492	75	53	14	40	204	86	143	207	4611
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	9
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
1	9	-	-	2	1	2	1	-	6	30
-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	37
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	12
81	67	15	14	8	11	46	19	44	49	763
48	46	16	16	5	2	24	14	26	50	470
-	-	-	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	5
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	45
5	6	-	-	1	3	3	-	-	12	47
2	2	-	1	2	3	CW	-	2	CW	43
-	-	-	-	1	8	-	-	-	-	9
491	378	84	91	53	40	137	261	132	176	3506
372	1613	78	62	23	20	72	57	221	23	5543
2	7	11	18	21	36	3	6	3	17	153
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	119
1317	1743	551	190	428	424	762	701	514	922	12289
-	-	-	-	12	33	1	-	-	-	46
93	115	26	6	-	-	32	29	93	62	1210
37	57	28	19	48	55	31	19	17	53	537
143	173	36	10	8	4	67	52	53	106	1274
19	28	2	-	7	5	16	13	24	16	200

100th Christmas Bird Count (continued)

species	Nshua	Petrb	Keene	Coast	Isles	LeeDu	Cncrd
Carolina Wren	5	-	-	2	2	1	-
Winter Wren	1	-	-	-	1	2	-
Marsh Wren	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-
Golden-cr. Kinglet	7	7	1	9	-	2	2
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	-	-	-	-	2	1	-
Eastern Bluebird	47	2	1	91	-	58	-
American Robin	294	60	3	739	2	178	70
Gray Catbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
N. Mockingbird	92	1	6	131	-	29	15
European Starling	2150	330	905	11925	11	2263	2038
Bohemian Waxwing	3	3	-	-	-	2	-
Cedar Waxwing	247	199	185	331	-	215	133
Ylw.-rumped Warbler	-	-	-	7	2	-	-
Common Yellowthroat	-	-	-	CW	-	1	-
Eastern Towhee	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
Am. Tree Sparrow	448	38	24	385	-	147	179
Chipping Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Field Sparrow	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Savannah Sparrow	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Fox Sparrow	1	-	-	1	-	1	-
Song Sparrow	36	-	1	62	21	17	8
Swamp Sparrow	1	-	-	3	1	1	-
White-thr. Sparrow	14	2	-	16	6	4	9
Dark-eyed Junco	443	38	98	235	-	245	88
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Snow Bunting	-	3	1	14	40	25	21
Northern Cardinal	150	20	38	137	9	80	36
Red-winged Blackbird	20	-	-	7	-	1	-
Eastern Meadowlark	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	-	16	-	-	9
Br.-headed Cowbird	-	-	-	125	-	6	-
Baltimore Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Grosbeak	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Finch	-	7	1	5	-	5	19
House Finch	400	29	86	416	-	210	152
Red Crossbill	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Whi.-wing. Crossbill	-	15	1	-	-	-	-
Common Redpoll	11	103	127	142	6	124	38
Pine Siskin	8	2	4	1	-	14	32
American Goldfinch	700	155	51	842	1	309	217
Evening Grosbeak	-	98	37	-	-	-	6
House Sparrow	1068	197	73	1705	-	498	301
Number of Species	63	48	58	103	45	74	50
Number of Participants	29	25	33	36	32	21	18

Total Number of Species Across all CBCs: 137

? = Questionable Sighting

Coast = Seacoast (12/18/99)

CW = Count Week

Isles = Isles-of-Shoals (12/19/99)

Nshua = Nashua-Hollis (1/2/00)

LeeDu = Lee-Durham (12/26/99)

Petrb = Peterborough-Hancock (12/18/99)

Cncrd = Concord (12/19/99)

Keene = Keene (12/18/99)

