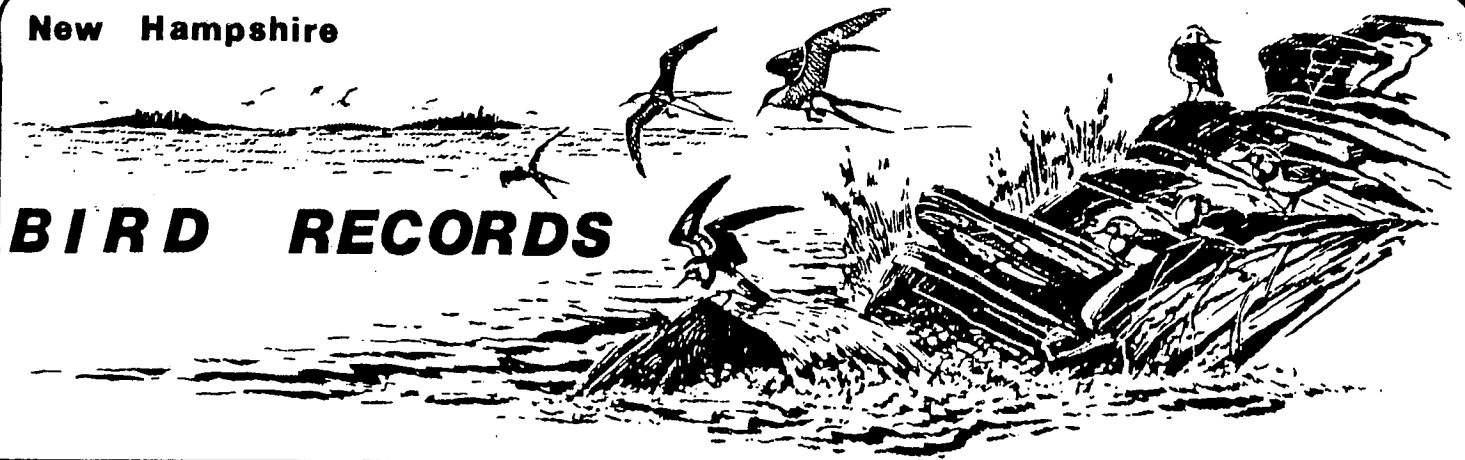


BIRD RECORDS



SETTING THE RECORDS STRAIGHT

Trying to analyze the seasonal reports is always an adventure. Deciding what to print and determining the significance of various reports constitute a true challenge. Many of you may wonder what the criteria are for inclusion and publication of records, but in fact there are no hard and fast rules and the criteria vary from season to season (see next issue for details).

There is, however, something you can do to help us produce clear and useful records: GET OUT THERE AND GO BIRDING! Then note what you see and send those sightings to us-- with appropriate comments. What is perfectly clear to you in your local area might be as clear as mud to your editor who is trying to decipher the seasonal movements and happenings for the entire state.

Of course, not all reports are printed but they all are used in synthesizing the summary, and all the reports are put on file for future reference.

We look at the information provided by the individual reports, but we can only theorize as to the causes and effects of changes in our birdlife. For instance, the Common Snipe and Lincoln's Sparrow seem to be doing quite well in the North Country; but are they really increasing, or is it that the wet Springs have caused them to disperse from their normally inaccessible haunts and to turn up where people are more likely to hear them? Why are Bobolinks increasing while at the same time Meadowlarks are decreasing? It is difficult to answer these questions, but the more information we have the better our chance of answering them.

The nesting report for 1984 will be written by Alis Kuhn, former coordinator of
(CONTINUED ON P. 8)

SPRING MIGRATION

March 1 - May 31, 1983

INTRODUCTION:

Following the mildest winter in years, with roughly only 70 percent of normal precipitation, spring 1983 provided Granite State weather watchers with much to talk about. Mild temperatures continued, but precipitation levels increased drastically; precipitation was mostly in the form of rain, and levels were some seven inches greater than normal in the southern half of the state.

As a result of these storms, many migrants normally expected from the end of March through late April were two and three weeks late in arriving. The species affected were generally those that winter in the Mid-Atlantic region. It is likely that the passage of lows through, and just north of, that region caused those species to be held up until moderating conditions prevailed.

Curiously, a particularly intense system born in northern Texas which moved off the coast near Chesapeake Bay stalled over New England on April 25 and 26, and strong circulation around the storm's center apparently had the effect of carrying some species migrating through the Gulf region more quickly east, and then north, than normal. As a result, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Indigo Bunting, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Scarlet Tanager were noted in the state about May 1, well in advance of normal dates. Especially fascinating, and apparently a result of the same meteorological influences, was an influx of Blue Grosbeaks--not only in New Hampshire, but throughout the region. It is thought that these species may have been carried well off the coast south of the low, and swept around the system's center to be "deposited" in the Northeast!

The pattern of heavy precipitation continued through most of May, with dismal skies and cooler temperatures causing many birders to feel discouraged. No great waves of

warblers were noted, but most arrived on time.

Twenty-two Great Blue Herons in Campton, a male Gadwall in New London, a pair of American Wigeon in Franklin, a Peregrine Falcon in Concord all provided observers with much pleasure, but the scene-stealers (in their own obscure fashion) were members of the Fringillid family, including two singing Clay-colored Sparrows, and a singing Henslow's Sparrow.

Readers of this report should not consider an unmentioned species to be unreported. For space considerations, most common species on time in regular numbers are omitted.

Susan A. Gonzalez
Wavell W. Fogleman

1983 Spring Migration

LOONS, GREBES



Common Loons reached inland N.H. as usual around mid- to late April. A single bird at Lake Umbagog April 8 (TR) was in the same location as a sighting Dec. 6, 1982, suggesting possible overwintering. A Red-throated Loon was still off Hampton April 26 (SAG). The often-missed Pied-billed Grebe was reported from the Suncook R., April 16 (AER) and Turkey Pond, Concord, May 4 (RAQ). Notably, a Red-necked Grebe was present on Meetinghouse Pond, Marlborough, April 21-26 (JHW). Complementing low winter numbers of Horned Grebes, none were reported for the spring season.

