

# **New Hampshire Bird Records**



**Spring 2001**

**Vol. 20, No. 1**

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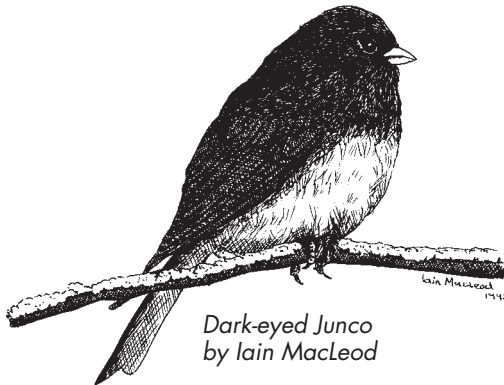
## About the Cover

**D**uring the winter of 2000–2001, there were record numbers of Dark-eyed Juncos, many of which continued into the early spring before dispersing to breeding grounds. In an attempt to solve the puzzle of why they were here in such force, Spring Editor, Pam Hunt, reviewed data from different locations and sources. For a look at her findings and the fascinating elements that may contribute to bird movements, see the article on page 30. *Ed.*

Cover photograph of a Dark-eyed Junco by John C. Gill, professional nature photographer.

## In This Issue

- Where did all those juncos come from last winter?
- Test your birding knowledge with a quiz from Bob Quinn
- New Spruce Grouse research
- The latest photo quiz



*Dark-eyed Junco*  
by Iain MacLeod

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*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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## Welcome and Thank You

Welcome to all new subscribers to *New Hampshire Bird Records*, and thank you to all the loyal subscribers that have renewed their subscription for another year. Your subscription supports not just the publication but also the bird conservation efforts that depend on information from *New Hampshire Bird Records (NHBR)*. The reports sent to *NHBR* provide a database of bird reports that is unique and very valuable. Many projects use this data to assess the status of birds in a particular area, and, as I mentioned in my article in the Summer 2000 issue, *NHBR* data was used to help revise the Endangered and Threatened List of bird species in New Hampshire. Your support is critical to helping *NHBR* provide this important data.

### How to report sightings to *New Hampshire Bird Records* — A Review

We encourage birders to report their sightings to *NHBR*. In order to obtain all the information we need for the historical database of bird sightings, we ask that you submit records in certain formats. Many of you are familiar with the 3" by 5" slips that have been used for a number of years, but there are other options (see below), and we are working on even more. At the moment, here is a review of the possible reporting formats:

- Option 1.** Fill out pre-printed forms supplied by *New Hampshire Bird Records*. There are two types of reporting forms:
  1. 3" by 5" slips used to report most sightings, one sighting per slip
  2. single location forms, standard letter size, used to report multiple sightings at the same place by the same observer(s).
- Option 2.** Print sightings out from your computer at home using a format approved by *New Hampshire Bird Records'* Managing Editor (samples available).
- Option 3.** Enter or convert your computerized sightings to the Q&A program (program disks available) used by *NHBR* and submit records on disk. A printed hard copy using a format approved by *NHBR* is also required.

A bird reporter packet contains information about what kinds of sightings to report and includes the forms mentioned in option #1. To request a packet, please call, mail, or e-mail me. Please note if you would like samples of computerized printout formats as mentioned in option #2. If you would like to submit your sightings on disk as outlined in option #3, please call me.

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## Spring Season (March through May)

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

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

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

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

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### Reports for the following species were received but not listed:

Red-throated Loon	Red-tailed Hawk	Blue Jay
Pied-billed Grebe	American Kestrel	American Crow
Great Blue Heron	Peregrine Falcon	Common Raven
Great Egret	Ring-necked Pheasant	Black-capped Chickadee
Snowy Egret	Ruffed Grouse	Tufted Titmouse
Turkey Vulture	Wild Turkey	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Mallard-American Black Duck Hybrid	Willet	White-breasted Nuthatch
Common Eider	Ruddy Turnstone	Brown Creeper
Surf Scoter	Sanderling	Golden-crowned Kinglet
White-winged Scoter	Ring-billed Gull	Eastern Bluebird
Black Scoter	Herring Gull	American Robin
Long-tailed Duck	Mourning Dove	Cedar Waxwing
Common Goldeneye	Great Horned Owl	Dark-eyed Junco
Red-breasted Merganser	Barred Owl	Northern Cardinal
Northern Harrier	Belted Kingfisher	Brown-headed Cowbird
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Downy Woodpecker	Purple Finch
Cooper's Hawk	Hairy Woodpecker	House Finch
Northern Goshawk	Pileated Woodpecker	Pine Siskin
	Northern Shrike	American Goldfinch

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

## March 1 through May 31, 2001

by Pam Hunt, Spring Editor

**W**hat is spring? Astronomically, it begins when day and night are equal in length and ends on the longest day of the year. Climatologically, it might be considered the period of thawing and rain that corresponds to increases in temperatures between late March and June. But what about ornithologically? Publications such as *New Hampshire Bird Records* usually define spring as March, April, and May, a period that corresponds roughly to the previous definitions, but not exactly. Many people don't tend to think of spring during those early March snowstorms and are ready to think summer when the sun goes down on their Memorial Day picnic.

Not so the birds. Many species are moving north in late February, including vultures, some waterfowl, Killdeer, and blackbirds. The earliest arrivals of this group are thus reported in "winter," according to *New Hampshire Bird Records*. The rest are certainly moving in good numbers no matter what the March skies produce in terms of precipitation. Then comes the traditional spring migration period of April and May, a time of flowers, expanding leaves, and emerging insects. But the birds aren't done. Several species, including many shorebirds and a few flycatchers and warblers, are still heading north in the first half of June, when our calendars have flipped to "summer."

Spring, to a bird, is a dynamic period of shifting winds, unpredictable food, and a rush to reach nesting areas, and as such can never fit into a prescribed three-month period. As editors, we obviously cannot define spring based on the first Canvasback and the last Mourning Warbler, but we can, and should, make an effort to let our readers know that spring is broader than this single issue would suggest. It shifts depending on the weather; every year is different, and every piece of the season has its own surprises in store. With all this in mind, I present some of the pieces and surprises of "spring" 2001.

March, many of you may remember, was a month of snow, and records were broken throughout New Hampshire. Four nor'easters dumped a total of two to five feet on the state, depending on where you lived. It was also a relatively cool month, and the combination of lower temperatures, late ice-out, and heavy snow cover delayed the arrival of many species, including Red-winged Blackbirds and most waterfowl. The snow and ice also concentrated arriving waterfowl into small areas in river valleys.

As April progressed, rain proved to be very scarce, and the month was the state's fifth driest. At month's end, an extended period of southerly flows brought temperature into the 80s in southern New Hampshire, and many birds seemed to arrive slightly early. May continued dry and remained warm for the first week or so, but in general it was a month of northerly flows that were likely responsible for one of the poorer songbird migrations in many people's memories. There were no significant fall-outs, and even common species sometimes went undetected in some places.

What was detected? Although altered waterfowl and songbird migrations were the big trends of the season, there were a few other patterns and, of course, some rarities.

After an exceptional winter for sparrows, it was not surprising to have good numbers of these birds reported this spring. Other lingerers from the winter included alcids, shrikes, and a scattering of unusual feeder birds (**Veery** foremost among them). The rarity list was topped by an **Anhinga** in Stratham but also included **Varied Thrush**, **White-eyed Vireo**, **Wilson's Phalarope**, and a profusion of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**.

## Loons through Ibis

**G**ood counts of Common Loons and Red-necked Grebes were obtained in coastal areas in late March, and the tally for Great Bay on April 15 was also higher than usual. However, there were no inland flocks of loons and no inland grebes at all, perhaps as a result of the late thaw. Among pelagic species, the single Wilson's Storm-Petrel in late May was relatively early for this southern hemisphere breeder, and two Manx Shearwaters represent a fairly normal total for a species that was rarely seen in the state as recently as five years ago. The numbers of gannets seen from the Isles of Shoals were also quite impressive.

An immature Great Cormorant appeared in Tilton on March 11 and had moved upriver to Laconia by the afternoon of the same day. It moved even farther upriver shortly thereafter and was still present on Opechee Bay as late as April 17. The bird of the season was undoubtedly the **Anhinga** seen soaring over Stratham on May 14. This would be the first state record of this southern species, and since it was only seen by a single observer, the record can only be called "hypothetical," according to the criteria of the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee. There was little noteworthy heron activity, but it was somewhat surprising that all the earliest Green Heron sightings came from relatively far north in the state.

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Common Loon</b>				
03-23	152		NH coast	A. & B. Delorey
04-15	30	Newmarket	Bayview Dr.	S. Mirick
05-17	67	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
<b>Horned Grebe</b>				
03-16	18	Hampton	Great Boars Head	A. & B. Delorey
<b>Red-necked Grebe</b>				
03-23	157		NH coast	A. & B. Delorey
<b>Manx Shearwater</b>				
05-13	1	Seabrook	off Hampton Harbor inlet	S. Mirick, J. Mittermeier, M. Hobbs
05-16	1	Rye	offshore from Pulpit Rocks	S. Mirick
<b>Wilson's Storm-Petrel</b>				
05-27	1	Rye	offshore	S. Mirick, ASNH FT
<b>Northern Gannet</b>				
04-07	27	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	A. & B. Delorey
04-24	68	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
05-18	123	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Double-crested Cormorant</b>				
03-29	1	Exeter	Squamscott R.	R. Aaronian
05-16	400	Rye	migrating offshore	R. Suomala
05-16	400	Seabrook	mussel beds	A.& B. Delorey
<b>Great Cormorant</b>				
03-11	1	Tilton	Winnepesaukee R. above Lochmere Dam	J. Williams
04-05	1	Laconia	Opechee Bay	P. Hunt
04-17	1	Laconia	Opechee Bay	P. Hunt
04-21	1	Bow	power plant	P. Hunt, et al.
<b>American Bittern</b>				
05-04	1	Plainfield	Rt. 12A, near Lebanon line	J. Cullen
05-07	1	Rumney	Quincy Bog	J. Carreaux, J. von Schilling
<b>Green Heron</b>				
05-01	1	Laconia	Wildwood Rd., Wildwood Pond	H. Anderson
05-06	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-06	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
05-07	1	New London	Low Plain, Esther Currier WS	P. Newbern
<b>Black-crowned Night-Heron</b>				
04-30	2	Portsmouth	Miller Ave.	S. Mirick, J. Matthews, S. Cronenweth
<b>Glossy Ibis</b>				
05-03	64	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois

## Waterfowl

The strange spring certainly seemed to affect waterfowl migration. On one hand, the late ice-out made looking for these species pointless in many traditional areas, but, on the other hand, the areas that *did* have open water often hosted impressive concentrations. For dabbling ducks, one of the best areas seemed to be flooded fields in the Concord area, where large numbers and good diversity were reported in April.

Most unexpected was a Green-winged Teal in Sandwich that appeared to be a hybrid between the American and European subspecies. While the American race has a vertical white stripe on its side, the Eurasian one has a white streak along its wing. The bird in question showed both, a plumage that seems to be increasing in the Northeast. Whether this increase is a result of more careful observers or more hybrids remains to be discovered.

Diving ducks were more widespread. Powwow Pond continues to be the stronghold for Ring-necked Ducks, but Silver Lake in Tilton gave it a run for its money this spring. In fact, the Lakes Region was generally well represented in this year's reports, in part because this editor moved there, but also perhaps because the region had more open water when other locations remained frozen.

Also perhaps because I moved, there was relatively little reporting from the state's third major waterfowl flyway: the Connecticut River. A Eurasian Wigeon was reported

from Walpole, but no details were ever submitted to *New Hampshire Bird Records*. This would have been only the second report of this species away from Great Bay. In addition, there were few reports from traditional waterfowl hot-spots in the Littleton area.