Lcnia	Hnovr	BkrVI	Lltn	Errol	Pttsb	NCnw	LSunp	Manch	Sandw	Total
-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	5
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
13	2	5	6	65	61	-	25	1	10	216
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
5	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	-	233
149	5	-	2	-	-	-	1	7	1	1511
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
11	2	-	-	-	-	3	-	23	-	313
648	988	45	331	18	30	98	168	231	195	22374
45	103	-	8	1	-	CW	53	-	-	218
395	328	-	-	-	-	16	49	15	-	2113
1	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	13
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
88	91	6	9	2	-	31	28	26	20	1522
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
4	4	-	1	-	-	-	3	1	-	158
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
1	2	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	58
99	75	4	-	-	1	19	16	52	9	1422
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	CW	105
96	81	5	6	-	1	8	14	46	10	737
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25
-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	139
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
64	29	-	53	46	101	35	5	-	62	397
7	1	6	-	-	1	-	7	-	-	59
404	285	7	1	-	-	3	36	40	1	2070
CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	5
-	1	-	-	3	5	-	-	-	-	25
364	138	115	208	-	19	95	399	37	178	2104
2	1	9	-	106	-	7	2	2	-	190
272	178	53	3	1	1	5	-	108	36	2932
3	78	45	11	32	18	77	7	4	33	449
274	460	31	35	-	9	121	60	415	23	5270
44	44	27	34	27	30	34	38	41	33	
25	27	10	7	9	8	31	15	15	27	

Lcnia = Laconia-New-Hampton (1/2/00)

Hnovr = Hanover-Norwich (1/1/00)

BkrVI = Baker-Valley (12/18/99)

Lltn = Littleton (12/18/99)

Errol = Errol-Umbagog (12/21/99)

Pttsb = Pittsburg (12/22/99)

NCnw = North-Conway (12/28/99)

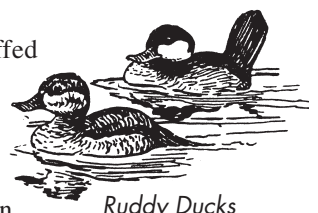
LSunp = Lake-Sunapee (12/18/99)

Manch = Manchester (12/18/99)

Sandw = Sandwich (1/2/00)

counts were produced for Sharp-shinned Hawk (3), Ruffed Grouse (11), Wild Turkey (19), Tufted Titmouse (32), Brown Creeper (16), and Pine Grosbeak (35).

Lake Sunapee (started in 1990) notables included five Common Loons, two Horned Grebes, a Ring-necked Duck, Hooded Mergansers (38), a Belted Kingfisher, a Northern Flicker, and Bohemian Waxwings (53).



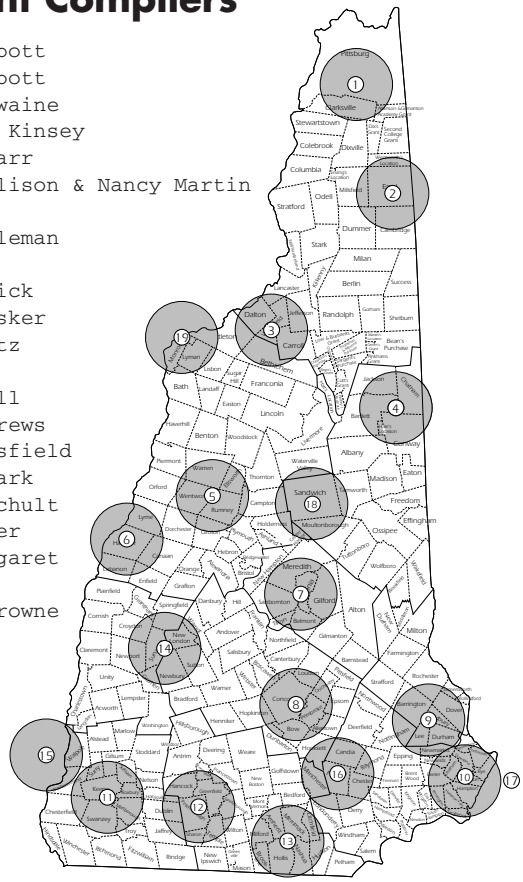
Ruddy Ducks

Manchester (started in 1995) highlights included a Canvasback, 15 Ring-necked Ducks, five Greater Scaup, 16 Common Mergansers, an astounding 635 Ruddy Ducks on Lake Massabesic, a Red-bellied Woodpecker, 23 Eastern Bluebirds, and a Baltimore Oriole.

Sandwich (started in 1995) notables included a Rough-legged Hawk, a Spruce Grouse, 128 Wild Turkeys, a Red-bellied Woodpecker, an Eastern Meadowlark, and 62 Pine Grosbeaks.