TUBENOSES THROUGH CORMORANTS

Again this year there were no tubenoses reports--nor even any Gannets! Double-crested Cormorants were not reported from the coast until April 5 (EWP). Single birds in May at Squam Lake (AG) and Lake Umbagog (TR) were probably non-breeders. A Great Cormorant was still present off Rye April 13 (EGL).



Great Blue Herons began appearing inland March 21 (Pittsfield, AER). Peak movements

April 7-17 included reports from Campton Pond of 8 on the 15th (TR), and an amazing 22 on the 17th (PAP). Nineteen Snowy Egrets were observed in No. Hampton April 8 (EMCC). A Little Blue Heron was at Rye Harbor marsh April 18 (EWP). *Another bird in Derry May 23 (Nancy Webb) was likely the same as one flying over Manchester May 8 (GCR). Up to 5 Cattle Egrets were around the Fuller estate, No. Hampton in May (EWP, RAQ, ASNH). Another bird was in the Concord-Hopkinton area the first week of May (HWP,*). Three were in Landaff June 1 (D.Erb, phone report to ASNH). Five Black-crowned Night-herons, including one imm. at the Lamprey R., Newmarket May 18 (R.Balerviez) were noteworthy. The undetailed report of an imm. Yellow-crowned Night-heron at Exeter May 14 (EWP) is earlier than any previous first arrival dates. An adult was seen at the same site May 21 (EWP). The first American Bittern was not reported until April 29, at Tamworth (MND). Three Glossy Ibis at Rye April 13 (EGL) were somewhat early.

WATERFOWL



A Brant March 15 at Rye (EWP, LGP) was only a bit early. Snow Geese were right on schedule with a flock of 450 at Pitcher Mtn. April

* A Great Egret was at the same place April 26 (WWF, SAG,*) and stayed around the coastal area through May 21 (EWP).

5 (C. Strickland, fide RAQ) and 150 over Paradise Point, Hebron, April 12 (RAQ, A. Butler). The only notable Mallard reports were 35 in a flooded Newmarket field March 24 (RSA) and 15 at Pontook marsh April 15 (TR). Black Ducks were locally in good numbers with groups of 60 and 80 in the Concord area (RAQ) and two groups of 100 in the Dummer-Errorl area. A well-described GADWALL was reported on Pleasant Lake, New London, May 2 (KCE). Pairs of Pintails were inland at Hookset, March 27 (RAQ) and Berlin, April 8 (TR). A pair of AMERICAN WIGEON in Franklin April 7 was new for the area (KCE).

The popular Wood Duck was reported from 11 locations, a total of 50 birds in groups of up to 12. The earliest was on the Candia ASNH property March 16 (RAQ, TR). Ring-necked Ducks were widespread, the largest group by far being an impressive 85 in Kingston April 2 (KEF). A Lesser Scaup was at Chocorua Lake April 27 (MND,*). Bufflehead were on time, with the largest group reported being 22 at Webster Lake, Franklin, May 2 (KCE). A pair of Oldsquaw were at New London May 2 (KCE). Hooded and Common Mergansers seemed to be having no problems. Three drake Red-breasted Mergansers were notable inland at Webster L. April 7,8 (KCE).

VULTURES, HAWKS



Turkey Vulture (now known to be breeding in the state) was reported from 15 locations this year. Of note was a quite early single bird at Concord March 2 (S. Wheeler, fide RAQ). The Alton flock did not materialize this year and the Ashland flock apparently left not long after arriving. Accipiters appeared in normal numbers; the earliest migrant Sharp-shinned Hawk was March 13 at Pittsfield (AER). Fifteen Red-shouldered Hawks were reported for the period, a fairly hopeful sign. Broad-winged Hawks peaked as usual around May 1 with best flights of 51, 52, and 85 reported from separate localities. No Rough-legged Hawks were reported. An adult GOLDEN EAGLE, well detailed, was seen by EWP and LGP at Northwood April 7. Three Bald Eagle reports were received, 2 immatures, and 1 not described. Sixteen Northern Harriers were observed during the period, although the first reported was a late bird April 1. Breeding Bird Atlas results will likely show this

bird to be a breeder in parts of the Connecticut R. Valley. Sixty-three Ospreys were reported, well up from last year. The first birds were not reported until April 13, 14 (rather late), and largest numbers were also around that time, suggesting a blocked flight during early April. Also of note was a late bird in Hinsdale May 25 (RAQ, AK). A slightly early Peregrine Falcon was reported from Concord March 17 (DS), the only report of that species. An early inland Merlin was reported without description from Laconia March 21 (LRE fide VHH). Grace Jeffers found a dead male Merlin at Peaked Hill, Bristol, March 31 (fide VHH). It was taken to the Science Center of N.H. in Holderness. KCE reported a Merlin in Salisbury May 6.

GROUSE THROUGH ALCIDS



The lone Spruce Grouse report came from MR who flushed 2 birds on the no. peak of Tri-pyramid April 10. Three WILD TURKEY reports were received. A female was observed April 6 near I-89 in Hopkinton (RAQ, AK) and likely the same bird was found road-killed the next day. The Herseys of Andover observed a bird feeding on their farm April 24 (fide KCE). A male was seen and heard gobbling in Durham May 7 (MR). The often undetected Virginia Rail was reported from two locations in the Lakes Region in May (BSR). A Common Moorhen was found in Exeter May 21 (EWP). The earliest Killdeer reports were from Concord March 6 (VHa, RAQ). A Whimbrel, unusual in spring migration, was at Seabrook May 21 (EWP). Upland Sandpipers were reported from Plymouth (a pair) April 28, 30 (WWF, SAG); No. Hampton, April 30 (EWP, LGP); and New Hampton, May 3 (LRE fide VHH). A congregation of 10 Spotted Sandpipers in Surry May 1 was the only large group reported (JHW). Eight Solitary Sandpipers were seen at the Winnicut R., Stratham May 22 (EWP). Both species passed on normal dates. A few Purple Sandpipers lingered at the coast at least until May 21 (RAQ, ASNH). Four of them at New London May 30 (KCE, Vernons) provide a good inland record. Aaronian had 7 Common Snipe together in Kensington April 23.