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Snow Goose</b>				
03-24	28	Plymouth	Pine Gate Rd.	J. Williams
03-25	50	Dunbarton	Rangeway Rd.	R. Autonia
04-09	25	Dover	Cochecho R. fields below county jail	T. Chase
04-14	20	Concord	W. Portsmouth St. cornfields	P. Newbern, Soo-Nipi Chapter FT
<b>Canada Goose</b>				
04-01	150	Concord	W. Portsmouth St. field	R. Quinn
<b>Brant</b>				
03-09	4	Rye	Ragged Neck	A.& B. Delorey
04-24	25	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
05-17	175	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
05-26	6	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	A.& B. Delorey
<b>Wood Duck</b>				
04-01	30	Concord	W. Portsmouth St. field	R. Quinn
04-07	70	Concord	W. Portsmouth St.	R.& M. Suomala
04-09	30	Walpole	River Rd. at Westmoreland line	M. Wright
04-09	30	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis, Jr.
<b>Gadwall</b>				
03-11	2	Tilton	Winnepesaukee R. above Lochmere Dam	P. Hunt
03-29	2	Newmarket	Bayview Rd.	S. Mirick
04-05	4	Laconia	Opechee Bay	P. Hunt
04-19	4	Newmarket	Bayview Rd.	S. Mirick
<b>American Wigeon</b>				
03-31	32		Great Bay	S. Mirick, B. Smith
04-01	2	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick, D. Abbott, J. Mittermeier
04-01	2	Concord	W. Portsmouth St. field	R. Quinn
04-05	14	Newmarket	off Bay Rd.	S. Mirick
04-14	4	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	P. Newbern, Soo-Nipi Chapter FT
<b>American Black Duck</b>				
04-01	40	Concord	W. Portsmouth St. field	R. Quinn
<b>Mallard</b>				
04-01	60	Concord	W. Portsmouth St. field	R. Quinn
<b>Blue-winged Teal</b>				
04-09	2	Newmarket	Bay Rd. conservation land	S. Mirick
04-21	3	E. Kingston	Rt. 108 flooded field	A.& B. Delorey
04-21	4	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	J. Williams
04-23	1	Laconia	Elm St., Laconia CC	H. Anderson
05-13	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, J. Mittermeier, M. Hobbs



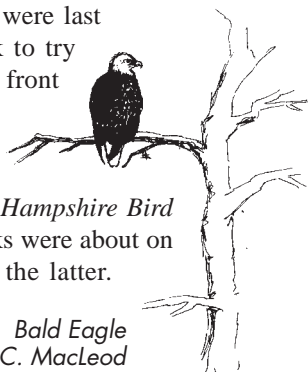
<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Northern Shoveler</b>				
04-05	2	Newmarket	Pearson Farm	S. Mirick
04-13	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	K. Wilson
04-18	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	B. Janeway, Concord Bird & Wildflower Club
04-21	4	E. Kingston	Rt. 108 flooded field	A.& B. Delorey
<b>Northern Pintail</b>				
03-03	1	Rye	Concord Point	S. Mirick, D. Hayward
04-05	4	Newmarket	off Bay Rd.	S. Mirick
04-06	2	E. Kingston	Rt. 108 flooded field	A.& B. Delorey
04-09	4	Walpole	River Rd. at Westmoreland line	M. Wright
<b>Green-winged Teal</b>				
03-11	3	Hampton	Hampton marshes	S. Mirick
04-05	26	Newmarket	off Bay Rd.	S. Mirick
04-06	42	E. Kingston	Rt. 108 flooded field	A.& B. Delorey
04-09	102	Newmarket	Bay Rd. conservation land	S. Mirick
04-18	20	Concord	W. Portsmouth St.	B. Janeway, Concord Bird & Wildflower Club
04-23	2	Stewartstown	County Home	B.& D. Killam
04-28	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward
05-01	32	Newmarket	Bayview Rd.	S. Mirick
<b>Green-winged Teal hybrid, American x Eurasian</b>				
05-19	1	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit, Rt. 113	T. Vazzano, N. Beecher
<b>Canvasback</b>				
03-14	2	Tilton	Silver Lake, Lochmere Village below dam	H. Anderson
03-23	2	Laconia	behind Citizen Press Bldg., Water St.	H. Anderson
03-31	2		Great Bay	S. Mirick, B. Smith
<b>Ring-necked Duck</b>				
03-11	1	Tilton	Winnepesaukee R., River St.	J. Williams
03-17	6	Nashua	Nashua R. at millyard	R. Andrews
03-19	50	Kingston	Powwow R.	K. Folsom
03-24	114	Kingston	Powwow Pond	A.& B. Delorey
04-01	175	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick, D. Abbott, J. Mittermeier
04-10	25	Salem	World End Pond	K. Folsom
04-11	27	Laconia	Opechee Bay	P. Hunt
04-11	114	Tilton	Silver Lake	P. Hunt
04-13	34	Rye	Eel Pond	A.& B. Delorey
04-18	12	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	B. Janeway, Concord Bird & Wildflower Club
<b>Greater Scaup</b>				
03-03	900		Great Bay	S. Mirick, D. Hayward
04-06	500	Stratham	Sandy Pt.	A.& B. Delorey
<b>Lesser Scaup</b>				
03-18	1	Laconia	Winnepesaukee R.	J. Williams
03-31	7		Great Bay	S. Mirick, B. Smith
04-17	1	Tilton	Winnisquam Lake	P. Hunt
04-17	12	Newmarket	Bayview Rd.	S. Mirick

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>King Eider</b>				
05-14	1	N. Hampton	Rt. 1A, .25 mile s. of Rye line	S. Mirick
05-21	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
05-26	1	Rye	off Rt. 1A	S. Mirick, P. Lacourse, M. Suomala, C. Scott
<b>Bufflehead</b>				
03-11	1	Tilton	Winnepesaukee R. above Rt. 140 bridge	J. Williams
03-18	3	Laconia	Opechee Lake below Lakeport dam	H. Anderson
04-04	6	Kingston	Powwow Pond	K. Folsom
04-06	32	Greenland	Sunset Landing	A.& B. Delorey
04-17	8	Tilton	Silver Lake	P. Hunt
05-25	1	Newmarket	Bayview Rd.	S. Mirick
<b>Barrow's Goldeneye</b>				
03-01	1	Newmarket	Bayview Rd.	S. Mirick
04-05	1	Laconia	Winnisquam Lake	P. Hunt
<b>Hooded Merganser</b>				
04-03	85	Newmarket	Bayview Rd.	S. Mirick
04-06	11	E. Kingston	Rt. 108 flooded field	A.& B. Delorey
<b>Common Merganser</b>				
03-19	25	Kingston	Powwow Pond	K. Folsom
04-05	32	Laconia	Lake Winnisquam	P. Hunt
04-06	36	Greenland	Sunset Landing	A.& B. Delorey
04-07	126	Columbia	Connecticut R.	D. Killam
04-11	39	Laconia	Opechee Bay	P. Hunt

## Osprey through Rails

Osprey were relatively early, and one of the first reported was already fairly far north in the state in Belmont. Later in the month, a group of nine frequented the Milford Fish Hatchery, to the enjoyment of birders but probable frustration of hatchery officials. Bald Eagles were on eggs in three traditional locations by mid-April, and another pair was seen working on a nest in Pittsburg. The state's most famous eagles — a pair in Bedford that showed signs of nesting — were last seen sometime in March, but perhaps they'll be back to try breeding in 2002. Also making news on the breeding front were a pair of Merlins in Hanover, a location some 70 miles southwest of the nearest known breeding area, which is north of the White Mountains. More details on nesting Merlins will appear in future issues of *New Hampshire Bird Records*. Both Red-shouldered and Broad-winged Hawks were about on time, although there were no large concentrations of the latter. There were very few rails reported.

Bald Eagle  
by Iain C. MacLeod



<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Osprey</b>				
04-01	1	Belmont	Lake Winnisquam	S. Pearson
04-01	1	Kingston	off Rt. 107	S. Mirick, D. Abbott, J. Mittermeier
04-05	1	Hollis	North Pepperell Rd.	R. Andrews
04-05	1	Newmarket	off Bay Road	S. Mirick
04-14	9	Milford	Milford Fish Hatchery	S. Clough

### **Bald Eagle**

03-28	2	Hinsdale	Stebbins Is.	C. Martin
04-10	2	Errol	Leonard Pond, Lake Umbagog	P. Casey
04-16	2	Dummer	Pontook Reservoir	C. Martin, K. Dube
04-28	2	Pittsburg	Lake Francis	J. Neskey
04-30	1	Auburn	Massabesic Audubon Center	B. Delorey
05-30	1	Concord	over Rt. 93, exit 16	P. Hunt



*Red-shouldered  
Hawk*

### **Red-shouldered Hawk**

03-08	2	Windham	residence	J. Romano
03-09	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis, Jr.
03-15	1	Kensington	Moulton Ridge	G. Gavutis, Jr.
03-18	1	Salisbury	Mountain Rd.	L. Deming

### **Broad-winged Hawk**

04-14	1	Newbury	Stoney Brook WS	C. Martin
04-15	7	Deerfield	Perkins Rd.	R. Moore
04-17	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
04-17	2	Nashua	Spit Brook Rd.	A. Delorey

### **Rough-legged Hawk**

03-11	1	Hampton	along Rt. 101	S. Mirick
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### **Merlin**

03-10	1	Rye	Ocean Blvd. just n. of Pulpit Rocks	D.& T. Donsker
04-26	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
04-30	3	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
05-01	2	Hanover	Dartmouth Golf Course	W. Scott
05-13	1	Hampton	Hampton marshes	S. Mirick, M. Hobbs
05-18	1	Errol	Magalloway R.	C. Martin
05-29	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen

### **Spruce Grouse**

05-26	2	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
05-30	1	Waterville Valley	Mt. Tecumseh summit, WMNF	G. Duffy, C. Carr, L. Myers

### **Virginia Rail**

04-23	3	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, J. Mittermeier
05-12	1	Rumney	Quincy Bog	J. Carreaux, A. Ports, B. Taffe

### **Sora**

05-13	3	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, J. Mittermeier, M. Hobbs
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# Plovers through Alcids

There was slightly better shorebird reporting from the coast, but some of the most interesting observations came from the central part of the state. In particular, a gravel pit in Sandwich hosted six species in mid-May, with a few interesting sightings from Campton as well. Back on the coast, Piping Plovers reappeared in early April, marking the fifth year that this endangered species has been back on New Hampshire beaches. It is informative to watch the rise and fall of Purple Sandpiper numbers, which clearly shows the last push of northward migrants in the middle of May. The numbers of Common Snipe in Durham are among the highest single-location tallies ever in the state. Rarities included a **Wilson's Phalarope** in North Hampton and a Red-necked Phalarope in Portsmouth Harbor. The latter species is more likely on the open ocean.

It was a busy spring for gulls and terns. Among the former was a very early Laughing Gull, a relatively late Glaucous Gull, and a veritable invasion of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**. The latter species is now clearly regular around Rochester, Great Bay, and the Coast. There were at least eight this spring, based on careful observations by Steve Mirick, but the most reliable was a second-winter bird that wandered between Durham and Newmarket from early March through early April. Continued coverage of White and Seavey Islands resulted in several reports of Arctic and Roseate Terns, leading to speculation that these species may breed on the Isles of Shoals in the near future. Meanwhile, Common Terns continue to increase in numbers.

After a fairly good winter for alcids, it was not surprising to have a few individuals lingering into the spring. What was surprising was the diversity: of the six north Atlantic species, only puffins were not reported. Most common were Thick-billed Murres, which numbered at least six on March 9. Alcids also stayed later than usual, with a Dovekie on April 7, Razorbills into mid-April, and a Thick-billed Murre on April 25. Most unusual of all was a **Common Murre** in early March; there have been only a handful of this species in the last several years.