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 | David Donsker |
| 11 Keene | Robert Ritz |
| 12 Peterborough-
Hancock | Dave Rowell |
| 13 Nashua-Hollis | Ralph Andrews |
| 14 Lake Sunapee | Gary Stansfield |
| 15 Saxton s River, | Wdndal Clark |
| 16 Manchester | Barbara Schult |
| 17 Isles of Shoals | Dave Tucker |
| 18 Sandwich | Jim & Margaret
Vernon |
| 19 Barnet, VT | Charlie Browne |



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 1999, and Winter 1999–2000 and additional records voted on by the committee.

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 6-0 or 5-1 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 in 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 Managing Editor at ASNH for a copy of either of these articles.

The committee members are Dennis Abbott, Alan Delorey, David Donsker, Pamela Hunt, Steve Mirick, and George Robbins. Please contact any one of them if you have questions.

Spring 1999

Records accepted by the Committee:

Manx Shearwater offshore Newcastle on May 2. Well described.
Manx Shearwater offshore Rye on May 24. Well described.
Tundra Swan (6), Haverhill on March 2–19. Well described.
Sandhill Crane in Seabrook on May 14–25. Well described.
Sandhill Crane in Monroe on May 27. Seen by numerous observers, present through fall.
Little Gull in Rye on May 24. Well described.
Black-headed Gull in Rye on May 24. Well described.
Lesser Black-backed Gull in Rochester on March 5. Adequate description.
Acadian Flycatcher at Pawtuckaway on May 17. Well described, present for some time.
Worm-eating Warbler in Enfield on May 9. Well described.
Blue Grosbeak in Goffstown on May 1. Well described.
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow in Hampton on May 24. Well described.
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow in Stratham on May 28. Well described.

Records not accepted by the Committee:

Gray-cheeked Thrush in Tamworth on May 22. Although details were good, they were not sufficient to eliminate the very similar Bicknell's Thrush.

Continued on page 26

- Black-headed Grosbeak in Contoocook on May 14. Insufficient details to eliminate female Rose-breasted Grosbeak.
- Blue Grosbeak in Raymond on May 16. Description matched this species, but video footage clearly showed Indigo Bunting.
- Blue Grosbeak (female) in Hampton on May 26. Details did not completely eliminate the similar females of Brown-headed Cowbird and Indigo Bunting.
- Hoary Redpoll in Chatham on April 1. Insufficient details to eliminate Common Redpoll.

Summer 1999

Records accepted by the Committee:

- Sooty Shearwater offshore in Rye on June 30.
- Gadwall in Errol on June 1.
- Forster's Tern in Rye on June 2.
- Black Skimmer on Seavey Island on June 6.
- Atlantic Puffin on Star Island on June 9.
- Atlantic Puffin on Seavey Island on June 15.
- Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows in Stratham on June 16 and 26.



Atlantic Puffin
by Iain C. MacLeod

Records not accepted by the Committee:

- Rufous Hummingbird in Milford "throughout the summer." Details were insufficient to eliminate Ruby-throated Hummingbird.
- Caspian Tern in Pittsburg on June 7. Description inconclusive.

Fall 1999

Records accepted by the Committee:

- Cory's Shearwater, Rye on September 17. Adequate description.
- Manx Shearwater, Rye on September 17. Adequate description.
- Golden Eagle, Moultonboro on September 28. Adequate description.
- Red Phalarope, Rye on September 17. Adequate description.
- Red Phalarope, Piedmont on October 2. Adequate description with field sketch.
- Parasitic Jaeger, North Hampton on August 22. Adequate description.
- Parasitic Jaeger, Rye on November 1. Adequate description.
- Lesser Black-backed Gull, Rochester on November 14. Photograph submitted.
- Lesser Black-backed Gull, Rochester on November 14. Adequate description.
- Lesser Black-backed Gull, Dover on October 13. Adequate description.
- Orange-cheeked Thrush, Nashua on September 23. Adequate description.
- Orange-crowned Warbler, Exeter on October 23. Adequate description.
- Orange-crowned Warbler, Gilsum on September 9. Adequate description.
- Black-throated Gray Warbler, Rye (Star Island) on September 21. Documentation from multiple observers with photographs to establish first documented state record.
- Clay-colored Sparrow, Rye (Star Island) on September 24. Photographs submitted.
- Lark Sparrow, Rye (Star Island) on August 25. Adequate description.
- Yellow-headed Blackbird, Milford on September 22. Adequate description.
- Golden Eagle, Deering on October 16. Adequate description.
- Arctic Tern, Seabrook on September 4. Adequate description.