Dumps attracted Glaucus and Iceland Gulls

to the usual sites on the Merrimack R. in Concord and Manchester. One of each was also spotted at the Berlin dump April 15 (TR). An Iceland Gull on L. Wantastiquet, Hinsdale, April 6 (RAQ, AK) was the westernmost report. Six Bonaparte's Gulls inland at New London May 2 (KCE) were noteworthy also.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS



Unless the vanguard of Black-billed Cuckoos slipped in unnoticed, this species was about a week late, arriving around May 22-29. Four Great Horned Owl reports included a young branched bird in Exeter April 29 (RSA). Only 7 Barred Owl reports were received, predominantly in May. Common Nighthawks started appearing in central N.H. April 15 (AER, RAQ). The peak report received was of 30 birds May 28 (AER). The earliest Whip-poor-will was about a week late, May 3 (KCE). Only 2 individuals were reported. The April 28-29 arrival of Chimney Swifts was a couple of days on the late side of the median. An exhausted Ruby-throated Hummingbird was captured by Ken and Greta Collins of Concord and released after recuperation on the very early date of April 22 (fide EJV, RAQ). Another early hummer was reported by RAS April 30 from an unmentioned location. The earliest Belted Kingfishers were a few days later than average, April 27 in Pittsfield (AER) and April 28 in Exeter (RSA).

Common Flickers were about two weeks later than usual in beginning to arrive, April 14-19. Pileated Woodpecker reports were down to 2. Does this indicate fewer people getting to where they are, or fewer birds to observe? On the other hand, 2 Red-bellied Woodpeckers were seen, New Hampton, May 11 (LRE, VHH) and Durham, May 23 (MLD). Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported from 3 locations: Raymond, March 14 (Louis Lapham fide EB); Rindge, May 17 (Anne Clark fide RAQ); and Tamworth, May 29 (MND,*). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were about two weeks late arriving: April 23, New Hampton (LRE fide VHH) and April 24, Waterville (RAQ,*). One male Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was reported from Pittsburg March 14 (S. Smith and D. Mesenger fide CFS).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WRENS



Eastern Kingbirds in Pittsfield (AER) and Moultonborough (AG) on May 3 were the earliest and northernmost of that species. Great Crested Flycatchers arrived on that date in Moultonborough also, and in Andover May 5 (KCE). Few Eastern Phoebe reports were received. Does this indicate a continued impact on the species from last year's storm, or some unknown influence occurring in wintering areas? Olive-sided Flycatchers were in Exeter May 21 (EWP, LWP), Hillsboro May 23 (RAS), and still noted in Pittsfield May 31 (AER, GCR). Eastern Wood Pewees were on schedule in Concord May 8 (RAQ). Ten others were reported from four locations. The Heberts observed Yellow-bellied Flycatchers in New Hampton on May 19, 20, and 29, while E. and L. Blanchard reported 2 interacting in Raymond on May 27. Eight Least Flycatcher reports were received, all within normal arrival dates. A single Willow Flycatcher was reported from Rye May 4 (EWP). The only Alder Flycatcher report was of 6 singing birds along a mile stretch of RR tracks in Keene May 29 (JHW)! A singing Horned Lark at Hampton State Park May 20 (RAQ) inspires curiosity as to the bird's intentions relative to the hordes of humanity soon to descend upon that area.



Tree swallows were first noticed April 5 in several locations, and 93 were on a dead snag in Pittsfield April 7 (AER). Bank Swallows began arriving May 1. Rough-winged Swallows continue to be reported in healthy numbers. Barn Swallows were later in arriving than usual, the first reported from Hillsboro April 27 (RAS), and 4 in Pittsfield April 28 (AER). Cliff Swallows as well were on the late side of the normal arrival time for that species, and were scarce, with 2 in Exeter May 2 (RSA), and single birds reported from Rye May 15 (EWP) and Pittsfield May 17 (AER). Heartening was the report of 40+ over a lake in Canaan on May 30 (EWP, LGP). Purple Martins were again reported from Salisbury (KCE), and a male was seen in Pittsfield, but no other reports were received which would indicate the true status of the species around the state.



Ravens continue to be reported in increasing numbers in the southern half of the state with no less than 41 birds recorded. Especially interesting were the sightings of 6+ in Hinsdale and

Chesterfield (RAQ, AK) where behavior indicated nesting April 6. On May 25 a nest was found, but no Ravens. Five young Ravens were in a nest in S. Lyndeboro on May 7 (M & BS). KCE and others hawk-watching on Mt. Kearsarge April 29 noticed Ravens calling and flying about frequently that day. Later in the day, he reports, "...we saw a group fly up out of the spruces high up towards the top, and more towards the south. When they emerged above skyline we could count them--22 in all. They were moving south against a brisk SW wind. Why?"

After a virtual absence of Blue Jays from the state during the winter '82-'83 (see Bird Records Vol.1, No.4), that species began returning the first week of May into the central part of the state. Toward the end of that week, more and more were being seen in Hillsboro (RAS), and on May 8 in Concord RAQ reported "dozens migrating." He also reported that on May 21 he had the impression that "hundreds were moving up the coast." The Common Crow migration peaked around mid-March. AER reported 147 moving NE in Pittsfield March 14. A Fish Crow was reported from Portsmouth May 18 (EWP) (call described and on file). The only Boreal Chickadee report was from Mt. Trip pyramid April 10 (MR). Tufted Titmouse continues to spread, with reports from West Campton (PAP), West Sandwich (BSR), and Tamworth (MND). Winter Wren reports were encouraging, with 12 birds noted. Does this indicate an increase in the species, or the number of reports? The only Marsh Wrens were one in Hampton May 8, and 5 there on May 14 (EWP).