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Black-bellied Plover</b>				
05-15	1	Sandwich	Rt. 113 gravel pit	T. Vazzano, N. Beecher
05-16	20	Seabrook	mussel beds	A.& B. Delorey
<b>Semipalmated Plover</b>				
05-13	1	Campton	Campton Pond, WMNF	J. Williams
05-16	150	Seabrook	mussel beds	A.& B. Delorey
<b>Piping Plover</b>				
04-03	1	Seabrook	Haverhill St.	R. Aaronian
04-15	8	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick, J. Matthews
<b>Killdeer</b>				
03-09	1	Seabrook	Rt. 1	G. Gavutis, Jr.
03-11	1	Stratham	Rt. 108, Stewart Farm	G. Gavutis, Jr.
03-11	2	N. Hampton	Rt. 1A	S. Mirick
04-06	50	Concord	Clinton St. field	M. Suomala

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Greater Yellowlegs</b>				
04-21	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	J. Williams
05-12	3	Sandwich	Rt. 113 gravel pit	T. Vazzano
<b>Lesser Yellowlegs</b>				
05-01	1	Canaan	Webster Meadows	W. Scott
05-14	2	Sandwich	Rt. 113 gravel pit	T. Vazzano
05-19	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond field	J. Williams
<b>Solitary Sandpiper</b>				
04-28	1	Concord	Clinton St. near Turkey R.	R. Woodward
05-13	3	Campton	Campton Pond, WMNF	J. Williams
05-15	14	Sandwich	Rt. 113 gravel pit	T. Vazzano
<b>Spotted Sandpiper</b>				
04-25	1	Concord	Silk Farm WS, near Turkey Pond	P. Newbern
04-26	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds trails	S. Mirick
04-26	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
04-28	1	Moultonborough	Lees Pond	T. Vazzano
<b>Upland Sandpiper</b>				
04-21	1	Durham	Moore fields	S. Mirick, A. Borrer, ASNH FT
05-26	2	Durham	Moore fields	S. Mirick, P. Lacourse, M. Suomala, C. Scott
<b>Least Sandpiper</b>				
05-12	1	Amherst	Ponemah Bog	R. Andrews
05-12	15	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
05-13	1	Campton	Campton Pond, WMNF	J. Williams
05-19	29	Concord	Horseshoe Pond field	J. Williams
05-19	3	Sandwich	Rt. 113 gravel pit	T. Vazzano, N. Beecher
<b>Pectoral Sandpiper</b>				
04-21	1	Durham	Moore fields	S. Mirick, A. Borrer, ASNH FT
05-01	1	Canaan	Webster Meadows	W. Scott
<b>Purple Sandpiper</b>				
04-27	10	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
05-07	40	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
05-16	127	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
05-19	92	Rye	Rt. 1A, Isles of Shoals pullout	A.& B. Delorey, BBC FT
05-22	11	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
<b>Dunlin</b>				
03-02	200	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	A.& B. Delorey
05-16	70	Seabrook	mussel beds	A.& B. Delorey
<b>Short-billed Dowitcher</b>				
05-19	2	Sandwich	Rt. 113 gravel pit	T. Vazzano, N. Beecher
<b>Common Snipe</b>				
04-02	1	Durham	Main St. at Loop Rd.	R. Suomala
04-06	3	E. Kingston	Rt. 108 flooded field	A.& B. Delorey
04-07	16	Hampton Falls	Rt. 88	R. Quinn, J. Allen
04-09	19	Newmarket	Bay Rd. conservation land	S. Mirick

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Common Snipe — continued</b>				
04-12	31	Durham	Moore Fields	S. Mirick
04-13	12	N. Hampton	Runnymede Farm	A.& B. Delorey
04-18	5	Concord	W. Portsmouth St.	B. Janeway, Concord Bird & Wildflower Club
04-20	34	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	R. Suomala
04-23	6	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, J. Mittermeier
<b>American Woodcock</b>				
03-15	2	Chester	Sandown Rd.	B. Folsom
03-18	1	Nashua	Valhalla Dr. residence	M. Ahern
03-27	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05-12	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
<b>Wilson's Phalarope</b>				
05-08	1	N. Hampton	Little River salt marsh	M. Milligan
<b>Red-necked Phalarope</b>				
05-27	1	Portsmouth	Portsmouth Harbor	S. Mirick
<b>Laughing Gull</b>				
04-20	1	Rochester	Pickering Pond trails	S. Mirick
05-10	1	Newmarket	Bayview Rd.	S. Mirick
05-16	10	Rye	NH coast	S. Mirick
05-27	3	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	J. Kanter, R. Cook
<b>Little Gull</b>				
05-18	1	New Castle	mouth of Portsmouth Harbor	S. Mirick, et al.
05-26	1	New Castle	from Coast Guard Station	S. Mirick, P. Lacourse, M. Suomala, C. Scott
05-27	1	New Castle	mouth of Portsmouth Harbor	S. Mirick, et al.
<b>Black-headed Gull</b>				
03-09	1	Hampton	North Beach	S. Mirick
<b>Bonaparte's Gull</b>				
04-22	1	Bartlett	pond across from Attitash, Bear Peak	J. Dearborn
05-17	1	Errol	Lake Umbagog	C. Martin, J. Kelly
<b>Iceland Gull</b>				
03-09	1	Hampton	North Beach	S. Mirick
05-03	2	Portsmouth	Portsmouth Harbor	S. Mirick, D. Abbott
05-21	1	Newmarket	town landing	D. Donsker, M. Resch, J. Adamson, G. Mahler
<b>Lesser Black-backed Gull</b>				
03-03	1	Newmarket	downtown Newmarket	S. Mirick
04-01	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant & Squamscott R.	S. Mirick, D. Abbott, J. Mittermeier
04-04	1	Durham	Durham Landing on Oyster R.	S. Mirick, T. Federer
04-20	5	Rochester	Pickering Pond trails	S. Mirick
04-26	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
05-13	2	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick, J. Mittermeier
<b>Glaucous Gull</b>				
04-28	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Black-legged Kittiwake</b>				
05-16	6	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	S. Mirick
<b>Roseate Tern</b>				
5-10	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
05-26	4	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
<b>Common Tern</b>				
04-30	9	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
05-05	52	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
05-13	400	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
05-26	600	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
05-27	150	New Castle	Portsmouth Harbor	S. Mirick, ASNH FT
<b>Arctic Tern</b>				
05-09	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
05-31	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
<b>Least Tern</b>				
05-21	2	Rye	Rye Harbor	D. Donsker, M. Resch, J. Adamson, G. Mahler
<b>Dovekie</b>				
04-07	2	Rye	off Ragged Neck, Rye Harbor St. Pk.	A.& B. Delorey
<b>Common Murre</b>				
03-09	1	Rye	s. of Rye Ledge across from Faragat Hotel	S. Mirick, D. Abbott, D.& T. Donsker, B.& A. Delorey
<b>Thick-billed Murre</b>				
03-09	3	Rye	Rye Ledge	A.& B. Delorey
03-09	3		NH coast	S. Mirick
03-09	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	A.& B. Delorey
03-14	5		NH coast	S. Mirick, B. Quinn
04-01	1	Rye	near Star Is.	S. Mirick, D. Abbott, D. Finch
04-25	1	Rye	off White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
<b>Razorbill</b>				
04-07	4	Rye	Ragged Neck	A.& B. Delorey
04-13	1	Rye	Ragged Neck	A.& B. Delorey
<b>Black Guillemot</b>				
04-07	1	Rye	Ragged Neck	A.& B. Delorey
04-25	23	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
05-05	13	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois

## Cuckoos through Woodpeckers

Northern Saw-whet Owls were reported throughout the spring and over a wide portion of the state. This secretive species is usually only heard, but many reports this year were of individuals that were seen. Of the latter, most interesting was one using a bird box in Litchfield, a relatively southerly location for nesting. Common Nighthawks trickled in as usual in mid-May, and a Whip-poor-will on April 21 was perhaps the

second earliest ever for the state. Despite such perseverance, this species still appears to be declining in the state.

A Red-headed Woodpecker visited a yard in Lebanon for several days in mid-May. Red-bellied Woodpeckers were well-reported this spring. Many were from the species' stronghold around Great Bay and in the southern Merrimack Valley, but three reports from north of Concord suggest that range expansion continues. Note the roughly week delay between sapsucker arrival in the south and the north (Dummer). Although there is relatively little coverage north of the notches, it would make sense that many species would wait a while before venturing there, especially in a spring when over a foot of snow remained on the ground into mid-April.

Speaking of snow, there was still 1–2 feet on the ground in Northfield on March 17, but that didn't seem to prevent a Northern Flicker from being two weeks ahead of all the other ones in the state this spring.

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Black-billed Cuckoo</b>				
05-20	1	Rumney	Buffalo Rd.	A. Ports
05-28	1	Rumney	Buffalo Rd.	A. Ports, B. Taffe
<b>Short-eared Owl</b>				
03-03	1	Seabrook	dunes along Rt. 1A	S. Mirick, D. Hayward
<b>Northern Saw-whet Owl</b>				
03-09	1	Laconia	Holman St.	M. Chandler, H. Anderson
03-15	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
03-20	4	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge & Mt. Israel Rds.	T. Vazzano
05-18	1	Litchfield	Martin Lane	M. & S. Pitcher
<b>Common Nighthawk</b>				
05-13	1	Keene	Hannaford's	M. Wright
05-16	1	Lempster	Goshen-Lempster School	P. Newbern
05-24	1	Bradford	Lake Todd	C. & C. Martin
05-28	11	Portsmouth	Portsmouth Harbor	S. Mirick, J. Matthews
<b>Whip-poor-will</b>				
04-21	1	Concord	residence	R. Woodward
04-30	1	Rumney	Buffalo Rd.	B. Berti
05-01	1	Hopkinton	Dustin Rd.	J. & B. Magoon
05-01	3	Brookline	residence	M. & N. Neveu
05-08	1	Litchfield	Rt. 3A backyard	B. Malburne
05-19	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
05-20	1	Belmont	Rt. 140 near Tioga R.	P. Hunt
<b>Chimney Swift</b>				
04-24	1	Exeter	Phillips Exeter Academy	R. Aaronian
04-25	2	Concord	Silk Farm WS	R. Suomala, et al.
04-30	2	Lempster	Goshen-Lempster School	P. Newbern
05-01	5	Nashua	Mine Falls Park	R. Andrews
05-02	3	Hanover	Dartmouth College	T. Rosenmeier, K. Kluge
05-15	35	Nashua	Mine Falls Park	B. Harris, et al.
<b>Ruby-throated Hummingbird</b>				
05-02	1	Brookline	residence	M. & N. Neveu
05-03	1	Chichester	Horse Corner Rd.	M. Reinhardt



<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
05-03	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
05-03	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright

### **Red-headed Woodpecker**

05-13	1	Lebanon	Hardy Hill Rd.	F. Gearson, et al.
05-22	1	Lebanon	Hardy Hill Rd.	F. Gearson

### **Red-bellied Woodpecker**

03-02	2	Exeter	River Bend Circle	S. Wooster
03-22	1	Salisbury	Old Turnpike Rd., Rt. 4 feeder	A. Bentley
04-14	2	Newmarket	Bay Rd.	R. Woodward
04-17	1	Nashua	Spit Brook Rd.	A. Delorey
04-29	1	Plymouth	Pine Gate Rd.	J. & R. Williams
05-09	1	Derry	Ballard Marsh	A. Delorey
05-12	1	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175 A	J. Williams
05-25	1	Durham	Longmarsh Rd.	S. Mirick

### **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**

04-06	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
04-07	1	Northfield	Cross Mill Rd.	P. Hunt
04-10	2	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
04-12	1	Walpole	Carpenter Hill Rd.	R. Ritz
04-16	1	Dummer	Pontook Reservoir	D. Martin, K. Dube

### **Black-backed Woodpecker**

05-27	1	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
05-27	1	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	R. Woodward

### **Northern Flicker**

03-17	1	Northfield	Sargent St.	P. Hunt
04-04	1	Salem	residence	K. Folsom
04-06	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
04-09	1	Hudson	Ridgecrest Dr.	B. McCarthy
04-13	1	Walpole	County Rd.	R. Ritz

## **Flycatchers through Larks**

Flycatchers showed an interesting mix of arrival patterns. Olive-sideds seemed late, but all reports were fairly far north, where one would expect the species to be a little later than the state average. Eastern Wood-Pewees, with the exception of an almost typical arrival on May 8, were very late. The next sighting, on May 20, was well into the last fourth of historic arrival dates. Eastern Phoebes were also late, with northern arrivals roughly a week behind those in the south. In fact, this was the latest arrival of phoebes since the last time we had heavy snow in March — way back in 1993. The *Empidonax* flycatchers, in contrast, were all essentially on time, while Great Crested Flycatchers and Eastern Kingbirds were early. In fact, the former was record early, and both arrived during late April's heat wave, suggesting that the weather was at least partially responsible for their reaching New Hampshire before May.