Records not accepted by the Committee:

Orange-crowned Warbler, Plymouth on October 3.

Description given is inconsistent with the field marks for this species.

Clay-colored Sparrow, North Chatham on October 20.

Description insufficient to rule out fall-plumaged Chipping Sparrow.

Lark Sparrow, North Sutton on October 3. Description insufficient to rule out other similar species.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Hampton on October 17. Description written many months after the sighting and lacked sufficient information to rule out Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

Winter 1999–2000

Records accepted by the Committee:

Hoary Redpoll, Lancaster on January 30. Adequate description.

Hoary Redpoll, Center Sandwich on February 2. Adequate description.

Hoary Redpoll, Center Sandwich on February 8. Adequate description.

Hoary Redpoll, Center Sandwich on February 9. Adequate description.

Hoary Redpoll, Orford on January 20. Adequate description.

Records not accepted by the committee:

Eurasian Wigeon, Webster on February 28. American Wigeon not eliminated.

Merlin, Walpole on February 6. Sharp-shinned Hawk not eliminated.

Mew Gull, Rye on January 29. Ring-billed Gull not eliminated.

NHRBC Decisions on Late Submissions

There are occasional records that the committee is unable to evaluate in time for publication with the other votes from that season. The decisions for these records appear below.

Species accepted by the committee:

Yellow-throated Warbler in East Kingston on May 13–14, 1997.

Kentucky Warbler in Pawtuckaway State Park on May 17, 1997.

Kentucky Warbler in Rye on May 18, 1997.

Summer Tanager in New London on May 6–7, 1998 — photographed.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Effingham on April 29, 1993.

Species not accepted by the committee:

Gyr Falcon in Rye on May 23, 1998. Insufficient details to eliminate some races of Peregrine Falcon.

Sandhill Crane in Milford on September 5, 1997. Insufficient details to eliminate Great Blue Heron.

Pacific Golden-Plover in New London on September 26, 1998. Insufficient details to eliminate the extremely similar American Golden-Plover.

The Evening Grosbeak in New England: A Century of Population Dynamics

by Pam Hunt

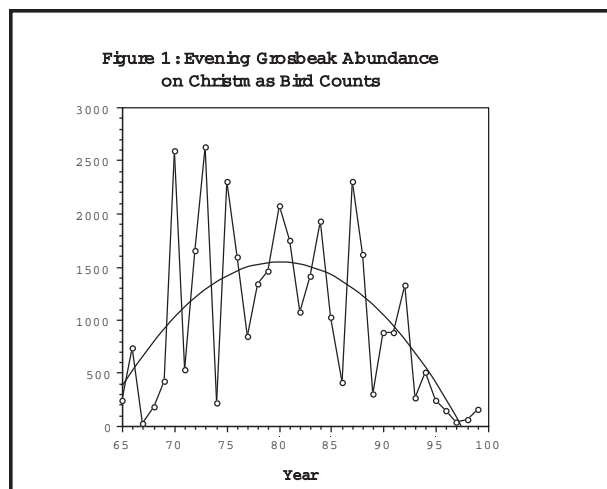
Most of us have memories of huge flocks of Evening Grosbeaks descending on our bird feeders, consuming sunflower seed faster than we could supply it, and moving on. Many of us with such memories have noticed that such flocks are largely a thing of the past. Feeder enthusiasts everywhere comment on the absence of these voracious northern finches: where have they all gone, and why? There is no obvious answer to this question, and it may even be that we are asking the wrong question, but a look at the history of this species in New England will perhaps shed some light on the issue.

Until 1889, the Evening Grosbeak was unheard of in New England. It was largely a species of the west, not occurring south or east of the Great Lakes. A few scattered individuals made it to eastern Ontario and northern New York by 1887, but New Englanders had yet to see them. But then, in the winter of 1889–90, grosbeaks invaded the Northeast in unprecedented numbers and were recorded in every New England state except Rhode Island. Looking specifically at New Hampshire, the birds were seen in locations as scattered as Seabrook and Henniker. Numbers were relatively small, but they were a sign of things to come.