Mockingbird reports continue to be abundant. Gray Catbirds arrived on time and in good numbers. Brown Thrashers were late, and apparently scarce, as reports of single birds only were received from 6 locales. American Robins staged a "normal" migration this spring, being generally on time, and no spectacularly large flocks noted. Amazingly, the only Hermit Thrush reported was a single bird in Exeter May 27 (L. Blanchard). The only Swainson's Thrush



reports were of single birds May 19 in New Hampton (VHH) and New London May 31 (M.D. Schaffer). A Gray-cheeked Thrush was reported in Durham April 23 (MLD fide VHH). Eastern Bluebirds were reported from several areas, including a pair nesting in Jaffrey May 15 (AEA), and an individual in Jefferson May 21 (B&TR). Two pairs of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were on territory in Plymouth May 3 (SAG, WWF), and individuals were in Pittsfield (AER, GCR) and Concord the same day (RAQ). Later reports were from Rye, Durham, and Exeter. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were late again this year, with the first report of 2 singing in Dover April 22 (RAQ), a total of 9 April 28, 29 in Keene (JHW), and 2-4 daily April 29-May 4 in Pittsfield (AER, GCR). Very late was a Golden-crowned Kinglet in Rye May 21 (RAQ, ASNH). Four Water Pipits were in Tamworth May 18 (MND). Cedar Waxwings were widespread throughout the period with 25+ in Laconia March 9 (CC) and a "large flock" in New Hampton May 30 (VHH,*). Northern Shrikes were in Candia March 16-April 1 (RAQ, TR) and Rindge April 7 (DRowell). Unusual in the state, a Loggerhead Shrike was reported in Bridgewater May 28 (MCavis fide VHH).



Yellow-throated Vireos skulked through on time this year with birds noted May 5, Portsmouth (EWP, LGP); 2, May 7, Surry (JHW); May 8, Moultonborough (AG); and May 12, Barrington (EWP, LGP).

With the exception of single birds April 30 and May 5 in Exeter (RSA), all other Solitary Vireo reports continue to be mid-state northward. JHW had 5 in Keene May 2. Red-eyed Vireos arrived on schedule, but only 4 birds were reported. Are observers not reporting them, or are these birds declining? A single Philadelphia Vireo was reported in Kensington May 14 (EWP). Reports of Warbling Vireos continue to increase. Puzzling to the editors was a report of a BELL'S VIREO, heard but not seen in a Manchester thicket on May 17 (MTM). Whereas there is only one very old record (a specimen) for the species in the state, and that is from late November, and whereas there are no other New England records, this report will remain in question until such time as a Records Committee can decide upon it.

WARBLERS



A PROTHONOTARY WARBLER was reported (without any details) from Lamprey Pond in Hampton (TJBertrand). Though there were no substantiating details the sighting is included because the observer is familiar with our common warblers and Prothonotaries are such striking birds. In the Exeter area Vermivora warblers began arriving May 6 where RSA had one Golden-winged in Kingston, and a Blue-winged in Exeter May 9. EWP had a Brewster's hybrid in Kensington on May 14, and RSA observed an apparent male Golden-winged in Kingston May 17 "singing a distinct Blue-winged song!" The northernmost Prairie Warbler was found again in the Ashland-Plymouth area May 26 (SAG, WWF), where the species is now thought to breed. Palm Warblers were late in arriving, the first recorded in Stratham April 24 (EWP). At least 3 Louisiana Waterthrushes were found in the Andover area (KCE), 3 in Plymouth (SAG), and another was noted in Hopkinton (RAQ). Mourning Warblers were reported in New Hampton (VHH), Chesterfield, and Concord (RAQ). Most of the other warbler species were reported on time and in normal numbers.

ICTERIDS, FRINGILLIDS



The first Bobolinks arrived in North Hampton May 7 where EWP saw 5, and single birds were in Plymouth May 9 (SSThun) and Pittsfield May 10 (AER). Meadowlarks were generally late, the first report of an individual in Bow March 26 (RAQ) and another in Keene (JHW). Two were observed April 8 in Milan (TR). Six male Red-winged Blackbirds were as far inland as Laconia by March 6 (CC) and VHa reported "many" in Concord that day. By the 16th they were fairly widespread. Bob Clements observed a male Orchard Oriole in Exeter May 22 (fide RSA). Northern Orioles were again on time and in good numbers, particularly in Rye on May 21-- "several dozen?" (RAQ) where many were migrating, and in SE Manchester where MTM reported 5 nesting pairs along the river. A total of 23 Rusty Blackbirds were reported, the first 3 in Pittsfield March 17 (GCR, AER) Common Grackles and Brown-headed Cowbirds were widely reported, and TR noted a flock of 150± of the latter species in Twin Mtn.

April 1. Scarlet Tanagers were early in the central region, with a male in Bristol April 30 (VSW, RAW) and another in Plymouth May 3 (SAG, WWF).



Cardinals continue to be widely noted. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were slightly early (April 15, 26), and quite abundant in all areas where reported. Of especial interest were the reported sightings (several others were rumored) of at least 5 BLUE GROSBEAKS in the state this season. Neighboring states shared a similar influx. Male birds were in Plymouth May 4 (SAG), Enfield May 29 (Walter Paine, Barbara Moyer fide LCorey) and on unknown dates in Warren, Waterville Valley, and Concord (phone reports to ASNH). Indigo Buntings arrived early (April 26-May 3) well inland in central areas where they were reported in unprecedented numbers at feeders. Most Evening Grosbeaks had deserted feeders in the southern half of the state by May 8, although KCE had a pair remain until May 16 in Andover. Purple Finches were generally noted by the end of March. A female House Finch was noted with nesting material in Tamworth, with 2 male birds in attendance May 18 (MND, FSteele,*). Three and two Pine Grosbeaks respectively were seen in Bethlehem March 4 (CC) and Washington (RAS). Common Redpolls, mostly absent during the winter season, were reported from Hillsboro April 2, where RAS noted 2, and 3 in East Wolfeboro April 5 (DLR). The only Pine Siskin reports were from East Wolfeboro: 1 and 2 birds on April 13, 14, and 27 (DLR), and another single bird in Plymouth April 27 (SAG). No crossbills were reported.

Rufous-sided Towhees tended to be on the late side of the normal arrival date range, but by mid-May were fairly well distributed. Savannah Sparrows also were slightly late, but in normal numbers. Two Grasshopper Sparrows were observed in Campton May 26 (PAP, JMS) on a fence next to a field where a single bird was seen and heard in 1981 (details on file). No reports were submitted by local observers, so unfortunately neither arrival nor departure dates nor proper credit can be given the finder of a singing HENSLOW'S SPARROW in Dover, seen



May 28 by the editors (details on file), and apparently remaining in the same area for some time. Eight Vesper Sparrows were reported from 6 locations. Dark-eyed Juncos remained in south-central areas until the end of April, and Tree Sparrows were last noted in New Hampton April 20 (LREmmons, fide VHH) and Pittsfield April 28 (AER & GCR). Chipping Sparrows were at least 10 days later than the normal arrival dates for the species, the first noted in Milford April 26 (AEA) and Westmoreland April 27 (JHW). AER counted 13 in Pittsfield on April 29, and the Heberts noted "flocks still migrating--late!" in New Hampton on May 7!