Twelve Northern Shrikes lingered into early April. Of these, nine were in the central part of the state and three near the coast. Vireos as a group averaged early, with Warbling Vireo arriving record early and Red-eyed Vireo tying the record. The tern

biologists on White and Seavey Islands were treated to a **White-eyed Vireo** on May 1. This year's northernmost Fish Crows were in the Tilton area, including one seen flying over Northfield in late March. After this, they appear to have consolidated themselves around the fast food restaurants at Exit 20 off Interstate 93. There were several good-sized flocks of Horned Larks into early April, soon after which breeding is usually underway. As a result, a lark at the Isles of Shoals on the late date of May 27 is somewhat inexplicable.

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Olive-sided Flycatcher</b>				
05-19	1	Sutton	Cascade Marsh	W. Goodwill, et al.
05-25	1	Woodstock	Elbow Pond, WMNF	J. Williams, L. Prout
05-26	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
05-29	1	Cambridge	Rt. 16	D.& B. Killam
<b>Eastern Wood-Pewee</b>				
05-08	2	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. Harris
05-20	1	Northfield	Bay Rd.	P. Hunt
05-21	1	Jackson	Meserve Brook, WMNF	J. Williams
<b>Yellow-bellied Flycatcher</b>				
05-19	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
05-29	11	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
05-30	1	Durham	Foss Farm	S. Mirick, T. McNitt, et al.
<b>Alder Flycatcher</b>				
05-18	1	Exeter	Powder Mill Rd.	A.& B. Delorey
05-20	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-20	2	Plymouth	Chaison Rd. wetlands	J. Williams
05-27	12	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
<b>Willow Flycatcher</b>				
05-18	1	Kensington	Great Meadow	A.& B. Delorey
05-25	1	Gilsium	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
05-26	2	Rumney	Quincy Bog	A. Ports, B. Taffee
<b>Least Flycatcher</b>				
04-28	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	R. Woodward
05-02	1	Durham	Foss Farm	S. Mirick
05-02	1	Sandwich	Squam Lake	C. Martin
05-02	1	Hanover	Blueberry Hill	T. Rosenmeier
<b>Eastern Phoebe</b>				
03-28	2	Hinsdale	River Rd. at Hinsdale Bluffs	C. Martin
04-01	2	Westmoreland	River Rd.	R. Ritz
04-04	1	Barrington	Al Wood Dr. residence	T. Chase
04-07	1	Tilton	downtown	P. Hunt
04-07	1	Plymouth	Fairgrounds Rd.	J. Williams
04-07	1	Colebrook	Bridge St. by Connecticut R.	D. Killam
<b>Great Crested Flycatcher</b>				
04-23	1	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
05-02	1	Moultonborough	Squam Lake	C. Martin
05-02	1	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. Suomala

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Eastern Kingbird</b>				
04-24	1	Nashua	airport	R. Andrews
04-26	1	Exeter	Colby Farm, Drinkwater Rd.	R. Aaronian
05-04	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
05-05	3	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern, M. Suomala, R. Woodward, M. Jukes
<b>White-eyed Vireo</b>				
05-01	1	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward
<b>Yellow-throated Vireo</b>				
05-02	1	Derry	Ballard Marsh	A. Delorey
05-04	4	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A.& B. Delorey
05-18	1	Exeter	Ronell Rd.	R. Aaronian
05-19	1	Tamworth	Chick's Corner	T. Vazzano
05-20	1	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175 A	J. Williams
05-30	1	Lebanon	Wilder Dam	J. Williams
<b>Blue-headed Vireo</b>				
04-17	1	Nashua	Spit Brook Rd.	A. Delorey
04-22	1	Northfield	Cross Mill Rd.	P. Hunt
04-23	1	E. Kingston	near Rt. 108 by Kensington line	G. Gavutis, Jr.
04-23	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
04-23	1	Chichester	Horse Corner Rd.	M. Reinhardt
05-27	10	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
<b>Warbling Vireo</b>				
04-21	1	Auburn	Massabesic Audubon Center	H. Chary, ASNH FT
05-01	1	Chichester	Horse Corner Rd.	M. Reinhardt
05-02	1	Nashua	airport	R. Andrews
05-02	2	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175 A	J. Williams
<b>Philadelphia Vireo</b>				
05-26	1	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen
<b>Red-eyed Vireo</b>				
05-02	1	Chichester	Horse Corner Rd.	M. Reinhardt
05-02	1	Walpole	Scovill Rd.	R. Ritz
<b>Gray Jay</b>				
05-26	8	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
05-30	1	Pittsburg	Magalloway Rd.	E. Nielsen
<b>Fish Crow</b>				
03-17	1	Northfield	Tilton Arch	P. Hunt
04-01	1	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick, D. Abbott, J. Mittermeier
04-01	1	Concord	W. Portsmouth St.	R. Quinn
04-16	1	Tilton	exit 20 off Rt. 93	D. Stavros, L. Bardusk
04-21	2	Pembroke	Suncook	P. Hunt
04-29	2	Concord	Silk Farm WS	R. Woodward
05-20	2	Tilton	exit 20 off Rt. 93	P. Hunt
05-21	1	Durham	Durham Landing	D. Donsker, M. Resch, J. Adamson, G. Mahler

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Horned Lark</b>				
03-02	30	Seabrook	Crossbeach Rd.	A.& B. Delorey
03-15	3	Concord	near Concord Airport	R.Quinn
03-21	2	Campton	Rt. 93 median at exit 28	C. Martin
03-25	22	Concord	Morrill Farm, Penacook St.	H. Nevers, C. Foss
04-01	65	Newmarket	Bay Rd.	S. Mirick, D. Abbott, J. Mittermeier
04-06	120	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	R. Suomala
04-21	1	Hooksett	barren area n. of Wal-Mart	P. Hunt
05-17	6	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	A.& B. Delorey
05-27	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	J. Kanter, R. Cook

## Swallows through Waxwings

Swallows were all over the map in terms of arrival dates. Bank Swallows were late, Tree Swallows on time, and the rest somewhat early. The first three Winter Wrens this season were all reported from relatively far north or at higher elevation, where they were on the late side. Note that the bird in Kensington was probably a holdover from the winter, since it remained in the area into mid-April, whereas a migrant would probably have continued on.

A Hermit Thrush in Kensington was also probably one that spent the winter locally, especially when one considers that more individuals of this species than usual spent the winter in much of the Northeast. Bristol's **winter Veery**, only the second ever in New England, was last seen in early March. The rest of the Veeries arrived on schedule in early May. Swainson's Thrushes, on the other hand, were mostly late, with the exception of a slightly early bird on May 6. The star among thrushes was the western **Varied Thrush** that visited an Alton feeder the day after the vernal equinox.

A Northern Mockingbird as far north as Bartlett is unusual, although not completely unexpected. However, one that landed on a boat over 10 miles offshore is taking this species' range expansion a bit too far. One can only wonder how such a sedentary species could get so far away from its normal haunts. Bohemian Waxwing reports were distributed in a manner very similar to those of the Northern Shrike (another northern irruptive): most were in the central part of the state. The close chronological spacing of Bohemian Waxwing sightings is also intriguing and suggests that perhaps there was a last minute northward push of this species from some unknown area to the south.

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Purple Martin</b>				
05-11	12	Moultonborough	Lees Mill Rd.	T. Vazzano
05-19	40	Laconia	Funspot	J. Williams
05-21	3	Laconia	Prescott Farm Audubon Ctr.	A. McIntyre
<b>Tree Swallow</b>				
03-25	3	Durham	Rt. 108	S. Mirick
03-28	13	Hinsdale	Connecticut R.	C. Martin
03-31	5	Newmarket	Bay Rd.	S. Mirick, B. Smith

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
04-01	12	Concord	W. Portsmouth St. field	R. Quinn
04-11	100	Tilton	Silver Lake	P. Hunt
04-14	1000	Manchester	Merrimack R.	S. Mirick, M. Suomala
04-15	200	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
05-31	800	Pittsburg	Third Lake	E. Nielsen

### **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**

04-11	3	Nashua	Nashua R. millyard	R. Andrews
04-18	1	Concord	South End Marsh	B. Janeway, Concord Bird & Wildflower Club

### **Bank Swallow**

05-01	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
05-06	4	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175 A	J. Williams

### **Cliff Swallow**

04-15	1	Rye	Eel Pond	S. Mirick
05-12	38	Plymouth	Bridgewater Hill Rd. barn	J. Williams
05-12	36	Plymouth	Rt. 3A barn	J. Williams
05-25	8	Pittsburg	Partridge Cabins	E. Nielsen

### **Barn Swallow**

04-22	1	Laconia	Martell's Bait Shop	H. Anderson
04-26	1	Gilsium	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
04-26	5	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois

### **Boreal Chickadee**

05-26	8	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
05-28	2	Beans Grant	Crawford Path	R. Woodward

### **Carolina Wren**

03-11	1	Northfield	Sargent St.	P. Hunt, R. Suomala
04-05	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05-20	1	Exeter	residence	G. Prazar

### **House Wren**

04-24	1	Dover	Prospect St. residence	A. & S. Galt
04-25	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
04-26	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis, Jr.
04-26	1	Hudson	Ridgecrest Dr.	B. McCarthy

### **Winter Wren**

03-02	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis, Jr.
04-01	1	Newbury	Stoney Brook WS	C. Martin
04-10	1	Ellsworth	Ellsworth Rd., WMNF	J. Williams
04-11	1	Greens Grant	Great Glen Trails ski trail	C. & J. Tewksbury

### **Marsh Wren**

05-13	1	Center Harbor	Chamberlin-Reynolds Forest	T. Vazzano, Lakes Regions Chapter FT
05-17	2	Errol	Lake Umbagog at Leonard Marsh	C. Martin, J. Kelly

### **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**

04-11	1	Concord	Locke Rd. sod farm access road	R. & M. Suomala
04-15	1	Northfield	Park St.	P. Hunt
04-17	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis, Jr.
04-25	10	Concord	Silk Farm WS near Turkey Pond	P. Newbern