Over a decade passed before grosbeaks were again seen in the Granite State, but after 1903 they were almost annual in occurrence, albeit in small numbers. The same pattern was repeated elsewhere in northern New England and New York, while more southern areas only saw grosbeaks irregularly. The next major winter invasion came in 1944–45, when grosbeaks penetrated into southern New England in large numbers for the first time. At one banding station in Hartford, Connecticut, over 2000 were

banded, after banding only two over the previous three winters.

By the early 1960s, the species was becoming regular, if not always abundant, in New England. At this time, Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) were becoming well established, and we can look at data from them to continue the story. Figure 1 shows the combined grosbeak total for four

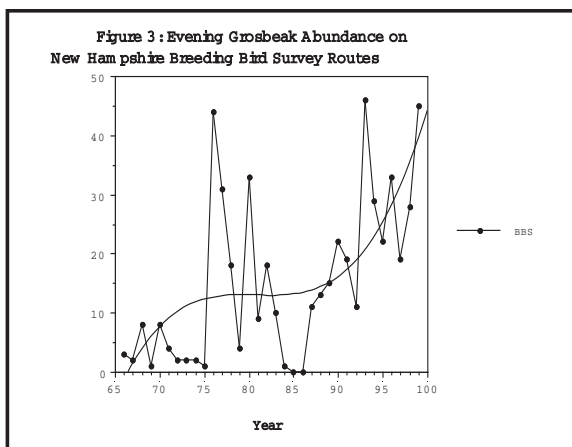
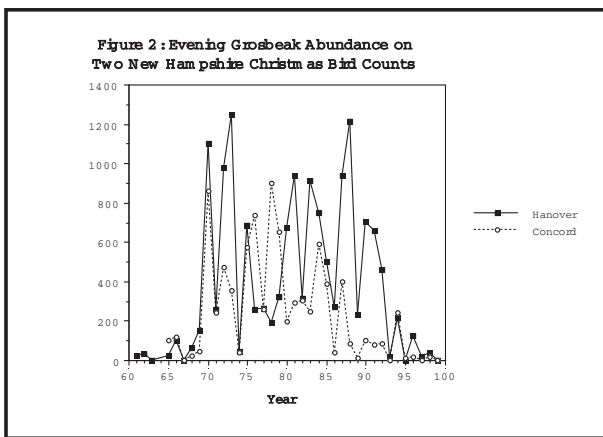


New Hampshire CBCs (Hanover, Errol, Concord, and Seacoast) that were conducted every year from 1965 onward. What these data show is a marked increase in 1970, followed by a two to three year cycle of irruptions through the late 1980s. This is the period we remember as having so many Evening Grosbeaks, since by 1990 the

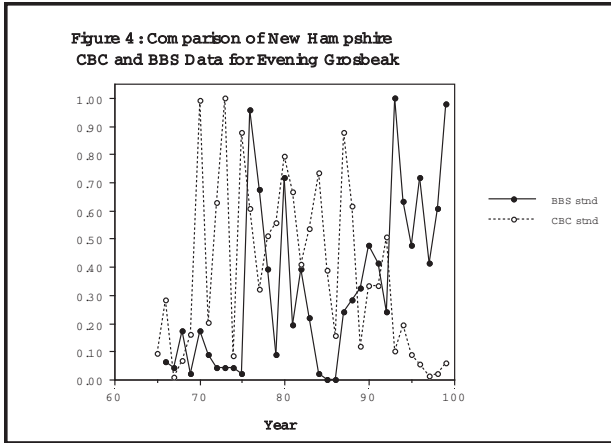
winter numbers were starting to drop off, and the birds had actually become quite scarce by the late 1990s. It is worth noting that the irruption years are synchronous across the state. Figure 2 shows CBC data for Hanover and Concord plotted on the same axes. Notice that most of the peaks and valleys are in the same years, and that the recent decline started earlier in the more southern location.