A singing CLAY-COLORED SPARROW was found in an Orford Christmas tree plantation on May 28-30 by Maine birder Bill Hancock (details on file). This bird was later observed in June by the editors. Another was observed singing in Littleton May 29 by Ontario birder Doug Sadler (details on file; pers. comm.). Field Sparrows, one to two weeks late, were reported from four locations. White-crowned Sparrows were generally late and scarce. The first reports of single birds were Plymouth May 4 (SSThun fide SAG) and Concord May 8 (RAQ). Otherwise none were noted until May 15 in New Hampton. The White-throated Sparrow migration was generally unremarkable. Fox Sparrows were abundantly reported, with the

Bird silhouettes from: R.T.Peterson, A Field Guide to the Birds; C.S.Robbins, B. Brunn and H.Zim, Birds of North America; O.S.Pettingill, Jr., Ornithology in Laboratory and Field.

latest report being of 1-3 individuals on the surprising date of May 5 in Milford (AEA). A Lincoln's Sparrow was at a Plymouth feeder several days until May 18 (WWF, SAG) and TR reported one in Pinkham Notch June 4. Swamp Sparrows were again late, in Concord April 22 (RAQ,*); Rye, April 27 (EWP); and Pittsfield May 15 (AER). A few Song Sparrows wintered in the state, but generally migrants were noticeably arriving in early March, and became widespread by the end of the month. The season's only Snow Bunting report was a flock of 13 at Rye on March 15 (EWP,LGP).

* * * * *

CONTRIBUTORS:

RSAaronian, AEAmes, EBlanchard, CCorax, MNDamon, MLDavis, KCElkins, WWFogleman, KEFolsom, SAGonzalez, AGroth, VHayden, VHHebert, AKuhn, EGLocke, MTMartin, EMcCrisillis, HWParker, EWPhinney, LGPhinney, PAPhipps, RAQuinn, DLRaddin, MRestani, B&TRichards, BSRidgely, AERobbins, GCRobbins, CFSmith, M&B Suomala, RASprague, JMStark, DSTavros, RCVernon, AHVernon, EJVerville, JHWard, RAWright, VSWright, ASNH=Audubon Society of New Hampshire, * means "and others."

Setting the Records Straight - continued from page 1

the N.H. Breeding Bird Atlas. Alis has moved to Connecticut but she still keeps up with birding in New Hampshire and is going to help during my vacation. ALL REPORTS FOR THE PERIOD JUNE 1 - JULY 31, 1984 should be mailed to: Alis Kuhn, 57 North Elm Street, Manchester, CT 06040.

Bob Quinn
Editor

NESTING SEASON

June 1 - July 31, 1983

The extremely wet spring of 1983 dramatically changed into a hot and dry summer. Concord had four times as many days when the temperature reached 90° F than it usually does, and rainfall was below normal. Birds that survived the rainy spring seemed to fare well for the summer. Several species rebounded well after suffering severe losses due to the bad weather in 1982. Phoebes are an example of a species that made a good comeback.

Warblers and flycatchers had very good years. Individual species doing well included Ravens, Warbling Vireos, Indigo Buntings, Scarlet Tanagers, Bobolinks, Northern Orioles, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks.

Birds that continue in a steady decline are Brown Thrasher, Rufous-sided Towhee, and Eastern Meadowlark.

Exciting finds this season include: more nesting Northern Harriers, a family of Upland Sandpipers, an inland Wilson's Phalarope, Common Black-headed Gull, a singing Henslow's Sparrow, and a male Yellow-headed Blackbird.

Species that had no significant sightings and are not included in this report include: Canada Goose, Broad-winged and Red-tailed hawks, American Kestrel, Rock Dove, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Swainson's Thrush, American Redstart, Northern Parula Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Savannah Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, and House Sparrow.

As is usual the bulk of this report comes from the 22 Breeding Bird Survey routes that are run in the state. Where appropriate this year's total is compared to the 18-year median. Many thanks to the Breeding Bird Surveyors and to all the other contributors.

Bob Quinn

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1983 Nesting Season

LOONS THROUGH
CORMORANTS



The Loon Preservation Committee reported "a record 83 Common Loon chicks fledged in New Hampshire during the summer of 1983. This... represents 7 more chicks than the record set in 1982. It is more than double the productivity of the lean years (1977 and 1978)."

As has been the case the past few years, the only Pied-billed Grebes reported were an adult with 1 juvenile at Cascade Marsh in Sutton July 28 (ACV, RCV, KCE,*).

HERONS, IBIS



There were no tubenoses reported. The only Double-crested Cormorant reported was a bird over Concord on June 25 (RAQ).

The 9 American Bitterns seen on the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) routes were about average. They also were reported from Wilmot, Sutton, Franconia, N. Haverhill, and Dummer. The 16 Great Blue Herons on the BBS routes were the most ever. Betty Swift volunteers her time in checking up on reports of rookeries, and each year more rookeries are found. For this year she reports, "the 1983 list of active rookeries totals 44: 14 more than in 1982. The most unusual aspect of the 1983 season was found at the rookeries in Dunbarton, Hopkinton, and Windsor. There, herons were seen on at least some of the nests during early season visits. During late season visits, when the young would have been counted, the entire rookery appeared to be abandoned."

A Great Egret wandered to Derry on July 13 (NW). The only Snowy Egrets and Glossy Ibises reported, 32 and 7 birds respectively, were along the coast in late July (RB). A pair of egrets thought to be Snowys appeared on the Merrimack River in Penacook one day in July (Don LaValley fide RAQ). A Cattle Egret was in Andover June 5 (Bertha and Paul Fenton fide KCE). Green-backed Herons were reported from 8 locations with the furthest north being in Littleton (RB).