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Ruby-crowned Kinglet — continued</b>				
04-29	11	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-05	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern, M. Suomala, R. Woodward, M. Jukes
<b>Blue-gray Gnatcatcher</b>				
04-22	2	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams
04-23	1	Sutton	Cascade Marsh	P. Newbern
05-04	2	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A.& B. Delorey
05-05	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern, M. Suomala, R. Woodward, M. Jukes
<b>Veery</b>				
03-03	1	Bristol	Worfield Circle	P. Moulton
05-03	1	Hanover	Occum Pond	T. Rosenmeier
05-06	1	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175 A	J. Williams, W. Taffe, A. Ports
05-09	1	Washington	Pillsbury St. Pk.	P. Newbern
<b>Bicknell's Thrush</b>				
05-27	1	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	R. Woodward
05-28	2	Beans Grant	Webster Cliff Trail	R. Woodward
<b>Swainson's Thrush</b>				
05-06	1	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175 A	J. Williams
05-19	1	Chichester	Horse Corner Rd.	M. Reinhardt
05-26	13	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen
05-27	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	J. Kanter, R. Cook
<b>Hermit Thrush</b>				
03-10	1	Kensington	Shaws Hill Rd.	N. Tuthill, D. Swift
04-05	1	Exeter	High St.	E. Ring
04-09	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis, Jr.
04-11	1	Greens Grant	Glen House parking lot	C.& J. Tewksbury
04-12	1	Rumney	Buffalo Rd. near Baker R.	C. Martin
<b>Wood Thrush</b>				
05-02	3	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
05-02	1	E. Kingston	Moulton Ridge & Great Brook	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05-03	1	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. Suomala
05-04	7	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A.& B. Delorey
<b>Varied Thrush</b>				
03-22	1	Alton	Finethy Lane in E. Alton	B. Bald, D. Shynovek
<b>Gray Catbird</b>				
05-03	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
05-03	1	Gilsium	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
05-03	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05-04	1	Nashua	Mine Falls Park	R. Andrews
05-04	1	Keene	Ashuelot River Park	R. Ritz
05-04	1	Lebanon	Brook Rd.	T. Rosenmeier, K. Kluge
<b>Northern Mockingbird</b>				
03-07	1	Bartlett	Popple Hill Dr., Glenwood	B. Yale
05-03	1	Seabrook	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, D. Abbott

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Brown Thrasher</b>				
04-29	1	Northfield	Sargent St.	P. Hunt
04-24	1	Nashua	airport	R. Andrews
04-26	2	Concord	South End	R. Woodward
04-28	1	Holderness	Outback Driving Range	J. Williams
04-29	1	Kensington	Cottage Hill	G. Gavutis, Jr.
<b>American Pipit</b>				
03-17	1	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	D.& T. Donsker, M. Resch
03-20	8	Seabrook	Hampton Marsh	C. Martin, D. Hughes, I. MacLeod
04-22	2	Gilford	Pheasant Ridge Golf Course	H. Anderson
05-13	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
<b>Bohemian Waxwing</b>				
03-05	25	Hanover	King Road	D. Crook
03-11	8	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
03-28	37	Tamworth	Great Hill Rd.	B. Steele
03-31	22	Plymouth	Beech Hill Rd.	J. Williams
03-31	3	Belmont	residence orchard	D. Hepp
04-04	7	Plymouth	Hatch Plaza	J. Williams

## Warblers

**M**any observers commented that the spring warbler migration was one of the poorest in years, and speculation on the reason was rampant. Was it population declines? Was it the weather? Did they sneak through on weekdays when no one was looking? My first guess is one of the latter, since there were reports of significant fall-outs from migration hot-spots such as Cape May (New Jersey) and Point Pelee (Ontario). From the records we received, most species were roughly on time, if not a little early in the case of Magnolia, Palm, and Black-and-white. Black-throated Green and Wilson's Warblers were both within two days of tying their record early dates. Golden-winged Warblers went

<b><u>Clough State Park Warbler Tallies, P. Newburn</u></b>				
<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>5/9/99</b>	<b>5/6/00</b>	<b>5/5/01</b>	
Blue-winged Warbler	1	8	8	
Nashville Warbler	20	10	5	
Northern Parula	5			
Yellow Warbler	17	23	14	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	15	24	16	
Magnolia Warbler	6	1		
Black-throated Blue Warbler	3	1		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	26	27	8	
Black-throated Green Warbler	12	11	2	
Blackburnian Warbler	2	2		
Pine Warbler	1	4		
Prairie Warbler	1			
Palm Warbler	1			
Black-and-white Warbler	33	31	24	
American Redstart	6	8	8	
Ovenbird	19	35	24	
Northern Waterthrush	2			
Louisiana Waterthrush	1	4	1	
Common Yellowthroat	3	12	10	
Wilson's Warbler	1			
Canada Warbler	1			
<b>Total Species</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	
<b>Total Individuals</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>124</b>	

undetected for only the second time in the last ten years, a pattern consistent with this species' regional decline. Yellow-rumped Warblers appear to have had two migration peaks, and Palms were generally reported in higher numbers than usual.

2001 marks the third year of Peter Newburn's warbler tallies from Clough State Park in early May. Not surprisingly, this year was the worst of the three, but I thought it would be valuable to show people the data in a long-term context.

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Blue-winged Warbler</b>				
05-02	2	Durham	Foss Farm	S. Mirick
05-05	8	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern, M. Suomala, R. Woodward, M. Jukes
05-05	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05-12	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
05-25	1	Westmoreland	Partridge Brook Rd.	R. Ritz
<b>Brewster's Warbler — hybrid</b>				
05-11	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	R. Woodward
<b>Tennessee Warbler</b>				
05-12	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	S. Mirick
05-14	1	Lempster	Goshen-Lempster School	P. Newbern
05-16	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
05-17	1	Concord	Silk Farm WS	P. Hunt
05-20	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
<b>Nashville Warbler</b>				
04-28	1	Merrimack	Seavern's Bridge Rd.	R. Andrews
04-29	1	Concord	Silk Farm WS	R. Woodward
05-02	4	Durham	Foss Farm	S. Mirick
05-02	3	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
05-02	5	Sandwich	Thompson WS	T. Vazzano
<b>Northern Parula</b>				
05-01	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
05-02	1	Millsfield	Moulton Ridge & Great Brook	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05-04	1	Columbia	residence	B. & D. Killam
05-06	3	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-27	27	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
<b>Yellow Warbler</b>				
05-01	1	Nashua	Mine Falls Park	R. Andrews
05-01	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05-02	1	Holderness	US Forest Service office lot	J. Williams
<b>Chestnut-sided Warbler</b>				
05-02	1	Nashua	airport	R. Andrews
05-02	1	Durham	Foss Farm	S. Mirick
05-02	1	Walpole	Crehore Rd.	R. Ritz
<b>Magnolia Warbler</b>				
05-01	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
05-03	1	Ellsworth	US Forest Service Rd., WMNF	J. Williams
05-06	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-27	31	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen



<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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### **Black-throated Blue Warbler**

05-03	1	Holderness	US Forest Service office lot	J. Williams
05-04	1	Keene	Ashuelot River Park	R. Ritz
05-04	1	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. Suomala

### **Yellow-rumped Warbler**

03-11	1	Rye	Eel Pond	S. Mirick
04-15	1	Northfield	Scribner Rd.	P. Hunt
04-20	1	E. Kingston	Great Brook, e. of Rt. 108	G. Gavutis, Jr.
04-21	1	Bradford	Bradford Elementary School	P. Newbern
04-25	40	Concord	Silk Farm WS near Turkey Pond	P. Newbern
04-25	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
04-26	22	Exeter	wastewater ponds	R. Aaronian
05-06	200	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175 A	J. Williams, W. Taffe, A. Ports

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

04-22	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
04-24	1	Hanover	Blueberry Hill	T. Rosenmeier
04-25	2	Concord	Silk Farm WS near Turkey Pond	P. Newbern
04-29	1	Nashua	Deerhaven Dr.	R. Andrews
04-30	1	Walpole	Scovill Rd.	R. Ritz

### **Blackburnian Warbler**

05-07	2	Rumney	ridge n. of Stinson Mtn., WMNF	J. Williams
05-09	3	Washington	Pillsbury St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-11	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	A.& B. Delorey
05-12	14	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A.& B. Delorey

### **Pine Warbler**

04-06	1	Londonderry	Devonshire Ln.	H. Chary
04-12	1	Concord	Audubon House, Silk Farm WS	M. Suomala
04-16	2	Kensington	Moulton Ridge	G. Gavutis, Jr.
04-17	2	Merrimack	Thornton Rd.	R. Andrews

### **Prairie Warbler**

05-05	1	Derry	Overledge Dr. powerline	B. McCarthy
05-08	1	Nashua	Mine Falls Park	R. Andrews
05-11	2	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	A.& B. Delorey
05-12	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
05-28	3	Hudson	Musquash CA	B. McCarthy

### **Palm Warbler**

04-11	1	Dover	fields behind County Jail	T. Chase
04-11	2	Concord	Merrimack R., Locke Rd. sod farm	R. & M. Suomala
04-14	5	Newmarket	Bay Rd.	R. Woodward
04-20	20	Amherst	behind Wal-Mart, Rt. 101A	R. Andrews
04-25	12	Exeter	Colby Farm fields, off Drinkwater Rd.	R. Aaronian
04-28	12	Auburn	Massabesic Audubon Center	H. Chary, ASNH FT

### **Bay-breasted Warbler**

05-12	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A.& B. Delorey
05-16	1	Benton	Sugarloaf, WMNF	J. Williams
05-26	12	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen
05-29	16	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Blackpoll Warbler</b>				
05-11	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	A.& B. Delorey
05-17	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
05-17	1	Benton	Ridler Road	J. Williams
05-26	5	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen
05-29	19	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
<b>Cerulean Warbler</b>				
05-21	2	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	D. Donsker, M. Resch, J. Adamson, G. Mahler
05-26	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	S. Mirick
<b>Black-and-white Warbler</b>				
04-22	1	Goffstown	off Rt. 114	J. Doherty
04-25	1	E. Kingston	Great Brook, e. of Rt. 108	G. Gavutis, Jr.
04-27	1	Bartlett	Cathedral Ledge	C. Martin
04-29	5	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
04-29	1	Nashua	Mines Falls Park	R. Andrews
04-30	1	Walpole	Scovill Rd.	R. Ritz
<b>American Redstart</b>				
05-04	1	Nashua	Nashua R.	R. Andrews
05-05	8	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern, M. Suomala, R. Woodward, M. Jukes
05-12	1	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175 A	J. Williams
<b>Ovenbird</b>				
05-01	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
05-02	2	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. Suomala
05-02	1	E. Kingston	Moulton Ridge & Great Brook	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05-02	1	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
<b>Northern Waterthrush</b>				
05-02	1	Nashua	airport	R. Andrews
05-02	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
05-03	1	Ellsworth	beaver pond, WMNF	J. Williams
05-06	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
<b>Louisiana Waterthrush</b>				
04-20	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A.& B. Delorey
04-23	1	Bow	Heidi Rd.	P. Hunt
04-24	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis, Jr.
<b>Mourning Warbler</b>				
05-23	2	Warren	Cumming's Place, WMNF	J. Williams
05-24	1	Warren	Ravine Camp Rd., WMNF	J. Williams
05-27	3	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
05-29	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	S. Mirick
05-29	1	Thornton	Talford Brook clearcut WMNF	J. Williams
05-29	1	Woodstock	Rt. 118 clearcut, WMNF	J. Williams
<b>Common Yellowthroat</b>				
05-02	1	Keene	Ashuelot R.	D. Ball
05-02	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
05-04	1	Keene	Ashuelot River Park	R. Ritz
05-28	20	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	J. Kanter, R. Cook

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Wilson's Warbler</b>				
05-06	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Woodward
05-09	1	Washington	Pillsbury St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-11	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	A.& B. Delorey
05-13	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
<b>Canada Warbler</b>				
05-11	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	A.& B. Delorey
05-13	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
05-17	1	Washington	Pillsbury St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-25	2	Woodstock	Elbow Pond Rd., WMNF	J. Williams, L. Prout
05-27	4	Carroll	Crawford Path	R. Woodward

## Tanagers through Finches

Scarlet Tanagers, like so many neotropical migrants already discussed, were slightly early this spring. Sparrows were in many ways better reported than warblers, with good diversity and high numbers over much of the state. The Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow on White Island May 5 predated the previous early record by almost two weeks, showing yet again that all sorts of unpredictable things can happen on off-shore islands. The state-threatened Grasshopper Sparrow was reported from two locations: a traditional site in Amherst and a gravel pit in Lee.