Up to now, I've only been discussing winter populations, but there is a similar story when one considers the Evening Grosbeak as a breeding species, although the story has a very different ending. Evening Grosbeaks first bred in New England in 1926, when a family was observed at a feeder in Woodstock Vermont. There were no further breeding records until 1953, when grosbeaks first bred in Pittsburg, New Hampshire, and again in Vermont. By the 1960s, they were breeding in small numbers over much of northern New England and even nested in Connecticut in 1962. Massachusetts didn't record breeding until recently, when in 1980 a pair was observed feeding young in Pittsfield, in the Berkshires.

Once again we have a long-term data set that can help show population changes: the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS). Figure 3 shows the total number of Evening Grosbeaks on all New Hampshire BBS routes from 1966 onward. After a few years of low abundance, they increased dramatically in the late 1970s. By the mid-1980s they had declined, only to increase again through the 1990s, a



Continued on page 30



pattern that currently shows no sign of reversing itself. Currently, grosbeaks breed throughout the northern three counties in New Hampshire and south along the western highlands, with scattered populations in the southeast, such as in Pawtucket-away State Park.

And thus we are faced with a conundrum: winter populations are

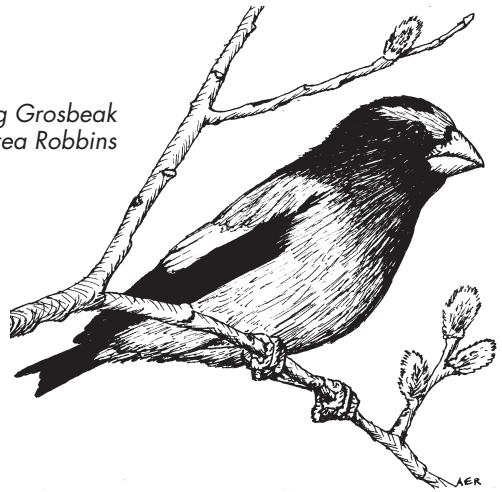
declining, while breeding populations are increasing. This is best seen in Figure 4, which shows both CBC and BBS data for New Hampshire. This figure shows three things: the different timing of summer versus winter increases, the recent divergence in population trends, and, most importantly, the non-synchronous nature of the peaks and valleys. This latter pattern is perhaps the most important in explaining the dilemma that opened this paragraph, because it suggests that our winter grosbeaks may not be the same as our breeding ones.

Remember, through the mid-1900s Evening Grosbeaks were only found in winter in New England. These birds were coming from somewhere else, presumably their breeding areas far to the north and west. Perhaps they moved south and east because their normal food supply was low, or perhaps the invaders were the overflow from a very productive breeding season. In either case, however, they went back in spring. It is only recently that some of these wintering birds opted to stay around and breed, and the continued cyclical nature of winter populations strongly suggests that many birds are still coming from somewhere else.

If they are coming from somewhere else, such as their historic breeding range, then we need to look farther afield to figure out why we no longer have as many grosbeaks at our winter feeders. Thankfully, there is BBS data for most of North America, and it shows an interesting mix of trends. Evening Grosbeaks are actually increasing in central Canada and most of the northeastern United States, but decreasing in much of eastern Canada. Are our winter birds coming from Quebec and Ontario, and what is causing this regional decline?

One possibility is changing forestry practices. Evening Grosbeaks are a spruce budworm specialist in the breeding season, meaning that the larvae of this forest pest (a moth) make up a large part of their diet. Spruce budworms show cyclic population fluctuations, and the historic fluctuations of grosbeak populations may have reflected this variation in their food supply. Recently, however, timber companies in Canada

Evening Grosbeak
by Andrea Robbins



have initiated intensive budworm control programs, resulting in much lower levels of infestation, and grosbeaks and other budworm specialists have probably had less to eat, produced fewer young, and declined as a result.

This assumes that our winter grosbeaks are coming from eastern Canada. If they are not, I'm afraid I'm out of answers. Who are we to fathom the minds of birds that wander across half a continent? They came east a century ago for some reason still unknown to us, and maybe they are going back for the same reason. Populations change; it is simply the way they are, and sometimes all we can do is sit back, watch it happen, and play mental games with ourselves. And enjoy your Evening Grosbeaks in the summer instead of winter.