WATERFOWL



Interesting Wood Duck sightings included a female with 4 yg. at the ASNH Thompson Refuge (BSR) and a group of 22 at the ASNH Pondicherry Refuge July 16 (RB) and August 23 (TR). Single Green-winged Teal were noted at Pontook Reservoir, Dummer, and Sweet Meadow, Lake Umbagog (TR) and the Second College Grant (RAQ). A Black Duck family with 9 yg. was seen at the height of land (c.2000 feet) in Pinkham Notch on July 2 (TR), and a group of 55 Blacks were seen in Fitzwilliam on July 24 (JHW). Five Ring-necked Duck families were reported in the Lake Umbagog/Errol area (TR, M&BS).

Ten Common Eider nests were found on Lunging Island, Rye, this year (ACB). The only Common Goldeneyes reported were 2 from Errol (TR). A female (or juvenile) Bufflehead was in the Exeter R. in Exeter on July 15 (David Weber fide RAQ). Several Hooded Merganser families were seen in July. KCE found one in Franklin and BSR had 3 families in the Sandwich/Holderness area. Common Mergansers were reported from their usual spots on L. Winnepesaukee (EGL) and Squam L. (TR).

HAWKS



The only Turkey Vultures reported this summer were 2 birds in Northfield and one in Andover (KCE), but this is undoubtedly only a tiny sampling of the summer population. The Endangered Species Program (ESP) had 11 active Osprey nests in the L. Umbagog area that fledged 7 young. Several young Ospreys just "disappeared" before fledging, and Great Horned Owls were believed to be the culprits. A wandering Osprey was seen in Peterboro July 16 (Tia Glagolev fide RAQ).

The ESP had at least 5 sightings of Bald Eagles in the L. Umbagog area. These sightings were of an adult and one immature bird. An immature Bald Eagle was seen along the Androscoggin River in Shelburne during July.

The ESP had 11 Northern Harrier nest sites (8 in the Colebrook area) with a minimum of 8 yg. birds fledging. A harrier was seen in Wolfeboro July 18 (CHR, DLR). The only Sharp-shinned Hawks reported were single birds on the Canterbury and Franconia BBS routes. Four reports of Cooper's Hawks were sent to the ESP. A Goshawk nest was found in Canterbury (DS) and 2 were seen on the Jefferson BBS route (MR). The ESP had 32 Red-shouldered Hawk territories.

GROUSE, RAILS



A female Spruce Grouse with 4 yg. was seen on Mt. Tecumseh in Waterville Valley on July 17 (David Rowe fide RAQ). Another Spruce Grouse was seen in Errol on July 27 (CFS, HPN). These birds are expected to be in those locations. Virginia Rails were well reported this summer. Three were heard at Cascade Marsh on July 12 and another was seen in Franklin July 25 (RCV, KCE). Two were seen in Jefferson, and "Edith Emery was gathering flowers and upon reaching for a flower...she reached over the head of a Virginia Rail and 2 black chicks. 'A first for Monroe.'" (RB)

SHOREBIRDS

As has been done in the past I am departing from the normal taxonomic order to discuss our summer residents before dealing with the early migrants. For a complete picture of the shorebird migration also see the Fall Season.



The 29 Kildeer reported on the BBS routes were below the media (39) and Vera Hebert noted "...decrease in farming accounts for the low numbers of Kildeer."

Five Willetts were seen in Seabrook July 5 (RB) but there is still no conclusive proof of nesting. The 4 Spotted Sandpipers on the BBS were about average. An Upland Sandpiper with 3 yg. was found in N. Haverhill by Priscilla Powers (fide RB).

The 30 Common Snipe on the BBS were the most ever. As is usual they were concentrated in the North Country where David Killam had 17

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on the Stratford BBS route. Further south they were reported from Danbury and Windsor, and a family group was seen in Wilmot (KCE, RCV,*). American Woodcock nest early so it is not surprising there was only one report, that of a family group in Gilmanton June 17 (DS).



Migrant Solitary Sandpipers were seen in Holderness July 11 and Sandwich July 19 (BSR), Fitzwilliam July 24 (JHW), Wilmot July 24 (KCE) and Concord July 28 (MR). Migrants seen at Hampton on July 13 included 7 Semi-palmated Plovers, 8 Lesser Yellowlegs, about 15 Least and about 15 Semi-palmated sandpipers, and 25 Short-billed Dowitchers (RAQ). Seven least Sandpipers were seen in N. Haverhill that same day (RB).

On July 24 a WILSON'S PHALAROPE was seen with a few other shorebirds on an exposed mudflat in Wilmot (KCE, RCV, ACV,*). This species has become more common in the east in the past few years but it is still a most unusual sight in N.H.--particularly inland. On July 27 RB had a few Black-bellied Plovers, 15 Whimbrels, a Ruddy Turnstone, and a Red Knot at the coast.

GULLS, TERNS



An adult COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL was seen in Hampton Harbor July 12 (TJB). This European straggler can usually be found in Newburyport during the winter and now has been found nesting in Atlantic Canada. The 18 Ring-billed Gulls RB had in Littleton on July 5 were fewer than he has had in past years and no other significant numbers were reported.

A second-year ICELAND GULL was seen in Manchester as late as June 2 (MR). Herring Gulls nested on Manchester rooftops again and they were joined by at least one pair of Great Black-backed Gulls (MR).

Several interesting terns were reported. A FORSTER'S TERN was seen June 5 in Dunbarton at Jones' Marsh (AEL, HBM, JBG) but it did not linger. A Black Tern was seen over L. Winnepesaukee June 13 (EGL). The ESP had fewer than 10 Common Tern fledglings at the 2 nesting sites.

CUCKOOS, OWLS

Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoo numbers are returning to more normal levels as the latest Gypsy Moth outbreak subsides. Once again these birds will become the elusive and rarely seen residents that they usually are. A Saw-whet Owl calling in Littleton July 14 & 15 (RB) and a Great Horned Owl on the Fitzwilliam BBS route were the only owls reported this season.



GOATSUCKERS

The ESP volunteers reported Common Nighthawks from 23 communities, with confirmed nest sites in at least 10 of those towns. Over 100 Whip-poor-wills were reported from 43 different locations by the ESP. Chimney Swifts are still low on the BBS routes but up a little in New Hampton (VHH) compared with the past couple of years. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds had their best year on the BBS since 1978. Six hummers were reported from Wolfeboro (DLR, CHR), another was reported from Manchester (MTM), and at least 4 were in West Sandwich (BSR).