Almost certainly delayed by the snow were Red-winged Blackbirds. Away from the coast, where this species winters in small numbers, it usually arrives at the very end of February. This year, they didn't appear in most southern areas until roughly a week later and waited yet another week before reaching central New Hampshire. The large flocks of grackles, as impressive as they were, were also somewhat on the late side. Like Fish Crows, Orchard Orioles made it as far north as Northfield, although most reports were in the Great Bay area.

After a winter without a flight of northern finches, it was not surprising to have very few reports this spring. Purple Finches were the only species in relatively large numbers. Red Crossbills were only found in southern New Hampshire, with a pair and two young at Pawtuckaway State Park representing perhaps the southernmost breeding record for the state. White-winged Crossbills, on the other hand, were found over the length of the state, from Walpole in the southwest to Pittsburg in the north. Pittsburg was also the only area to host large numbers of Pine Siskins.



*Red-winged Blackbird*  
by John Quinn

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Scarlet Tanager</b>				
05-02	1	Durham	Foss Farm	S. Mirick
05-04	1	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. Suomala
05-09	2	E. Kingston	near Great Brook e. of Rt. 108	G. Gavutis, Jr.
<b>Eastern Towhee</b>				
03-05	1	Brookline	residence	M. Neveu
04-17	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis, Jr.
04-20	2	Amherst	Rt. 101A behind Wal-Mart	R. Andrews
04-22	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
<b>American Tree Sparrow</b>				
04-11	120	Concord	Locke Rd. sod farm by Merrimack R.	R. & M. Suomala
04-18	30	Concord	South End Marsh	B. Janeway, Concord Bird & Wildflower Club
04-21	2	Rumney	residence	A. Ports
04-22	2	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
04-22	3	Plymouth	Pine Gate Rd.	J. & R. Williams
<b>Chipping Sparrow</b>				
04-15	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
04-15	1	Holderness	US Forest Service office	J. Williams
04-15	1	Columbia	residence	B. & D. Killam
<b>Field Sparrow</b>				
04-20	4	Amherst	Rt. 101A near Wal-Mart	R. Andrews
04-21	2	Hooksett	barren area n. of Wal-Mart	P. Hunt
04-22	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
04-22	2	Holderness	Outback Driving Range	J. Williams
<b>Vesper Sparrow</b>				
04-21	1	Hooksett	barren area n. of Wal-Mart	P. Hunt
04-22	2	Sandwich	Rt. 113 gravel pit	T. Vazzano
04-22	1	Holderness	Outback Driving Range	J. Williams
04-24	1	Durham	Moore fields	S. Mirick, R. Suomala
05-19	7	Concord	Concord Airport	R. Woodward, I. MacLeod
05-21	1	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport, Newington Rd.	D. Donsker, M. Resch, J. Adamson, G. Mahler
<b>Savannah Sparrow</b>				
03-27	1	Plymouth	Pine Gate Rd.	J. & R. Williams
04-07	1	Concord	Clinton St. fields	R. & M. Suomala
04-16	1	Concord	Silk Farm WS	R. Suomala, E. Downing
04-22	10	Holderness	Outback Driving Range	J. Williams
05-06	41	Holderness	Outback Driving Range	J. Williams
<b>Grasshopper Sparrow</b>				
05-19	1	Amherst	cemetery fields	R. Bielawski
05-26	1	Lee	Old Mill Rd. gravel pit	S. Mirick, P. Lacourse, M. Suomala, C. Scott
<b>Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow</b>				
05-05	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
05-21	2	Hampton	marsh behind Little Jack's	D. Donsker, M. Resch, J. Adamson, G. Mahler
05-24	3	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	S. Mirick

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Fox Sparrow</b>				
03-07	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
03-30	2	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
04-03	4	Plymouth	Pine Gate Rd.	J. & R. Williams
04-07	1	Concord	W. Portsmouth St.	R. & M. Suomala
04-15	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
04-21	1	Chichester	Horse Corner Rd.	M. Reinhardt
<b>Song Sparrow</b>				
04-07	120	Concord	Merrimack R. floodplain	R. & M. Suomala
<b>Lincoln's Sparrow</b>				
05-06	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-06	1	Chichester	Horse Corner Rd.	M. Reinhardt
05-22	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
<b>Swamp Sparrow</b>				
04-11	1	Concord	Locke Rd. sod farm access road	R. & M. Suomala
04-21	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	J. Williams
05-01	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
<b>White-throated Sparrow</b>				
04-22	26	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
04-22	11	Chichester	Horse Corner Rd.	M. Reinhardt
04-24	11	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
05-03	67	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
<b>White-crowned Sparrow</b>				
05-02	1	Laconia	Wildwood Rd.	H. Anderson
05-02	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
05-04	2	Columbia	residence	B. & D. Killam
05-06	3	Holderness	by Plymouth State College fields	J. Williams
05-17	1	Concord	Silk Farm WS	P. Hunt
05-17	1	Exeter	Phillips Exeter Academy campus	R. Aaronian
<b>Lapland Longspur</b>				
04-07	2	Concord	Clinton St. fields	M. & R. Suomala
<b>Snow Bunting</b>				
03-03	7	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick, D. Hayward
04-29	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
<b>Rose-breasted Grosbeak</b>				
04-28	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis, Jr.
04-30	1	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
05-01	1	Chichester	Horse Corner Rd.	M. Reinhardt
05-04	1	Columbia	residence	B. & D. Killam
<b>Indigo Bunting</b>				
05-07	1	Greenland	residence	R. Conner
05-08	1	Keene	Harper Acres, Castle St.	D. Ball
05-09	1	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr. feeder	B. Harris
05-09	1	Londonderry	Devonshire Lane	H. Chary
<b>Bobolink</b>				
05-05	5	Brentwood	Ladd Farm, UNH, North Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05-06	1	Walpole	Scovill Rd. haying fields	R. Ritz

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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**Bobolink — continued**

05-12	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, A. LeFrancois
05-20	20	Northfield	Bay Rd.	P. Hunt

**Red-winged Blackbird**

03-02	2	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr. residence	B. Harris
03-08	1	Peterborough	Union St.	M. & R. Johnson
03-08	1	Windham	residence	J. Romano
03-14	3	Laconia	Wildwood Rd.	H. Anderson
03-16	1	Plymouth	Pine Gate Rd.	J. & R. Williams
03-17	4	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
03-18	2	Walpole	County Rd.	R. Ritz

**Eastern Meadowlark**

04-06	1	Concord	Clinton St. field	M. Suomala
04-07	1	Merrimack	fields behind Anheuser-Busch brewery	R. Andrews
04-08	1	Plymouth	Rt. 25	J. Williams
05-28	1	Pittsburg	Magalloway Rd.	E. Nielsen

**Rusty Blackbird**

03-15	2	Kensington	Kimball Rd.	A. & B. Delorey
04-15	1	Northfield	Sargent St.	P. Hunt
04-28	1	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams
05-06	1	Concord	SPNHF floodplain	R. Woodward
05-29	2	Pittsburg	Rt. 3, First Lake to Second Lake	E. Nielsen

**Common Grackle**

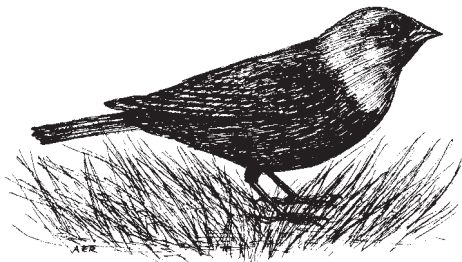
03-23	500	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis, Jr.
04-07	400	Dover	Prospect St. neighborhood	A. & B. Delorey
04-09	20,000	Portsmouth	Great Bog blackbird roost	S. Mirick



**Orchard Oriole**

05-05	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05-06	2	Stratham	near jct. Rt. 108 & Swampscott Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05-09	1	Nashua	Lincoln Park	R. Andrews
05-12	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
05-12	1	Boscawen	Forest Lane	M. Tremblay, S. Landry
05-20	1	Northfield	jct. of Shaker Rd. & Rt. 140	P. Hunt
05-24	1	Newfields	near Chapmans Landing	S. Mirick

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Baltimore Oriole</b>				
04-26	1	Dover	Prospect St.	S. & A. Galt
05-02	1	Bedford	Ministerial Rd.	S. & J. Saidel-Goley
05-02	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05-03	1	Nashua	Deerhaven Dr.	R. Andrews
05-03	1	Hanover	Occum Pond	T. Rosenmeier
05-03	3	Laconia	Wildwood Rd.	H. Anderson
05-03	2	Walpole	County Rd.	R. Ritz
05-03	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
05-25	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam



*Brown-headed Cowbird*  
by Andrea Robbins

### **Blackbird sp. (Red-winged Blackbird/Cowbird)**

04-09	5985	Portsmouth	Great Bog blackbird roost	S. Mirick
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### **Red Crossbill**

03-28	4	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
04-01	2	Walpole	Scovill Rd.	R. Ritz
05-26	4	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway State Park	S. Mirick, P. Lacourse, M. Suomala, C. Scott

### **White-winged Crossbill**

03-02	8	Danbury	Ragged Mtn.	P. Newbern
03-15	6	Walpole	Scovill Rd.	R. Ritz
03-21	2	Columbia	residence	B. & D. Killam
03-26	5	Bradford	Rowe Mountain Rd.	M. Levin
05-10	6	Bartlett	Rocky Branch Rd.	J. Williams, D. Hrdlicka
05-18	4	Croydon	Lake Coniston, Camp Coniston	J. Tilley
05-28	12	Beans Grant	Crawford Path	R. Woodward
05-29	4	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen

### **Evening Grosbeak**

03-11	14	Walpole	County Rd.	R. Ritz
03-18	4	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
04-08	4	Pembroke	N. Pembroke Rd.	K. Palfy
04-21	4	Brookline	residence	M. Neveu
05-17	4	Benton	Sugarloaf, WMNF	J. Williams
05-25	6	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
05-30	6	Pittsburg	town	E. Nielsen

# Junco Winter: An Analysis of Population Distribution Across Eastern North America

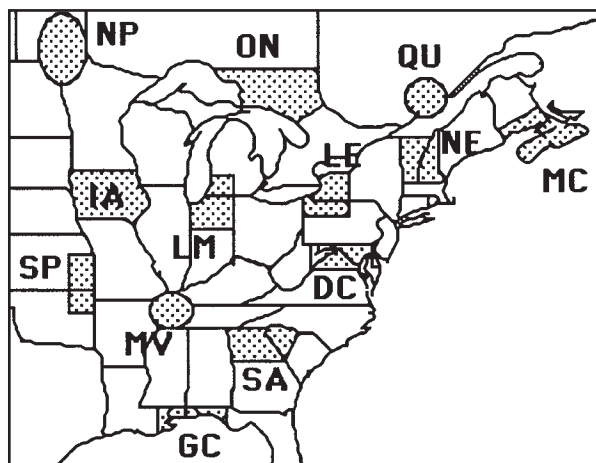
by Pamela Hunt

In the absence of winter finches, one of the notable events of the winter of 2000-2001 was a profusion of sparrows over a large portion of the Northeast. The stars of the show were Dark-eyed Juncos, which were tallied in record numbers on Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) early in the winter and which also peaked at feeder surveys, such as the Audubon Society of New Hampshire's Backyard Winter Bird Survey. There was considerable speculation as to why there were so many juncos in New Hampshire, and three possible explanations were proposed.