*Dr. Pamela Hunt is the Spring Editor of **New Hampshire Bird Records** and the Biodiversity Project Coordinator for the Audubon Society of New Hampshire.*

The Human-Powered Year List

by C. Anthony Federer

In the past few years I have become more and more reluctant to jump in my car and drive miles to look for some rare bird that has been reported; I am really trying to reduce my adverse impact on the earth. Last year I was shocked by some birder who flew from the West Coast and back in one day to add Little Egret to a life list. So, inspired by memories of a Hooded Warbler I heard while running near my house in May, 1998, I decided to keep a “human-powered year list” for 1999.

Early in the year I emailed my concept to Steve Mirick’s forerunner of the NH.Bird listserve as a bit of a challenge to others. Pam Hunt immediately agreed to keep a list also. Others have expressed interest and, I hope, are joining us in keeping lists for 2000.

The rules are simple: you are allowed to use only human power to travel from your primary residence to count species you see or hear. Human-powered means fueled only by the food you eat. Walking, running, skiing, ice-skating, bicycling, swimming, roller-blading, roller-skiing, skateboarding, and canoeing are all acceptable modes of human-powered transportation.

We may need a committee to decide if wind power (sailing) or solar-powered vehicles are okay. And what about biking to a canoe rental place and using their canoe? What is clearly not okay are such things as bicycling or canoeing in one direction and then putting your bike or boat on a car to get back home. Also not okay is driving to your second home and counting birds using human power there. Pam Hunt raises the question of whether it is okay to scout birds by car, then bike (or run?) to count them later. Actually, everyone gets to set their own rules; it’s the concept that counts.

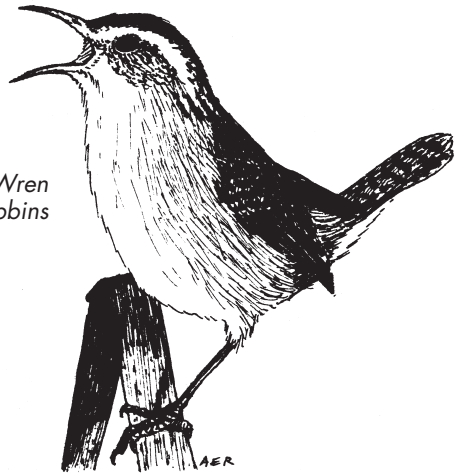
So what are the results? On January 10, I wrote in my notebook, “I should get at least 110 species. Will have to work very hard for much more than that.” I reached 110 species on May 9 and finished the year with 148 (home – 18, skiing – 10, running – 15, walking – 41, and biking – 64). All but a couple of these were in Durham. Pam Hunt did better in Enfield, reaching 155 species, mostly from her weekly five-mile walks around Mascoma Lake. Both Pam and I had a couple of species we didn’t count because of the bike-car rule.

Pam’s highlights include Worm-eating Warbler, Baird’s Sandpiper, Semipalmated Plover, Little Blue Heron, Common Nighthawk, Northern Pintail, Canvasback, and Black Tern. My best birds were American Coot, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Alder and Willow Flycatchers, Fish Crow, Raven, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Yellow-throated Vireo, Lapland Longspur, and Snow



Red-bellied Woodpecker

Marsh Wren
by Andrea Robbins



Bunting. We both had Marsh Wren, Pectoral Sandpiper, and the big Snow Goose flight.

By January 24, 2000, I had already counted seven species I did not get in 1999 (including Eurasian Wigeon!), thanks to a ten-mile hike to Adam's Point and back one fine day. Pam also started well this year, with three Pine Grosbeaks showing up on January 1. (I reached 154 species by the end of June.)

How high can a human-powered list go? Combining my 1999 and 2000 lists with my yard list gives a total human-powered list of 185 species. Paul LaCourse says he ought to be able to bicycle from his home to Plum Island a few times in 2000. Can he reach 200 species?

Try human-powered birding! It's good for your body. It's good for your soul. It's good for the earth and its birds. You also may find 150 species-and some rare ones, too – without getting in a car.

The high point of Tony Federer's life-long birding was the first New Hampshire record of Townsend's Warbler at his Durham home in December, 1981. For more on what inspires him about human-powered birding, see his ecocentric web site at <http://www.nh.ultranet.com/~compassb>.