KINGFISHER AND WOODPECKERS

Belted Kingfishers hit their median on the BBS and otherwise went unreported.



Woodpeckers had a very good year. Except for Northern Flicker they were at their median or better on the BBS. A Red-headed Woodpecker was seen in Plymouth along the Baker River on July 31 (EM). This is not too far from where a pair of these birds nested last year. Hairy Woodpeckers had their second best year ever on the BBS, and Pileated Woodpeckers had their best year ever, but the numbers of Northern Flickers were low on both the BBS and the New Hampton town study. Three-toed Woodpeckers went unreported and Black-backed Woodpeckers were reported only from their usual haunts in Pittsburg.

FLYCATCHERS AND SWALLOWS



The flycatchers had a very good year compared to 1982. This is curious since one would assume that a poor nesting season in 1982 would result in fewer birds this year. Perhaps they had just delayed nesting and were not as obvious when most of the BBS routes were run in 1982.

Four species of flycatchers hit their highest totals ever on the BBS: Eastern Wood Pewee, Alder and Great Crested Flycatchers, and Eastern Kingbird. Alder Flycatcher more than doubled previous high. Olive-sided Flycatchers hit their median on the BBS and in New Hampton, and were also reported from Fitzwilliam, Sullivan, Sandwich Notch, and Church Pond. The only Yellow-bellied Flycatchers reported were 3 that RB had on his way in to Cherry Pond July 16. Willow Flycatcher was near its median on the BBS and was also reported from Manchester (MTM), Concord (RAQ), Keene (JHW), and as far north as Whitefield (RB). Least Flycatchers were a little below their BBS median and were quite low in New Hampton. Eastern Phoebe's are still below their median but recovering after last year's bad weather set them back.

SWALLOWS THROUGH RAVEN



Swallows were reported in low to average numbers on the BBS. Purple Martins had colonies in Salisbury, Hillsboro, Effingham, and Laconia. Seven martins were seen on the Hopkinton BBS route (HWP). Tree, Bank, and Barn swallows were all below their BBS median. The only Rough-winged Swallows reported were 2 on the Franconia BBS and 5 in Manchester (MTM). The 59 Cliff Swallows on the BBS were about average.

Single Gray Jays were reported from Mt. Tecumseh in Waterville Valley (David Rowe fide RAQ) and Cambridge (HPN). The 508 Blue Jays seen on the BBS were second only to 1981's 515. The BBS total for Common Crow was the fifth highest in the 18-year history of the routes. One or two FISH CROWS were noted in the Hooksett/Manchester area all summer (MR). Northern Ravens hit their high on the BBS (21) even though none were reported on southern routes this year. They were suspected of nesting in Hinsdale (AGK, RAQ) and 3 were seen soaring over Mt. Monadnock July 17 (BAH).

CHICKADEES THROUGH GNATCATCHER

Black-capped Chickadees continue to do well. The 377 on the BBS were the third highest ever. Boreal Chickadees meanwhile went unreported. Tufted Titmice were reported only from W. Sandwich (BSR) and Marlborough (JHW), but had their second highest total ever (23) on the BBS.

White-breasted Nuthatches hit their median but Red-breasted Nuthatches tallied their 5th highest count on the BBS (39). Brown Creepers are usually singing in April and quiet in June so the 6 reported were about average but far from representative of the state's population.

The House Wren total for the BBS (114) was the highest since 1976. A House Wren was singing near the summit of Mt. Sunapee on July 18 (TR). (He had a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher there last year!) Winter Wrens continue to increase but are still below the level of the mid-1970s. Good numbers of these birds were reported from the Lakes Region northward. No other wrens were reported. The only Golden-crowned Kinglets reported were 1 on the Fitzwilliam BBS route and 2 in Sullivan June 18 (both JHW). The Ruby-crowned Kinglet total was the highest since 1976 on the BBS--all from up north. A presumed family group of 3 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers was seen June 20 in Northfield (RCV, KCE) and 2 were seen in Alton June 27 (EGL).



THRUSHES THROUGH WAXWINGS

Eastern Bluebirds were reported from about 30 localities where most of them nested (ESP). Veerys were below their BBS median but did much better than last year (347 v. 270). They were low in New Hampton. The only Gray-cheeked Thrush reported was one on the Dixville BBS route. Hermit Thrushes, Wood Thrushes, and American Robins were a little below their medians.

Gray Catbirds were a little below their median (246 v. 255) and were low in New Hampton. Northern Mockingbirds hit their 3rd highest BBS total ever. Five pairs of Mock-

ingbirds were reported from Manchester (MTM) and one bird was seen as far north as Bath (Florence B. Woods fide RAQ). The 22 Brown Thrashers on the BBS were the fewest ever and VHH had only 4 in New Hampton (median of 11). Cedar Waxwings had their second best year ever on the BBS and were "abundant" in the North Country.

VIREOS

The 27 Solitary Vireos on the BBS were the fewest in 14 years and there were no other reports. Single Yellow-throated Vireos on the Marlow BBS and in Deering were the only reports of that species. Red-eyed Vireos were seen in average numbers on the BBS but are still below the level they were at 5-10 years ago. Warbling Vireos are definitely on the upswing. They reached their 3rd highest total ever on the BBS routes.



WARBLERS

Overall the Breeding Bird Survey indicated that warblers had an excellent year, comparing quite favorably with their best year of 1980. The spruce budworm population has declined and this is reflected in reduced numbers of some northern warblers, but the tremendous logging operations to salvage the dead and dying softwoods has increased the habitat for species such as the Mourning Warbler. This is an excellent example of how dynamic bird populations are and how they are strong indicators of environmental change.

No Blue-winged Warblers were reported. The only Golden-winged Warblers were 3 on the Fitzwilliam BBS--a most unusual place for this unusual species. Single Tennessee Warblers were seen on the Dixville BBS route, in Lyman (MF) and Franconia (RB) July 17 and at Lake Solitude, Mt. Sunapee July 18 (TR). Nashville Warblers were seen in record numbers on the BBS (69). Yellow Warblers had their 3rd highest total ever.