The first proposes that juncos were more common because they moved farther south than usual. In other words, juncos that usually spend the winter in Canada moved into New England as a result of adverse conditions, such as cold, deep snow, or low food supplies. The converse of this theory is that the birds didn't go as far south as usual. In this case, birds that normally continue beyond New England stayed north, perhaps because conditions were conducive to their hanging around. The third possibility is that junco populations to the north were exceptionally productive in the summer of 2000, resulting in higher than usual numbers moving south. As luck would have it, there are data available to sort out these three possibilities, in the form of CBCs and the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS).

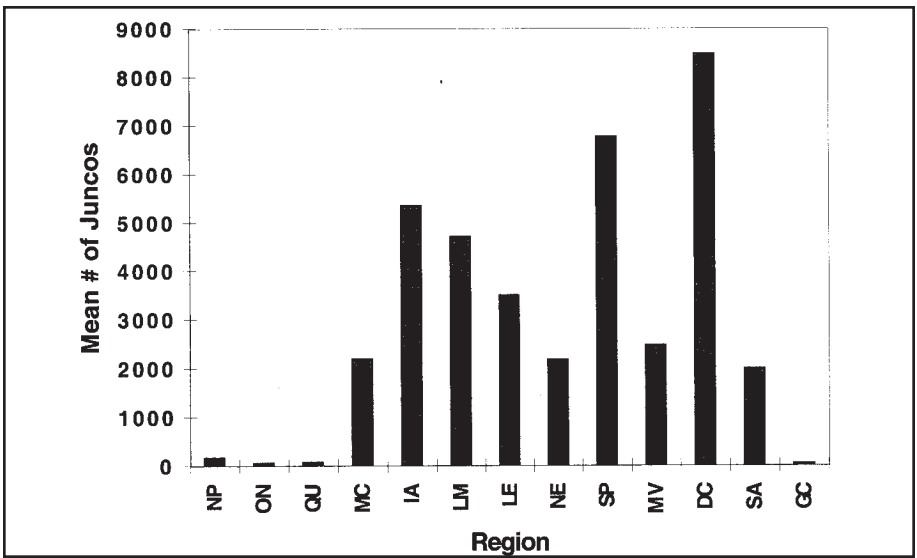


Dark-eyed Junco  
by Nan Turner Waldron



**Figure 1.** Regions from which Christmas Bird Count data were taken for analysis. NP-Northern Plains, ON-Ontario, QU-Quebec, MC-Maritime Canada, IA-Iowa, LM-Southern Lake Michigan, LE-Eastern Lake Erie, NE-Northern New England, SP-Southern Plains, MV-Central Mississippi Valley, DC-Washington, DC Area, SA-Southern Appalachians, GC-Gulf Coast.





**Figure 2.** Mean abundance (1988-2000) of "Slate-colored" Juncos (a form of the Dark-eyed Junco) on Christmas Bird Counts in 13 regions of eastern North America. See Figure 1 for region codes.

Let's check the latter first, since BBS data analyses are available on the web and are easily accessible. If one examines junco population trends for almost all regions of eastern Canada and the northeastern United States, the picture is pretty clear. From Manitoba and Minnesota to New Brunswick and Maine, juncos have been in a steady decline since the 1980s. This information doesn't preclude their having an exceptional breeding season in 2000, of course, but the odds are against it. If there was a population spike in this case, it would not be detectable until the 2001 data are incorporated into the analysis.

So that leaves us with shifting winter distribution of one form or another. To investigate this possibility more thoroughly, I selected 13 regions of eastern North America where CBC data were available for the last several years (see Figure 1). Ten CBCs were selected for each region, and the number of juncos on each were added together to get a regionwide index of abundance. Note that this analysis did *not* take observer effort into account, since information on party hours are not available on the internet. By limiting the time span to recent years, however, I hoped to minimize any significant variation in observer effort.

The first thing to note when looking at data on this scale is the overall distribution of juncos in the winter (Figure 1). Figure 2 shows the average number per region for the period 1988-2000. From this figure, it is apparent that juncos are relatively rare in most of southern Canada (the Maritimes being the exception), as well as on the Gulf Coast. Peak numbers occur along the eastern edge of the Great Plains and in the lowlands of the mid-Atlantic coast. Lesser numbers can be found around the southern

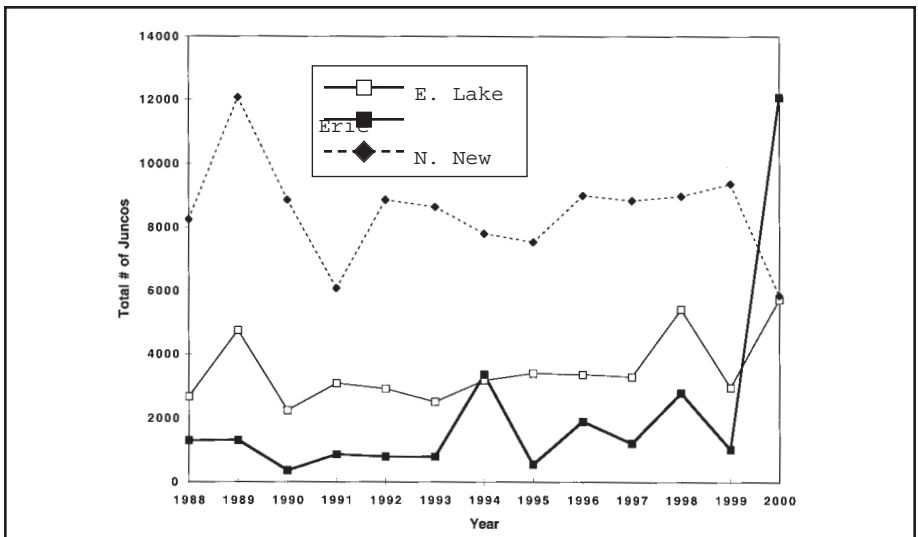
*Continued on Page 32*

edge of the Great Lakes. Average abundance in New Hampshire is slightly lower yet, but still significantly higher than at the edges of the species' range.

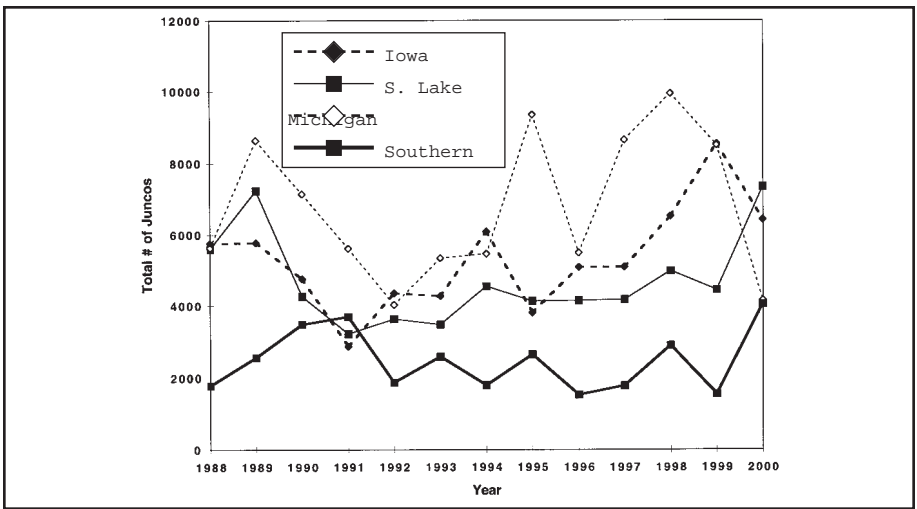
The areas most likely to serve as sources of northern juncos moving south into New Hampshire (the first explanation above) are Quebec and Maritime Canada. The species is rare enough in Quebec that the slight decline there in 2000 is unlikely to have caused the record numbers in New England. In the Maritimes, junco populations showed an increase similar to that in New England, so extreme eastern Canada is an unlikely source as well.

The fact that Maritime populations were high in 2000 suggests that the junco invasion was widespread across northeastern North America. This pattern is confirmed if one looks a little farther west, to western New York and Pennsylvania, and even to the southern end of Lake Michigan. These regions also showed a distinct peak in 2000, and Ontario to the north did not show a decline. The geographic extent of the increase, without a decrease to the north, strongly suggests that the juncos we watched in 2000 were not refugees from southern Canada. So did they simply not go as far south as usual?

The answer, at least based on CBC data from the Washington, DC, area, appears to be yes. Junco populations in this region dropped noticeably in 2000, as shown in Figure 3 (compared to two more northerly regions). There was also a slight drop in numbers in the Southern Appalachian region (not shown on graph). When all this is put together, it seems reasonable to conclude that many of the juncos we saw in New England last winter were here because they opted not to continue farther south along the Atlantic coast.



**Figure 3.** Numbers of "Slate-colored" Juncos on Christmas Bird Counts in three eastern regions from 1988 to 2000. Each point represents the sum of 10 counts in each region.



**Figure 4.** Numbers of "Slate-colored" Juncos on Christmas Bird Counts in three western regions from 1988 to 2000. Each point represents the sum of 10 counts in each region.

Why they did this remains a subject of speculation. Our weather in the winter 2000-2001 was generally colder and snowier than many previous winters. There was certainly no meteorological incentive for them to remain in the Northeast. However, there was an abundance of seeds from the previous summer, which may have been a big enough incentive to remain north. Juncos, like many short-distance migrants, are less affected by weather than they are by food supplies, so such an explanation makes a good deal of sense.

Let's not stop in New England, since I *did* look at CBC data for most of eastern North America. In the national publication *North American Birds*, one author speculated that high junco numbers in parts of the east were a result of birds leaving especially snowy areas to the north and west. This theory is at least partially supported by the data. As shown in Figure 4, junco numbers in the eastern Great Plains (Iowa and Southern Plains) dropped in 2000, whereas they rose in the two regions to the east: Southern Lake Michigan and Central Mississippi Valley.

There is a strong likelihood that these birds moved east in response to harsh winter conditions on the plains. Although juncos are less affected by weather, extremes can still have an impact. In Iowa, for instance, December temperatures were the second lowest in 126 years! When combined with high snowfalls, it is not surprising that many small sparrows would have sought more pleasant surroundings, in this case the relatively balmy areas in the lowlands to the east. Similar conditions were likely responsible for record numbers of American Tree Sparrows in parts of the Central Mississippi Valley.

When we put all these pieces together, we find a picture that is not quite as simple as it might have appeared at first glance. Higher than usual numbers of juncos and

*Continued on Page 37*

## Corrections

The following corrections were found after the issue was published. Minor typos are not included. Please let us know of any major inaccuracies you find in any issue. Those which involve sighting records will be corrected in the computer data file to improve accuracy.

### Spring 99

- p. 6 Manx Shearwater: There were 2 not 1 seen on 05-24 in Rye. The second bird was at Seal Rocks.
- p. 19 The first line of the second paragraph should read “none of them from known colony locations except the Moultonborough report.”
- p. 24 In the Warbler table, the Clough Total Species and Individuals were incorrect. They should be 21 instead of 20 and 176 instead of 190, respectively.