Brown-headed Cowbird — When the villain and when a scapegoat?

by Francie Von Mertens

P*roceedings of the Partners in Flight Conference*, “Research and Management of the Brown-headed Cowbird in Western and Eastern Landscapes,” Sacramento, California, October 23–25, 1997.

In an effort to take a science-based look at the heated subject of Brown-headed Cowbirds and brood parasitism, Partners in Flight (PIF) organized a conference that brought together ornithologists, ecologists, and land managers. Brown-headed Cowbirds are notorious for parasitizing songbird nests, laying their eggs in the nests of over 220 host species, some 150 of which have fledged cowbird young. In response to concern that cowbird parasitism has contributed to the decline of songbirds, particularly neotropical migrants, government agencies initiated eradication programs over 25 years ago. Some local programs, especially centered on the Kirtland’s Warbler, have had demonstrable success. But can that success be generalized to populations less localized than the Kirtland’s Warbler and their severely diminished jack pine habitat? Similar control programs to benefit the southwestern Willow Flycatcher in California have not been successful, suggesting that loss of habitat – not cowbirds – is the problem. Cowbird as scapegoat was a recurring theme of the conference, along with concern that attention was being diverted from the truer causes of songbird decline: habitat loss through agriculture, grazing, and development. (Rates of parasitism are highest near agricultural and residential development – optimum cowbird feeding sites.)

Research findings passed on via the conference include the following:

- Brown-headed Cowbird (BHCO) populations are decreasing. Breeding Bird Survey results from 1966–96 show an average 1% decline each year.
- In regions of the country where cowbirds are increasing, their host songbird populations are not decreasing, and, conversely, where cowbird populations are decreasing, host songbird populations are not increasing;
- Rates of nest parasitism for a particular species, such as Bell’s Vireo or Yellow-breasted Chat – favorite hosts of the BHCO – vary locally, with local negative population impacts where the rates are highest. However, other studies show less clear cause-and-effect patterns, suggesting that effects are local only, do not affect general population levels, and that birds often renest with little net loss in productivity.
- A study of Song Sparrows on Mandarte Island, British Columbia, where 56% of the nests were parasitized, found only a 5% decrease in nesting success com-



*Red Eyed Vireo nest with Cowbird egg.
photograph by Tom Watts*

pared to a control site. In a Sacramento River watershed study of Lazuli Buntings, where nest parasitism was a whopping 83%, nesting success was the same as for non-parasitized nests. In a Colorado study of Yellow Warblers, nests in an area with 36% parasitism rate had the same productivity as nonparasitized nests.

Distilling information from the PIF conference, a National Audubon white paper concluded: “Conservationists and the public tend to overestimate the significance of (Brown-headed Cowbird) parasitism as a major cause of declining songbird populations.” The paper advocated that cowbird eradication efforts have one central authority and better coordination with the scientific community to assess the success of eradication efforts. The white paper supported limiting control efforts to local populations of endangered or threatened species while emphasizing longer term goals of habitat restoration of cowbird host species and maintenance of unfragmented forest, where cowbirds seldom penetrate.

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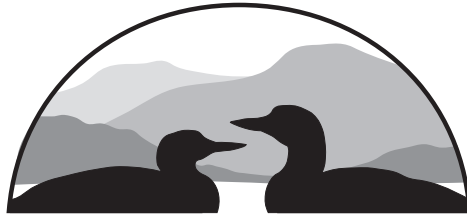
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Abbreviations Used

ASNH	Audubon Society of NH	Rd.	Road
BBC	Brookline Bird Club	Rt.	Route
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey	SF	State Forest
CA	Conservation Area	St. Pk.	State Park
CC	Country Club	SPNHF	Society for the Protection of NH Forests, Concord
FT	Field Trip	T&M	Thompson & Meserves (Purchase)
L.	Lake	WMA	Wildlife Management Area
LPC	Loon Preservation Committee	WMNF	White Mountain National Forest
NA	Natural Area	WS	ASNH Wildlife Sanctuary
NHBR	New Hampshire Bird Records	~	approximately
NHRBC	NH Rare Birds Committee		
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge		
R.	River		

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