Chestnut-sided Warblers were recorded in better numbers than the past 2 years but they were still below their median. Few

Cape May Warblers are reported during the summer, and now that the spruce budworm has declined and a lot of the spruce/fir has been cut they will probably become even scarcer. Only 3 were seen this year--one on the Milan BBS route and 2 on the Clarksville route. Black-throated Blue Warblers had their 5th highest count ever on the BBS, Yellow-rumped Warblers their 3rd highest, Black-throated Green Warblers hit their median, and Black-burnian Warblers tallied their 5th highest total ever. The 18 Pine Warblers recorded on the BBS were the most ever. They also were reported from New London (MS) and Surry (JHW). Six Prairie Warblers on the BBS were the 3rd highest ever, but 5 of these were on the Hopkinton route. No other Prairies were reported. Bay-breasted Warblers fall into the same category as the Cape Mays, with one on the Milan BBS route and 2 on the Dixville route being the only ones reported. The only Blackpoll Warbler reported was on the Glen BBS route. Black and White Warblers tallied their 6th highest BBS total ever.

Ovenbirds had their 6th highest total on the BBS while Northern Waterthrushes totalled their 5th highest count ever. But VHH had fewer than usual in New Hampton and noted that they might have had trouble migrating across the Gulf of Mexico this year. Three Louisiana Waterthrushes were seen on the BBS, which is about normal. VHH did not have any in New Hampton where her median is 3. There were 2 different individuals in Andover and a family group in Salisbury (KCE). Mourning Warblers were seen in record numbers on the BBS, more than doubling the 1982 total which was the previous high (13 v. 6). These birds are doing well because of the extensive logging in the North Country which is creating the shrubby habitat they prefer.

Common Yellowthroats tallied their 4th highest count ever on the BBS. No Wilson's Warblers were reported. Canada Warbler numbers were quite low on the BBS last year and are recovering somewhat but they are still below their median. A migrant Canada was seen on July 25 in New Durham (EGL).

TANAGERS THROUGH SPARROWS

The 127 Scarlet Tanagers were the 3rd highest ever on the BBS. Northern Cardinals were seen in record numbers (18) on the BBS. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were a little above their median but down compared to the past 3 years. These birds, which are seen at feeders more often than other typical migrants, were well represented at an E. Wolfeboro feeder by at least 6 males and 5 females (CHR, DLR).

Indigo Buntings tied the 2nd highest total ever on the BBS. There were many other reports of Indigos, with the most unusual being a singing male near the summit of Mt. Sunapee (TR).



Sparrows had a very up and down year according to the BBS figures. Rufous-sided Towhees continue to decline. They hit their lowest total ever and were under 100 for the first time (94). They were also low in New Hampton (VHH). Chipping Sparrows, on the other hand, had their best year ever. Field Sparrows had their second lowest total ever. No Vesper Sparrows were reported. No Grasshopper Sparrows were reported. A HENSLOW'S SPARROW was heard and seen in Newington during May and continued singing into early June.

The singing CLAY-COLORED SPARROW first seen in Orford in May remained into June (SAG, WWF). No Sharp-tailed Sparrows were reported. Song Sparrow numbers are still low on the BBS but they were higher than the past couple of years. Lincoln's Sparrows were counted at their highest BBS level since 1976. The past 3 years the BBS figures for Swamp Sparrow have been extremely low (28, 24, 24 v. a median of 45). White-throated Sparrows racked up their highest BBS total since 1977. This year's tally for Dark-eyed Junco was low but the numbers for this species vary considerably from year to year.

BLACKBIRDS

A YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD was reported in Alexandria in mid-July. The sighting was not confirmed but the description was very

FINCHES

good and a painting was done of the bird (Connie Crawford fide RAQ). The 253 Bobolinks recorded on the BBS were the second highest total ever. Most unusual was a female Bobolink at the height of land (about 2800 ft) along the Kancamagus highway on June 16 (TR).

Eastern Meadowlarks fell to their lowest point ever on the BBS (20) and were scarce elsewhere. The only Rusty Blackbirds were family groups along the Church Pond Trail and the Guinea Pond Trail in the White Mtn. Nat'l. Forest (BSR). Common Grackle numbers were higher than the past 2 years on the BBS but they are still somewhat low. Northern Orioles, on the other hand, were seen in record high numbers (204) on the BBS.

House Finches also set a record high on the BBS (33) with 21 of them coming on the Dover route (SM). Several Red Crossbills were seen at Church Pond in July (BSR) and a White-winged Crossbill flew over the Mollidgewock Campground in Errol on July 16 (RAQ,*).

The 10 Evening Grosbeaks on the BBS routes were about normal but there were other interesting reports. On July 17, 2 birds were seen on Mt. Monadnock (BAH). BSR had about 30 at Church Pond July 26 and possibly a young one at Guinea Pond on July 19. A feeder in Canaan hosted at least 60 from mid-July on (Eileen Arnold fide AEL).

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CONTRIBUTORS:

Ralph Andrews, Eileen Arnold, Arthur C. Borrer, Robert Bradley, Tim J. Bertrand, Frederick Bowes, Meade Cadot, Connie Crawford, Peggy Damon, Kay Dymont, Edith A. Emery, Kimball C. Elkins, Bertha and Paul Fenton, Marion Fuller, Tia Glagolev, William M. Goodwill, Jane B. Grant, Barbara and Vincent Hayden, Vera H. Hebert, Bruce A. Hedin, David Killam, Alis G. Kuhn, Adelma E. Lajoie, Don LaValley, Elizabeth G. Locke, Sandy Mallett, Marie T. Martin, Hazel B. Miller, Ed Morrier, Harold P. Nevers, Priscilla Powers, Robert A. Quinn, C. Harland Raddin, Dorothea L. Raddin, Marco Restani, Tudor Richards, Beverly S. Ridgely, David Rowe, Martha Schaffer, Carol F. Smith, Dawn Stavros, Mark & Becky Suomala, Elizabeth Swift, Arrolyn C. Vernon, Robert C. Vernon, Jesse H. Ward, Nancy Webb, David Weber, and Florence B. Woods. ABBREVIATIONS: ASNH = Audubon Society of New Hampshire; BBS = Breeding Bird Survey; ESP = Endangered Species Program; * = and others.