### Summer 99

- p. 6 The following report was inadvertently omitted:  
A Manx Shearwater was seen on 06-04 in Rye, offshore near Odiorne Pt. St. Pk. by S. Mirick.
- p. 8 The first line of a new paragraph should read “was preying on robin nestlings in Kensington.”
- p. 5 & p. 26 The Nelson Sharp-tailed Sparrows near Great Bay were not confirmed breeding.
- p. 5 In the Breeders Section, the seventh line should read “the second year that Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrows have probably nested in Stratham.”
- p. 26 In the Tanager through Evening Grosbeak summary, next to the last sentence should read “This extends the summer range of this recently split species.”

### Fall 99

- p. 3 The drawing of a Cory’s Shearwater is by Iain MacLeod.
- p. 4 In What to Report, the heading should have read “Fall Season: August through November not December.”
- p. 39 The photo of a Clay-colored Sparrow is by Rebecca Suomala.

### Winter 99-00

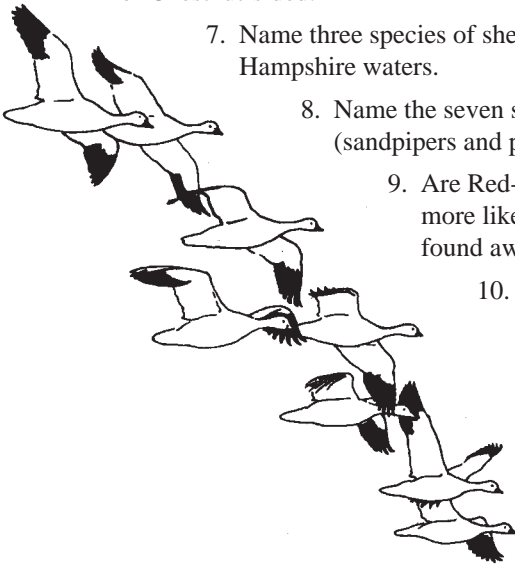
- p. 11 The Northern Shrikes on 12-22 in Ellsworth were actually Golden-crowned Kinglets which were reported on p. 12.
- p. 16 The second line of the first paragraph should have read “was observed on the Isles of Shoals count (although it was in Maine waters).”

by Robert A. Quinn

**F**or several years when Bob Quinn was the Summer Editor of New Hampshire Bird Records, he brought to our editors' meetings questions, in the form of a quiz, to test our bird knowledge. We all enjoyed the challenge and hope that you will also, as you tackle this sample selection below. Ed.

1. Within 10 — what is the total number of species recorded in NH?  
290, 312, 367, 411.
2. What is the record high *one day* total for the following species?
 

Ruby-crowned Kinglet	100, 200, 1000, 5000
Savannah Sparrow	125, 274, 900, 1200
Dark-eyed Junco	175, 300, 5000, 20,000
Swainson's Thrush	175, 300, 5000, 20,000
Snow Goose	800, 2000, 5000, 20,000
3. What species of scoter is most common *inland* in the fall? spring?
4. Which species has *not* been recorded 20 miles off the coast (at the underwater ledge known as Jeffrey's)? Brown Thrasher, Magnolia Warbler, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Horned Lark, Snow Bunting, or Yellow-breasted Chat.
5. During which of the following months are you most likely to see a Red-headed Woodpecker? February, May, July, or August.
6. Which warbler is *least* likely in October? Parula, Yellow, Cape May, or Chestnut-sided.
7. Name three species of shearwaters that are regular in New Hampshire waters.
8. Name the seven species of nesting shorebirds (sandpipers and plovers) in New Hampshire.
9. Are Red-necked and Horned Grebes more likely on rivers or lakes when found away from the coast?
10. During which months will White-winged Crossbills breed?



*Answers on page 38.*

# Spruce Grouse Research

by Susan Story Galt

**S**ince the beginning of the 20th century, the Spruce Grouse has disappeared from much of its former range in the northeastern United States. In New Hampshire, it is now considered an uncommon resident in red spruce and balsam fir forest at elevations up to 4,500 feet in the White Mountains and north. The reasons for the population decline are poorly understood, but habitat change from logging and forest fires is believed to be the most influential factor.

As part of her Master's degree thesis requirements, University of New Hampshire graduate student Amy Todd decided to explore various factors affecting the reproductive success of New Hampshire Spruce Grouse. As a native of Bethel, Maine, growing up with the White Mountains in her backyard, she is especially interested in this fascinating boreal resident. Working with her advisor, Dr. Peter J. Pekins, Amy developed a two-year research project studying Spruce Grouse in the White Mountain National Forest, which she began to implement in the summer of 2001.

The 2001 research consisted of two parts. First, from her base in Bartlett, Amy set up a system for hikers to report Spruce Grouse sightings. Signs were placed at four AMC locations: Zealand Falls and Mizpah Springs huts, the Crawford Notch Depot, and Pinkham Notch Camp. Hikers were asked to report any sightings of Spruce Grouse found anywhere on their treks.

In the second part of her research, Amy looked specifically for females with chicks, and determined what type of breeding habitat they used. She found six locations, which she then inventoried for habitat, such as shrub type and density and canopy cover and height. As part of the project, she hoped also to briefly capture female grouse in order to weigh them, take blood samples, and outfit them with radio necklaces in order to track their movements and locate nests. Amy's working hypothesis was that Spruce Grouse that utilize high-elevation habitats may expend abnormally high quantities of energy during reproduction, which may influence production.

However, things don't always go according to plan in research projects. Finding and capturing females proved difficult. Although she received a number of reports from hikers, Amy spent a lot of time looking for the reported birds. Catching a bird requires two people, one to maneuver a loop at the end of a sixteen- or eighteen-foot

extending noose-pole (basically a catfishing pole with a loop on the end) over the head of a bird and maneuver the bird out of the tree, and the other to get the bird in hand and quickly cut the loop off. Amy



*Spruce Grouse*  
by Mike Arsenault

successfully noosed two females near Mizpah Hut, but both escaped her grasp. Other birds were tracked but not captured, because the chase had placed too much stress on them, so they were allowed to get away. As Amy points out, a female will do whatever she can to hide or escape in order to protect her brood. Unfortunately, no females were radioed and the focus of the project will change slightly because of this.

Next summer, the focus most likely will be on male Spruce Grouse energetics — that is, the energy requirements of wildlife and the manner in which these needs are met. A number of males will be outfitted with radio collars, again to measure their energy balance at higher elevations. Amy and her advisor are continuing to work on the specifics of her ongoing research, and how to adjust her project to reflect the realities of the field work involved.

Amy hopes that her interest in the natural history of Spruce Grouse in the White Mountains will provide insight into the energetic cost of living at high elevations and serve as a baseline for future studies focusing on the conservation of this species.

*Susan Story Galt joins Francie von Mertens as a writer for New Hampshire Bird Records' regular feature on Bird Research and Volunteer Opportunities. Susan is a Volunteer Naturalist at the Audubon Society of New Hampshire and writes regularly for the New Hampshire Audubon. We welcome her to the New Hampshire Bird Records team.*

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### ***Junco Winter*** — *Continued from Page 33*

other sparrows in the Northeast and Midwest last winter may have been the result of two independent factors. “Our” juncos were ones that normally should have been farther south but stayed as a result of high food supplies. Smaller junco invasions in the Midwest and Mississippi Valley, on the other hand, were probably a result of birds fleeing harsh winter conditions on the plains.

These explanations, in turn, suggest two different junco populations. Those in the Northeast tend to migrate along a north-south axis, while those farther west also have a strong east-west component as well. This makes sense if you look at the distribution map for the “Slate-colored” subspecies of Dark-eyed Junco: they actually breed all the way across Canada to Alaska. Birds from the western end of this breeding range probably winter farther to the west, sometimes even west of the Great Plains. To migrate from Alaska to Iowa requires a substantial easterly component to your orientation, so it would not be unusual for such birds to continue east if conditions warranted additional movement.

So there you have it: avian winter distributions, as products of the previous fall’s migration, are not always static. They can expand and contract in response to any number of environmental conditions. Sometimes, as I’ve done here, it is possible to tease apart the factors behind such distributional changes. Doing so would not be possible without data, not only from organized efforts like the CBC and BBS, but also from the collective observations of scattered individual birders.

*Pam Hunt is the spring editor of New Hampshire Bird Records and the Biodiversity Project Coordinator for the Audubon Society of New Hampshire.*

## Bird Quiz Answers

1. **367** (although we do not yet have a formal State list).
2. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet — 1000 in Pittsburg September 28, 1956** (V. Hebert).  
**Savannah Sparrow — 1200 at the coast October 8, 1961** (Smart and Hebert).  
**Dark-eyed Junco — 20,000** Smart, et al. had 20,000 between Jefferson and Errol on October 18, 1959. Quoting from the *New Hampshire Bird News* January 1960, Volume 13, Number 1, “Extraordinary numbers (well documented) because of the many October storms which grounded birds.” “...in the 90 mile Franconia to Umbagog region, an estimated 20,000 with 2,000 of these in 1/4 mile on Jefferson Meadows (Smart and others).” (Pauline Merrill and Vera Hebert, editors.)  
**Swainson’s Thrush — 20,000 September 13–14, 1961** (Smart and Hebert). Quoting from the *New Hampshire Bird News* January 1962, Volume 15, Number 1, “Note: 4–5 a.m. Sept. 13 — 1,634 thrush chips were heard which included 50 Gray-cheeks, 2 Veeries, remainder Swainson’s. It would be impossible to estimate how long they had been moving or how many more Swainson’s went over. 9–10 p.m. — over 40 chips per minute, mostly Swainson’s but including some Gray-cheeks and many warblers. *In several listening periods during the night*, chip notes were still numerous, increasing towards dawn. At this time it was almost impossible to count them, so fast were the chips occurring.” (No editor noted this time but presumably V. Hebert.)  
**Snow Goose — 4,000-5,000 in Littleton November 2, 1976** (various observers fide Robert Bradley) seems to be the single location record, though, during the spring of 1999 there may have been more birds in a more dispersed migration.
3. **Black Scoter in the Fall and White-winged Scoter in the Spring.** The reasons seem to do with their breeding ranges but the details are not precisely known. In fact, the breeding range of the Black Scoter was “...an enigma...” as recently as 1976 (from the *Ducks, Geese, and Swans of North America* by Frank C. Bellrose) but a disjoint population has since been discovered in eastern Quebec and western Labrador. But the large numbers of Black Scoters that winter along the New England coast cannot completely be explained since their primary breeding grounds are in Alaska and northeast Siberia. A good example of how little we still know about relatively common species.
4. **Brown Thrasher**, according to records culled from the sources cited below. There are also many other species of land birds that have been reported offshore which really is not surprising when you consider that many migrate over the ocean (not always by choice).
5. **May.** After May the top months are October and November but the birds seen during the fall are almost all immature.
6. **Yellow Warbler.** The Yellow Warblers that nest in New Hampshire leave rather early in the fall and most are gone by the end of August. However, since the species probably has the greatest geographic range of any species of warbler (Alaska to the tropics) a few from farther north dribble through in September but it is truly rare to have a Yellow Warbler in October.



## Can You Identify This Bird?



Answer in the next issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*.

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*Bird Quiz Answers — Continued from Page 38*

7. **Greater, Manx, and Sooty Shearwater.**
8. **Spotted Sandpiper, Killdeer, Willet, Common Snipe, American Woodcock, Piping Plover, Upland Sandpiper.**
9. **Lakes**, probably because it is easier for those species to take off from lakes than rivers. However, it may be partly because it is easier for bird watchers to scope large areas of lakes and ponds than rivers, and therefore more are seen and reported from these areas.
10. **Any month with an excellent cone crop** for this nomadic species.

**Sources:** Almost all these data/answers come from the publications (with various names) which equate to what is currently *New Hampshire Bird Records* and the systematic reporting slips on file at the Audubon Society of New Hampshire.

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# **New Hampshire Bird Records**

## **Volume 20, Number 1**

### **Spring 2001**

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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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